



Alexandria Film Festival

Alexandria Film Festival To Host Alexandria Premiere of PBS's New Civil War Drama **MERCY STREET**



*Alice Green (AnnaSophia Robb) &
Emma Green (Hannah James).
Courtesy of Antony Platt/PBS*

ALEXANDRIA, VA, OCTOBER 5, 2015 - The Alexandria Film Festival and Visit Alexandria will host the Alexandria premiere of PBS's new civil war drama, [MERCY STREET](#) to kick off the ninth annual film festival in Alexandria, Virginia. The private screening will happen the opening night of the festival on November 5. The Alexandria Film Festival runs November 5-8, 2015 at AMC Hoffman 22 Theatre and Beatley Central Library.

This year's festival will also include an advance screening of [LOVE THE COOPERS](#), destined to be a Christmas classic featuring an all-star cast, a work-in-progress screening of [THE BRAINWASHING OF MY DAD](#) and the premiere of [I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE](#), in addition to many more titles yet to be announced.

The annual film festival brings high-quality short and feature length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels, and arts presentations to Alexandria, Virginia. This year's festival is an intimate four-day celebration of film in historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, located a few miles from Washington, D.C. The festival highlights the talents of local, national, and international filmmakers.

Based on true stories, **MERCY STREET** takes viewers beyond the battlefield and into the lives of Americans on the Civil War home front as they face the unprecedented challenges of one of the most turbulent times in our nation's history.

Set in Alexandria in the spring of 1862, **MERCY STREET** follows the lives of two volunteer nurses on opposite sides of the conflict; **MARY PHINNEY**, (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), a staunch New England abolitionist, and **EMMA GREEN**, (Hannah James), a naive young Confederate belle. The two collide at Mansion House, the Green family's luxury hotel that has been taken over and transformed into a Union Army Hospital in Alexandria, a border town between North and South and the longest-occupied Confederate city of the war.

Ruled under martial law, Alexandria was once the melting pot of the region, filled with soldiers, civilians, female volunteers, doctors, wounded fighting men from both sides, runaway slaves, prostitutes, speculators, and spies.

MERCY STREET is a production of Sawbone Films and Scott Free Productions. Executive producers: Ridley Scott, David W. Zucker and co-creator Lisa Q. Wolfinger; Co-creator and writer David Zabel; co-executive producer Clayton Krueger; and producer David Rosemont.

LOVE THE COOPERS follows the Cooper clan as four generations of extended family come together for their annual Christmas Eve celebration. As the evening unfolds, a series of unexpected visitors and unlikely events turn the night upside down, leading them all toward a surprising rediscovery of family bonds and the spirit of the holiday.

Starring: Alan Arkin, John Goodman, Ed Helms, Diane Keaton, Jake Lacy, Anthony Mackie, Amanda Seyfried, June Squibb, Marisa Tomei and Olivia Wilde. Directed by: Jessie Nelson, Written by: Steven Rogers, Produced by: Michael London, Jessie Nelson and Janice Williams.

THE BRAINWASHING OF MY DAD follows filmmaker Jen Senko as she tries to understand the transformation of her father from a non-political, life-long Democrat to an angry, right wing fanatic. She uncovers the forces behind the media that changed him completely: a plan by Roger Ailes under Nixon for a media takeover by the GOP, and under Reagan, the dismantling of the Fairness Doctrine. As her journey continues, we discover that her father is part of a much broader demographic, and that the story is one that affects us all.

Director, Producer and Writer: Jen Senko, Executive Producer: Ryan Smith, Producers: Matthew Modine, Adam Rackoff and Flore DeRosa.

I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE, premiering at the festival this year, goes through the logic behind political ads, the persuasive techniques used, and how ad makers break people's resistance towards watching them. The film fosters a greater appreciation for political ads as a form of storytelling and tool of public debate and civil discourse. At the same time, it is an educational tool that shows how a political ad is designed to manipulate the audience.

Director: Jesse Strauss

[Enter To Win](#) Tickets to the Mercy Street Premiere in Alexandria
The Alexandria Film Festival and Visit Alexandria will host a private premiere of PBS' Mercy Street on the evening of November 5, 2015, at the AMC Hoffman 22 Theater. A limited number of tickets will be given away to those who enter to win by providing their email address. Winners will be announced on October 29, 2015.

About the Alexandria Film Festival:

A yearly tribute to cinema, the Alexandria Film Festival presents feature-length films and shorts of all genres by both emerging and established filmmakers to an engaged audience seeking new or rarely seen films.

The mission of the Alexandria Film Festival is to promote cinema as an important cultural and educational asset and market Alexandria as a dynamic venue for creating, exhibiting, and experiencing film. For more information, visit alexandriafilm.org and look for #AlexFilmFest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Visit Alexandria:

Visit Alexandria is a private nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to generate visitation and meetings that increase revenues and promote the City of Alexandria, Virginia and its assets. Visitor spending contributes both to the economic health of the city and quality of life for its residents.

[Learn more](#) about PBS' Mercy Street and Alexandria's Mercy Street-inspired experiences.

About PBS:

[PBS](#), with over 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches more than 103 million people through television and over 33 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS' broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. PBS' premier children's TV programming and its website, pbskids.org, are parents' and teachers' most trusted partners in inspiring and nurturing curiosity and love of learning in children. More information about PBS is available at www.pbs.org, one of the leading dot-org websites on the Internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or through our [apps for mobile devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following [PBS Pressroom on Twitter](#).

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