*-PRESS RELEASE-*

October 15, 2020.

**FICM announces the program for its 18th edition**

The **Morelia International Film Festival (FICM)** revealed the programming for its **18th edition**, which will take place **from October 28 to November 1, 2020**.

In order to guarantee the safety of festival-goers and the faithful compliance with all necessary health protocols, this 18th FICM will be a five-day hybrid version of the festival. **With in-person screenings at Cinépolis Morelia Centro and Cinépolis Las Américas**, in Morelia, Michoacán , and **free virtual shows through Cinépolis Klic, Canal 22 and FilminLatino**.

With the intention of honoring his life and work, **we** **will dedicate this 18th edition to our dear friend José María Riba**, critic, programmer, teacher and role model, who unfortunately left us this year. José María Riba was a great ally of Mexican cinema, a close friend, mentor and principal collaborator of FICM, where he created, founded and coordinated Impulso Morelia.

**OFFICIAL SELECTION**

An essential part of the Morelia International Film Festival is the competing sections: **Michoacan Section, Mexican Short Film, Mexican Documentary and Mexican Feature Film**. This year participation will include 11 works in the Michoacan Section, 60 titles in the Mexican Short Film Section, 9 titles in the Mexican Documentary Section and 9 titles in the Mexican Feature Film Section. There will be more than 90 Mexican filmmakers presenting their work.

For the seventh consecutive year, the Morelia International Film Festival will present the **Online Mexican Short Film Selection**, made up of 40 of the short films that are part of the Official Selection of the 18th edition of FICM.

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

This year, the Mexican Feature Film Section is made up of: ***Amalgama*** by **Carlos Cuarón**; ***¡Ánimo juventud!*** by **Carlos Armella**; ***Blanco de verano*** by **Rodrigo Ruiz Patterson**; ***La diosa del asfalto*** by **Julián Hernández**; ***Fauna*** by **Nicolás Pereda**; ***Fuego adentro***, by **Jesús Mario Lozano**; ***Ricochet*** by **Rodrigo Fiallega**; ***Sin señas particulares*** by **Fernanda Valadez**; and ***Todo lo invisible*** by **Mariana Chenillo**.

**JURADO**

The jury of the 18th Morelia International Film Festival will be made up of: **Marisa Paredes**, acclaimed Spanish actress; **Vanja Kaludjercic**, director of the Rotterdam International Film Festival (IFFR); **Rithy Panh**, acclaimed Cambodian director; **Lili Hinstin**, former director of the Locarno Festival; **Nick James**, renowned film critic; **Nicolas Philibert**, acclaimed French director; **John Bailey**, renowned cinematographer and former president of the United States Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; **Farah Clémentine** **Dramani-Issifou**, member of the selection committee of the Cannes Critics' Week; **Patricia Riggen**, renowned Mexican filmmaker; **Sébastien Duclocher**, member of the selection committee of the Clermont-Ferrand Festival; **Hugo Villa Smythe**, Director General of Cinematographic Activities of UNAM; **Samuel Kishi**, renowned Mexican filmmaker; and **Benoît Martin**, audiovisual attaché of the French Embassy in Mexico.

**PREMIERES AND SPECIAL SCREENINGS**

This year, an integrated sample will be screened with a selection of premieres of the best of international cinematography, including: ***Ammonite*** by **Francis Lee**; ***Siberia*** by **Abel Ferrara**; ***The Trouble with Nature*** by **Illum Jacobi**; ***Te llevo conmigo*** by **Heidi Ewing**; ***Soy Greta*** by **Nathan Grossman**; ***The Truffle Hunters*** by **Michael Dweck** and **Gregory Kershaw**; and ***Nomadland*** by **Chloé Zhao**, winner of the Golden Lion at the last Venice Film Festival.

With the support of the Goethe-Institut Mexiko, we will present the Latin American premiere of ***Berlin Alexanderplatz*** by **Burhan Qurbani**, a film premiered at the last Berlin Film Festival.

We will also have the premieres of the films: ***Blast Beat*** by **Esteban Arango**; ***The Climb*** by **Michael Angelo Covino**; ***Dream Horse*** by **Euros Lyn**; ***Long Time No See*** by **Pierre Filmon**; ***Nine Days*** by **Edson Oda**; ***Rifkin’s Festival*** by **Woody Allen**; ***Saint Maud*** by **Rose Glass**; ***Sound of Metal*** by **Darius Marder**; and ***Yellow Rose*** by **Diane Paragas**.

The 18th FICM will have special screenings of: ***El muchacho alegre*** (1948) and ***Los dineros del diablo*** (1953) by **Alejandro Galindo**; ***Rebelde sin*** ***causa*** (1955) by **Nicholas Ray**; and ***Lucinda Urrusti: pintora*** (2020) by **Juan Francisco Urrusti**.

**FORUM ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

In addition, we will present the **Forum on Indigenous Peoples** with the participation of the filmmakers **Norma Delia Robles Carrillo, Litay Ortega, Nicolás Rojas Sánchez, Uriel Nute Kujin, Adolfo Fierro, Juan González, Saúl Kak, Andrea Santiago, Itandehui Jansen , Elke Franke** and **Laura Plancarte**.

