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LA FILM FESTIVAL UNVEILS 2017 COMPETITION LINEUP

**37 World Premieres, 2 International Premieres, 9 North American Premieres
chosen for U.S. Fiction, Documentary, World Fiction, LA Muse
& Nightfall Competitions**

LOS ANGELES (May 9, 2017)— Today the LA Film Festival, produced by Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization that also produces the Film Independent Spirit Awards, unveiled the official U.S. Fiction, Documentary, World Fiction, LA Muse and Nightfall sections. The 2017 LA Film Festival will screen a diverse slate of feature films, shorts and episodic series, along with programs such as Coffee Talks and Future Filmmakers Showcase. The LA Film Festival takes place June 14 – June 22, 2017 headquartered at ArcLight Cinemas Culver City, with additional screenings at ArcLight Hollywood, ArcLight Santa Monica and more. Festival passes are on sale now at lafilmfestival.com.

“Our competitions reflect who Film Independent is as an organization,” said LA Film Festival Director Jennifer Cochis. “Within each section you’ll find discovery, diversity, and promising talent both in front of and behind the camera.”

Programming Director Roya Rastegar added, “The films curated for the 2017 competition reflect the changing political climate’s impact on emerging independent filmmakers, who are compelled to tell stories about the power of conviction, collectivity and resilience.”

The 2017 LA Film Festival announces a diverse slate of 48 feature films, 51 short films, 15 high school short films and 10 short episodic works representing 32 countries. Previously announced, the Opening Night Film is the World Premiere of Colin

Trevorrow's *The Book of Henry*. More special screenings and programs will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Festival's five competitions feature 37 World Premieres, 2 International Premieres and 9 North American Premieres. Across the competition categories 42% of the films are directed by women and 40% are directed by people of color.

Passes are on sale now and only Film Independent Members get early access and save up to 25%. In addition to access to screenings and events (even after they sell out), Festival passes provide entry to the Festival Lounge, which features a hosted bar for those 21 and older and the opportunity to interact with Festival filmmakers and professionals in the film community. General admission tickets to individual films go on sale to Film Independent Members beginning Tuesday, May 16 and to the general public beginning Tuesday, May 23. Contact the Festival Box Office for passes, tickets and event information by calling 866.FILM.FEST (866.345.6337) or visit tickets.lafilmfestival.com.

U.S. Fiction Competition (10)

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

20 Weeks, dir. Leena Pendharkar, USA, **World Premiere**
And Then I Go, dir. Vincent Grashaw, USA, **World Premiere**
Beauty Mark, dir. Harris Doran, USA, **World Premiere**
Becks, dir. Elizabeth Rohrbach, Daniel Powell, USA, **World Premiere**
Don't Come Back From the Moon, dir. Bruce Thierry Cheung, USA, **World Premiere**
Everything Beautiful Is Far Away, dir. Andrea Sisson, Pete Ohs, USA, **World Premiere**
Izzy Gets the Fuck Across Town, dir. Christian Papierniak, USA, **World Premiere**
Moss, dir. Daniel Peddle, USA, **World Premiere**
Never Here, dir. Camille Thoman, USA, **World Premiere**
Village People, dir. Paul Briganti, USA, **World Premiere**

Documentary Competition (10)

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

Abu, dir. Arshad Khan, Canada, **World Premiere**
Dalya's Other Country, dir. Julia Meltzer, USA, **World Premiere**
Liyana, dir. Aaron Kopp, Amanda Kopp, Swaziland / USA / Qatar, **World Premiere**
Mankiller, dir. Valerie Red-Horse Muhl, USA, **World Premiere**
Monkey Business, dir. Ema Ryan Yamazaki, USA, **World Premiere**
Opuntia, dir. David Fenster, USA / Mexico / Spain, **World Premiere**
Out of State, dir. Ciara Lacy, USA, **World Premiere**
Stella Polaris Ulloriarsuaq, dir. Yatri N. Niehaus, Germany / Greenland, **World Premiere**
Thank You for Coming, dir. Sara Lamm, USA, **World Premiere**

Two Four Six, dir. Leyla Nedorosleva, Russia / USA / Haiti, **World Premiere**

World Fiction Competition (8)

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

Butterfly Kisses, dir. Rafael Kapelinski, Great Britain, **North American Premiere**

Catching Feelings, dir. Kagiso Lediga, South Africa, **World Premiere**

Dark Blue Girl, dir. Mascha Schilinski, Germany / Greece, **International Premiere**

In This Corner of the World, dir. Sunao Katabuchi, Japan, **North American Premiere**

Moko Jumbie, dir. Vashti Anderson, Trinidad and Tobago / USA, **World Premiere**

The Nightguard, dir. Diego Ros, Mexico, **North American Premiere**

Nocturne, dir. Luis Ayhlón, Mexico, **North American Premiere**

On the Beach at Night Alone, dir. Hong Sangsoo, South Korea, **North American Premiere**

LA Muse (12)

Fiction and documentary films that capture the spirit of Los Angeles.

