



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

**53
NEWS**

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**CINEMA/CHICAGO'S EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM
ANNOUNCES SPECIAL SCREENINGS DURING 53RD CHICAGO
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL; CINEYOUTH FESTIVAL-WINNING
SHORTS ALSO TO SCREEN AT THE FESTIVAL**

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Is Joined by Allstate Insurance Company
in Supporting Cinema/Chicago's Education Outreach Program

CHICAGO - Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the **53rd Chicago International Film Festival**, announced this year's lineup of **Education Screenings** to be held at the AMC River East 21 each weekday morning during the 53rd Chicago International Film Festival and at the **DuSable Museum of African American History** monthly throughout the academic year. The Education Screenings provide Chicago Public School (CPS) students from across the city and of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to view one-of-a-kind films and also, in the process, to transform them from passive audience members to active, engaged viewers and thinkers.

A post-screening discussion is built into each program, encouraging students to actively engage with the film and relate it back to their own lives. Educators are provided with resources to integrate the films into their in-classroom curriculum and to use film as a tool to increase students' media literacy and expand their worldview. **Since 1992, the program has brought a broad spectrum of films to more than 100,000 CPS students in grades 6-12, primarily from Chicago's South and West side neighborhoods.**

"We are excited to welcome thousands of CPS students from a diverse group of schools around the city with limited access to arts field trips. To expose these students to independent and international films and the conversations they foster is truly an inspiring experience," stated **Education Program Manager Lauren Ponto**. "It's an honor to offer arts education resources to students, teachers and audiences during the Festival. I'm proud to produce a program with this focus."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' **FilmWatch grant** was awarded to support the expansion of Cinema/Chicago's **Education Program**. Also sponsoring the Education Program is Allstate Insurance Company. Additional special support is provided by HBO, Wintrust Community Banks and Cynthia Stone Raskin.

CPS students and educators at October Education Screenings will view several of the Festival's most engaging and thought-provoking selections. The education screenings will also include a program of Official Selection short films with a Q&A moderated by Executive Vice President of HBO Productions, **Bruce Richmond**. The full lineup of films includes:

Can't Turn Back: *Edith + Eddie* and *'63 Boycott*

From Chicago-based Kartemquin Films (*Hoop Dreams*) comes two new powerful half-hour documentaries about interracial harmony, conflict, and societal injustice. In Laura Checkoway's award-winning *Edith and Eddie*, America's oldest interracial newlyweds, ages 96 and 95, find their happy union threatened by a family feud. *'63 Boycott*, by Gordon Quinn (*Golub*), chronicles the Chicago Public School Boycott of Oct. 22, 1963 when more than 200,000 Chicagoans, mostly students, marched to protest segregationist policies. *60 min. Director Gordon Quinn will be in attendance to participate in the a post-screening discussion.*

For Ahkeem -- Dirs. Jeremy S. Levine and Landon Van Soest, U.S.

Daje Shelton, a 17-year-old girl from St. Louis, just wants to do the right thing. But growing up in a tough neighborhood, she can't catch a break: she's struggling in school; she's distracted by boys; and she's surrounded by a culture of violence and brutality. The fatal shooting of Michael Brown Jr. provides a powerful backdrop for this masterfully crafted portrait of working-class urban life. *90 min.*

Producer Iyabo Boyd and the film's subject, Daje Shelton, will be in attendance to participate in a post-screening discussion.

