

Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic*

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ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES RICHARD LUBLIN AND CHRISTINE STAHL LUBLIN AS 2022 NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTING SPONSORS

Naples, FL (October 19, 2022) – Artis—Naples is pleased to announce Richard Lublin and Christine Stahl Lublin as presenting sponsors of the 14th annual Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), scheduled for October 27-30, 2022. Screenings and events will once again take place at Artis—Naples and Silverspot Cinema.

“Richard has been an incredible supporter of NIFF for many years,” said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. “Again this year, Richard and Christine provide the highest level of support as Festival Presenting Sponsors, and we are deeply grateful for their vision and generosity in helping us present the 14th annual NIFF, marking its sixth year as part of Artis—Naples. Richard, with his notable acting experience across the industry, certainly understands the film business and what it takes to present a world-class festival. We sincerely appreciate his and Christine’s continuing support and belief in NIFF.”

With a unique background as a former attorney turned film and television actor, Richard Lublin’s steadfast support of the Naples International Film Festival is perhaps not too surprising. For Lublin, part of his passion for supporting NIFF comes from his understanding of the challenges that independent filmmakers face finding distributors and financing in a Hollywood system that is geared toward blockbusters and big names. Lublin said that, as a member of the industry himself, he appreciates the hard work that goes into filmmaking and wants to support independent cinema as much as possible.

“Over the years of acting in major movies and on TV, I’ve had a chance to observe just how hard independent filmmakers have to work to find distributors for films they have put their hearts and souls into,” he said. “I realized I want to help support their talent and creativity.” Christine Stahl Lublin echoes that sentiment. “These filmmakers have stories they are passionate about telling,” she said. “Film festivals such as NIFF give them that chance, and they also see live audiences enthusiastically embracing their work.” She also thinks that NIFF grows and gets better every year, another factor that keeps the couple supporting the festival.

“We always hope that this is the year some of these films will go all the way and hit it big,” Lublin said. “We love to see independent filmmakers do well because they are not making films by a ‘formula’—these stories are coming from their hearts. It’s wonderful to see them and their work at our festival.”

The Lublins also have some exciting Hollywood news of their own: In 2023, Richard will appear in a feature film on HBO, and they both will appear in an episode of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

The film festival begins with a red-carpet Opening Night event on October 27 highlighted by a screening of Bradford Thomason and Brett Whitcomb’s festival favorite documentary *Butterfly*

in the Sky. NIFF will close on October 30 with a special presentation of Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* featuring a live performance of John Williams' classic score by the Naples Philharmonic, conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly. On Friday and Saturday night, Artis—Naples will present its popular "Screenings Under the Stars" in Norris Garden on the Artis—Naples Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. NIFF alumnus Bryan Storkel will return with his and Amy Bandlien Storkel's *The Pez Outlaw* on Friday night, and Nate Boyer's *MVP* will screen on Saturday night.

The festival will include 64 films (13 narrative features, 9 documentary features and 42 short films) from 17 countries. All screenings will be in person at Hayes Hall, Norris Garden or Silverspot Cinema.

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, we offer audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually within a variety of venues and settings situated throughout the 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, with Andrey Boreyko being the fourth and most recent. Following the completion of Boreyko's eighth and final season in 2022, a search is underway for the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director position. Other podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 13 years in this role in the 2022-23 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, conductor Radu Paponiu was named assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 he was promoted to associate conductor. Starting with the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ho has joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art, including significant gifts from the collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

and the Smithsonian Institutions—to enrich the Southwest Florida community. In fall 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, that created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. Each season thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 3,400 households who give \$75 or more, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival’s continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine’s “Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World,” and in 2022 celebrates its 14th year in the community.

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