



NEWSLETTER

Welcome from the Board

The emergence of the society

On behalf of the St. Augustine Film Society, we are delighted to welcome our community to the first issue of the Film Society newsletter. In tribute to this esteemed organization, we want to highlight this community's origin. From humble beginnings, the society began as just an idea from the minds of Joseph Marx, his wife Andrea, and Barbara Ottaviani-Jones, Adjunct Professor of Film Studies at Flagler College. With the aspiration for a Society, dedicated to the exploration of cinematography, the three minds founded the St. Augustine Film Society in 2012, to provide a platform for foreign films in St. Augustine.

At the time, there was no theater in the area screening the immense wealth of films made outside of Hollywood, allowing our community to take its place. SAFS successfully obtained a grant from the Community Foundation of NE Florida in 2014 to launch The Golden Way (TGW): Films That Make a Difference. TGW produced a series of socially relevant films that give attendees a better understanding and appreciation of the differences that make up the human family. Topics included religious tolerance, race relations, LGBTQ issues, bullying, and spousal abuse. Now that the society stands as a hallmark of this artistic town, we continue to produce events, using film as one of the educational tools to make our community a more understanding and compassionate place to live. The St. Augustine Film Society thanks its members for their efforts to expand our reach and strengthen our ambitions.



Critique Corner

Housekeeping for Beginners by Camille Crawford

The compelling drama come to life by Goran Stolevski, immerses the audience in the classic themes of community, identity and unconditional love. The main character Dita never wanted to be a mother herself, but after unorthodox circumstances she is left to care for her girlfriends daughters, a fiery pair of girls. As she finds herself navigating the complexities of parenthood and love, Dita learns how to live with



her own sense of identity and belonging. While on the surface, this film navigates the universal complexities parenthood, viewers are delighted to find the underlying motif of discovering family through intimate moments and serendipitous paths. This eloquent film is a love letter to the families that may not fit the stereotypical mold, but still fight everyday to unconditionally love one another.

JOIN US!

Click the link below to fill out our new member application

[Member Application](#)

FILM TRIVIA

1. Which is the first movie in the Austin Powers franchise?
2. What city is overrun with ghosts in Ghostbusters?
3. In Back to the Future, what speed does the DeLorean have to reach to experience time travel?

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE YEARLING AUGUST. 24

Based on the novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, this drama focuses on the family of Civil War veteran Penny Baxter (Gregory Peck), who lives and works on a farm in Florida with his wife, Orry (Jane Wyman), and their son, Jody (Claude Jarman Jr.).

ORIGIN SEPTEMBER. 3

Based on *Caste*, the NYT best selling book by Isabel Wilkerson, *Origin* is Ava Duverney's film a fictionalized account of Wilkerson's life as she wrote the book.

BILL EVANS: TIME REMEMBERED SEPTEMBER. 22

The 90-minute documentary film, produced by Bruce Spiegel, tells the story of the talented jazz pianist Bill Evans and his historic contribution to the music community

HOUSEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS SEPTEMBER. 27

Despite never aspiring to be a mother, Dita finds herself compelled to raise her girlfriend's two daughters. As their individual wills clash, a heartwarming story unfolds about an unlikely family's struggle to stay together.

MEET THE BOARD:

John McCuskey

Inaugurating the first biography of Film Society board members is a long-time society member, the Honorable John McCuskey. Born in West Virginia, McCuskey began his association with Shuman McCuskey Slicer PLLC in 1999, following his service as the 70th Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. Born and educated in Clarksburg, Mr. McCuskey's career in law was preceded by his election to the West Virginia State Legislature in 1972, while he was still a student at West Virginia University College of Law.



After his extensive career as a lawyer, his retirement took him and his wife, Carol, to St. Augustine. "As a lawyer who is trying to retire, trying to spend more time doing good deeds," said McCuskey. After putting down roots, McCuskey found a new community to bring his perceptive energy to: the St. Augustine Film Society. Following an introduction to the society's founder, Joseph Marx, McCuskey found admiration for the community's values and became one of the board members of the Film Society. His timeless affirmation for the town of St. Augustine shines in his dedication as a board member, always pursuing the deeper significance in the conversations carried on by the audience. "It's a group of people devoted to doing great things with their time and minds". For the past three years, McCuskey has made his mark on the society as a board member by molding and improving our aspirations as a community.

FILM SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS:

Wade in the Water

The St Augustine Film Society presented the award-winning documentary *Wade in the Water: A Journey into Black Surfing and Aquatic Culture* which is now available on demand starting June 19th. This film is a deep dive into the rich history and powerful stories of Black surfers who have shaped and continue to influence surf culture around the world.

This is an announcement for our audience, that if you were not able to make it to our June 21st showing of *Wade in the Water*, it is now available for streaming.



CONTACT US!

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