



NEWS RELEASE

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Cucalorus 22 – Festival Spreads Love Over 5 Days of Movies and Merrymaking

Wilmington, NC, December 13, 2016 – The 22nd annual [Cucalorus Film Festival](#) romped through Wilmington, North Carolina last month during five days celebrating creative leaders, innovators, and artists. November 9th-13th was filled with over 180 screenings, workshops, performances, and parties galore, representing a 19% increase in events from 2015.

An accumulated attendance of 17,874 enjoyed a spicy film lineup flaunting 306 selections from 16 different countries out of a record-breaking number of submissions. 37 narrative features, 15 documentary features, 175 short films, 37 music videos, and 5 projects from our Works-in Progress Lab made up the dynamic screening variety played alongside live performances, cocktail workshops, and virtual reality. Most popular events included longstanding tradition Dance-a-lorus, a marriage between dance and film, Carol Reed's 1968 classic *Oliver!* and Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* as part of a special tribute to legendary local camera engineer Joe Dunton, twisted thriller *Always Shine* by Sophia Takal, and Ingrid Jungermann's queer dark comedy *Women Who Kill*. These along with special programs like Visual/Sound/Walls, which pushes the boundaries between music, comedy, and dada-like happenings, helped Cucalorus become what some consider "the dirty stepchild of Sundance and Burning Man."

The Connect Conference returned for its second successful year, gathering entrepreneurs and start-up leaders for days filled with speakers, panels, networking, and craft cocktails. Partnering with UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and tekMountain, Connect presented events covering NC growth industries, crowdfunding, street capitalism, and start-up ecosystems along with breakout sessions about ed-tech, marine biotech, and consumer habits. Innovative programming bridged gaps between filmmakers and entrepreneurs, a big focus for the program overall that helps them share ideas and cultivate meaningful relationships driven by creativity.

Cucalorus has been named one of the "Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World" for 3 years by MovieMaker Magazine and landed a coveted spot on the "50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" for 2016. For more information about Cucalorus, visit www.cucalorus.org.

About Cucalorus:

Cucalorus was founded in 1994 by the underground filmmaking collective Twinkle Doon. Today, Cucalorus is a multi-disciplinary organization supporting emerging and innovative creative professionals through an annual film festival, a residency program, a community cinema, a summer outdoor screening series, and an extensive community engagement program. The annual festival takes place every November, celebrating independent and international film for five days in historic downtown Wilmington, NC. MovieMaker Magazine has recognized it as "One of the Coolest Film Festivals in the World, 2015" for three years in a row. New this year, Cucalorus is diving into the world of venture capital and entrepreneurship with the Cucalorus CONNECT conference. More than 250 films are screened and over 50 CONNECT events take place at venues all over downtown Wilmington, attracting a large number of participating artists (300+) and thousands of fans and industry professionals (accumulated attendance in 2015 was 17,630). Cucalorus is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies on funds from individuals, businesses, and grants to fund its annual celebration. For more information on the Cucalorus Film Festival visit www.cucalorus.org.

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