



**CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL** Oct. 12 - 26, 2017  
Presented by Cinema/Chicago

**53  
NEWS**

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**CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
FULL SCHEDULE FOR INDUSTRY DAYS**

Four-Day Conference Focuses on Film Business, Features Special Guests  
and a Keynote Conversation with Joe Swanberg

CHICAGO – The **Chicago International Film Festival** today announced the full schedule for Industry Days (October 19–22), the four-day conference within the Festival created specifically for aspiring creators and film business professionals. The Festival’s hub for filmmakers and professionals to connect, share ideas and find inspiration, Industry Days examines current and future trends in the art and industry of the entertainment business.

"By bringing the film community together in Chicago, Industry Days has become an important meeting place for emerging filmmakers to better understand the film and entertainment business and connect directly with major decision-makers," said Industry Days Programmer **Anthony Kaufman**. "And with our one-on-one meetings with distribution executives and development organizations, we are also better able to serve the international and North American filmmakers whose work is officially selected in the Film Festival."

This year’s Industry Days will feature a **Keynote Conversation** with **Joe Swanberg**, one of the most prolific Chicago filmmakers. Over the last 12 years, Swanberg has sustained a remarkably diverse career in film and TV, including 18 feature films, TV episodes, short films; and he recently completed the second season of his Netflix series *Easy*. In a candid conversation, Swanberg will speak about rising through the ranks of indie film and sustaining an autonomous career in the Midwest.

Industry Days will also feature a public panel entitled **The *Moonlight* Effect: The Expansion of Black Cinema—Or Not?**, featuring award-winning up-and-coming filmmaker **E.G. Bailey**, and Sundance Creative Producers fellow **Iyabo Boyd**, among others.

Other program highlights include a Master Class with Oscar-nominated filmmaker Sam Pollard, director of *Sammy Davis, Jr. I've Gotta Be Me* and editor of such films as *Jungle Fever*, *Clockers*, *Girl 6*, and *4 Little Girls*, and a panel discussion on **Resistance and Satire: How I Learned to Stop Worrying about Politics and Love Comedy**, co-produced with the Harold Ramis Film School.

Film companies represented include Breaking Glass Pictures, Gravitas Ventures, IFC Films, Music Box Films, MPI, Oscilloscope Laboratories, The Orchard, United Talent Agency, and others. A full schedule is below. A more detailed review of the program is available with names of additional confirmed speakers at [www.chicagofilmfestival.com/industrydays](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/industrydays).

IFP/Chicago will once again co-produce **The Pitch** Sunday, October 22. This curated event features a selection of filmmakers and producers invited to pitch their productions to a distinguished jury of industry experts. The winning pitch receives a suite of in-kind services **worth over \$20,000** from Chicago Production Facilities, including Keslow Camera, AbelCine, Chicago Media Angels, Stage 18, and participation at the Tribeca Film Institute's TFI Network Meetings in New York during the Tribeca Film Festival.

Film and media professionals interested in attending the full program should apply for credentials at <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/industry-days/>

Industry Days is supported by the Illinois Film Office, Chicago Film Office, IFP/Chicago, and Harold Ramis Film School. .

## **INDUSTRY DAYS FULL SCHEDULE: OCTOBER 19-22**

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19**

#### **4:30-5:30 p.m.: Chicago New Wave: Meet the Producers Making Movies Happen**

Who are the top movers-and-shakers making movies happen in the Windy City and what are the best kept secrets for sustaining a film and media career in the Midwest? **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**

#### **10-11 a.m.: Doc Workshop: Master Class with Sam Pollard**

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Sam Pollard (*4 Little Girls*, *Eyes on the Prize*) offers his best practices, editing tips and documentary life lessons in this moderated master class.

#### **11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Doc Workshop: What's Your Story?**

Participants bring their doc-making questions and documentary ideas for an open-mic-style feedback session with nonfiction experts.

