MEET THE PRESS FILM FESTIVAL WITH AFI REVEALS 2018 FILM SLATE

Description

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PRESSING ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED AHEAD OF MIDTERMS

23 Short Films Spotlight Eight Issues Affecting Voters

Second-Annual Festival Will Be Held October 7-8 in Washington, D.C.

NBC News Anchors and Correspondents to Introduce Films and Moderate Discussions

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 â?? The *Meet the Press Film Festival in Collaboration with the American Film Institute* (AFI) hits the big screen this fall for the second year, featuring nearly two dozen films spotlighting critical issues ahead of the midterm elections. This yearâ??s festival will be held in Washington, D.C., October 7-8, headquartered at the Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema, and will feature 23 short-length documentaries from HBO, Netflix, The New York Times and filmmakers from across the country.

The selected 2018 films, three of which are making their world premieres, will focus on issues affecting millions of Americans as they prepare to cast their ballots in November, such as immigration, voting rights and gun control. Each screening will include a Q&A with the filmmaker, moderated by NBC News correspondents and anchors, including Chuck Todd, Andrea Mitchell, Craig Melvin, Jacob Soboroff, Hallie Jackson, Kasie Hunt, Kristen Welker and Harry Smith.

Meet the Press, the number-one most-watched Sunday show and the longest-running program in television history, announced its collaboration with AFI in August 2017, marking a dramatic brand expansion extending beyond the news-making television platform. During its inaugural year, the festival showcased 16 short documentaries exploring wide-ranging issues. Three of the films were nominated

for Academy Awards.

See below for descriptions of the 2018 films. Tickets to the festival are on sale now and available here. Select films will be available, beginning October 8, for a month-long showcase on NBC News Digital platforms and apps, including AppleTV, Roku and Amazon Fire, as well as other on-demand services such as Hulu, AOL and Comcast X1.

Surviving After Service
Veterans and Service, moderated by Chuck Todd

- **â??We Are Not Done Yetâ?•**: The creative journey of ten U.S. veterans of varied backgrounds that come together in hopes of battling their traumatic military histories through the art of the written word. Grappling with PTSD, the â??warrior poetsâ?• share fears, vulnerabilities and victories that eventually culminate into a live performance of a collaborative poem under the direction of actor Jeffrey Wright. Directed by: Sareen Hairabedian.

On the Ballot
2018 Midterm Issues, moderated by Andrea Mitchell

- **â??Camperforceâ?•**: For the past ten years, Amazon has recruited workers for Camperforce, a labor unit made up of RVers who serve as seasonal warehouse employees. Directed by Brett Story.
- **â??The Blue Lineâ?•**: When is a line of paint on the street worth screaming at your neighbor about? Filmmaker Samantha Knowles focuses on a small town that erupts into controversy when a blue line is painted in support of police on a street in the town center. The film is a parable of political division in contemporary America and all the dismay that comes with it â?? but also an example of how communities can find common ground. Directed by: Samantha Knowles.
- **â??The Girl Who Cannot Speakâ?•**: Edited by Emmy Award winner Krysia Carter-Giez, the documentary explores five womenâ??s true stories of sexual abuse. It tells the story of women from different countries, ages and walks of life. One victim, Charlotte, a 15-year old girl, embodies a thread to each womanâ??s story. Directed by: Stefano Da Fre, Laura Pellegrini.

The Land I Love
Climate, Home and Tradition, moderated by Hallie Jackson

- **â??Alaska DGAFâ?•**: On July 4, 2017, North Korea tested a long-range missile that, for the first time, would be powerful enough to reach the United States â?? specifically, the great state of Alaska. And instead of the doomsday preparations you might expect from a place threatened by nuclear annihilation, Alaskans collectivelyâ?¦shrugged. Directed by: David Freid.
- **â??Home Beyond the Waterâ?•**: The community of Isles de Jean Charles, Louisiana, is fighting to survive as its land sinks into the encroaching waters. Now, winning the first-of-its-kind, multi-million-dollar grant for a climate resilience project may help it survive, and its community relocation may provide a template for the future. Directed by: Nicky Milne.
- **â??Climate and the Crossâ?•**: Americaâ??s evangelicals have traditionally been the bedrock of conservative politics, including on climate change. But a loud debate is happening across the country, with some evangelical Christians protesting in the name of protecting the Earth, seeing it as a duty to be done in Godâ??s name. With stories from across the country showing the conflict between generations, races and classes, could it be a surprising section of Christian America that

might show hope for the countryâ??s attitude to climate change? Directed by: Chloe White.

