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***THE FRONT RUNNER*, STARRING OSCAR® NOMINEE HUGH JACKMAN AND DIRECTED BY OSCAR® NOMINEE JASON REITMAN, TO CLOSE 54TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

CHICAGO – The 54th Chicago International Film Festival today announced *The Front Runner* as their Closing Night film. The screening will be held at AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St. on **Sunday, October 21 at 6 p.m.**, followed by an after-party at the Gwen Hotel (230 N. Michigan Ave), with support provided by Chloe Wine Collection and the Gwen Hotel. Director **Jason Reitman** is scheduled to attend the screening and festivities. Tickets for the Closing Night screening will go on sale **September 18** for Cinema/Chicago Members and **September 21** for the general public.

Directed by Academy Award® nominee **Jason Reitman** (*Juno*, *Up in the Air*), the film stars Oscar® nominee **Hugh Jackman**, **Vera Farmiga**, **J.K. Simmons** and **Alfred Molina**. Based on the 2014 book “All the Truth is Out: The Week Politics Went Tabloid” by Matt Bai, *The Front Runner* tells the story of American Senator and 1988 Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart and his meteoric rise in popularity and subsequent fall due to the revelation of an extramarital affair.

“With the pacing and tension of a thriller, *The Front Runner* shrewdly dissects the uneasy relationship between politics and journalism and could not be more timely in our current socio-political climate,” said Festival Artistic Director **Mimi Plauché**. “The film resonates with important contemporary issues, including the question of the private behavior of public figures.”

“Reitman and Jackman are a dynamic directing-acting duo. Jackman hits all the right notes in his performance as Gary Hart and Reitman brings his trademark style and wit to one of the most controversial chapters in America’s recent political history,” said **Festival Founder and CEO Michael Kutza**.

About *The Front Runner*

Dir. Jason Reitman, U.S.

Oscar® nominee Hugh Jackman stars as the charismatic politician Gary Hart for Academy Award®-nominated director Jason Reitman in the new thrilling drama *The Front Runner*. The film follows the rise and fall of Senator Hart, who captured the imagination of young voters and was considered the overwhelming front runner for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination when his campaign was sidelined by the story of an extramarital relationship with Donna Rice. As tabloid journalism and political journalism merged for the first time, Senator Hart was forced to drop out of the race – events that left a profound and lasting impact on American politics and the world stage. Also starring Vera Farmiga, J.K. Simmons and Alfred Molina, *The Front Runner* is written by Matt Bai, Jay Carson and Jason Reitman, based on the book “All the Truth is Out” by Matt Bai, and produced by Jason Reitman and Helen Estabrook of Right of Way Films and Aaron L. Gilbert of BRON Studios. *113 minutes*

JASON REITMAN (Director, Co-Writer, Producer) is an Academy Award® nominated filmmaker currently preparing for the release of *The Front Runner*, which he co-wrote and directed, with Sony releasing the film on November 7. Reitman made his feature film debut with the 2006 Sundance hit *Thank You For Smoking*. He notably earned Academy Award® nominations for directing *Juno* and *Up In The Air*, the latter of which earned Reitman a Golden Globe Award, WGA Award and BAFTA Award for Best Screenplay. His other films include *Young Adult*, *Labor Day*, *Men, Women and Children*, and *Tully*, his third collaboration with Diablo Cody and second with Charlize Theron. Reitman has produced three seasons of the Hulu comedy series *Casual* through his Right of Way Films. He also executive produced the Academy Award-winning film *Whiplash* and the Jean-Marc Vallee directed *Demolition* through the production company.

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Festival and Ticket Information

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 in 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.) 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](#), 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](#).