

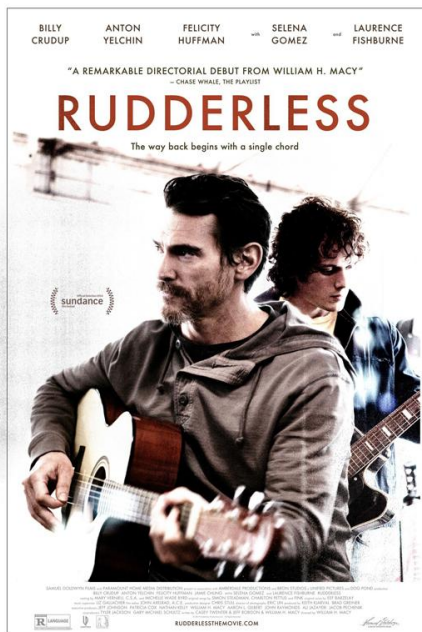


DESERTSCAPE

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

For Immediate Release:
Monday, June 8th

Media Contacts:
Adam Mast
(435) 632-1795
John Pugh
(435) 229-8720
info@fmasu.com



DESERTSCAPE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL WELCOMES SPECIAL GUEST, SCREENWRITER JEFF ROBISON (“RUDDERLESS”)

St. George, UT-- Film and Media Alliance of Southern Utah recently announced that screenwriter Jeff Robison will serve on the 2021 Desertscape International Film Festival Jury. Additionally, Robison will open the fest with a very special Screenwriting Clinic on Wednesday, June 23rd. The course will run from 11 AM to 3 PM and is designed to appeal to both seasoned writers and those just starting out. This extremely accessible and undeniably talented storyteller will delve into fundamentals but he'll also engage participants by way of clips and spirited stories from his years in the business. Lunch will be included. Tickets to this workshop are only \$40 (discounts available to students) or you can pick up a Desertscape All-Access Badge/Screenwriting Clinic combo for only \$100.

Robison will also be on hand throughout the festival and what's more, he'll host a very special screening of "Rudderless" as part of a "Underappreciated Films of the Past Decade" film block on Thursday, June 24th at 8 PM.

Released in 2014, "Rudderless" is a music-tinged father/son drama starring an outstanding Billy Crudup as Sam, a grieving lost soul who reconnects with his deceased son by way of a box of demo tapes. After overhearing Sam sing one of those songs, sweet-natured Quentin (played by the late, great Anton Yelchin) immediately takes a liking to it and suggests that they form a band and perform together at a local open-mic night. What follows is a touching, poignant, hard hitting, and surprisingly provocative movie experience punctuated by outstanding performances, memorable songs, and a winning screenplay by Jeff Robison and Casey Twenter. It should also be noted that this outstanding movie was the directorial debut of the legendary William H. Macy.

The "Rudderless" screening will be followed by a Q&A with Robison and a live music set featuring gifted local musicians, Kevin Jones, Mark Bracich, and Zoe Jones. This is certainly an evening you won't want to miss. Tickets can be purchased here;

filmfreeway.com/DesertscapeFilmFestival/tickets

Adam Mast, Desertscape Festival Director, said: "I've been a huge fan of "Rudderless" since seeing it at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. As it happens, it was at that same fest that I first met Jeff Robison. Because of our mutual love of films in general, we've kept in close contact over the last seven years and this Desertscape "Rudderless" screening is a long time coming. But to have this affable storyteller on board as a Jury member and to have him here to share insight with other writers at a screenwriting clinic is simply the icing on the cake. I couldn't be any more excited that he took the time out of his schedule to fly in from OKC and be a part of Desertscape."

John Pugh, Desertscape Festival Director, said: "I only recently watched "Rudderless" for the first time and it's a very moving musical drama featuring the late great Anton Yelchin and the underappreciated Billy Crudup. This little gem of a film is well-deserving of special curated screening at Desertscape 2021. We'll have one of the screenwriters, Jeff Robison, on hand to tell us more about his process and to share stories about his time on set. It's very exciting and should not be missed!"

DESERTSCAPE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL-- Since 2019, the Desertscape International Film Festival has served as a platform for filmmakers from all over the world to share their work in a theatrical setting. Additionally, Desertscape prides itself on creating a source of grand entertainment and enlightenment for its many attendees. While Desertscape is still very much in its infancy it has grown exponentially over the last few years seeing an increase in both submissions and attendance from 2019 to 2020. The goal is to see Desertscape evolve and emerge as a Southern Utah staple for years to come.

FILM AND MEDIA ALLIANCE OF SOUTHERN UTAH (FMASU)-- Formed in 2017, FMASU is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit designed to encourage, inspire, nurture, and educate filmmaking talent and to preserve film history and the theatrical experience. FMASU does this by way of several film-related events throughout the year, including; Desertscape International Film Festival, HorrorFest International, The Electric Film Series, A Merry Movie Christmas, and the Guerilla Filmmaking Challenges--quick turnaround filmmaking competitions that take place three times per year. While FMASU prides itself on its Southern Utah roots, it is equally interested in championing storytellers from all around the world. Of course, the primary goal is to engage everyone through the culturally expansive nature of the world's greatest art form: Cinema!

To learn all about FMASU and or to donate, log on to fmasu.com.

