CINEMA/CHICAGO'S CINEYOUTH FESTIVAL TO OPEN WITH CHICAGO PREMIERE OF AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY JAWLINE

The film starring 16-year-old social media influencer Austyn Tester will open CineYouth on April 26 with director Liza Mandelup in attendance

CHICAGO — **CineYouth Festival**, presented by **Cinema/Chicago**, today announced the Opening Night presentation of award-winning documentary *Jawline*, directed by **Liza Mandelup**, which had its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. *Jawline* is a critically acclaimed documentary praised by *The Hollywood Reporter* as "an engaging, amusing and occasionally jaw-dropping portrait." The film was honored at Sundance with a Special Jury Award for Emerging Filmmaker Liza Mandelup. The film will screen as a special presentation on April 26 at 7pm the Music Box Theatre (3733 N. Southport Ave.) and feature Mandelup in person for a post-screening discussion. Tickets to the Opening Night film are free and available now at www.chicagofilmfestival.com/cineyouth.

Jawline follows 16-year-old **Austyn Tester**, a rising star in the live-broadcast ecosystem who built his following on wide-eyed optimism and teen girl lust, as he tries to escape a dead-end life in rural Tennessee. Liza Mandelup's feature debut, *Jawline* distills the most complex concepts about modern-day childhood and a gold-rush teen economy into one fascinating and surprisingly moving human portrait that questions what values we have passed onto our youth and discovers a new and fleeting American dream. *Jawline* is produced by Caviar and will be in select theaters and on Hulu this summer.

"*Jawline* is a perfect kick-off to CineYouth," said Cinema/Chicago Artistic Director **Mimi Plauché**. "With honesty, integrity, and without judgement, the film deftly explores how, through social media, young people today use moving images to forge and communicate a sense of identity and connection, whether real or manufactured, with the larger world."

CineYouth is a three-day film festival which presents 64 thrilling and diverse short films from 18 countries over a weekend of free screenings, discussions, and events. Held April 26-28, 2019 at the Music Box Theatre (3733 N. Southport Ave.), the festival will screen work from filmmakers ages 8-22, shining a light on new work from the ever expanding community of youth filmmakers

from around the world, including many who call Chicago home. All events are free and open to the public. Tickets are available at www.chicagofilmfestival.com/cineyouth.

CineYouth is sponsored by Columbia College Chicago and Flashpoint Chicago, a Campus of Columbia College Hollywood, with additional support from WTTW, DCASE, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The full 2019 CineYouth schedule of programming is as follows:

Friday, April 26
7:00pm - Welcome and Opening Night film presentation *Jawline* with director Liza Mandelup in attendance

Saturday, April 27
2:00pm - Playtime: Animation
3:00pm - Time Regained: Documentary
4:15pm - A New Outlook: LGBTQ+
5:30pm - Up Past Bedtime: Horror

Sunday, April 28
10:00am - The Pitch (Music Box Theatre Lounge)
11:00am - Neighboring Worlds: International
12:15pm - She Persisted: Women in Cinema
1:30pm - Weight of the World: Drama
2:45pm - Young Visionaries: Experimental
4:30pm - Cinema of Chicago
6:00pm - Awards Ceremony

View the full CineYouth film selection here (PDF).

For more information on the CineYouth Festival, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com/cineyouth. Free tickets to screenings and events are available now.

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To request an interview with director Liza Mandelup, please contact:
Andrew Van Beek, Marketing Manager, andrew@chicagofilmfestival.com

Facebook: facebook.com/chicagofilmfestival/
Twitter: @CineYouth
Instagram: @ChiFilmFest
Hashtag: #CineYouth

CineYouth Sponsors and Partners
The 15th annual CineYouth Festival sponsors include Lead Sponsors: Columbia College Chicago and Flashpoint Chicago, A Campus of Columbia College Hollywood; Media Partner: WTTW; Award Partners: Harold Ramis Film School, Prodigy Camp, Second City Training Center Kid and Teen Program; Host Partner: Music Box Theatre. CineYouth is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

About CineYouth Festival
CineYouth Festival, founded in 2005 and presented by Cinema/Chicago, is a free three-day international film festival for filmmakers 22-years-old and younger. Held annually in the spring, the festival showcases films created by youth, providing a public platform to highlight the next generation of filmmakers. Select filmmakers are awarded hands-on scholarship and internship opportunities in the industry in order to provide them with meaningful training and experience. CineYouth also presents free filmmaking workshops, discussions, panels and other hands-on development opportunities to inspire creativity in youth. CineYouth will celebrate its 15th edition April 26-28, 2019 at Chicago's iconic Music Box Theatre. For more information, please visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com/cineyouth or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

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, Summer Screenings Program, CineYouth Festival, and year-round Education Program. Celebrating its 55th edition October 16-27, 2019, 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, YouTube and Twitter.