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NEWS

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**THE FESTIVAL CONTINUES ITS LONG TRADITION OF SHOWCASING
THE BEST IN LGBTQ FILMS**

**The OUT-Look Program Presents Twelve Film that Will Compete for
the Annual “Q Hugo Award”**

CHICAGO, IL (October 13, 2014) – The 50th Chicago International Film Festival announces the 12 films that will compete for the annual **Q Hugo Award**. These films from Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Hungary, Greece, Netherlands, South Korea, Switzerland, Sweden, and the United States will be shown as part of OUT-Look, the Festival’s annual LGBTQ program that showcases new artistic perspectives on sexuality and identity.

“Since the beginning, we have always featured films that tackle sensitive issues as part of our overall programming. We have showcased and even introduced the works of such filmmakers as Jaime Humberto Hermosillo, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Patrice Chéreau and Gus Van Sant to a general audience,” said **Founder and Artistic Director of the Chicago International Film Festival, Michael Kutza**. “This year is no different. From documentaries to musicals, from tender love stories to a drama featuring Geraldine Chaplin’s most heartbreaking performance, the contenders for the Q Hugo Award address these issues in ways that are both innovative and touching.”

The **Q Hugo Film Award jury** consists of artistic director and film critic **Mihai Chirilov (Romania)**, film critic and academic **Nick Davis (United States)**, film critic historian, Charlie Chaplin expert, and director of the Pordenone Silent Film Festival **David Robinson (Great Britain)**, and the executive director of Chicago Filmmakers and founder of Reeling, **Brenda Webb (United States)**.

The Q Hugo Award will be presented at the Festival Awards Night ceremony, **Friday October 17 at 9 pm** at **The Sofitel Chicago Water Tower** (20 E. Chestnut St.). 2013 Q Hugo winners include Gold Q Hugo winner “Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?” (Taiwan); silver Q Hugo winner “It’s All So Quiet” (Netherlands/Germany); and Special Jury Prize to “American Vagabond” (Finland/Denmark/USA).

The 50th Chicago International Film Festival runs October 9-23, 2014.

JURY MEMBERS

Mihai Chirilov (Romania) is the artistic director and co-founder of Transylvania International Film Festival (TIFF), film critic and artistic director of the Making Waves Romanian Film Festival in New York, curator of various Romanian film programs, and co-organizer of the complete Lucian Pintilie retrospective at MoMA in 2012. He has written hundreds of articles and essays and co-authored books, and served as a Romanian translator of several novels by Chuck Palahniuk. He has juried for many film festivals around the world, including Hong Kong, Karlovy Vary, Berlin, Goteborg, Chicago, San Francisco, Palm Springs, Moscow, and Vilnius.

Nick Davis (United States) is an Associate Professor of English, film, and gender studies at Northwestern University. His book, “The Desiring-Image” (2013), offered new readings and theories of queer cinema since the late 1980s, including work by non-LGBT directors like David Cronenberg, Claire Denis, and David Lynch. He teaches courses in LGBT cinema, sexuality in film, and feminist filmmaking. He is also the author of www.NicksFlickPicks.com and associated blog and Twitter account.

David Robinson (Great Britain) David Robinson is a longtime Festival friend, film historian, director of the Pordenone Silent Film Festival, and Charlie Chaplin expert. As part of the Festival’s 50th anniversary retrospective program, Robinson will explore the origins of Chaplin’s renowned “Tramp” costume after 100 years, in a special program, “Centenary of the Tramp” that will include a screening of “Kid’s Auto Races at Venice” and the short “The Immigrant,” Thursday, October 16 at 6 p.m.

Brenda Webb (United States) is the executive director of Chicago Filmmakers and founder of Reeling, the Chicago LGBT international film festival.

OUT-Look Program

“The Circle” Switzerland (Director: Stefan Haupt)—Founded in early 1940s Switzerland and exploding in the post-war era, The Circle was Europe’s grandest underground gay publication, which hosted a private club offering refuge for homosexuals at the time. It was also the site of a budding romance between shy teacher Ernst and flamboyant drag star Röbi, still together to this day. Through lavish recreations, the film brings the world of The Circle to life, as the present-day couple reminisces about the joys and tragedies of the past. *Chicago Premiere*

“Futuro Beach” Brazil, Germany (Director: Karim Aïnouz)—When Brazilian lifeguard Donato fails to rescue a drowning swimmer, he acquaints himself with the victim’s friend, an ex-soldier. Grief and comfort soon evolve into a love affair—one complicated years later by the reemergence of a figure from Donato’s past. Unfolding atop the hot sands of Brazilian beaches and amongst the chilly vistas of Germany, this kinetic, stylish film charts the heady ecstasy and engulfing despair of a romance in flux. *Chicago Premiere*

“A Girl at My Door” South Korea (Director: July Jung)—Doona Bae (“Cloud Atlas”) and newcomer Kim Sae-ron deliver electrifying performances in this penetrating drama about a complicated relationship between two young women. Taking up post at a small seaside town, policewoman Lee Young-nam finds herself coming to the rescue of Do-hee, a local girl damaged by abuse at the hands of family and peers. As the two form a close, controversial relationship, Young-nam confronts a broader tapestry of social discrimination and destruction. *U.S. Premiere*

