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NEWS

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2015 CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL REVEALS FIRST LIST OF OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Featuring Premieres from directors Todd Haynes, Paolo Sorrentino, Nanni Moretti, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Jacques Audiard, Peter Greenaway, and many more!

CHICAGO - The Chicago International Film Festival, presented by Cinema/Chicago, announces its first 24 films and several events to be featured at the 51st Chicago International Film Festival this October 15-29 2015. Festival passes are available for purchase online 24 hours a day at ChicagoFilmFestival.com or by phone Mon-Fri from 10:00 am to 6:00pm CST at 312-332-FILM.

This initial lineup announcement includes the top prizewinner from the Cannes Film Festival, a look at what it takes to build one of the world's greatest restaurants, a once-lost Sherlock Holmes film, a Guillermo del Toro-produced buddy movie, and breakout performances from Michael Caine, Cate Blanchett, and Sarah Silverman.

"This preview into our 51st Festival includes innovative new work representing a variety of cultures and ideas from around the world, which pays tribute to our mission," said Michael Kutza, Founder and Artistic Director of the Chicago International Film Festival. "It has always been my goal to bring the most exciting work in contemporary international cinema to Chicago during the Chicago International Film Festival. This year is no different."

"Each year, we view thousands of submissions as we search for the films to show at the Festival," added Programming Director Mimi Plauché. "The submissions each year are more impressive than the last. These first titles offer audiences a preview of what they can expect during this year's Festival: a thought-provoking, diverse program of the best in cinema from around the world."

Photos may be downloaded from [here](#) unless otherwise indicated below. Program subject to change.

TRIBUTES

An Evening with Howard Shore Sunday, October 18th

Three-time Oscar® winner Howard Shore is one of cinema's most celebrated composers. Along with scoring the entire *Lord Of the Rings* trilogy, Shore has created soaring, propulsive compositions for the greats, from Martin Scorsese to David Cronenberg's entire oeuvre. Shore will reflect on his career in film in a can't-miss event.

(more)

Industry Tribute: Gigi Pritzker

Thursday, October 22th

Prolific film executive Gigi Pritzker headlines Industry Days, the Festival's new hub for filmmakers and industry professionals. Producer of such noted films as Jon Stewart's *Rosewater* and the Ryan Gosling thriller *Drive*, Pritzker will be celebrated with an onstage conversation along with film clips from her producing achievements.

FILMS

All films listed will receive their Chicago premiere at the Festival, unless otherwise indicated.

45 Years

Country: UK

Director: Andrew Haigh

Synopsis: Tom Courtenay and Charlotte Rampling deliver award-winning performances in this engrossing marital drama. A couple celebrating their 45th anniversary receive a jolt when they learn that the corpse of a woman from the husband's past has been discovered in a melting glacier, and he's listed as her next-of-kin.

An

Country: Japan

Director: Naomi Kawase

Synopsis: Sweet red bean paste is the filling in this poignant tale of life, compassion, and delicious desserts. An uninspired pastry chef is brought to life when a plucky septuagenarian's irresistible homemade recipe turns his red bean pancakes into a local hit. The latest from highly regarded Japanese auteur Naomi Kawase is a tasty philosophical dish.

Brooklyn

Country: Ireland/UK/Canada

Director: John Crowley

Synopsis: BROOKLYN tells the moving story of Eilis (Saoirse Ronan), a young Irish immigrant navigating through 1950s Brooklyn. Lured by the promise of America, Eilis departs Ireland for the shores of New York, where she finds love. But unexpected developments force her to choose between her family's home and her adopted land.

Carol

Country: USA

Director: Todd Haynes

Synopsis: In an adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's seminal novel *The Price of Salt*, CAROL follows two women (Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara) from very different backgrounds who find themselves in an unexpected love affair in 1950s New York. As conventional norms of the time challenge their undeniable attraction, an honest story emerges to reveal the resilience of the heart in the face of change.

Cemetery of Splendor (Rak ti Khon Kaen)

Country: Thailand

Director: Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Synopsis: Thai surrealist master and School of the Art Institute of Chicago alum Apichatpong Weerasethakul astounds with a deeply spiritual drama about a group of soldiers who catch a strange coma after disturbing ancient royal graves. While a hospital volunteer nurses the ill, spirits lull us into a captivating cinematic dreamscape.

