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Contact:

Will Carter

202-821-2211

William.Carter@dc.gov

**OCTFME Recognizes Matthew Cipollone as the
September 2017 Filmmaker of the Month**

*Local filmmaker acknowledged for contributions to the District's filmmaking community
showcases his new film, "Dear Baltimore" at this month's DC Shorts Film Festival*



Washington, DC. -- The District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) is pleased to recognize local filmmaker Matt Cipollone as the September 2017 Filmmaker of the Month.

Matt Cipollone is a District-based documentary filmmaker, producer, editor, and cinematographer. In addition to collaborating on numerous independent documentary features, he specializes in helping socially-minded foundations and organizations tell their stories and showcase their important work through documentary film and media. Numerous assignments have taken Cipollone across the US and abroad.

Cipollone's latest film, "[Dear Baltimore](#)" is a 25-minute short film that shines a light on the [Next One Up Program](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the lives of young men in Baltimore City by supporting their academic, athletic, and social development. Next One Up provides students with help in the classroom, life and academic mentoring, and support with athletic training.

“My biggest take-away from ‘Dear Baltimore’ is confirming how impactful positive stories about young people can be,” said Cipollone. “In today’s climate, audiences appreciate the positive side of issues they may hear about more often in a negative context.”

“Dear Baltimore” will [screen](#) this month at the 2017 [DC Shorts Film Festival](#) on Sunday September 10 at noon and Tuesday, September 12 at 9pm at Landmark’s E Street Cinema. DC Shorts Film Festival showcases one of the largest collections of short films in the USA. This year they will screen [170+ unique films](#) from over 30 nations in a variety of mix-genre and thematic showcases over 11 days (September 7-17). In addition to the showcases, the festival also hosts a long list of [networking events](#), Q&As with international filmmakers after screenings, [workshops](#) for new and seasoned filmmakers and actors, and a [Screenplay Competition](#) complete with a live reading. For more info on getting single screening tickets or all-access passes for the DC Shorts Film Festival & Screenplay Competition click on this [link](#).

In addition to “Dear Baltimore”, Cipollone also recently filmed the pilot episode for a new documentary series, “Freelancers,” hosted by Emmy Award-winning journalist Bill Gentile. The series follows top freelance journalists working throughout the world as they pursue important global issues. He is also the show's editor and associate producer.

Cipollone is currently finishing up his MFA in Film & Electronic Media at The American University in Washington, DC, with a concentration in political, cultural and social impact.

“I’m finishing-up school and as a documentary filmmaker, DC has provided outstanding work opportunities for the kinds of stories that catch my interest,” added Cipollone. “The city is known as a great hub for documentary work with all the nonprofits and organizations based here. There are countless stories to be told -- both internationally and locally.”

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OCTFME launched the “Filmmaker of the Month” initiative as a vehicle for highlighting the talents and creative contributions of filmmakers that make the District of Columbia their home. The Filmmaker of the Month initiative is part of OCTFME’s mission to elevate the national and international profile of the District’s talented filmmakers.

***Do you know a filmmaker you would like to see featured as OCTFME’s Filmmaker of the Month? If so, please forward your suggestion to: film@dc.gov.

About OCTFME

The District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment is responsible for implementing, managing, and administering programs, initiatives, and services that support media industry economic activity, growth, and employment in the District of Columbia.

Washington, D.C.'s instantly recognizable landmarks, diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities, and first-class accommodations are just some of the many features that make the nation's capital a venue of choice for media production.

For more information, contact the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment at (202) 727-6608, visit us on the web at <http://entertainment.dc.gov>, join the DC Film community on <http://www.facebook.com/EntertainDC>, or follow us on http://twitter.com/Entertain_DC.

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