*- PRESS RELEASE-* Morelia, Michoacán, October 4, 2017.

**The Morelia International Film Festival (FICM)**

**reveals the program of its 15th edition**

The Morelia International Film Festival (FICM) revealed the program of its fifteenth edition, which will be held from October 20 to 29, 2017.

**Official Selection**

The essential part of FICM are the films competition, divided in the following sections: **Michoacan Section**, **Mexican Short Film Section**, **Mexican Documentary Section** and **Mexican Feature Film Section**. This year, there will be 56 short films, 15 documentaries, 15 works from Michoacán, and seven full-length feature films from different states of the Mexican Republic. In total, there will be more than 100 Mexican filmmakers presenting their work.

For the fourth consecutive year, the festival will present the **Online Mexican Short Film Selection**, which is comprised of 27 short films from the Official Selection of the 15th FICM. These titles will be available online and free from October 20. The short film that receives the most votes from the public will receive the Mexican Short Film Selection Online Award.

It is important to remember that in the case of the short fiction films, documentary and animation, the winner will be considered as eligible for the Oscar® nomination.

This year, the Mexican Feature Film Section consists of: ***Los adioses*** by **Natalia Beristáin**; ***Ayer maravilla fui*** de **Gabriel Marino**; ***Casa Caracol*** by **Jean-Marc Rousseau Rui**z; ***Cuadros en la oscuridad*** by **Paula Markovitch**; ***The Drawer Boy*** by **Arturo Pérez Torres**; ***Oso polar*** by **Marcelo Tobar**; and ***Sinvivir*** by **Anaïs Pareto Onghena**.

**Jury**

In this fifteenth edition, FICM's jury will be presided by**: Béla Tarr**, Hungarian director and one of the most important filmmakers in the history of contemporary cinema; **Cristian Mungiu**, Romanian director winner of the Palme d'Or; **Charles Tesson**, director of the Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival; **Karel Och**, artistic director of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival; **Christoph Terhechte**, director of the Forum section of the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale); **Andrea Guzmán**, artistic co-director of DocumentaMadrid; **Bruni Barres**, from the Sundance Institute Documentary Program; **Heather Haynes**, programmer of the Hot Docs Documentary Festival; **Thomas Fouet**, member of the programming committee of the Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival; **Meredith Brody**, renowned film critic at *Indiewire*; **Jean-Pierre Garcia**, founder of the Amiens International Film Festival; the filmmaker and academic **Marco Julio Linares**; **Paulina Suárez**, general manager of Ambulante; and **Clementine Mourao-Ferreira**, producer and Audiovisual Attache of the French Embassy in Mexico.

**National and international releases**

This year, a selection of more than 50 premieres of the best of national and international cinematography will be screened. FICM will have the Mexican premieres of: ***Cuando los hijos regresan*** by **Hugo Lara**; ***Helena*** by **Alejandro Sugic*h***; ***Cygnus*** by **Hugo Félix Mercado**; ***Cinderelo*** de **Beto Gómez**; ***El viaje de keta*** by **Julio Bekhór** and **Fernando Sma**; and ***El ángel en el reloj*** by **Miguel Angel Uriegas**, among others.

Among the international premieres, FICM will feature: ***Beatriz at Dinner*** by **Miguel Arteta**; ***Good Time*** by **Josh & Benny Safdie**; **Michael Haneke's** ***Happy End***; ***Loveless*** by **Andrey Zvyagintsev**; ***On Body and Soul*** by **Ildiko Enyedi**, winner of the Golden Bear at the Berlinale; ***The Other Side of Hope*** by **Aki Kaurismäki**; **George Clooney's** ***Suburbicon***; ***Victoria and Abdul*** by **Stephen Frears**; **Woody Allen’s *Wonder Wheel***; **Todd Haynes's** ***Wonderstruck***; ***Zama*** by **Lucrecia Martel**; and, as is customary, FICM will screen the winner of the Palme d'Or at the most recent Cannes Film Festival: ***The Square*** by **Ruben Östlund**.

**Made in Michoacán**

On its fifteenth anniversary, FICM will pay tribute to its home state with the classic film program Made in Michoacán, created in collaboration with the Filmoteca UNAM and the Cineteca National. The program is composed of three titles that marked the course of Mexican cinema: ***Janitzio*** (1935) by **Carlos Navarro**, ***Maclovia*** (1948) by **Emilio "El Indio" Fernández** and ***El brazo fuerte*** (1958) by **Giovanni Korporaal**.

**Critic’s Week**

As is tradition, some films from the 2017 Cannes Film Festival Critics' Week will be screened at FICM: ***Ava*** by **Léa Mysius**; ***La familia*** by **Gustavo Rondón Córdova**; ***Gabriel e a montanha*** by **Fellipe Gamarano Barbosa**; ***Oh Lucy!*** by **Atsuko Hirayanagi**; ***Los perros*** by **Marcela Said**; ***Tehran Taboo*** by **Ali Soozandeh**; and **Makala** by ***Emmanuel Gras***, winner of the Grand Prix at the Critics’ Week.

