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Atlanta Film Festival Announces First Wave of Films from 2017 Lineup

Official Selections from Each Category of Programming Released

ATLANTA, GA — After the 40th annual Atlanta Film Festival (ATLFF) in April of 2016 saw record-breaking numbers of works submitted, festival attendees and media impressions, the Atlanta Film Society (ATLFS) immediately put plans in place to maintain the momentum. In preparation for the 41st ATLFF next spring, the organization is pleased to announce a first slate of programming comprising feature length and short films, narratives, documentaries, pilot episodes, music videos, animation, puppetry, experimental and virtual reality.

“We are really excited to release a first wave of films that represents every category of our festival programming,” said ATLFS Executive Director Christopher Escobar. “ATLFF isn’t just one thing, and by including short films, pilots and virtual reality alongside features, we are presenting a greater picture of what to expect this year.”

This group of fourteen films represents the first selections out of a new ATLFF record of 6,085 submissions. Hailing from Austria, Brazil, China, France, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and USA, these films showcase a tremendously diverse swath of work, both artistically and geographically.

Among the feature films represented, themes range from Iranian transgender rights in “Cold Breath” to poverty-stricken Beyoncé super-fans from Brazil in “Waiting for B.” The Tunisian documentary short “El Hara” was co-directed by ATLFF ‘15 alum Mo Scarpelli, who saw great success with her debut film “Frame by Frame.” Famed Japanese animator Keiichi Tanaami created “The Laughing Spider” using inspiration from his childhood memories of air-raids. Virtual reality short film “Traces” explores memory loss and reconstruction by placing the viewer inside the mind of a woman with Alzheimer’s.

These films will be joined by over 150 others for the 2017 Atlanta Film Festival, taking place March 24 through April 2, 2017.

Narrative Feature

Cold Breath (دم سرد) — *directed by Abbas Raziji*

Iran, 2016, Persian, 83 minutes

Maryam has just turned 30-years-old. She was born as a girl but she passed through puberty like a boy. In the way of love and subsistence, she has tried hard everyday to live just like a normal man.

No Light and No Land Anywhere — *directed by Amber Sealey*

USA, 2016, English, 75 minutes

Grieving her mother's death and her own failing marriage, Lexi boards a plane from London to Los Angeles in search of the estranged father who abandoned her when she was three-years-old. Based out of a seedy Hollywood motel, she follows a tenuous trail of breadcrumbs, beginning with his aging former in-laws, collecting numbers and addresses in the hopes that one will lead to her father. Along the way, she establishes other unexpected connections: her father's ailing former second wife, her bitter half-sister Tanya and her caregiver girlfriend, and two local barflies.

Documentary Feature

Black Memorabilia — *directed by Chico Colvard*

USA/China, 2017, English/Chinese, 62 minutes

At the intersection of international commerce, racial identity, and historical narrative, BLACK MEMORABILIA follows the propagation of demeaning representations of African Americans. From industrial China to the rural American south to contemporary Brooklyn, the viewer observes people and places that reproduce, consume and reclaim black memorabilia. This feature documentary takes us on a journey into the material culture of racialized artifacts and confronts us with the incendiary features of these objects.

Waiting for B. — *directed by Paulo Cesar Toledo, Abigail Spindel*

Brazil, 2016, Portuguese, 72 minutes

WAITING FOR B. takes the viewer on a journey with young Beyoncé super-fans who, lacking the money to buy their way to the front, camped out for two months in order to be closer to the front of the stage. A story about victims of hype, a community of hope, and the contradictions of humility and vanity at the heart of diva worship.

Narrative Short

Submarine — *directed by Mounia Akl*

Lebanon, 2016, Arabic, 21 minutes

Under the imminent threat of Lebanon's garbage crisis, Hala—a wild child inside of a woman—is the only one to refuse evacuation, clinging to whatever remains of home.

They Charge For the Sun — *directed by Terence Nance*

USA, 2016, English, 17 minutes

In a dystopian future where people live nocturnally to avoid the harmful rays of the sun, a young black girl unravels the lie that has kept her and her sister in the dark.

Documentary Short

El Hara — *directed by Margaux Fitoussi, Mo Scarpelli*

Tunisia/France, 2016, French, 16 minutes

EL HARA poetically explores how the places we grow up in haunt who we become, forever.

Se Shin Sa — *directed by Eunhye Hong Kim*

USA, 2016, Korean, 11 minutes

A hybrid of fiction and documentary, SE SHIN SA follows an undocumented woman living and working as a masseuse in Koreatown, Los Angeles.

Animated Short

The Laughing Spider — *directed by Keiichi Tanaami*

Japan, 2016, Japanese, 7 minutes

A psychedelic fantasmagoria from Japan's greatest veteran animator, based on childhood memories of air-raids.

Virtual Reality Short

Traces — *directed by Gabriela Arp*

USA, 2016, English, 8 minutes

TRACES is a cinematic virtual reality film exploring the meaning of memory for one woman living with Alzheimer's disease.

Puppetry Short

Good Night (Gute Nacht) — *directed by Henning Backhaus*

Austria, 2016, German, 7 minutes

A sock puppet strolls through niveous winter worlds; the dark, expressionist black-and-white imagery oscillating between comedy and tragedy. Soon the protagonist will choose to end his life, while the lonesome journey by Schubert has only just begun.

Experimental Short

Forged From the Love of Liberty — *directed by Vashti Harrison*

Trinidad and Tobago/USA, 2016, English, 5 minutes

A visual poem about a family's curse, and two superstitions surround it.

Pilot Episode

The Benefits of Gusbandry — *directed by Alicia J. Rose*

USA, 2016, English, 9 minutes

One woman, one man, a lot of weed, a little crying and NO sexual attraction whatsoever. Love is so gay.

Music Video

“Left & Right” by Pazes — *directed by Camila Lima*

Brazil, 2016, 3 minutes

Left and right. Fire and water. Night and day. Heavy and light. Masculine and feminine. From a divided individual in search of its whole.

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

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About the Atlanta Film Society

The Atlanta Film Society is one of the largest and oldest organizations dedicated to the promotion and education of the moving image in the Southeastern United States. Enriching the community through screenings, classes, workshops and other events year-round, including the Atlanta Film Society's flagship program, the Atlanta Film Festival. One of only two dozen Academy Award-qualifying events in the country, the Atlanta Film Festival annually showcases nearly 200 works along with a full Creative Conference focusing on various filmmaking topics to over 27,000 attendees across a ten day event each spring. The Atlanta Film Festival was recently named one of the "25 Coolest Film Festival in the World" and one of "50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" by MovieMaker Magazine, as well as the "Best Spring Festival" by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Major funding for the Atlanta Film Society is provided by Turner, XFINITY, MailChimp, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners through the Fulton County Arts & Culture Department, SPANX and the Sara Blakely Foundation.

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Dropbox link for film still downloads:

dropbox.com/sh/qwhbgj95t6mkljn/AACCKu3lczxAx2Nsbwl_izgGa?dl=0

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