CONTACT: Rina Thaler Art League of Ocean City Ocean City Center for the Arts 410-524-9433 rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARYLAND-MADE FILMS DOMINATE 8TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL MARCH 7-10, 2024

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Feb. 21, 2024* — Of the 105 independent films showing at the 2024 Ocean City Film Festival, 46 were made in Maryland by Maryland directors. The films will show during the 8th annual festival, March 7-10, 2024, in the Maryland resort.

"I'm very excited and pleased that over 40 films screening at this year's OC Film Fest are from Maryland filmmakers," Jack Gerbes, director of the State of Maryland Film Office, said. "I urge fans of film in the region to come and see the works of the next wave of talented Marylanders telling their stories on the big screen."

Listed below are the 46 films, including their origin and director, and a brief synopsis. Showtimes and tickets are available at <u>OCMDFilmFestival.com</u>.

GET ON THE BUS! – Feature-length film by Justinian Matthew Dispenza of Galena, Md. about the James Taylor Justice Coalition of Chestertown, Md.

MARK AND MANDY – 6-minute short by Jacob Costlow of Frederick, Md. about a stellar first date.

SÚGAR – 7-minute short by Nathan Shinholt and Adam Willem of Baltimore, Md.

about a competitive lemonade salesman.

UP AND DOWN – 8-minute short by Matt Barry of Baltimore, Md., a slapstick comedy.

DO YOU TRUST ME? – 6-minute short by Ronald James of Severn, Md. about virtual strangers embarking on a date.

GIANNA – 51-minute film by Maryland native Brooke Linsalata about a young Italian-American tomboy.

TYING THE KNOT – 2-minute short by Ryan Wilton Zlatniski of Berlin, Md. about a string who feels overwhelmed by his tedious life.

JESSIE – 19-minute film by Zach Ruchkin of Baltimore, Md. about a teen's tension with her mother.

PAIN INTO PASSION – 21-minute film by Brandi Hall of Severn, Md. about University of Maryland lineman Jordan McNair and his death at 19 after a heat stroke.

SHARK WEEK – 6-minute short by Adria Branson of Valley Lee, Md. about a confident high school student, her period, and a crucial math quiz.

THE ECHOES WE SEE – 10-minute short by Andrés Mejia of Halethorpe, Md. about a school lockdown and not feeling safe.

THE LAST EPIC RIDE – 11-minute short by Rick Kain of Woodbine, Md about a terminally ill man who goes for one last motorcycle ride.

WHAT DID YOU SAY? – 7-minute short by Johns Hopkins medical student Oscar Li following two people and their hearing health journeys.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS – 50-minute film by B.L. Strang-Moya of Ocean City, Md. about the founding and history of the Art League of Ocean City.

SQUALL – 15-minute film by Emmi Shockley of Ocean City, Md. about an addict's journey to reconnect with his younger brother.

FAMILIAR – 18-minute film by Rebecca Mlinek of Upperco, Md. about a grounds-keeper and a mysterious cat.

MIDNIGHT OIL – 9-minute short by Trevor Taylor of Salisbury, Md. about a detective hunting down a mysterious killer.

RAY OF SUNSHINE – 31-minute film by Tyler Jennings and Jon Kemmerer of Owings Mills, Md. about abused kids who have had enough.

RED YELLOW BLUE – 19-minute film by Julia E. Cooke of Baltimore, Md. about a girl haunted by her own demons.

HOMECOMING – 10-minute short by Alvan Obichie of Baltimore, Md. about a high school teacher racing home to make dinner for his wife.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I LOOK LIKE – 18-minute film by Rachel Lotlikar of Severna Park, Md., an exploration into the mind of the artist.

MA'S KISSES – 10-minute short by Jimiy Dominique Anthony of Hagerstown, Md. about mother and daughter and their love of cooking.

ALOHA – 4-minute short by Eli Michael Copperman of Baltimore, Md., a music video about bad bagel service.

THE MUSIC FROM MY DREAMS – 10-minute short by Joshica Kiah of Upper Marlboro, Md. about a struggling musician finding his true voice.

BALTIMORE SCREEN PAINTING FOLKLIFE

APPRENTICESHIP – 5-minute short by Wide Angle Youth Media of Baltimore, Md. for the Maryland State Arts Council about Baltimore screen painter John Iampieri of Wicomico Co.

HERITAGE AWARD: WATERFOWL FESTIVAL – 4-minute short by Wide Angle Youth Media of Baltimore, Md. for the Maryland State Arts Council about the Waterfowl Festival in Talbot Co.

HBCU FASHION IS EVERYTHING! – 34-minute film by Bridgett Clinton-Scott about college students studying fashion at a Historically Black College (HBCU) in Maryland.

ROOTS: MARYLAND'S NATURE TO NURTURE – 27-minute film by Fiona O'Brien, Sebrena Williamson, and Zoe Couloumbis of Bishopville, Md., exploring Maryland through dance.

INTRUSIVE – 8-minute short by Jacob Greene of Baltimore, Md. about facing anxiety in preparing to go on a date.

