

# 7 IN SEVEN

SEVEN THINGS TO DO IN SEVEN DAYS

## On screen

### The 30th annual New Orleans Film Festival screens a diverse array of films

BY WILL COVIELLO

**PHILLIP YOUMANS' "BURNING CANE,"** starring Wendell Pierce, won the Tribeca Film Festival's 2019 Founder's Award for Best Narrative Feature. (See "And Action" on page 13.) It's one of the "Centerpiece Screenings" highlights at the New Orleans Film Festival, which runs Oct. 16 to 23 at various local venues. A 2018 graduate of New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Youmans obviously wasn't born when the festival was launched 30 years ago. In those three decades, Louisiana has become a moviemaking hub, and the festival now showcases films made locally and around the globe and is a networking spot for aspiring and experienced filmmakers.

"Burning Cane" screens at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at Orpheum Theater. The opening night film (7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Orpheum) is "Marriage Story," in which Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver star as a couple struggling through a difficult divorce. Director Kasi Lemmons' "Harriet," about Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman, is the closing night film. The festival's "Spotlight" section features many major fall releases and recent festival winners, including "The Aeronauts," "Clemency," "Jojo Rabbit," Edward Norton's "Motherless Brooklyn" and "The Report," also starring Driver.

The festival's more than 200 films include Louisiana-made features, programs of short films, documentaries and more. There also are filmmaker panel discussions, film pitching events, parties and more. The festival box office is at the Contemporary Arts Center, and information is available on [www.neworleansfilmsociety.org](http://www.neworleansfilmsociety.org).

The festival includes films from across the globe and on all sorts of subjects. Below are some previews of features and documentaries from Serbia to Cuba and the U.S.



#### "HAVANA, FROM ON HIGH"

Venezuelan-born, Canadian filmmaker Pedro Ruiz's "Havana, From on High" has beautiful views of the skyline of the Cuban capital, looking over a mix of modern and dilapidated buildings and out over the Caribbean. These are the views enjoyed by the city's rooftop dwellers, many of whom squat in abandoned buildings, including some of the once-opulent hotels of pre-revolutionary Cuba.

Arturo makes a modest living fixing old American- and Russian-made TVs, which must be carted up stairs. Tita raises chickens on her rooftop terrace and rarely goes down to the street. Jose is a former drag performer who no longer lives with his brother, who disapproves of his homosexuality. A 95-year-old woman shares photos of herself as a young revolutionary and talks of meeting Che Guevara.

The only voices in the film are those of the rooftop dwellers, and they describe their daily routines and memories of looking down on the visiting motorcades of a pope and President Barack Obama. Ruiz is interested in what they value and what gives their lives meaning, and the diverse group has much to say. Ruiz weaves their stories into a poetic narrative that runs over panoramas of amber sunsets and colorful images of crumbling Spanish architecture and

PHOTO BY PEDRO RUIZ

Arturo, who lives on a rooftop in Havana, is featured in the documentary "Havana, From on High."

**OCT. 16-23**

**NEW ORLEANS FILM FESTIVAL**

**VARIOUS LOCATIONS,  
(504) 309-6633;  
[WWW.NEWORLEANS-FILMSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.NEWORLEANS-FILMSOCIETY.ORG)**

**TICKETS \$10-\$40**

vintage cars racing along a coastal road and.

It's visually stunning, but it's the perspective of the residents that gives the film its unique view of the world. — WILL COVIELLO

12:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 and  
3:45 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 at CAC.

#### "HUNTING FOR HEDONIA"

Some New Orleanians may be familiar with Robert Heath, the charismatic psychiatrist and former director of Tulane University's departments of neurology and psychiatry. He was a pioneer in deep brain stimulation (DBS)

PAGE 29 ►

#### Berlin Counterpoint

**TUE. OCT. 15** | The German piano and wind instrument sextet focuses on works from the Baroque period to contemporary composers, and this performance features pieces by Johann Strauss, Gyorgy Ligeti, Francis Poulenc, Ludwig van Beethoven and Richard Strauss. At 7 p.m. at UNO Performing Arts Center Recital Hall.

#### Lucky Daye

**TUE. OCT. 15** | Lucky Daye, aka David Brown, grew up in New Orleans and left following Hurricane Katrina. He surfaced as a performer on "American Idol" and did some background singing before getting on track with his solo career, highlighting his silky singing on contemporary R&B debut studio album, "Painted," released by RCA Records in May. At 8 p.m. at One Eyed Jacks.

#### "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"

**WED.-SUN. OCT. 16-NOV. 10** | In a haunted but humorous adventure, The NOLA Project has conjured the Headless Horseman in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden. The original work by Pete McElligott revisits Washington Irving's classic horror tale and other short stories. At 7 p.m. in the garden. Dates vary through Nov. 10.

#### GIVERS and Sweet Crude

**FRI. OCT. 18** | GIVERS and Sweet Crude team up for a double dose of roots music-inspired Louisiana indie pop. Sweet Crude releases a single on Friday to preview an album expected for release in 2020. At 10 p.m. at Tipitina's.

#### Screamfest NOLA

**FRI.-SAT. OCT. 18-19** | "Gothic Harvest," a New Orleans period Voodoo thriller, "Eat Brains Love," a brain-splattering zombie flick, and "Wounds" are among the New Orleans-shot features in the horror film fest presented by Krewe of Boo and Zeitgeist Theatre and Lounge at Zeitgeist.

