FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

RACE IN AMERICA

The VAFF is proud to once again partner with James Madison’s Montpelier to present our Race in America series, featuring films dealing with a wide spectrum of issues that dominate, and in many ways define, our nation today. This year’s strong lineup includes our Opening Night Film, *Just Mercy*, and one of our Spotlight Films, *Clemency*, as well as: *Always in Season* – Jacqueline Olive’s documentary explores the lingering impact of more than a century of lynching on African Americans and connects this form of historic racial terrorism to racial violence today; *Burning Cane* – the extraordinary feature debut from 19-year-old director Phillip Youmans that focuses on faith, family, and violence among the cane fields of small-town Louisiana as an aging mother struggles between her religious convictions and the love of her son; *Pahokee* – in a small agricultural town in the Florida Everglades where hopes for the future are concentrated on the youth, the film follows four teens as they face heartbreak and celebrate the rituals of an extraordinary senior year; and *We are the Radical Monarchs* – the story of the founding and growth of the Radical Monarchs, an Oakland-based alternative to the Girl Scouts for young women of color (ages 8-13) at the front lines of social justice and allyship.

The Race in America series is presented by James Madison’s Montpelier and supported by Bama Works Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

LGBTQIA+ FOCUS

The VAFF will once again present a special series that focuses on LGBTQIA+ films. *Changing the Game* follows three high-school transgender athletes and the obstacles they face in trying to compete with their own gender; *Gay Chorus Deep South* documents the San Francisco Gay Men’s Choir’s tour through the South; *To the Stars*, a black and white film set in 1960’s Oklahoma about two young women and the friendship that they forge that changes both of their lives; *Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts* showcases *RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars* Season Three winner Trixie Mattel, her rise to fame, and the loneliness that can accompany it; *Queen of the Capital* follows Muffy Blake Stephyns, government worker by day, activist drag queen by night; *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, a French 18th-century story about a painter, the woman she is supposed to paint a portrait of, and the romance that blossoms between them; and *Queer Love on Screen*, a showcase of two episodes of television, both written by UVA alum Steven J. Kung, *Dear White People* and *Falling for Angels*, that focus on queer romance between people of color.

The LGBTQIA+ Focus series is presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts.