



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Studio Movie Grill announces selections for
inaugural Shared Stories Film Series
(April 28 to May 4)**

**DFS High School Roundtable and Women in Film Dallas present Sarah
Moshman's THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT for Opening Night**

Dallas, TX (April 11, 2017) – Studio Movie Grill (SMG) announced the official selections for the debut of their Shared Stories Film Series, screening exclusively at the Studio Movie Grill Spring Valley location April 28th to May 4th. The series will open with Sarah Moshman's THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT for Opening Night and will include 11 films, 5 panels, and a film-based workshop. Proceeds from paneled films will go to 5 non-profit organizations serving women in the Dallas area.

Studio Movie Grill's Senior Director of Outreach, Lynne McQuaker, says, "We are so excited to bring this celebration of women on screen and behind the camera to Studio Movie Grill and to partner with local non-profits who provide needed resources and give women the power to grow and heal."

Opening night's THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT is an inspiring journey across America to meet the women paving the way in all fields, including an astronaut, athlete, chef, and the filmmakers themselves. The movie will be preceded by an announcement and screening of the winning female created entry of the PSA competition Studio Movie Grill launched with Dallas Film Society's High School Roundtable Program and Women in Film Dallas. Studio Movie Grill will also introduce its One Story Movement series. The film will be followed by a panel of successful Dallas professionals including Melina McKinnon, CEO of M3 Films, Kerri Navarro, the first woman President of Dallas Producers Association (DPA), Dr. Candice Bledsoe, executive director of the Action Research Center in Dallas, and teen singing sensation from America's Got Talent, Kadie Lynn.

Along with Women in Film Dallas, many non-profits are co-presenting films and panels or workshops throughout the series. Ticket proceeds for screenings and panels associated with a

non-profit will be donated to that organization. MISS REPRESENTATION will have a panel of successful female producers, journalists, and artists in Dallas discussing the progress and challenges within their fields. 8 DAYS will have a panel discussion to be moderated by director Jaco Booyens to discuss the epidemic problem of human trafficking, presented in association with Traffick 911 and Share Together. THE HUNTING GROUND will benefit rape crisis organization, DARCC and host a panel of experts to talk about the legal and emotional aspects of sexual assault. And ESCALATION is a workshop, led by representatives of One Love Foundation, educating women of all ages about relationship violence.

Closing night will be an exciting screening of HIDDEN FIGURES, followed by a panel with the Dallas-based women recently honored as "Hidden Figures of Dallas: Top Women of Color In STEM" by NSBEDFW (National Society of Black Engineers, Dallas). The panel will be moderated by Vice President of NSBEDFW, Quanta Graves. All ticket proceeds to benefit the NSBEDFW Scholarship Fund.

Proceeds from ticket sales benefit different filmmakers and organizations with each screening. Ticket prices are \$10, \$5 or free. For more information on the SMG Shared Stories Film Series and to purchase tickets, go to <https://www.studiomoviegrill.com/Movie/Film-Series/SMG-Shared-Stories-Film-Series>.

The 2017 Studio Movie Grill Shared Stories Film Series selections:

OPENING NIGHT SELECTION

THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Director: Sarah Moshman

Run Time: 99 minutes

Driving over 7,000 miles from Los Angeles to New York over the course of 30 days, the documentary spotlights 17 positive and powerful women leaders across a variety of lifestyles and industries. Created for women by women, they challenge the audience to ask themselves, "What would you do if you weren't afraid to fail?"

Panel discussion following the film. Presented in association with Dallas Film Society High School Roundtable and Women in Film Dallas. All ticket proceeds to benefit Grants & Scholarships Fund of Women in Film Dallas.

MISS REPRESENTATION

Director: Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Kimberlee Acquaro

Run Time: 88 minutes

Stories from teenage girls and provocative interviews with politicians, journalists, and entertainers like Condoleezza Rice, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, and Rosario Dawson will leave the audience shaken and armed with a new perspective.

