

YOU'RE INVITED to PRESS DAY: FEBRUARY 2ND



Punxsutawney Phil predicts  
SIX MORE WEEKS TILL THE START OF THE  
SOCIALY RELEVANT FILM FESTIVAL NY



**BOCCA EAST RESTAURANT**  
1496 2nd Avenue (corner of 78th Street)  
Tuesday February 2nd, 12-2pm

RSVP: [ratedsrfilms@gmail.com](mailto:ratedsrfilms@gmail.com)



\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE - PRESS DAY\*\*\*

*The SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York cordially invites you, on Groundhog Day, to announce this year's LINE UP and PROGRAM*

WHERE: BOCCA EAST

1496 Second Avenue (corner of 78th Street)

WHEN: Tuesday, February 2nd, 12-2pm

The third edition of SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York will take place March 14-20, 2016 at the *Bow Tie Cinemas Chelsea* and nearby venues.

Founded by award-winning actor, filmmaker, and curator Nora Armani, SR Film Festival aims to satisfy a market need concentrating on everyday human stories as an alternative to the proliferation of gratuitous violence in film making.

In its first two years the festival has successfully served as a platform for 108 films from 33 countries, offered four industry panels, and presented over 12 awards to talented filmmakers from all over the world. SR believes that positive social change is possible through the powerful medium of cinema.

On March 16, 2004, Nora's cousin, Vanya Exerjian, and her uncle Jack Exerjian were brutally murdered in Cairo in a religious hate crime. Nora made a pledge to dedicate her artistic work to the memory of her cousin and uncle, honoring their legacy.

The festival has four competition categories: feature length narratives, documentaries, short films, and screenplays. A number of prizes and distinctions offered by SR Film Fest and partners await the winners. These include the *Empowering Women and Girls Award* in memory of Nora's late cousin; *The First Look Award* by *Candy Factory* that offers the winning narrative filmmaker advice for further promotion; *Bow Tie Cinemas* screens the winning feature in Chelsea and other cinemas; the *Documentary Grand Prize* comes with a distribution deal by *IndiePix* who also distributes the winning shorts; advice and post-production services are offered to the winning documentary by *Cinema Libre*. Other recognitions come from: the *Women Film Critics Circle*, *FinalDraft* and *InkTip*. The festival trophies are designed and donated by *Michael Aram*.

The opening party *Meet the Filmmakers* takes place on March 14th at the oldest Irish tavern in New York, *McSorley's Old Ale House*, that has served as a set to many important movies such as *The Hard Way*, *Rounders* and *Once Upon A Time in America* to mention a few.

Screenings take place from March 15th through the 19th at the *Bow Tie Cinemas* in Chelsea showcasing films that deal with the current topics of immigration, female empowerment, human exploitation, gender politics, disability and more. Select films feature distinguished personalities including Erin Brockovich, Deepak Chopra, Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Marc Duret, and others.

The opening narrative feature, *Caged No More*, directed by Lisa Arnold and starring Kevin Sorbo, Cynthia Gibb and Loretta Devine, explores the harrowing truths related to human trafficking of underage girls. The screening is the film's New York Premiere.

Throughout the festival a majestic mezzanine at Bow Tie Cinemas serves as *The Filmmakers' Lounge* for press, film delegations, panelists, pass holders and V.I.P. This space allows guests to relax between screenings in a welcoming ambiance, and enjoy the daily happy hour from 5-6pm provided by the festival's hospitality partners.

On the morning of March 19th the festival offers panels on *Revisiting Distribution* and *Shaping the Documentary* at the *School of Visual Arts MFA Social Documentary Film* in Chelsea.

The festival concludes on March 20th with the screening of a further selection of shorts at the *Center For Remembering and Sharing*. The Closing Night Awards Ceremony takes

place at the *Tenri Cultural Institute* hosted by festival sponsor *Vella Wine Bar* and *Fair Vodka*. Before the DJ hits the console there will be a brief Q&A with the winners.

*“SR is sure to appeal to cinema fans of all interests.  
So come on and support New York’s latest festival.”*

[Tribecafilm](#)

Please let us know for which outlet you will attend, and if you would like to arrange an  
interview

with Founder and Artistic Director of SRFF, Nora Armani.

Press Contact:

Chiara Spagnoli Gabardi - (646) 255 3998

[clairespanish@hotmail.com](mailto:clairespanish@hotmail.com) & [ratedsrfilms@gmail.com](mailto:ratedsrfilms@gmail.com)