

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MAY 4th: Workers Unite Film Festival Kicks Off 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Activist Film Series in NYC**

*From May 4 – 24, the country's largest worker-themed film festival will feature 60+ films and events across Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens*

***PLUS: Press Conference 4:00 PM @ Cinema Village (22 E 12th St).** Kristen DiAngelo, co-producer of "American Courtesans", is highlighting the unfairness to sex workers across the country posed by the new online anti-trafficking law (FOSTA), which is so broad that it's destroying their ability to safely conduct business. They aren't sex traffickers. They are workers too!*

**NEW YORK** – Workers Unite Film Festival returns for its seventh year from May 4 to 24, 2018, with a slate of films from the U.S. and around the world focused on the struggles and triumphs of the labor movement, immigrant and refugee rights at work, climate justice, and a special tribute to the iconic Paul Robeson at The Castillo Theatre. This year's festival includes over 60 films and events at venues throughout the city such as Cinema Village, the Castillo Theatre, The Public Employees Federation and the Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies at SUNY Empire State College. A poetry/spoken word slam and music & film weekend at Crystal Lake Brooklyn on May 18th-20th is not to be missed.

In addition to a [groundbreaking lineup of documentaries](#), enjoy evenings of [live music and screenings](#) and an [activist filmmaker boot camp](#) led by veteran directors who will provide emerging artists with the resources and tools to develop and distribute progressive films.

**Andrew Tilson**, Workers Unite Film Festival's founder and Executive Director remarked, "We started the festival seven years ago to give workers who don't otherwise have a voice a platform to tell their stories, and a sense that they have a community around them working to support their economic empowerment. Every year since, we've seen a growing demand for films that represent not only workers but marginalized people across the country. We're thrilled to engage New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds – filmmakers, academics and activists – as, together, we build a new, grassroots movement that lies at the intersection of social justice and the arts."

Some festival highlights below; full schedule can be found at [workersunitefilmfestival.org](http://workersunitefilmfestival.org) (films and directors [list here](#))

And on Eventbrite: [bit.ly/2018WorkersUniteFilmFestival](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-workers-unite-film-festival-tickets-411111111111)

**Opening Reception, Friday, May 4, from 6:00 PM – 10 PM at Cinema Village, The Iron Triangle,** about the real life cost of massive gentrification, followed by **The Cost of Construction - A**

documentary uncovering a national scandal, where the race for profits trumped the safety of American workers while the country's top safety agency barely took notice, failing to enforce their own regulations and keep workers alive. **#CountMeIn**

Additional films of note:

**"American Courtesans"** A modern day documentary about the lives of American sex workers from inside the industry. **Saturday, May 5 at 10 p.m., Cinema Village.**

**"STRAYS"** – A bold and innovative look at the struggles of Londoners under the pressure of an economic downturn. Shot on location in London, the unique and groundbreaking "rotoscope" aesthetic took four years to complete; the director, himself, drawing elements over the live action footage whilst preserving the nuances of the cast's performances. **Saturday, May 5 at 8:30 p.m., Cinema Village.**

**"Adios Amor - The Search for Maria Moreno"** – The discovery of lost photographs sparks the search for a hero that history forgot - Maria Moreno, a migrant mother driven by her children's hunger to speak out. The first farm worker woman in America to be hired as a union organizer, Maria's story was silenced and buried - until now. **Sunday, May 6 at 7 p.m., Cinema Village.**

**"Complicit"** – Shot below the radar, COMPLICIT follows the journey of Chinese factory migrant worker-turned-activist Yi Yeting, who takes his fight against the global electronic industry from his hospital bed to the international stage. While battling his own work-induced leukemia, Yi Yeting teaches himself labor law in order to prepare a legal challenge against his former employers. But the struggle to defend the lives of millions of Chinese people from becoming terminally ill due to working conditions necessitates confrontation with some of the world's largest brands including Apple and Samsung. **Wednesday, May 9 at 8:15 p.m., Cinema Village.**

**"Howard Zinn, A People's History of the United States"** – With the tremendous success of the book of the same title, Howard Zinn radically changed the way Americans see themselves. His friend Noam Chomsky says that Zinn literally transformed his generation's conscience. Zinn talks about those who have no voice in official history: slaves, Indians, deserters, textile workers, union men and women. Towards the end of his life Zinn said, "I want to be remembered as someone who enabled people to experience hope and power something they never did before." **Thursday, May 10 at 6 p.m., Cinema Village.**

**SPECIAL EVENT "Call Mr. Robeson - A Life, with Songs"** – A special live, one-man play and musical retrospective written by and starring Tayo Aluko. This roller-coaster journey through Paul Robeson's remarkable life highlights how his pioneering and heroic political activism led many to describe him as the forerunner of the civil rights movement. **New York premiere. Friday and Saturday, May 11&12, 7:30 p.m., & May 12, 2 p.m., Castillo Theatre**

**SPECIAL EVENT - "Live Music Weekend"** – Our music and spoken word poetry weekend will kick off at Crystal Lake. Friday will be live poetry and Saturday will have performances from

Color Collage, The City and Horses, Spritzer and Caged Animals. Sunday night's line up will be Jocelyne Mackenzie, Field Guides, Due Diligence and The Side Project. Come have a drink or a bite at this new Williamsburg venue and enjoy songs from indie talent. **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 18-20th starting at 7 PM all nights at Crystal Lake.**

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*Now in its seventh year, the annual Workers Unite Film Festival brings together activists, academics and filmmakers of all ages and backgrounds for a celebration of social justice and the arts. Through dozens of documentary screenings, community forums, and interactive events across New York City, the festival provides working people with a platform to tell their stories while leading a movement for meaningful change. More info at [@WorkersUniteFF](#), [Facebook](#) and [www.workersunitefilmfestival.org](http://www.workersunitefilmfestival.org). #WUFF7*