

Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic*

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tim Hausler, Communications Manager

thausler@artisnaples.org | 239-254-2794

Website: artisnaples.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/artisnaples](https://www.facebook.com/artisnaples)

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ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES RICHARD AND CHRISTINE LUBLIN AS 2023 NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTING SPONSORS

Naples, FL (October 19, 2023) — Artis—Naples is thrilled to announce Dr. Richard Lublin and Christine Stahl Lublin as presenting sponsors of the 15th annual Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), scheduled for October 26-29, 2023.

“Richard and Christine have been extraordinary supporters of NIFF for years, providing the highest level of commitment as festival presenting sponsors,” said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. “This year, Richard and Christine continue to provide their invaluable support, and we are deeply grateful for their engagement, vision and generosity in helping Artis—Naples present NIFF on its 15th anniversary year.

Richard Lublin, a former attorney who became a successful film and television actor, brings a unique perspective to supporting the Naples International Film Festival. His passion for independent cinema is evident, and he has particular compassion for the challenges faced by independent filmmakers as they seek distributors and financing in an entertainment industry geared toward blockbusters and big names. Lublin’s industry experience drives his desire to support independent cinema.

“Film festivals like NIFF are among the only places where independent filmmakers can get the necessary exposure to ensure that their films reach a wider audience,” Richard said. “Creating a film is only half the battle. My work in the film and television industry over the years has made me aware of the significant effort required to find distributors and financing for these cherished creations, and I want to help the films selected for NIFF get the recognition they deserve.”

Christine Lublin shares Richard’s sentiment, highlighting the passion that independent filmmakers have for their stories. “These filmmakers have invested so much into the stories they’re telling with their films, and NIFF provides them with a vibrant platform to showcase those creations to live audiences who enthusiastically embrace their work,” she said. “We always look forward to meeting the filmmakers who attend and hearing first-hand about their latest projects.”

The film festival will commence with a glamorous Opening Night event on Thursday, October 26, featuring a red carpet and a screening of *Hard Miles*, starring Matthew Modine of *Stranger Things*. NIFF will conclude on October 29 with a special presentation of Steven Spielberg’s *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, featuring a live performance of John Williams’ classic score by the Naples Philharmonic, conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly. On Friday and Saturday nights, Artis—Naples will host its popular “Screenings Under the Stars” in Norris Garden on the Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus.

This year’s festival boasts a diverse selection of 57 films, including 12 narrative features, 10 documentary features and 35 short films, originating from eight different countries. All screenings will be held in person at Hayes Hall, Norris Garden or Paragon Theaters – Pavilion.

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and, beginning in the 2024-25 season, Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, Artis—Naples offers more than 800 paid and free events annually across its 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors and recently announced the appointment of Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, who immediately assumes the role of Artistic and Music Director Designate through the 2023-24 season. Renowned violinist James Ehnes continues as artistic partner through the 2023-24 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 14 years in this role in the 2023-24 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. Radu Paponiu serves as associate conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and Alvin Ho serves as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is the foremost fine art museum in Southwest Florida, presenting an ambitious slate of exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect particular strengths in modern art of the United States and Mexico. The Baker Museum's collections reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors, including significant gifts from the collection of the late Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is committed to the stewardship and scholarship of its collections and to fostering inspiring and transformative experiences with the visual arts. At the same time, The Baker Museum partners with the world's leading arts institutions to make extraordinary exhibitions accessible to the Southwest Florida community—including recently the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. In 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, which created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages in Collier and counties. Each season, thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming, both on its cultural campus and in their classrooms. Beyond our commitment to youth education, the Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, comprised of more than 3,500 donor households, offers activities, travel experiences and events designed to foster a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival’s continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine’s “Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World,” and in 2023 celebrates its 15th year in the community.

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