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**NEWS**

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**ANDREW DAVIS, CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT,  
JOSH MOND TO ATTEND OPENING NIGHT OF THE  
51ST CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

***The Chicago Premiere of Nanni Moretti's "Mia Madre"  
Opens the Festival on Oct 15***

(CHICAGO, Oct 13, 2015) - The 51st Chicago International Film Festival is set to open this week at the historic Auditorium Theatre on Thursday, October 15, 2015 with a 6:30 pm presentation of the critically acclaimed Italian film *Mia Madre*. Known internationally as a "director's" festival, the Opening Night red carpet beginning at 5:30 pm, will play host to a slew of auteur filmmakers, esteemed cinephiles and celebrated artists including: International Features Competition Jury President **Andrew Davis** (director, *The Fugitive*); International Features Competition Jury Members and director general of the Guadalajara International Film Festival **Iván Trujillo**; writer/director **Laura Astorga**; actor/director **Nawaf Al-Janahi** (*The Circle, Sea Shadow*); and actor/producer **Jossie Harris** (*Mississippi Damned*).

The jury will also be joined on the carpet by Festival Founder & Artistic Director **Michael Kutza**; Festival Programming Director **Mimi Plauche**; actor **Christopher Abbott** (*James White*); director **Josh Mond** (*James White*); and **Chaz Ebert** (Publisher & Contributor, RogerEbert.com), as well as French New Wave film director and professor at the European Graduate School **Agnès Varda**. Additionally, in celebration of this year's Festival Spotlight: Architecture + Space + Design section, world-renowned architect **Helmut Jahn** will also be in attendance.

General Admission tickets for Opening Night are \$18 for Cinema/Chicago members and \$23 for non-members. VIP Tickets are \$150 each for premiere reserved seating at the *Mia Madre* plus admission to the Opening Night reception at theWit (201 N State St). Reception includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

**Mia Madre**  
CHICAGO PREMIERE  
Country: Italy, FRANKCE  
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.

Runtime: 106 min

- Screening 1: Thursday, October 15; 6:30pm

#### 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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