



Media Contact: Matthew Bryant / Dayna Calkins
Carol Fox and Associates
773.969.5034
773.969.5032
matthewb@carolfoxassociates.com
daynac@carolfoxassociates.com

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**EDWARD NORTON'S STAR STUDED PASSION PROJECT
MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN TO OPEN THE
55th CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

CHICAGO - **Mimi Plauché**, **Artistic Director** of the **Chicago International Film Festival**, today announced that *Motherless Brooklyn*, Edward Norton's adaptation of Jonathan Lethem's groundbreaking novel, will open the 55th edition of the Festival. The Opening Night celebration, sponsored by **Bloomberg Philanthropies** and the **John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation**, will be held at the **AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St.**, on **Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m.** An After-Party at **Union Station Burlington Room, 255 South Canal St.** will follow, with additional support provided by **Aberlour, Chloe Wine Collection, Goose Island, and Forza Meats**. Presented by Cinema/Chicago, the **55th Chicago International Film Festival** will take place October 16 – 27 at the AMC River East (322 E. Illinois Street).

Motherless Brooklyn centers on Lionel Essrog (Edward Norton), a lonely private detective living with Tourette Syndrome, who ventures to solve the murder of his mentor and only friend, Frank Minna (Bruce Willis). Armed only with a few clues and the engine of his obsessive mind, Lionel unravels closely guarded secrets that hold the fate of New York in the balance. In a mystery that carries him from gin-soaked jazz clubs in Harlem to the hard-edged slums of Brooklyn and, finally, into the gilded halls of New York's power brokers, Lionel contends with thugs, corruption and the most dangerous man in the city to honor his friend and save the woman who might be his own salvation.

The film's stellar ensemble cast also includes Bruce Willis, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Bobby Cannavale, Cherry Jones, Michael Kenneth Williams, Leslie Mann, Ethan Suplee, Dallas Roberts, Josh Pais, Robert Ray Wisdom, Fisher Stevens, with Alec Baldwin and Willem Dafoe.

“We’re thrilled to be opening with Edward Norton’s stunning and accomplished new film,” said Plauché. “Edward is already celebrated for his acting talent, but with his second feature as a director he’s proven himself to be a visionary filmmaker with a highly entertaining movie full of terrific performances that feels both timeless and utterly timely.”

Bringing more than 150 films from around the world, as well as appearances from the industry’s top directors, producers, actors, designers and more to Chicago, the 55th Chicago International Film Festival continues to be the Midwest’s 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, year after year. The full Festival program will be announced on **Wednesday, September 18.**

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.)

Opening Night Ticket Information

The Chicago International Film Festival Opening Night premiere of ***Motherless Brooklyn*** takes place at AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois) on Wednesday, October 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with guest presentations, followed by the film presentation at 7:00 p.m. Additional film screenings take place at 7:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. An After-Party with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will follow at Union Station Burlington Room, 255 South Canal St. Film-only tickets start at \$30 with VIP tickets (including film and after-party) at \$100/ticket. Ticket and event information is available by calling (312) 332-3456 or at www.chicagofilmfestival.com. **Tickets for Opening Night go on sale at noon on Thursday, September 19.**

Opening Night Sponsors and Partners

Led by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Opening Night sponsors include Aberlour, Chloe Wine Collection, Goose Island, and Forza Meats. Additional support is provided by the John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 510 cities and 129 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg’s giving, including his foundation and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a pro bono consultancy that works in cities around the world. In 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$767 million. For more information, please visit bloomberg.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#).

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, Cinespace Chicago Film Studios, DePaul University, Goose Island, Hamilton Watch, Panavision, SAGindie, Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, William Blair; Official Agency: Ogilvy; Headquarter Hotel: St. Jane; Host Hotel: Ambassador Chicago; Participating Hotels: EMC2, The Whitehall Hotel; Airline Partner: LOT Polish Airlines; Festival Supporters: National Endowment for the Arts, Illinois Arts Council Agency, Illinois Film Office, Chicago Film Office, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Sarofsky, AbelCine, PRG, Camera Ambassador; Media Partners: NCM, WTTW, WBBM, CHIRP; Partners: Beyond Events Catering, Chez, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago Gourmet, Choose Chicago, Chop Shop, Goat Group Catering, Marchesa, Midwest Immersive, Museum of Contemporary Art, Robert's Pizza and Dough Company, Steak 48.

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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