

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE ANNOUNCES 'CURATORS' CHOICE,' SHOWCASING SOME OF THE BEST FILMS OF 2018

December 28, 2018–January 6, 2019

Astoria, New York, December 26, 2018—Museum of the Moving Image will present seventeen works in *Curators' Choice*, an annual series showcasing some of the best films of the past year, from December 28 through January 6. The series also serves as a celebration of the vibrancy and elasticity of the cinematic arts. This year's edition includes festival favorites like *Western, Zama, Minding the Gap* (with **Bing Liu** in person), and *Hale County This Morning, This Evening* (with **RaMell Ross** in person); the episodic television work *America to Me* (presented in two marathon sessions with **Steve James and Bing Liu** in person); *The Other Side of the Wind* (in a rare 35mm showing); theatrical hits like *First Reformed, Burning*, and *Support the Girls*; and fictional horror *Hereditary* (with **Ari Aster** in person) and real life shocker *Shirkers*. See full schedule below or online at movingimage.us/curatorschoice

Organized by Curator of Film Eric Hynes and guest curator David Schwartz.

Tickets are \$15 with discounts for seniors and students. Tickets are free for Museum members at the Film Lover and MoMI Kids Premium levels. To find out about membership and to join, visit movingimage.us/membership.

SCHEDULE FOR 'CURATORS' CHOICE,' DECEMBER 28, 2018–JANUARY 6, 2019

All screenings take place in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater or the Celeste Armand Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, New York, 11106. Ticket purchase includes same-day admission to the Museum. Unless stated, tickets are \$15 (\$11 seniors and students / \$9 youth ages 3–17 / Free or discounted for Museum members). Advance tickets are available online at movingimage.us

Minding the Gap

With Bing Liu in person

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Bing Liu. 2018, 93 mins. DCP. This breakthrough film by first-time director Bing Liu is a coming-of-age saga about three skateboarding friends straining against the bounds of their Rust Belt hometown, struggling with difficult family histories, and navigating their evolving relationships with one another. Long a co-conspirator in their group schemes, Liu refashions

himself along the way into a proper chronicler, training his camera on friends Keire and Zack as they grow from teenagers into grown men in their twenties, taking on jobs and raising families of their own. As they face adult responsibilities, unexpected revelations threaten their decade-long friendship. Winner, Best Documentary, New York Film Critics Circle. Winner, Jury Prize in Breakthrough Filmmaking, 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Nominated for 7 Cinema Eye Honors.

Araby

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 7:30 P.M.

Dirs. Affonso Uchoa, João Dumans. 2017, 98 mins. Digital projection. In Portuguese with English subtitles. With Murilo Caliari and Aristides de Sousa. Andre (Murilo Caliari), a teenager, lives in an industrial town in Brazil near an old aluminum factory. One day, a factory worker, Cristiano (Aristides de Sousa), suffers an accident. Asked to go to Cristiano's house to pick up clothes and documents, Andre stumbles upon a notebook, and it is here that *Araby* begins—or, rather, transforms. As Andre reads from the journal entries, we are plunged into Cristiano's life, into stories of his wanderings, adventures, and loves. "An instant classic... Marked by boundless humanism" (Neil Young, *The Hollywood Reporter*) and beautifully written and filmed, *Araby* is a fable-like road movie about a young man who sets off on a twenty-year journey in search of a better life.

America to Me

With Steve James and Bing Liu in person

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1:00 P.M. (Episodes 1–5)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1:00 P.M. (Episodes 6–10)

Dir. Steve James, Bing Liu, Rebecca Parrish, Kevin Shaw. Approximately 600 mins. Digital projection. Courtesy of Starz. An instant classic of long-form documentary that's also one of the year's most urgent and revelatory films, *America to Me* sees two-time Academy Award-nominee Steve James (*Hoop Dreams*, *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail*) examine racial, economic and class issues in contemporary American education. Poignant and funny, epic and intimate, *America to Me* is a ten-part unscripted series captured over the course of an academic year at Chicagoland's elite Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRF), where diversity, opportunity and fairness are championed, but not always easy to implement or achieve. Throughout, students, families, faculty and administration tell stories of the pressures and challenges teens face today in their own words, while James and three other filmmakers (including *Minding the Gap*'s Bing Liu) witness events as they transpire in the classroom, on the ballfield, at home, and everywhere in-between. "*America to Me*...works as well as it does because it puts its characters first, and lets its lessons follow organically. It's an invaluable look at where inequity begins, as well as the difficulty of getting to the place where it ends."—James Poniewozik, *The New York Times* (Critic's Pick).