OF ONE'S OWN – 13-minute film by Jack Calvin Girod of Westminster, Md. about an LGBTQ speed dating event.

FATHER'S DAY: A KIRK FRANKLIN STORY – 35-minute film by Josh Chamberlain of Berlin, Md. about a quest to discover Kirk's true biological father.

THE KODA-CHROME (W)RAPPER – 24-minute film by Willy Conley of Hanover, Md. about a deaf mother bonding with her hearing son. **EVEN THE WOMEN MUST FIGHT** – 26-minute film by Karen Turner of Upper Marlboro, Md. showing rare historical footage from Northern Vietnamese combat photographers.

SWAMP CREATURES – 10-minute short by David and Tara Gladden of Salisbury, Md. about kitchen magnets coming to life to battle for the soul of America.

A STUPID GRUDGE – 3-minute short by Sayer Alexander Baca of Annapolis, Md. about two friends in an argument as they make their last film together.

TEN FROM THE 2023 OCEAN CITY FILM CHALLENGE – Ten short films, 103 minutes in total, produced locally or by Ocean City locals. Directed by Jackson Dutton, Brian Kozak, Fiona O'Brien, Will Rothermel, Davis Mears, Joe Joyce, Brian Hooks, Erin Welch, Holden Connor, Marlon Wallace, Myah Stokes, and Christian Walters.

LOOKING INWARD – BLACK HISTORY & THE ARTS – 30minute film by Justinian Matthew Dispenza of Galena, Md. about the Kent Cultural Alliance.

The 8th Annual Film Festival is an annual production of the nonprofit Art League of Ocean City. The films have not been rated, and some feature adult content. Viewer discretion is advised.

More information and tickets are available at <u>OCMDFilmFestival.com</u> or by calling 410-524-9433.

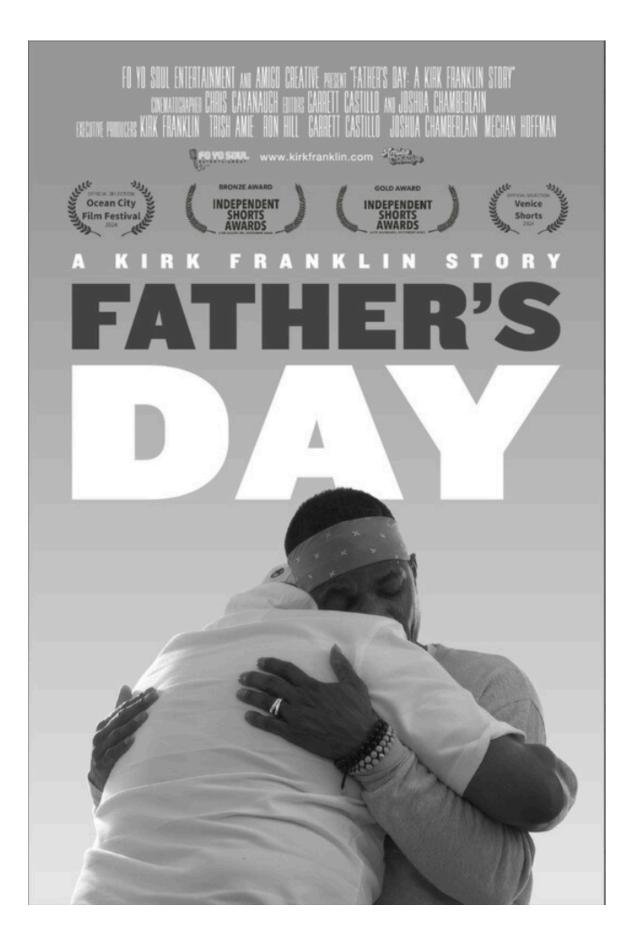
The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects. ###

EDITORS: Film posters attached for several films.

Elaine Bean Art League of Ocean City Marketing & Publicity Director elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org 443-944-3398 mobile







HBCU FASHION IS EVERYTHING!

DIRECTOR: BRIDGETT CLINTON-SCOTT PRODUCER: KEITH GARNER , JR. Sound designer: Keith Garner , Jr. Video Technician: Jawanza Diggs

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

GAP, INC. AND ICON 360 CLOSING THE GAP GRANT . TAIYA DAVENPORT . SADANI PERCY-BYRD . AALIYAH CHAMBERS . SYDNEY MOORE . DESTINY SMITH . ANTHONY PRICE . MACKEL PIERRILUS . JIANNA ROGERS . KODA MYERS . LAVONTAY TINDLEY . DEVIVONNA MORRIS . ANGEL LEACH . NABIA EVANS . MAKAIYAH MELTON . LAMONT MOYE . OLUWASEYI TEMPITOPE . STEVEN MATTHEWS . DEVIN POWERS . JAZMIN ROUNDTREE . SYDNEY CARR . DE'YONA WILLOUGHBY . SADE ROBERTS . JAMAR BLAKENEY . ABDUL-HAKEEM KARGBO . DERAE DANIEL-AVILES . KAYLA ADAMS . JARED SESSION . ASIA BARNES . RHUNE LIVERPOOL . JERBREE JACKSON . LEJAE LEONARD







