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REVENGE, NEUROSIS AND THRILLS HIT THE SCREEN, AFTER DARK, AT THE 54TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

CHICAGO – The **54th Chicago International Film Festival**, presented by Cinema/Chicago, announced their After Dark line-up of feature films and a shorts program. The films will screen during the Festival from Oct. 10-21 at AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois St.) in Chicago.

The wave of suspense films include the Japanese production *Liverleaf (Misumisô)* where a teenage take on bullies and warfare, and crosses the Ocean to Brazil with *Neurotic Quest for Serenity*, a kaleidoscopic film about a telenovela star “coping” with mental issues and travels North to the United States with *Piercing*, from director Nicolas Pesce, an exploration of the intricacies of fetishistic desire. .

Further details on each film, and the shorts program below:

Liverleaf (Misumisô)

Dir. Eisuke Naitô, Japan

Friday, October 12, 10:30 p.m.; Wednesday, October 17, 3 p.m.

In her new rural high school, affable Haruka tries her best to ignore a group of increasingly malicious bullies. Her approach shifts, however, when a stunt by the pernicious crew throws her family’s lives in peril, effectively imploding her once happy existence. Empowered with a newfound, near invincible wrath, Haruka sets out to hunt down the perpetrators, decimating the once tranquil town. *Japanese with subtitles. 114 min.*

Neurotic Quest for Serenity TOC: Transtornada Obsessiva Compulsiva

Dir. Paulinho Caruso, Teodoro Poppovic, Brazil

Friday, October 19, 10:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 21, 10:45 p.m.

The hyperactive imagination of manic telenovela star Kika K is beginning to affect her waking life, where a stalker, suicidal ghost writer, and venomous rival are aggravating her already all-consuming OCD. As her reality continues to unravel, Kika must embark on a trippy adventure to self-enlightenment, or whatever, to end her hilarious yet personally disastrous self-sabotaging

ways. A darkly whimsical, tragicomic take on the cult of celebrity. *Portuguese with subtitles.* 105 min.

Piercing

Dir. Nicolas Pesce, U.S.

Saturday, October 13, 10 p.m.

Pesce's gleefully wicked S&M black comedy centers on Reed (Christopher Abbot), a new father looking to channel his homicidal impulses away from his infant daughter. He heads to a hotel, hires an escort (Mia Wasikowska), and then begins to rehearse her murder. But once she arrives, the balance of power shifts. Based on the novel by Ryu Murakami, *Piercing's* incredibly dark premise constantly surprises—it might just be taken for a wildly subversive love story. 81 min.

Shorts 3: Bad Don't Sleep – After Dark

Tuesday October 16, 1 p.m.; Friday, October 19, 10:30 p.m.

Horror films, late-night comedies, and hypnotic tales of obsession meet in this program of hair-raising short films. In *Hair Wolf* (dir. Mariama Diallo, U.S.), the staff of a black hair salon fends off a strange new monster: white women intent on sucking the lifeblood from black culture. *Icebergs* (dir. Eirini Vianelli, U.S./Greece) is a dark comedy featuring 14 stop-motion vignettes both mundane and absurd. Late at night, a teenager goes into the kitchen for a glass of *Milk* (dir. Santiago Menghini, Canada) and finds his sleepless mother waiting for him. *The Fall* (dir. Boris Labbé, France) is a harrowing, animated rendering of mankind's fall from grace and the intermingling of heaven and hell. At a ski resort in the French Pyrenees, Ivan longs to win back his motorcycle—the sentient, loving, breathing *La Persistente* (dir. Camille Lugan, France). In *Home Shopper* (dir. Dev Patel, U.S.), Penny, trapped in a loveless marriage, turns to a shopping channel to solve her problems. 83 min.

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, including 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](#).

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