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CHELSEA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2015 OFFICIAL JURY

Chelsea, NY – For its Third Edition, the Chelsea Film Festival (CFF), which runs from Thursday, October 15th to Sunday, October 18th is proud to announce its 2015 Official Jury.

The Chelsea Film Festival Jurors will select the Grand Prix Award for Best Picture, the Petite Prix Award for Best Short Film and ten other awards (Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Special Jury Award, Best Documentary, Best Cinematography, Special Mention by CFF Founders).

The Jurors will award \$70,000 in prizes. The Grand Prix Winner will also receive a work of original art by acclaimed artist, Arturo di Modica (The Wall Street Charging Bull).

A Special Screening of the 2015 Chelsea Film Festival Grand Prix will be presented at the **First Kino & Vino Series®** in partnership with **Bow Tie Cinemas** on **November 9th, 2015 at 7pm.**

The winning films, filmmakers and actors will be announced at the Closing Awards Ceremony on Sunday, October 18th. **Tickets** are now on pre-sale until **September 15th.**

2015 OFFICIAL JURORS



Estelle Parsons - Jury President

Estelle Parsons is most widely known for her Academy Award winning performance in *BONNIE AND CLYDE* and her ten years as Mother Bev on the hit *Roseanne* sitcom. In the theater, she is best known for her portrayal of the tyrannical eighth grade teacher in Roberto Athayde's classic about totalitarian power, *MISS MARGARIDA'S WAY*, which she performed on Broadway, all over the United States and in London, Dublin, Turkey and Australia. She has appeared in plays by the great writers of our time, including Edward Albee, Tennessee Williams, Dario Fo, Arthur Miller, Samuel Beckett, Paul Zindel and Horton Foote.

Estelle starred in AUGUST, OSAGE COUNTY by Tracy Letts on Broadway for a year and on the road for a year. Most recently she played in GOOD PEOPLE by David Lindsay-Abaire and the Gershwin musical, NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT with Matthew Broderick. In 2012, she was directed by Neil LaBute in Marco Calvani's THINGS OF THIS WORLD. In 2014, she received a Tony nomination for her performance in THE VELOCITY OF AUTUMN by Eric Coble at the Booth Theater on Broadway.

As a director, she created the New York Shakespeare Festival Players for Joseph Papp in the 1980s. For two seasons, they performed SHAKESPEARE ON BROADWAY for New York City school students and their families in an effort to develop a multicultural audience for New York. She also directed Al Pacino in Oscar Wilde's SALOME: the Reading on Broadway.

Estelle Parsons is a member of the Actors' Studio and was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2004.

Tiffany Bartok - Jury Member

Tiffany Bartok received her BFA in theater from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Following a move to New York City, Tiffany worked consistently as an actress but soon discovered a talent for makeup artistry. She began to sharpen her skills on celebrities and film crews. Ultimately, the draw of the film world was contagious and Tiffany made the decision to direct and produce original films including her award winning documentary Altered By Elvis and the short film Little Pumpkin, which screened at the prestigious SXSW festival. She was also selected as a finalist for the AFI's Directing Workshop for Women. Her out of the box producing talents have been the subject of a New York Times Arts Section feature. She has been a past jury member for the Memphis International Film Festival and the Vail Film Festival. Recent projects include producing Fall to Rise (Panorama Entertainment) and Red River for Vinyl Foote Productions, Suddenly... the award-winning short adapted from Etgar Keret's short story, and The Showdown.

Margarita Levieva - Jury Member

Margarita Levieva can next be seen in Leslye Headland's SLEEPING WITH OTHER PEOPLE and Mari Heller's DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL, which both premiered at Sundance this past year.

Margarita is best known as the role of 'Amanda Clarke' in the hit ABC show REVENGE opposite Madeleine Stowe and Emily VanCamp. Margarita recently starred opposite Hope Davis in NBC's ALLEGIANCE, written and directed by George Nolfi.

