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(Left to right) Actress Marina Squerciati, actor Sterling K. Brown, actor Chadwick Boseman, producer Paula Wagner, director Reginald Hudlin, actor Josh Gad and actor Jussie Smollett at the 53rd Chicago International Film Festival premiere of *Marshall* at Opening Night. Photo credit Timothy M. Schmidt.

***MARSHALL* OPENS 53RD CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Cast, Director and Producer Attend Opening

CHICAGO - The opening of the 53rd Chicago International Film Festival was a tremendous success, attended by hundreds who saw **Reginald Hudlin's** film *Marshall*. In attendance were the film's stars **Chadwick**

Boseman, Josh Gad, Sterling K. Brown, Jussie Smollett and Marina Squerciati, as well as Hudlin, producer **Paula Wagner** and **John Marshall**, the son of Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Marshall is based on a true incident in the life of Thurgood Marshall, when he was a young lawyer, long before his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. As the nation teeters on the brink of World War II, a nearly bankrupt NAACP sends Marshall to conservative Connecticut to defend a black chauffeur against his wealthy socialite employer in a sexual assault and attempted murder trial that quickly became tabloid fodder. In need of a high profile victory but muzzled by a segregationist court, Marshall is partnered with Samuel Friedman, a young Jewish lawyer who has never tried a case. Marshall and Friedman struggle against a hostile storm of fear and prejudice, driven to discover the truth in the sensationalized trial which helped set the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement to come.

“We are so grateful to Paula for allowing us to open with such a powerful and important film,” said Founder and President Michael Kutza. “The film was tremendously popular with our guests, and it was a great way to launch this year’s Festival.”

For more images from the opening night, click [here](#).
Photos stored in the Event Images tab. Password: chifilmfest

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).