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](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).

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