



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FIFTH ANNUAL PASADENA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SET FOR MARCH 7-15, 2018**

Local businesses including The Playhouse District's Laemmle Playhouse 7, Vroman's Bookstore and The Speakeasy host the best in independent film

PASADENA, CA (February 12, 2018) — The fifth edition of the Pasadena International Film Festival (PIFF) returns to the Playhouse District March 7-15, 2018, presenting more than 115 films from 15 countries during its nine-day run at Pasadena's Laemmle Playhouse 7 theater. Q&As, panels, a nightly Filmmakers Lounge, and a Great Gatsby-themed closing night awards ceremony are also planned.

Expected guests include actors Shia LaBeouf, Mary Beth Hurt, Macy Gray, Felicia Day, Heather Matarazzo, James Marsters, Clare Kramer, Laura Slade Wiggins, David Hayter; showrunner Rene Balcer (*Law & Order True Crime*); Emmy Award-winning composer W.G. "Snuffy" Walden (*The West Wing*); Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek, former Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and Pasadena City Councilmember Andy Wilson, among others.

Festival entries include features, shorts, documentaries, animation, music videos and web series. They are presented in 26 programming blocks with categories such as "A View to a Thrill," "The Best Medicine" and "Behind Closed Doors," among others. Every block features a moderated Q&A with filmmakers after the screening(s).

PIFF's opening night film is the world premiere of director Dianne Dreyer's *Change in the Air*, starring Mary Beth Hurt, Aidan Quinn, Peter Gerety, M. Emmet Walsh, Rachel Brosnahan, Macy Gray and Olympia Dukakis.

On Saturday, March 10, the indie comedy feature *Stuck* screens, starring Independent Spirit Award-winning actress Heather Matarazzo, with Joel McHale, Felicia Day, Chris Coppola and Kate Flannery. Also on Saturday, Vroman's Bookstore will present the panel "Breaking into Screenwriting," hosted by the Scriptwriters Network.

The festival's closing night film, on Wednesday, March 14, is the world premiere of the documentary feature *Up to Snuff*, which tells the story of veteran, award-winning film



and television composer W.G. “Snuffy” Walden, who created music for such iconic television shows as *The West Wing*, *The Wonder Years* and *thirtysomething*, among others. Aaron Sorkin, Martin Sheen, Tom Arnold, Fred Savage, Ed Asner and Timothy Busfield are among those featured in the film.

The following evening, the festival’s Great Gatsby Gala and awards ceremony takes place at The Speakeasy, a hip, 1920s-vibed cocktail lounge.

For a complete film festival schedule, visit www.pasadenafilmfestival.org.

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About PIFF

Founded in 2013 by Jessica Hardin and Marco Neves, industry veterans and Pasadena residents, the Pasadena International Film Festival is the only competitive film festival in Pasadena, California. PIFF aims to bring high-caliber, independent cinema to a city renowned for its love of culture and the arts. Films that have won at PIFF have gone on to win at the American Pavilion Showcase at the Cannes Film Festival.

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