

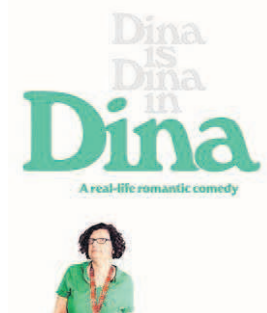
James Andrew Beard



"A Man Called Ove" (2015) is a dramedy about an unexpected friendship.



"Whiplash" (2014), about an aspiring drummer and his intense teacher, won J.K. Simmons an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.



"Dina," a comedy documentary about an eccentric couple.

At the time of his death in 1987, Baldwin had only completed 30 pages of a book meant to be his personal account of the lives and assassinations of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers, three of Baldwin's close friends. "I Am Not Your Negro" is filmmaker Raoul Peck's approach to finishing the story Baldwin was unable to.

The film will be followed by a one-hour forum for viewers to dialogue about the events, people and truths it portrays.

Astoria resident Elaine Bauer, who has attended the festival several times and volunteers on occasion, said Craig typically hosts a forum of this sort "after his most profound offering of the season."

Craig will sometimes pose a question, but largely allows the audience to drive the discussion, share their views and make their own discoveries.

"It's fun — it's very dynamic," Bauer said. The forums are "not nearly as well-attended as they deserve to be," she added, but attendance seems to have grown over the years.

Challenging worldviews

Some viewers may be unaware of events and people that shaped past and present social movements and have forced critical change in the country.

Craig does not condemn them for their ignorance of certain benchmarks in human rights or other revolutionary movements. Rather, he believes he owes it "to them and myself to have a forum so they can discuss those social issues."

Another film at this year's festival that addresses racial and cultural segregation is "Neither Wolf Nor Dog," which will be shown Saturday afternoon and again Sunday morning.

An adaptation of Kent Nerburn's book of the same name, the film follows Nerburn, a white American writer, as he travels to the Dakotas to transcribe an oral history preserved by Dan, a 95-year-old Lakota elder. A social clash ensues, as the writer struggles to connect with Dan's story. The experience forces Nerburn to come to a new understanding of events and a history he thought he knew.

In memory of James Beard

For a local subject, there will be a screening of the 2017 documentary "James Beard: America's First Foodie," directed by Beth Federici.

Beard, who was born in Portland and died in 1985, was a chef, a pioneer of the food media industry and an early champion for the importance of sustainability and localism. He spent many childhood summers in Gearhart.

"We always try to do something connected to this region," Craig said. "James Beard was one of the creative and talented people from

the area. It's an honor for me to be able to honor him."

After the screening, festival-goers are encouraged to stop by Baked Alaska, where 12th Street meets the Riverwalk, to pay tribute to Beard. They can share their favorite story about the renowned chef and foodie, even if they did not know him personally.

Craig's personal, and brief, encounter with Beard took place in Paris in the 1970s. Heading back to a hotel with his wife to relax for the evening, the couple crossed paths with Beard, whom Craig recognized on sight.

Craig remembers telling Beard how much he appreciated his work and that he was a big fan. Perusing Craig's grocery bag full of cheap French beer and potato chips, Beard joked, "Yeah, it looks like you are."

Also on the marquee

Other films showing Friday and Saturday include the 2015 Swedish comedy-drama "A Man Called Ove," written and directed by Hannes Holm; the 2014 drama "Whiplash," directed by Damien Chazelle; the documentary "Dina," by Dan Sickles and Antonio Santini; a collection of 1998 shorts by the Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival; and "The Noble Spirit," a documentary about Fred Noble directed by Dane Henry.

The final social event of the festival will be a croissants-and-coffee gathering Sunday morning, where festivalgoers can enjoy pastries provided by Blue Scorcher Bakery & Café and coffee from Columbia River Coffee Roasters.

Craig includes this because he's found that "the people who started at 5 o'clock on Friday, they've seen enough films they feel that they would like to discuss them."

From there, out-of-towners may head home or stick around with locals to catch the final features: a second showing of "Neither Wolf Nor Dog," and "The Defiant Ones," a 1958 crime drama starring Sidney Poitier and Tony Curtis that won Academy Awards for cinematography (black and white) and original screenplay.

Social significance

Bauer, who typically attends as many of the films as she can in any given season, said she is impressed by the caliber and sincerity of the festival under Craig's direction.

"Almost everything he does has some very important social significance to it," she said, adding that, over the years, the event has exposed her to several thought-provoking films she might not otherwise have seen.

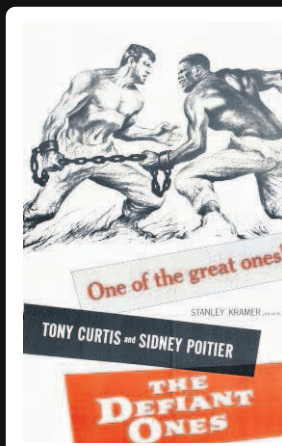
The cost for admission is \$10 per film or \$80 for a full festival pass. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, visit goaiff.com/



The film festival will present a collection of 1998 shorts by the Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival.



ABOVE: "Neither Wolf Nor Dog" (2016) follows a white American writer who travels to the Dakotas to transcribe an oral history preserved by a 95-year-old Lakota elder. **BELOW:** "The Defiant Ones," Stanley Kramer's 1958 crime drama starring Tony Curtis and Sidney Poitier, will be the last film of the 2017 festival.



"The Noble Spirit" (2014) is a short documentary about Fred Noble, an orphan who became an extreme skier, windsurfer and paraglider, and continued living life to the fullest even after being diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease.