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**TERENCE BLANCHARD TO BE HONORED AT**

**THE 30TH ANNUAL NEW ORLEANS FILM FESTIVAL**

**AND FOUR SPOTLIGHT FILMS ADDED TO THE LINEUP:**

***THE TWO POPES, A HIDDEN LIFE*, *JOJO RABBIT*, *PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE***

**New Orleans, La. (September 13, 2019) ––** The New Orleans Film Society (NOFS) announced a **Career Achievement Award** to be presented to New Orleans native, 6-time Grammy winner and Academy Award**®**–nominated composer **Terence Blanchard** at the Closing Night of the **30th New Orleans Film Festival** on **October 23rd**. Blanchard composed the music for **HARRIET**, the Closing Night Selection of the festival which tells the story of the renowned abolitionist Harriet Tubman. NOFS is also gearing up for its inaugural Music Initiative Program which is designed to connect Louisiana musicians to film & TV music supervisors from New York and Los Angeles, during the festival.

NOFS also announced four new **Spotlight Films** that are soon to be Awards Season favorites to be screened at the **30th annual, Oscar®-qualifying New Orleans Film Festival (NOFF)**, between **October 16-23** in venues across the city.

**FROM TORONTO TO NEW ORLEANS FILM FESTIVAL**

Two audience and critics favorites recently screened at the **Toronto International Film Festival** will have their **Southern US premieres** at the **30th New Orleans Film Festival**.

The highly anticipated Vatican story, **THE TWO POPES** directed by Academy Award**®**–nominated Brazilian director **Fernando Meirelles** (*City of God*), starring **Anthony Hopkins** and **Jonathan Pryce**; and **JOJO RABBIT**, a World War II satire by Academy Award**®**–nominated New Zealand native director **Taika Waititi** (*Thor: Ragnarok*), starring **Scarlett Johansson** and **Sam Rockwell** will both meet the New Orleans audience in October.

**CANNES FILM FESTIVAL FAVORITES COME TO NEW ORLEANS**

Winner of both the **Queer Palm** and **Best Screenplay** awards at this year's Cannes Film Festival, **PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE**, the fourth feature from French writer-director **Céline Sciamma** (*Girlhood*, *Tomboy*) is expected to be an audience favorite at the New Orleans Film Festival.

Master director **Terrence Malick**’s latest film **A HIDDEN LIFE** which tells the story of **Franz Jägerstätter**, an unsung hero who refused to fight for the Nazis in World War II, is added to the **Spotlight Films Selection** of #NOFF2019. The film had its World Premiere at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival last May and **won the François Chalais Award**.

**More Spotlight Films and the Opening Night Film will be announced next week.** Visit [neworleansfilmfestival.org](http://neworleansfilmsociety.org/lineup) to explore the lineup, including 230+ films, and purchase festival passes. The complete festival schedule will be released on September 17th. Individual tickets will be available to book for passholders and New Orleans Film Society members on September 23rd, and for the general public on September 30th. **The official #NOFF2019 mobile app**, sponsored by **Reel Security**, is available to download on Apple Appstore and Google Play.

**FILM DESCRIPTIONS**

**JOJO RABBIT**

**Thursday, October 17th, 7:15 PM, Prytania Theatre**

Dir. Taika Waititi | USA | 2019 | 1h 48m

Cast: Taika Waititi, Sam Rockwell, Scarlett Johansson

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tL4McUzXfFI>

Synopsis: Writer director Taika Waititi (THOR: RAGNAROK, HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE), brings his signature style of humor and pathos to his latest film, JOJO RABBIT, a World War II satire that follows a lonely German boy (Roman Griffin Davis as JoJo) whose world view is turned upside down when he discovers his single mother (Scarlett Johansson) is hiding a young Jewish girl (Thomasin McKenzie) in their attic. Aided only by his idiotic imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler (Taika Waititi), Jojo must confront his blind nationalism.

**THE TWO POPES**

**Sunday, October 20th, 4:45 PM, Prytania Theatre**

Dir. Fernando Meirelles | UK, Italy, Argentina, USA | 2019 | 2h 5m

Cast: Jonathan Pryce, Anthony Hopkins, Juan Minujín

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeqdEuZcN5k>

Synopsis: Behind Vatican walls, the traditionalist Pope Benedict and the reformist future Pope Francis must find common ground to forge a new path for the Catholic Church.

**PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE**

**Tuesday, October 22nd, 7:30 PM, Prytania Theatre**

Dir. Céline Sciamma | France | 2019 | 1h 59m

Cast: Noémie Merlant, Adèle Haenel, Luàna Bajrami

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-fQPTwma9o>

In 18th century France, a young painter, Marianne, is commissioned to do the wedding portrait of Héloïse without her knowing. Therefore, Marianne must observe her model by day to paint her portrait at night. Day by day, the two women become closer as they share Héloïse's last moments of freedom before the impending wedding.

**A HIDDEN LIFE**

**Tuesday, October 22nd, 7:45 PM, The Ranch Theater at CAC**

Dir. Terrence Malick | USA, Germany |2019 |1h 53m

Cast: August Diehl, Valerie Pachner, Michael Nyqvist

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=qJXmdY4lVR0>

Synopsis: Based on real events, A HIDDEN LIFE is the story of an unsung hero, Franz Jägerstätter, who refused to fight for the Nazis in World War II. When the Austrian peasant farmer is faced with the threat of execution for treason, it is his unwavering faith and his love for his wife Fani and children that keeps his spirit alive. Premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2019.

#**NOFF2019 PASSES ARE ON SALE**

All #NOFF2019 pass types (All Access, Weekender, Six Film, Student) are now available to purchase at [neworleansfilmfestival.org](http://neworleansfilmfestival.org). **New Orleans Film Society members get special discounts on pass purchases.**

**All Access Pass** holders **enjoy free tickets** to all screenings with **priority entrance** to theaters, early access to online reservations, join **parties every night** of the festival, feel like a star at the **XRM Media VIP Lounge**.

**Weekender Pass** holders enjoy all of these privileges between Friday, October 17th and Sunday, October 19th.

**Six Film Pass** is a discounted package for six regular film screenings with early access to online reservations. **Student Pass** is a deep discounted pass for students which gives access to all festival screenings and the Saturday Night Party.

Pass holders and NOFS members will be able to reserve their tickets on September 23rd while **individual tickets will go on sale for the public on September 30th**. The complete festival screenings and events calendar will be live at [neworleansfilmfestival.org](http://neworleansfilmfestival.org/schedule) on September 17th.

**#NOFF2019 FESTIVAL VENUES**

The New Orleans Film Festival campus is centered around **the festival HUB at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC)**, which boasts a 180-seat and 300-seat screening room; main box office of the festival; **Cinema Reset virtual reality program** sponsored by Cox Communications with VR and new media programming by NOFF; and a bar with lounge areas.

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 30TH NEW ORLEANS FILM FESTIVAL COMES FROM…**

The 30th New Orleans Film Festival’s **Marquee sponsors** are **City of New Orleans**, **HBO**, **New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation**, and **Second Line Stages**.

**The New Orleans Advocate - Times Picayune** is the festival’s **Signature Media Sponsor**. The **Contemporary Art Center New Orleans** is the **Festival HUB Sponsor**. [**The Chloe Wine Collection**](https://www.chloewinecollection.com/) is the festival’s **Official Wine Sponsor**.

Producing sponsors include **Cox Communications, The Helis Foundation, Louisiana Entertainment, PRG, The Ranch Studios, and RESTORE The Mississippi River Delta.** Premiere and Premiere Trade sponsors include **ABS Productions, Blue Orleans, Bretchel Hospitality, Creative Film Connections**, **Hilton New Orleans Riverside**, **Kyotocolor**, **Light Iron**, **New Orleans Business Alliance**, **Pelican USA, Panavision, SGPS Showrig, Solomon Group, Sound Hard, TubiTV,** and **XRM Media.**

Grantors include the The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Cinereach, Foundation for Louisiana, Greater New Orleans Foundation, Jazz & Heritage Foundation, Louisiana Division of the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Perspective Fund, and South Arts.

New Orleans Film Festival is supported by the City of New Orleans through a Community Arts Grant and is also supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. Funding has also been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency.

**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 Oscar®-qualifying 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.