

## CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS THANKS COMMUNITY ON MAY 21 WITH FREE DAY OF FILMS

*Full day of CCA's most popular movies with free admission as "thank you" for community donations to save CCA Cinemas*

**Santa Fe, NM, May 17, 2023** – The Center for Contemporary Arts will offer free admission to all films screening in both cinemas on May 21 to thank the community for its overwhelming support this month to save the CCA Cinemas.

According to Paul Barnes, the volunteer CCA Cinemas General Manager, "The community raised over \$300,000 to keep the CCA Cinemas in a grassroots fundraising effort in less than two weeks! To thank the donors and supporters and everyone else in Santa Fe, I've decided to offer free admission to the CCA Cinemas on Sunday, May 21."

Barnes has will offer a full day of films in each of CCA's two screening rooms. "I've selected films that have been major hits at the CCA Cinemas over the past few years – movies that Santa Fe residents talk about with love and admiration. Many played here for weeks and weeks, and really helped to establish CCA's reputation."

Tickets are free, but CCA is also offering pay-what-you-wish options on its website, [www.ccasantafe.org](http://www.ccasantafe.org). The Free Cinema Day films on Sunday, May 21 are:

11:00am (CCA Studio Cinema)

***Dying to Know: Ram Dass and Timothy Leary*** (USA, 2014)

Directed by Gay Dillingham, Edited by David Leach – both Santa Fe residents. Two conventional Harvard professors began probing the edges of consciousness in the '60s, while developing an epic intimate friendship. They both saw themselves as adventurers exploring alternate realities, and hearing where they ended up is a trip all by itself. Timothy Leary ended up in jail, while Richard Alpert became Ram Dass, a spiritual teacher, author of the renowned *Be Here Now*.

11:45am (CCA Cinema)

***Beasts of the Southern Wild*** (USA, 2012)

Sometimes miraculous films come into being, made by people you've never heard of, starring unknown faces, blindsiding you with creative genius. *Beasts of the Southern Wild* is one of those films. It tells the tale of six-year-old Hushpuppy and her father, Wink living together in a desolate wilderness of poverty called the Bathtub struggling to survive. A surprise hit of 2012, it was nominated for four Academy Awards including for Quvenzhané Wallis, who at age 9 became the youngest Best Actress nominee in history and one of the most memorable of movie heroines.

2:00pm (CCA Studio Cinema)

***Buck*** (USA, 2011)

A 2011 American documentary film directed by Cindy Meehl, *Buck* is an examination of the life of acclaimed “horse whisperer” Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people. *Buck* played at CCA for what seemed like forever and is still talked about by Santa Fe residents with awe as one of their favorite films.

2:15pm (CCA Cinema)

***Parasite*** (South Korea, 2019)

A zeitgeist-defining sensation that distilled a global reckoning over class inequality into a *tour de force* of pop-cinema subversion, Bong Joon Ho’s genre-scrambling black-comic thriller confirms his status as one of the world’s foremost filmmakers. *Parasite* was the first non-English-language film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture.

4:15pm (CCA Studio Cinema)

***Moonlight*** (USA, 2016)

As tender as it is tough as it is true, this three-tiered coming-of-age drama *Moonlight* is a master class character study that reaches vaunted heights of emotion. Director Barry Jenkins chronicles the childhood, adolescence and burgeoning adulthood of a young, African-American, gay man growing up in a rough neighborhood of Miami. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture.

5:15pm (CCA Cinema)

***The Rider*** (USA, 2017)

Director Chloe Zhao’s *The Rider*, is the kind of rare work that seems to attain greatness through an almost alchemical fusion of nominal opposites. An account of rodeo riders on a South Dakota reservation, it is so fact-based that it almost qualifies as a documentary. Yet the film’s style, its sense of light and landscape and mood, simultaneously give it the mesmerizing force of the most confident cinematic poetry. The film is a deft fictional adaptation of the real-life story of Brady Jandreau and his family struggling to deal with Brady’s traumatic head injury from a bronco riding accident. Though fiction, Zhao cast the real Jandreau family as her characters.

7:00pm (CCA Studio Cinema)

***El Norte*** (USA-UK, 1983)

Until director Gregory Nava’s groundbreaking *El Norte*, the personal travails of immigrants crossing the border to America had never been shown in the movies with such urgent humanism. A work of social realism imbued with dreamlike imagery, *El Norte* is a lovingly rendered, heartbreaking story of hope and survival, which critic Roger Ebert called “a *Grapes of Wrath* for our time.”

7:45pm (CCA Cinema)

***Koyaanisqatsi*** (USA, 1983)

Directed by the legendary Santa Fe resident Godfrey Reggio, *Koyaanisqatsi* is a groundbreaking work in every way and caused a sensation when it was released in 1983. This first work of The Qatsi Trilogy wordlessly surveys the rapidly changing environments of the Northern Hemisphere, in an astonishing collage created by the director, cinematographer Ron Fricke, and composer Philip Glass. It shuttles viewers from one jaw-dropping vision to the next, moving from images of untouched nature to others depicting human beings’ increasing dependence on technology. *Koyaanisqatsi*’s unique methods (including hypnotic time-lapse photography) make it a look at our world from a truly visionary angle.

Tickets are free, but CCA is also offering pay-what-you-wish options on its website, [www.ccasantafe.org](http://www.ccasantafe.org).

---

## **PRESS CONTACT**

Paul Barnes, General Manager, CCA Cinemas

Center for Contemporary Arts (603) 313-0307 pbarnesff@gmail.com

---

## **ABOUT CCA**

Forty+ years ago The Center for Contemporary Arts of Santa Fe (CCA) was founded as a grassroots organization with a vision to enhance our cultural landscape and better the lives of our neighbors in Santa Fe. From its inception in 1979, CCA has been a staple of the Santa Fe arts and culture scene, providing transformational experiences for the entire community. As one of the oldest artist-centered organizations in the American Southwest, CCA draws more than 65,000 visitors annually for independent films, exhibitions, performances and education/public programs.

CCA Cinemas has shown over 4,000 films and has brought countless filmmakers and performers to speak, enriching the movie-going experience, including Ethan Hawke, Al Pacino, Laurie Anderson, Gus Van Sant, Nagisa Oshima, Charles Burnett, Alex Cox, Jim Jarmusch, and many more.

At its heart, the CCA is not just a center for the contemporary arts, but a center for its local, vibrant community.