“The Imitation Game” USA, UK (Director: Morten Tyldum)—Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Alan Turing, the genius British mathematician, logician, cryptologist and computer scientist who led the charge to crack the German Enigma Code that helped the Allies win WWII. Turing went on to assist with the development of computers at the University of Manchester after the war, but was prosecuted by the UK government in 1952 for homosexual acts, which the country deemed illegal. *Chicago Premiere*

“Land of Storms” Hungary, Germany (Director: Adam Csaszi)—In this uncompromising and visually evocative drama of homosexual desire and homophobia, Szabi, a Hungarian star player on a German soccer team, retreats to his family’s country house, where he strikes up a physical relationship with a young man from the village. Faced with a rival lover and local intolerance, Szabi is forced to choose the kind of life he wants. “Land of Storms” is a turbulent story of sexual awakening and self-discovery. *Chicago Premiere*

“Sand Dollars” Dominican Republic, Argentina, Mexico (Directors: Laura Amelia Guzmán and Israel Cárdenas)—In a Dominican resort town, Noeli, a dark-skinned local, hooks up with international tourists in exchange for money, sharing the proceeds with her boyfriend. But Noeli’s longstanding romantic relationship with Anne, a wealthy lesbian woman (the extraordinary Geraldine Chaplin) threatens to upend their lives. This deftly directed multi-character portrait, both tender and cynical, paints a highly sensitive and sophisticated picture of the collision between haves and have-nots. *U.S. Premiere*

“Speed Walking” Denmark (Director: Niels Arden Oplev)—Being twelve is hard enough, but for Martin, a budding speed walker, this minefield is made more bewildering by his mother’s sudden death and Denmark’s newly liberalized pornography laws. With a candid and sensitive perspective, director Niels Arden Oplev (“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”) uses the story of a boy’s sexual coming-of-age in the mid-’70s as a tender allegory about a society coming to terms with its new and sudden openness. *North American Premiere*

“Something Must Break” Sweden (Director: Ester Martin Bergsmark)—With long hair, epicene features, and an increasingly dominant alter-ego he calls Ellie, Sebastian defies easy gender identification. When the leather jacket-donning Andreas comes to his rescue during a homophobic beating, a cautious yet steamy relationship begins between the two that forces both to confront the relative fluidity of their sexualities. Unflinching and intimate, “Something Must Break” soulfully examines the permeability of identity and the ambiguity of desire. *Chicago Premiere*

“Summer” Netherlands (Director: Colette Bothof)—Quiet timid Anna lives under the shadow of her rural community’s power plant—a continually humming reminder of her town’s traditional ways. Unable to fit in and searching for her sexual identity, she gets just the boost she needs with the arrival of an alluring leather-clad biker chick. With genuine performances and warm cinematography that captures the heat and suffocation of summertime, Collette Bothof’s touching second feature examines a girl daring to be different. *North American Premiere*

“The Third One” Argentina (Director: Rodrigo Guerrero)—Seeking to sate his sexual desires and perhaps even find something more, young Fede takes to online chat-rooms to interact with other men. Two in particular strike his fancy—a couple in an apparently open relationship. Per their invitation, Fede spends a night at their apartment that powerfully enlightens him to the possibilities of love. Disarmingly sweet, “The Third One” is a frank account of sexual exploration and acceptance. *Chicago Premiere*

“The Way He Looks” Brazil (Director: Daniel Ribeiro)—São Paulo teen Leonardo is facing the challenges of adolescence, including overbearing parents and a burgeoning sexuality—he also happens to be blind. When new kid Gabriel shows up at school, drawing the attraction of both he and his best girlfriend, Leonardo’s world is turned upside down. A jubilant portrait of young gay love, this assured debut feature tenderly parses the terrain of growing up different in more ways than one. *Chicago Premiere*

“Xenia” Greece (Director: Panos H. Koutras)—After the death of their Albanian lounge-singing mother, sprightly gay Dany and his heterosexual older brother Odysseus set out on a journey to find their estranged Greek father, in order to be able to remain in the country legally. A candy-colored, crowd-pleasing road movie, filled with dance sequences and celebrity cameos, Greek New Wave pioneer Panos Koutras lovingly presents a celebration of tolerance, while revealing the disturbing fascist strains currently threatening his nation. *Chicago Premiere*

AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards ceremony will be held **Friday October 17** at **9 pm** at **The Sofitel Chicago Water Tower** (20 E. Chestnut St.). In addition to the Q-Hugo, awards will also be presented in these competitive categories: New Directors Competition, the Roger Ebert Award, the Chicago Award, DocuFest, and Shorts. Past Chicago International Film Festival award winners have gone on to win Oscars® and Golden Globe® awards, among other notable recognitions. Awards Night is a night for the 50th Chicago International Film Festival juries, filmmakers and guests to come together and celebrate each other’s achievements.

Awards Night Sponsors

Evening Hosts: Michigan Avenue Magazine and Sofitel; Lead Partner: Wintrust Community Banks; Evening Partners: Stella Artois, Casale del Giglio, and Effen Vodka.

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ABOUT CINEMA/CHICAGO

Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a not-for-profit arts and education organization dedicated to encouraging better understanding between cultures and to making a positive contribution to the art form of the moving image.

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