

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ARTS ORGANIZATION RAW: NATURAL BORN ARTISTS PRESENTS
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL FEATURING LOCAL SOCIAL FILMMAKERS AT
THE BOOTLEG THEATER IN ECHO PARK**

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017, STARTING AT 12PM

Los Angeles (CA) -- Premiere international indie arts organization, **RAW:natural born artists**, debuts its second film festival this spring at the warehouse-style venue Bootleg Theater on Sunday, June 4th, starting at noon. Titled **RAW Film Festival (RAWFF)**, the pop-up short film festival will host a competitive showcase of short films from mainly local Southern Californian filmmakers in three different categories: narrative, experimental/music video, and documentary. In addition, there will be a free international showcase featuring filmmakers beyond California. The festival will integrate a curated art exhibition along with music and dance performances by a host of indie artists which directly tie-in with the short films being screened. Artists **Andrew Myers** will and **Steven Kutcher** be displaying their unusual work. **Steven Kutchner**, also known as "The Bug Man Of Hollywood" will also be performing a live demo of his famous "Bug Paintings" where he uses his live insects to create dynamic watercolors. Artists scheduled to perform during the fest include dancers performing live rendition of the film **We Together** by **Henry Kaplan** where two zombies reclaim their humanity through break dance. The night comes to a head with a performance by art-pop musician/performance artist **MRK**.

RAWFF will present 40 short films from local filmmakers, many of which were also selected to screen at **Sundance, SXSW, TIFF**, as well as **Vice Shorts** and **Vimeo Staff Picks**. A handful of films will premiere at the event. In addition, RAWFF will feature a Virtual Reality Showcase with select 360° films, including work from **Blake Montgomery + Maira Clancy, Lithic VR**, and **Pseudoscience Pictures**. Described as "art house in Hollywood," the films presented are edgy, conceptual films with high aesthetics and production value. The three local blocks of films presented will be followed by Q&A sessions with the filmmakers moderated by **Chris Schwartz** - manager of AFI Conservatory. The day will be followed by a brief award ceremony where a cash award and trophy is given to the top film in each program category.

Award panel jury members include **Kayla Briët** - Sundance Ignite Fellow, TED Fellow, RAWFF '16 Alum, **Larry Laboe** - Cofounder and Executive Director at NewFilmmakers Los Angeles, **Gerry Maravilla** - Crowdfunding Director at Seed & Spark, RAWFF '16 Alum and Zachary Garrett - Manager of Worldwide Acquisitions at EuropaCorp

Festival goers can also purchase all-access passes where guests will be able to connect with the filmmakers as well as other artists in attendance. Tickets to each programming block are \$15, except for the International block which is free with RSVP. After-party, VR Exhibition, Art Gallery, Performance Stage, and cash bar access is included with the purchase of any program ticket. Buy tickets and RSVP via rawfilmfestival.eventbrite.com

Festival Schedule:

12PM: “International Offerings” – International Shorts
2PM: “Quicksilverlake” – Documentary Shorts
4:30PM: “Burbank Robbers” – Experimental Shorts + Music Videos
7PM: “Echo Parkour” – Narrative Shorts
8:30PM: Award Ceremony
9: After-Party Begins

For more information please visit:

www.rawfilmfestival.com
facebook.com/rawfilmfestival
Twitter + Instagram: @RAWFilmFestival
Bootlegtheater.org

RAW: natural born artists is a creative community designed to provide independent artists with the tools, resources and exposure needed to inspire and cultivate creativity. The platforms developed by raw showcase indie talent in visual art, fashion design, film, music, performance art, hair and make-up artistry, and photography. RAW presents artists to their local community, as well as the world stage, through fun, unconventional methods. With a worldwide presence, RAW operates in 60 cities around the world including the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Bootleg Theater is a year-round inclusive art space for original, boundary-defying live theater, music, and dance performances born from the diverse cultural and artistic landscape of Los Angeles. Bootleg supports and collaborates with the best of established and emerging music, theater, and dance artists to create daring multi-disciplinary live experiences that are striking, contemporary and non-traditional. Based in a former 1930s warehouse, this brick-walled performance space hosts theater, music, dance and film events in a medium-size theater, which is adjoined by a smaller stage and bar.

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