

TENTH ANNUAL  
**DALLAS** INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Dallas Film Society announces the initial ten official selections for the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Dallas International Film Festival (April 14-24)**

**Selections include Centerpiece Gala screening of Chris Kelly's OTHER PEOPLE, world premieres of Johnathan Brownlee's THREE DAYS IN AUGUST and William Kaufman's DAYLIGHT'S END, and the U.S. premiere of Asiel Norton's ORION**

**Other highlights include Natalie Portman's A TALE OF LOVE AND DARKNESS, Werner Herzog's LO AND BEHOLD, REVERIES OF THE CONNECTED WORLD, and a Salute to the Music of John Williams featuring a Special Screening of E.T. – THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL**

**Dallas, TX (March 3, 2016)** – The Dallas Film Society today announced the initial ten official selections for the 10th edition of the Dallas International Film Festival. The list of titles are led by the Centerpiece Gala selection of Chris Kelly's OTHER PEOPLE and include two world premieres (Johnathan Brownlee's THREE DAYS IN AUGUST and William Kaufman's DAYLIGHT'S END), and a U.S. premiere (Asiel Norton's ORION). DIFF has also announced a special event concert and screening of the family classic E.T. – THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL, celebrating the career of legendary film composer John Williams.

“Ten for ten: This is a great group of films to tease what's in store for the 10th Anniversary of the Dallas International Film Festival this year,” said James Faust, Artistic Director of the Dallas Film Society. “Our first Gala selection is guaranteed to strike an emotional chord with our audiences. We have some amazing and powerful films making their world and U.S. Debuts; Dallas films, Texas films, and quite a few world renowned

directors are represented as well. These ten films serve as a perfect sampling of the balance we have always tried to achieve for the film audiences at DIFF – entertaining, challenging, with big stars and newcomers, international, local, and independent – it should all be right here in April, once again.”

Chris Kelly’s feature directing debut, *OTHER PEOPLE* will be the Centerpiece Gala selection, screening at the Angelica Film Center (5321 E. Mockingbird Lane at Mockingbird Station) on Thursday, April 21. The film is about a struggling New York City comedy writer, fresh from breaking up with his boyfriend, who moves to the West Coast to help his sick mother (played by Molly Shannon). Living with his conservative father and younger sisters, David (played by Jesse Plemons) feels like a stranger in his childhood home. As his mother worsens, he tries to convince everyone (including himself) he’s “doing okay.”

Two films – both locally shot and produced - will make their world premieres at DIFF. Johnathan Brownlee’s *THREE DAYS IN AUGUST* was the result of the Sionna Project Screenwriting Competition, which was co-sponsored and supported by the Dallas Film Society and Studio Movie Grill, and won by Chad Berry and David Langlais. The film stars Barry Bostwick, Meg Foster, and Mariette Hartley, in a drama about an Irish American artist who is forced to confront her past when both sets of parents come together over a weekend for her to paint a family portrait.

William Kaufman’s *DAYLIGHT’S END* is the rare action/horror thriller that makes it into a non-genre competition at a film festival, as it screens in the Texas Competition. It stars Johnny Strong, Lance Henriksen, and Louis Mandylor in a hard-driving action-horror-thriller about a rogue drifter who agrees to put aside his mission of vengeance to help rescue a desperate band of survivors in an abandoned police station, as they struggle to defend themselves against blood-hungry creatures that used to be human.

Asiel Norton’s *ORION* will make its U.S. Premiere at DIFF. Starring David Arquette and Lily Cole, the post-apocalyptic tale takes place in a desolate, future world, where a wanderer fights to save a virgin mother from a powerful magician and, with her, searches for a mythical city containing the world’s last survivors.

As in past years, DIFF will treat Dallas audiences to their first opportunities to see some of the top films out of this year’s Sundance Film Festival, as well as a chance to catch the films they possibly missed in Austin at SXSW. Joining *OTHER PEOPLE*, additional films out of Sundance include: Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami’s *SONITA*, the winner of the World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize and Audience Awards, about a teen Afghani rapper facing the possibility she may be sold into marriage; Natalie Portman’s take on Amos Oz’s autobiographical tale, *A TALE OF LOVE AND DARKNESS*; Werner Herzog’s exploration on how we are faring in the digital landscape and online world – *LO AND BEHOLD, REVERIES OF THE CONNECTED WORLD*; and *WEINER*, Josh Kriegman and Elyse Steinberg’s documentary on embattled former Congressman Anthony Weiner’s campaign to be mayor of New York.