(more)

Cuckold

USA PREMIERE

Country: South Africa

Director: Charlie Vundla

Synopsis: In this wry, intimate drama, a young American professor in Johannesburg falls apart after his gorgeous wife leaves him for another man. His old school chum, now a homeless life coach, props him back up. But when his wife reappears at his doorstep, she sparks a gripping chain of deception.

Dheepan

Country: France

Director: Jacques Audiard

Synopsis: Winner of the top prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival, Jacques Audiard's explosive immigrant drama depicts a Sri Lankan rebel fighter who attempts a better life in Paris under a dead man's identity. Real-life novelist and former child soldier Antonythasan Jesuthasan gives a breakout lead performance.

EPK: <http://www.whynotproductions.fr/download.php?id=140>

Eisenstein in Guanajuato

Country: Netherlands

Director: Peter Greenaway

Synopsis: This radical, stylistically brilliant biopic chronicles Soviet revolutionary filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein's 1931 sojourn to Mexico, where, in Peter Greenaway's imaginative retelling, he lost his virginity to his male guide. A treat for cinephiles, the film adapts Eisenstein's own feverish editing rhythms and features a giddy performance by Elmer Bäck as Eisenstein.

For Grace

Country: USA

Director: Kevin Pang

Synopsis: After cooking his way through Chicago's top kitchens, renowned Chef Curtis Duffy begins plans for his dream establishment, Grace. A delicious look at what it takes to build one of the world's greatest restaurants, and the complex story of a man forging a new future out of his traumatic past.

Hitchcock/Truffaut

Country: France/USA

Director: Kent Jones

Synopsis: In 1962, Alfred Hitchcock and François Truffaut conducted a weeklong conversation about the craft of Hitchcock's movies, and of cinema itself. The result: the seminal book *Hitchcock/Truffaut*. This brilliant behind-the-scenes account of their conversation—along with memorable clips from Hitch's works—is an inspiring and illuminating look inside the mind of a master craftsman.

The Homecoming (Blóðberg)

USA PREMIERE

Country: Iceland

Director: Björn Hlynur Haraldsson

Synopsis: Self-help author Gunnar's humdrum routine is shaken when he realizes his son's new fiancée may be a bit closer to him than they think. He must choose between keeping his secret or protecting his son. A dark, unpredictable "family" comedy ensues, as everyone scrambles to recover their grip on the truth.

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I Smile Back

Country: USA

Director: Adam Salky

Synopsis: I SMILE BACK explores the life of Laney (Sarah Silverman), an attractive, intelligent suburban wife and devoted mother of two adorable children. She has the perfect husband, a pristine house, and a shiny SUV for carting the children to their next activity. However, just beneath the façade lie depression and disillusionment that send her careening into a secret world of reckless compulsion. Only very real danger will force her to face the painful root of her destructiveness and its crumbling effect on those she loves.

The Infinite Happiness

Country: France/Denmark

Director: Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine

Synopsis: Copenhagen's "8 House," an ultramodern loop of apartments by architect Bjarke Ingels, reinvents the concept of "home." Its 500 residents traverse all nine floors by bike and hike on its lush green roofs. This exuberant documentary profiles the (mostly) happy residents, offering a hopeful, inspired picture of communal living by design.

James White

Country: USA

Director: Josh Mond

Synopsis: A violent, emotionally unstable young man, still processing the recent death of his long-absent father, must care for the now terminally ill mother who raised him. This raw, affecting drama features a revelatory lead performance from Christopher Abbott (*Girls*), with Cynthia Nixon (*Sex And The City*) as his ailing mother.

Mia Madre

Country: Italy

Director: Nanni Moretti

Synopsis: John Turturro provides madcap comic relief as a self-important American actor in master filmmaker Nanni Moretti's latest autobiographical work. A director tries to complete her movie while caring for her much-beloved hospital-bound mother. Real life and art clash violently in this moving personal drama about the heavy cost of artistic integrity.

