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**New Orleans Film Festival Adds ROMA as Centerpiece Film;**

**Also Adds Spotlight Films BOY ERASED, IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK,**

**VOX LUX, and Others**

**New Orleans, La. (September 27, 2018) ––** The New Orleans Film Society (NOFS) announced **one more Centerpiece** **Film** and **five new titles 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. These films join an already impressive lineup that includes ***Green Book***, ***Widows***, and ***Wildlife***. Tickets are now available for pass holders and NOFS members to book while tickets will be available for the general public on October 3rd.

The festival added one more **Centerpiece Film**: ***Roma*** from Academy Award®-winning director and writer Alfonso Cuarón.

***Roma*** premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, where it was awarded the **Golden Lion**, the festival’s top juried prize, and received acclaim from critics and audiences alike. It later screened at Telluride Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival, where it was named the second runner-up for the People’s Choice Award. It has been selected as the **Mexican entry for the Best Foreign Language Film** at the 91st Academy Awards®.

The festival also announced the addition of several new Spotlight Films, including ***If Beale Street Could Talk***, the new film by ***Moonlight*** director **Barry Jenkins** that took home the first runner-up prize for the **People’s Choice Award** after its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Also included in the new announcement of Spotlight Films is ***Boy Erased***, the new film from Joel Edgerton starring Nicole Kidman, Lucas Hedges, and Russell Crowe; **Vox Lux**, starring Natalie Portman; ***The Biggest Little Farm***, which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival; and the Mickey Rourke boxing movie ***Tiger***, which also stars Janel Parrish and Prem Singh.

“We’re so thrilled to showcase these acclaimed films from some of the most exciting filmmakers working today,” said New Orleans Film Society Artistic Director Clint Bowie. “As the New Orleans Film Festival has grown, it has increasingly become an important stop on an awards season tour for prestige titles travelling to top-tier festivals. We’re proud to offer our audiences an early glimpse at these sure-to-be awards contenders.”

The festival is screening over 230 films from diverse filmmakers around the world. In total, over 60% of all films in the festival are helmed by women or gender non-conforming filmmakers, and 54% are directed by people of color.

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 announcements of special guests, panels, and other events.

**CENTERPIECE FILM**

**ROMA** | dir. Alfonso Cuarón | 135 mins | 2018

***Monday, October 22, at 7:30pm, The Prytania Theatre***

The most personal project to date from Academy Award®-winning director and writer Alfonso Cuarón (*Gravity, Children of Men, Y Tu Mama Tambien*), *Roma* follows Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio), a young domestic worker for a family in the middle-class neighborhood of Roma in Mexico City. Delivering an artful love letter to the women who raised him, Cuarón draws on his own childhood to create a vivid and emotional portrait of domestic strife and social hierarchy amidst political turmoil of the 1970s. Cuarón’s first project since the groundbreaking *Gravity* in 2013, *Roma* will be available in theaters and on Netflix later this year.

**SPOTLIGHT FILMS**

**IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK** | dir. Barry Jenkins |117 min | 2018

***Sunday, October 21, at 8:30pm at the Main Theater at the CAC***

Academy Award®–winning writer/director Barry Jenkins’ first film since the Best Picture Oscar-winning *Moonlight* is *If Beale Street Could Talk*, his adaptation of James Baldwin’s novel—the first English-language feature film based on the work of the author, to whom the movie is dedicated.

Set in early-1970s Harlem, *If Beale Street Could Talk* is a timeless and moving love story of both a couple’s unbreakable bond and the African-American family’s empowering embrace, as told through the eyes of 19-year-old Tish Rivers (screen newcomer KiKi Layne). A daughter and wife-to-be, Tish vividly recalls the passion, respect and trust that have connected her and her artist fiancé Alonzo Hunt, who goes by the nickname Fonny (Stephan James). Friends since childhood, the devoted couple dream of a future together but their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit.

Through the unique intimacy and power of cinema, *If Beale Street Could Talk h*onors the author’s prescient words and imagery, charting the emotional currents navigated in an unforgiving and racially biased world as the filmmaker poetically crosses time frames to show how love and humanity endure.

**BOY ERASED** | dir. Joel Edgerton | 114 min | 2018

***Wednesday, October 23, at 7:30pm at the Prytania Theatre***

*Boy Erased* tells the story of Jared (Lucas Hedges), the son of a Baptist pastor in a small Southern town, who is outed to his parents (Nicole Kidman and Russell Crowe) at age 19. Jared is faced with an ultimatum: attend a conversion therapy program—or be permanently exiled and shunned by his family, friends, and faith. *Boy Erased* is the true story of one young man’s struggle to find himself while being forced to question every aspect of his identity.

**VOX LUX** | dir. Brady Corbet | 110 min| USA | 2019

***Tuesday, October 23, at 8:45pm at the Main Theater at the CAC***

Vox Lux, starring Natalie Portman, begins in 1999 when teenage sisters Celeste and Eleanor survive a seismic, violent tragedy. The sisters compose and perform a song about their experience, making something lovely and cathartic out of catastrophe—while also catapulting Celeste to stardom. By 2017, the now 31-year-old Celeste is mother to a teenage daughter of her own and struggling to navigate a career fraught with scandals when another act of terrifying violence demands her attention.

**THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM** | dir. John Chester | 91 min | USA | 2018

***Wednesday, October 24, at 8:15pm at the Main Theater at the CAC***

A testament to the immense complexity of nature, *The Biggest Little Farm* follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land. When the barking of their beloved dog Todd leads to an eviction notice from their tiny LA apartment, John and Molly Chester make a choice that takes them out of the city and onto 200 acres in the foothills of Ventura County, naively endeavoring to build one of the most diverse farms of its kind in complete coexistence with nature. The land they’ve chosen, however, is utterly depleted of nutrients and suffering from a brutal drought. The film chronicles eight years of daunting work and outsize idealism as they attempt to create the utopia they seek, planting 10,000 orchard trees and over 200 different crops, and bringing in animals of every kind– including an unforgettable pig named Emma and her best friend, Greasy the rooster. When the farm’s ecosystem finally begins to reawaken, so does the Chesters’ hope – but as their plan to create perfect harmony takes a series of wild turns, they realize that to survive they will have to reach a far greater understanding of the intricacies and wisdom of nature, and of life itself.

**TIGER** | dir. Alister Grierson | 100 min | USA | 2018

***Friday, October 19, at 7:30pm at the Prytania Theatre***

Inspired by the true story of a practicing Sikh man who was banned from the sport of boxing due to his religious beliefs, *Tiger* follows Pardeep Singh Nagra (Prem Singh) as he faces racial profiling, threats, and the daily pressure to change, even from his loved ones who are caught in the crossfire. Pardeep, supported by his coach and mentor Frank (Mickey Rourke), does what any headstrong American would do: fight back. Enlisting the help of civil rights lawyer Charlotte (Janel Parrish), Pardeep sues for the right to stay in the ring. Raw and uplifting, *Tiger* tracks the courageous path of a man whose life is shaped by two battles; one in the courtroom, the other in the ring.

**BUY YOUR #NOFF2018 PASS TO START BOOKING YOUR TICKETS NOW**

Film tickets are now available to book for #NOFF2018 pass holders, and will go **on sale** for the **general public** on **Tuesday, October 3rd** at noon via **neworleansfilmfestival.org**. 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 are now able to reserve tickets online 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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