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***Green Book* to Open 29th New Orleans Film Festival**

***Widows* Announced as Centerpiece Film**

*Peter Farrelly’s* Green Book *won the People’s Choice Award at the*

*Toronto International Film Festival last week.*

Widows *is Steve McQueen’s first major feature since* 12 Years a Slave

**New Orleans, La. (September 19, 2018) ––** The New Orleans Film Society (NOFS) announced its **Opening Night** **Film**, **Centerpiece** **Film**, and **a new title from its Spotlight Films lineup** forthe 29th annual New Orleans Film Festival (NOFF), which will take place **October 17th through October 25th** in venues across New Orleans.

**Peter Farrelly**’s latest film, ***Green Boo*k**, which won the **People’s Choice Award at this year’s Toronto International Film Festival**, **will open the 29th New Orleans Film Festival** on **Wednesday, October 17th,** at **the Orpheum Theater**. Starring **Mahershala Ali** and **Viggo Mortensen**, *Green Book* is based on accounts of a real-life tour by pianist Don Shirley and driver-bodyguard Tony Lip. Critics have already named the film as one of the frontrunners for the 2019 Academy Awards®.

Farrelly will attend the Opening Night festivities of the New Orleans Film Festival to address the audience and take part in a post-film discussion. As a New Orleans Film Festival tradition, the audience will parade to the Opening Night Party––taking place at Jung Hotels & Residences this year––with a second line jazz bandafter the Opening Film screening. Sponsors for Opening Night include New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, Second Line Stages, Tectus Security Services, and Fotokem.

“The New Orleans Film Festival continues to showcase quality films produced in Louisiana, and to provide educational opportunities for our local filmmakers,” said Chris Stelly, executive director of Louisiana Entertainment (a division of Louisiana Economic Development). “As the festival embarks on its 29th year, the films scheduled this year are simply incredible. It is especially meaningful that the festival kicks off with *Green Book*, which was filmed here in Louisiana. *Green Book* is certainly generating a lot of awards buzz and will perhaps further Louisiana’s tradition of Oscar-caliber movies, such as *Ray* and *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. Additionally, *Green Book* provided an estimated $20.5 million in local spending and an estimated $14.8 million in Louisiana resident payroll. As the state’s entertainment industry continues to grow and advance, it also supports our creative culture, which includes the many writers, artists, musicians and filmmakers that reside here.”

For its **Centerpiece Film**, the festival has selected *Widows*, the new film from **Steve McQueen**, whose last feature, *12 Years a Slave*, was a multiple Oscar® winner. *Widows* stars Oscar®-winner **Viola Davis** as one of the four women connected through their husbands’ deaths. The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival last week and received abundant praise from critics. The Guardian noted, “Steve McQueen dazzles with a masterful thriller” while Varietysaid, “[Viola Davis](https://variety.com/2018/film/news/viola-davis-regrets-the-help-1202937735/)’s commanding performance roots this scenario in icy fear and shock.”

Additionally, **Paul Dano’s directorial debut, *Wildlife***, starring **Carey Mulligan** and **Jake Gyllenhaal** is announced to be screened under the **Spotlight Films** section of the festival.

The festival also announced the addition of a **Special Presentation screening**: the newly 4K remastered film***Cane River***, written and directed by **Horace Jenkins** in 1982 but unseen for over 36 years due in part to Jenkins’s untimely death after the film’s premiere in New Orleans. Set in Natchitoches, Louisiana, the film features an almost entirely African-American cast and confronts issues of colorism and racism that feel as relevant now as when the film was made.

Full descriptions of these films, and more information on the festival, can be found below. There will be additions to the #NOFF2018 lineup in the coming weeks, including additional Spotlight Films, special guests, panels, and other events.

