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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MINGLING WITH FELLOW FILM LOVERS IS PART OF THE OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL MAR. 3-6

**OCEAN CITY, MD – FEB. 18, 2022** – The 6th Annual Ocean City Film Festival, Mar. 3-6, 2022, will offer a host of opportunities for festival goers to socialize, from morning coffees to after parties, as well as presenting 100 independent films, both local and from around the world.

The festival is an initiative of the Art League of Ocean City that produces the festival along with broad support from the Town of Ocean City and the Ocean City community.

"A traditional part of any film festival experience is mingling with the filmmakers, actors, behind-the-scenes crews, and other film lovers," B.L. Strang-Moya, Film Festival director, said. "Our OC Film Festival attendees will offer many opportunities to get together. You can have coffee in the morning with me, attend a workshop on a book about films made on Delmarva, dance at one of our after parties to live music, or roll into a 21+ happy hour at the Casino. And many of our events are free and open to everyone."

All-access passes, \$99, give attendees entry into all films, workshops, and parties, plus offer online streaming during the festival and for one additional week. Single day passes start at \$20, and party passes start at \$25. Passes are available at <u>OCMDFilmFestival.com</u>.

The festival kicks off Thursday, Mar. 3 at Ocean City's Performing Arts Center at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center with an opening night party from 5-6:45 p.m. complete with red carpet, hors d'oeuvres, and cash bar. Immediately after, the festival premieres the Delmarva Film Showcase, featuring four films produced on Delmarva and a Q&A with the filmmakers. The event is included with the all-access pass, or \$35.

Later Thursday evening, the bayfront Residence Inn, 300 Seabay Lane, Ocean City, will host an after party from 9-11 p.m. with happy hour prices and a discounted light fare menu. This is a free event, and open to all.

Friday, Mar. 4, begins with a panel discussion at the Art League's Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94<sup>th</sup> St. bayside, with Brent Lewis, author of "Stardust by the Bushel: Hollywood on the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore." This book is a comprehensive history of the stars of stage and screen who called the Eastern Shore home during or after their lives, as well as major motion pictures produced on location. Panelists include Jack Gerbes, director of the Maryland Film Office. This is a free event, and open to all.

Friday continues with a day of films culminating with a reception at the Ocean City Center for the Arts that coincides with the Art League's First Friday art opening party. Five new art shows will open that evening with complimentary hors d'oeuvres presented by Coins Pub, and beverages sponsored by PKS Investments. This is a free event, and open to all.

Late on Friday, Mother's Cantina at 2810 Philadelphia Ave. in Ocean City will host an after party from 9 p.m.–1 a.m. with drink specials and a light fare menu. This is a free event, and open to all.

Saturday, Mar. 5 features a day of films with a "Rolling into Happy Hour" reception at Ocean Downs Casino on Racetrack Rd. in Berlin from 5-6:45 p.m. This is a 21 and older event. The Casino will offer complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a happy hour cash bar plus a \$10 free slot play. At 7 p.m., the Casino will screen a block of horror, fantasy and sci-fi films. The event is included with the all-access pass, or \$25.

Late on Saturday, Fager's Island at 201 60<sup>th</sup> St., Ocean City, will host an after party from 9-11 p.m. with live music, DJ RobCee, and drink specials. This is a free event, and open to all.

Sunday morning opens with coffee and conversation with Film Festival Director B.L. Strang-Moya from 9-10 a.m. at the Princess Royale, 9100 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City. Guests will learn about the festival and recap this year's selections in an informal meet and greet. This is a free event, and open to all.

Sunday culminates the festival with films and a closing ceremony with a presentation of awards from 6-8 p.m. at Seacret's Morley Hall, 117 49<sup>th</sup> St., Ocean City. The event features live entertainment, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar, and is included with the all-access pass, or \$25.

Complete information about the festival, including a list of films, and festival passes are available at <u>OCMDFilmFestival.com</u> or by calling 410-524-9433. All-Access passes are \$99 and include access to all films, parties, and workshops plus one bonus week of online streaming of all the films. Day passes start at \$20, and party passes start at \$25.both local and from around the world

Also listed on the website are special, off-season hotel rates for festival goers, with rooms starting at \$89 per night.

"Traveling to Ocean City is incredibly affordable this time of year, even more now that our hotel sponsors are offering festival attendees discounted rates starting at \$89 a night," Strang-Moya said. The Art League of Ocean City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects.

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