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Atlanta Film Festival Announces First Wave of Films from 2020 Lineup 44th Annual Festival Takes Place April 30 - May 10

ATLANTA, GA — Leading up to the 44th annual Atlanta Film Festival & Creative Conference (ATLFF), taking place April 30 through May 10, 2020, the Atlanta Film Society is pleased to announce the first wave of feature film programming. This selection comprises six films, made up of two narratives and four documentaries.

“Each year we have the privilege of receiving films from thousands of filmmakers across the world. Our greatest joy as programmers is to discover unique and compelling works that stand out from the crowd and truly make us feel something,” said ATLFF Programming Director Alyssa Armand. “This slate is a brief glimpse of what you can expect from our 2020 program. We are so excited to share these films with you.”

This group of six films comes from a new ATLFF record of 8,559 works submitted. Hailing from Afghanistan, Belgium, Philippines, Sweden and the United States, these films represent the inclusive and far-reaching breadth of the forthcoming complete lineup. Last year, 50% of ATLFF’s film program was directed by women, 40% was directed by filmmakers of color and 20% came from Georgia-tied filmmakers.

Of the six films, one is directed by an ATLFF alumni, Dawn Porter (JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE). Recently, SOME KIND OF HEAVEN held its world premiere at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Two narrative features are included in the lineup; CURTIS from Chris Bailey follows a former basketball star struggling with his mental health, MILKWATER from Morgan Inari examines the complexities of having children in queer relationships. Documentary CINEMA PAMEER showcases the day-to-day of a movie theater operating in downtown Kabul, while OVERSEAS takes a look at Filipino domestic workers getting receiving training to start new jobs abroad.

These films will be joined by nearly 200 others for the 44th Annual Atlanta Film Festival & Creative Conference, taking place April 30 through May 10, 2020.

CINEMA PAMEER

directed by Martin Von Krogh

Afghanistan/Sweden, Dari, 79 minutes

A film about a cinema, the passionate people working there, and their unrelenting love of film in a harsh conflict-ridden city. CINEMA PAMEER explores everyday life in a country torn apart through a cinema in downtown Kabul, Afghanistan – a place for escape, inspiration, and refuge in a city still trying to find its footing after decades of war, poverty, and religious fundamentalism.

#DocumentaryFeature

CURTIS

directed by Chris Bailey

USA, English, 80 Minutes

Curtis (Dwight Henry) is a former high school basketball star now living under the torment of schizophrenia. When he discovers his championship ring is missing, it triggers him into a frantic search through the streets of Detroit to find it. Meanwhile, a young boy fights his own battles against the other kids on the basketball court and at home with his father. After a chance meeting on the court, the two come to an agreement to help each other. Their journey together leads them past the basketball court and into a world of self discovery.

#NarrativeFeature

JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE

directed by Dawn Porter

USA, English, 96 minutes

JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Dawn Porter (TRAPPED, GIDEON'S ARMY), chronicles the life and career of the legendary civil rights activist and Democratic Representative from Georgia. Using interviews and rare archival footage, JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE chronicles Lewis' 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health-care reform and immigration. Using present-day interviews with Lewis, now 79 years old, Porter explores his childhood experiences, his inspiring family and his fateful meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957. In addition to her interviews with Lewis and his family, Porter's primarily cinéma vérité film also includes interviews with political leaders, Congressional colleagues, and other people who figure prominently in his life.

#DocumentaryFeature

MILKWATER

directed by Morgan Inari

USA, English, 101 Minutes

Seeking direction and purpose, Milo (Molly Bernard) rashly decides to become a surrogate and egg donor for an older gay man she meets in a bar (Patrick Breen). However, as Milo becomes increasingly attached to him, she starts leveraging the pregnancy as a means of staying embedded in his life.

#NarrativeFeature

OVERSEAS

directed by Sung-A Yoon

Philippines/Belgium, English/Tagalog/Ilonggo, 90 minutes

In the Philippines, women get deployed abroad to work as domestic workers or nannies. In order to do so, they frequently leave their own children behind, before throwing themselves into the unknown. In one of the many training centers dedicated to domestic work that can be found in the Philippines, a group of trainees are getting ready to face both homesickness and the possible abuses lying ahead. During role playing exercises, they alternatively play both the roles of the employee and that of the employers. Bordering on fiction, OVERSEAS brings to light the question of modern servitude in our globalized world, while emphasizing these women's determination, their sisterhood, and the strategies they find to face the ordeals that await them in the near future.

#DocumentaryFeature

SOME KIND OF HEAVEN

directed by Lance Oppenheim

USA, English, 81 minutes

SOME KIND OF HEAVEN explores life inside the palm-tree-lined streets of The Villages, America's largest retirement community in Central Florida. Referred to as the "Disneyland for Retirees," this pre-planned retirement city is home to over 130,000 seniors and offers a utopian vision of America as we might wish it were, and as some believe it once was: wide, safe streets, perfectly manicured lawns, and countless activities all in service of re-energizing the golden years of life. While most residents have bought into the packaged positivity, we meet four residents living on the margins, struggling to find happiness. Barbara, a widow; Dennis, a bachelor; and married couple Anne and Reggie each strive to find their footing in this fantasy land as they seek new purpose, look for second love, and navigate the extremes of mental deterioration. By turns biting, tender, and surreal, the film demonstrates that no matter our age, we are always becoming. With strikingly composed cinematography, SOME KIND OF HEAVEN challenges our stereotypes around aging, emboldening its characters to live as vibrantly as possible in the time they have left.

#DocumentaryFeature

For more information about the Atlanta Film Society, visit www.atlantafilmsociety.org

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About the Atlanta Film Festival and Atlanta Film Society

The Atlanta Film Festival, now in its fifth decade, is an Academy Award-qualifying festival and one of the region's largest and longest-running preeminent celebrations of cinema in the Southeast United States. Nearly 30,000 festival attendees enjoy independent, animated, documentary and short films each year, selected from more than 8,500 submissions from 120+ countries. The Atlanta Film Festival is the chief annual operation of the Atlanta Film Society (ATLFS), one of the oldest and largest organizations dedicated to the promotion and education of film in the United States, which enriches the community through screenings, classes, workshops and other events year-round. It is also the most distinguished event in its class, recognized as the 'Best Spring Festival' by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 'Best Film Festival' by Creative Loafing and Atlanta Magazine, as well as one of the '25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World' by MovieMaker Magazine. Major funding for the Atlanta Film Society is provided by Warner Media, XFINITY, Delta Airlines, MailChimp and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners through the Fulton County Arts & Culture Department and the National Endowment for the Arts through the Art Works category. www.AtlantaFilmFestival.com

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For ATLFF logos etc:

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Dropbox link for film still downloads:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/olkwv6dhkhkrcwz/AABh15HC-9nNmIjk_XocQIJ5a?dl=0

Cinema Pameer - Martin Von Krogh

Curtis - Chris Bailey

John Lewis: Good Trouble - Magnolia Pictures

Milkwater - Morgan Inari

Overseas - Sung-A Yoon

Some Kind of Heaven - Lance Oppenheim