

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AS 2018 OPENING NIGHT FILM
STARRING MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL

Additional Films Announced Include
ALL GOOD, AND BREATHE NORMALLY, BORDER, CAPERNAUM
DEAD PIGS, GRIT, THE HAPPY PRINCE and
THE LAST RACE

Three Films Selected from Alumna of
HIFF's Annual Screenwriters Lab

Maggie Gyllenhaal and Rupert Everett to Attend Festival

26th Annual Festival to run October 4 - 8, 2018

East Hampton, NY (August 15, 2018) - The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) today announced that writer/director Sara Colangelo's **THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER** will be the Opening Night Film of the 26th Hamptons International Film Festival on Thursday, October 4th at Guild Hall in East Hampton. The film stars Maggie Gyllenhaal, Parker Sevak, Rosa Salazar, and Gael García Bernal, telling the story of a kindergarten teacher who seeks to cultivate the poetic talents of one of her students with questionable methods. Colangelo is a 2013 alumna of HIFF's annual Screenwriters Lab. Maggie Gyllenhaal & Colangelo will both be in attendance at the festival.

The festival will also feature works from two other HIFF Screenwriters Lab alumna: 2015 Lab participant, Ísold Uggadóttir's **AND BREATHE NORMALLY**, about the blossoming relationship of two women in Iceland—one an airport worker, the other a detained refugee—and how their paths continue to cross, in the Conflict & Resolution section; and 2016 Lab participant, Cathy Yan's **DEAD PIGS** about the interwoven lives of five individuals in Shanghai based on true events, in the World Cinema Narrative section. Yan was also the first recipient of support from the Melissa Mathison Fund, established in 2016 and named for the late, beloved Oscar®-nominated screenwriter, which strives to foster female writers in the industry and their continued development.

Additional films announced include the U.S. Premiere of Eva Trobisch's **ALL GOOD**, starring Aenne Schwarz, a nuanced and powerful look at the destructive instinct to refuse to define yourself as the victim, in the Narrative Competition section, and Rupert Everett's **THE HAPPY PRINCE**, starring Everett, Colin Firth and Emily Watson, a biopic about the final years of renowned author Oscar Wilde's life will screen in the Spotlight section. Everett is also set to attend the festival.

In the World Cinema Narrative section, the festival will screen the U.S. Premiere of **CAPERNAUM**, a jury prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival directed by Nadine Labaki, about a 12-year-old boy in Beirut who launches a lawsuit against his negligent parents. Ali Abbasi's **BORDER**, starring Eva Melander and Eero Milonoff, about a person's struggle to realize her place in the world, will also screen at the festival.

The Views from Long Island section will feature Michael Dweck's documentary **THE LAST RACE**, about a Long Island stock car race track trying to maintain the tradition and history of the sport. The Air, Land and Sea section will feature the U.S. Premiere of Sasha Friedlander and Cynthia Wade's (HIFF 2012 Alumna) documentary **GRIT**, chronicling the work of a young social and environmental activist in Indonesia after her village was buried by a toxic mudflow as a result of oil drilling.

The festival also announced that passes and packages for the 2018 festival will go on sale Wednesday, September 5th, and individual tickets will go on sale on Monday, September 24th.

"We are elated to kick off our 26th edition of the festival with a film from one of our Screenwriters Lab alumna and to also announce an eclectic and intriguing first group of films with narratives and themes that are sure to resonate with our audiences," said David Nugent, Artistic Director of the Hamptons International Film Festival.

"To be able to include so many completed feature films from our prestigious Screenwriters Lab is truly a dream come true, especially for our opening night," said Anne Chaisson, Executive Director of the Hamptons International Film Festival. "For eighteen years our lab has mentored over 75 screenwriters, and these three films from female directors offer diverse perspectives and have all garnered critical acclaim this year."

The 26th annual Hamptons International Film Festival will take place over Columbus Day Weekend, October 4 – 8, 2018. The Hamptons International Film Festival greatly appreciates the support from their corporate sponsors and media partners, including premiere sponsors Audi and Out East, lead sponsors Delta Air Lines, Altour International, and Netflix, and official media partners WNBC New York, *Variety*, WNET/WLIW, *Purist* and *The East Hampton Star*. For more information please visit www.hamptonsfilmfest.org.

Photos available [HERE](#).

2018 Hamptons International Film Festival Lineup - First Announcement:

THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

***Opening Night Film**

East Coast Premiere

Director: Sara Colangelo

Lisa Spinelli (Maggie Gyllenhaal) is a kindergarten teacher in Staten Island who yearns to live a life of art and intellectualism. She takes an evening poetry class but, despite her best efforts, her work is mediocre. When she overhears Jimmy (Parker Sevak), one of her five-year-old students, reciting an original poem in her classroom, she is floored. Convinced he is the equivalent of a young Mozart, she becomes obsessed with the child and embarks on a dangerous journey to nurture his talent. As Lisa continues down this increasingly desperate path, she seems ready to throw away everything to chase an impossible dream.

A tense psychological thriller, THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER stars Maggie Gyllenhaal, Parker Sevak, Anna Baryshnikov, Rosa Salazar with Michael Chernus and Gael Garcia Bernal. Sara Colangelo wrote and directed. Talia Kleinhendler, Osnat Handelsman-Keren, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Celine Rattray, and Trudie Styler produced.