Free with Museum admission. Ticketholders for the December 29 program can present their ticket stub for admission to the December 30 program.

Happy as Lazzaro

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 3:30 P.M.

Dir. Alice Rohrwacher. 2018, 125 mins. DCP. In Italian with English subtitles. With Adriano Tardiolo, Agnese Graziani, Luca Chikovani, Alba Rohrwacher, Sergi López. On a tobacco plantation in an isolated part of central Italy, a wealthy noblewoman extended the practice of

sharecropping years after it was abolished, keeping her unpaid laborers in the dark about their rights in the outside world. Disillusioned with the exploitation on the estate, a young nobleman enlists a good-hearted peasant, Lazzaro (Adriano Tardiolo), in a plan to end the cycle. Winner of Best Screenplay at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, the latest film from the wildly talented Italian director Alice Rohrwacher (*The Wonders*, *Corpo Celeste*) is a cinematic fable shot on 16mm, pitched somewhere between timeless pastoralism and contemporary life, combining magical realism and social commentary, and featuring an affable everyman who is one of the year's most indelible creations.

Burning

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 6:30 P.M.

Dir. Lee Chang-dong. 2018, 148 mins. DCP. In Korean with English subtitles. With Jun Jong-seo, Yoo Ah-in, Steven Yeun. The talk of the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, this long-awaited sixth feature from Korean master Lee Chang-dong (*Poetry*, *Secret Sunshine*) is a slow-burn thriller based on a short story by Haruki Murakami. Underemployed and frustrated aspiring writer Jong-soo (Yoo Ah-in) runs into Hae-mi (Jun Jong-seo), an old school acquaintance and neighbor. Just as they begin to connect as adults, she asks him to cat-sit during an extended trip to Africa. Energized by optimism and desire, Jong-soo shows up at the airport to reunite with Hae-mi, who surprises him with a new friend, Ben (Steven Yeun), a wealthy and dashing new suitor who resets the course of all of their lives. Featuring a high-wattage supporting performance by Yeun and a truly shocking final act, *Burning* achieves a sense of mystery that radiates far past the end of the movie.

Western

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Valeska Grisebach. 2017, 121 mins. DCP. In German and Bulgarian with English subtitles. With Meinhard Neumanna, Reinhardt Wetrek, Syuleyman Alilov Letifov, Veneta Fragnova, Viara Borisova. In this intense, close-the-vest first-person thriller, Meinhard (Meinhard Neumanna) joins a group of German construction workers on a challenging new job: installing a hydroelectric plant in remote rural Bulgaria. The foreign land awakens the men's sense of adventure, but when they start mixing with the local villagers, it also brings out their prejudices, putting the more affable and peripatetic Meinhard in the middle. The two sides speak different languages and share a troubled history. Can they learn to trust each other—or is the stage being set for a showdown?

Zama

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 4:30 P.M.

Dir. Lucretia Martel. 2017, 115 mins. DCP. In Spanish with English subtitles. With Daniel Giménez Cacho, Lola Dueñas, Matheus Nachtergaele, Juan Minujín, Nahuel Cano. In a remote South American colony in the late eighteenth century, officer Zama of the Spanish crown (Daniel Giménez Cacho) waits in vain for a transfer to a more prestigious location. He suffers small humiliations and petty politicking as he increasingly succumbs to lust and paranoia, progressively losing hope as well as his mind. The latest film from Lucretia Martel (*The Headless Woman*)—one of the world's greatest living directors—is a tonally and stylistically singular work, adapting Antonio di Benedetto's 1956 classic of Argentinean literature into a mysterious, modern masterpiece in its own right. Nominated for 12 Argentinean Academy

Awards, and the submission from Argentina for Best Foreign Film, U.S. Academy Awards.

