The Incredible Rise of Aaron Paul
Virginia, CAPTURED!
Old Dominion gets screen time with The Good Lord Bird, a film fest and more.

By Trish Foxwell

Virginia is no stranger to lights, camera and action. It has an annual film fest that turns 32 this month. And it's become a backdrop in many works with a historic setting. The Good Lord Bird, which is finishing production next month in the Richmond area, is the latest screen star.

The eight-part Showtime series features Ethan Hawke—as also the co-producer and co-writer—as John Brown in a story that promises to reveal another chapter in the days leading up to the outbreak of the Civil War. It's produced by Blumhouse Television and is based on James McBride's 2013 tome.

The project follows in the footsteps of former flocks staged in Old Dominion, like 2011's Lincoln; the epic from Steven Spielberg launched programs such as Turn, AMC's series on George Washington's spies. Harriet, a Focus Features movie about the efforts of Harriet Tubman (Cynthia Erivo) and her attempts in helping slaves escape via the underground railroad, wrapped last year and was filmed almost entirely in the state with other talents such as Janelle Monáe and DC's Deborah Ayorinde. It is slated for a November release.

The latest production recounts abolitionist Brown's raid on an arsenal in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., and his friendship with a young African American slave. Part fact and fiction, it's told through the eyes of Henry Shackleford, the young lad befriended by Brown (named Onion in the novel), and follows their quest to arm slaves with guns.

While that won't premiere till February, voyeurs can keep busy with the Virginia Film Festival, which takes place Oct. 23 to 27 in Charlottesville. The program has drawn guests such as Sandra Bullock and Christoph Waltz, and is a project of the Office of the Provost and Vice Provost for the Arts at the University of Virginia. Events are staged at a variety of venues, with the Paramount and Violet Crown theaters serving as main screening spots. Opening night also features a gala at The Jefferson Theater. Showtimes! Screenings $11-$15, gala $75, late-night wrap party $45, virginiafilmfestival.org

BRITISH INVASION

Fans of Netflix hit The Crown won't mind trekking to Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library for its latest exhibit, on view through Jan. 5. Dubbed Costuming the Crown, the program displays 40 looks worn by the actors and actresses, from Claire Foy to Matt Smith. The showcase was organized by Kim Collison, exhibitions manager, who worked closely with series designers Michele Clapton and Jane Petrie to ensure authenticity. And it's a visually stunning display. The costumes are from the first two seasons of the Emmy Award-winning series, which enters its third season in November. Standouts include Queen Elizabeth's coronation robe, Princess Margaret's wedding dress and Prince Philip's military regalia uniform. Adding to it all are tiaras, crowns and various accessories for a final royal touch. Tickets $18-$20, memberships $75-$500. 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, Del., winterthur.org –TF