



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES OPENS**  
**THE 2017 FILM FINISHING FUND FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Stella Artois to fund \$100,000 in grants**

**Submissions accepted May 3– June 30, 2017**

Los Angeles, CA, May 3, 2017...Applications are being accepted beginning May 3, 2017 for the **Women In Film Finishing Fund** grants. The application period runs through June 30, 2017. Recipients will be announced in November. Interested filmmakers should go to the WIF website <http://womeninfilm.org> to find the application.

Now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year, the Women In Film Finishing Fund will award 8-12 grants in cash and in-kind gifts for films by and/or about women as represented in documentary, fiction, animated and/or experimental films, shorts or feature length.

Stella Artois is proud to extend their support of female filmmakers with the announcement of \$100,000 in new grant money for the Women In Film Finishing Fund. Stella Artois will provide four \$25,000 grants for fiction and documentary films that inspire social change, with particular consideration given to films with a water theme.

“Stella Artois’ recognition of women filmmakers through this grant program signals the brand’s commitment to both social action and gender equality,” said WIF Executive Director Kirsten Schaffer. “We are thrilled to be in partnership with Stella Artois in empowering the next generation of films made by and about women.”

Stella Artois has been a longtime advocate of film and the film community. By supporting the Women In Film Finishing Fund this year, the brand hopes to inspire up-and-coming female filmmakers as the 2018 festival season approaches.

“Stella Artois has long believed in the power of film as a compelling medium to bring awareness to important social issues that affect our global community. Most recently, we worked with award-winning director Crystal Moselle on the ‘Our Dream of Water’ documentary to shed light on the global water crisis,” said Harry Lewis, vice president, Stella Artois. “We’re excited to continue to support female filmmakers and hope to identify others that share our passion to help be the generation to end the global water crisis.”

Since its inception in 1985, the Film Finishing Fund has awarded more than \$2 million worth of grants to over 220 films from all over the world. This year alone, past grant winners premiered at the Sundance Film Festival (**Zoe Lister-Jones' *Band Aid*, Jennifer Brea's *Unrest***) and the Tribeca Film Festival (**Sarita Khurana and Smriti Mundhra's *A Suitable Girl***).

The Finishing Fund has an impressive track record of selecting films for completion that have gone on to win major awards, including:

- **Grace Lee's *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs***, the 2015 Peabody Award winner
- **Cynthia Wade's *Freeheld***, the 2008 Academy® Award-winner for Best Documentary Short Subject
- **Freida Mock's *Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision***, the 1994 Academy® Award-winner for Best Documentary
- **Esther Robinson's *A Walk Into The Sea: Danny Williams and the Warhol Factory***, 2007 Teddy Award Winner at the Berlin Film Festival
- **Maryam Keshavarz's *Circumstance***, the 2011 Sundance Audience Award winner
- **Khadija Alsalami's *I Am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced***, winner of the 2014 Best Fiction Feature Award at the Dubai International Film Festival

Entrants do not have to be Women In Film members to apply for a grant, and WIF encourages international applications. Detailed requirements will be available in the online application.

WIF LA has posted interviews with past Finishing Fund winners at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival, which you can access via this link <https://womeninfilm.org/film-finishing-fund/>. To stay up to date, follow Women In Film on Twitter ([@WIF\\_LosAngeles](https://twitter.com/WIF_LosAngeles)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/WIFLA](https://facebook.com/WIFLA)), and subscribe to the [WIF newsletter](#).

### **About Women In Film**

**Women In Film** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for women, encouraging creative projects by women, and expanding and enhancing portrayals of women in all forms of global media. Given that women comprise fifty percent of the population, WIF's ultimate goal is to see the same gender parity reflected on and off screen. Founded in 1973, WIF focuses on advocacy and education, provides scholarships, grants and film finishing funds and works to preserve the legacies of all women working in the entertainment community. For more information visit [www.wif.org](http://www.wif.org).

### **About Stella Artois**

Stella Artois® is part of a Belgian brewing tradition dating back to 1366. It is the No. 1 Belgian beer in the world and is present in over 95 countries. Stella Artois® is a bottom filtered, blonde pilsner. It is thirst quenching with a malty middle and crisp finish delivering a full flavor and a hint of bitterness. Stella Artois® is best enjoyed served between 3 and 5 degrees Celsius and should be served in the unique Stella Artois® Chalice according to the 9-Step Pouring Ritual to guarantee a perfect experience of this gold standard lager. Visit [www.stellaartois.com](http://www.stellaartois.com) for more information.

### **WIF Contact**

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