



NEWS RELEASE

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Cucalorus Film Foundation and the NC Film Office Present Eleven “Filmed in NC” Filmmaker Grants

February 13, 2017, Wilmington, NC – Cucalorus is excited to announce eleven filmmakers awarded “Filmed in NC” grants. This program is an initiative of the Cucalorus Film Foundation and the NC Film Office to support indie filmmakers in North Carolina. The grants are funded by the NC Film Office and awarded through the Cucalorus Film Foundation. Together both organizations support original and singular works by diverse artists working in North Carolina. The eleven projects awarded range from narrative features to short docs and were chosen from 59 submissions. The panel of judges for the 2nd annual round of grants included a combination of grant recipients from 2016, members of the Filmed in NC office, and guest panelists from the industry. Embracing the diversity of the film industry, the “Filmed in NC” Grants are supporting five female directors, three projects from African American filmmakers, and one genderqueer filmmaker. Filmmakers will present a portion of their ongoing work at the 23rd annual Cucalorus Film Festival, November 8-12, 2017.

Grant recipients are:

- Alex Nomick for *Sweet Nothing*, a narrative about a college student struggling with his sexuality;
- Alicia Inshiradu for *What The River Knows*, a short chronicling the six months of a young married couple’s tragic life;
- Anna R. Jones for *Chairman Jones – An Improbable Leader*, a documentary about North Carolina’s first African American school board chairman;
- Anthony Reynolds for *Times Like Dying*, a feature about a vengeful farming family;
- Brendan & Jeremy Smyth for *Mohammed*, a poetic look into forgotten refugees;
- Christopher Baker for *Sarah’s Big Day*, about a girl and her imaginary friend;
- Joanne Hock for *Martin Hill: Camera Man*, a documentary about an obsessed hoarder of filmmaking tools;
- Katina Parker for *A Love Supreme: Black, Queer and Christian in The South*, documenting the journey to reconcile Black Queer Christians with their families;

- Laura Hart McKinny for *Extraordinary Ventures*, a story of employment of teens and adults on the autism spectrum;
- Molly Lewis for *Paradise: Downhill Skateboarding*, about the downhill skateboarding culture of Western North Carolina;
- Ricky Kelly for *Black Beach/White Beach: A Tale of Two Beaches*, about the racial tensions that arise in Myrtle Beach during two national bike festivals every spring.

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" for three years. For the third year, Cucalorus will dive 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 (370+) and thousands of fans and industry professionals (accumulated attendance in 2016 was 17,874). The 23rd Annual Festival will run November 8 – 12, 2017 at venues throughout historic downtown. 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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