

MEDIA RELEASE

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Jonas Mekas Film Festival and Art Exhibit 2025

Film Festival: July 17 to July 27, 2025 – at Showroom Cinema in Asbury Park, New Jersey

Art Exhibit: July 18 to August 11, 2025 - at Parlor Gallery in Asbury Park, New Jersey

The **Jonas Mekas Film Festival** in Asbury Park, New Jersey will be held at the **Showroom Cinema** at 707 Cookman Avenue, just one block from the train station. The Film Festival will run from July 17 to July 27, 2025. The Film Festival is in conjunction with **OUTPOST NYC DCG and Parlor Gallery**.

Parlor Gallery at 717 Cookman Avenue will be exhibiting a limited-edition series of Jonas Mekas still-framed photographs and a few select works from a cast of other photographers who documented the downtown NYC art scene in the 70's and 80's. Parlor Gallery will host a reception on Friday, July 18th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, before that night's film screening at Showroom Cinema. Sebastian Mekas, the son of Jonas Mekas, will be in attendance during the reception.

Jonas Mekas (1922–2019) was born in a farming village in Lithuania and moved to New York City in 1949 as a war refugee. A pioneering figure in American avant-garde cinema, he co-founded *Film Culture* magazine with his brother in 1954 and became a film columnist for *The Village Voice* in 1958. In the early 1960s, he founded the Film-Makers' Cooperative and the Film-Makers' Cinematheque, which evolved into Anthology Film Archives, one of the world's largest repositories of avant-garde film. He published over thirty books of prose and poetry and taught at institutions such as the New School, Cooper Union, NYU, and MIT. His work influenced generations of filmmakers and artists, such as Jim Jarmusch, John Waters, and Chantal Akerman. His films and installations have been exhibited at major institutions worldwide, including the Venice Biennale, Tate Modern, Serpentine Gallery, Whitney Museum, MoMA, and Centre Pompidou.

Jonas Mekas captured moments that we all cherish in art history, in American history, in life.... from filmmakers, Salvador Dali, the Kennedys, Warhol, Yoko Ono and John Lennon, Elvis Presley, the World Trade Center...to the more personal special moments of nature, his family, being humans and celebrating life, cherishing life to its fullest. Framed, and signed, limited edition still- framed archival prints from Mekas films will be on view and available at Parlor Gallery. Many of these works have been exhibited at some of the finest art institutions worldwide.

A selection of films tracing Jonas Mekas's lifelong engagement with cinema as a form of personal and poetic expression. This retrospective follows his evolution from *Guns of the Trees* (1961), a politically charged early work, to *Walden* (1969), which pioneered his diary filmmaking. *Reminiscences of a Journey to Lithuania* (1972) and *Lost Lost Lost* (1976) reflect on exile and belonging, while his portraits of Andy Warhol and Martin Scorsese offer rare insights into their creative processes. The series concludes with *As I Was Moving Ahead Occasionally I Saw Brief Glimpses of Beauty* (2000), a nearly five-hour compilation of Mekas's home movies spanning three decades, described by *The New York Times* as "a first—the home movie as epic," and *Sleepless Nights Stories* (2011), a film of late-night musings and unguarded moments with Yoko Ono, Björk, Marina Abramović, and other longtime friends.

The schedule for the Film Festival is as follows:

Thursday, July 17

Guns of the Trees (1961) – 86 min.

Friday, July 18

Scenes from the Life of Andy Warhol (1990) – 35 min.

Happy Birthday to John (1996) – 24 min.

Zefiro Torna (1992) – 34 min.

Saturday, July 19

Reminiscences of a Journey to Lithuania (1972) – 82 min.

Sunday, July 20

Lost Lost Lost (1976) – 178 min.

Thursday, July 24

Walden (Diaries, Notes, and Sketches) (1968-69) – 180 min.

Friday, July 25

As I Was Moving Ahead Occasionally I Saw Brief Glimpses of Beauty (2000) – 228 min.

Saturday, July 26

Notes on an American Film Director at Work – Martin Scorsese (2005) – 103 min.

Sunday, July 27

Sleepless Nights Stories (2011) – 114 min.

Showroom Cinema is a small independent theatre that features high-quality first run films, documentaries, Oscar Shorts, classics, and hosts live comedy and musical performances. In a small intimate setting, they are known for providing a variety of entertainment to the art-conscious community.

OUTPOST NYC DCG was established in 2009 as part of Deborah Colton Gallery (DCG). It aims to show new and newly rediscovered films, video and installation art, photography, painting, performance art and drawing and sculpture. OUTPOST NYC DCG is a platform for developing new experimental programming, often in collaboration with existing art venues and organizations, mainly in New York, but also nationally and internationally.

Since 2009, **Parlor Gallery** has been the heart of artistic and cultural renaissance and revival in Asbury Park, redefining the gallery experience through diverse and thought-provoking exhibitions which combine contemporary urban art with coastal charm. Featuring both emerging and internationally recognized artists, the gallery fosters artistic growth by providing a platform to educate and inspire, and to also bring art outside to public spaces through their collaborative art initiatives like the Wooden Walls Art Project.