



Media Contact: Nick Harkin
Carol Fox and Associates
773.969.5033
nickh@carolfoxassociates.com

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***BEAUTIFUL BOY*, STARRING OSCAR® NOMINEES STEVE CARELL
AND TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET, TO OPEN 54TH CHICAGO
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

CHICAGO – *Beautiful Boy* will open the 54th Chicago International Film Festival, **Mimi Plauché**, the Festival’s Artistic Director announced today. The Opening Night Celebration, sponsored by **Bloomberg Philanthropies** and **Wintrust Community Banks**, will be held at **AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St.**, on **Wednesday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m.** An After-Party at the new St. Jane Chicago will follow, with additional support provided by Chloe Wine Collection and Lagunitas Brewing Company. The Festival will run from October 10-21, 2018, at AMC River East 21.

Directed by **Felix van Groeningen**, who was nominated for an Academy Award® in 2014 in the Best Foreign Film category for *The Broken Circle Breakdown*, the film stars fellow Academy Award®-nominees **Steve Carell, Timothée Chalamet** and **Amy Ryan** alongside **Maura Tierney, Kaitlyn Dever** and **Andre Royo**. *Beautiful Boy* is based on two best-selling memoirs: “Beautiful Boy: A Father’s Journey Through His Son’s Addiction” by David Sheff and “Tweak: Growing up on Methamphetamines” by his son, Nic Sheff. The moving film follows Nic Sheff’s addiction to methamphetamines and chronicles the heartbreaking and inspiring experience of survival, relapse, and recovery in a family coping with addiction over many years. The film is produced by **Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner**, and **Jeremy Kleiner**.

“We are excited to open our festival with such a powerful film,” Plauché said. “Director Felix van Groeningen brings his trademark nuance and sensitivity, coupled with his stylistic rigor, to this commanding English language debut.”

“Timothée Chalamet delivers another powerful performance as Nic Sheff, one that is a testament to his incredible range. I have no doubt that he will take home the top awards for his performance across the board,” said Festival Founder and CEO **Michael Kutza**.

Felix van Groeningen is a Flemish director, screenwriter, and producer. *Beautiful Boy*, starring Steve Carell and Timothée Chalamet produced by Plan B, is Van Groeningen’s first

English-language film. His previous film *Belgica* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival (2016), where he won the Directing Award in Dramatic World Cinema. Van Groeningen's internationally acclaimed film *The Broken Circle Breakdown* earned an Oscar® nomination for Best Foreign Language Film (2014) and a Cesar for Best International Film. His previous film *The Misfortunates* premiered in the Director's Fortnight at Cannes. Van Groeningen is a graduate of Belgium's Royal Academy of Fine Arts. He resides in Antwerp, Belgium.

***Beautiful Boy* opens in select theatres on October 12 from Amazon Studios.**

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in over 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving. In 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$702 million. For more information, please visit www.bloomberg.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), and [Twitter](#).

About Wintrust Financial Corporation

Wintrust is a financial holding company with more than \$27 billion in assets and a common stock traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Wintrust provides traditional commercial and community banking services; asset-based lending; wealth management services; commercial insurance premium financing; mortgage origination; short-term accounts receivable financing; and certain administrative services, such as data processing of payrolls, billing and treasury management services. Wintrust was created as the alternative to the big banks, offering the solutions and services of larger competitors with the customer-focus and service that can only be found at a true community bank or local financial services company. The Wintrust Community Bank family has more than 150 community bank locations across the Chicagoland area, southern Wisconsin and northwest Indiana.

Festival and Ticket Information

The Chicago International Film Festival Opening Night premiere of ***Beautiful Boy*** takes place at AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois) on Wednesday, October 10, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with guest presentations, followed by the film presentation at 7:00 p.m. Additional film screenings take place at 6:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. An After-Party with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will follow at the St. Jane Hotel, 230 N. Michigan Ave. Film-only tickets start at \$25 with VIP tickets (including film and after-party) at \$100/ticket. Ticket and event information is available by calling (312) 332-3456 or at www.chicagofilmfestival.com. **Tickets for Opening Night go on sale at noon on Tuesday, September 11.**

The 54th Chicago International Film Festival runs Oct. 10-21, 2018 at the AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St., and features more than 150 films, with a vast diversity of offerings, with numerous competitive categories and several highlight programs such as Black Perspectives,

Cinemas of the Americas, International Comedy, Spotlight: Italy, Women in Cinema, Out-Look, After Dark and the City & State program (showcasing films made in Chicago and throughout Illinois.) The complete Festival Schedule will be announced September 17, 2018. Festival passes (\$110 - \$270) are currently on sale. Individual tickets (\$8 to \$20) and Gala Presentation tickets (\$20 to \$150) will go on sale Sept. 18 for Cinema/Chicago Members and Sept. 21 for the general public. Discounted parking is available at AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois Street). For more information, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com or call 312-683-0121.

Festival Sponsors and Partners

The 54th Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Premiere Sponsors: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Wintrust Community Banks; Official Wine Sponsor: Chloe Wine Collection; Education Sponsor: HBO; Participating Sponsor: British International School of Chicago; Airline Partner: LOT Polish Airlines; Headquarters Hotel: St. Jane Hotel; Event Partners: AMC Theaters, The Gwen Hotel, Little Goat Diner; Platinum Media Partner: NCM; This program is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Additional support provided by the Illinois Film Office, Chicago Film Office, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), and Lagunitas Brewing Company.

About Cinema/Chicago

[Cinema/Chicago](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com), the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a year-round nonprofit arts and education organization dedicated to fostering better communication between people of diverse cultures through the art of film and the moving image. Cinema/Chicago's programs include the Chicago International Film Festival, International Screenings Program, Chicago International Television Festival, CineYouth Festival, and year-round Education Program. Celebrating its 54th edition October 10-21, 2018, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival. For more information, please visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Vimeo](#) and [Twitter](#).

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