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**55TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
THREE HOURS AS WINNER OF THE PITCH
*Chicago filmmakers Win Prize Worth Over \$20,000***

CHICAGO - The 55th Chicago International Film Festival has announced the winner of **The Pitch at the 5th edition of Industry Days: *Three Hours***, directed by Aemilia Scott and produced by Holli McGinley. The film follows a single mother living on the edge of Chicago's Humboldt Park, who has three hours to find someone, anyone, to care for her child, or risk losing the job that keeps both of them from losing their home.

This is the second time that Aemilia Scott and Holli McGinley have won The Pitch; in 2016, they won The Pitch for their project *Birthday Suit*. *Three Hours* will receive an awards package of in-kind goods and services worth tens of thousands of dollars. Contributors include a camera package from Keslow Camera, a free day of shooting on Stage 18 at Cinespace Studios, free consultations with the Chicago Media Angels and Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, and participation at the Tribeca Film Institute TFI Network program.

"This year's pitch projects were all terrific, and all deserve to get made," said Chicago International Film Festival and Industry Days Senior Programmer **Anthony Kaufman**. "There was some extremely tough competition, but we're so happy that Aemilia and Holli are getting another boost from the Festival."

Held on Oct. 20, 2019 at the **Chicago Cultural Center** and hosted by Nicole Bernardi-Reis and Jonah Zeiger, **The Pitch at Industry Days** has established itself as a leading industry showcase, spotlighting bold, original work from the Chicago region.

Past projects from The Pitch at Industry Days have gone onto completion, including Jennifer Reeder's *Signature Move*, and two films showing at this year's Chicago International Film

Festival: *Knives and Skin*, also directed by Jennifer Reeder, and Haroula Rose's *Once Upon a River*.

This year's filmmakers represented a diversity of voices that continue to reinforce the breadth and vitality of Chicago-area filmmakers and projects. From a John Belushi family comedy to a Mexican-American fable, from a feminist mystery thriller to dramas about a 20-something woman finding her way and a desperate single mother losing hers, the selected projects displayed character-driven storytelling at its finest.

This year's Pitch jury included **Bryce Norbitz**, Director of Scripted Programs at the Tribeca Film Institute; **Joshua Foster**, Executive in film finance and production department at Cinetic Media; and **Stephen Cone**, the award-winning director of *Henry Gamble's Birthday Party* and *Princess Cyd*.

For more information on The Pitch, go to:

<https://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/industry-days/the-pitch/>

About Industry Days

The Chicago International Film Festival's hub for filmmakers and industry professionals to connect, share ideas and inspire each other, the Industry Days (Oct. 17-20) program includes panels and workshops as well as roundtable meetings, networking events, and a competitive pitch session, which all take place during the Festival (Oct. 16-27, 2019). Events are held at the Festival's main venue, the AMC River East 21, located in the Streeterville neighborhood in downtown Chicago with a few events happening at the Chicago Cultural Center.

This year's Keynote Conversation, "From Theatrical Campaigns to Streaming Wars," features Bob Berney, former Head of Marketing and Distribution at Amazon Studios. Additional featured events include Master Classes with screenwriter Steven Conrad (*Patriot*), Oscar-winning Production Designer Hannah Beachler (*Black Panther*) and Adam Stockhausen (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*), and a Case Study of Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner *Clemency* with director Chinonye Chukwu and producer Bronwyn Cornelius.

Since its inception in 2015, Industry Days has hosted an impressive lineup of film executives and entertainment professionals, including Michael Barker (Sony Pictures Classics) and Charles D. King (Macro), Hollywood producers Gigi Pritzker and James D. Stern, and award-winning and celebrated filmmakers, including Stephen Cone, Julie Dash, Steve McQueen, and Sam Pollard.

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Festival Sponsors and Partners

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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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