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**SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL HIT *BEFORE YOU KNOW IT*  
MAKES ITS AREA PREMIERE AT EXCELSIOR'S ART ON THE LAKE  
Presented by Minnesota nonprofit FilmNorth  
Writer/Director/Star Hannah Pearl Utt in attendance**

St. Paul, Minn. (May 22, 2019)– FilmNorth, the Minneapolis-St. Paul based nonprofit organization empowering media artists in The North to tell their stories and build successful careers, announced today that it will present the regional premiere of the Sundance Film Festival hit *Before You Know It* Saturday, June 8 with writer/director/star Hannah Pearl Utt in attendance.

The screening is a special event during of the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Excelsior Art on The Lake. Every year, the Art on the Lake planning committee chooses a Nonprofit Beneficiary and Arts Group Partner, and this year that partner is FilmNorth.

Writer/director Hannah Pearl Utt's *Before You Know It* premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, where it was a hit with critics and audiences alike. Utt, who made her directorial debut with this feature, also stars opposite Jen Tullock, Judith Light, Mandy Patinkin, Mike Colter, and Alec Baldwin. Distributor 1091 snagged North American rights to the film and plans to release the film nationally later this year.

Written by Utt and Tullock, the film thrusts co-dependent sisters Rachel and Jackie Guner (played by Utt and Tullock) into a literal soap opera after a long-kept family secret is revealed, taking them on a journey that proves that you really can “come of age” at any age.

"The Art on the Lake audience will get its own Sundance Film Festival experience with this special screening, months before the rest of the country," said Andrew Peterson, Executive Director of FilmNorth. "I know audiences will fall in love with Hannah and *Before You Know It*."

*Before You Know It* will screen June 8 at 7:30pm at the Excelsior Dock Cinema (26 Water Street, Excelsior, MN 55331), followed by a Q&A with writer/director/star Hannah Pearl Utt. Tickets may be purchased at <http://myfilmnorth.org/event/before-you-know-it-screening-event/>

For more information on Excelsior Art on the Lake visit  
[www.excelsior-lakeminnetonkachamber.com/excelsior-art-on-the-lake.html](http://www.excelsior-lakeminnetonkachamber.com/excelsior-art-on-the-lake.html)

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### **About Hannah Pearl Utt**

Hannah Pearl Utt is best known for directing & starring in the series *Disengaged*, which she created and wrote with Jen Tullock. In 2017, Utt was selected for the Sundance Institute's inaugural Catalyst Women initiative and the 2017 Sundance Directors and Screenwriters Lab. *Before You Know It*, which received a 2018 Adrienne Shelly Foundation Women Filmmakers Grant, marks Utt's feature directorial debut.

### **About FilmNorth**

Founded in 1987, FilmNorth's mission is to empower artists to tell their stories, launch and sustain successful careers, and advance The North as a leader in the national network of independent filmmakers. We achieve our mission by nurturing a vibrant, diverse community of film and media artists; providing education and resources at every stage of their careers; and celebrating their achievements. [www.myfilmnorth.org](http://www.myfilmnorth.org)

### **About Art on the Lake**

Excelsior Art on the Lake was founded in 1980 by Artworks Excelsior owner and arts advocate Debbie Hart. Featuring more than 140 artists from across the country as well as distinguished local artists, Art on the Lake is an engaging creative event that connects the artist's personal story with the vibrant lake community, which showcasing an array of outstanding artistic work from multiple disciplines.