



2015 Wrap Report



FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

The 51st Chicago International Film Festival, October 15-29, 2015 presented **142 narrative features** and **66 short films**, representing **62 countries**. The Festival remains true to its original vision of giving cinematic voices an opportunity to showcase their unique perspectives to audiences that appreciate the magic and transformative nature of the movies.

The Festival continues to be a director's festival - one that shines the spotlight on the talent behind the scenes. This year's Festival brought in more than **202 filmmakers** from **33 countries**, who participated in post-screening discussions, master classes, tributes, special events, and free public panels giving Festival audiences an insight into their work and the artistic process. Panels and master classes organized by the Festival were held in the AMC River East 21 theaters and at Columbia College Chicago and the Tribune Tower. Filmmakers also had the opportunity to mingle with fellow filmmakers, industry leaders, media and high-level donors during eight nights at the Festival's Filmmakers Lounge located within Lucky Strike Lanes. Director Charles Burnett (*To Sleep with Anger*), composer Howard Shore, actress Sarah Silverman, and producer Gigi Pritzker were honored for their remarkable contribution to film.

At this year's Festival, **60,000 audience** members attended **344 screenings** at AMC River East 21 during the two week Festival. Our Opening Night film, *Mia Madre*, was shown at the Auditorium Theatre to an audience of 1,000. Audience members came from Chicago, Illinois as well as 41 states across the US.

New additions to this year's programming include the U.S. Indies program which highlighted US-made low-budget films that represented the freshest and most innovative independent narrative and non-fiction films; Industry Days, a four-day conference for filmmakers and industry professionals the opportunity to connect and share ideas through panels, networking opportunities, workshops and pitch sessions; and Spotlight: Architecture+Space+Design, a collaboration with the Chicago Architecture Biennial, that showcased outstanding representations of innovative architecture and design in cinema.

Some key artists (filmmakers, critics, actors) participating in discussions, panels, and juries at the Film Festival were: Andrew Davis (USA), Sarah Silverman (USA), Atom Egoyan (Canada), Michael Moore (USA), Damian Alcázar (Mexico), Charlie Kaufman (USA), Filip Plawiak (Poland), Mike Van Diem (Netherlands), Pengfei Song (China), Majid Barzegar (Iran), Guendalina Zampagni (Italy), Simon Rouby (France), Sivan Shimon (Israel), Pavel Giroud (Cuba), Claudia Lansberger (Netherlands), John Russell Taylor (UK), Charle Vundla (South Africa), Arab and Tarzan Nasser (Palestine), Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (Iceland), among others.



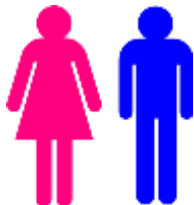
FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

The Festival held eight Education screenings for approximately **1,800 Chicago Public School students from 26 participating schools**, grades 6-12. Cinema/Chicago again presented this program at no cost to the schools, teachers or students, offering free transportation and tickets, and providing in-depth study guides designed for each film, enabling teachers to weave the program into their classroom curriculum. These guides are provided prior to the screening, providing context for the screening and sparking student enthusiasm and excitement for the program. Directors, producers, documentary subjects and actors were present following each screening, participating in question and answer sessions with the student audience. Films screened in the program included *For Grace* (with directors Kevin Pang and Mark Helenowski and documentary subjects Curtis Duffy and Michael Muser in attendance), *Adama* (with director and animator Simon Rouby in attendance), *Walking Distance* (with actors Luca Ortega and Martha Claudia Moreno in attendance), two programs of international short films, and the documentary *The Closer We Get* (with director and subject Karen Guthrie in attendance). The Festival's Education Screenings compliment the year-round Education Program, which includes monthly Education Screenings at the DuSable Museum of African American History.





DEMOGRAPHICS



61% Female
39% Male



71% Caucasian
9% Latino
6% African American
9% Asian
5% Other



73% Chicago
18% Illinois
8% Other State
1% Other Country



20% 18-34
28% 35-54
26% 55-64
25% 65+



49% Graduate Degree
37% College Degree
12% Some College



21% \$150,000+ HHI
18% \$100-\$149,999
17% \$75-\$99,999
16% \$50-\$74,999



FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

International Feature Film Competition — In this competition, we presented 16 films representing a wide array of styles and genres. This year's competition featured the recent work of innovative filmmakers from countries such as the Netherlands, Chile, Mexico, France, UK, Poland, Australia, China, Argentina, Israel and Japan, Romania and Iran. Five filmmakers were in attendance to conduct post-screening Q&As and to participate in various panels and master classes. Philippe Claudel's film *A Childhood* (France) was honored with the top prize, the Gold Hugo. *Program Partner: John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation.*

New Directors Competition— This selection of US premiere films by first-time and second-time narrative feature directors celebrated the spirit of discovery and innovation upon which the Festival was founded. This year's competition included 14 films from Brazil, China, Iceland, Iran, Japan, Mexico, and Peru, among others with 10 filmmakers in attendance. The Gold Hugo was awarded to Song Pengfei for *Underground Fragrance* (China) and the Silver Hugo to Runar Runarsson for *Sparrows* (Iceland). In addition, a free panel discussion took place at Columbia College Chicago and was titled "New Directors: Origins and Authenticity". The discussion focused on the boundaries between fact and fiction, authenticity and originality. *Competition Partner: Columbia College Chicago.*

From the political to the personal, from observational verite to docudrama, the Documentary Program showcased 17 feature length documentaries from 10 countries with 15 filmmakers in attendance. Ten of the films participated in the **Documentary Competition**. The Gold Hugo was awarded to *Volta à Terra* (Portugal) and the **Silver Hugo** was presented to *In the Underground* (China). *Program Partner: SundanceNow Doc Club.*

In conjunction with the Chicago Architecture Biennial, the Festival's **Spotlight Architecture+Space+Design program** presented 11 new feature films, a program of six short films, a program of rare films from the Chicago Film Archives, that celebrated the cinematic exploration of the intersection of cinema and the built environment. Additionally, a free film series of ten films, "Architects on Film", was co-curated by participating Biennial architects and shown at the Chicago Cultural Center (October-December). An evening with renowned architect, Helmut Jahn, and a panel "Filmed Spaces" discussed how directors use the language of cinema to capture the majesty and complexity of architecture and design. *Program Partner: Chicago Architecture Biennial, Tribune Media, Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Italian Trade Agency in Chicago, Italian Film Commission.*



FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

The 19th annual **Black Perspectives** program showcased the richness and diversity of black cultures around the world and the filmmakers behind them. The 2015 program included six films with six filmmakers and actors in attendance. Director Charles Burnett was honored with a Career Achievement Award at the Black Perspectives Tribute which also included a special screening of his film *I Sleep with Anger*. *Program Partner: AARP*.

Cinema of the Americas spotlights the vibrant work of emerging and established filmmakers from South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. In 2015, the program presented 21 films from eight countries with six filmmakers and actors in attendance to present their work. *Program Partner: Wansas Tequila*.

The **City and State** program featured a selection of outstanding films by local filmmakers, including nine feature films and seven shorts with all the filmmakers in attendance. The **Chicago Award**, presented to a Chicago or Illinois artist for the best feature or short film, was awarded to **Radical Grace**, directed by Rebecca Parrish. *Program Partners: Whole Foods, KIND Snacks*.

This year's **Shorts Program** featured nine programs comprised of 66 short films (selected from over 2,000 entries) representing more than 25 countries. Judged by a panel of local film professionals, the short film competition included separate awards for **Animation** (Silver Hugo: **Sunday Lunch** (France)), **Documentary** (Silver Hugo: **Santa Cruz del Islote** (US)), and **Live Action** (Gold Hugo: **Leidi** (Colombia)). *Program Partner: Jeanne Randall Malkin Family Foundation*.

The **After Dark** program asked audiences to plunge into paranoia, witchcraft, and soul-wrenching stand-up comedy with a line up of horror and flinch-inducing fringe films. After Dark featured 8 feature narrative films and a program of five short films, representing more than eleven countries and had seven filmmakers and actors in attendance for panels and post-film Q&A's.

The **OUT-Look** program continues to highlight the importance of gay-themed films in contemporary international cinema. The 12 films from nine countries, with four filmmakers and actors in attendance, exhibited artistic perspectives on sexuality and identity and competed for the Q Hugo Award. Judged by a panel of international film professionals, the **Gold Q Hugo** award was given to **Carol** (US, dir: Todd Haynes) and the **Silver Q Hugo** was awarded to **Henry Gamble's Birthday Party** (US, dir: Stephen Cone.)



FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

INDUSTRY DAYS

A new initiative at the 51st Chicago International Film Festival is Industry Days, four-day conference that served as the central hub for filmmakers and industry professionals. Industry Days kicked off on Thursday, October 22 with a special Industry Tribute to Chicago native Gigi Pritzker, producer of such noted films as Jon Stewart's directorial debut *Rosewater*, the Academy Award-nominated *Rabbit Hole*, Sundance favorite *The Way Way Back*, *Drive* starring Ryan Gosling, and *Ender's Game*, based on Orson Scott Card's novel. Industry Days featured two full days of days of networking, receptions, master classes, panel discussions, and workshops, and concluded with a competitive Pitch Session co-produced by IFP Chicago, which was won by a local production company, Cornbred Films.

In total, the Festival coordinated 12 panels, workshops and conversations, as a way for filmmakers and industry professions to connect, share ideas, and inspire each other. The Industry Days program examined current and future trends in the art and industry of the entertainment business, and highlighted topics such as low-budget filmmaking, shifting financing and distribution paradigms, and strategies for selling, releasing, and promoting films in the marketplace. Featured panelists included writer-director Steve Pink (*Grosse Pointe Blank*, *Hot Tub Time Machine*, *New Girl*); actor-producer-director Jeff Garlin (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*); Sony Pictures Classics co-president, Michael Barker; Kickstarter co-founder Charles Adler, Chicago directors Joe and Kris Swanberg; Richard Lorber, President of Kino/Lorber, and Amy Hobby, producer of such films as *Secretary* and *What Happened, Miss Simone?*. Speakers from the following companies also participated in Industry Days: IFC Films, Magnolia Pictures, The Orchard, Sundance Institute, MPI Media Group, Zeitgeist Films, Music Box Films, The Film Collaborative, Film Buff, The Film Sales Company, Preferred Content, ITVS, Kartemquin Films, and the Chicago Media Project.

Program Partners: TIAA-CREF, Columbia College Chicago, Tribune Media, OtterBox





FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

PANELS

In addition to the Industry Days panels, the Festival produced four additional panels:

Friend of Foe: How Do Film Critics and Filmmakers Get Along?

This panel explored the complicated dynamic between artists and the gatekeepers who help (or hurt) them. Moderated by film writer Andrew Lapin, panelists included Ray Pride (Newcity), Michael Phillips (Chicago Tribune), Diego Lerer.

Science + Cinema: Refresh My Memory

This panel brought together filmmakers and neuroscientists to discuss the nature and fallibility of memory, and its varied representations on screen. Panelists include: Shannon Heffernan (moderator, WBEZ Chicago), Ken A. Paller (Director of the Cognitive Neuroscience Program, Northwestern University), Jack C. Newell (*Open Tables*), Claire Carré (*Embers*), Jeremy Carr (*Other Madnesses*).

New Directors: Origins and Authenticity

The discussion focused on the boundaries between fact and fiction, authenticity and originality. Panelists included: Director Patrick Underwood and Director of Photography Kevin Duggin (*The Middle Distance*), Director Francisco Varone (*Road to La Paz*), Director Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (*The Homecoming*), and Director Guilherme Coelho and Producer Daniel Dreifuss (*Orphans of Eldorado*). The panel was moderated by film professor, Tom Tratterrigo, Columbia College Chicago.

Filmed Spaces

This panel discussed how directors use the language of cinema to capture the majesty and complexity of architecture and design. *Panel participants included:* Katherine Darnstandt, Mark Lewis (*Invention*), Chuck Przybyl (*INsite: A Document*), Louise Lemoine & Ila Beka (*The Infinite Happiness*), Gregorio Graziosi (*Obra*), Vahid Hakimzedehe (*Greater Things*).



2015 AWARD WINNERS

Founder and Artistic Director Michael Kutza, Programming Director Mimi Plauché, Programmers Anthony Kaufman and Camille Lugan, and Competitions Coordinator Sam Flancher proudly announced the winners of the 51st Chicago International Film Festival Competitions at Awards Night on Friday, October 23, at The Peninsula Hotel Chicago. The **Gold Hugo** for **Best Film**, the Festival's highest honor, went to Philippe Claudel's "**A Childhood**" (France).

Festival Award winners include:

International Feature Film Competition

Representing a wide variety of styles and genres, these works compete for the Festival's highest honor, the Gold Hugo, a symbol of discovery.

The **Gold Hugo, Best Film** goes to "**A Childhood**" (France) directed by Philippe Claudel for this emotionally powerful insight into dysfunctional family life in a working class French neighborhood, which relies on the strength of two half brothers, surviving pain and poverty.

The **Silver Hugo, Best Actor** goes to Alexi Mathieu, Jules Gauzelin "**A Childhood**" (France) directed by Philippe Claudel who, as half-brothers, deliver amazingly believable first time performances revealing how children must play adults to survive their brutal upbringing.

The **Silver Hugo, Special Jury Prize** goes to "**Paulina**" (Argentina, Brazil) directed by Santiago Mitre, a beautifully realized film from Argentina which poses complex political questions that sidestep easy moralizing, causing us to stop and consider how far we would go to preserve our own sense of moral justice.

The **Silver Hugo, Best Director** goes to "**The Club**" (Chile) directed by Pablo Larraín for masterful direction of actors and assured handling of suspense which stares into the abyss of human depravity.

The **Silver Plaque, Best Ensemble** goes to "**The Club**" (Chile) directed by Pablo Larraín for this incredibly powerful assemblage of great Chilean actors.

The **Silver Plaque for Best Screenplay** goes to Guillermo Calderon, Daniel Villalobos, Pablo Larraín (co-writers), "**The Club**" (Chile) directed by Pablo Larraín for delivering a truly profound reality of revenge and compassion.



2015 AWARD WINNERS

The **Silver Hugo, Best Actress** goes to Lizzie Brochere, **“Full Contact”** (Netherlands, Croatia) directed by David Verbeek. Lizzie Brochere is a compelling talent with qualities of an innocent gamine and sultry seducer in her multi-faceted performance as a nightclub pole dancer in a Nevada military environment to a luggage-processing clerk in a French airport.

The **Silver Plaque, Best Cinematography** goes to Frank Van den Eeden, **“Full Contact”** (Netherlands, Croatia) directed by David Verbeek. Frank Vanden Eeden’s powerful imagery speaks to what great motion pictures strive for with expertly realized light, camera motion and framing.

The **Silver Plaque for Best Art Direction** goes to Toma Baqueni, **“My Golden Days”** (France) directed by Arnaud Desplechin. Production designer, Toma Baqueni and his team reveal lushly realized worlds in director Arnaud Desplechin’s film with a precise sense of style and realism covering periods of over 50 years from Russia, Eastern Europe, Tajikistan, and Paris.

The International Feature Film Competition Jury included Andrew Davis (USA), Iván Trujillo (Mexico); Laura Astorga (Costa Rica); Nawaf Al-Janahi (UAE); and Jossie Harris (USA). The International Feature Competition is presented by The John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation.

New Directors Competition

This selection of first and second feature films receiving their U.S. premieres in Chicago celebrates the spirit of discovery and innovation upon which the Festival was founded.

The **Gold Hugo** goes to **“Underground Fragrance”** (China), director Pengfei Song’s illuminating ode to modern Chinese society. Two couples navigate through a world in transition, striving to locate stability within the rapidly evolving spaces. There’s a Chaplinesque physicality to the blinded man’s plight, dodging obstacles in his path while stumbling into a poignant romance worthy of “City Lights.”

The **Silver Hugo** goes to **“Sparrows”** (Iceland), which explores arrested lives in a deceptively tranquil community. Ethereal imagery is juxtaposed with acts of shocking violence, creating an indelible portrait of lost innocence. Director Runar Runarsson elicits superb performances from his actors, who brought their fractured father-son dynamic to vivid life.

The New Directors Competition Jury included Matt Fagerholm (USA); Claudia Landsberger (The Netherlands); and Diego Lerer (Argentina). The New Directors Competition is presented by Columbia College Chicago.



2015 AWARD WINNERS

The Roger Ebert Award

*The Roger Ebert Award will be presented annually to an emerging filmmaker whose film presents a fresh and uncompromising vision. Films competing in the Festival's **New Directors Competition** are eligible for this award. The Roger Ebert Award is presented by the Roger and Chaz Ebert Foundation.*

The **Roger Ebert Award** goes to “**Nahid**” (Iran), where we follow a strong-willed woman as she attempts to escape the narrow confines of her societally imposed trap. Director Ida Panahandeh pulls no false punches in her portrayal of an uncompromisingly difficult character. To paraphrase Roger's review of another acclaimed Iranian film, *A Separation*, she may be tending against our own sympathies, but we understand why she does so and may be correct to do so.

Documentary Competition

This selection of international documentaries competing for the Gold Hugo goes beyond the headlines in telling those true stories that surprise, entertain and challenge us.

The **Gold Hugo** goes to “**Volta à Terra**” (Portugal). For a film that interweaves aesthetic rigor with sensitive observation, agrarian portraiture with an investment in individual experience, that moved us by its intimacy with its subjects, an ambitious audio-visual presentation, and a dual sense of time-li-ness and time-less-ness, the Gold Hugo goes to Volta à Terra by João Pedro Plácido.

The **Silver Hugo** goes to “**In the Underground**” (China). For a film that is both intensely experiential and emotionally insightful, that manages to honor and explore both the underground terrain of labor and the above ground human dramas of the domestic sphere, the Silver Hugo goes to In the Underground by Song Zhantao.

The **Gold Plaque Special Mention** goes to “**Time Suspended/Tiempo Suspendido**” (Mexico). We'd like to make special mention of a film that combines archival with vérité footage to explore the tension between trauma and memory through the experience of a compelling individual who confronted political dictatorship and memory loss. The Jury's Special Mention goes to Time Suspended (Tiempo Suspendido) by Natalia Bruschtein.

The Documentary Competition Jury included Eric Hynes (USA), Michelle Puetz (USA) and J.P. Sniadecki (USA). The Documentary Competition is sponsored by Columbia College Chicago.



2015 AWARD WINNERS

OUT-Look Program/Q Hugo Award

Chosen from the Festival's OUT-Look program, the winners of this award exhibit new artistic perspectives on sexuality and identity.

The **Gold Q Hugo Film Award** goes to **“Carol”** (USA) for its cinematic perfection. Director: Todd Haynes.

The **Silver Q Hugo Film Award** goes to **“Henry Gamble’s Birthday Party”** (USA), for its beautifully acted, intelligently directed, richly nuanced approach to the troubled relations between religion and sexuality. Director: Stephen Cone.

The Q Hugo Film Award jury included Mihai Chirilov (Romania), Richard Knight, Jr. (USA), and John Russell Taylor (UK).

The Founder’s Award

The Founder’s Award is given to that one film or performance across all categories that captures the spirit of the Chicago International Film Festival for its unique and innovative approach to the art of the moving image. The 51st Chicago International Film Festival presented director Michael Moore with the **Founder’s Award** for his film **“Where to Invade Next”**. “Chicago is the Capitol of the Midwest and I just won the Founder’s Award here,” said Michael Moore.

Chicago Award

The **Chicago Award**, presented to a Chicago or Illinois artist for the best feature or short film, goes to **“Radical Grace,”** directed by Rebecca Parrish, which celebrates the bravery, devotion, and social engagement of the nuns on the bus. Radical Grace chronicles the individual stories of an extraordinary group of Catholic nuns and their collective movement to stand up for values of equality and justice in the face of a hierarchy deeply resistant to change. The humanistic filmmaking of Radical Grace is both timely and timeless and reminds us of both the power of documentary cinema and the possibility that compassion and human dignity may prevail in our world.

The Chicago Award jury included Fawzia Mirza (USA), Tasha Robinson (USA), and Jonah Zeiger (USA).

Short Film Competition: Live Action

The **Gold Hugo for Live Action Short** goes to **“Leidi”** (Colombia). Leidi is a reminder that great short films tell stories that are just the right size. A character study set in a broad urban landscape framed by mountains, this portrait of a day in the life of a teenage mother in Medellin, Colombia immerses the audience in its heroine’s concerns and yearnings. Simón Mesa Soto’s sensitive direction gives weight to the subtle and meaning to the unspoken. Director: Simón Mesa Soto.



2015 AWARD WINNERS

The **Silver Hugo** for **Live Action Short** is awarded to “**The Exquisite Corpus**” (Austria). With Exquisite Corpus, experimental filmmaker Peter Tscherkassky takes viewers on an odyssey into the dark subconscious of film. Orchestrating layers of footage from old nudist films, skin flicks, and pornographic cheapies, he has created what can only be described as a mesmerizing nightmare of erotic possibilities. Director: Peter Tscherkassky.

The **Gold Plaque** for **Live Action Short** is awarded to “**One-minded**” (South Korea). Forest Ian Etsler and Sébastien Simon’s playful and boldly original One-Mined frames the relationship between two young roommates in Seoul from a genuinely unique point-of-view: that of their oscillating fan, locked in a perpetual back-and-forth pan across their apartment. Director: Sébastien Simon and Forest Ian Etsler.

The **Silver Plaque** for **Live Action Short** goes to “**Over**” (UK). The aftermath of a death is presented in disconnected pieces in Jörn Threlfall’s over, a film that puts a seemingly clinical style to humane ends, offering insight into our own short-sightedness in matters of genuine tragedy. Director: Jörn Threlfall.

The **Silver Plaque** for **Live Action Short** goes to “**Ramona**” (Romania). Immediately riveting, Andrei Cretulescu’s Ramona presents an enigmatic, gruesome revenge spree in long, wordless takes—a drive through a nightscape of violence and mystery that is stark and tantalizing as the classic Bauhaus song that plays over its end credits. Director: Andrei Cretulescu.

The Live Action Short Film Competition Jury included Julian Antos (USA), McKenzie Chinn (USA), and Ignatiy Vishnevetsky (USA).

Short Film Competition: Documentary

The **Silver Hugo** is awarded to “**Santa Cruz del Islote**” (US). This film balances a quiet and hypnotic lull of the ocean with charming moments of everyday life on the island. The cinematography captures the beauty of the island poised between its present and future. Story development is engaging and the technical challenges of production illustrate the depth of talent the filmmakers possess. However the story isn’t overworked. There’s enough room to wander with it and enjoy the scenery while getting a sense of the underlying concern starting to developing the next generation. Director: Luke Lorentzen.

A **Gold Plaque - Special Jury Prize** goes to “**A Tale of Love, Madness and Death**” (Chile). The filmmaker presents a strong character by approaching a very difficult subject matter with empathy and visual sensibility. His simple though compelling, balanced and innovative storytelling makes the film an important voice in understanding schizophrenia and showing its many facets. Director: Mijael Bustos. Gutiérrez.

The Documentary Short Film Competition Jury included Maria Finitzo (USA), Christopher Kamyszew (USA), Laura Vogel (USA).



2015 AWARD WINNERS

Short Film Competition: Animation

The **Silver Hugo** for **Best Animated Short** goes to “**Sunday Lunch**” (France) for its dynamic animation and explosion of the humor and horror found in the mundane subtleties of family life, love, and comforting, predictable dysfunction. Director: Céline Devaux.

The **Gold Plaque-Special Jury Prize** goes to “**The Same River Twice**” (USA)... a family history in five succinct, interlocking acts told with beautiful subtlety, imaginative animation, and a distinctly charming personality. Director: Weijia Ma.

The **Silver Plaque** is awarded to “**Waves ‘98**” (Lebanon), for its quiet bombast and nostalgia explored through a disarming blend of media, emotion, and fantasy. Director: Ely Dagher.

The Animation Short Film Competition Jury includes Amy Lockhart (USA), Jesse Malmed (USA), Chris Sullivan (USA).

Special Awards

The 51st Chicago International Film Festival honored producer **Gigi Pritzker** with an **Industry Achievement Award**, director **Josh Mond** and actor **Christopher Abbott** both with **Emerging Artist Awards**, actress **Sarah Silverman** with a **Breakthrough Performance Award**, composer **Howard Shore** with a **Career Achievement Award**, and director **Charles Burnett** with a **Career Achievement Award** during the **19th Annual Black Perspectives Tribute**.

Audience Choice Awards

Tom McCarthy’s **Spotlight** (USA) won the Audience Choice Award for Best English-Language Narrative Feature

Deniz Gamze Ergüven’s **Mustang** (Turkey, Greece, France) won the Audience Choice Award for Best Foreign Language Narrative Feature.

Where to Invade Next (USA) by Michael Moore won the Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Atsuko Hirayanagi’s **Oh Lucy!** (Japan, Singapore, USA) won the Audience Award for Best Short Film



EVENTS

FESTIVAL PREVIEW PARTY

Monday, September 21 | The Godfrey Hotel Chicago

The 51st Chicago International Film Festival launched the season at the Festival Preview event held on the beautiful outdoor terrace of The Godfrey Hotel Chicago's Urban Rooftop. Guests were introduced to the Festival programming team, who got the first peek at the complete line-up of films to be shown at the 51st Chicago International Film Festival. Filmmakers in attendance and sponsors were acknowledged for their support. Guests included local filmmakers, sponsors, media, cultural partners and friends of the Festival. Each guest received the Official Festival Schedule book.

Evening Partners: Michigan Avenue Magazine, The Godfrey Hotel Chicago's Urban Rooftop, Stella Artois, Effen Vodka and Wansas tequila.



PREVIEW PARTY

You and a guest are invited to a private preview of the
51st Chicago International Film Festival

Monday, September 21 • 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

THE GODFREY
HOTEL CHICAGO

107 W. Huron at LaSalle, 4th Floor at HD

Please RSVP by Friday, September 18 to preview@chicagofilmfestival.com
This event is strictly by invitation only. Invitation is non-transferable.





EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION: MIA MADRE

Thursday, October 15 | The Auditorium Theatre, Reception: theWit hotel ballroom

The 51st Chicago International Film Festival celebrated its opening at the beautiful Auditorium Theatre with the Chicago premiere of *Mia Madre*, directed by celebrated Italian director, Nanni Moretti and starring John Turturro. Guests were treated to live entertainment provided by soul songstress Terisa Griffen prior to the film premiere. Following the film was a VIP reception for 500 guests at theWit hotel, where guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails courtesy of Wansas tequila and Effen vodka, Dark Horse Wine, and Stella Artois.

Lead Partner: TIAA-CREF and Bloomberg.

Official Airline: American Airlines. Headquarters Hotel: JW Marriott Chicago.

Media Partner: Michigan Avenue Magazine.



MIA MADRE
ITALIA, FRANCE - Di. Nanni Moretti
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EVENTS

FESTIVAL FILMMAKERS LOUNGE

October 16-23 | Lucky Strike Lanes

At this year's Festival, filmmakers, industry members, press and VIP guests were invited to the Filmmakers Lounge, the Festival's official hotspot, which was located in the private wine room inside Lucky Strike Lanes. The Lounge was used for nightly filmmaker gatherings, private sponsor events and provided a space for guests to meet and talk before and after films, to conduct interviews, for sponsor entertaining. Guests enjoyed complimentary Stella Artois, specialty cocktails courtesy of Wansas tequila and savory appetizers.

JUNIOR BOARD SCREENING OF *JAMES WHITE* & AFTER-PARTY

Saturday, October 17 | Filmmaker Lounge at Lucky Strike Lanes

After the Junior Board screening of *James White*, the Junior Board and their 80 guests took over the Filmmakers Lounge at Lucky Strike Lanes. The Chicago International Film Festival's Junior Board is a group of dynamic professionals dedicated to promoting the mission of Cinema/Chicago and to heightening interest in international cinema across a broad demographic. The Junior Board's *James White* screening and after-party was the perfect way to combine a love of film and socializing with young, dynamic professionals, while enjoying by Wansas tequila and Effen vodka cocktails, Stella Artois and hors d'oeuvres. Director Josh Mond and actor Christopher Abbott were in attendance.





EVENTS

INDUSTRY DAYS RECEPTION

Honoring Gigi Pritzker

October 22 | The Crown at the Tribune Tower

Veteran producer, Gigi Pritzker, was presented with the Industry Achievement Award, for her “versatility, tenacity and commitment to supporting emerging and experienced talents in film, TV and theater” at a special Industry Days event where the Festival paid tribute to her astonishing career through conversation and clips of her films. Following the Tribute at AMC River East, guests were invited to an intimate reception at The Crown at the Tribune Tower on the 27th floor. Guests enjoyed breathtaking views of Chicago, delectable hors d'oeuvres by Jewell Catering and cocktails and specialty cocktails by Wansas tequila and Effen vodka, Stella Artois and Dark Horse Wine.





EVENTS

TRIBUTES AND AWARD PRESENTATIONS: SARAH SILVERMAN, CHARLES BURNETT, HOWARD SHORE

The Festival honored select Festival guests and presented special awards following their screenings or tribute events:

Howard Shore, multiple Academy Award-winning composer, was honored with a Career Achievement Award for his **“outstanding contributions to the art of cinema and your astonishing career making music that moves us”** following his screening of *Hugo*. Audiences were treated to anecdotes and film clips spanning his long career.

Charles Burnett was presented with a Career Achievement Award for his **“lifelong commitment to the art of cinema and (your) humanist depictions of the African American experience”** at the Festival’s Black Perspectives Tribute screening of *To Sleep With Anger*.

The Festival presented actress Sarah Silverman with a Breakthrough Performance Award following the premiere of her new film for her **“fearless performance in / *Smile Back*, which breaks new ground in (your) career as a performer.”**





EVENTS

AWARDS NIGHT

Friday, October 23 | Peninsula Hotel Chicago

Judged by a jury of internationally renowned filmmakers and industry members, awards are given to the best in several competitive categories: Main Feature Competition, New Directors Competition, Chicago Award, Documentary Competition, LGBTQ (Q Hugo), and Short films. Filmmakers, industry members and guests came together to Awards Night at the Peninsula Hotel Chicago to honor the winners, many of whom were on hand to accept or who provided a video acceptance. A special Founder's Award has presented to Michael Moore for his newest film, *Where to Invade Next*.

Lead Partners: Michigan Avenue Magazine and Wintrust Community Banks

Evening Partners: Stella Artois, Wansas tequila, Effen vodka, and Dark Horse Wine.



CLOSING NIGHT

Thursday, October 29 | AMC River East 21

After-Party: Chez

The film *Spotlight* (director: Tom McCarthy), shown to 400+ guests, concluded the 51st Chicago International Film Festival at AMC River East 21. Immediately following the screening, approximately 200 guests were invited to special events venue, Chez, to celebrate the final evening of the Festival. Guests enjoyed innovative appetizers courtesy of Jewell Catering and cocktails by Wansas tequila, Effen Vodka, Stella Artois, Dark Horse Wine.





FESTIVAL GUESTS

Over 200 filmmakers, industry leaders and special guests from more than 33 countries were in attendance:

FILM	GUEST	COUNTRY	TITLE
Abandoned, The	Rockaway, Eytan	US	Director
Absence	Fagundes, Matheus	Brazil	Actor
Adama	Rouby, Simon	France	Director
Adama	Aigle, Phillippe	France	Producer
Anomalisa	Kaufman, Charlie	US	Director
Anomalisa	Johnson, Duke	US	Director
Banana Pancakes and the Children of Sticky Rice	Veldhuizen, Daan	Netherlands	Director
Barash	Shimon, Sivan	Israel	Actress
Birth of Sake, The	Shirai, Erik	Japan	Director
Bite	Archibald, Chad	Canada	Director
Bite	Calahan, Cody	Canada	Producer
Breakfast at Ina's	Kane, Mercedes	US	Director
Breakfast at Ina's	Pinkney, Ina	US	Subject
Breakfast at Ina's	Lee, Sanghoon	US	Producer
Call Me Marianna	Bielawska, Karolina	Poland	Director
Call Me Marianna	Domagalski, Zbigniew	Poland	Producer
Call Me Marianna	Czubak, Kacper	Poland	Director of Photography
Cash Only	Bader, Malik	US	Director
Cash Only	Bardha, Ele	US	Producer
Chronic	Franco, Michel	Mexico	Director
Clever	Piccinini, Hugo	Uruguay	Actor
Companion, The	Giroud, Pavel	Cuba	Director
Companion, The	Romero, Yotuel	Cuba	Actor
Concrete Love - The Böhm Family	Staerkle-Drux, Maurizio	Switzerland	Director

Creative Control	Dickinson, Benjamin	US	Director
Cronies	Larnell, Michael	US	Director
Cuckold	Vundla, Charlie	South Africa	Director
Dégradé	Nasser, Arab	Palestine	Director
Dégradé	Nasser, Tarzan	Palestine	Director
Double Happiness	Raidal, Ella	Austria	Director
Embers	Carré, Claire	US	Director
Entertainment	Alverson, Rick	US	Director
For Grace	Pang, Kevin	US	Director
For Grace	Helenowski, Mark	US	Director
For Grace	Duffy, Curtis	US	Subject
Front Cover	Yeung, Ray	US	Director
Front Cover	Guington, Stan	US	Producer
Front Cover	Vanice, Kaer	US	Producer
Front Cover	Chen, James	US	Actor
Girls Lost	Wirenhed, Olle	Sweden	Producer
Greater Things	Hakimzadeh, Vahid	UK	Director
Greater Things	Stogdon, Howard	UK	Producer
Greater Things	Ardalan, Nezam	US	Actor
Heart of a Dog	Anderson, Laurie	US	Director
Henry Gamble's Birthday Party	Cone, Stephen	US	Director
Hitchcock/Truffaut	Jones, Kent	US	Director
Homecoming, The	Haraldsson, Björn Hlynur	Iceland	Director
Homecoming, The	Garðarsdóttir Rakeł	Iceland	Producer
Homesick	Erwa, Jakob M.	Austria	Director



FESTIVAL GUESTS

How to Win Enemies	Palombo, Ines	Argentina	Actor
I Smile Back	Silverman, Sarah	US	Actor
I Smile Back	Parker, Tom	US	Producer
Illegal Portraits	Montesarchio, Romano	Italy	Director
In the Underground	Song, Zhantao	China	Director
In the Underground	Jia, Shaowei	China	Producer
Industry Guest	Andreotti, Brian	US	Music Box Films
Industry Guest	Goelzhaeuser, Nicola	US	MPI Media
Industry Guest	Reeder, Jennifer	US	Filmmaker
Industry Guest	Swanberg, Kris	US	Filmmaker
Industry Guest	Adler, Charles	US	Kickstarter
Industry Guest	Froehle, Paula	US	Chicago Media Project
Industry Guest	Stocchetti, Beckie	US	Kartemquin Films
Industry Guest	Walker, Naomi	US	ITVS
Industry Guest	McNamara, Mike	US	moderator
Industry Guest	Abramson, Matt	US	"Teachers"
Industry Guest	Bailey, Sam	US	"You're So Talented"
Industry Guest	Carlton, Wendy Jo	US	"Easy Abby"
Industry Guest	Gaffney, Angie	US	moderator
Industry Guest	Pissios, Alex	US	Cinespace Chicago Film Studios
Industry Guest	Dudley, Christine	US	Head of Illinois Film Office
Industry Guest	Sheridan, Bruce	US	Chair, Cinema Art & Science Columbia College
Industry Guest	Varotsis, Christina	US	producer
Industry Guest	Linker, Eddie	US	Forager Films
Industry Guest	Sommer, Ines	US	Filmmaker

Industry Guest	Horsburgh, Tim	US	Kartemquin Films
Industry Guest	Pride, Ray	US	writer
Industry Guest	Cook, Adam Gregor	Canada	writer
Industry Guest	Barker, Michael	US	Sony Pictures Classics
Industry Guest	Bortz, Marc	US	Preferred Content
Industry Guest	Glick, Bryan	US	Film Collaborative
Industry Guest	Lorber, Richard	US	Kino Lorber
Industry Guest	Verga, Lucas	US	Film Sales Co.
Industry Guest	Hanly, Jake	US	Film Buff
Industry Guest	DiGiacomo, Danielle	US	The Orchard
Industry Guest	Garlin, Jeff	US	Producer/Director
Industry Guest	Hobby, Amy	US	Tangerine Entertainment
Industry Guest	Pink, Steve	US	Producer
Industry Guest	Keith, Aijah	US	IFC Films
Industry Guest	Von Thaden, John	US	Magnolia Pictures
Industry Guest	Tobias, Scott	US	Press
Industry Guest	Sams, Alicia	US	Producer
Industry Guest	Steinberg, Betsey	US	Moderator
Industry Guest	Eric S. Smith	US	Filmmaker
Infinite Happiness, The	Lemoine, Louise	France	Director
Infinite Happiness, The	Bêka, Ila	Italy	Director
Invention	Lewis, Mark	Canada	Director
James White	Mond, Josh	US	Director
James White	Abbott, Christopher	US	Actor
Jury - Animated Shorts	Lockhart, Amy	US	Jury



FESTIVAL GUESTS

Jury - Animated Shorts	Unger, Seth	US	Jury
Jury - Doc Shorts	Vogel, Laura	US	Jury
Jury - Doc Shorts	Kamyszew, Christopher	US	Jury
Jury - Doc Shorts + Industry	Finitzo, Maria	US	Jury
Jury - Documentary Competition	Sniadecki, J.P.	US	Jury
Jury - Documentary Competition	Hynes, Eric	US	Documentary
Jury - Live Action Shorts	Antos, Julian	US	Jury
Jury - Live Action Shorts	Chinn, McKenzie	US	Jury
Jury - Live Action Shorts	Vishnevetsky, Ignatiy	US	Jury
Jury - Main Competition	Davis, Andrew	US	Jury
Jury - Main Competition	Trujillo, Ivan	Mexico	Jury
Jury - Main Competition	Al-Janahi, Nawaf	UAE	Jury
Jury - Main Competition	Astorga, Laura	Costa Rica	Jury
Jury - New Directors Competition	Lerer, Diego	Argentina	Jury
Jury - New Directors Competition	Landsberger, Claudia	Netherlands	Jury
Jury - Q Hugo	Chirilov, Mihai	Romania	Jury
Jury - Q Hugo	Russell Taylor, John	UK	Jury
Jury - Q Hugo	Knight, Richard	US	Jury
Light Beneath Their Feet, A	Loeb, Jeffrey	US	Producer
Light Beneath Their Feet, A	Weiss, Valerie	US	Director
Magallanes	Alcázar, Damian	Mexico	Actor
Middle Distance	Underwood, Patrick	US	Director
Motley's Law	Motley, Kimberley	US	Doc Subject
Motley's Law	Horyani, Nicole	Denmark	Director
Motley's Law	Faber, Helle	Denmark	Producer