Orphans of Eldorado (Órfãos do Eldorado)

USA PREMIERE

Country: Brazil

Director: Guilherme Coelho

Synopsis: In this sensual, mythical tale of obsession, a man returns to his hometown by the Amazon, where he resumes a dangerous old affair and begins another one with a woman who seems to emerge and disappear from the river itself. An immersive film that plunges into Oedipal desires and Brazilian legends.

A Perfect Day (Un día perfecto)

USA PREMIERE

Country: Spain

Director: Fernando León de Aranoa

Synopsis: Benicio del Toro and Tim Robbins join a motley crew of aid workers bumbling through the Balkan War in this *M*A*S*H*-like black comedy about struggling to do good in bad places. When fishing a corpse out of a well, a sense of humor helps.

(more)

Sherlock Holmes (1916)

Country: USA

Director: Arthur Berthelet

Synopsis: Lost for nearly a century, this silent-era screen incarnation of the classic character (one of the first) miraculously reappeared last year in a French cinema archive. Filmed at Chicago's own Essanay Studios and starring William Gillette, theater's most famous Holmes of the time, the film is a once-in-a-lifetime treat.

Syl Johnson: Any Way The Wind Blows

WORLD PREMIERE

Country: USA

Director: Rob Hatch-Miller

Synopsis: Velvet-voiced soul singer Syl Johnson struggled for decades before leaving the biz in the 1980s to open a Chicago fried-fish chain. Since then, he's become one of the most-sampled artists in hip-hop. With a lively soundtrack, this buoyant world premiere documentary celebrates one man who can't stop the music.

They Look Like People

Country: USA

Director: Perry Blackshear

Synopsis: After receiving an ominous phone call, a young man crashing his friend's flat becomes convinced mysterious creatures are inhabiting the bodies of everyone around him. This tension-filled horror indie will leave you on high alert, taking a good look at your co-worker, your neighbor... and even your best friend.

The Thin Yellow Line (La delgada línea amarilla)

USA PREMIERE

Country: Mexico

Director: Ceslo García

Synopsis: This hilarious Guillermo del Toro-produced buddy movie follows five men tasked with painting the median line on a lonely rural road. Good-natured male bonding blends with gorgeous landscape cinematography in this thoughtful portrayal of a day's honest work in modern Mexico.

Youth

USA PREMIERE

Country: Italy

Director: Paolo Sorrentino

Synopsis: Fred (Michael Caine), an acclaimed composer, vacations in the Swiss Alps with his daughter (Rachel Weisz) and best friend Mick (Harvey Keitel), a renowned filmmaker. While Mick finishes the screenplay for his last important film, Fred has no intention of resuming his musical career. The men find that the most important experiences can come later in life.

Short Films

Funny, quirky, striking, moving, eye-opening... Find your own personal gem in our selection of shorts featuring animation, documentary, drama, horror, and experimental works from international and local talent. Highlights from this year's program include: Feminist erotic filmmaker **ERIKA LUST** shows off her explicit works and discusses sex from the female perspective. In the animated **WAVES '98**, a Beirut drifter stumbles into a multicolored, imaginary world.

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ABOUT FESTIVAL SPONSORS

The 51st Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Gold Festival Partners: TIAA-CREF, Columbia College Chicago, Wintrust Community Banks; Official Airline: American Airlines; Headquarters Hotel: JW Marriott Chicago; Silver Festival Partners: Bloomberg, Intersites; Platinum Media Partners: National CineMedia (NCM), JC Decaux, Michigan Avenue Magazine; Bronze Festival Partners: Stella Artois, AARP, Tribune Media; Participating Partners: Whole Foods, Wansas, Cultivate Studios, Netrix, KIND, OTTERBOX; Participating Hotels: Public, The Whitehall Hotel, theWit; and Cultural Partners: Consulate General of Argentina in Chicago, Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Italian Film Commission. With Foundation and Government support from the National Endowment of the Arts, Alphawood Foundation Chicago, the Illinois Arts Council, and Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

ABOUT CINEMA/CHICAGO

Cinema/Chicago 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. The Chicago International Film Festival is one of the year-round programs presented by Cinema/Chicago, which also include the Chicago International Film Festival Television Awards, CineYouth Festival, INTERCOM Competition, International Screenings Program, and Education Outreach Program. Celebrating its 51st anniversary this year, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival. Learn more at www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

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