**CRITIC'S WEEK AND CANNES FILM FESTIVAL**

With the support of the French Embassy, we will present a selection of films that were chosen for Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival in 2020, including: ***After Love*** by **Aleem Khan**, ***Gold for Dogs*** by **Anna Cazenave Cambet** and ***Beasts*** by **Naël Marandin**. We will also have ***Spring Blossom*** by **Suzanne Lindon** and ***Love Affair(s)*** by **Emmanuel Mouret**, both of which were selected as part of the 73rd edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

**PROGRAM DEDICATED TO GILBERTO MÁRTÍNEZ SOLARES**

With the invaluable support of Fundación Televisa and the Cineteca Nacional, we will have a program dedicated to the prolific Mexican filmmaker **Gilberto Martínez Solares**. It will feature ***Santo y Blue Demon contra los monstrous*** (1970) and a restored copy of ***Calabacitas tiernas*** (1949). Additionally, the 18th FICM will collaborate with Fundación Televisa to present a photographic exhibition dedicated to Gilberto Martínez Solares, which will be held at the Andador Hidalgo in the Plaza Benito Juárez, in Morelia.

**IMPULSO MORELIA 6**

We will also carry out the sixth edition of **Impulso Morelia**, a space for Mexican feature films in different stages of editing and post-production created in 2015. This year, the panel of experts will be made up of the renowned production designer **Eugenio Caballero**; **Vicente Canales**, director of the international sales agency Film Factory; the prominent Mexican director **Jorge Fons** and **Bertha Navarro**, one of the most important film producers in our country.

**INAUGURATION AND CLOSING SCREENINGS**

As part of the 20th anniversary of its premiere, the restored version of the movie ***Amores perros*** by **Alejandro González Iñárritu**, will be screened at the Opening Ceremony of our 18th edition, an event that will take place on the night of October 28 at Cinépolis Morelia Centro **with the presence of the acclaimed Mexican director**. It is a great honor for the Morelia International Film Festival to be one of the platforms for the restored version of a film that transformed the national movie industry and is considered an important milestone in the history of Mexican cinema.

The film ***El baile de los 41***, by Mexican director **David Pablos**, will be the closing the 18th FICM during an event that will take place on November 1 at Cinépolis Morelia Centro.

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

We will have the privilege of having the presence of **Michel Franco**, who will present his Venice Film Festival award-winning film, ***Nuevo Orden***. We will also have the virtual participation of **Matt Dillon**, who will present his documentary ***El gran Fellove***, as well as the virtual premiere of ***Son of Monarcas*** by **Alexis Gambis**, a film shot largely in the state of Michoacán.

**RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL SHORT SCREENPLAY CONTEST FICM PRESENTA 2020**

In order to stimulate cultural and cinematographic activities in Mexico, we created the short screenplay contest FICM Presenta 2020 at the end of March. The jury made up of **Natalia Beristáin**, **Ana Cruz**, **Angélica Ramírez** and **Ernesto Contreras**, resolved the following: the winning work is ***Tarde de abril***, written by **Frida Paola Meza Coriche**. They also awarded a Special Mention to the work ***Habitar tu ausencia***, written by **Berenice Viveros Ramírez**. A diploma and a cash prize of $ 30,000 (thirty thousand Mexican pesos) will be awarded to the author of the winning script, as well as an individual invitation to attend the 18th edition of FICM. The Special Mention consists of a diploma. Congratulations!

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

As always, we would like to thankt the **Government of the State of Michoacán** and its various agencies for their invaluable and generous support, as well as **the Ministry of Tourism of Michoacán**, the **Honorable City Council of Morelia**, the **Trust for the Promotion of Tourist Activity of the State of Michoacán (FIFOPRATUR)**, the **Ministry of Culture**, **Cinépolis**, the **Mexican Film Institute (IMCINE)**, **Cineteca Nacional**, the **General Direction of Cinematographic Activities - UNAM Film Library**, **Televisa Foundation**, the **Secretariat of Culture of Mexico City** through the **Trust for the Promotion and Development of Mexican Cinema (PROCINE)**, the **Michoacan University of San Nicolás de Hidalgo**, all our allies in the media and each of the instances that make this event possible.

We also wish to offer a very special thanks to the **French Embassy in Mexico**, **UniFrance**, the **Goethe-Institut Mexiko**, **Canal 22**, **Cinépolis Klic** and **FilminLatino**, for all their support, as well as **Mundet**, **HSBC**, **Kansas City Southern de Mexico**, **XIAOMI** and **Nespresso**.

**MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, FICM invites you to visit its official website www.moreliafilmfest.com and its social networks, where you can check the festival's program, purchase tickets and access virtual screenings.

The screenings at Cinépolis Morelia Centro and Cinépolis Las Américas, in the city of Morelia, will be carried out under rigorous adherence to the Cinépolis new normal protocol with strict sanitary cleaning and disinfection measures for each and every one of the rooms.

#FICM2020 #MoreliaEsCineMexicano

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