Obra	Gabriel	Brazil	Editor
Obra	Graziosi, Gregorio	Brazil	Director
Open Tables	Newell, Jack C.	US	Director
Orphans of Eldorado	Ferraz, Mariana	Brazil	Executive Producer
Orphans of Eldorado	Coelho, Guilherme	Brazil	Director
Orphans of Eldorado	Dreifuss, Daniel	US/Brazil	Producer
Other Madnesses	Fidrick, Dawn	US	Producer
Other Madnesses	Carr, Jeremy	US	Director
Other Madnesses	Moles, James	US	Lead Actor
Press - BBC	Bergson, Phillip	UK	Writer
Press - Hollywood Reporter	Byrges, Duane	US	Writer
Press - Hollywood Reporter	Abramovitch, Seth	US	Press - Hollywood Reporter
Radical Grace	Bernardi-Reis, Nicole	US	Producer
Radical Grace	Parrish, Rebecca	US	Director
Red Spider, The	Plawiak, Filip	Poland	Actor
Remember	Egoyan, Atom	Canada	Director
Road to La Paz	Varone, Francisco	Argentina	Director
SHORTS - Cat Killer	Dorer, Jeff	US	Director
SHORTS - Chasm	Benjamin, Joel	US	Director
SHORTS - Deszcz	Gligorewic, Millie	Australia	Producer
SHORTS - Deszcz	Mackiewicz, Malina Maria	Australia	Director
SHORTS - Every Day My Dad Dies	Rico, Steven	US	Director
SHORTS - I Am the Passenger	Lauterbach, Todd	US	Director
SHORTS - INsite: A Document	Przybyl, Chuck	US	Director
SHORTS - Last Base	Danbolt, Aslak	Norway	Director



FESTIVAL GUESTS

SHORTS - Little Dictator, The	Cohn, Nurith	Israel	Director
SHORTS - Manna	Hyde, Daniel	US	Director
SHORTS - Marlene	Berlin, Andy	US	Director
SHORTS - Nick Santore	Santore, Nick Jr.	US	Doc Subject
SHORTS - Nick Santore	Zalutsky, Jake	US	Director
SHORTS - Nick Santore	Santore, Nick	US	Doc Subject
SHORTS - Nomad	Bischoff, Bradley	US	Director
SHORTS - Oh Lucy!	Hiranayagi, Atsuko	Japan	Director
SHORTS - Retrocognition	Patrick, Eric	US	Director
SHORTS - The Same River Twice	Ma, Weijia	US	Director
SHORTS - Thicker Than Water	Lee, Seung Yeob	South Korea	Director
SHORTS - Unknown Unknown	Flynn, Ed	US	Director
SHORTS - Wintry Spring	Kamel, Mohamed	Egypt	Director
Stinking Heaven	Silver, Nathan	US	Director
Stinking Heaven	Dunphy, Jack	US	Co-Writer
Surprise, The	Van Diem, Mike	Netherlands	Director
Syl Johnson: Any Way the Wind Blows	Slaboch, Michael	US	
Syl Johnson: Any Way the Wind Blows	Johnson, Syl	US	Doc Subject
Syl Johnson: Any Way the Wind Blows	Hatch-Miller, Rob	US	Director
Syl Johnson: Any Way the Wind Blows	Basu, Puloma	US	Producer
The 33	Riggen, Patricia	US	Director
The 33	Katz, Robert	US	Producer
The Ardennes	Pront, Robin	Belgium	Director
The Ardennes	Heyvaert, Robrecht	Belgium	DP
The Closer We Get	Guthrie, Karen	Scotland	Director

They Look Like People	Blackshear, Perry	US	Director
Thin Yellow Line, The	Garcia, Celso	Mexico	Director
Three Days in September	Pejovski, Darijan	Macedonia	Director
Tikkun	Sivan, Avishai	Israel	Director
Time Suspended	Bruschtein, Natalia	Mexico	Director
Time Suspended	Luna, Fernando	Mexico	Producer
To My Beloved	Neiva, Mayana	Brazil	Actress
To Sleep With Anger	Brooks, Richard	US	Actor
To Sleep With Anger	Burnett, Charles	US	Director
Tribute - honoree	Shore, Howard	US	Composer
Underground Fragrance	Song, Pengfei	China	Director
Very Ordinary Citizen, A	Naghdi Pari, Leila	Iran	Set & Costume Designer
Very Ordinary Citizen, A	Armand, Saeed	Iran	Producer
Very Ordinary Citizen, A	Barzegar, Majid	Iran	Director
Volta à Terra	Plácido, João Pedro	Portugal	Director
Walking Distance	Claudia, Martha	Mexico	Actor
Walking Distance	Ortega, Luca	Mexico	Actor
We are Francesco	Zampagni, Guendalina	Italy	Director
Where to Invade Next	Moore, Michael	US	Director
XConfessions	Dobner, Pablo	Spain	Producer
XConfessions	Lust, Erika	Sweden	Director



PUBLICITY OVERVIEW

The Festival accredited **140 media professionals and outlets** for this year's 51st Chicago International Film Festival, including television, radio, print, online and photographers, which produced over **550 articles and coverage pieces**. **57%** of coverage came from **local** outlets, **23%** from **national** outlets, including national trade publications, **8%** from **international** outlets, **6%** from **regional** outlets, **6%** from U.S.-based **ethnic** outlets, which resulted in **145,313,759 impressions**.

Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Reader posted daily articles with their recommended films to see that day. Publicity highlights also include: "Happening This Week" Opening Night feature on *Charlie Rose*; increased presence in regional outlets such as *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Kankakee Daily Journal*, *Times of NW Indiana*, and WRTV Indianapolis; a feature about our LGBTQ program in *OUT magazine* (highest circulation of any gay monthly publication); and coverage in business publications such as *Business Standard*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, *Business Wire*, and *Chicago Business Journal*.



TV

Univision
WBBM-TV (CBS)
WCIU-TV ("The U")
WFLD-TV (FOX)
WGN-TV (WGN)
WLS-TV (ABC)
WMAQ-TV (NBC)
WTTW-TV (PBS)
WRTV-TV (NBC)

Radio

CBC/Radio-Canada
Vocalo (WBEZ station)
WBBM-AM
(News/Talk)
WBBM-FM (CHR)
WBEZ-FM (NPR)
WGN-AM (News/Talk)
WXRT-FM (Rock)
ABC Radio (national)

Print

CS
The Chicago Reader
Chicago Sun-Times
Chicago Tribune
Ebony/Jet
Hoy
Michigan Avenue
Newcity
Red Eye
Time Out Chicago
Windy City Times

Web

Chicagoist
ChicagoMag.com
ChooseChicago.com
Concierge Preferred
DNAinfo
Eater Chicago
Entertainment
Weekly
Huffington Post
RogerEbert.com
Uptown Update
Yahoo Movie

The Trades

Awards Watch
Deadline
Hollywood Reporter
IndieWire
Reel Chicago
Screen International
Screen Magazine
Variety
The Wrap

Niche Outlets

Asian American Press
FOX News Latino
France 24
Iceland Monitor
Iran Daily
New China TV
Shanghai News Daily
Tehran Times
The Danish Pioneer
The Guardian
Toronto Star



PUBLICITY: Press Releases

Between **July 9 - Nov 5**, a total of 29 press releases were sent to local, national, trade, ethnic, and international journalists. In addition to the below, select members of the media were sent invitations to interview Festival guests, cover Red Carpet events and Photo Opps, and provided with recaps of Festival parties and highlights.