#### Trinity Irish Dance

**SAT. OCT. 19** | Chicago's Trinity Irish Dance Co. opens the New Orleans Ballet Association's 50th season with a program of nine new and stock company pieces that highlight its furious stepping and progressive approach to traditional Irish dance. At 8 p.m. at Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts.

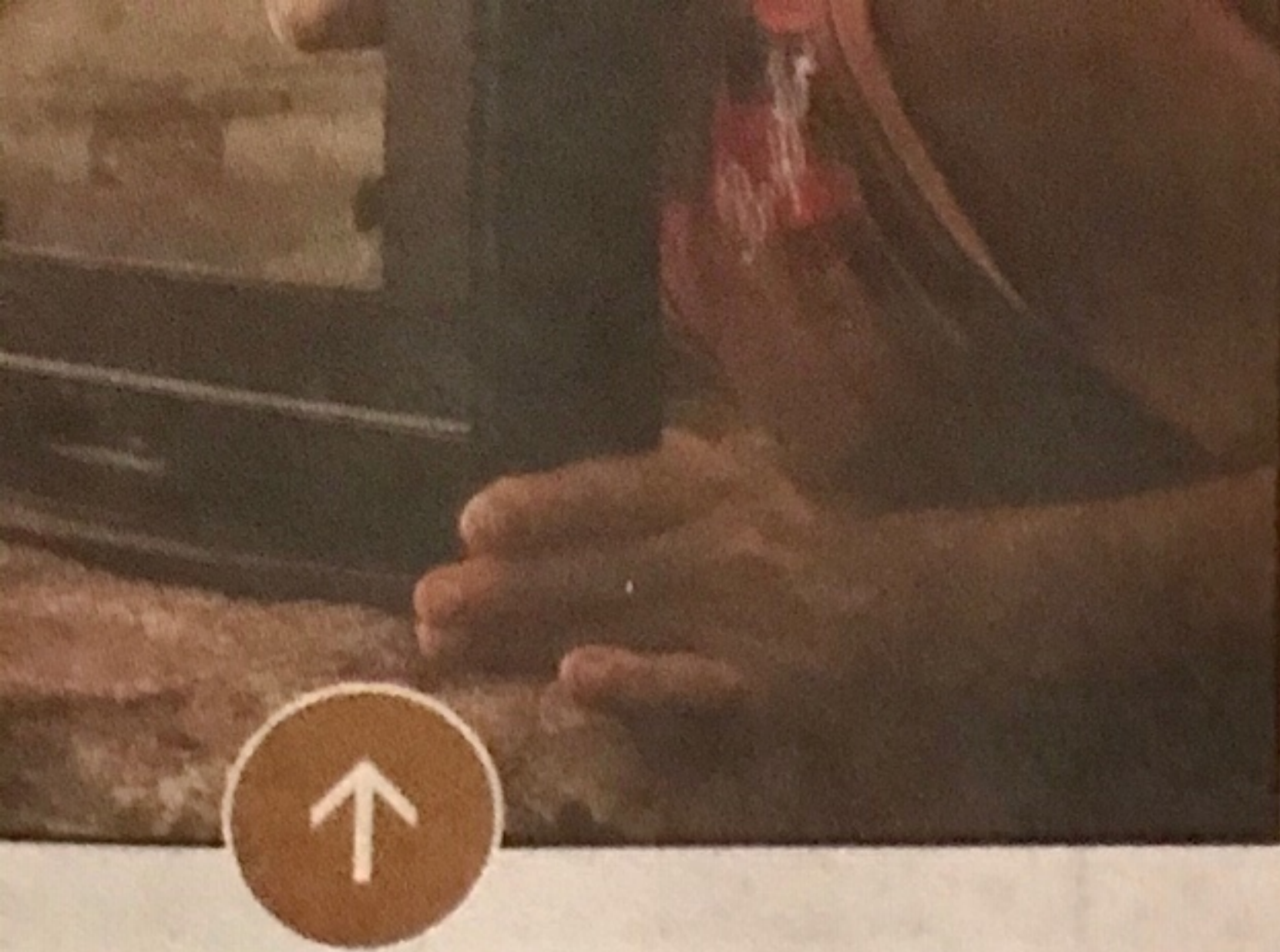


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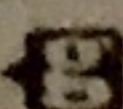
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# SCREAMFEST NEW ORLEANS

co-presented by SCREAMFEST LOS ANGELES & KREWE OF BOO

Friday through Sunday, October 18 through 20 @ Zeitgeist Theatre & Lounge

6621 St. Claude Ave. Arabi, LA 70032 (504) 352-1150 zeitgeistnola.org \$10 gen/ \$9 stud & sen / \$8 member



Friday:

7:30 pm

WOUNDS - Q&A w/  
director Babak Anvari.

10pm

GOTHIC HARVEST  
Q&A w/ producers;  
actors Bill Moseley &  
Lin Shaye

Saturday:

7:30 pm

EAT BRAINS LOVE  
Q&A w/ director  
Rodman Flender, actor  
Jake Cannavale

Sunday:

3:00 pm - SCREAM  
FEST SHORTS

SCREAMFEST