

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic

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**ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES VAN MAXIMILIAN CARLSON'S
PRINCESS OF THE ROW
AS THE OPENING NIGHT FILM SELECTION
FOR THE 2019 NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
(OCTOBER 24-27)**

**STARS EDI GATHEGI AND TAYLER BUCK SCHEDULED TO ATTEND
SCREENING AND OPENING NIGHT PARTY ON OCTOBER 24**



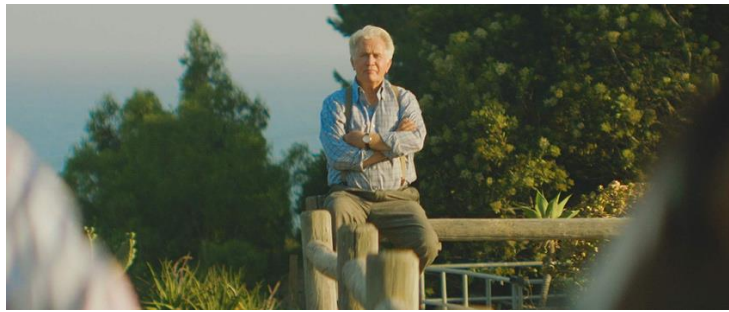
PRINCESS OF THE ROW

Naples, FL (September 18, 2019) — Artis—Naples announced today that Van Maximilian Carlson's *Princess of the Row* will be this year's Opening Night Film selection for the 11th annual Naples International Film Festival on October 24, 2019.

A critical and audience favorite at film festivals across the country this year, Carlson's *Princess of the Row* has won a number of awards, including Best American Independent Feature Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival; the Presidential Award at the Columbus International Film & Animation Festival; Varsity Audience Award at the Ashland Independent Film Festival; Best of the Festival, Best Film, Best Drama and Best Actor at the Las Vegas International Film and Screenwriting Competition; the Audience Award, Best Actress and Break Out Acting Award at Method Fest; Best Actress and Best Cinematography at the Manchester Film Festival; and Best Feature, Best Actor and Best Actress at the BronzeLens Film Festival in Atlanta.

Naples audiences will have their first opportunity to see the inspiring film when it screens on Thursday, October 24 in Hayes Hall (5833 Pelican Bay Blvd.). The film tells the story of a runaway foster child determined to live and thrive with her father, a homeless veteran struggling with mental illness and living on the streets of Los Angeles' Skid Row. Produced by Shawn Austin and Edi Gathegi, and written by Shawn Austin and Van Maximilian Carlson, the film stars Martin Sheen, Edi Gathegi, Tayler Buck, Ana Ortiz and Jacob Vargas. Writer and producer Shawn Austin and stars Edi Gathegi and Tayler Buck are scheduled to attend the

screening. Immediately following the screening, audiences will have the opportunity to meet NIFF filmmakers at an Opening Night Party featuring food, drinks and live music.



Martin Sheen in PRINCESS OF THE ROW

The announcement comes soon after the Naples International Film Festival was named one of the “25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World” by *MovieMaker Magazine* for 2019.

In choosing the festival, which enters its third year as part of Artis—Naples, a multidisciplinary arts organization based in Southwest Florida, the panel cited the festival’s “strong backing to grow and add new dimensions to its carefully curated lineup.” The full description can be found at moviemaker.com.

NIFF, which prides itself on its support of independent filmmakers and the diversity and quality of films selected for screening, has matured into a destination festival, drawing emerging and established filmmakers eager to experience its unique atmosphere of keen appreciation for cinema. Naples film fans have built a reputation for flocking to its signature Opening Night Film and Party in Hayes Hall, followed by the three days of screenings and panel discussions at Silverspot Cinema.

“There is palpable momentum carrying over from NIFF’s 10th anniversary last fall, with more national and international interest solidifying the festival’s reputation,” says Artis—Naples Executive Vice President, Artistic Operations David Filner.

Tickets for the Opening Night Film and Party and the Closing Night Awards, Film and Wrap Party are on sale now. The full festival lineup will be announced on September 27th at which point tickets for all screenings will go on sale. For more information, visit artisnaples.org

About ARTIS—NAPLES

Artis—Naples is the premier organization for the visual and performing arts in Southwest Florida. We are driven to inspire, educate and entertain by presenting world-class events that enrich our community. With the generous support of our patrons, we offer a unique range of programs including music, film, dance, comedy, lectures and exhibitions featuring internationally acclaimed artists. Our interdisciplinary approach cultivates a broader appreciation for art in its many forms.

The 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus includes two performance halls, Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion, The Baker Museum and the Stabile Education building.

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director Andrey Boreyko, the organization offers audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually. Artis—Naples welcomes 300,000-plus visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida’s arts community. The orchestra 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 2009, Jack Everly was named Principal Pops Conductor and continues today in that role.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine arts museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collections. Comprising more than 3,500 objects, the museum’s broad holdings

of 20th and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are the museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art.

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. More than 45,000 students from Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming each year both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. Each year, the Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for 7,000-plus adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with over 4,000 members, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward fostering 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.

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