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**NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ANDREW DAVIS PRESIDING OVER 51ST CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL FEATURES COMPETITION

*Sixteen Films from Around the Globe Compete for the Prestigious Gold Hugo*

(CHICAGO, Oct 12, 2015) - Today the 51st Chicago International Film Festival announced Director/Producer/Writer **Andrew Davis** will be the President of this year's **International Features Competition Jury**. Davis directed the Academy Award®-nominated box-office hit *The Fugitive* (1993), *Under Siege* (1992), *Collateral Damage* (2002), *Holes* (2003), and *The Guardian* (2006). The Golden Globe®-nominated director was raised in Chicago and graduated from the University of Illinois.

The International Features Competition Jury includes **Iván Trujillo**, director general of the Guadalajara International Film Festival; Writer/Director **Laura Astorga** whose film **Red Princess** (2013) was Costa Rica's official selection for the 87th Academy Awards; Actor/Director **Nawaf Al-Janahi** (**The Circle, Sea Shadow**); and Actor/Producer **Jossie Harris**, who was awarded the Best Supporting Actress award at the 45th Chicago International Film Festival for her role in **Mississippi Damned**. The Jury will present the **Gold Hugo** to the best of the 16 films in competition from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Croatia, France, Israel, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, UK, and Uruguay. More information about the International Features Competition may be found at <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/film-festival-announces-international-feature-competition>.

The Festival's **New Directors Competition Jury** consists of **Matt Fagerholm** (film critic & Assistant Editor at Ebert Publishing), **Claudia Landsberger** (Senior Partner at BaseWorx for Film), and **Diego Lerer** (film critic and Acting President of FIPRESCI Argentina, the film critics' association). More information about the New Directors Competition may be found at <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/new-directors-competition-announced>.

The Festival's **Documentary Competition Jury** includes **Eric Hynes** (Columnist for *Film Comment*), **Michelle Puetz** (Curator of Media Arts at the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art), and **J.P. Sniadecki** (director of the award-winning film **The Iron Ministry**). More information about the documentary films competition may be found at <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/premiere-heavy-international-documentary-competition-at-51st-chicago-international-film-festival/>.

The Festival's **OUT-Look/Q Hugo Award Jury** features **Mihai Chirilov** (Film Critic, Director of Transylvania International Film Festival), **Richard Knight, Jr** (Film Critic, Programming Director for the Reeling Film Festival, Founder of the Queer Film Society), and **John Russell Taylor** (critic and author whose books include *Hitch: The Life and Times of Alfred Hitchcock* and *Strangers in Paradise: The Hollywood Emigrés, 1933-1950*). More information about the Q Hugo Award may be found at <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/q-hugo-award-celebrate-lgbtqfilms-at-chicago-film-festival>.

#### 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 its Television Awards, CineYouth Festival, INTERCOM Competition, International Screenings Program, and Education Program.

Celebrating its 51st anniversary this year, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival, running Oct 15-29, 2015 at the AMC River East (322 E. Illinois St, Chicago). Photos and media accreditation may be found at [ChicagoFilmFestival.com/press](http://ChicagoFilmFestival.com/press).

This year's Festival slate now includes six World Premieres, 15 North American Premieres, 45 U.S. Premieres, and counting! View the 2015 Festival lineup at [ChicagoFilmFestival.com/films](http://ChicagoFilmFestival.com/films). Individual tickets and multi-film passes are now available. The full festival schedule is available at [ChicagoFilmFestival.com/schedule](http://ChicagoFilmFestival.com/schedule).

#### FESTIVAL PARTNERS

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; Gold Media Partners: WTTW11, Time Out Chicago, WBEZ91.5, WXRT-FM, WBBM Newsradio, and The Hollywood Reporter; Bronze Festival Partners: Stella Artois, AARP, Tribune Media; Participating Partners: SundanceNow Doc Club, Whole Foods, Wansas Tequila, Cultivate Studios, Netrix, KIND, OtterBox, Optimus, Sound Investment; Official Vehicle: Volvo; Participating Hotels: Public Chicago, The Whitehall Hotel, theWit and Loews Chicago Hotel; and Cultural Partners: Consulate General of Argentina in Chicago, Consulate General of Italy in Chicago, Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Italian Film Commission, Italian Trade Agency, Polish Film Institute, Goethe Institut, Austrian Cultural Forum New York, ANCINE National Cinema Agency of Brazil, and Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest. 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, and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. Additional support provided by Allstate, the Chicago Architecture Biennial, Dark Horse Wine, Effen Vodka, Lavazza, and SkinnyPop.

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