



## ONLINE FILM FESTIVAL OFFERS THE WORLD A SEAT AT THEIR LOCAL PREMIERES

*The Oakville Film Festival ([OFFA Online](#)) is going virtual AND Coming to a Screen Near YOU, Wherever You Happen to Be, This June 17th-22nd 2020*

**OAKVILLE, ON—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—**Grab your popcorn (from our valued partner Film.ca Cinemas, of course) because local goes global this June 17th-22nd! The Oakville Film Festival is excited to announce its new virtual platform, allowing you and your fellow socially-distancing family and friends to enjoy all the award-winning and award-nominated movies. And we have more films than ever before!

The online festival includes five feature films, three documentaries, 68 [shorts](#) from Canada, and around the world, a [Family Fun Shorts Fest](#) free to the public, and Q&A sessions with directors and cast members such as Emmy-award winner **Joe Pantoliano** (*Sopranos, The Matrix, Bad Boys, Risky Business*). **Paula Brancati** (*Degrassi: the Next Generation, Being Erica*), **Marco Leonardi** (*Cinema Paradiso, Like Water for Chocolate*), and **Tina Jung** (*Kim's Convenience*). You'll also get to see producers Sean Cisterna and Kathleen Hepburn, the festival's co-founders Wendy Donnan and Judah Hernandez, and festival host, Alita Rose Madeira.

Some of the features include:

- The digital Premiere of Sean Cisterna's, *FROM THE VINE*, starring Joe Pantoliano and Wendy Crewson. ***This film will host a special airing during Father's Day, and offer free screenings to any seniors residences, retirement homes, and LTCs***
- A National Indigenous Day Screening of *THE BODY REMEMBERS WHEN THE WORLD BROKE OPEN* by Elle-Maija Tailfeathers and Kathleen Hepburn, that recently won three Canadian Screen Awards. This screening will feature a traditional welcome address by the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation as well as a traditional hoop dance
- British Comedy, *Military Wives*, starring Kristin Scott Thomas chronicles the true story and shenanigans created by a group of military wives who start a choir. This screening features an exclusive digital performance by the 400-voice strong Canadian Military Wives choirs
- Aisling Chin-Yee's, *THE REST OF US*, starring Heather Graham, about two mother-daughter duos who must contend with their grief and complicated feelings for one another when the man who connects them, the wife and the mistress, dies. ***This movie is being screened as part of a collaboration of many GTA women's groups and clubs- The 100 Women Who Give Partner's Circle.***
- U of T professor and Filmmaker, Tamer Soliman hosts the Canadian Premiere of *THE GREAT DISCONNECT*. This timely documentary invites us to reflect on the relationships we have with those around us and raises the question: is it possible to overcome our modern culture of disconnectedness and rediscover how truly essential we are to one other?
- Canadian premieres of two documentaries dealing with the crisis of global water mismanagement, *WATER BE DAMMED...* (Dir. Vanita Khanna, Writer/Producer Dr. Romila Verma (U of T), and from Russia, *SOCKEYE SALMON, RED FISH* (Dirs. Dmitriy Shpilenok & Vladislav Grishin)

Phone, Skype or Zoom interviews as well as socially-distanced interviews with some of the Canadian leads can be arranged. Please feel free to review our [Media Gallery](#) for more information about the schedule and films.

If you'd like to learn more about this online festival, speak to any of our organizers, film-makers or actors, or if you'd like to plan out an interactive segment or interview, please contact:

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#### ABOUT OFFA

Established in 2014, OFFA is a cultural not-for-profit that envisions a community of cultural and artistic diversity with the cinematic arts as a focal point. OFFA produces Oakville's only independent film festival which is now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year. For more information on this year's digital festival, OFFA Online, please visit OFFA.ca.