Topic	Date
International Poster Design Competition	7/9/15
Industry Days honoree - Gigi Pritzker	8/3/15
Passes now on sale!	8/11/15
Career Achievement Award - Howard Shore	8/19/15
Sneak Preview	8/20/15
Poster Competition winner	9/2/15
Press Office and Media Accreditation information	9/2/15
City & State program announcement	9/4/15
New Directors Competition announcement	9/9/15
Industry Days full program announcement	9/15/15
Full Schedule announcement	9/21/15
Education Program announcement	9/21/15
International Documentary Competition announcement	9/28/15
Whole Foods Market events (local distribution-only)	9/29/15

Topic	Date
Whole Foods Market events (local distribution-only)	9/29/15
Festival Centerpiece - WHERE TO INVADE NEXT	10/2/15
Spotlight: Architecture+Space+Design	10/5/15
Junior Board Night - JAMES WHITE	10/5/15
OUT-Look program announcement	10/6/15
Program addition - ANOMALISA	10/7/15
Closing Night film - SPOTLIGHT	10/7/15
Program addition - REMEMBER	10/8/15
New Festival film intros	10/13/15
Surprise Film	10/16/15
Jury Members	10/20/15
"The Pitch" at Industry Days	10/23/15
Awards Night recap and competition winners	10/23/15
Best of the Fest	10/25/15
Audience Choice Awards	11/2/15
51st Festival recap	11/5/15



PUBLICITY: Press Clippings

Chicago Tribune

Chicago Film Fest lineup announced



Sarah Silverman stars in "Shiraz," which will be shown at the Chicago International Film Fest in October.
(Paul Korda/Way Risk Productions)

A drama starring Sarah Silverman, a documentary about two of the 20th century's most influential directors and the winner of this year's Palme d'Or at Cannes are among the official selections for the 51st Chicago International Film Festival.

The biggies on the lineup have already premiered at other festivals, an unfortunate reality that CIFF has had to contend with for a while now, as one of the last of the major festivals on the calendar each year. But it also means you can find a review of most of these films online ahead of time to get a better sense of which ones are worth seeing.

Running Oct. 15-29, the fest will honor Gigi Pritzker, the Chicago-based producer (and the daughter of Hyatt hotel chain founder Jay Pritzker) whose credits with her company Odd Lot Entertainment include the Ryan Gosling drama "Drive" and Jon Stewart's directorial debut "Rosewater."

Here's a look at some of the films on the schedule:

WBEZ91.5

General Admission hosts offer fall arts preview

August 27, 2015
Hendrik Noll



Summer may be on the wane, but the arts and culture scene heats up in the fall. New plays, fresh films, restaurant openings, bands, and galleries are all top-of-mind for Tyler Green and Don Heli. The duo hosts the WBEZ arts podcast General Admission and they join us to dish out some of their early picks and dates to circle so you can fully enjoy the arts bounty that is Chicago.



CHAZ EBERT ATTENDS OPENING OF CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Chicago's own Chaz Ebert joined actors, directors and others walking the red carpet for the opening of the Chicago International Film Festival on Oct. 15, 2015.

Thursday, October 15, 2015 09:06PM

CHICAGO (WLS) --
Movie lovers, grab some popcorn: The Chicago International Film Festival opened Thursday night.

Chicago's own Chaz Ebert joined actors, directors and others walking the red carpet at the Auditorium Theatre.

The festival will feature more than 130 films from around the world. It runs through October 29.



PUBLICITY: Press Clippings

Chicago International Film Festival programmers focus on directors



Candice Lujan, top left, Anthony Kaufman, top right, Michael Kutza, bottom left, and Mimi Plauché (John M. Osorio / Chicago Tribune)



By Michael Phillips • Contact Reporter
Chicago Tribune

SHARE THIS



Film festivals don't program themselves, you know. Meet those at the helm of CIFF.

OCTOBER 8, 2015, 6:37 AM

Michael Moore Takes Founder's Award at Chicago International Film Festival



Emily Hopper

by Seth Abramowitz | 10/10/2015 10:15pm EDT

The filmmaker sat with Chaz Ebert, widow of Roger Ebert, for a lively Q&A following the doc's Midwestern premiere.

Indiewire

Sony Pictures Classics' Michael Barker on Changing Audiences, Working with Auteurs and the Future of Indie Film

By Adam Cook | Indiewire | October 26, 2015 at 10:30AM



PUBLICITY: Press Clippings



Why Foodies Will Love This Year's Chicago International Film Fest

By KRISTINE SHEARER in FOOD on OCT 9, 2015 8:51 AM



Birth of Bites screening at Chicago International Film Festival

From John Favreau's food truck film to a Foodium in Chicago and the Museum of Food & Drink in New York, food has permeated our culture through many forms of criticism and art. The 51st Chicago International Film Festival, October 15 to 29, features four food and drink-centric films, three of which center on Chicago. Transporting the audience from movie theater to kitchen, the Festival is collaborating with local restaurants for a "Taste of Cinema" series that will offer immersive experiences that pair film and food, including events that pop real bottles of sake and reinvent a revered breakfast menu.

"When we found three terrific films with gastronomic themes, and all with Chicago ties, it seemed like a natural decision to 'event-ize' the screenings with local restaurant tie-ins," says the Festival's Programming Director Mimi Plautche. "We couldn't be happier with the way these events have come together with great movies and great food and drink partners." Leading off the Taste of Cinema series, *Breakfast at Ina's* enjoys its world premiere on Sunday, Oct. 18. In conjunction with the first of three showings, Chef Isaac Woliver attempts to recreate the Breakfast Queen's most iconic dishes at his all-day Streeterville cafe Local Root.

OUT

6 Films You Need to See at the Chicago International Film Festival



The Chicago International Film Festival has a fantastic selection of LGBT-themed films that must be seen before the end of the month.

By Adam Armstrong
October 16 2015 12:34 PM EDT
315
SHARES

Today marks the kick-off of the 51st Chicago International Film Festival. Running until October 29, an assortment of LGBTQ-themed films from all over the world will be screened for audiences as part of the

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES ENTERTAINMENT



Chicago International Film Festival Poster

Chicago International Film Festival official poster revealed

Miriam Di Nunzio on September 2, 2015



PUBLICITY: Press Clippings

SCREENDAILY

Gigi Pritzker in Chicago fest Industry Days honour

3 August, 2015 | By Angela Lee



The OddLot founder and CEO will receive an industry tribute to start the four-day conference section of the 51st Chicago International Film Festival (CIFF) in autumn.

Pritzker produced such films as Jon Stewart's directorial debut *Rosewater*, *Rabbit Hole* and *Drive*.

Industry Days, presented by financial services provider TIAA-CREF, is a new addition to CIFF and will provide workshops, panel discussions, masterclasses, receptions, networking opportunities and a pitch session.

Industry days will run from October 22-25 concurrent with the festival, which runs from October 15-29.



Exclusive: 'James White' Director Josh Mond and Star Christopher Abbott to Receive Emerging Artist Awards at Chicago International Film Festival

By Ryan Anisicki | Indiewire October 3, 2015 at 10:31 AM

The award presentation will accompany a screening of the Sundance-winning feature, as well as an afterparty open to the public.



"James White"

[READ MORE: Watch: Debut 'James White' Trailer is a Devastating, Disorienting Heartbreaker](#)

The 51st Chicago International Film Festival has announced that it will present the Emerging Artist Award to both Josh Mond and Christopher Abbott, the director and the star of the critically lauded drama *'James White.'* The Sundance-winning feature will screen at the festival before the award is presented to Mond and Abbott.



Chicago International Film Festival Sets Competition Lineup



"Mia Madre"

Courtesy of Gaudi Llanusa

The 51st edition of the festival launches Oct. 15 with opening night gala screening of 'Mia Madre'

The 51st Chicago International Film Festival has selected 16 films in its International Feature Competition to vie for the festival's top honor, the Gold Hugo. The festival, which runs Oct. 15-29, is the longest running, competitive film festival in the United States.



PUBLICITY: Press Clippings



El Festival de Chicago otorga tres premios a "El Club" del chileno Pablo Larraín

CHICAGO (EE.UU.) — El jurado del Festival Internacional de Cine de Chicago otorgó a la película "El Club" (2015), del director chileno Pablo Larraín, tres premios, incluido el Hugo de Plata a Mejor Director, informó hoy la organización.

