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LA FILM FESTIVAL UNVEILS 2016 COMPETITION LINEUPâ?•

Description

LOS ANGELES (April 26, 2016)â?? Today the LA Film Festival, produced by Film Independent, the non-profit arts organization that also produces the Film Independent Spirit Awards, unveiled the official U.S. Fiction, Documentary, World Fiction, Nightfall and LA Muse sections. The 2016 LA Film Festival will screen a diverse slate of feature films, shorts and web series, along with programs such as the Filmmaker Retreat, Coffee Talks and Master Classes. The Festival runs June 1-9, 2016 at the ArcLight Cinemas.

â??Our Programming team, led by Roya Rastegar and Jennifer Cochis, killed it,â?• said Festival Director, Stephanie Allain. â??The competition lineup of 42 world premieres echoes Film Independentâ??s mission to celebrate diversity and showcases a multitude of innovative, fresh voices. We canâ??t wait to share these films with audiences and industry alike, and, following years which saw films like *Meet the Patels*, *Code Black, Nightingale, The Drew, Out of My Hand* and *French Dirty* acquired out of the Festival, are confident that 2016 will mark our best Festival yet.â?•

â??Discovering storytellers is our raison dâ??Ãªtre,â?• said Roya Rastegar, Director of Programming. â??We invest a great deal to learn about filmmaking communities across the globe. We look for films with conviction in perspective, style and voice.â?•

â??Curating films for LA audiences is so special because Angelenos have a uniquely homegrown love of cinema,â?• added Creative Director, Jennifer Cochis. â??Itâ??s with true film lovers in mind that we program: from political theater to musical theater, weâ??re highlighting storytelling in all its forms.â?•

The 2016 LA Film Festival, which

will have its headquarters at the ArcLight Culver City, announces a diverse slate of 56 feature films, 58 short films and 13 short episodic works representing 28 countries. Previously announced, the Opening Night Film is the World Premiere of Ricardo De Montreuilâ??s *Lowriders*, sponsored by Jaeger-LeCoultre. This yearâ??s Guest Director is Ryan Coogler (*Fruitvale Station, Creed*) and Ava DuVernay (*Selma, Middle of Nowhere*) and Array Releasing will receive the Spirit of Independence Award. More special screenings and programs will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Festivalâ??s five competitions feature 42 World Premieres. Across the five feature competition categories, 43% of the films are directed by women and 38% of the films are directed by people of color.

This year, LA Film Festival Director Stephanie Allain is joined by Creative Director Jennifer Cochis, Director of Programming Roya Rastegar and Managing Director Ralph Rivera. Film Independent Curator Elvis Mitchell continues to oversee signature programs and LACMA events.

Passes are currently on sale to Film Independent Members and the general public. In addition to access to screenings and events (even after they sell out), Festival passes provide access to networking receptions and the Festival Lounge, where pass holders interact with Festival filmmakers and professionals in the film community. General admission tickets to individual films go on sale to Film Independent Members beginning Thursday, May 5 and to the general public beginning Tuesday, May 10. Contact the Ticket Office for passes, tickets and event information by calling 866.FILM.FEST (866.345.6337) or visit lafilmfestival.com.

US Fiction Competition (12)

Original voices with distinct visions from emerging and established American independent filmmakers.

11:55*,* dir. Ari Issler, Ben Snyder, USA, **World Premiere**

***72 Hours**,* dir. Raafi Rivero, USA, **World Premiere**

***Blood Stripe**,* dir. Remy Auberjonois, USA, **World Premiere**

***Chee and T**,* dir. Tanuj Chopra, USA, **World Premiere**

Destined, dir. Qasim Basir, USA, **World Premiere**

***Dreamstates**,* dir. Anisia Uzeyman, USA, **World Premiere**

GREEN / is / GOLD, dir. Ryon Baxter, USA, **World Premiere**

My First Kiss and the People Involved, dir. Luigi Campi, USA, **World Premiere**

Paint it Black, dir. Amber Tamblyn, USA, **World Premiere**

***Tracktown**,* dir. Jeremy Teicher, Alexi Pappas, USA, **World Premiere**

***The View from Tall**,* dir. Erica Weiss, Caitlin Parrish, USA, **World Premiere**

***Woven**,* dir. Salome Mulugeta, Nagwa Ibrahim**,** USA, **World Premiere**

Documentary Competition (12) Sponsored by Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television.

Compelling, character-driven non-fiction films from the U.S. and around the world.