Panel discussion includes local women in media and the arts.

8 DAYS

Director: Jaco Booyens

Run Time: 90 minutes

After sneaking to a party with her friends, 16-year-old Amber Stevens goes missing. Forced into the world of sex trafficking, her family and community fight to get her back. Inspired by actual events and shot in Dallas.

Panel discussion will be moderated by director Jaco Booyens. Presented in association with filmmakers, Share Together and Traffick 911. All ticket proceeds to benefit SHARE/Traffick 911.

MONA LISA SMILE

Director: Mike Newell

Run Time: 117 minutes

Starring Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst, and Julia Stiles, a free-thinking art professor teaches conservative 1950s Wellesley girls to question their traditional social roles.

THE HUNTING GROUND

Director Kirby Dick

Run Time 103 minutes

An exposé of rape crimes on U.S. college campuses, their institutional cover-ups, and the devastating toll they take on students and their families.

Panel discussion following the film. Presented in association with the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center (DARCC). All ticket proceeds to benefit DARCC.

UNSLUT

Director: Emily Lindin

Run Time: 40 minutes

Through interviews with victims of sexual shaming, sexual assault survivors, sexuality experts, advocates, and media figures, the film explores the causes and manifestations of sexual shaming in North America and offers immediate and long-term goals for personal, local, and institutional solutions.

BELLE

Director: Amma Assante

Run Time: 100 minutes

Inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate mixed race daughter of a Royal Navy Captain. Raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord Mansfield and his wife, Belle's lineage affords her certain privileges, yet the color of her skin prevents her from fully participating in the traditions of her social standing.

ESCALATION with Workshop

Director: Chris Beutler

Run Time: 35 minutes (90 minutes with workshop)

The Escalation Workshop is a powerful, emotionally-engaging 90-minute film-based workshop that educates groups about relationship violence and empowerment for change. Following the film, the audience breaks into small discussion groups led by One Love trained facilitators to discuss key scenes from the film.

Presented in association with the One Love Foundation. All ticket proceeds to benefit the One Love Foundation.

ABORTION: STORIES WOMEN TELL

Director: Tracy Droz Tragos

Run Time: 99 minutes

In 1973, the US Supreme court decision Roe v. Wade gave every woman the right to have an abortion. In 2016, abortion remains one of the most divisive issues in America, especially in Missouri. Award-winning director and Missouri native Tracy Droz Tragos sheds new light on the contentious issue with a focus on the women and their stories, rather than the debate.

ENGLISH VINGLISH

Director: Gauri Shinde

Run Time: 134 minutes

The story of a quiet, sweet tempered housewife who endures daily small slights from her husband and daughter because of her inability to speak and understand English. One day, on a trip to visit her sister in Manhattan, she decides to enroll in an English class and meets a host of new people who teach her to value herself beyond the narrow perspective of her family.

Film to be introduced by Maryam Baig.

CLOSING NIGHT SELECTION

HIDDEN FIGURES

Director: Theodore Melfi

Run Time: 127 minutes

The incredible untold story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson - brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history; the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit around the Earth, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence and turned around the Space Race.

Panel discussion following the film includes Dallas-based women recently honored by National Society of Black Engineers, Dallas (NSBEDFW) and will be moderated by Vice President of NSBEDFW, Quanta Graves. All ticket proceeds to benefit the NSBEDFW Scholarship Fund.

About Studio Movie Grill

Studio Movie Grill, the leader in in-theater dining exhibition and named to Inc. Magazine's 35th Annual List of Fastest Growing Private Companies, modernized the traditional movie-going experience by combining first-run movies with in-theater dining. Since 2000, SMG has swiftly grown to 24 locations in 9 states. Its long-standing Special Needs Screenings and Chefs for Children community programs continue to help families everywhere. SMG ranks No. 1 in box offices in in-theater dining concepts. For additional information, visit: www.studiomoviegrill.com.

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