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**JANE FLEMING AND EFFIE BROWN JOIN BOARD OF NEWLY BRANDED DWF-LA AS
DANCES WITH FILMS FESTIVAL EXPANDS INTO ITS 23RD YEAR IN LOS ANGELES**



Los Angeles, CA (25 September, 2019) Producer and President Emeritus of Women In Film, JANE FLEMING, and EFFIE BROWN, prolific and award-winning producer of *DEAR WHITE PEOPLE* and *REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES*, have joined the board of advisors of the freshly minted DWF-LA, also known for the last 22 years and counting as *DANCES WITH FILMS* – the largest independent filmmaker discovery festival in Los Angeles, with over 22,000 attendees per year.

Ms. Fleming and Ms. Brown are honored to join DWF-LA, which is entering a strong growth phase as the premiere festival destination for filmmakers and buyers, held annually in June at the famed TCL Chinese Theatres in Hollywood.

Festival co-founder Leslee Scallon elaborates, “Jane and Effie have both been leaders for many years in breaking the glass ceiling and are not only outstanding examples as producers, but leaders in their field. With Jane and Effie, and all on our Advisory Board, this next expansion of DWF will raise the profile of our filmmakers, providing access to the next generation of creatives for future collaborations.”

Co-founder Michael Trent agrees, “With our next developments including the newest, DWF: *UNLEASHED!*, which will feature films with name talent, we know that the time is right as more and more alumni with larger budgets return ‘home’ to DWF each year. This growing expansion does not mean a divergence from our core mission. Our competition programming will remain steadfastly focused on emerging and unknown talent. ‘*UNLEASHED!*’ will enhance what’s already there, providing a stage in Los Angeles for filmmakers who have stars in their films.”



DWF is also proud to announce Jackie Tepper as its first Producing Partner. "There are very few true discovery indie film festivals left, and I am proud to have been a part of helping DWF's growth and continued success." Jackie Tepper remarks, "And I look forward to continuing to explore and share new voices, and emerging talent in the years to come." Ms. Tepper's expertise - stemming from her background with New Line Cinema/Fine Line Features as Executive Director of Acquisitions & Co-productions and attending world-wide film festivals, including Sundance, Cannes, Toronto, continues to bring DWF to the next level.

As for the new moniker, DWF-LA looks toward the future with expansion into other cities around the US and world, providing platforms for a more diverse movie-going experience.

As a part of this goal to promote diverse filmmaking voices, DWF-LA just completed the 2nd year of DWF: SPOTLIGHT CHINA!, highlighting projects by Chinese filmmakers, including Industry Choice Award winner *Last Sunrise*, directed by Wen Ren. *The Lake Vampire*, written and directed by Venezuelan director Carl Zitellmann, was picked up by Dark Star Pictures, and will be released theatrically in the U.S. late September.

The festival receives more than 4,000 submissions and annually programs nearly 200 films, pilots, web series, documentaries, shorts, music videos, and films made by kids and for kids, expanding its programming team to handle that growth.

Recent DWF-LA films include *Antiquities*, starring Ashley Greene and Mary Steenburgen, *Apple Seed*, starring the late Rance Howard, the Oscar short-listed *Wale*, which was also nominated for a BAFTA and short documentary *Beneath the Ink*, with an Emmy nod.

Film submissions just opened, and filmmakers are encouraged to submit their independent films regardless of the level of talent attached. Official rules and guidelines can be found on the DWF-LA website - www.danceswithfilms.com

About DWF-LA

In 1998 DWF began as a film festival dedicated to finding tomorrow's talent today and continues to carry on this mission, providing a coveted first stop on the festival circuit. DWF continues its dedication to and is a devoted champion of fresh and creative voices. For the past 20 years, DWF has proudly provided access and opportunity to thousands of films and filmmakers from across the globe that diligently work year after year to see their dreams realized. With more than 22,000 festival attendees annually and 2.5 million impressions per month on www.danceswithfilms.com, DWF is loyal and dedicated to the indie filmmaker and is considered their champion in Hollywood.

DWF's Advisory Board includes: Steve Tisch, Cindy Cowan, Jonathan Dana, Steve Elzer, Kevin Kasha, Eriq La Salle, Michael Lehmann, Mike Macari, Valerie McCaffrey, Mark V. Olsen, Joel Ordesky, Mark Ordesky, Melissa Orlen, Will Scheffer, Hilton Smith, David Spiegelman, and Steve Wegner.

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