My Democracy
Voting Rights and Civic Associations, moderated by Craig Melvin

- **â??Let My People Voteâ?•**: Filmed in Tampa during the 2016 presidential election, this vÃ©ritÃ© short covers a day in the life of civil rights activist and former felon Desmond Meade. What begins as an upbeat day of faith in our democratic process ends in a heartbreaking realization for Desmond: Jim Crow is not dead. Directed by: Gilda Brasch.
- **â??Public Moneyâ?•**: Since 2012, the New York City Council has steadily increased investment in a process called â??Participatory Budgeting,â?• wherein community members gain a role in deciding how to spend part of a public budget. Through an eight-month process, neighbors come together and work with the government to propose, debate and ultimately vote on budget decisions that affect their lives. Directed by: Jay Arthur Sterrenberg.
- **â??Voting Mattersâ?•**: More than 50 years after the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most extensive pieces of civil rights legislation, people of color across the United States are still engaged in a battle to protect their right to vote. â??Voting Mattersâ?• follows one dynamic woman working tirelessly on the ground and in the courts to ensure that they are not denied this right. Directed by: Dawn Porter.

Active Shooters
Gun Debate Takes Its Next Step, moderated by Kasie Hunt

- **â??G Is for Gunâ?•**: Since the Sandy Hook massacre in 2012, schools in at least 13 states have started arming teachers as a security measure. How did this happen, and what does it mean for American education? â??G is for Gunâ?• follows the story of teachers being trained to carry firearms, and a small city in western Ohio divided by bringing arms into its schools. Directed by: Kate Way, Julie Akeret.
- **â??Guns Found Hereâ?•**: When thereâ??s a gun crime in America, thereâ??s only one place to go to trace the gun back to its owner: Martinsburg, West Virginia. Thatâ??s where the ATFâ??s National Tracing Center handles roughly 8,000 active traces per day â?? all while inside a government-mandated technology time capsule that makes searching a database of gun owners impossible. With more gun stores in the U.S.A. than McDonaldâ??s, Starbucks and supermarkets combined, thereâ??s a lot of paperwork to manually sort through. Itâ??s truly a sight to behold. Directed by: David Freid.
- **â??No Sanctuaryâ?•**: Explores human nature and behavior through the personal lens of those who have been affected by Americaâ??s indifference to gun violence. Directed by: Nathan Knox.

Do We Belong?
Religion and Xenophobia, moderated by Kristen Welker

- **â??Do We Belong?â?•**: An Indian immigrant in Kansas is shot and killed in a senseless hate crime, leaving his wife to grapple with the question of whether America is truly her home. Directed by: Sofian Khan.
- **â??Graven Imageâ?•**: Using archival footage, director Sierra Pettengill explores the history of Georgiaâ??s Confederate Memorial Carving, the largest Confederate monument in the United States, and the memorialâ??s close ties to the Ku Klux Klan. Directed by: Sierra Pettengill.

- **â??The Hidden Voteâ?•**: In Americaâ??s largest Arab-American population in Dearborn, Michigan, an unprecedented number of Arab-Americans are running for city council during Trumpâ??s first year in office. Nada is a 26-year-old Palestinian-American liberal, and Mike is a 23-year-old Lebanese-American conservative and Trump supporter. Both are Muslim, and for very different reasons, both were inspired to enter into politics after Trumpâ??s presidential win. We follow Mike and Nadaâ??s campaigns as they work their way toward Election Day, and explore how their life experiences have shaped their political beliefs. Directed by: Adithya Sambamurthy, Ben Rekhi.
- **â??Loyalty: Storiesâ?•**: A national storytelling project about American Muslim veterans that explores themes of citizenship, identity and faith in the post-9/11 era. Through ten documentary-style short films, â??Loyalty: Stories,â?• which is making its world premiere, profiles a diverse group of men and women â?? immigrants, converts and American-born Muslims who gave an oath to protect the United States and uphold the Constitution. Directed by: David Washburn.

