



CALIFORNIA DESERT FILM FESTIVAL PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON PERSONAL STORIES THAT CAN INSPIRE CREATIVE MINDS

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA. | 5 MAY 2016. Banking on the unstoppable demand for military-themed stories, Basic Lead, the organizers of the Mojave desert based **29 Palms Military Film Festival** (13-15 May, Twentynine Palms, Ca.) announced today more details about their plans to turn their low-key and family oriented festival into an annual celebration of personal stories that can inspire book authors, journalists screenplay and teleplay writers, as well as producers, agents, film and documentary makers.

In addition to the festival's line-up of 24 films and documentaries consisting of studio and independent movies telling larger-than-life war stories, the festival's organizers have put together a daylong program dedicated to sharing inspirational stories from Service Men and Women.

Organized in partnership with local radio station Z107.7 FM, the sidebar program will take place on **Saturday 14 May**, from **10 AM to 7 PM**, at the **29 Palms Inn**, a Mojave Desert resort looking up to Joshua Tree National Park that will serve as the festival's epicenter.

The agenda will include two panel discussions "**War story as a source of inspiration for filmmakers**" and "**Revisiting Hollywood's relationship with Vietnam**", to be moderated by Gary DAIGNEAULT, one of the most highly decorated reporters in the state of California and co-host of morning shows on Z107.7, will focus on the impact of war stories and what it takes to bring them to the screen, and on Hollywood's ambiguous attitude towards Vietnam War stories.

Basic Lead

In the late afternoon and under the guidance of Michael ESSER, a scriptwriter and creative producer with Germany's biggest independent producer, RIGINA ZIEGLER FILM, five screenplay writers will assess the impact of personal stories that were shared with them on one their current military-themed projects.

To wrap-up the program, Veterans, the audience and the speakers will be invited to a networking cocktail that will precede the outdoor screenings of Sam MENDES' "**JARHEAD**" and Clint EASTWOOD's "**FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS**", both films to be introduced by Veterans who will share their personal recollections of the pivotal moments depicted in these films.

"This festival will honor the courage that inspires moviemaking by putting the spotlight on personal stories that have the power to awaken creative minds." says Patrick ZUCHOWICKI, General Manager of Basic Lead, and adds, "We are also banking on the unstoppable demand for military themed stories, and on the popularity the California desert already enjoys as a source of inspiration for the music and art worlds."

The Festival will open with a special tribute to the "Fall of Saigon Marines" who served at U.S. missions in South Vietnam and the outdoor screening of Director Rory Kennedy's Academy Award® Nominee Last Days of Vietnam (2014) about the chaotic final days of the Vietnam War will follow the reception.

VIP Passes to the sidebar daylong program are sold \$50 per person and include access to all screenings as well. Festival passes can be purchased in advance at the 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce / 73484 Twentynine Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms, California, Monday thru Friday (10 AM to 4 PM) and Saturday and Sunday (9 AM to 2 PM).

Tickets are also available at 29palmsfilmfestival.com/buy-tickets.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

Basic Lead is a Los Angeles based, full service, event management and production company, servicing the global entertainment industry. Basic Lead organizes high-profile industry gatherings such as premieres, trade-shows and conference programs that provide delegates, guests and talent with truly unique experiences. For more information on the festival, visit 29PalmsFilmFestival.com or call (323) 782 13 00

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LIST OF FILMS

1. 300 - Zack SNYDER | USA | 2007 - 117 minutes
2. A FEW GOOD MEN - Rob REINER | USA | 1992 - 138 minutes
3. A FIGHTING SEASON - Oden ROBERTS | USA | 2015 - 82 minutes
4. APOCALYPSE WORLD WAR I - Isabelle CLARKE & Daniel COSTELLE | CANADA / FRANCE | 2014 - 104 minutes
5. A WAR (KRIGEN) - Tobias LINDHOLM | DENMARK | 2015 - 115 minutes
6. BLACK HAWK DOWN - Ridley SCOTT | USA / UK | 2001 - 144 minutes
7. BATTALION (BATALON) - Dmitriy MESKHIEV | RUSSIA | 2015 - 120 minutes
8. BATTLE FOR SEVASTOPOL (BITVA ZA SEVASTOPOL) - Sergei MOKRITSKIY | RUSSIA / UKRAINE | 2015 - 110 minutes
9. CASABLANCA - Michael CURTIZ | USA | 1942 - 102mn
10. CASUALTIES OF WAR - Brian DE PALMA | USA | 1989 - 163mn
11. DAS BOOT - Wolfgang Petersen | GERMANY | 1981 - 145mn
12. FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS - Clint EASTWOOD | USA | 2006 - 135 minutes
13. FULL METAL JACKET - Stanley KUBRICK | USA / UK | 1987 - 116 minutes
14. GOOD MORNING VIETNAM - Barry LEVINSON | USA | 1987 - 120 minutes
15. HOW I WON THE WAR? - Richard LESTER | UK | 1967 - 110 minutes
16. JARHEAD - Sam MENDES | USA | 2005 - 110 minutes
17. LAST DAYS OF VIETNAM - Rory KENNEDY | USA | 2014 - 98 minutes
18. PEARL HARBOR - Michael BAY | USA | 2001 - 183 minutes
19. RESTREPO - Tim HETHERINGTON & Sebastian JUNGER | USA | 2010 - 96 minutes
20. THE BIG RED ONE - Samuel FULLER | USA | 1980 - 117mn
21. THE D.I. - Jack WEBB | USA | 1957 - 106 minutes
22. THE KILLING FIELDS - Roland JOFFÉ | USA | 1984 - 141mn
23. WHEN THE WIND BLOWS - Jimmy T. MURAKAMI | UK | 1986 - 88 minutes
24. WINDTALKERS - John WOO | USA | 2002 - 135 minutes