

LA FILM FESTIVAL

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Contact: Alia Quart Khan, Film Independent
Tel: 310.432.1287 or aqkhan@filmIndependent.org

Gina Pence, Ginsberg/Libby
Tel: 323.645.6800 or gina.pence@ginsberglibby.com

2016 LA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES JONÁS CUARÓN'S *DESIERTO* AS CLOSING NIGHT FILM

WORLD PREMIERE SPECIAL SCREENING OF JAMES WAN'S *THE CONJURING 2*

MARYSE ALBERTI TO RECEIVE THE JAEGER-LECOULTRE GLORY TO THE FILMMAKER AWARD

EVENTS WITH NATE PARKER, RYAN COOGLER, ALEX McDOWELL AND THE CAST AND CREATORS OF *THE PEOPLE V. O.J. SIMPSON*

LOS ANGELES (May 5, 2016)— Today the LA Film Festival, produced by Film Independent, the non-profit arts organization that also produces the Film Independent Spirit Awards, announced the US Premiere of Jonás Cuarón's *Desierto* as the Closing Night Film. The film stars Gael García Bernal, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Alondra Hidalgo and Diego Cataño and will close the Festival on June 9. In addition the Festival will host the World Premiere Special Screening of James Wan's *The Conjuring 2* at the Festival on June 7. Also announced today cinematographer Maryse Alberti will receive the Jaeger-LeCoultre Glory to the Filmmaker Award. A Conversation will be held with filmmaker Nate Parker, actress Aja Naomi King (*How to Get Away with Murder*) and the cast of *The Birth of a Nation*. In this year's Master Classes, Festival Guest Director Ryan Coogler and sound designer Steve Boeddeker will talk sound design and production designer Alex McDowell will give a primer on virtual reality world building.

Additionally the cast and creators of one of the most acclaimed and highest rated basic cable series in years, *The People v. O.J. Simpson*, will be at the Festival for a screening of the final episode and to discuss the making of the show. On Tuesday, June 7 writers Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski (*Ed Wood*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt*) will be joined by actors Sarah Paulson, Sterling K. Brown and Courtney B. Vance for a post-screening Q&A. The Festival announced the Film Independent Member Screening of John Krasinski's *The Hollars*, starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Anna Kendrick, Sharlto Copley, John Krasinski, Charlie Day, Randall Park and Richard Jenkins. The Festival runs June 1-9, 2016 at ArcLight Cinemas.

"In L.A. we have access to the best talent in the world and I'm grateful that exceptional artists share their knowledge with our audiences," said Stephanie Allain, Festival Director. "Tickets for events with Maryse, Nate, Ryan and Alex will go fast. Get yours while you can."

"Jonás Cuarón's *Desierto* is a gripping thriller and a perfect way to close the LA Film Festival," said Film Independent President Josh Welsh. "Cuarón again reveals himself as a powerful new director. Gael García Bernal and Jeffrey Dean Morgan give riveting performances."

The Closing Night Film is *Desierto* from Jonás Cuarón and Alfonso Cuarón, the acclaimed filmmakers of *Gravity*, starring Gael García Bernal (*The Motorcycle Diaries* and *Y Tu Mamá También*) and Jeffrey Dean Morgan (*Watchmen*). What begins as a hopeful journey to seek a better life becomes a harrowing and primal fight for survival when a deranged, rifle-toting vigilante chases a group of unarmed men and women through the treacherous U.S.-Mexican border. In the harsh, unforgiving desert terrain, the odds are stacked firmly against them as they continuously discover there's nowhere to hide from the unrelenting, merciless killer.

The World Premiere Special Screening of James Wan's supernatural thriller *The Conjuring 2* will take place on June 7 during the Festival. Wan now brings to the screen another real case from the files of renowned demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren, first seen in the blockbuster *The Conjuring*, which debuted at the LA Film Festival in 2013. Reprising their roles, Oscar nominee Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson star as Lorraine and Ed Warren who, in one of their most terrifying paranormal investigations, travel to north London to a house plagued by malicious spirits. The film also stars Frances O'Connor, Madison Wolfe, Simon McBurney and Franka Potente. It was written by Chad Hayes & Carey W. Hayes & James Wan and David Leslie Johnson, and produced by Peter Safran and Rob Cowan. From New Line Cinema, *The Conjuring 2* will be released in theaters nationwide on June 10.

For the third consecutive year at the LA Film Festival, Principal Sponsor Jaeger-LeCoultre pays tribute to a filmmaker who has brought great innovation to contemporary cinema by awarding its Glory to the Filmmaker Award. This year's recipient is Maryse Alberti. Alberti is a multi award-winning French cinematographer and artist, whose work is lauded for its technical elegance, grit and beauty. She is one of the most notable female cinematographers in the United States. Alberti recently completed principal photography on *Collateral Beauty* starring Will Smith, Kate Winslet, Helen Mirren, Keira Knightley and Edward Norton and lensed the 2015 hit *Creed*, directed by Coogler. She will be honored at the Women Behind the Lens Brunch during the Festival on Saturday, June 4. Lisa Cholodenko and Gale Ann Hurd are past recipients of the award.