#### **1-2 p.m.: Dollars & Sense: Case Study, from Production to Distribution with Stephen Cone**

Get the nitty-gritty details of financing, budgeting, producing and distribution deals with Chicago filmmaker Stephen Cone and producer Grace Hahn (*Princess Cyd*).

#### **2:30-3:30 p.m.: Casting Up: Working with Agents to Get the Best Talent for Your Project**

Join industry experts for an in-depth discussion about navigating Los Angeles agencies, finding the right actor for the right role, and the collaborative art of casting talent.

4-5 p.m.: **The *Moonlight* Effect: The Expansion of Black Cinema—Or Not?**

After black cinema triumphs *Moonlight* and *Get Out*, is the film industry expanding its definition of what African American cinema is and can be? Join this provocative discussion about whether the industry is changing. Or are these films the exception, and not the new rule? **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**

10-11 a.m.: **Making Digital Distribution Work For You**

Meet executives from some of the top indie film distribution companies who specialize in digital distribution, and discover the ins, outs, deal structures and revenue models for online releasing.

11:30-12:30 p.m.: **Do Movie Theaters Matter?**

Discover the changing role of movie theaters, film distribution and whether the traditional model of exhibition is right for you, and if so, how to get your film on the silver screen.

1-2 p.m.: **Stop, Don't Shoot! Developing and Prepping Better Movies**

When are you ready to actually start making your project and what can you do to prevent problems during production? Join veteran filmmakers as they reveal the secrets of development and pre-production.

2:30-3:30 p.m.: **Resistance and Satire: How I Learned to Stop Worrying about Politics and Love Comedy**

In times of trouble, comedy and satire can be an artist's best weapon against oppression and depression. Meet these funny people who are responding to challenging political times with a lacerating sense of humor. (Co-produced by Harold Ramis Film School.) **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

4-5 p.m.: **Closing Keynote Conversation: Joe Swanberg, filmmaker**

As one of the most prolific Chicago writer-director-producers, Joe Swanberg has sustained a remarkably diverse career in film and TV. In the last 12 years, he's made 18 feature films, TV episodes, short films; and he's recently completed the second season of his Netflix series *Easy*. Join Swanberg for an intimate conversation about rising through the ranks of indie film and sustaining an autonomous career, all the while remaining rooted to Chicago. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**

2-5:30 p.m.: **The Pitch**

A curated selection of filmmakers with new narrative projects in active development will take part in a competitive pitch session. The winning pitch, selected by a jury of noted film experts, will receive an award of in-kind services from Chicago Production Facilities. (Co-produced with IFP/Chicago).

**The 53rd Chicago International Film Festival is October 12-26.** Screenings take place at AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois). Tickets go on sale to Cinema/Chicago members on Wednesday September 20 and to the general public on Friday, October 22. Tickets are available by calling 312-332-FILM (3456), online at [chicagofilmfestival.com](http://chicagofilmfestival.com), at the Festival Box Office at AMC River East at 322 E. Illinois Street, and at the Festival Pop-Up Box Office at 400 S. Dearborn.

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### **About Cinema/Chicago**

Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a year round non-profit arts and education organization dedicated to fostering better communication between people of diverse cultures through the art form of the moving image. In addition to the Chicago International Film Festival, Cinema/Chicago's programs include: International Screenings Program, Chicago International Television Festival, CineYouth Festival, and year-round Education Program. Celebrating its 53rd edition October 12-26, 2017, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival.

### **Festival Sponsors and Partners**

The 53rd Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Official Airline: American Airlines; Premiere Sponsors: AARP, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Wintrust Community Banks; Participating Sponsors: Chicago Line Cruises, TV5Monde, Wansas Tequila; Education Sponsors: Allstate Insurance Company, HBO; Event Partners: AMC Theaters, Sound Investment AV; Hotel Partners: Ambassador Chicago, Conrad Chicago, The Whitehall Hotel; Platinum Media Partners: National CineMedia (NCM); Gold Media Partners: WTTW11, WBBM, WXRT; Silver Media Partners: WBEZ, Firewatch Films; Special support provided by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 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).