Let the Sunshine In

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Claire Denis. 2017, 94 mins. DCP. In French with English subtitles. With Juliette Binoche, Xavier Beauvois, Philippe Katerine, Josiane Balasko, Sandrine Dumas, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Alex Descas, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Gérard Depardieu. The latest film from master French director Claire Denis is an ingenious variation on the romantic comedy, starring Juliette Binoche as Isabelle, a middle-aged Parisian artist and divorced mother navigating interpersonal and romantic entanglements. Said to be loosely based on Roland Barthes's "A Lover's Discourse," the film follows Isabelle from encounter to encounter as she finds sex, love, and connection with characters who could not be more different from one another, in episodes that range from satirical to dreamlike. Throughout, Binoche commands the screen with a performance that is simultaneously emotionally complex, fiendishly entertaining, and utterly mercurial. "

Hereditary

With Ari Aster in person

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 6:30 P.M.

Dir. Ari Aster. 2018, 127 mins. DCP. With Toni Collette, Milly Shapiro, Gabriel Byrne, Alex Wolff. After her mother passes away, artist Annie Graham (Toni Collette) starts to learn mysterious and terrifying secrets about their ancestry. The more she and her family discover, the more they find themselves trying to outrun the sinister fate it seems they have inherited. A miniaturist by trade, Annie begins to recognize as well as seemingly cause resonances between her meticulously arranged doll houses and the suddenly embattled family home. A familial tragedy is transformed into something much darker in this psychological horror debut from writer-director Ari Aster. Toni Collette took home Best Actress at the 2018 Gotham Independent Film Award for her performance, and the film is nominated for Best First Feature at the Independent Spirit Awards.

The Rider

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Chloe Zhao. 2017, 104 mins. DCP. With Brady Jandreau, Mooney, Tim Jandreau, Milly Jandreau. After a tragic riding accident, young cowboy Brady (Brady Jandreau), once a rising star of the rodeo circuit, is told his competition days are over. Now that Brady can no longer do what gives him a sense of purpose, he finds himself wondering what he has to live for. In an attempt to regain control of his life, Brady begins a search for new identity. Based on Brady Jandreau's own life story and starring him and his family as fictionalized versions of themselves, *The Rider* is an exploration of manhood in the American heartland and what it means to have a calling. Director Chloe Zhao's second feature amplifies one family's true story into a tale of universal longing for purpose and identity.

First Reformed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 4:30 P.M.

Dir. Paul Schrader. 2017, 113 mins. DCP. With Ethan Hawke, Amanda Seyfried, Cedric Kyles. From writer-director Paul Schrader (*Taxi Driver*, *American Gigolo*) comes one of the most

acclaimed films of the year—a gripping thriller about a crisis of faith that is at once personal, political, and planetary. Reverend Ernst Toller (Hawke) is a solitary parish pastor at a small Dutch Reform church in upstate New York on the cusp of celebrating its 250th anniversary. Once a stop on the Underground Railroad, the church is now a tourist attraction catering to a dwindling congregation, eclipsed by its nearby parent mega-church, Abundant Life. When a pregnant parishioner (Seyfried) asks Reverend Toller to counsel her husband, a radical environmentalist, the clergyman finds himself plunged into his own tormented past, and equally despairing future, until he finds redemption in an act of grandiose violence.

The Other Side of the Wind

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Orson Welles. 2018, 122 mins. 35mm. With John Huston, Oja Kodar, Peter Bogdanovich, Susan Strasberg, Norman Foster, Robert Random. After years of exile in Europe, a maverick director named Jake Hannaford (John Huston) returns to Hollywood to finish his comeback movie, *The Other Side of the Wind*. As the director struggles to complete his project, he contemplates his legacy. Among the holy grails of Hollywood legend, *The Other Side of the Wind* was left unfinished at the time of Orson Welles's death in 1985, but was finally completed thanks to a team led by director Peter Bogdanovich (who plays a leading role in the film), the producers Frank Marshall and Filip Jan Rymysza, and the editor Bob Murawski. The result is a film that's both undeniably Wellesian and also uniquely, gloriously, irreconcilably strange and provocative. *The Other Side of the Wind* is like a depth-charge set several decades in the past that has finally exploded into 2018—ready or not, here it is. And thankfully it is finally here to stay.

