



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**2018 RIDGEFIELD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS**

***“RIFF’ing WITH...ALLISON WILLIAMS”***  
***An Intimate Conversation moderated by***  
***New York Times Best-selling Author Rich Cohen***



**Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield, CT**  
**Sponsored by Audi of Danbury**

**RIDGEFIELD, CT (SEPTEMBER 24, 2018)**—The Ridgefield Independent Film Festival ([RIFF](http://www.riffct.org)) announced today that actor, singer **Allison Williams** (*Get Out*, “Girls”) will be the featured guest in the inaugural “RIFF’ing With...” a newly launched series of live interviews with filmmakers and actors that explores their careers and provides an insight into what it takes to remain a top-notch artist. Williams, who hails from New Canaan, CT and stars in the upcoming Richard Shepard film, *The Perfection*, will discuss before a live audience her career in film and television, **Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 6:00pm at the [Aldrich Museum](http://www.aldrichmuseum.org)**. Rich Cohen the *New York Times* best-selling author, *Vanity Fair* and *Rolling Stone* contributing editor, and co-creator of the HBO series *Vinyl*, will sit down with Williams for an engaging conversation. **RIFF’ing With...Allison Williams** and wine reception is sponsored by Audi of Danbury. Advance tickets are on sale now at [www.riffct.org](http://www.riffct.org).

Williams is best known for her role as Marnie Michaels on six seasons of HBO’s Emmy® and Golden Globe®-winning television series, “Girls.” Williams also starred in Jordan Peele’s Academy Award-nominated film, *Get Out*, for which she garnered a Screen Actors Guild ensemble nomination for her

performance. Most recently, Williams appeared opposite Benedict Cumberbatch in Showtime's Emmy® Award-nominated limited series "Patrick Melrose."

Ever since her beguiling performance singing the "Mad Men" theme song in a viral YouTube video, Allison Williams has been on my radar. I absolutely loved her on "Girls," where she was tasked with depicting a narcissistic character but somehow, managed to tap into Marnie's more vulnerable and likeable side making her an instant fan favorite. Allison's portrayal of Rose Armitage in *Get Out* had me on the edge of my seat and I can honestly say that I will never again look at a white turtleneck the same way. RIFF is delighted to have Allison as our very first 'RIFF'ing With...' guest. To also have the inimitable Rich Cohen conducting the interview makes us feel like we've truly landed a dream team."

Williams won over critics from *The New York Times* to *The Hollywood Reporter* starring as 'Peter Pan' in NBC's live action musical event, "Peter Pan Live" in 2014. In February 2013, Williams guest-starred on "The Mindy Project." In 2011, she starred as Kate Middleton in a four-part, self-written original mini-series for Funnyordie.com called "Before Happily Ever After...Will & Kate."

In Spring 2010, Williams graduated from Yale University with a BA in English. Afterwards, she began working on a video that released on YouTube in October of 2010: "Mad Men Theme Song...With A Twist" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEjOz0maxzM>). She moved to Los Angeles just before releasing the video, which quickly became a viral sensation and garnered much attention in the blog and entertainment world. Among the video's fans were Judd Apatow and the executives at HBO, who, upon seeing the video, reached out to Williams for an audition for "Girls." Ironically, within a month of moving to Los Angeles, Williams was back in New York, filming the pilot episode.

While she may have found success quickly, Williams has been honing her craft for years. She has been involved in theater since an early age, and while at Yale she refined her improv skills as a member of the improvisational comedy group, Just Add Water.

She is the Ambassador for [Horizons National](#), a national charity organization working to close the education gap for children from low-income households. She is also an Ambassador for [\(RED\)](#), an organization that funds the fight against HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Born and raised in Connecticut, Williams declared to her parents at the age of four that she wanted to be an actress. Brian and Jane Williams – who required their daughter graduate from college before pursuing an acting career – are both involved in the media. She currently resides in New York with her husband and their dog, Moxie.

Rich Cohen is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Tough Jews*, *The Avengers*, *Monsters*, and (with Jerry Weintraub) *When I Stop Talking, You'll Know I'm Dead*. He is a co-creator of the HBO series *Vinyl* and a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* and *Rolling Stone* and has written for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and *Harper's Magazine*, among others. Cohen has won the Great Lakes Book Award, the Chicago Public Library's 21st Century Award, and the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for outstanding coverage of music. His stories have been included in *The Best American Essays* and *The Best American Travel Writing*. He lives in Connecticut.

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### **About the Ridgefield International Film Festival**

RIFF was established in Ridgefield, CT in 2016. This year, the festival received film submissions from 49 different countries. RIFF will program 77 films from 14 countries around the world, including special event screenings with filmmaker Q&As during the four-day festival.

RIFF is an independent subsidiary of TownVibe Fund, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit entity.

### **The 2018 Sponsors**

Ridgefield International Film Festival is pleased to announce that Catherine and Edward Romer and TownVibe Media are the festival's 2018 Underwriting Sponsors.

The 2018 Screening Sponsors are: Ridgefield Playhouse for Movies and Performing Arts, Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield Theater Barn, Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance, Keeler Tavern Museum, and the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.

The organization would like to thank the following Partner Sponsors for their contributions: Abbey Tent & Party Rentals, Ancona's Wines & Liquors, Connecticut Office of Film, Television & Digital Media, Good Morning Wilton, Hamlet Hub, IMG Digital + Inbound, Nicholson Events, Ridgefield Storage Center, Rodier Flowers, and Sacred Heart University.

The festival would also like to show appreciation to the following Patron Sponsors: Sandra Consentino, Danbury Audi, Nick & Anita Donofrio, Woodson & Christina Duncan, Steven & Liz Goldstone, Simon & Julene Greenshields, Pepsico, Jon & Allison Stockel.