

A Celebration of Women and Leadership

Athena

February 18-21, 2016 • Barnard College • New York, NY

Film Festival





A Celebration of Women and Leadership

Now in its sixth year, the Athena Film Festival is an engaging weekend of feature films, documentaries, and shorts that highlight women's leadership in real life and the fictional world.

The four-day festival has quickly established itself as one of the most prestigious festivals of its kind.



#chicagoGirl
THE SOCIAL NETWORK TAKES ON A DICTATOR



A weekend honoring
the courageous and audacious



Official Selection 2014
sundance
Film Festival

IDFA Competition
for Feature-Length
Documentary
idfa 2013

IDFA DOC
Competition
idfa 2013



A FILM BY JUSTIN SIMIEN
DEAR WHITE PEOPLE

A satire about being a black

COMEDY BY JUSTIN SIMIEN AND WRITTEN BY JUSTIN SIMIEN AND DANIEL KATZ. CASTING BY JUSTIN SIMIEN. COSTUME DESIGNER: JESSICA KATZ. EDITOR: JUSTIN SIMIEN. PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JESSICA KATZ. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JESSICA KATZ AND JUSTIN SIMIEN. PRODUCED BY JESSICA KATZ AND JUSTIN SIMIEN. WRITTEN BY JUSTIN SIMIEN AND DANIEL KATZ. DIRECTED BY JUSTIN SIMIEN.



THE
**INVISIBLE
WAR**

FROM DIRECTOR JESSICA KATZ. WRITTEN BY JESSICA KATZ AND DANIEL KATZ. DIRECTED BY JESSICA KATZ.

"HILARIOUS, HEARTBREAKING
AND TOTALLY GENIUS."

MOVIEFONE

THE MOST WINNING
ABORTION-THEMED
ROM-COM EVER MADE."

THE DISSOLVE

A TRUE STAR-MAKING PERFORMANCE
FOR JENNY SLATE."

FILM THREAT

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SXSW

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SUNDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION
NEW DIRECTORS
NEW FILMS

**OBVIOUS
CHILD**

CASTING BY JUSTIN SIMIEN AND DANIEL KATZ. WRITTEN BY JUSTIN SIMIEN AND DANIEL KATZ. DIRECTED BY JUSTIN SIMIEN.

A24

2014



Films with passion, purpose, and heart



Illustrious guests, intriguing ideas



**Sparking conversations,
igniting the next generation of leaders**

Athena Film Festival

February 5–8, 2015 • Barnard College

A Celebration of Women and Leadership

Founding Sponsor:
NORMA K. SOULY FOUNDATION
ArtemisRising
FOUNDATION

Highlights

- 35+ features, documentaries, shorts, and works-in-progress
- Stimulating conversations and panels
- Master classes with industry experts
- Red Carpet Awards Gala and receptions with special guests
- *Athena List Awards* - “a gender conscious alternative to Hollywood’s Black List”



Diverse Audience

Nearly 5,000 attendees, 500+ filmmakers and VIPs, 200+ volunteers

- **Education:** 15% Doctorates, 29% Masters, 33% Undergraduate Degrees
- **Income:** 16% earn \$200k+, 22% earn \$100k-\$199k, 28% earn \$50k-\$99k, 33% earn less than \$50k



Diverse Audience

- **Race:** 66% White, 34% persons of color
- **Age:** 36%: 19-25, 17%: 26-35, 10%: 36-45, 11%: 46-55, and 19%: 55+
- **Gender:** 92% female
- **Residency:** 78% New Yorkers, 22% from outside NY

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

At Athena Festival, Women Are the Stars

By STUART MILLER

The snubbing of "Selma" director Ava DuVernay in this year's Academy Award nominations has stirred debate about the way Hollywood treats women, both on screen and behind the camera.

It is a topic the Athena Film Festival has been trying to spotlight since it launched in 2011. If the festival, set for Feb. 5-8 at Barnard College, doesn't ring a bell, you're not alone.

Even Gillian Robespierre, a native New Yorker and up-and-coming director, said she didn't know about the festival before

command over their fate.

Offerings this year range from a premiere of the HBO documentary "Rosie O'Donnell: A Heartfelt Stand Up," which showcases the comedian's evolving comedic work since her recent heart attack, to the feature "Dukhtar," a drama by filmmaker Afia Nathaniel chronicling the story of a Pakistani mother who kidnaps her 10-year-old daughter to save her from becoming a child bride.

The festival also will honor Jodie Foster with a lifetime achievement award.