**Special programs and screenings**

The 15th FICM will present a special program of Spanish Anarchist Cinema curated by **Édouard Waintrop**, director of the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, which includes: ***Nuestro culpable*** by **Fernando Mignoni**; **Armand Guerra**'s ***Carne de fieras***; ***Barrios bajos*** by **Pedro Puche**; and ***Aurora de esperanza*** by **Antonio Sau Olite**.

In collaboration with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences of the United States, FICM will feature the program “From Mexico to Hollywood to the Oscars®”, composed by: ***The Heiress*** (1949) by **William Wyler**; ***Viva Zapata!*** (1952) by **Elia Kazan**; ***Macario*** (1960) by **Roberto Gavaldón**; ***The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*** (1982) by **Robert M. Young**; ***Y tu mamá también*** (2001) by **Alfonso Cuarón**; ***El laberinto del fauno*** (2006) by **Guillermo del Toro**; ***A Better Life*** (2011) by **Chris Weitz**; and ***Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*** (2014) by **Alejandro González Iñárritu.**

This year, a program dedicated to the production house Cinematográfica Marte will be screened, created in collaboration with the Cineteca National. The Cinematográfica Marte films that will be screened in new copies in 35mm are: ***Los caifanes*** (1967) by **Juan Ibañez**; ***Patsy, mi amor*** (1969) by **Manuel Michel**; ***Las puertas del paraíso*** (1970) by **Solomon Laiter**; ***Siempre hay una primera vez*** (1969) by **William Murray** and **Mauricio Walerstein**; ***Trampas de amor*** (1969) by **Tito Novaro**, **Manuel Michel**, and **Jorge Fons**; ***Paraíso*** (1970) by **Luis Alcoriza**; and ***Para servir a usted*** (1971) by **José Estrada**.

The 15th FICM will screen the special program Jean Vigo Prize, which will present this year's winning film, ***Barbar***a by **Mathieu Amalric**.

Thanks to the support of Martin Scorsese's Film Foundation, FICM will have a special feature of the restored copy of the seminal Mexican film ***Dos Monjes*** (1934) by **Juan Bustillo Oro**.

In collaboration with the 13th Indigenous Film and Video Festival in Michoacán, there will be a special screening of ***Juchari Juata (Our Forest)***, by the **Eratsicua Collective**.

For the second consecutive year, FICM will exhibit the Sexual Diversity Program, which includes short films by Mexican filmmakers, as well as a special program curated by the XPOSED Queer Film Festival Berlin.

**MORELIA SUNDANCE Screenwriters Lab**

In alliance with the **Sundance Institute**, a workshop for the perfection of cinematographic screenplays will take place for the first time at the 15th FICM, in collaboration with **Bertha Navarro** and **Marina Stavenhagen**. The filmmakers selected to participate in the first edition of the MORELIA SUNDANCE Screenwriters Lab are: **Betzabé García, Tatiana Huezo, Rigoberto Perezcano** and **David Zonana.** The workshop will take place with the support of **Televisa.**

**Impulso Morelia**

Programmers from important national and international festivals, producers, distributors and sales agents will participate in Impulso Morelia. This year, the international jury will be composed of: **Rasha Salti**, content director of La Lucarne, the experimental documentary program of Arte France; **Richard Peña**, director emeritus of the New York Film Festival; and **Édouard Waintrop**, director of the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival.

**Special Guests**

The new **Disney • Pixar** production, ***Coco***, directed by **Lee Unkrich** and **Adrian Molina**, will be screened for the first time at the opening ceremony of our fifteenth edition, an event that will take place the night of October 20th at Cinépolis Plaza Morelia with the presence of the two directors, as well as the actor **Gael García Bernal**, and the producers **Darla Anderson** and **John Lasseter**.

In this edition, FICM will have the privilege of receiving **Guillermo del Toro** as a guest of honor. The filmmaker will present for the first time in Mexico his extraordinary film ***The Shape of Water***, winner of the Golden Lion at the 74th Venice International Film Festival. Also, the 15th FICM will feature a special screening of ***The Shape of Water*** in benefit of those affected by the recent earthquakes in Mexico.

The 15th FICM will feature the ***120 Beats per Minute*** premiere in Mexico, with the presence of the actor **Nahuel Pérez Biscayart**. The film was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at the last Cannes Film Festival. Also, the festival will be attended by **Laurent Cantet**, winner of the Palme d'Or, who will present his new film ***L'atelier.***

The acclaimed director and a great friend to the festival, **Barbet Schroeder**, will return to Morelia to present the Mexican premiere of his documentary ***The Venerable W***, premiered at the last Cannes Film Festival.

