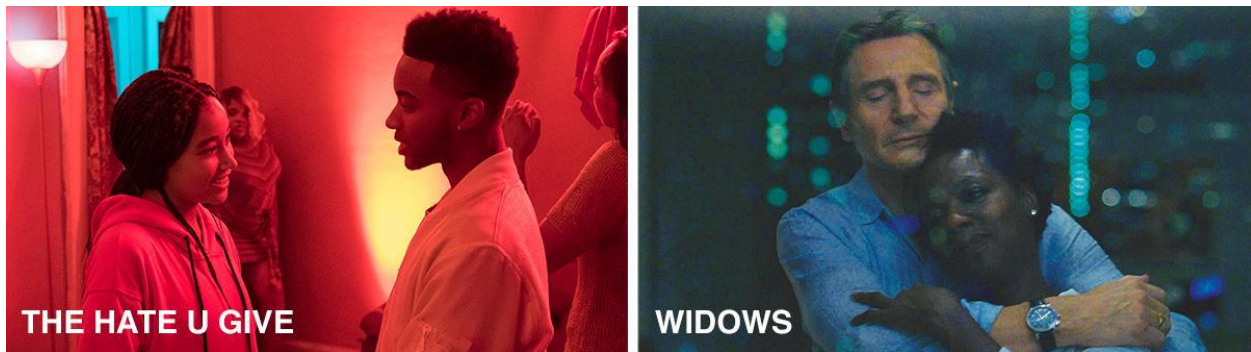


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**TWO OF THE YEAR'S MOST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED FILMS FROM 20th CENTURY FOX TO
BE SHOWCASED AT THE 54TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:
WIDOWS AND *THE HATE U GIVE***



CHICAGO - **Mimi Plauché**, **Artistic Director** of **Cinema/Chicago** and the **Chicago International Film Festival**, today announced that two of the year's most highly anticipated films, *The Hate U Give* (directed by **George Tillman, Jr.**) and *Widows* (directed by **Steve M^cQueen**), will receive gala presentation screenings during the 54th Chicago International Film Festival, running Oct. 10-21, 2018 at AMC River East, 322 E. Illinois St.

The Hate U Give will be shown Thursday, Oct. 11; *Widows* will be shown Saturday, Oct. 13.

"We are very proud to present the Chicago premieres of films by two immensely talented directors who also have history with our Festival," said Plauché. "Both George Tillman, Jr. and Steve M^cQueen are past Festival honorees, and M^cQueen's debut feature, *Hunger*, was the recipient of the 2008 Gold Hugo Award. Tillman's *The Hate U Give* is a beautifully crafted, compelling drama that deals with the pressing social issues of gun violence and police brutality and their impact on individuals and society. M^cQueen's *Widows*, shot in Chicago, is a taut, edge-of-your seat thriller bound up in the city's complex political and social landscape."

"It has been an honor to celebrate the talents of these two directors as their careers have evolved," added **Festival Founder and CEO Michael Kutza**. "I have fond memories of being floored by Steve's talent from the moment I saw *Hunger*, and the team of George and Bob Teitel continuously impresses our audiences with their deft filmmaking. It pleases me enormously that their work will be showcased at this year's Festival."

The Hate U Give

The Hate U Give, directed by **George Tillman, Jr.** (who was honored in 2013 at the 49th Chicago International Film Festival), tells the story of Starr Carter, a young woman who is constantly switching between two worlds: the poor, mostly black, neighborhood where she lives and the rich, mostly white prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressures from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right.

The Hate U Give is based on the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller by Angie Thomas and stars **Amandla Stenberg** as Starr, with Russell Hornsby, Regina Hall, Issa Rae, KJ Apa, Algee Smith, Sabrina Carpenter, Common and Anthony Mackie. One of the producers is Robert Teitel, who served on the jury for the 2013 Chicago International Film Festival.

Images from and additional information about *The Hate U Give* can be found at www.epk.tv.

Widows

Widows is directed by Academy Award®-winner and 2016 Festival honoree **Steve McQueen** (*12 Years a Slave*) and co-written by bestselling Chicago-based author Gillian Flynn (*Gone Girl*). The film is a blistering, modern-day thriller set against the backdrop of crime, passion and corruption, telling the story of four women with nothing in common except a debt left behind by their dead husbands' criminal activities. Set and filmed in Chicago amid a time of turmoil, tensions build when Veronica (Oscar® winner Viola Davis, also a Festival honoree), Linda (Michelle Rodriguez), Alice (Elizabeth Debicki) and Belle (Cynthia Erivo) take their fate into their own hands and conspire to forge a future on their own terms.

Widows also stars Liam Neeson, Colin Farrell, Robert Duvall, Daniel Kaluuya, Lukas Haas and Brian Tyree Henry.

Images from and additional information about *Widows* can be found at www.epk.tv.

Festival and Ticket Information

The 54th Chicago International Film Festival runs Oct. 10-21, 2018 at the AMC River East, 322 E. Illinois St., and features more than 150 films, with a vast diversity of offerings, with numerous competitive categories and several highlight programs such as Black Perspectives, Cinemas of the Americas, International Comedy, Spotlight: Italy, Women in Cinema, Out-Look, After Dark and the City & State program (showcasing films made in Chicago and throughout Illinois.)

The complete Festival schedule will be announced September 17, 2018. Early Bird Festival passes (\$105 - \$260) are currently on sale. Individual tickets (\$8 to \$20) and Gala Presentation tickets (\$20 to \$150) will go on sale Sept. 18 for Cinema/Chicago Members and Sept. 21 for the general public. Discounted parking is available at AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois Street). For more information, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com or call 312-683-0121.

Festival Sponsors and Partners

The 54th Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Premiere Sponsors: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Wintrust Community Banks; Education Sponsor: HBO; Event Partner: AMC Theaters; Special support provided by the National Endowment of the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Illinois Film Office, Chicago Film Office, and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).

About Cinema/Chicago

[Cinema/Chicago](#), the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a year-round nonprofit arts and education organization dedicated to fostering better communication between people of diverse cultures through the art of film and the moving image. Cinema/Chicago's programs include the Chicago International Film Festival, International Screenings Program, Chicago International Television Festival, CineYouth Festival, and year-round Education Program. Celebrating its 54th edition October 10-21, 2018, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival. For more information, please visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Vimeo](#) and [Twitter](#).

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