"My goal from day one was to change the conversation and

goal falls to the festival's co-founder and artistic director Melissa Silverstein, who also serves as editor of the website Women and Hollywood.

The job, said Ms. Silverstein, has had built-in challenges: There are numerous choices for the short-film and documentary categories, but fewer feature-length films.

"I want to be able to share more stories with women on screen, but they are not there," she said. "I look all day long."

Women's stories are the last to get greenlighted, said Ms. Silverstein, because there is a misconception they are bad for

of female directors. The 250 top-grossing films of the 1990s, according to the Center for Women in Film, had only 10 directed by women.

Oscar race, Best Picture winner in the festival's second year, said director Robespierre, "I think this year, it's been a little bit better."

to be celebrated this year.

to page A21

NEW YORK POST

February 7, 2015

Jodie's kind words for Amy

JODIE Foster feels for former Sony Pictures co-chair Amy Pascal, who stepped down this week after fallout from embarrassing e-mails that came to light in the hacking scandal. "It sounds like a sad day for

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

MOVIES

REVIEWS

BOX OFFICE

COMING

Athena Film Festival: Jodie Foster Reflects on Need for Female Directors



HOME | ARTISANS | NEWS

Athena Film Festival Announces 2015 Awardees

EMAIL + 0 56 19 PRINT TALK 8+1 Tweet Share



Entertainment WEEKLY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2015

THE XX FACTOR

It's not news that women are underrepresented in film. Glance at this year's Best Picture nominees and you'll find a female protagonist. The Athena Film Festival was created five years ago by the Athena Center at Barnard College and the advocacy group Women and Hollywood to remedy just that. "How do we instigate a cultural conversation about the fact that women's stories are just as important?" asks Melissa Silverstein, the festival's cofounder. In addition to screening movies solely with women in the lead, the festival publishes a gender-specific Black List spotlighting the best untold stories starring women. The so-called Athena List is already having an impact: 2014 honoree Emily Aalt secured a producer for her script "Audrey's Run" and solidified Paula Patton's attachment to the project. "The fact that their award is focused on female protagonists exclusively is really beneficial," Aalt says.

The Athena Film Festival has one mission: to make more movies about strong women. —NICOLE SPERLING

2015'S ATHENA LIST HONOREES
Sharon Stone gave a sneak peek at this year's three winners, which will be announced on Feb. 7. Coming soon (hopefully) to a theater near you.

What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us
Jenny Halper
From a script based on Lauren van den Burg's short story, a primatologist's quest to save lemurs in Madagascar puts her in danger.

Highsmith
Elizabeth
The tale of crime novelist Patricia Highsmith (The Talented Mr. Ripley) details her downward spiral when she could not put her name to the iconic lesbian novel The Price of Salt during the McCarthy era.

Dickey Chapelle
Margaret Nappi
The Good Lie screenwriter tells the true story of war photographer Dickey Chapelle. The boundary-pushing photojournalist ditched the sidelines and went into battle with soldiers.

Illustration by WESLEY ALLARD

Actress Jenny Slate, left, and director Gillian Robespierre worked together on the film 'Obvious Child,' which was released last year.

Film Festival Encourages Women to 'Wear the Pants'

Continued from page A17
brating filmmakers, but also to be encouraging and inspiring others coming up to tell those stories," she said.

To do that, the festival also places emphasis on its master classes and panels, said Ms. Kolbert. Among the offerings this year is a guide to successful crowdfunding.

Another 2015 honoree is Sheila Nevins, president of HBO Documentary Films, who said she attended Barnard back when "we couldn't wear pants

tening to a small women's festival a continent away—she said she was impressed with how the festival has grown "from almost nothing to a place for women creators that is making a mark for itself."

Attendance at the festival has more than doubled since its inception, to nearly 5,000, and the number of films under consideration has grown to 350 films from 84 the first year.

Ms. Nevins said she hopes the festival will eventually be unnecessary.

Meanwhile, she said, she may dress like Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, who both

Significant Media

- Over 1.5 billion media impressions
- Coverage in notable publications including Variety, The New York Times, The Hollywood Reporter, The Wall Street Journal, Entertainment Weekly, Time Out NY, The View, and more



