



The
Chicago
International
Film Festival

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 5, 2020

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56TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES COMPETITION JURIES

CHICAGO – Mimi Plauché, artistic director of the **56th Chicago International Film Festival**, today announced the jury members for its competitions, featuring a host of acclaimed filmmakers and film professionals from across the globe. Juries will review films competing for prizes in the following competitions: International Competition; New Directors Competition; International Documentary Competition; Out-Look; City & State; and Short Film Competitions. www.chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/festival-juries/

The **International Competition Jury** will award the Gold Hugo for Best Film as well as a range of Silver Hugos and Plaques for awards, including Best Director, Best Actor/Actress, Best Cinematography, and Best Screenplay. The jury includes: **Violeta Bava**, Latin American Consultant for the Venice International Film Festival, Co-Head of Industry at Visions du Réel, Head of Studies at the Torino FilmLab FeatureLab, International Guest Curator at the New Zealand International Film Festival, programmer at the Macao International Film Festival, and Program Advisor of New York Film Festival; screenwriter and director **Chinonye Chukwu**, whose debut feature, *alaskaLand*, premiered at the Chicago International Film Festival and whose 2019 feature *Clemency* won the Sundance Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize; production designer **Adam Stockhausen**, who earned an Academy Award for his work on Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and nominations for Steve McQueen's Oscar-winning film *12 Years a Slave* and Steven Spielberg's *Bridge of Spies*; award-winning Rwandan actress **Eliane Umuhire**, whose international breakthrough role in *Birds Are Singing in Kigali* won her Best Actress Awards at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, the Chicago International Film Festival, the Polish Film Festival, and others; and Dutch-born/Luxembourg-based **Boyd Van Hoeij**, film writer for *The Hollywood Reporter*, contributor to *De Filmkrant* (The Netherlands), and artistic advisor of the Luxembourg City Film Festival.

The **New Directors Competition Jury** includes Professor and legal specialist **Fernando E. Juan Lima**, host of weekly film radio program *La Autopista del Sur* and film critic who has written for *El Amante Cine*, *Otros Cines*, *Diario BAE*, *Caimán*, and *Escribiendo Cine*; filmmaker **Yannis Sakaridis**, director of 2013's *Wild Duck* and screenwriter/producer/director of *Amerika Square*, the official selection for Greece for the 2018 Academy Awards; Lebanon-based **Myriam Sassine**, COO of Schortcut Films, co-producer of international features *Félicité* by Alain Gomis (Silver Bear winner at the 2017 Berlinale) and *It Must be Heaven* by Elia Suleiman, and co-founder and director of Maskoon Fantastic Film Festival, the first fantastic film festival in the Middle East; festival and market manager and programmer **Mira Staleva**, Managing Director of Sofia IFF/Art Fest Ltd. and programmer and head of Sofia Meetings; and filmmaker, documentarian, professor, and leader in higher education **Thelma Vickroy**, Chair of the Department of Cinema and Television Arts at Columbia College Chicago whose documentary, *Ahmed, Say Something Funny* won Best Documentary and Best Comedy feature at the Action on Film Festival.

The **International Documentary Competition Jury** includes: filmmaker **Tracy Heather Strain**, co-founder of The Film Posse, whose documentary *Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart* earned a Peabody Award and an NAACP Image Award for Motion Picture Directing; **Michael Metzger**, Pick-Laudati Curator of Media Arts at the Block Museum at Northwestern University; and filmmaker **Eva Mulvad**, director of *Enemies of Happiness* (2006), winner of top prizes at the Sundance and Amsterdam International Documentary Festival, *The Good Life* (2010), awarded Best Documentary Film at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival, and *Love Child* (2019), winner of the Gold Hugo for Best Documentary at the Chicago international Film Festival and special mention at DOC NYC.

The **Out-Look Jury** includes; **Alvaro Delgado-Aparicio**, whose first feature film, *Retablo* won Best First Film and Jury Special Mention for Best Film at the Berlinale before becoming Peru's official entry for the 2020 Academy Awards; moving-image artist and writer **Chase Joynt**, whose short film, *Framing Agnes*, premiered at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival and won the Audience Award at Outfest and the Juror Award at the Ann Arbor Film Festival, and who co-directed the feature-length documentary *No Ordinary Man*, which premiered at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival; filmmaker, speaker and science-fiction writer **Wanuri Kahiu**, included in *TIME* magazine's first-ever 100 Next list of the most influential people in the world in 2019, who directed, *Rafiki*, the first Kenyan film to be invited to the Cannes Film Festival and has since won multiple international awards; and Vietnam-born filmmaker **Ash Mayfair**, whose first feature *The Third Wife*, won the NETPAC Jury Award at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2018 and has since won more than 20 awards worldwide, including the Gold Hugo in the New Directors Competition at the Chicago International Film Festival.

The **City & State Jury**, which chooses the best project made in Chicago, Illinois or by a local filmmaker, includes Algerian-American journalist and Chicago-based filmmaker **Assia Boundaoui**, whose feature-length debut film, *The Feeling of Being Watched*, about FBI surveillance in Boundaoui's Muslim-American community, had its world premiere at the 2018

Tribeca Film Festival; actor, improviser, and filmmaker **Edmund Flynn**, who directed and acted in the 2019 short film *Tour Manager*, which won the Chicago Award at the 55th Chicago International Film Festival; and writer-director **Minhal Baig**, whose feature-length film, *Hala*, about a Muslim teenager coping with the unraveling of her family, premiered in the U.S. Dramatic Competition at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

The Shorts Competition is divided into Narrative, Documentary and Animation competitions. The Narrative Shorts Jury includes **Faren Humes** and **Nicolás Suarez**. Serving on the Animated Shorts Jury are **Eszter Janka**, **Chris Sullivan**, and **Tiago Minamisawa**. The Documentary Shorts Jury comprises **Paloma Martinez**, **Milad Hosseini-Mozari**, and **Sandra ignagni**.

About the Chicago International Film Festival

Celebrating its 56th 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 56th Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Major Festival Sponsor: Citi, Goldman Sachs, Xfinity; Festival Sponsors: Aberlour, Baker Tilly, Bloomberg Philanthropies, 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, Telescope Film, and Cinespace Chicago Film Studios; Media Partners: CHIRP Radio 107.1 FM, WBBM, WTTW; Cultural Partners: Consulate General of Italy in Chicago, Italian Cultural Institute in Chicago, Consulate of Canada in Chicago, Goethe-Institut, Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest, Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S., SEE NL, Dutch Culture USA. 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 or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#).

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

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