**OPENING NIGHT FILM - (OCTOBER 17TH, THE ORPHEUM THEATER)**

**GREEN BOOK** |dir. Peter Farrelly | 2018 | Narrative Feature

Academy Award® nominee Viggo Mortensen (Eastern Promises, The Lord of the Rings trilogy) and Academy Award® winner Mahershala Ali (Moonlight, Hidden Figures) star in Participant Media and DreamWorks Pictures’ Green Book. In his foray into powerfully dramatic work as a feature director, Peter Farrelly helms the film inspired by a true friendship that transcended race, class and the 1962 Mason-Dixon line.

When Tony Lip (Mortensen), a bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley (Ali), a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on “The Green Book” to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger—as well as unexpected humanity and humor—they are forced to set aside differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime.

Jim Burke (The Descendants), Charles B. Wessler (The Heartbreak Kid) produce alongside Farrelly’s fellow writers, Brian Currie and Nick Vallelonga, and Farrelly. The drama is executive produced by Participant’s Jeff Skoll (The Help) and Jonathan King (Lincoln), along with Octavia Spencer (Fruitvale Station) and Kwame L. Parker (Kill Bill series), as well as Cinetic Media’s John Sloss (Boyhood) and Steven Farneth. Linda Cardellini (Brokeback Mountain, The Founder) co-stars.

**CENTERPIECE FILM**

**WIDOWS** | dir. Steve McQueen | 2018 | Narrative Feature

From Academy Award®-winning director Steve McQueen (“12 Years a Slave”) and co-writer and bestselling author Gillian Flynn (“Gone Girl”, “Sharp Objects”) comes a blistering, modern-day thriller set against the backdrop of crime, passion and corruption. “Widows" is the story of four women with nothing in common except a debt left behind by their dead husbands’ criminal activities. Set in contemporary Chicago, amid a time of turmoil, tensions build when Veronica (Oscar® winner Viola Davis), Alice (Elizabeth Debicki), Linda (Michelle Rodriguez) and Belle (Cynthia Erivo) take their fate into their own hands and conspire to forge a future on their own terms. “Widows" also stars Liam Neeson, Colin Farrell, Robert Duvall, Daniel Kaluuya, Lukas Haas and Brian Tyree Henry.

**SPOTLIGHT FILMS**

**WILDLIFE** | dir. Paul Dano | 2019 | Narrative Feature

14-year-old Joe is the only child of Jeanette and Jerry—a housewife and a golf pro (played by Carey Mulligan and Jake Gyllenhaal)—in a small town in 1960s Montana. Nearby, an uncontrolled forest fire rages close to the Canadian border, and when Jerry loses his job—and his sense of purpose—he decides to join the cause of fighting the fire, leaving his wife and son to fend for themselves. Suddenly forced into the role of an adult, Joe witnesses his mother’s struggle as she tries to keep her head above water. Actor Paul Dano makes an impressive debut as a filmmaker and—along with co-writer Zoe Kazan—elegantly adapts Richard Ford’s novel of the same name. Mulligan delivers one of her finest performances as a complex woman whose self-determination and self-involvement disrupts the values and expectations of the 1960s nuclear family. With precise details and textures of its specific time and place, *Wildlife* commits to the viewpoint of a teenage boy observing the gradual dissolution of his parents’ marriage.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**CANE RIVER** | dir. Horace Jenkins | 1982| Narrative Feature

Cane River, the beautiful long-buried movie written and directed by Horace Jenkins in 1982, comes to life again for the first time in the 36 years since the director’s sudden death. A Romeo & Juliet love story, Cane River is set near Natchitoches, in one of the first “free communities of color.” Richard Romain plays Peter Metoyer, home to fight for his land, and Tommye Myrick plays the headstrong Maria Mathis, reluctant to succumb to his charms just because he’s the scion of a famous family. Together they confront schisms of class and color that threaten to keep them apart and that still roil America today. A must-see lost treasure of Louisiana film history. New 35mm archival print by the Academy Film Archive, mastered in 4K by IndieCollect with support from the Roger & Chaz Ebert Foundation.

