28th PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FESTIVAL LINE-UP

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Springs, CA (December 15, 2016) â?? The 28th annual **Palm Springs International Film Festival** (PSIFF) announced that the festivalâ??s opening night will be the World Premiere screening of *The Sense of an Ending*, directed by Ritesh Batra on Thursday, January 5. The festival will close with *The Comedian*, directed by Taylor Hackford on Sunday, January 15. The Festival will screen 190 films from 72 countries, including 58 premieres (9 World, 5 International, 20 North American and 24 U.S.) from January 2-16, 2017. The complete line-up including a focus on cinema from Poland, Premieres, New Voices/New Visions competition, Modern Masters, True Stories, After Dark and more were also announced, in addition to the Awards Buzz program released last week.

OPENING AND CLOSING SCREENINGS

PSIFF will open with the World Premiere of the CBS Film *The Sense of an Ending*, directed by Ritesh Batra. The film stars Jim Broadbent and Charlotte Rampling who team up with the director of *The Lunchbox* in this mesmerizing adaptation of Julian Barnesâ??s acclaimed novel about time, memory, jealousy, and the lies we tell ourselves to survive. The film also stars Harriet Walter, Freya Mavor, Emily Mortimer, Michelle Dockery, Matthew Goode and Billy Howle. The film opens in NY and LA on March 10th.

Closing the festival will be the Sony Pictures Classics film *The Comedian*, directed by Taylor Hackford. Robert De Niro stars as Jackie Burke, a bitter, angry insult comic who was once the popular star of a TV sitcom, and is now trying to claw his way back on the stand-up circuit, one scabrous joke at a time. The filmâ??s supporting cast features Leslie Mann, Danny Devito, Cloris Leachman, Harvey Keitel,

Patti LuPone and Edie Falco.

â??I couldnâ??t be more proud of this yearâ??s lineup. The programming team has managed to pull together a plethora of different viewpoints in storytelling from around the world in hopes of generating great discussion sorely needed in these divisive times,â?• said Artistic Director Michael Lerman. â??Between the 42 Foreign Language OscarÂ® submissions, each selected to represent their own country in a year thatâ??s more competitive than ever, to the poignant work being made by Modern Masters like Kim Ki-Duk, Ken Loach, Feng Xiaogang and Steve James, to the ever-surprising first and second features in our New Voices/New Visions competition like the unmissable *Zoology* and *Kati Kati*, the festival is jam-packed with gems. Along with that, I have to say what a pleasure it is to present the World Premiere of Ritesh Batraâ??s second feature film, *The Sense of an Ending* for Opening Night. We were all massive fans of his first feature, *The Lunchbox*, and we canâ??t wait to welcome him to Palm Springs.â?•

PREMIERES

World premieres:

- *The Beautiful Fantastic* (UK/U.S.), Director Simon Aboud
- *Breakable You* (U.S.), Director Andrew Wagner with Holly Hunter, Tony Shalhoub and Alfred Molina
- *The Concessionaires Must Die!* (U.S.), Director America Young
- *Do It or Die!* (U.S), Director JÃ¸rn Winther
- *Eagles of Death Metal: Nos Amis (Our Friends)* (U.S./France), Director Colin Hanks
- *Everybody Loves Somebody* (Mexico), Director Catalina Aguilar Mastretta with Karla Souza
- *Poorna* (India), Director Rahul Bose
- *The Sense of an Ending* (UK/U.S.), Director Ritesh Batra
- *Take Me Home Huey* (U.S.), Directors Alicia Brauns and Christine Steele

International premieres:

- *The 4th Company* (Mexico/Spain), Directors Amir GalvÃ¡n Cervera and Mitzi Vanessa Arreola
- *Call Me Thief* (South Africa), Director Daryne Joshua
- *Julie and the Shoe Factory* (France), Directors Paul Calori and Kostia Testut
- *Tonio* (Netherlands), Director Paula van der Oest
- *Xamou* (Greece), Director Clio Fanouraki

North American premieres:

- *At the End of the Tunnel* (Argentina/Spain), Director Rodrigo Grande
- *Bad Influence* (Chile), Director Claudia Huaiquimilla
- *Dark Skull* (Bolivia/Qatar), Director Kiro Russo