And Then There Was Eve, dir. Savannah Bloch, USA, **World Premiere**

Anything, dir. Timothy McNeil, USA, **World Premiere**

Built to Fail, dir. Bobby Kim, Alexis Spraic, Scott Weintrob, USA, **World Premiere**

The Classic, dir. Billy McMillin, USA, **World Premiere**

Fat Camp, dir. Jennifer Arnold, USA, **World Premiere**

A Midsummer Night's Dream, dir. Casey Wilder Mott, USA, **World Premiere**

Mighty Ground, dir. Delila Vallot, USA, **World Premiere**

Roller Dreams, dir. Kate Hickey, USA, **International Premiere**

Skid Row Marathon, dir. Mark Hayes, USA, **World Premiere**

What We Started, dir. Bert Marcus, Cyrus Saidi, USA, **World Premiere**

The Year of Spectacular Men, dir. Lea Thompson, USA, **World Premiere**

Your Own Road, dir. Brandon Buczek, USA, **World Premiere**

Nightfall (8)

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

Desolation, dir. Sam Patton, USA, **World Premiere**

The Housemaid, dir. Derek Nguyen, Vietnam / USA, **North American Premiere**

It Stains the Sands Red, dir. Colin Minihan, USA, **North American Premiere**

Midnighters, dir. Julius Ramsay, USA, **World Premiere**

The Neighbor, dir. Giancarlo Ruiz, Mexico, **World Premiere**

Replace, dir. Norbert Keil, Germany / Canada, **North American Premiere**

Serpent, dir. Amanda Evans, South Africa, **World Premiere**

Thread, dir. The Boy, Greece, **North American Premiere**

Short Films (51): From over 2,700 submissions, the short films selected represent 13 countries, 47% are directed by women and 51% are directed by people of color. Short films are shown before features and as part of six 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 (15):

Made by incredibly accomplished high school filmmakers from across the country and globe, 60% of the short films in this diverse slate are directed by young women and 20% are directed by people of color. Program sponsored by Time Warner Foundation, Lisa Argyros/Argyros Family Foundation and Employees Community Fund of Boeing California.

Episodes: Indie Series from the Web (10)

This showcase of independently crafted web series, 70% of which are directed by people of color and 40% are directed by women, celebrates rising creators whose work and subjects are innovative and unfiltered.

BKPI, dir. Hye Yun Park, USA

Danny the Manny, dir. Mike Roma, USA

High & Mighty, dir. Carlos Lopez Estrada, USA

My America, dir. Anna Jones, Asaad Kelada, USA

People Of..., dir. Iamia Alami, Switzerland

The F Word, dir. Nicole Oppen, USA

The Show About the Show, dir. Caveh Zahedi, USA

Two Sentence Horror Stories, dir. J.D. Dillard, USA

Very Animated People, dir. Joseph Bennet, USA

Steps, dir. Fernando Sanchez, Pascual Sisto, USA

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

Online & Social Media

www.lafilmfestival.com

Facebook: facebook.com/LAFilmFestival | Twitter: @LAFilmFestival | #LAFilmFestival

Press materials can be found at filmindependent.org/press/

The deadline for press to submit applications for credentials is May 16.

ABOUT THE LA FILM FESTIVAL

The LA Film Festival is a key part of the exhibition arm of the nonprofit arts organization 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, Women Who Lead Luncheon, Spirit of

Independence Award, Coffee Talks and more. The Festival's Future Filmmakers Showcase supports high school filmmakers with screenings of their work and community based film education opportunities. Presenting Media Sponsor is the Los Angeles Times. Platinum Sponsors are Alfa Romeo, American Airlines, EFILM I Company 3, HBO and Maker's Mark® Bourbon. WireImage is the Official Photography Agency. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Albina Oks, Director of Corporate Sponsorship, aoks@filmIndependent.org or 310.432.1252.

ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT

Film Independent is a nonprofit arts organization that champions independent 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.

In addition to producing the Spirit Awards, Film Independent produces the LA Film Festival and 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 seven theaters in California including Hollywood, Pasadena, Sherman Oaks, El Segundo, Santa Monica, Culver City and La Jolla, as well as theaters in Bethesda, MD, Chicago and Glenview, IL, with a new location in Boston for 2019. 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, CA. Additional information about ArcLight Cinemas is available at www.arclightcinemas.com.

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