**THESE #NOFF2018 PASSES ARE HOT, TICKETS GO ON SALE OCTOBER 3RD**

All #NOFF2018 passes are now available and film lovers can choose from All Access Pass, Weekender Pass, Unlimited Film Pass, Six Film Pass, and this year’s new Student Pass. See which one is best for you and **get yours at neworleansfilmfestival.org**

**All-Access Pass** holders **enjoy free tickets** to all screenings with **priority entrance** to theaters, access to **parties every night** of the festival, feel like a star at the **Festival VIP Lounge**, and more. **Weekender Pass** holders enjoy all of these privileges between Friday, Oct 19th and Sunday, Oct 21st.

**Unlimited Film Pass**, and **Six-Film Package** are great if you like to watch all films (or six films) but not interested in joining parties and other events.

This year’s new **Student Pass** is great for film lover students! It gives access to all films (except the Closing Night Film) for 9 days, plus admission to the Saturday Night Party for **only $50!**

Pass holders and NOFS members will be able to reserve tickets online on September 24th while **individual tickets will go on sale for the public on October 3rd**. Detailed information about #NOFF2018 passes and tickets can be found at [neworleansfilmfestival.org](http://neworleansfilmfestival.org)

New Orleans Film Society members get special discounts on both pass and ticket purchases.

**NEW FESTIVAL HUB: THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER**

This year the New Orleans Film Festival campus expands to include a larger campus in the New Orleans Central Business District, centered around **a new festival HUB at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC)**, which boasts a 1800-seat and 300-seat screening room; **Cinema Reset virtual reality program** sponsored by Cox Communications with VR and new media programming by NOFF, with support from Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, Downtown Development District and Samsung; a music video lounge; and the festival’s main box office.

Two blocks away from the HUB at the CAC, **The Advocate** will host a 180 seat screening room and the festival’s VIP lounge for All-Access Passholders. Select **festival screenings** will also be held **at the Broad Theater, Orpheum Theater and Prytania Theater.**

**SUPPORT FOR THE 29TH NEW ORLEANS FILM FESTIVAL COMES FROM…**

The 29th New Orleans Film Festival’s **Marquee sponsors** are **21st Century Fox** and **New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation**.

**Chloe Wine Collection** is the festival’s **Official Wine Sponsor**. **The New Orleans Advocate** is the festival’s **Signature Media Sponsor**. The **Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans** is an official sponsor of the festival HUB.

Producing, Premiere and Premiere Trade sponsors include **The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences**, **Auction House Market,** **Bond Moroch**, **the City of New Orleans**, **Cox Communications**, **Creative Film Connections, The Helis Foundation, Hilton New Orleans Riverside**, **Kyotocolor**, **Louisiana Entertainment**, **Louisiana Office of Tourism,** **The New Orleans Hotel Collection**, **Panavision**, **Restore the Mississippi River Delta**, **Second Line Stages**, **Solomon Group, SGPS Showrig,** **True Value Rental,** and **VER**.

Grantors include the the the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Arts Council of New Orleans, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Greater New Orleans Foundation, The Helis Foundation, Jazz & Heritage Foundation, Louisiana Division of the Arts, South Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**ABOUT THE NEW ORLEANS FILM SOCIETY**The New Orleans Film Society discovers, cultivates, and amplifies diverse voices of filmmakers who tell the stories of our time. Founded in 1989, NOFS produces the Academy-accredited New Orleans Film Festival annually and invests year-round in building a vibrant film culture in the South to share transformative cinematic experiences with audiences, and connect dynamic filmmakers to career-advancing resources. Year-round programming includes free and low-cost screenings for members and the broader community of cinephiles in New Orleans, a 20-year running French Film Festival featuring contemporary and classic French cinema, and filmmaker professional development programs created to nurture diverse voices in filmmaking in the American South. NOFS is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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