E Pluribus and Unum
Coming to America, moderated by Jacob Soboroff

- **â??Out of Many, Oneâ?•**: A Netflix original documentary short, â??Out of Many, One,â?• which is making its world premiere, is a film about how one museum is using art, artifacts and historical documents to help green-card holders prepare for the Naturalization Test and, in turn, become U.S. citizens. Directed by: Emmy Award winners John Hoffman and Nanfu Wang.
- **â??Deporting Myselfâ?•**: â??Deporting Myselfâ?• is a documentary about Zsuzsanna, an undocumented New York housekeeper who has been living and working in the U.S illegally for almost 20 years. Ever since the election of President Trump, whoâ??s made a promise to the American people to crack down and deport undocumented immigrants, Zsuzsanna has been living in fear. The constant worry of eventually being found out, captured and deported by ICE is one of the many reasons she decides to leave on her own terms. This film highlights Zsuzsannaâ??s final 72 hours in a place she once called home. Directed by: Julia Neumann.
- **â??Libreâ?•**: A private company purports to help people held in immigration custody secure bail. In exchange for this service, its clients are forced to wear ankle monitors until their debts are paid. See how two New Yorkersâ?? daily lives are affected by this practice. Directed by: Anna Barsan.

Making it Work
Poverty and Rebuilding, moderated by Harry Smith

- **â??Paâ??Lanteâ?•**: This film tells the brave personal stories of local Puerto Ricans five months after they were impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria, and showcases an Apprentice Program led by volunteers who teach carpentry to locals while rebuilding roofs on the island. Directed by: RamÃ³n RodrÃguez.
- **â??Insecureâ?•**: An undocumented family struggling to make ends meet takes matters into their own hands in order to create their own American Dream. World premiere. Directed by: Cayman Grant.
- **â??The Children of Central Cityâ?•**: â??The Children of Central Cityâ?• provides an in-depth look into the players, coaches and families surrounding the A.L. Davis Park Panthers youth football program in one of New Orleansâ?? most crime-riddled neighborhoods. The film showcases how attempts to treat the childrenâ??s post-traumatic stress are repeatedly thwarted by state budget cuts to mental healthcare. Directed by: Mark Lorando, Emma Scott.

More to follow!

NBC NEWSâ?? *MEET THE PRESS WITH CHUCK TODD*

Meet the Press with Chuck Todd is where newsmakers come to make news â?? setting the political agenda and spotlighting the impact Washington decision-making has on Americans across the country. It is the #1 most-watched Sunday public affairs show across the board for the 2017-2018 season, reaching more than three million viewers every Sunday and millions more through social, digital and on-demand platforms. *Meet the Press* brings its authority and influencer interviews to MSNBC with *MTP Daily* weekdays at 5 p.m. ET and to the *1947: The Meet the Press Podcast*. Itâ??s the longest-running show in television history, expanding its brand to include a political documentary film festival in collaboration with the American Film Institute. Chuck Todd is the political director of NBC News and the moderator of Meet the Press; John Reiss is the executive producer.

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE

The American Film Institute was established by presidential proclamation in the White House Rose Garden, and launched its national mandate on June 5, 1967 â?? to preserve the heritage of the motion picture, to honor the artists and their work and to educate the next generation of storytellers. AFIâ??s founding Trustees included Chairman Gregory Peck, Vice Chairman Sidney Poitier, Francis Ford Coppola, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Jack Valenti and George Stevens, Jr., as Director. Visit AFI.com and connect with AFI on Twitter.com/AmericanFilm, Facebook.com/AmericanFilmInstitute, YouTube.com/AFI and Instagram.com/AmericanFilmInstitute.

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