La cinta de Larraín, presentada por Chile como candidata al Óscar y que ya fue reconocida con el Oso de Plata en la reciente edición del Festival de Berlín, también recibió el premio a Mejor Guion en la cita de Chicago, galardón que fue a parar a manos del director, así como de Guillermo Calderón y Daniel Villalobos.

Sumado a los dos anteriores premios, la película recibió también el galardón a Mejor Ensamble, que reconoce el trabajo coral de los actores, y que recayó en los intérpretes Roberto Fariás, Antonia Zegers, Alfredo Castro, Alejandro Goic, Alejandro Sieveking, Jaime Vadell y Marcelo Alonso.

Estos premios realzan la exitosa trayectoria internacional del largometraje, que retrata en un momento específico a un grupo de sacerdotes católicos que han deshonrado a la iglesia y purgan sus pecados en un pueblo junto al mar.

En una ceremonia celebrada este viernes, el jurado dio a conocer la lista de ganadores de este año, en la que figuró la película "Paulina" ("La Patota", 2015), dirigida por Santiago Mitre y protagonizada por Dolores Fonzi, que recibió el Hugo de Plata, el segundo premio más importante del festival.

reklamaconnect

Путеводитель по 51-му Чикагскому МКФ. Часть первая

By: Sergey Elkin 30 September 2015



На прошлой неделе была объявлена программа открывающегося 15 октября 51-го Чикагского МКФ. Для начала – немного статистики.

В фестивальной программе участвуют сто тридцать фильмов из пятидесяти трех стран мира: шесть мировых премьер, 27 премьер в США, 10 северноамериканских премьер. Почти все фильмы в Чикаго показаны впервые.

В отличие от прошлых лет, конкурсная программа фестиваля разделена на четыре основные секции: "Главная конкурсная программа" (Main Competition), "Фильмы молодых режиссеров" (New Directors Competition), "Программа документального кино" (Documentary Competition), "Поздно вечером" (After Dark). Программы короткометражного кино (Short Film) показывается отдельно и разделена на восемь секций, в каждой – по шесть-семь работ. Во внеконкурсной программе фестиваля "Мировое

VÍVELO HOY

Damián Alcázar viene al Festival Internacional de Cine de Chicago

Por Gisela Orozco en Entretenimiento 10/9/15 3:48pm



Damián Alcázar. REPORTER

CHICAGO- El actor mexicano Damián Alcázar ("El infierno", "La dictadura perfecta"), dirá presente en la quincuagésima primera edición del Festival Internacional de Cine de Chicago, a realizarse del 15 al 29 de octubre, donde se exhiben dos filmes en los que actúa, "Magallanes" y "La delgada línea amarilla".

Alcázar estará presentando el filme "Magallanes", en sus funciones del 19 de octubre a las 8:30 p.m. y el 20 de octubre a las 11:30 a.m., y "La delgada línea amarilla", en su función del 19 de octubre a las 3 p.m.

"La delgada línea amarilla", una película mexicana dirigida por Celso García producida por Guillermo del Toro, habla del viaje de cinco hombres que son contratados para pintar la línea divisoria de una carretera que conecta dos pueblos de México; actúan además de Alcázar, Joaquín Cosío, Silverio Palacios, Américo Hollandier y Gustavo Sánchez Parra.



PUBLICITY: Press Clippings

上海日报

ShanghaiDaily.com

Global Lens on China
外媒看中国

4 Chinese movies selected at Chicago Int'l Film Festival

Oct 16, 2015

CHICAGO, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- Four Chinese films will be shown at the 51st Chicago International Film Festival (CIFF), which kicked off Thursday night with a red carpet event to welcome celebrities and filmmakers at the Auditorium Theater in downtown Chicago.

"We have four excellent films from China," said Mimi Plache, Programming Director, "Starting with Hou Hsiao-Hsien's *The Assassin* and *Jin Zhang's* *Moonrains May Depart*."

Plache said she was delighted to have these films, which were featured at the Cannes Film Festival. There are two other films from China by emerging directors -- *Underground Fragrance* by Song Pengfei and *In the Underground* by Song Zhao.

Moonrains May Depart has been selected for the Gold Hugo International Feature Competition. The film is about a young woman's choice to marry a wealthy capitalist over a coal miner and a scattered family's chase for a vision of success over a span of more than two decades.

The Festival received more than 4,500 applications and only less than 200 films were selected, said Plache.

"The 16 films competing for the Gold Hugo are strong and diverse," said Founder & Artistic Director Michael Kutz.

This year's international competition showcases a variety of films from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Croatia, France, Israel, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Britain and Uruguay.

"We are in discussion with the Beijing Film Academy to bring indie films to China," said Kutz, who is excited about the collaboration.

What is unique at this year's festival is a featured program in conjunction with the Chicago Architecture Biennial. It is called "Architecture+Space+Design."



Chicago International Film Festival runs October 15 – 29, 2015

October 8, 2015

Celebrating its 51st anniversary this year, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival, running Oct 15-29, 2015 at the AMC River East (322 E. Illinois St, Chicago).

This year's Festival slate now includes six World Premieres, 15 North American Premieres, 45 U.S. Premieres, and counting! Check out the films from Denmark in the Festival lineup.

View the 2015 Festival lineup at <http://www.ChicagoFilmFestival.com/films>. Individual tickets and multi-film passes are now available.

The full festival schedule is available at <http://www.ChicagoFilmFestival.com/schedule>

TEHRAN TIMES
IRAN'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL DAILY



Chicago Int'l. Film Festival honors "Nahid"
Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN -- "Nahid", Iranian director Ida Panahandeh's acclaimed debut about a woman faced with the dilemma of choosing between her son and her new love, won the Roger Ebert Award at the 51st Chicago International Film Festival, organizers announced on Friday evening.

Sareh Bayat, best known for the portrayal of Razieh in the Oscar-winning drama "A Separation", plays the role of Nahid, who lives alone with her 10-year old son in a small town in Northern Iran after her divorce. Custody of the child should have gone to the father, but he has relinquished it on one condition: Nahid cannot remarry.



The Festival generated awareness in different media forms: traditional advertising (television, radio, print, digital), grassroots marketing, electronic marketing, and continued to build a strong social media presence, as well as distribution of the Festival Schedule (240,000 copies) and Sneak Preview brochures (30,000).

TV: WTTW





Producer Marianna Ferraz, producer Daniel Dreifuss, director Guilherme Coelho (*Orphans of Eldorado*)



Claire Carré (director, *Embers*)



Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (director, *The Homecoming*)



Filip Plawiak (actor, *The Red Spider*)



Patrick Underwood (director, *The Middle Distance*)



Pengfei Song (director, *Underground Fragrance*)



Columbia College Chicago at Industry Days.
 Bruce Sheridan, CA+S, participated in the “How to Build a Booming Chicago Film Industry” panel.





Industry Days



Columbia College Chicago students, filmmakers, and special guests at Industry Days.

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PHOTOS



Sarah Silverman (actress, *I Smile Back*)



Columbia College Video Crew



Industry Days Panel



Christopher Abbott (actor, *James White*)



Duke Johnson and Charlie Kaufman (co-directors, *Anomalisa*)



Closing Night party!

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PHOTOS



Todd Haynes (director, *Carol*)



Industry Days Panel



Richard Brooks (actor, *To Sleep With Anger*)



Charles Burnett (director, *To Sleep with Anger*)



Michael Kutza and Atom Egoyan (director, *Remember*)



Industry Days Panel

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Emma Penaz Eisner, CineYouth Filmmaker



Our amazing volunteers!



Because everybody loves movies!



Sarah Silverman (*I Smile Back*) greeting Festival guests



Laurie Anderson (director, *Heart of a Dog*) and Ken Nordine



Charlie Kaufman (*Anomalisa*) Q&A



Ina Pinkney (Chef, *Breakfast at Ina's*) greeting friends



Gigi Pritzker and guests at Tribune Tower



Curtis Duffy (chef, *For Grace*) with culinary students



Sarah Silverman after party!



Michael Moore Red Carpet



Nicole Horanyi (director, *Motley's Law*) and the Motley Family