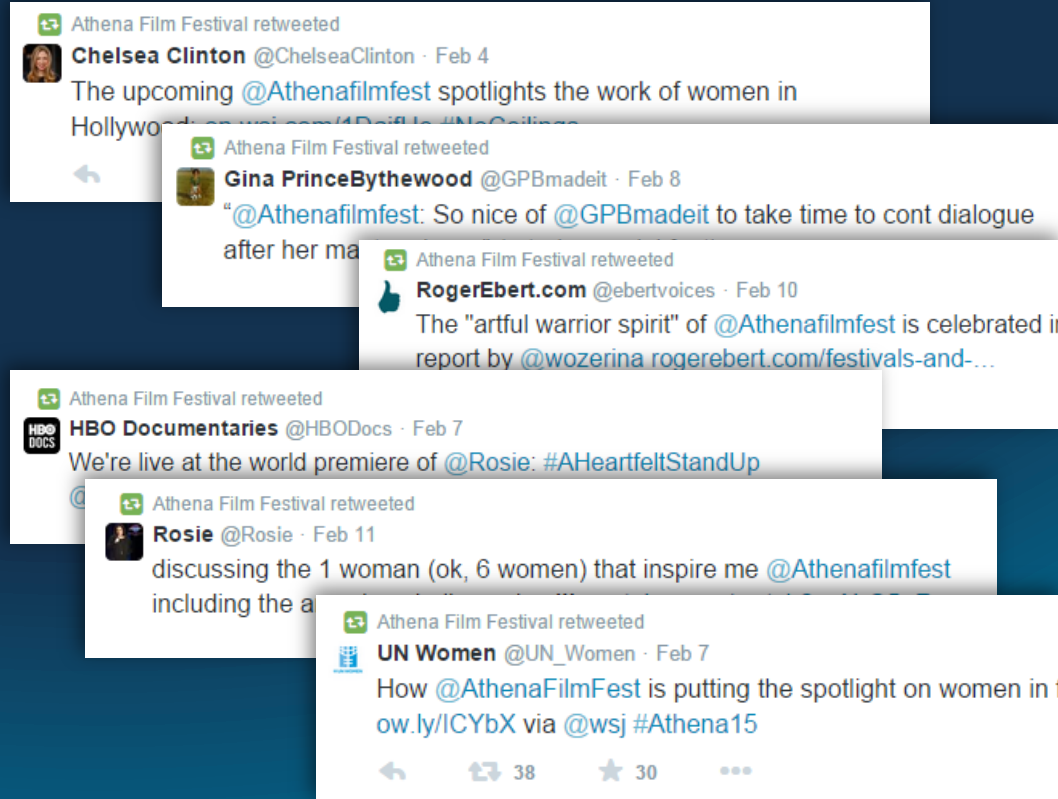
Athena Film Festival
Posted by Avi Edelman [?] · February 8 ·

#AthenaStory: Allison Wood heard about the festival on NPR and brought her aspiring filmmaker daughter Maddie Wiener to #Athena15 from North Carolina as a sixteenth birthday present. Said Maddie: "It was really cool to see women saying, 'YOU CAN DO THIS.'"



Athena Film Festival
Posted by Avi Edelman [?] · February 7 ·

Volunteer Devyn Massey traveled from North Carolina to be at #Athena15 because "We need to celebrate female role models in film. And there needs to be more of them."



Vibrant Online Community

- 1 million+ unique web visits
- 30,000+ social media followers
- Direct outreach to 40+ partnering orgs reaching 560,000 people

Why Sponsor Athena?

- Associate your brand with the largest women's film festival in New York, at the nation's most sought-after women's college
- Gain access to an engaged, educated, diverse, and high income audience
- Support your company's marketing and community outreach needs

Special Thanks to the Sponsors of
The Athena Film Festival

FOUNDING SPONSOR

REGINA K. SCULLY / FOUNDER & CEO

ArtemisRising
FOUNDATION

PREMIERE LEVEL



FORD FOUNDATION

GOLD LEVEL

WHITEWATER
FILMS



THE HARNISCH
FOUNDATION

Family Foundation

SILVER LEVEL

The Andrew & Marina Lewin Family Foundation

FOXIA

FOXIA





Customized packages from \$5K to \$100K

Contributions are tax-deductible

Three ways to contribute:

- General support
- Sponsorship of events: Red Carpet Awards Gala, Opening and Closing films, Master Classes, *Athena List*, panels, and receptions
- Honorary Host Committee membership



Sponsorship Benefits

- Recognition online, onscreen, in program, and at venues
- VIP passes with reserved seating
- Tickets to Red Carpet Awards Gala and receptions



What do you see
when you picture leadership?



Picture women, picture Athena



For more information

Athena Film Festival

A celebration of women and leadership

athenafilmfestival@gmail.com

212.854.1412

Barnard College

3009 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Athenafilmfestival.com

Founding Sponsor:

REGINA K. SCULLY / FOUNDER & CEO

ArtemisRising
FOUNDATION