Hunting Season (Temporada de Caza) – Dir. Natalia Garagiola, Argentina/France/U.S./Germany
After his mother dies, a troubled teen is sent to live with his estranged father, who works as a hunting guide in the Patagonian forests. In the untamed southern environment, the grieving boy struggles to contain his aggressive frustration with adapting to his father's new family and the rugged natural and social environment. In this measured, carefully crafted debut, Garagiola demonstrates a masterful command of the intricacies of human interaction, in which the smallest gesture can convey a world of meaning. *Spanish with subtitles. 105 min. Director Natalia Garagiola will be in attendance to participate in a post-screening discussion.*

Life and Nothing More -- dir. Antonio Méndez Esparza

A stunning fusion of drama and real-life, Florida-based director Esparza's remarkable second feature follows Regina, a single-mother, and her teenage son Andrew. As Regina brings another man into their lives, Andrew wrestles with young adulthood, first love, and his feelings about his absent father. With powerful performances by nonprofessional actors and superb cinematography by Barbu Balasoiu (*Sieranevada*), *Life and Nothing More* is a moving and expertly crafted portrait of African-American life. *113 min. Director Antonio Méndez Esparza will be in attendance to participate in a post-screening discussion.*

The Other Side of the Wall (Al Otro Lado del Muro) – Dir. Pau Ortiz, Spain

Rocío and her big brother, Alejandro, came to Mexico from Honduras with their mom and younger siblings looking for a better life. When their mother ends up in prison, tensions between the two older children

bubble to the surface as they struggle to keep their family afloat. As Rocio touchingly confesses, "I love my brother with all of my heart, but I hate him, too." This top documentary prize-winner roots its timely story about dislocation and migration in a deeply intimate and emotional domestic drama. *Spanish with subtitles. 68 min. Director Pau Ortiz will be in attendance to participate in a post-screening discussion.*

Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me -- Dir. Sam Pollard, U.S.

Singer, dancer, and actor; "Rat Pack" legend; civil rights activist; Jewish convert; and Nixon supporter—the life of Sammy Davis, Jr. defies expectations and easy categorization. Charting the performer's surprising journey across the major flashpoints of contemporary American history, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Sam Pollard interviews such luminaries as Billy Crystal, Jerry Lewis, and Whoopi Goldberg and culls together an array of electric performances for this captivating exploration of the man, his talents and the struggle for identity. *100 min. Director Sam Pollard will be in attendance to participate in a post-screening discussion.*

Zoo -- dir. Colin McIvor, Ireland/United Kingdom

Belfast 1941. Young Tom's (Art Parkinson, *Game of Thrones*) zookeeper father is enlisted in the army, leaving behind his family and the newest member of the zoo, baby elephant Buster. When German air raids threaten the safety of the zoo animals, Tom and his gang of misfit friends set out to rescue Buster with the help of an eccentric animal lover (Penelope Wilton, *Downton Abbey*). Inspired by true events, writer-director McIvor delivers an uplifting tale of dogged bravery. *96 min. Director Colin McIvor will be in attendance to participate in a post-screening discussion.*

53rd Chicago International Film Festival screenings will also feature twelve prize-winning films from the Education Program's **CineYouth Film Festival**. They will screen as part of a free program titled **CineYouth: Best of the Fest on Saturday, October 14 at 11 a.m. Tickets for the CineYouth screenings are free and can be picked up at the Festival Box Office.**

Highlight titles from last May's CineYouth Festival include:

Welcome to the Peace House -- dirs. Angelo Ross, Sierra Blackman, and Briona Barker-Dawson (ages 15-19) This documentary focuses on the I Grow Chicago Peace House in Chicago's South Side Englewood neighborhood.

Night -- dir. Joosje Duk (age 22) This film follows a college student whose cousin abroad visits her in New York, presenting a night out with friends that will connect two different parts of her life.

Held for three days every May, the **CineYouth Festival** highlights the creativity of the next generation of directors, writers and performers by showcasing the work of filmmakers of 22 years old and younger. The event also offers young filmmakers exciting internship and scholarship opportunities and hands-on development workshops.

CineYouth 2018 will take place April 27-29, 2018. Submissions open October 2, 2017 and submission deadline is February 12, 2018.

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About Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is the world's preeminent movie related organization, comprised of 8,000+ accomplished men and women working in cinema.

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About HBO

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About Wintrust

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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).