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For Immediate Release: September 18, 2019

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**55TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
PRESENTS SPOTLIGHT: ARCHITECTURE x DESIGN PROGRAM
SUPPORTED BY THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND
SCIENCES**

Spotlight Includes Production Design Focus, Featuring Award-Winning Designers Hannah Beachler (Black Panther), Eugenio Caballero (Pan's Labyrinth), Adam Stockhausen (The Grand Budapest Hotel) and Wynn Thomas (A Beautiful Mind)

CHICAGO – **The 55th Chicago International Film Festival** today announced the line-up for this year's **Spotlight: Architecture x Design** program with a special focus on Production Design. The Spotlight, presented on the occasion of the third Chicago Architecture Biennial, will showcase a program of films that bring a new perspective to architecture and design-related themes. As part of the Spotlight: Architecture x Design program, the Festival will feature a unique **In Focus: Production Design** program with support provided by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**.

“Our **Architecture x Design** program has been an important ongoing Festival program, as we partner with CAB in the biennial years,” said **Artistic Director Mimi Plauché**. “Our strong lineup of films, headlined by *The New Bauhaus* and *The House of Cardin*, is complemented by a series of talks and master classes by some of the top production designers working in cinema today. These conversations will bring insight to their craft and illuminate the complex relationship between production design, architecture and the built environment.”

In Focus: Production Design will feature four award-winning designers and offer a unique opportunity for the public to gain insight into the artistry and craft of this all-important aspect of filmmaking. **Hannah Beachler, Eugenio Caballero, Adam Stockhausen** and **Wynn Thomas** discuss their craft and singular processes during individual events throughout the Festival.

With a line-up of films from around the world celebrating architecture and design, the **Spotlight: Architecture x Design** program features notable titles *The New Bauhaus* (U.S., dir. Alysa Nahmias), *Notre Dame* (France, dir. Valérie Donzelli), and *House of Cardin* (U.S., dirs. P. David Ebersole, Todd Hughes), among others.

The New Bauhaus also serves as one of two films screening in partnership with the **Museum of Contemporary Art** at this year's Festival. Along with Chicago-based director Jennifer Reeder's *Knives and Skin*, the Festival will present two screenings in the MCA's Edlis Neeson Theater on Friday, October 18.

Featuring more than 150 films from around the world as well as appearances from top directors, producers, actors, designers, and more, the 55th Chicago International Film Festival is the premier destination for film enthusiasts and experts alike. The longest running competitive film festival in North America, the Chicago International Film Festival is committed to selecting the world's most exciting, compelling and groundbreaking feature films, documentaries and short films, including multiple Oscar contenders and winners, year after year. For the past five years, the Festival has been proud to showcase the Academy Award® winner for Best Picture.

In Focus: Production Design

Production designers create the architecture of cinema--representations of space that reflect and interpret social structures and the lives of the people who inhabit them. In a program supported by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, top award-winning designers share insight into their all-important craft of film design and the power of world building in cinema.

Hannah Beachler: Hannah Beachler made history this year as the first African American to win the production design Oscar for Marvel's blockbuster *Black Panther*, directed by Ryan Coogler. Her previous credits include the Oscar-winning *Moonlight*, as well as Coogler's films *Creed* and *Fruitvale Station* and Beyoncé's visual concept album *Lemonade*. Beachler comes to the Festival to teach a master class on the impact of design in film and in the world. See Beachler in conversation with University of Chicago Department of Cinema and Media Studies professor and host of TCM's *Silent Sunday Nights* Jacqueline Najuma Stewart.

**Saturday, Oct. 19, 4 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington St.
FREE EVENT**

Eugenio Caballero: Mexican-born Eugenio Caballero has collaborated with some of the world's most gifted filmmakers: Jim Jarmusch, Baz Luhrmann, J.A. Bayona, Sebastian Cordero, Guillermo del Toro, and Alfonso Cuarón, among them. He won the production design Oscar®

for his visionary design for del Toro's haunting Spanish-language fable *Pan's Labyrinth* and was nominated again for Cuarón's masterful black-and-white epic, *Roma*. Caballero shares insight into his craft gathered during a lifetime of globe-spanning, groundbreaking work.

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2 p.m., AMC River East 21.

\$5/Ticket

Adam Stockhausen: Oscar®-winning production designer Adam Stockhausen's long-standing collaboration with filmmaker Wes Anderson has yielded some of the most mesmerizing design in recent memory, including *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, for which he won an Academy Award. He has made two films with Steven Spielberg—Cold War-thriller *Bridge of Spies* and futuristic adventure *Ready Player One*—and is working on *West Side Story*. Additional credits include Steve McQueen's best-picture winner *12 Years a Slave* and the Chicago-set thriller *Widows*. In this master class, Stockhausen reflects on his process and singular body of work.

