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PRINCETON | arts

## **Thomas Edison Film Festival's 42nd Annual Tour Hudson County Movie Tour at the Secaucus Public Library**

***Films Honoring Women's HERstory Month – A program of films featuring stories about women or made by women filmmakers.***

### ***Thomas Edison Film Festival Introduction***

#### ***Miss Alma Thomas: A Life in Color - Documentary***

20 min. by Cheri Gaulke & Cheryl Bookout, LA, CA, US & Joshua Tree, CA, US.  
Alma W. Thomas lived a life of firsts: the first Fine Arts graduate of Howard University (1924), the first Black woman to mount a retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art (1972), and the first Black woman to have her paintings exhibited in the White House (2009). Yet she did not receive national attention until she was 80. The film explores Thomas' incredible life through the lens of curators, art specialists, scholars, and her family, with award-winning actress Alfre Woodard as the voice of Miss Thomas.

#### ***Blue Study – Screen Dance***

2 min. by Mitchell Rose, Asheville, NC, US  
70 women weave together a choreographic thread from award-winning choreographer/dancer Bebe Miller in a study that takes a closer view of dance.

#### ***Now I'm in the Kitchen – Animation***

5 min. by Yana Pan, LA, CA, US  
"When I'm cooking my favorite dish that my mom used to make, my thoughts wander alongside the aroma. Through cooking, I reflect on what it means to be independent and my relationship with my mom."

### ***Chicken - Narrative***

14 min. by Lucy McNulty and Emma Pollard, Vancouver, BC, Canada

When Sam splits up with her partner, she is forced to move back into her childhood home with her mother and neurodivergent brother. When depression sinks in, her brother Emmett gets in her face trying to cheer her up and in doing so makes everything worse. But when Emmett is confronted with a situation at a baseball game where he is called a chicken, Sam rises to the challenge to come to his aid and is reminded of what is truly important. "Chicken" features a neurodivergent cast and crew and was written and directed by women.

### ***Ad meliora – Experimental***

3 min. by Katherine Balsley and Irina Escalante-Chernova, Atlanta, GA, US

Ad meliora, or "towards better things" combines hundreds of separate images that create a deep meditation on being, creativity and nature; a mandala of forms that becomes highly symbolic of life, death, yesterday, now, and the next moment. Flowers, plants and textures were photographed in places such as nature conservatories, cultivated gardens, vacant properties and parking lots. The familiar landscape appears molten, luminous and renewed. Ad meliora is suggestive of adaptation, resilience and transformation.

### ***A Tale of Two Weddings - Animation***

7 min. by Candy Kugel, NY, NY, US

"A Tale of Two Weddings" continues Candy Kugel's series of autobiographical films starting with "I, Candy" (2018), then "Miracle on Central Park West" (2020). "A Tale of Two Weddings" chronicles the seemingly impossible task of attending two important family obligations taking place 48 hours apart—one on the Jersey Shore, NJ USA and the other in Jerusalem, Israel. With two very different families and traditions...or were they?