



Presented by: Cinema/Chicago  
30 East Adams, Suite 800  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Tel: 312-683-0121 • Fax: 312-683-0122  
www.chicagofilmfestival.com

# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Media Contacts:**

Alejandro Riera  
312.683.0121, x 116  
publicity@chicagofilmfestival.com

Nick Harkin/Carly Leviton  
Carol Fox and Associates  
773.327.3830 x 103/104

[nickh@carolfoxassociates.com](mailto:nickh@carolfoxassociates.com)  
[carlyl@carolfoxassociates.com](mailto:carlyl@carolfoxassociates.com)

## 50TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PROVIDES FREE SCREENINGS TO CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

### Directors Darius Clark Monroe and Joe Callander to Attend Screenings and Discussions with Students

**CHICAGO, IL (September 16, 2014)** – Cinema/Chicago’s Education Outreach Screening Program announces seven complimentary morning screenings for Chicago Public School (CPS) students during the Festival as part of its year-round Education Outreach Program.

This year’s Outreach Screening highlights include, “**Evolution of a Criminal**,” a documentary analyzing the causes and repercussions of the bank robbery committed by the filmmaker at age 16; “**Life After Death**,” a documentary chronicling the life of a 20-year-old survivor of the brutal Rwandan genocide; and “**Marie’s Story**,” a French narrative that recounts the life of a French farm girl, born both blind and deaf, who is sent to a convent where she learns to communicate with the world. **The International Shorts Program** features a compilation of films from around the world, including documentary and animated films from Norway, Hungary, and the U.S.

After each screening students will engage in discussions led by filmmakers, local film critics, and arts-community leaders, including “**Evolution of a Criminal**” director **Darius Clark Monroe** and “**Life After Death**” director **Joe Callander**.

“The Education Outreach Screening Program continues to be one of our most fulfilling initiatives,” says **Rebecca Fons**, Education Program Manager at Cinema/Chicago. “The films we are presenting to CPS students have been carefully selected and present stories that relate to in-classroom curriculum as well as to their personal lives. From themes of grieving and loss to the challenges of connecting with others in an unsympathetic world, these screenings give students access to films they would not otherwise have the opportunity to see.”

During the 2014-15 school year, more than 6,000 CPS students and teachers will participate in Cinema/Chicago’s Education Outreach Program. Prior to all Education Outreach Screenings, study guides are provided to prepare educators and students for the content and themes of each film, ensuring that the discussion continues long after the students have left the theater.

In addition to the more than 20-year-old Screening Program, Cinema/Chicago's newest initiative, the Student Film Council, will welcome five Chicagoland students to a film screening during the Festival. The Council meets monthly, visiting different film festivals and programs during the school year and began its inaugural year with students from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, DeVry University's High School Program and York Community High School in Elmhurst.

### **Education Outreach Screenings Schedule**

**All screenings will take place at 10am**, at the AMC River East 21 (322 East Illinois Street). Press covering the Education Programs must RSVP in advance for seating. For inquiries and additional screening information, contact Education Program Manager Rebecca Fons at: [rfons@chicagofilmfestival.com](mailto:rfons@chicagofilmfestival.com) or at 312.683.0121 x 112.

**Tuesday, October 14**, "Marie's Story"

**Wednesday, October 15**: The International Shorts Program

**Thursday, October 16**: "The Way He Looks"

**Friday, October 17**: "I've Seen the Unicorn"

**Monday, October 20**: "Evolution of a Criminal"

**Tuesday, October 21**: "Life After Death"

**Wednesday, October 22**: CINEYOUTH Best of the Fest

The 2013-14 Education Outreach Program lead partner is **Columbia College Chicago**. The lead Education Outreach Screenings Partner is Cynthia Stone Raskin. Foundation support is provided by the Illinois Arts Council Agency and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. The Program is made possible by the following Supporting Donors: Penelope R. Steiner, Jacolyn and John Bucksbaum, Byron and Judy Pollock, Chuck Droege, Christopher Vincent, Ray Gillette, Steven Grimes, Joe Konen, Eric Larson, John Saladino, Bob Scarpelli, Robert Steiner, Jr., Jocelyn Stoller, Judy and Fred Adler, Robert K. Zentner, Beverly Yusim, Catherine Siegel, Ron and Andrea Sandler, C. James and Karen Prieur, Barbara Baker, Liz Stiffel.

### **FESTIVAL SPONSORS**

Led by Tourism Partner Illinois Office of Tourism and Presenting Partner Columbia College Chicago, the 50th Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Official Airline: American Airlines; Headquarters Hotel: JW Marriott Chicago; Major Partner: Intersites; Wintrust Community Banks; Participating Partners: AARP, Allstate, Bloomberg, Casale del Giglio, Cultivate Studios, Netrix, Stella Artois; Platinum Media Sponsors: NCM Media Networks, Ingage Media, JC Decaux, Michigan Avenue Magazine.

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### **ABOUT CINEMA/CHICAGO**

Cinema/Chicago is a not-for-profit arts and education organization dedicated to encouraging better understanding between cultures and to making a positive contribution to the art form of the moving image. The Chicago International Film Festival is one of the year-round programs presented by Cinema/Chicago, which also include the Chicago International Film Festival Television Awards, CineYouth Festival, INTERCOM Competition, International Screenings Program, and Education Outreach Program. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival.

The Festival and its parent organization, Cinema/Chicago, were founded in 1964 by filmmaker and graphic artist Michael Kutza to showcase great international film, which was conspicuously absent from the city's theaters, and to bring celebrated filmmakers from around the globe to Chicago. Over the past half century, as we have grown to become a world-renowned event and evolved to reflect the changing times, the Festival has remained dedicated to its founding vision: to discover new and rising talents in filmmaking and to bring the best in international cinema and the artists behind the work to Chicago audiences. This year's 50th anniversary Festival will feature a selection of "50th anniversary screenings," featuring the work of returning filmmakers presenting past Festival films and/or personal favorites and important repertory films as well as new films by emerging and celebrated filmmakers alike.

The 50th Chicago International Film Festival runs October 9-23, 2014.

[www.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com)