***Company Town**,* dir. Natalie Kottke, Erica Sardarian, USA, **World Premiere**

***Denial**,* dir. Derek Hallquist, USA, **World Premiere**

***Dr. Feelgood**,* dir. Eve Marson, USA, **World Premiere**

***Dying Laughing**,* dir. Lloyd Stanton, Paul Toogood, USA/UK, **World Premiere**

***The House on Coco Road**,* dir. Damani Baker, Grenada/USA, **World Premiere**

***Jackson**,* dir. Maisie Crow, USA, **World Premiere**

***The Last Gold**,* dir. Brian T. Brown, Germany/USA, **World Premiere**

Looking at the Stars, dir. Alexandre Peralta, Brazil/Nicaragua/USA, **World Premiere**

***Olympic Pride, American Prejudice**,* dir. Deborah Riley Draper, USA, **World Premiere**

***Out of Iraq**,* dir. Eva Orner, Chris McKim, Canada/Iraq/Lebanon/USA, **World Premiere**

Political Animals, dir. Jonah Markowitz, Tracy Wares, USA, **World Premiere**

They Call us Monsters, dir. Ben Lear, USA, **World Premiere**

World Fiction Competition (6)

Unique fiction films from around the world from emerging and established filmmakers, especially curated for LA audiences.

Heis (chronicles), dir. AnaÃ¯s VolpÃ©, France,**World Premiere**

Like Cotton Twines, dir. Leila Djansi, Ghana/USA, **World Premiere**

London Town, dir. Derrick Borte, UK, **World Premiere**

Lupe Under the Sun, dir. Rodrigo Reyes, Mexico/USA, **World Premiere**

A Moving Image, dir. Shola Amoo, UK, **World Premiere**

Play the Devil, dir. Maria Govan, Trinidad/Bahamas/USA, **World Premiere**

LA Muse (6)

Fiction and documentary films that capture the spirit of L.A.

Actors of Sound, dir. Lalo Molina, Argentina/Finland/Germany/India/Ireland/USA, **World Premiere**

Girl Flu., dir. Dorie Barton, USA, **World Premiere**

Manchild: The Schea Cotton Story, dir. Eric â??Ptahâ?• Herbert, USA, **World Premiere**

Namour, dir. Heidi Saman, USA, **World Premiere**

No Light and No Land Anywhere, dir. Amber Sealey, USA, **World Premiere**

Sensitivity Training, dir. Melissa Finell, USA, **World Premiere**

Nightfall (6)

From the bizarre to the horrifying, these are films to watch after dark.

Abattoir, dir. Darren Lynn Bousman**,** USA, **World Premiere**

Beyond the Gates, dir. Jackson Stewart, USA, **World Premiere**

Donâ??t Hang Up, dir. Alexis Wajsbrot, Damien MacÃ©, UK, **World Premiere**

Mercy**,** dir. Chris Sparling, USA, **World Premiere**

Officer Downe, dir. M. Shawn Crahan, USA, **World Premiere**

Villisca, dir. Tony Valenzuela, USA, **World Premiere**

Short Films (58): From over 2,500 submissions, the short films selected represent 15 countries and 64% are directed by women. Short films are shown before features and as part of seven short film programs. Shorts will compete for juried prizes for fiction and documentary shorts, as well as an Audience Award for Best Short Film.

Future Filmmakers Showcase: High School Shorts (33): The LA Film Festivalâ??s Future Filmmaker Showcase brings to the big screen the best films made by budding young filmmakers from across the country and the globe. In this diverse slate of films, incredibly accomplished high school students will present wild comedies, moving dramas, mesmerizing animation, introspective experimental films and everything in between. Program sponsored by Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television and Time Warner Foundation.

Episodes: Indie Series from the Web (13)

A showcase of independently crafted web series, celebrating rising creators whose work and subjects are innovative and unfiltered.

20 Seconds to Live, dir. Ben Rock, USA

Brothers, dir. Emmett Jack Lundberg, USA

Caring, dir. Maggie Kiley, USA

Fridays, dir. Anna Kerrigan, USA

The Ghost and the Negro, dir. Sylvester Folks, USA

Her Story, dir. Sydney Freeland, USA

Instababy, dir. Rosie Haber, USA

Literally So Busy, dir. Jerad Sloan, USA

Little Things, dir. Lex Halaby, Mila Shah, USA

Outside Comedy: Beth Stelling, dir. Thomas Wood, USA

Quirky Female Protagonist, dir. Yulin Kuang, USA

Shangri-LA, dir. Drew Rosas, USA

Time Out with Yes Please!, dir. Kholi Hicks, USA

(Source: Film Independent press release)

Category

1. #LAFilmFest

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