Keith Maitland's TOWER will head north following its screening in Austin this month. Through archival footage and animation, the film recounts the mass shooting at the University of Texas in 1966. Rounding out the initial list of ten selections is Johnnie To's OFFICE, as DIFF demonstrates its continuing commitment to showcase great Asian cinema and filmmakers with the legendary director's first musical, based on star Sylva Chang's hot stage play set against the backdrop of the 2008 financial collapse.

The Dallas International Film Festival has also built a reputation over the past decade for pulling out all the stops for one-of-a-kind special events with film and cinema as the theme. This year one of those events will be a special concert and screening celebrating the career of award-winning composer John Williams at the Dallas City Performance Hall on Saturday, April 16. The Dallas Winds, also honoring a significant anniversary – their 30th, begin the afternoon with a performance of some of Williams's signature works. A Q&A with Dallas Winds Artistic Director and Conductor, Jerry Junkin, will follow as the Hall is prepared for a special screening of Steven Spielberg's family classic, E.T. – THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL. The event is a nod to DIFF's association with the American Film Institute during the first few years of the film festival, as Williams is this year's AFI Life Achievement Award honoree.

Once again, the Dallas Film Society has teamed up with DART for their successful partnership called DART to DIFF. Many DIFF activities and events take place in the heart of Dallas and the partnership with DART will provide quick and convenient transportation for all festival attendees.

Online ticket sales will be available for Dallas Film Society members beginning Monday, March 21 at DallasFilm.org, and will open to the public on Thursday, March 24. The physical Prekindle Box Office at Mockingbird Station will open on Thursday, March 31.

**The ten official selections include:**

**A TALE OF LOVE AND DARKNESS**

Director: Natalie Portman

Country: Israel/USA, Running Time: 98min

Based on Amos Oz's international best-seller, A TALE OF LOVE AND DARKNESS is the story of Oz's youth at the end of the British Mandate for Palestine and the early years of the State of Israel. The film details young Amos' relationship with his mother and his birth as a writer, looking at what happens when the stories we tell, become the stories we live.

**DAYLIGHT'S END – WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: William Kaufman

Country: USA, Running Time: 105min

Shot in Dallas and points ranging from East Texas to the West Texas town of Rio (pop. 3) along the famed Route 66, the film is a hard driving action-horror-thriller starring Johnny

Strong, Lance Henriksen and Louis Mandylor. It focuses on a rogue drifter who's on a vengeful hunt, years after a mysterious plague has devastated the planet and turned most of humanity into blood-hungry creatures. When he stumbles across a desperate band of survivors in an abandoned police station, the drifter reluctantly puts his own thirst for blood on hold and agrees to help them defend themselves, only to realize that his mission of revenge and theirs may in fact coincide.

### **JOHNNIE TO'S OFFICE**

Director: Johnnie To

Country: Hong Kong, Running Time: 120min

Adapted by actress Sylvia Chang from her hit stage play "Design For Living", the film is a musical set in a corporate high-rise immediately before and after the 2008 financial collapse. The story centers around two assistants starting new jobs at a financial firm. One naively enters the world of high finance with noble intentions, while the other harbors a secret. Chow Yun-fat, Eason Chan and Tang Wei star alongside Chang.

### **LO AND BEHOLD, REVERIES OF THE CONNECTED WORLD**

Director: Werner Herzog

Country: USA, Running Time 98min

In LO AND BEHOLD, REVERIES OF THE CONNECTED WORLD, the Oscar-nominated Herzog chronicles the virtual world from its origins to its outermost reaches, exploring the digital landscape with the same curiosity and imagination he previously trained on earthly destinations as disparate as the Amazon, the Sahara, the South Pole and the Australian outback. Working with NetScout, a world leader in real time service assurance and cybersecurity, Herzog leads viewers on a journey through a series of provocative conversations that reveal the ways in which the online world has transformed how virtually everything in the real world works - from business to education, space travel to healthcare, and the very heart of how we conduct our personal relationships.

### **ORION – U.S. PREMIERE**

Director: Asiel Norton

Country: USA, Running Time: 110min

In a future dark age, after civilization has collapsed, there are rumors and prophecies of a savior to come. A hunter fights to save a maiden from a cannibal shaman and searches for the world's last city. The film stars David Arquette and Lily Cole

### **OTHER PEOPLE – CENTERPIECE GALA SELECTION**

Director: Chris Kelly

Country: USA, Running Time: 97min

A struggling New York City comedy writer, fresh from breaking up with his boyfriend, moves to Sacramento to help his sick mother. Living with his conservative father and younger sisters, David feels like a stranger in his childhood home. As his mother worsens, he tries to convince everyone (including himself) he's "doing okay." The film stars Molly Shannon and Jesse Plemons.

