



NYTVF SHIFTS ANNUAL FESTIVAL TO JULY, ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF FLAGSHIP PILOT AND SCRIPT INITIATIVES FOR 2018

*14th Annual New York Television Festival – Set for week of July 15 – Moves Dates
to More Strategically Align with Beginning of TV Buying Season*

[New York, NY, December 6, 2017] The NYTVF (www.nytvf.com) has announced that the industry's first independent television festival is moving to the summer. In 2018, the **14th annual New York Television Festival** will take place the week of July 15, shifting from late October to more strategically align with the TV development calendar and maximize potential for officially-selected projects and creators.

An organization dedicated to identifying and nurturing top creative talent and connecting it with networks, studios, digital platforms, agencies, and brands, the NYTVF continues to grow its core programs – the **Independent Pilot Competition (IPC)**, **NYTVF Scripts** and **NYTVF Connect**. With this move, NYTVF's accredited industry participants will be able to have exclusive, early access to Official Selections from the pilot and script competitions following the Upfronts, in time for the new TV buying and development season.

Entries for the 14th iteration of the IPC will be accepted beginning January 2, 2018, with an early bird deadline of February 5 and procrastinator deadline of May 1. Independent writers looking to enter the third NYTVF Scripts competition can do so between March 7 and 28. (Additional details are available at www.nytvf.com/submit.html.) Official Selections for each will be showcased at the Festival in July, with invited artists to be provided with opportunities to pitch, network and meet with industry decision-makers through NYTVF Connect – a program that in 2017 included a [record-breaking](#) 600 development meetings facilitated by the NYTVF between artists and representatives from 77 companies. These range from traditional TV networks like CBS, Comedy Central, FOX and truTV to studios including Lionsgate and Warner Bros., digital platforms such as Hulu and Snapchat, and the Festival's first audio partner, Audible, along with agencies, management, and production companies.

“When the first New York Television Festival launched, we recognized the potential for an indie TV movement to be born, and are proud to have played a role in its progress,” said

NYTVF Founder and Executive Director Terence Gray. “It has been thrilling to see the idea of independent, episodic storytelling embraced so widely throughout an industry that is certainly different than it was a dozen years ago – as new buyers emerge and companies across all platforms seek out new projects to acquire and talent to develop. Shifting the Festival and marketplace to July is strategically aligned with an evolving development timeline and changes in the content landscape that now has more buyers than ever before, and the response we have received so far has exceeded all expectations.”

Added Festival Director Erin Day, “Our 2017 was record-breaking across every category: talent and industry participation, submission numbers, and diversity among the writers, directors and overall creative teams in competition. We continue to be committed to working closely with the thriving community of indie creators that look to the Festival for opportunities to showcase their projects, meet with industry decision-makers, sell their concepts and get jobs in TV and ideally increase the representation of new, independent points of view throughout our industry.”

The shift comes at a time when NYTVF projects and artists are becoming more visible across traditional television and digital outlets. This includes:

- NYTVF alumni **Jordan Klepper** and **Laura Grey** (Comedy Central’s *The Opposition with Jordan Klepper*), and **Erin Cardillo** and **Richard Keith** (co-creators and writers on The CW’s upcoming *Life Sentence*);
- Past NYTVF Official Selections *Animals* (the 2013 Best Comedy pilot winner at the Festival and recently renewed for a third season on HBO), *Boring, OR* (part of NYTVF Scripts in 2016, written by Stephen Soroka, in development with ABC, and attached to Jack Black’s Electric Dynamite and ABC Studios), and *Doctor Illegal* (a 2015 IPC Official Selection created by Jan Galli, in development at CBS, attached to Gina Rodriguez’ I Can and I Will Productions and CBS Studios);
- [*The Accidental Wolf*](#), a 2015 IPC Official Selection from creator Arian Moayed being independently released earlier this fall (featuring Tony-winner Kelli O’Hara leading a Broadway-packed cast), garnering critical praise and named one to watch by *The New York Times*; and
- Dozens of NYTVF alumni currently being staffed writers, directors and producers on primetime and late night shows.

In addition to the leading showcase of independent television pilots, and the NYTVF Connect marketplace and speaker series, the 14th annual New York Television Festival is again scheduled to include a series of both industry-centric and TV fan events, geared toward a wide swath of TV decision-makers, indie creators, and small screen enthusiasts. [In 2017](#), the Festival featured creative keynotes from Klepper and Grey (*The Opposition*), Shawn Ryan (*The Shield*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Timeless*), Lena Waithe (*Master of None*, *The Chi*) and the women of HBO’s *The Deuce*; screenings and/or fan Q&As for *At Home with Amy Sedaris*, *Nude*, *Rosehaven*, *Search Party*, *She’s the Ticket* and *Stan Against Evil*; along with development Q&As with networks, studios and digital platforms, educational workshops, and several artist- and industry-exclusive events.

About the NYTVF

Established in 2005, the NYTVF constructs new and innovative paths of development and talent identification, while simultaneously complementing the traditional television development model. By partnering directly with networks, studios, production companies, digital platforms and brands, the NYTVF provides its Industry Partners with a streamlined

development model, leveraging its vast creative community of over 17,000 independent producers and production companies, to create content with specific partners in mind. During the annual New York Television Festival, the NYTVF brings together its top artists and industry decision-makers for a series of events designed to foster networking, collaboration and education. The Festival also marks the culmination of the organization's yearly development efforts and features screenings of top independent content, educational panels, fan events, red carpet premieres, and more. For more information on the NYTVF, the annual Festival and these competitions, visit www.nytvf.com.

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