Shirkers

With filmmakers in attendance

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Sandi Tan. 2018, 96 mins. Digital projection. In 1992, movie-obsessed teenager Sandi Tan shot Singapore's first road movie with her best friends and the help of an enigmatic American mentor, George. Yet after the shoot was wrapped, George absconded with all the footage and disappeared from their lives. Devastated but powerless, Sandi and her friends moved on with their lives. Twenty years later, the original 16mm film suddenly reappears, sending her on a personal odyssey as she tries to understand the motivation behind George's betrayal, and becomes reacquainted with the old footage. Through candid interviews, archival materials, and Tan's own entertaining voiceover, *Shirkers* is a one-of-a-kind cinematic achievement, overlaying first-person documentary with an exhumation and belated debut of the greatest Singaporean independent film never made.

Support the Girls

Introduced by guest curator David Schwartz

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Andrew Bujalski. 2018, 93 mins. New 35mm print. With Regina Hall, Haley Lu Richardson, Dylan Gelula, Zoe Graham. Regina Hall stars as Lisa, the general manager of Double Whammies—a Hooters-like sports bar—in the latest film from acclaimed American director Andrew Bujalski (*Computer Chess*, *Mutual Appreciation*). Over the course of one long, difficult day, the nurturing and protective Lisa has her optimism tested at every turn. With a focus on

the sisterhood among the waitresses, this ensemble comedy finds feminist solidarity in the unlikeliest of places. Regina Hall was named Best Actress of 2018 by the New York Film Critics Circle, and is a nominee for Best Female Lead at the 2018 Independent Spirit Awards.

Hale County This Morning, This Evening

With RaMell Ross in person

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 4:30 P.M.

Dir. RaMell Ross. 2018, 76 mins. Digital projection. An inspired and intimate portrait of a place and its people, *Hale County This Morning, This Evening* witnesses the lives of Daniel Collins and Quincy Bryant, two young African American men from rural Hale County, Alabama, over the course of five years. Emerging from within a southern community rich in culture, history, and belonging, Collins attends college in search of opportunity while Bryant becomes a father to an energetic son. In his directorial debut, award-winning photographer RaMell Ross employs an intuitive and associative form that privileges patient observation and emerging moments, exalting both the mundane and the monumental, the quotidian and the sublime. The result is a refreshingly direct approach to documentary that underscores both the beauty of life and the consequences of the social construction of race, and offers a testament to dreaming despite the odds. Winner, Best Documentary, 2018 Gotham Awards. Winner, Jury Prize in Creative Vision, 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Nominated for 5 Cinema Eye Honors.

Wildlife

With co-writer Zoe Kazan in person

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 6:00 P.M.

Dir. Paul Dano. 2018, 105 mins. DCP. Carey Mulligan, Jake Gyllenhaal, Ed Oxenbould, Bill Camp. Fourteen-year-old Joe is the only child of Jeanette and Jerry—a housewife and a golf pro—in a small town in 1960s Montana. Outside of town, an uncontrolled forest fire rages. When Jerry (Jake Gyllenhaal) loses his job, he decides to join the cause of fighting the fire, leaving Joe and Jeanette (Carey Mulligan) alone indefinitely. The film stays close to Joe's perspective, watching with him as a new side of his mother is revealed. Paul Dano's debut as a director (working from a script co-written by Zoe Kazan, adapting Richard Ford's novel) is an uncommonly understated, visually unadorned but emotionally rich chamber piece about a family's dissolution as a son fights against disillusionment, allowing for a portrait of three adults trying to understand themselves and one another. Nominated for three Independent Spirit Awards, including Best First Feature.

Bisbee '17

With filmmakers in attendance

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Robert Greene. 2018, 112 mins. Digital projection. Radically combining documentary and genre elements, the latest film from Robert Greene (*Kate Plays Christine, Actress*) follows several members of the close-knit community of Bisbee, Arizona, as they collaborate with the filmmakers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Bisbee Deportation, where 1,200 immigrant miners were violently taken from their homes by a deputized force, shipped to the desert on cattle cars, and left to die. In a sustained act of bravura cinema, townspeople dress as characters on both sides of the still-polarizing event, staging dramatic recreations of scenes from the escalating miners' strike that led to the Deportation, then enact a massive restaging

of the Deportation itself on the streets of the town, on the exact day of its centennial anniversary. With current events looming in the background, *Bisbee '17* does not so much as yank the past into the present as reveal how it has never gone away.

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wed–Thurs, 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Fri, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 10:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID; \$9 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.