



The Oakville Festivals of Film and Art partners with The ZONTA Club of Oakville to celebrate their 3rd Annual International Women's Day event with screening of critically-acclaimed mother-daughter film, **Blueback**.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 15, 2023 - OAKVILLE ON** - OFFA and the ZONTA Club of Oakville are proud to present an inspirational, and entertaining evening celebrating powerful female changemakers for **International Women's Day 2023, at a special screening to launch International Women's week on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023, 6:15 pm at [Film.ca Cinemas](http://Film.ca).**

Guest emcee and Oakville resident [Carole Bertuzzi-Luciani](#) will host the evening, along with special live performances by international electric violinist [Eva Potoczy](#) and award-winning singer/songwriter/actress [Simone Miller](#). There will be a robust silent auction with many items to appeal to all tastes and gift-giving preferences, benefiting Shifra House.

OFFA has curated an exceptional international, critically-acclaimed film that highlights issues related to conservation and equality for women, as well as the special bond of mothers and daughters. The film [Blueback](#), from Australian Directing/Producing team Robert Connelly and Liz Kearney, is based on a book by Tim Winton, and tells a beautiful story of the love between a mother, a daughter, and a groper fish, while dealing with issues related to environmental destruction by poachers and developers. The film stars Mia Wasikowska, Radha Mitchell, and Eric Bana, and highlights the incredible bond between a mother and daughter, forged by both women's keen desire to protect the inhabitants of the pristine blue oceans on the Australian coast where they live. **A virtual Q&A will accompany the screening.**

In addition, with the purchase of a **VIP Ticket** to the event, you will also have access to a virtual screening of another uplifting comedy/drama with the dual theme of mother daughter relationships, and women working together to enact positive change. [Love Sarah](#), from acclaimed British Director Eliza Schroeder, tells the story of a young woman fulfilling her mother's dream of opening her own bakery in Notting Hill, London with the help of an old friend and her grandma. This beautiful film will be available virtually for seven full days, along with a virtual Q&A, following the IWD event to all VIP pass purchasers.

Meaningfully, OFFA and Zonta are thrilled to support and celebrate this year's community benefactor, [Shifra Homes](#), a maternity home for homeless, pregnant young women, through this event. Zonta will be hosting a silent auction with many items to appeal to all tastes and gift-giving preferences, proceeds of which will go to Shifra Homes.

Donations can be made immediately at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/zonta-club-of-oakville-trust-fund/>. Choose IWD 2023 where scroll down for choosing fund (tax receipt will come from them)

For more information about the 10th Annual Oakville Film festival (21-27th June 2023) or other events, please visit: [OFFA.ca](http://OFFA.ca)

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To schedule an interview about the IWD event, please contact:

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## **ABOUT OFFA**

Established in 2014, OFFA is a cultural not-for-profit that envisions a community of cultural and artistic diversity with the cinematic arts as a focal point. OFFA produces Oakville's only independent film festival which is [celebrating its 10th year](#) and is now a hybrid festival, featuring live and digital events. @oakvillefestivals #OFFAonline #OakvilleFilmFestival

## **About Zonta Club of Oakville**

The Zonta Club of Oakville is a local chapter of Zonta International, which is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women through service and advocacy. Zonta members worldwide recognize women's rights as human rights, providing resources to support women to reach their full potential, and not live in fear of violence. Zonta Club of Oakville has served our community for fifty years, supporting a variety of local women's charities, scholarships and women's health at the Oakville Trafalgar Hospital. They host various fundraisers and events such as International Women's Day celebrations. For more information visit [www.zontaoakville.org](http://www.zontaoakville.org)

## **Shifra Homes**

Shifra Homes is the only operating maternity home in the Halton Region, providing a safe haven for young, homeless and pregnant women. They provide shelter, support and resources so the women can live without stress or fear while pregnant. Their programs provide access to specialized service providers and therapeutic rehabilitation programs enabling their success. What makes their initiative unique is that they not only serve these young mothers, but are in effect creating a healthy child and concomitantly a healthy Halton! For more information, please visit [www.shifrahomes.com](http://www.shifrahomes.com)