



**56th Chicago International Film Festival**  
October 14-25, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**THE CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FULL LINEUP FOR  
ITS 56<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

PROGRAM OF LIVE AND VIRTUAL EVENTS INCLUDES 58 FEATURE FILMS,  
SEVEN WORLD PREMIERES AND TRIBUTES TO AND CONVERSATIONS WITH  
KATE WINSLET, RACHEL BROSNAHAN AND FILMMAKER GIANFRANCO ROSI,  
OCTOBER 14-25, 2020

Chicago, IL (September 22, 2020) – Artistic Director **Mimi Plauché** announces the lineup for the **56th Chicago International Film Festival**, which includes seven World Premieres, 58 feature films, and nine shorts programs screening both virtually and at the drive-in **Wednesday, October 14 - Sunday, October 25, 2020**. The previously announced Opening Night film will be the World Premiere of feature documentary ***Belushi***, chronicling the celebrated career and untimely death of native son and The Second City alumnus John Belushi, premiering on Wednesday, October 14 at the drive-in and viewable in the Festival's virtual cinema throughout the duration of the Festival. The Closing Night presentation will be Venice Film Festival Golden Lion winner ***Nomadland***, starring Frances McDormand, on Saturday, October 24, showing exclusively at the drive-in. The full schedule is available in the digital Festival Program [here](#).

**World Premieres**

The 56th Festival presents the World Premieres of seven films, including: ***Belushi***, the locally made documentaries ***The Road Up*** and ***Mama Gloria***; China's ***Striding into the Wind***; Switzerland's ***Of Fish and Men***; and Venezuela's ***The Special***. In addition, the unseen fifth episode of Steve James' documentary series ***City So Real*** will make its World Premiere at the Festival. The Dutch drama ***Becoming Mona*** and the Israeli documentary ***'Til Kingdom Come*** make their International Premieres at the Festival.

## **Honors and Tributes**

Seven-time Academy Award nominee **Kate Winslet**, winner of Best Actress for *The Reader*, will be presented with the **Career Achievement Award** at a tribute to be shown in conjunction with the Festival's Chicago Premiere of **Ammonite** at ChiTown Movies. Highland Park native and star of Amazon's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* **Rachel Brosnahan** will appear in a live-streamed virtual conversation during **An Evening with Rachel Brosnahan**, in conjunction with the Chicago premiere of *I'm Your Woman* on October 21. And Oscar-nominated Italian filmmaker **Gianfranco Rosi** (*Fire at Sea*) will receive the Festival's **Artistic Achievement Award** in conjunction with the Chicago premiere of his new documentary **Notturmo**, filmed on the war-torn borders between Syria, Iraq, Kurdistan, and Lebanon.

## **Drive-in Screenings**

The Festival will show a total of eight films live at ChiTown Movies drive-in theater in Pilsen. These include: the World Premiere of **Belushi** on Opening Night; **David Byrne's American Utopia** directed by **Spike Lee** on Thursday, October 15; **The Dark and the Wicked**, a new horror film co-presented with Music Box Theatre's "31 Nights of Terror at the Drive-In" series, showing late-night on Thursday, October 15; **Justin Simien's** horror satire **Bad Hair**, on Friday, October 16; **Francis Lee's** passionate period piece **Ammonite**, starring **Kate Winslet** and **Saoirse Ronan**, on Saturday, October 17; the World Premiere of Chicago-made documentary **The Road Up** on Sunday, October 18; the Chicago Premiere of **Regina King's** directorial debut **One Night in Miami** on Friday, October 23; and **Nomadland** on Saturday, October 24. **Belushi**, **The Road Up** and **One Night in Miami** will also be available for viewing in the virtual cinema in the virtual cinema. For the complete list of drive-in screenings, visit [here](#).

## **Virtual Screenings and Programs**

The Chicago International Film Festival embraces the current moment with its 2020 edition, retaining its signature screening slate of international features and shorts in and out of competition, along with livestream conversations and special events. Virtual screenings and events will be ticketed, and, for the first time in 2020, many films will be accessible to national audiences via the Festival's streaming platform. Streaming movies in our virtual cinema will be viewable from the safety and comfort of the home starting Wednesday, October 14, 8pm CT, via the Festival's streaming site and Festival apps for Roku and Apple TV.

## **International Competitions**

As the longest running competitive film festival in North America, the Chicago International Film Festival continues its tradition of showcasing bold and accomplished new films from around the globe in a program that represents a diversity of styles, stories, and national cinemas. With most of the films screening as North American and U.S. premieres, the Festival is proud to introduce these movies to American audiences for the first time. Films vie for the Gold Hugo in the following competitions: International Feature, New Directors, and International Documentary, Short Film, and Out-Look (LGBTQ+) Competitions. For the complete list of films in international competition, visit [here](#).

## **Ticketing**

**Festival Passes** – offering access to 10 or 20 virtual screenings – are available now to the general public at [chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/tickets](http://chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/tickets). **Single tickets** go on sale September

23-27 for Cinema/Chicago members and September 28 for the general public.  
[chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/tickets](http://chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/tickets).

### **About the Chicago International Film Festival**

Celebrating its 56<sup>th</sup> edition October 14-25, 2020, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival. Showcasing the best in international and independent films from around the world, the 56th edition will be virtual and present more than 50 feature films and nine short film programs from around the world, bringing audiences together through virtual screenings, one-night-only live events, virtual tribute events with directors and actors, as well as movie club-style gatherings for audiences. From dramas and thrillers to documentaries and comedies, the Festival presents 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 56<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Major Festival Sponsor: Xfinity; Festival Sponsors: Aberlour, Baker Tilly, Gamechanger Films, William Blair; Official Agency: Ogilvy; Festival Supporters: National Endowment for the Arts, Illinois Arts Council Agency, Chicago Film Office, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; Media Partners: CHIRP, WBBM, WTTW; Cultural Partners: Consulate General of Italy in Chicago, Italian Cultural Institute in Chicago, Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest, Goethe-Institut. With additional support from the John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation, Robert and Leslie Zentner, Paul and Ellen Gignilliat, The Byron Pollock Trust.

### **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](#). For more information, please visit [www.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#).

More information can be found at <https://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/>.

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## **Media Resources**

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[International Competition Selections >>](#)

[Tribute to Kate Winslet >>](#)

[Drive-In Movies >>](#)

[Films By Country >>](#)

[Films By Premiere Status >>](#)

[Festival Fact Sheet >>](#)

[Feature Film Photos for Download >>](#)

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