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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 12, 2018

**LEGENDARY DIRECTOR WILLIAM FRIEDKIN TO RECEIVE
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT
54th CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

CHICAGO -- The **54th Chicago International Film Festival**, presented by **Cinema/Chicago**, announced today that acclaimed director and Chicago native **William Friedkin** will be honored with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** at a special tribute event during the Festival, including the North American premiere of the new documentary ***Friedkin Uncut*** on **Monday, October 15 at 6 p.m.** at the AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois St.) in Chicago.

Friedkin will also present one of his favorite films, Vincente Minnelli's classic MGM musical ***The Band Wagon*** starring Fred Astaire on **Sunday, October 14 at 4 p.m.**

From his groundbreaking 1960 Chicago documentary *The People vs. Paul Crump*, to his timeless masterpieces *The French Connection* and *The Exorcist*, Friedkin, who grew up in Chicago, has distinguished himself as one of the most fearless and exceptional American filmmakers. *The Exorcist*, the highly successful horror film, received ten Academy Award® nominations including Best Director and Best Picture. Prior to that, *The French Connection* earned Friedkin the Director's Guild of America Award and the Academy Award® for Best Director; the film also received Best Actor, Best Editing, Best Screenplay and Best Picture awards. Through the decades, Friedkin has demonstrated excellence in directing productions that include fiery action films, indie dramas, operas and gripping television.

"William Friedkin has shown unparalleled talent and extraordinary breadth throughout his decades-long career, demonstrating a flair for captivating audiences across genres," said **Artistic Director Mimi Plauché**. "Because of his deep ties to Chicago and dynamic, iconic body

of work, we are honored to present him with a Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's Festival."

"Bill has been a good friend of the Chicago International Film Festival ever since his first film, *The People vs. Paul Crump*, was shown at our first Festival. *Friedkin Uncut* captures Bill's energy and his love for film, music and the theater. We are honored to welcome this versatile artist back home," said **Festival Founder and CEO Michael Kutza**.

About William Friedkin

William Friedkin may be best known for his film *The Exorcist* (1973), one of the most terrifying films of all time. It received ten Academy Award® nominations including Best Director and Best Picture. Prior to that, he directed *The French Connection* (1971), for which he received the Director's Guild of America Award and the Academy Award® for Best Director. The film also won Oscars® for Best Actor, Best Editing, Best Screenplay and Best Picture.

Other films include *Sorcerer* (1977), *The Brinks Job* (1979), *Cruising* (1981), *To Live and Die in L.A.* (1985) and *Blue Chips* (1994). In 1997, he directed a Showtime/MGM television remake of *Twelve Angry Men* with Jack Lemmon, George C. Scott, Hume Cronyn and Ossie Davis, earning him a DGA nomination for Outstanding Directorial Achievement for Best Dramatic Special. It was also nominated for six Emmy Awards. Other films include *Rules of Engagement* (2000) and *The Hunted* starring Tommy Lee Jones and Benicio del Toro (2003), *Bug* with Ashley Judd (2007) and his most recent film, *Killer Joe* starring Matthew McConaughey and Emile Hirsch which was released in 2011.

In addition to film, Friedkin has enjoyed success directing operatic productions from Berg's *Wozzeck* at Musicale Florence to *Duke Bluebeard's Castle/Gianni Schicchi* for the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center.

About *The Band Wagon*

Sunday, October 14 at 4 p.m.

Oscar-winning director William Friedkin (*The Exorcist*), who will be honored Monday, Oct. 15 with a documentary about his career, presents one of his favorite films, this classic backstage musical comedy starring Fred Astaire as a struggling Hollywood movie actor who returns to the Broadway theater. With Cyd Charisse and the classic song "Dancing in the Dark," viewers will want to jump onboard *The Band Wagon* for this special event. *112 min*

About *Friedkin Uncut*

Monday, October 15 at 6 p.m.

Oscar®-winning, Chicago-born director William Friedkin achieved fame with his 1973 horror blockbuster *The Exorcist*. But this illuminating documentary shows the director's unwavering commitment to rawness and realism across his career, from *The French Connection* (1972) to *Killer Joe* (2011). Featuring interviews with Ellen Burstyn, Willem Dafoe and Quentin Tarantino,

among others, *Friedkin Uncut* reveals a savvy craftsman who is unapologetic about his no-nonsense approach to moviemaking. *With in-person tribute to William Friedkin. 106 min.*

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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, 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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