



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

**53
NEWS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 11, 2017

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM JURY ANNOUNCED FOR THE 53RD CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, OCT 12 - 26

CHICAGO - The **Chicago International Film Festival** today announced the jury for its International Feature Film Competition, featuring a host of acclaimed filmmakers and film experts from across the globe. The International Competition Jury includes **Anne Zohra Berrached**, a writer and director whose film *24 weeks* took home the Silver Lola Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2016; **Nick Davis**, an Associate Professor of film at Northwestern University and Contributing Editor to *Film Comment* magazine; **Leticia Dolera**, a Spanish actress and filmmaker, nominated for Best New Director at the 2015 Goya Awards; **Daniel Dubiecki**, an Academy Award and Golden Globe winning producer; and **Tzi Ma**, an actor who has worked alongside many of Hollywood's biggest stars, including Tom Hanks, Jackie Chan, Jon Hamm and Amy Adams.

The 16 films selected for the International Competition category compete for the Festival's top honor, the Gold Hugo. Eleven of the 16 films in this year's International Competition are made by Festival alumni returning with their latest masterpieces, including previous Gold Hugo winners (Joanna Kos-Krause and Aki Kaurismäki) and Silver Hugo winners (Mohammad Rasoulof and Diego Lerman). The Competition is rounded out by a collection of internationally celebrated, award-winning filmmakers and directors with ambitious second feature-length films (Jimena Montemayor, Andrea Pallaoro, and Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza).

Jury Bios

Anne Zohra Berrached

Filmmaker Anne Zohra Berrached is a writer and director who was born in East Germany and worked as a drama teacher in London for two years before completing her narrative short films *Pausenclown* (Comic Relief), *E.+U.*, and the documentary short *Saint & Whore*. Her feature films, *Two Mothers* and *24 Weeks*, premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2013 and 2016, respectively, with the latter, about a woman considering a late-term abortion, taking home the coveted Silver Lola Award.

Nick Davis

Nick Davis is an Associate Professor at Northwestern University, where he teaches and writes in the areas of film analysis and criticism, queer theory, feminist and gender studies, and American literature. His book *The Desiring-Image* theorized a new model of queer cinema favoring ambiguous forms of sexuality on screen. He currently holds the Alumnae of Northwestern Teaching Professorship. Since 1998, he has published film reviews and festival journalism at www.Nick-Davis.com and in 2016 was named a Contributing Editor to *Film Comment* magazine.

Leticia Dolera

Spanish actress and filmmaker Leticia Dolera is known to audiences for intriguing performances in films ranging from *The Other Side of the Bed* and *Imagining Argentina* to the acclaimed U.S. indie *Man Push Cart* and the third installment of the horror franchise [REC]. Working behind the camera, she's written and directed a number of narrative and documentary shorts. For her 2015 feature, *Requisitos para ser una persona normal*, about a woman who embarks on a quest to become normal, she was nominated for Best New Director at the Goya Awards, Spain's equivalent to the Oscars®.

Daniel Dubiecki

Daniel Dubiecki is the founder and a partner, with Lara Alameddine, of The Allegiance Theater. He is an Oscar®-nominated producer for Best Picture for *Up in the Air* starring George Clooney. Additional producing credits include *Money Monster*, *Thank You for Smoking*, *Juno*, and *Jennifer's Body*. Dubiecki executive produced the acclaimed HBO documentary, *Cries from Syria*, which premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. To date, his feature films have earned one Academy Award® and a Golden Globe.

Tzi Ma

Since making his feature debut in 1978's *Cocaine Cowboys* alongside Jack Palance and Andy Warhol, actor Tzi Ma has worked with many of Hollywood's biggest names. His resume includes lauded turns in such films as *Arrival*, *Million Dollar Arm*, *The Quiet American*, *The Ladykillers*, *Dante's Peak*, *Akeelah and the Bee*, and the action-comedies *Rush Hour* and *Rush Hour III*. He's an active supporter of independent cinema and has starred in numerous features from Asian-Canadian or Asian-American writers, directors, and producers.

Additional Juries

The Festival also announced the juries for its other competitive categories, including the New Directors Competition; The International Documentary Competition; the Chicago Award; the Q Hugo; and the shorts competitions.

New Directors Competition

The New Directors Competition Jury includes **Matt Fagerholm**, former writer for HollywoodChicago.com and member of the Chicago Film Critics Association; **Fabrice Rozié**, oversees artistic and cultural programs between France and the Midwest as the Cultural Attaché at the Consulate of France in Chicago; **Andreas Ströhl**, director and commercial manager of the International Munich Film Festival; **Ella Taylor**, professor of cinema at USC and film writer for NPR.org; and **Wenhwa Ts'ao**, professor and associate chair of the department of cinema and television arts at Columbia College Chicago.

The **International Documentary Competition** Jury includes **Jim Browne**, founder of Argot Pictures, an independent film distribution company; **Paula Froehle**, Co-founder and CEO of Chicago Media Project, which supports social impact documentary films; and **Sam Pollard**, an Academy Award nominated and Emmy-winning documentary producer and director.

The Chicago Award Jury includes **Angie Gaffney**, named one of Chicago's top 50 people in film by New City; **Bruce Sheridan**, an award winning New Zealand TV producer and the Chair of Cinema Art + Science at Columbia College Chicago; and **Yvonne Welbon**, an award-winning independent filmmaker and Founder of the Chicago-based non-profit Sisters in Cinema.

The **Out-Look Competition Jury** includes **Mihai Chirilov**, artistic director and co-founder of the Transylvania International Film Festival; **Lennox Magee**, Editor-at-Large for Bleu Magazine, a national LGBTQ publication and freelance journalist for the Chicago Tribune; and **Hannah Welever**, director and cinematographer who has collaborated on the Emmy-nominated series *Brown Girls* and Netflix's *Easy*.

The **Shorts Competition** is divided into three smaller categories: main, documentary and animated. The Main Jury includes **Charles Coleman**, Film Program Director of the Facets Cinematheque; **Tricia Van Eck**, director of 6018North; and **Brad Ridell**, Assistant Professor of screenwriting at DePaul University. The Documentary Jury includes **Shawn Convey**, filmmaker; **Luisela Alvaray**, Associate Professor at DePaul University; and **Patrick Lile**, Business Administrator of Operations at Northwestern University's RTVF department. The Animated Jury includes **Joel D. Benjamin**, filmmaker and founder of ElectricBeard Productions; **Amir George**, Filmmaker for Cinema Culture & Black Radical Imagination; and **Laura Harrison**, Filmmaker.

The 53rd Chicago International Film Festival is October 12-26. Screenings take place at the AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois). Tickets are available by calling 312-332-FILM (3456), online at 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).