

NEWS RELEASE
From the Shepherdstown Film Society
Shepherdstown, WV

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For Immediate Release

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SHEPHERDSTOWN FILM SOCIETY ANNOUNCES FALL FILM SCHEDULE

The Shepherdstown Film Society is pleased to announce its fall, 2017 series. This season starts our fourteenth year of providing free films for Shepherd University students and faculty, and the Shepherdstown community. Our continuing partnership with the Scarborough Society of Shepherd University provides the financial support needed to maintain this commitment.

Six films will be presented, starting on September 8 and running through November 17. Four films comprise the fall theme – films of 2016 you might have missed or want to see again. One film is presented in conjunction with the American Conservation Film Festival (ACFF) and one is presented in conjunction with the Shepherd University Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence program.

The weekend of October 6-7 provides two complementary events: (1) the film "Paterson" about an unpublished poet on October 6 at Reynolds Hall and (2) (FOSL) the Friends of Shepherdstown Library's fundraiser "Left of the Bank" on October 7 at 202 South Princess Street, Shepherdstown, featuring great food, poets and musicians. Local poet Ed Zahniser will lead the film discussion and emcee the FOSL fundraiser. Lovers of film, poetry, music and our local library should mark both events on their calendars. While the film is free, tickets for Left of the Bank must be purchased through the library.

All films will be shown on Fridays. All showings are at 7:00 p.m. in Shepherd University's Reynolds Hall. As with all the Society's films, admission will be free and each showing will be followed by a discussion. An opening night reception at the War Memorial Building will kick off the series from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 8.

More information on each film can be found on the Society's website at www.shepherdstownfilmsociety.org. The film schedule will be as follows:

September 8: "Moonlight"
September 15: "The True Cost"
September 22: "Norma Rae"
October 6: "Paterson"
October 27: "Lion"
November 17: "The Salesman"

Details of the films follow below, in the order in which the films are being shown:

September 8: "Moonlight" (USA, 2016, 111 minutes, directed by Barry Jenkins). Based on the life experiences of playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney, Moonlight is the coming of age story of a young man caught in the crack cocaine epidemic of Miami in the 1980s and 1990s. Without a stable home or community he seeks to understand the life he has been given. Moonlight won the 2016 Academy

Awards for Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor. Rated R for language and content. Post-film discussion led by Jean Anne Pugh.

September 15: "The True Cost" (USA, 2015, 92 minutes, directed by Andrew Morgan). Clothing fashions come and go at a brisk clip, but what is constant in the textile industry is the numbing daily grind of the unseen factory workers who produce the glitter that catches our eyes. Fifty years ago, the men and women of the American South were a significant part of this industry (see the film *Norma Rae* on September 22). Today our clothing comes from poorly regulated, unsafe factories all over the third world. *The True Cost* is a documentary film that examines the human and environmental costs of the latest and greatest in fashion. Rated PG-13 for content. This is a special presentation in conjunction with the ACFF. Post-film discussion led by Dr. Jeff Groff, Vice-President of ACFF.

September 22: "Norma Rae" (USA, 1979, 114 minutes, directed by Martin Ritt). Norma Rae is a low paid textile worker in a North Carolina mill who is looking for a better life for herself and her family. A union organizer from the North convinces her to work to help organize the mill workforce for better pay and working conditions. As she grows in confidence in the rightness of the union cause, fearful family and friends pull away. Sally Field won best actress award at the Cannes Film Festival and the Oscar for Best Actress at the Academy Awards. Rated PG. This is a special presentation in conjunction with Shepherd University's Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence program. Discussion led by Dr. Julia Sandy, Associate Professor of History at Shepherd University.

October 6: "Paterson" (USA, 2016, 118 minutes, directed by Jim Jarmusch). Paterson is a bus driver and an unpublished poet. Paterson and his wife and muse, Laura, live and work in Paterson, New Jersey. Doctor and poet William Carlos Williams, who is bus driver Paterson's favorite poet and who wrote a long poem titled "Paterson," did not live in Paterson, New Jersey. He lived in Rutherford, New Jersey, ten miles away. Italian Renaissance poet Petrarch used the name Laura as a muse for many of his poems. Since he died in 1374, Petrarch was never able to visit Paterson, New Jersey, nor write about it. This film follows Paterson and Laura during a week of observing, writing, yearning and living. Rated R for language. Post-film discussion led by Ed Zahniser.

October 27: "Lion" (Australia/India, 2016, 118 minutes, directed by Garth Davis). Based on a true story, *Lion* tells of Saroo, a poor Indian village boy, who is separated from his family by a long train journey and unable to find his way home. After many dangers in Calcutta, he is placed in an orphanage and soon finds a permanent home with an Australian family. As a young adult, his desire to reconnect with his Indian family is spurred by the taste of a food he remembers from his childhood, the use of Google Earth to find his native village and the support of his adoptive mother. Rated PG-13 for content. Post-film discussion led by Dr. Marty Amerikaner.

November 18: "The Salesman" (Iran, 2016, 125 minutes, directed by Asghar Farhadi). An Iranian theater company is mounting a production of Arthur Miller's play, "Death of a Salesman." Two of the principal actors are confronted by a personal trauma in their lives during the run of the play. While trying to resolve their real trauma in different ways, their marriage becomes strained in ways that echo the strains on the characters on the play. *The Salesman* received the Oscar for Best Foreign Language film for 2016. Rated PG-13 for content. Post-film discussion led by Lex Miller.

For further information about the Society and its films, visit their website or contact Lisa Welch at 304-876-1837 (email lmwelch@frontiernet.net) or Mina Goodrich at 304-876-2159.

End of release