The Festival will present a series of Master Classes and Conversations inviting acclaimed film artists to take part in moderated conversations that delve deeply into the creative process. On Thursday, June 2, a Conversation will be held with filmmaker and actor Nate Parker, actress Aja Naomi King and other cast members from the film *The Birth of a Nation*, who come to the LA Film Festival to reveal what it took to bring the story of African-American preacher and slave Nat Turner, who led one of the most important slave rebellions in U.S. history, to the big screen.

This year's Master Classes will include an in-depth look at crafting the soundtrack to last year's acclaimed *Rocky* reboot *Creed*, with director Ryan Coogler and his sound designer Steve Boeddeker, sponsored by the Dolby Institute. The event takes place on Saturday, June 4.

The second Master Class features acclaimed production designer Alex McDowell (*Fight Club*, *Minority Report*), who will give the Festival audience a glimpse into the future and demonstrate how virtual reality world building creates immersive entertainment & gaming experiences and aids in solving real-world problems. The event takes place on Wednesday, June 8.

Film Independent Member Screening

- ***The Hollars***, dir. John Krasinski, USA, **LA Premiere**

A struggling New York artist on the brink of fatherhood returns to his middle-American hometown to visit his ailing mother and faces dysfunctional family dynamics and old high school rivalries.

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 today 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.

To become a Member visit filmIndependent.org/membership.

PLEASE REFERENCE THE ADDENDUM IN THE PRESS RELEASE SECTION OF WWW.FILMINDEPENDENT.ORG FOR ALL FILM TITLES, SYNOPSES, CAST, AND CREDITS.

Online & Social Media:

www.lafilmfestival.com Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/LAFilmFestival and Twitter @LAFilmFestival. Official event hashtag: #LAFilmFestival.

Press materials can be found at filmIndependent.org/press/. The deadline for press to submit applications for credentials is May 5.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Albina Oks, Director of Sponsorship at Film Independent, awks@filmIndependent.org.

ABOUT THE LA FILM FESTIVAL

The LA Film Festival is a key part of the exhibition arm of Film Independent, showcasing new American and international cinema that embraces diversity, innovation and unique perspectives. The Festival produces one-of-a-kind events featuring critically acclaimed filmmakers, industry professionals and award-winning talent from Los Angeles and around the world. The Festival's signature programs include the Filmmaker

Retreat, Celebrating Women Filmmakers, Master Classes, Spirit of Independence Award, Coffee Talks, LA Muse and more. The Festival also screens short films created by high school students. Presenting Media Sponsor is the Los Angeles Times. Premier Sponsor is Peroni Nastro Azzurro and Principal Sponsor is Jaeger-LeCoultre. Platinum Sponsors are American Airlines, Dolby Laboratories, Inc., EFILM I Company 3 and HBO. The University Sponsor is Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television. WireImage is the Official Photography Agency. More information can be found at lafilmfestival.com.

ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT

Film Independent is the non-profit arts organization that champions creative independence in visual storytelling and supports a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation and uniqueness of vision. Film Independent helps filmmakers make their movies, builds an audience for their projects and works to diversify the film industry. Film Independent's Board of Directors, filmmakers, staff and constituents, is comprised of an inclusive community of individuals across ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race and sexual orientation. Anyone passionate about film can become a member, whether you are a filmmaker, industry professional or a film lover.

Film Independent produces the Spirit Awards, the annual celebration honoring artist-driven films and recognizing the finest achievements of American independent filmmakers. Film Independent also produces the LA Film Festival, showcasing the best of American and international cinema and the Film Independent at LACMA Film Series, a year-round, weekly program that offers unique cinematic experiences for the Los Angeles creative community and the general public.

With over 250 annual screenings and events, Film Independent provides access to a network of like-minded artists who are driving creativity in the film industry. Film Independent's Artist Development program offers free Labs for selected writers, directors, producers and documentary filmmakers and presents year-round networking opportunities. Project Involve is Film Independent's signature program dedicated to fostering the careers of talented filmmakers from communities traditionally underrepresented in the film industry. For more information or to become a member, visit filmindependent.org.

ABOUT ARCLIGHT CINEMAS

ArcLight Cinemas, created by Pacific Theatres, a privately owned, Los Angeles based company with 60 years of theatrical exhibition history throughout California, Hawaii and Washington is a premiere moviegoing experience with an unparalleled commitment to bringing a variety of rich cinematic content to moviegoers in all markets. ArcLight Cinemas operates eight theaters in California including Hollywood, Pasadena, Sherman Oaks, El Segundo, Santa Monica, Culver City and La Jolla, as well as one theater in Bethesda, Md, Chicago and Glenview, Ill, with a new location in Boston for early 2018. ArcLight also owns and operates the historic Cinerama Dome and programs the TCL Chinese Theatre and IMAX in Hollywood. Pacific Theatres currently operates theaters in Los Angeles that include The Grove and The Americana at Brand in Glendale, Calif. Additional information about ArcLight Cinemas is available at www.arclightcinemas.com.

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