

American Pot Story: Oaksterdam Documentary

Closing Night Film of Oakland International Film Festival

Saturday, September 24, 2022 - 6:30pm - Fox Theater

After-Party with DJ Zhaldee Follows

For Immediate Release (Oakland, CA September 24, 2022) – The highly anticipated documentary ***American Pot Story: Oaksterdam***, by award-winning, critically acclaimed filmmakers Dan Katzir and Ravit Markus, has been chosen as the closing night film of the **Oakland International Film Festival** (OIFF). A decade in the making, the film tells the unknown origin story of the Oakland based underdogs who risked everything to revolutionize cannabis policy. **Mayor Libby Schaaf** will introduce the film at 6:30pm on Sat. Sept. 24th at the historic Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA 94612.

Reflecting Oakland California's rich history of civil resistance, the mission born out of the first ever cannabis college would end up changing the world. *American Pot Story: Oaksterdam* follows a "small group of concerned committed citizens" (to quote Margaret Mead) who opened Oaksterdam University and fought to get Prop 19 - a measure to legalize cannabis - on the ballot in California. Their harrowing campaign brought this taboo topic out of the shadows and into mainstream society.

David Roach, the Co-Founder and Director of the [Oakland International Film Festival](#) says, "the movie shows the emotional wins and losses a group of people faced when their sense of purpose challenged big business and the federal government." From enduring harsh public scrutiny and international media, to withstanding a federal raid that threatened prison time, their roller coaster ride towards decriminalization is as tense as it is inspiring. Born out of Oakland, their true American story serves as a reminder of how democracy can work when people come together.

The special closing night screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and the main subjects of the film and an epic after-party, with tunes by DJ Zhaldee, celebrating Oaksterdam University's 15th anniversary and OIFF's 20th anniversary. Doors open at 5pm for the general public and for a VIP reception. Tickets: \$10 for screening only / \$35 screening & after-party / \$75 screening, after-party & gift bag. Food trucks and alcohol for purchase. Tickets available [here](#).

[Priscilla Agoncillo](#), Chairwoman of [Oaksterdam's Nonprofit for Education \(The ONE\)](#), a 501(c)(3) and Executive Producer for the screening and after-party states that 100% of the proceeds will be used to fund scholarships, and re-entry programs for those afflicted by marijuana prohibition and who are trying to get into the cannabis industry.

Additionally, inspired by the issues discussed in the film, OIFF is hosting a series of daily 4:20pm virtual conversations. The first panel "Cannabis Policy Reform as a Means to Changing Criminal Justice" (presented by LEAP, Law Enforcement Action Partnership), takes place on Thursday, September 15th and features several former Law Enforcement professionals that appear in the documentary and Weldon Angelos, who was sentenced in a high profile mandatory minimum marijuana case that was presented to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Filmmakers Katzir and Markus along with subjects from the film, including Oakland based Dale Sky Jones, Executive Chancellor of Oaksterdam University, are all available for interviews.

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