

**HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
ANNOUNCES SCREENINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2018, INCLUDING**

**NOW SHOWING SERIES: THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE, NOVITIATE, THE INSULT  
ACADEMY AWARD-NOMINATED SHORTS  
WINTER CLASSIC: STRANGERS ON A TRAIN**



**January 25, 2018 (East Hampton, NY)**

**WHAT** | The Hamptons International Film Festival announced new screenings for February 2018 and with the support of Guild Hall as well as Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor will continue their “Now Showing” series on Sunday, February 4, at 1pm with **THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE**, directed by Aki Kaurismäki, and provides a narrative look at the current refugee crisis and how various lives can be impacted.

On Saturday, February 10, at 6pm, the series presents **NOVITIATE**, directed by Maggie Betts, which follows a young girl entering the convent to become a nun during the Vatican II regime in the 1960’s. On Sunday, February 18, at 1pm, the series will screen foreign language Oscar-nominated **THE INSULT**, directed by Ziad Doueiri, about a court case between a Lebanese Christian and Palestinian refugee who start to reconsider their values as they case continues.

HIFF will screen the **Academy Award-nominated shorts** nominated for Best Animated Short Film and Best Live Action Short Film on Saturday, February 24 at Bay Street Theater. The Animated shorts will screen at 12:00PM and 4:00PM, and the Live Action shorts at 1:30PM and 5:30PM.

The festival will present their annual Winter Classic film, the classic Alfred Hitchcock thriller, **STRANGERS ON A TRAIN**, on Saturday, February 24 at 7:00PM at Guild Hall featuring a post screening conversation with HIFF Co-Chair Alec Baldwin and festival Artistic Director David Nugent.

**WHEN** | Sunday, February 4 at 1:00PM – **The Other Side of Hope**, Bay Street Theater  
Saturday, February 10 at 6:00PM – **Novitiate**, Guild Hall  
Sunday, February 18 at 1:00PM – **The Insult**, Bay Street Theater  
Saturday, February 24 – **Academy Award-nominated Shorts**, Bay Street Theater  
Saturday, February 24 at 7:00PM – **Strangers on a Train**, Guild Hall

**WHERE** | Bay Street Theater, [1 Bay Street, Sag Harbor, NY, 11963](#)  
Guild Hall, [158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937](#)

**IMAGES** | Please find images for films available [here](#).

Please find further information on the February 2018 screenings below:

## **NOW SHOWING**

### **THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE**

Director: Aki Kaurismäki

Runtime: 98 minutes

This wry, melancholic comedy from Aki Kaurismäki, a clear-eyed response to the current refugee crisis, follows two people searching for a place to call home. Displaced Syrian Khaled (Sherwan Haji) lands in Helsinki as a stowaway; meanwhile, middle-aged salesman Wikström (Sakari Kuosmanen) leaves behind his wife and job and buys a conspicuously unprofitable seafood restaurant. After Khaled is denied asylum, he decides not to return to Aleppo—and the paths of the two men cross fortuitously. As deadpan as the best of the director's work, and with a deep well of empathy for its down-but-not-out characters (many of them played by members of Kaurismäki's ever-reliable stock company), *The Other Side of Hope* is a bittersweet tale of human kindness in the face of official indifference.

## **NOVITIATE**

Director: Maggie Betts

Runtime: 123 minutes

In her feature debut, writer/director Maggie Betts offers a contemplative, affecting, and complicated coming-of-age story about Cathleen (Margaret Qualley), a teenage girl who falls "in love" with God. Set in the 1960s as the Catholic Church is roiled by the reforms of Vatican II, NOVITIATE features breakout performances by a cast of remarkable young female actors, grounded by screen veterans Melissa Leo (*The Fighter*, *Frozen River*) and Julianne Nicholson (*August: Osage County*, *Black Mass*). Entering a convent under the harsh tutelage of a Reverend Mother (played to the hilt by Leo), Cathleen and her fellow hopefuls find an institution in turmoil, where they're forced to reckon with issues of faith, passion, and devotion within, and beyond, the church.

## **THE INSULT**

Director: Ziad Doueiri

Runtime: 112 minutes

In today's Beirut, a civilian dispute blown out of proportion finds Tony, a Lebanese Christian, and Yasser, a Palestinian refugee, facing off in court. As the media circus surrounding the case threatens a social explosion in divided Lebanon, Tony and Yasser reconsider their values and beliefs as revelations of trauma complicate their understanding of one another.

## **ACADEMY-AWARD NOMINATED SHORTS**

Runtime: 90 minutes (Animated Shorts), 120 minutes (Live Action Shorts)

The Hamptons International Film Festival is thrilled to offer audiences a chance to see the new Academy Award nominees in the category of Best Animated Short Film and Best Live Action Short Film. For the 13th consecutive year, Shorts HD and Magnolia Pictures, present this special theatrical experience, which has become a perennial hit with audiences around the world. Don't miss your only opportunity to watch the nominated shorts before the 90th Annual Academy Awards, which will air on Sunday, March 4th, 2018.

## **WINTER CLASSIC**

### **STRANGERS ON A TRAIN**

Director: Alfred Hitchcock

Runtime: 101 minutes

Based on the 1950 novel of the same name by Patricia Highsmith (*CAROL*, *THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY*), Alfred Hitchcock's psychological thriller shows why he was the master of the genre. When two strangers meet on a train complaining of people in their life they'd like to get "rid of", they hatch the idea to take care of each other's problems. In one of his final roles, and shortly after being released from a psychiatric hospital, Robert Walker plays the psychopath who convinces the doe-eyed Farley Granger (*ROPE*) of how fool proof his plan is. Following the screening of the film will be a discussion with Hamptons International Film Festival Board co-chair Alec Baldwin and Artistic Director David Nugent.

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## **ABOUT THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF), celebrating 25 years, is a year-round non-profit organization with monthly screenings, filmmaking workshops, a Screenwriters Lab, master classes, a summer documentary screening series, and an annual film festival each October. The Festival is the premiere film event on New York State's east end, and is an intimate showcase of some of the year's best offerings in contemporary cinema from around the world. Selections from all of our programs continue to play an important role during awards season. 2017 marked the 7th time in a row that a film in the Festival has become the eventual Best Picture winner at the Oscars, making HIFF the only Festival on the East Coast with such a distinction. For more information please visit: [www.hamptonsfilmfest.org](http://www.hamptonsfilmfest.org).

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