### **SONITA**

Director: Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami

Country: Germany/Iran/Switzerland, Running Time: 91min

Winner of the World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, SONITA tells the inspiring story of Sonita Alizadeh, an 18-year-old Afghan refugee in Iran, who thinks of Michael Jackson and Rihanna as her spiritual parents and dreams of becoming a big-name rapper. For the time being, her only fans are the other teenage girls in a Tehran shelter. And her family has a very different future planned for her: as a bride she's worth \$9,000. Iranian director Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami poignantly shifts from observer to participant altering expectations, as Sonita's story unfolds in an intimate and joyful portrait.

### **THREE DAYS IN AUGUST – WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Johnathan Brownlee

Country: USA, Running Time: 96min

Starring Barry Bostwick, Meg Foster, and Mariette Hartley, the film is about an Irish American artist who is forced to confront her past when both sets of parents come together over a weekend for her to paint a family portrait.

### **TOWER**

Director: Keith Maitland

Country: USA, Running Time: 96min

On August 1st, 1966, a sniper rode the elevator to the top floor of the University of Texas Tower and opened fire, holding the campus hostage for 96 minutes. When the gunshots were finally silenced, the toll included 16 dead, three dozen wounded, and a shaken nation left trying to understand. Combining archival footage with rotoscopic animation in a dynamic, never-before-seen way, TOWER reveals the action-packed untold stories of the witnesses, heroes and survivors of America's first mass school shooting, when the worst in one man brought out the best in so many others.

### **WEINER**

Directors: Josh Kriegman, Elyse Steinberg

Country: USA, Running Time: 96min

With unrestricted access to Anthony Weiner's New York City mayoral campaign, this film reveals the human story behind the scenes of a high-profile political scandal as it unfolds, and offers an unfiltered look at how much today's politics is driven by an appetite for spectacle.

### **ABOUT THE DALLAS FILM SOCIETY**

The Dallas Film Society celebrates films and their impact on society. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Dallas Film Society recognizes and honors filmmakers for their achievements in enhancing the creative community, provides educational programs to students to develop a better understanding of the role of film in today's world, and promotes the City of Dallas and its commitment to the art of filmmaking. The annual Dallas International Film Festival is a presentation of the Dallas Film Society and has been named by Movie Maker Magazine as one of the "25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World." In addition to producing one of the

largest festivals in the Southwest, the Society produces numerous year round events, screening series and programs in partnership with arts organizations around the city. The offices of the Dallas Film Society are located at 3625 North Hall Street, Suite 740, Dallas, TX 75219. For more information about the Dallas Film Society and its ongoing events, visit [www.dallasfilm.org](http://www.dallasfilm.org) or call (214) 720-0555.

#### **ABOUT DART TO DIFF**

DART allows commuters to navigate around Dallas and 12 surrounding cities with modern public transit services and customer facilities tailored to make transportation fast, comfortable and economical. The new DART to DIFF partnership is making it even easier for 2016 Dallas International Film Festival-goers to quickly and safely travel from the 2016 DIFF hub in Mockingbird Station to exciting events around the city. As the main public transportation provider in Dallas, DART is the perfect partner for the 2016 festival and a vital resource for movie-goers. In addition, DART pass and ticket holders will receive \$2 discount off DIFF regular ticket prices when purchasing tickets at the DIFF Box Office in Mockingbird Station.

**2016 DIFF SPONSORS:** ABCO; A&C Texas Magazine; Advocate Magazine; Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, LLP; Alamo DraftHouse Cinemas DFW; The Angelika Film Center; Austin Film Festival; Arthur E. Benjamin Foundation; Buy LEDs; City of Dallas – Office of Cultural Affairs; The Crow Collection of Asian Art; Commerce House; D Magazine; Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau; Dallas Film Commission; Dallas Museum of Art; Dallas Producers Association; Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District (DTPID); DART; Downtown Dallas Inc.; Earth Day Texas; EI Creative; Embrey Family Foundation; Film Freeway; Flagship Marketing; Fun Flicks; Harwood International; The Highland Dallas, Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office; Hyatt House – Uptown; KD Conservatory; Klyde Warren Park; Levenson; Magnolia Hotel Dallas/Park Cities; Marcs Clips; Mockingbird Station; Movie Magic; Murray Media; My Sweet Charity; Nasher Sculpture Center; Panavision; PaperCity; People's Last Stand; Post Asylum; Prekindle; Pure Evil Sound & Music Design; Radar Creative Studio; ReelFX; SAGindie; Selig Polyscope Company; Sewell Motors; Southern Methodist University – Division of Film & Media Arts; Stella Artois; Studio Movie Grill; Texas Association of Film Commissions; Texas Commission of the Arts; Texas Film Commission; Univision; WFAA; Which Wich; Whole Foods Market; Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker; Women In Film

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