- *The Day Will Come* (Denmark), Director Jesper W. Nielsen
- *Ethel & Ernest* (UK/Luxembourg), Director Roger Mainwood with the voices of Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent
- *Half Ticket* (India), Director Samit Kakkad
- *The Hippopotamus* (UK), Director John Jencks with Roger Allam, Matthew Modine and Fiona Shaw
- A Jew Must Die (Switzerland), Director Jacob Berger
- *King of the Belgians* (Belgium/Netherlands/Bulgaria), Director Peter Brosens and Jessica Woodworth
- *The Liberation of Skopje* (Macedonia/Croatia/Finland), Directors Rade Å erbedÅ¾ija and Danilo Å erbedÅ¾ija
- *Mellow Mud* (Latvia), Director RenÄ•rs Vimba
- *Mercenary* (France), Director Sacha Wolff
- *Mountain Cry* (China), Director Larry Yang
- *No Dress Code Required* (Mexico), Director Cristina Herrera BÃ³rquez
- *The Spy and the Poet* (Estonia), Director Toomas Hussar
- *Tommyâ??s Honour* (U.S.), Director Jason Connery
- *The Turkish Way* (Spain), Director Luis GonzÃ¡lez
- *Vincent and the End of the World* (Belgium/France), Director Christophe Van Rompaey
- *When We Rise* (U.S.), Director Gus Van Sant with Guy Pearce, Mary-Louise Parker, Rachel Griffiths and Rosie Oâ??Donnell
- *The Winter* (Argentina/France), Director Emiliano Torres

U.S. premieres:

- *Barakah Meets Barakah* (Saudi Arabia), Director Mahmoud Sabbagh
- *Behind the Clouds* (Belgium), Director Cecilia Verheyden
- *Blessed Benefit* (Jordan/Germany/Netherlands), Director Mahmoud al Massad
- *Brimstone* (Netherlands/Germany/France/Belgium/Sweden/UK), Director Martin Koolhoven with Guy Pearce and Dakota Fanning
- *Center of My World* (Germany/Austria), Director Jakob M. Erwa
- *Daguerrotype* (France/Japan/Belgium), Director Kiyoshi Kurosawa
- *The Distinguished Citizen* (Argentina/Spain), Director Mariano Cohn and GastÃ³n Duprat
- *In Between* (Israel/France), Director Maysaloun Hamoud
- *Itâ??s Not the Time of My Life* (Hungary), Director Szabolcs Hajdu
- *J: Beyond Flamenco* (Spain), Director Carlos Saura
- *King of the Dancehall* (U.S./Jamaica), Director Nick Cannon with Louis Gossett, Jr., Whoopi Goldberg and Busta Rhymes
- *The Kingâ??s Choice* (Norway), Director Erik Poppe
- *KONELÄªNE: our land beautiful* (Canada), Director Nettie Wild
- *Little Wing* (Finland/Denmark), Director Selma Vilhunen
- *Maâ?? Rosa* (Philippines), Director Brillante Mendoza
- *Memories of Summer* (Poland), Director Adam GuziÅ?ski
- *Noces* (Belgium/France/Luxembourg/Pakistan), Director Stephan Streker
- *Past Life* (Israel), Director Avi Nesher

- *Pihu* (India), Director Vinod Kapri
- *Souvenir* (Belgium/Luxembourg / France), Director Bavo Defurne with Isabelle Huppert
- *The Stopover* (France/Greece), Director Delphine Coulin and Muriel Coulin
- *A United Kingdom* (UK), Director Amma Asante with Rosamund Pike and David Oyelowo
- *White Sun* (Nepal/US/Qatar/ Netherlands), Director Deepak Rauniyar
- *X500* (Canada/Colombia/Mexico), Director Juan AndrÃ©s Arango

FOCUS ON POLAND

The festivalâ??s country focus this year offers new works by contemporary Polish filmmakers, each evoking a specific time and place in their countryâ??s history and examining politics both personal and institutional. The section also honors Andrzej Wajda, one of the greats of European cinema, with screenings of his final work *Afterimage* as well as an archival print of his 1958 masterpiece *Ashes and Diamonds*. The films in the program include:

- *Afterimage* (Poland), Director Andrzej Wajda
- *Ashes and Diamonds* (Poland), Director Andrzej Wajda
- *Memories of Summer* (Poland), Director Adam GuziÅ?ski
- *The Last Family* (Poland), Director Jan P. MatuszyÅ?ski
- *United States of Love* (Poland/Sweden), Director Tomasz Wasilewski
- *Zacma: Blindness* (Poland), Director Ryszard Bugajski

NEW VOICES/NEW VISIONS

The New Voices/New Visions competition showcases ten films from emerging international directors bringing their first or second narrative features to the Festival. The winner is selected by a jury of festival programmers and U.S. distributors. Films selected for this year include:

- *Barakah Meets Barakah* (Saudi Arabia), Director Mahmoud Sabbagh
- *Boundaries* (Canada), Director ChloÃ© Robichaud
- *In Between* (Israel/France), Director Maysaloun Hamoud
- *Julie and the Shoe Factory* (France), Director Paul Calori, Kostia Testut
- *Kati Kati* (Kenya/Germany), Director Mbithi Masya
- *Little Wing* (Finland/Denmark), Director Selma Vilhunen
- *Mellow Mud* (Latvia), Director RenÄ•rs Vimba
- *The Winter* (Argentina/France), Director Emiliano Torres
- *White Sun* (Nepal/U.S./Qatar/Netherlands), Director Deepak Rauniyar
- *Zoology* (Russia/France/Germany), Director Ivan I. Tverdovsky

MODERN MASTERS

The **Modern Masters** section features ten films from international directors who set the standards for contemporary cinema. Films selected for this year include:

- *A Quiet Passion* (UK/Belgium), Director Terence Davies
- *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail* (U.S.), Director Steve James
- *After the Storm* (Japan), Director Hirokazu Kore-eda
- *The Commune* (Denmark/Sweden/Netherlands), Director Thomas Vinterberg
- *Daguerrotype* (France/Japan/Belgium), Director Kiyoshi Kurosawa
- *Frantz* (France/Germany), Director FranÃ§ois Ozon
- *I Am Not Madame Bovary* (China), Director Feng Xiaogang
- *I, Daniel Blake* (UK/France/Belgium), Director Ken Loach
- *J: Beyond Flamenco* (Spain), Director Carlos Saura
- *The Net* (South Korea), Director Kim Ki-duk
- *Past Life* (Israel), Director Avi Nesher
- *Personal Shopper* (France), Director Olivier Assayas
- *The Teacher* (Slovakia/Czech Republic), Director Jan Hrebejk
- *The Unknown Girl* (Belgium/France), Director Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne

TRUE STORIES

Thereâ??s a film for every interest in True Stories, and many of the documentaries in this yearâ??s section place a particular focus on the arts â?? from music and dance, to fashion and Hollywood.

- *Aidaâ??s Secrets* (Israel/U.S./Germany/Canada), Directors Alon Schwarz, Shaul Schwarz
- *Alive and Kicking* (U.S./Sweden), Director Susan Glatzer
- *Beauties of the Night* (Mexico), Director MarÃa JosÃ© Cuevas
- *Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds* (U.S.), Director Alexis Bloom, Fisher Stevens
- *Eagles of Death Metal: Nos Amis (Our Friends),* (U.S./France), Director Colin Hanks
- *Forever Pure* (Israel/UK/Ireland/Norway), Director Maya Zinshtein
- *Franca: Chaos and Creation* (Italy/U.S.), Director Francesco Carrozzini
- *Gun Runners* (Canada), Director Anjali Nayar
- *I Am Not Your Negro* (U.S./France/Belgium/Switzerland), Director Raoul Peck
- *I Called Him Morgan* (Sweden/U.S.), Director Kasper Collin
- *Jewelâ??s Catch One* (U.S.), Director C. Fitz
- *Karl Marx City* (U.S./Germany), Directors Petra Epperlein, Michael Tucker
- *Kedi* (Turkey/U.S./Germany), Director Ceyda Torun
- *Keep Quiet* (UK/Hungary), Directors Sam Blair, Joseph Martin
- *KONELÄªNE: our land beautiful,* (Canada), Director Nettie Wild
- *Magicians: Life in the Impossible* (U.S.), Directors Christoph Baaden, Marcie Hume
- *No Dress Code Required* (Mexico), Director Cristina Herrera BÃ³rquez
- *Obit.* (U.S.), Director Vanessa Gould