Furthermore, the 15th FICM will have the privilege of having the presence of: **Felipe Cazals**, who will be present a special screening of ***Los motivos de Luz*** (1985); **Fred Kelemen**, who will show his new film ***Sarajevo Songs of Woe***; and **Bob Rafelson**, an iconic American producer and director who transformed Hollywood cinema in the 1960s and 1970s, and who will present his classic ***Five Easy Pieces*** (1970).

**Venues**

The venues for this fifteenth edition will be Cinépolis Morelia Centro, Cinépolis Las Américas and Teatro Ocampo. In addition, there will be free screenings in the Casa Natal de Morelos, the Aula Mater of the College de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, Plaza Benito Juárez, and lectures at the José Rubén Romero Theater. There will also be an extension of the festival in Patzcuaro, at the Teatro Emperador Caltzontzin.

**The Best of FICM in Mexico City**

The winning films and a selection of festival titles will be presented at The Best of FICM in Mexico City at: Cinépolis, from November 3 to 9; Cineteca Nacional and Cinematógrafo del Chopo on the 4th and 5th of November; and at the University Cultural Center, from the 10th to the 12th of November. Finally, two outdoor functions will take place in the Parque México and in the Jardín Centenario in Coyoacán.

**Acknowledgements**

FICM is grateful, as always, for the invaluable and generous support of the Government of the State of Michoacán and its various agencies, the Honorable City Council of Morelia, the Secretariat of Culture, Cinépolis, the Mexican Film Institute (IMCINE), the Cineteca Nacional, the Filmoteca UNAM, Televisa and Fundación Televisa, the Michoacan University of San Nicolás de Hidalgo, all our media allies and each of the instances that make the realization of this event possible.

The festival also gives special thanks to the French Embassy for all its support, to Unifrance, the Spanish Embassy, the Goethe Institut Mexico, as well as HSBC, Kansas City Southern of Mexico, Mundet, Nespresso and Cuervo.

**More information**

For more information, FICM invites you to check out its official website and social networks, as well as to download the free applications for iPhone and Android, where you can have a look at the festival's program and scheduled movies, among other functions.

**Messages from our sponsors**

**HSBC:**

At **HSBC**, we are committed to promoting culture and talent integrally in the communities where we operate. That is why we are proud to say that for nine consecutive years we have participated in the Morelia International Film Festival (FICM), a distinguished forum that stands out at an international level as an important space for expression. We hope you enjoy this space in which the seventh art invites reflection on significant issues for society as a whole.

**Kansas City Southern de México (KCSM):**

Today we celebrate the beginning of the fifteenth edition of the Morelia International Film Festival (FICM), an event that year after year adds more personalities of the artistic and cinematographic environment, and that for nine days transforms the State of Michoacán in Mexico's hub for cultural development. As part of its commitment to culture, art and the integral development of Mexico and Michoacán, **Kansas City Southern of Mexico (KCSM)** is a proud sponsor of this important event, which is platform to several Mexican talents, for the seventh consecutive year. As a responsible corporate citizen looking to have a healthy coexistence with the communities through which our rail network crosses, KCSM intends to be actively involved in various initiatives in favor of people. In this sense, FICM is giving a new stimulus to national cinema. The combination of activities that take place like cinematographic tours, outdoor screenings, workshops and exhibits motivate and serve as an inspiration to millions of young people who seek to be part of the film community. The train is also culture, it is history, it is part of the past, present and future of Mexico, so in KCSM we join this sort of initiatives that draw the eyes of thousands to Mexico. In seven years of collaboration, KCSM feels at home in FICM. Today we are part of a great team and together we work to transport the magic of cinema from Michoacán to the world and we will continue to do so.

**Sidral Mundet®**

At **Sidral Mundet®** we believe in cinema because us Mexicans have proven that we know how to inspire, tell, film and applaud stories; because it makes us believe that nothing is impossible and because each story invites us to imagine and create new things. That is why we support such important initiatives as FICM, a festival that promotes and boosts the talent of young Mexicans looking to make films, with ingenuity to make their project come true, with an effort to tell the best stories and with a passion to continue inspiring us to do things #ALaMexicana. Sidral Mundet, doing things #ALaMexicana since 1902.

**Nespresso**

For over ten years, **Nespresso** has supported the film industry and dynamic storytelling as an official partner of the Cannes Film Festival and, this year, Nespresso Mexico has especially wanted to do its part to boost talent in the industry by expanding the Nespresso Talents competition and creating an alliance with the Morelia International Film Festival (FICM) so that there are more opportunities to present these new talents and to have a platform to show their work. At Nespresso, we are concerned about several issues and always look for ways to invite the community to express themselves. With the Nespresso Talents platform, we aim to inspire to create positive changes in the world and celebrate the cinematographic talent worldwide.

###

**Press contact:**

Margarita Fink

[margarita.fink@moreliafilmfest.com](mailto:margarita.fink@moreliafilmfest.com)

Cel. 04455-5405-9998

**More information:**

[www.moreliafilmfest.com](http://www.moreliafilmfest.com)

Facebook: moreliafilmfest

Twitter: @FICM

#15FICM