Sunday, Oct. 20, 12:30 p.m., AMC River East 21.

\$5/Ticket

Wynn Thomas: Trailblazing talent Wynn Thomas quickly made a name for himself with Spike Lee's acclaimed debut *She's Gotta Have It*. He has since collaborated with Lee on *Do the Right Thing*, *Malcolm X*, *Inside Man* and the upcoming *Da 5 Bloods*, among others. In addition to the Oscar-nominated drama *Hidden Figures*, as well as *Wag the Dog*, *Analyze This* and *Analyze That*, Thomas designed for director Ron Howard both the Academy Award-winning *A Beautiful Mind* and the acclaimed *Cinderella Man*. The Festival will host a special screening of ***Cinderella Man***, preceded by a presentation by the production designer about his singular process.

Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m., AMC River East 21.

FREE TICKETED EVENT

Spotlight: Architecture

Frank Gehry: Building Justice — Dir. Ultan Guilfoyle, U.S.

Is there a better way to design a prison? This inspiring documentary, connecting architecture with social policy, follows the legendary Frank Gehry (designer of Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion) as he sets out to answer this question in 2017. Collaborating with architecture students, former inmates, and prison experts, Gehry and his colleagues grapple with complex social, political, emotional, structural, and aesthetic challenges to re-envision the future of incarceration.

Fordlandia Malaise — Dir. Susana de Sousa Dias, Portugal

Founded in 1928 by Henry Ford in an attempt to circumvent the British rubber monopoly, Fordlandia stands in ruin today. Its remains serve as a stark example of a failed colonial project. *Fordlandia Malaise* expertly utilizes archival material, drone footage, and interviews with locals to craft a portrait of place, time, myth, and memory. Preceded by **Julio Iglesias's House** (Spain), which sardonically details a Shanghai municipality's attempt to build a replica of Spain using the pop star's home as an example.

House of Cardin — Dir: P. David Ebersole, Todd Hughes, U.S., France

Millions can identify the iconic logo, but few know the man behind the larger-than-life label. A chic and lively peek into the mind of Pierre Cardin and his epic design empire—from clothes to furniture to eyeglasses—*House of Cardin* is a globetrotting journey across the decades, examining the modernist styles he pioneered. Featuring in-depth interviews with Cardin himself, along with Jean-Paul Gaultier, Philippe Starke, and Sharon Stone, among others.

The New Bauhaus — Dir. Alysa Nahmias, U.S.

When radical Hungarian artist László Moholy-Nagy moved to Chicago in 1937, he spearheaded “The New Bauhaus,” a movement descended from the famous German school. An original Bauhaus member, Moholy-Nagy took a pioneering interdisciplinary mixed-media approach to art and design that was vastly ahead of its time. Featuring intimate interviews with Moholy-Nagy’s daughter and an in-depth exploration of his groundbreaking work, *The New Bauhaus* offers an illuminating portrait of a visionary teacher and thinker. *89 min.*

Notre Dame — Dir. Valérie Donzelli, France, Belgium

In this frothy French comedy, Maud Crayon is an architect and single mother whose life is spiraling out of her control. Unexpectedly winning the bid to renovate the public square in front of Paris’ famed cathedral, she is thrust into circumstances beyond any she had imagined. Maud must find a way to stand up for her artistic vision, all the while dealing with her loutish ex-husband, a rekindled romantic flame, and an unplanned pregnancy. A funny, fantastical observation on the joy and absurdity of life and the art world.

Renzo Piano, Architect of Light — Dir. Carlos Saura, Spain

From famed filmmaker Carlos Saura (*Carmen*) comes this intimate portrait of legendary architect Renzo Piano, locally celebrated for his design of the Modern Wing at the Art Institute of Chicago. Featuring admiring interviews between these two artistic giants, the film chronicles the creative, social, and political process around the building of Piano’s Botín Center, a massive geometric structure that will forever alter the look and feel of the Spanish coastal town of Santander.

Festival Information

The 55th Chicago International Film Festival runs Oct. 16-27, 2019 at the AMC River East, 322 E. Illinois St., and features more than 150 films, with a vast diversity of offerings, including numerous competitive categories and several highlight programs such as Black Perspectives, Cinemas of the Americas, International Comedy, Women in Cinema, Out-Look, After Dark and the City & State program (showcasing films made in Chicago and throughout Illinois.)

Festival Sponsors and Partners

The 55th Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Major Festival Sponsors: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Chloe Wine Collection, Citi, Columbia College Chicago, Xfinity; Festival Sponsors: Aberlour, Baker Tilly, British International School of Chicago, South Loop,

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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](#).

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