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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL 2024 WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Mar. 21, 2024* — The Art League of Ocean City, producers of the annual Ocean City Film Festival, announce the winners of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual event, held Mar. 7-10, 2024 in the resort.

The Audience Choice 1<sup>st</sup> place winner is “The Echoes We See” directed by Andrés Mejia of Halethorpe, Md. about school lockdowns and their effect on students. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place Audience Choice Winner is “The Dogmatics,” a feature film about the 1980s rock band directed by Rudy Childs of Rockland, Ma.

The Audience Choice 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner is “Ray of Sunshine,” a Maryland-made film directed by Tyler Jennings and Jon Kemmerer, about abused siblings who rebel. The 4<sup>th</sup> place winner is “Father’s Day: A Kirk Franklin Story,” about the popular gospel singer, directed by Josh Chamberlain of Berlin, Md. The 5<sup>th</sup> place winner is “Gull,” a film from the 2023 Ocean City Film Challenge, directed by Brian Hooks.

The Women’s Commission of Worcester Co. awarded Adria Branson of Valley Lee, Md. and her film “Shark Week” with a special Best Film by a Female Director Award.

The Best of the Fest Awards went to the following:

“Chasing Justice” by Drew Petrimoulx of Washington, D.C. about prison abuse.

“Dreaming of...” by Adrián De Jesús of Alexandria, Va. about a loved one’s death.

“Salted Earth” by Ben Hemmings of Ottawa, Canada about sea level rise and encroaching salt.

“Of One’s Own” by Jack Calvin Girdod of Westminster, Md. about speed dating in the LGBTQ community.

“Personalized Futures” by Max Delfino of Chicago, Il. about algorithms deciding the future.

“Gianna” by Brooke Linsalata, a Maryland-made film about a young tomboy.

“Encore Learning, 20 Years and Growing” by Sheri Ratick Stroud and Rich West of Falls Church, Va. about learning later in life.

“First You, Then I” by Ashleigh Coffelt of Los Angeles, Ca. about a toxic relationship.

“Reminder” by Akin Bagcilar of Istanbul, Turkey about cleaning up after ourselves.

“A Life at Sea” by Elisa Mand and Bente Rohde of Kiel, Germany about crabbers.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival is an annual production of the nonprofit Art League of Ocean City. More information about the festival and upcoming opportunities is available at [OCMDFilmFestival.com](http://OCMDFilmFestival.com)

*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.*

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