ALL GOOD (Alles ist gut)

U.S Premiere

Director: Eva Trobisch

When an encounter with her new boss' brother-in-law ends in an un-consented sexual encounter, Janne's (Aenne Schwarz) immediate response is to portray the night's events with the same rationale she has lived much of her adult life by: "If you don't see any problems, you don't have any." But Janne's silence soon creates a deafening rift between her partner, family, and co-workers that threatens to destroy the personal and professional relationships she's worked so hard to maintain. Mesmerizingly led by Schwarz's lead performance, debut filmmaker Eva Trobisch has crafted a nuanced and powerful look at the destructive instinct to refuse to define yourself as the victim.

AND BREATHE NORMALLY

New York Premiere

Director: Ísold Uggadóttir

The disparate paths of a struggling Icelandic single mother and an asylum-seeking Guinea-Bissauan woman interweave in Ísold Uggadóttir's (Screenwriters Lab 2015) award-winning first feature. Though they are initially divided by political and cultural discord, the two women gradually form an unlikely bond outside of the pre-ordained paths expected from their sociopolitical realities. Akin to the social-realist work of Ken Loach and the Dardennes Brothers, AND BREATHE NORMALLY is a sharply observed and unsentimental exploration of the migration crisis, and confirms Uggadóttir's status as a rising star of Icelandic cinema.

BORDER (Gräns)

Director: Ali Abbasi

Tina (Eva Melander), a reclusive customs officer whose enlarged face and pronounced overbite make her immediately stand out, has a unique skill: her sense of smell allows her to identify contraband coming through the border. One day, a mysterious man sets off her senses and places her on a strange path that will lead her to discover the origin of her gifts. Based on *Let the Right One In* author John Ajvide Lindqvist's novella, director Ali Abbasi has crafted a consistently surprising genre hybrid. Winner of the Un Certain Regard prize at Cannes, *BORDER* straddles the line between romance, fantasy, and horror in its examination of one person's struggle to realize her place in the world.

CAPERNAUM

U.S. Premiere

Director: Nadine Labaki

Scraping by on the chaotic streets of Beirut, 12-year-old Zain (Zain al Rafeea) is one of many children born into an uncertain future in the city's slum. Living a deeply troubled life on the streets and branded the sole caretaker of an abandoned toddler, Zain makes the desperate move of suing his negligent parents for giving him life and trapping him in a hostile world. Utilizing a cast of non-professional actors (including two revelatory performances from its child leads), Lebanese director Nadine Labaki's Cannes Jury Prize-winner is a stirring slice of social-realist protest cinema, driven equally by righteous anger and enduring empathy, and sure to be one of the most talked about films of the year.

DEAD PIGS

Director: Cathy Yan

Against the backdrop of urban development, gentrification—and thousands of discarded pigs mysteriously floating down the Yangtze river—a brassy salon owner, lonely busboy, trust-fund princess, expat architect, and bumbling farmer find their lives unexpectedly converging in Cathy Yan's sprawling directorial debut. Yan, a participant in the 2016 HIFF Screenwriters Lab and the recipient of the inaugural Melissa Mathison Fund, effortlessly weaves together the individual narratives of five Shanghai residents in her biting satire. Based on true events, *DEAD PIGS* is a wicked and whimsical examination of contemporary China's ongoing clash between traditionalism and modernization.

GRIT

U.S. Premiere

Directors: Sasha Friedlander, Cynthia Wade

In 2006, international drilling company Lapindo carelessly unleashed an unstoppable toxic mudflow into East Java—burying dozens of nearby villages and displacing tens of thousands of Indonesians in the process. Documentarians Sasha Friedlander and Cynthia Wade (2008 Academy Award® winner for *FREEHELD*) focus the tragedy around 16-year-old survivor Dian, a survivor who is routinely ignored by her government despite the unforgiving sludge continuing to engulf her home for over a decade. Chronicling the teenager's transformation from a young girl into an outspoken advocate for her community, *GRIT* is a stirring and timely showcase of the urgent need for

political activism, the duty to hold those in power accountable, and the perseverance of the human spirit amidst social and environmental strife.

THE HAPPY PRINCE

Director: Rupert Everett

In the final three years of his life (1897-1900), Oscar Wilde finds himself adrift. Coming off the heels of his trial for indecency and subsequent imprisonment, Wilde lives out his last days in exile, moving among a small group of enduring friends (Colin Firth, Edwin Thomas) under assumed names, and torn between whether to go back to his ex-lover (Colin Morgan) or estranged wife (Emily Watson). Written, directed by, and starring Rupert Everett as the ailing Wilde, THE HAPPY PRINCE is at once a moving evocation of the literary genius' final act and a stirring paean to the brilliant wit that endured to his last moments.

THE LAST RACE

East Coast Premiere

Director: Michael Dweck

Long Island is the birthplace of American stock car racing, but today, only one racetrack remains: Riverhead Raceway. Established in 1949 on an initially rural part of Long Island, the land has seen its value skyrocket in the subsequent years. Now worth over \$10 million, the octogenarian track owners Barbara and Jim Cromarty struggle to keep the bulldozers at bay. In his debut feature, acclaimed visual artist Michael Dweck explores the issues of class divide and corporate interest that have impacted both the racing industry and region as a whole in this beautiful, visceral, mesmerizing ode to a dying American tradition.

ABOUT THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) is a year-round 501(c)3 non-profit organization with events, screenings, film workshops, comprehensive summer programs 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. With cash and in-kind prizes handed out totaling more than \$180,000, HIFF continues to attract some of the best films of the year.

Selections from all of our programs continue to play an important role during awards season. 2018 marked the 8th 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.

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