- *Restless Creature: Wendy Whelan* (U.S.), Directors Adam Schlesinger, Linda Saffire
- *Take Me Home Huey* (U.S.), Directors Alicia Brauns, Christine Steele
- *The Turkish Way* (Spain), Director Luis GonzÃ¡lez
- *Whoâ??s Gonna Love Me Now?* (Israel/UK), Directors Barak Heymann, Tomer Heymann, Alexander Bodin Saphir
- *Wrestling Alligators* (U.S.), Director Andrew Shea

AFTER DARK

After Dark films are the mysterious strangers in town, films that lurk in the shadows and tempt you into the unknown. The festivalâ??s youngest section comes of age in 2017, as it includes the UKâ??s OscarÂ® entry in *Under the Shadow*, as well as films featuring Guy Pearce, Dakota Fanning, and Glenn Close. The films selected include:

- *Brimstone* (Netherlands/Germany/France/Belgium/Sweden/UK), Director Martin Koolhoven
- *The Girl with All the Gifts* (UK/U.S.), Director Colm McCarthy
- *Under the Shadow* (UK/Jordan/Qatar), Director Babak Anvari
- *The Untamed* (Mexico/Denmark/France/Germany/Norway), Director Amat Escalante

Additional programming for the festival includes:

- The festival will screen two of the films selected as part of Varietyâ??s 10 Directors to Watch which include *Aquarius* (Brazil/France), directed by Kleber MendonÃ§a Filho and *The Eagle Huntress* (UK/Mongolia/U.S.), directed by Otto Bell.
- Two films will screen in the Dinner & A Movie section which are *Insatiable: The Homaro Cantu Story* (U.S.), directed by Brett A. Schwartz and *Tampopo* (Japan), directed by Juzo Itami.
- The festivalâ??s Gay!La screening will be the North American Premiere of ABCâ??s *When We Rise* directed by Gus Van Sant.
- Four Special Presentations including the World Premiere of *Breakable You* (U.S.), the U.S. Premiere of *King of the Dancehall* (U.S./Jamaica) directed by Nick Cannon, *Old Money* (Austria) directed by David Schalko and starring Udo Kier, and the North American Premiere of *The Hippopotamus*.
- Other Festival films with notable talent and directors include *After Love* (Belgium/France) starring BÃ©rÃ©nice BÃ©jo, *Camera Store* (U.S.) starring John Larroquette, John Rhys Davies and Cheryl Ladd, *The Girl with all the Gifts* starring Gemma Arterton, Paddy Considine and Glenn Close, *Everything Else* (Mexico/US/France) starring Adriana Barraza, *Paint It Black* (U.S.) directed by Amber Tamblyn and starring Alia Shawkat, Janet McTeer and Alfred Molina, and *Youth in Oregon* (U.S.) directed by Joel David Morre and starring Frank Langella, Billy Crudup, Christina Applegate, Mary Kay Place and Josh Lucas.

The complete line-up will be available online on December 16 at www.psfilmfest.org. Attached is a complete list of films selected for the festival. The festival will announce the Books to Screen line-up the

week of December 19.

About The Palm Springs International Film Festival

The Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF) is one of the largest film festivals in North America, welcoming 135,000 attendees last year for its lineup of new and celebrated international features and documentaries. The Festival is also known for its annual Film Awards Gala, a glamorous, black-tie event, presented by Chopard and sponsored by Mercedes Benz and Entertainment Tonight, and attended by 2,500. The Film Awards Gala honors the yearâ??s best achievements in cinema in front of and behind the camera. The celebrated list of talents who have been honored in recent years includes Ben Affleck, Javier Bardem, Cate Blanchett, Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper, George Clooney, Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Clint Eastwood, Tom Hanks, Matthew McConaughey, Julianne Moore, Brad Pitt, Eddie Redmayne, Julia Roberts, David O. Russell, Meryl Streep, and Reese Witherspoon. PSIFF is organized by The Palm Springs International Film Society, a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization with a mission to cultivate and promote the art and science of film through education and cross-cultural awareness.

For more information, call 760-778-8979 or 800-898-7256 or visit www.psfilmfest.org.

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