Margarita's past film credits include: FOR ELLEN, THE LOFT, KNIGHTS OF BADASSDOM, NOISE, THE INVISIBLE, MOSCOW-RUSSIA EXPRESS, Lakeshore's LINCOLN LAWYER, Miramax's ADVENTURELAND and SPREAD opposite Ashton Kutcher.

Levieva made her Broadway debut in IMPRESSIONISM, an American play by Michael Jacobs. Margarita starred opposite Joan Allen and Jeremy Irons in the story of a world-traveling photojournalist and a New York gallery owner who help repair each other's broken lives.

On television, in addition to REVENGE, Margarita could be seen in HBO's LUCK and HOW TO MAKE IT IN AMERICA and also starred in FOX's VANISHED.

When she was 11, her mother moved her and her twin brother to New York from Russia, where she later studied economics at NYU. Her true passion, however, had always been acting and she ultimately was accepted into the Meisner Training Program at the prestigious William Esper Studio.

Margarita currently resides in New York/Los Angeles.

Dorian Missick - Jury Member

Dorian Missick paved his way onto the scene when he starred opposite Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant in Two Weeks Notice. Most recently seen on the big screen in the Jerry Brukheimer produced "Deliver Us From Evil" and the Christmas season hit "Annie." Other film roles include the AFFRM Films independent feature, "Big Words" (in the title role), Premium, Lucky Number Slevin, Things Never Said, The Manchurian Candidate, The Bounty Hunter, Freedomland and Rachel Getting Married.

Next up, Missick stars opposite RnB Superstar Brandy in the new BET series "Zoe Ever After" and recurring roles on the AMC series "Better Call Saul" and the HBO comedy series "The Brink." Missick was a member of the cast of TnT's critically acclaimed series Southland as Detective Ruben Robinson, partner to Ms. Regina King, for the final two seasons. He was also seen in a multi episode arc on the SyFy network's hit series "Haven". Previously he was a regular on the NBC series "The Cape", and on "Six Degrees" for ABC (produced by JJ Abrams) .

Missick's repertoire, however, is not limited to film and television. He starred off Broadway in the Pulitzer-prize winning drama "A Soldier's Play" opposite Anthony Mackie and Taye Diggs at the Second Stage Theater.

Dorian Missick, some film credits include: Annie, Deliver Us From Evil, Big Words, Mooz-Lum, The Bounty Hunter, and Manchurian Candidate. Some Tv: SouthLAND, The Cape, Six Degrees, Haven.

CFF was founded by actresses Ingrid & Sonia Jean-Baptiste to give voices to the unheard by providing a platform to independent films and discovering new talents.

Chelsea Film Festival Board of Directors consists of renowned industry insiders: Paul Calderon, Elizabeth Kemp, and John Patrick Shanley.

The Chelsea Film Festival program will highlight international feature-length, short films and documentaries from independent or emerging filmmakers. The Third Edition of the Chelsea Film Festival will focus on "Women in Film & Media", and will introduce foreign films to the public.

As Ingrid Jean-Baptiste, Founder of The Chelsea Film Festival, stated:

“Making the World a Better Place by Giving a Voice to the Unheard”

The Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) will hold its third edition in New York from October 15-18th, 2015 at the SVA Theatre, Katie Murphy Amphitheatre (FIT), David Dubinsky Student Center (FIT) and other locations in Manhattan.

Our Mission:

The Chelsea Film Institute is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural organization that helps expose the underprivileged youth in Chelsea, NYC to the arts. Throughout the year, CFI offers free Arts classes to these economically disadvantaged children.

Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) is an international film festival, enlightening the work of emerging filmmakers, producers, and actors. It offers a wide range of films, such as shorts, documentaries, and feature-length pieces. It empowers the work of risk-taking storytellers and remains committed to its mission to discover and develop independent artists and audiences around the world.

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