

For Immediate Release: November 6, 2019

Contact: Nancy Lee, Senior Manager, Public Relations, 310-443-7016, [nlee@hammer.ucla.edu](mailto:nlee@hammer.ucla.edu)

### **Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for *MoMA Contenders 2019***

*—Sixth L.A. presentation of The Museum of Modern Art's annual series of the year's best films—*

**(Los Angeles, CA)**— The Hammer Museum announced today this year's selections for *MoMA Contenders 2019*, a special ticketed series organized by The Museum of Modern Art that offers audiences unique opportunities to see recently released films that are destined to become classics just before awards season. Each film is followed by intimate and revealing post-screening conversations with filmmakers and actors. Now in its sixth year at the Hammer, *MoMA Contenders 2019* features **10 nights** of groundbreaking film from **December 2 through December 17, 2019**.

Opening the series at the Hammer on December 2 is *Dolemite is My Name* starring **Eddie Murphy**, who will be a part of a discussion following the screening. Other highlights include *Parasite* with director **Bong Joon-ho** on December 4, *The Farewell* with director **Lulu Wang** on December 9, *Booksmart* with director **Olivia Wilde** on December 10, and *Judy* with **Renee Zellweger** on December 16.

#### **MoMA Contenders 2019 Schedule:**

Monday, December 2, 7:30 p.m., *Dolemite is My Name* with Eddie Murphy  
Tuesday, December 3, 7:30 p.m., *The Report* with Scott Z. Burns  
Wednesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., *Parasite* with Bong Joon-ho  
Thursday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., *One Child Nation* with Nanfu Wang  
Monday, December 9, 7:30 p.m., *The Farewell* with Lulu Wang  
Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., *Booksmart* with Olivia Wilde  
Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., *The Irishman* with Sebastian Maniscalco (intro)  
Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., *Marriage Story* with Laura Dern  
Monday, December 16, 7:30 p.m., *Judy* with Renée Zellweger  
Tuesday, December 17, 7:30 p.m., *Monos* with Alejandro Landes

Check [the Hammer website](#) for details and updates.

**Tickets \$20 general public / \$10 for Hammer members.**

There will be a special members presale November 6-11. [Join or upgrade your membership today.](#) Beginning November 12, tickets will be available to the public on site at the Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater Box Office and online at [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu).

#### **About *The Contenders*:**

Selected from major studio releases and top film festivals by curators in MoMA's Department of Film, selections shown in *MoMA Contenders* represent the best of mainstream movies, independents, foreign-language films, documentaries, and art-house sensations. Now in its eleventh year, and sixth on both coasts, the series highlights films that are contenders for lasting historical significance, often with special appearances by directors and actors. Previous guests have included directors Jordan Peele (*Get Out*, 2017), Greta Gerwig (*Lady Bird*, 2017), David O. Russell (*Silver Linings Playbook*, 2012) and Werner Herzog (*Into the Inferno*, 2016) and actors Jake Gyllenhaal (*Prisoners*, 2013), Jonah Hill (*The Wolf of Wall Street*, 2013), and Kristen Wiig (*Bridesmaids*, 2011). This film program is organized by Rajendra

Roy, the Celeste Bartos Chief Curator of Film, and Sean Egan, Senior Producer, Film Exhibitions and Projects, The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

**Sponsorship:**

The Hammer Museum's presentation is made possible by The Billy and Audrey L. Wilder Foundation.

**About the films:**

***Dolemite is My Name* with Eddie Murphy**

**Monday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.**

*Dolemite is My Name*. 2019. USA. Directed by Craig Brewer. Written by Scott Alexander, Larry Karaszewski. With Eddie Murphy, Wesley Snipes, Keegan Michael-Key. 117 min.

The genesis of cinematic genius has been the subject of many movies, but none of them have delved into a character as charismatic and suave as Rudy Ray Moore (with the possible exception of Ed Wood). As portrayed by a never-better Eddie Murphy, Moore is the most endearing real-life character you're likely to see on screen this year. Written by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski (who, as it happens, also wrote Tim Burton's *Ed Wood*), the film follows the infamous and hilarious production of Moore's landmark blaxploitation classic *Dolemite*. Bathed in costume designer Ruth E Carter's 1970s era glam, and featuring fall-on-the-floor-great supporting performances by Da'Vine Joy Randolph and Wesley Snipes, this film is already legendary.

***The Report* with Scott Z. Burns**

**Tuesday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.**

*The Report*. 2019. USA. Directed and written by Scott Z. Burns. With Adam Driver, Annette Bening, Jon Hamm. 119 min.

Longtime Steven Soderbergh screenwriter Scott Z. Burns brings his incisive storytelling to one of the most pressing political affairs of our time. Adam Driver stars as the unwavering Senate staffer Daniel Jones charged with leading the investigation into the CIA's post-9/11 detention and interrogation programs. This docudrama procedural—which winds from Capitol Hill to Iraq War-era black sites—sheds exceptional insight into the investigation thanks to the involvement of Mr. Jones and forms an unprecedented visual narrative of a period made indelible by images of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. *The Report* reaffirms the urgency of film and media to give voice to those seeking truth and accountability in this era of fake news.

***Parasite* with Bong Joon-ho**

**Wednesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.**

*Parasite*. 2019. South Korea. Directed by Bong Joon-ho. Written by Bong and Jon Won-han. With Song Kang-ho, Choi Woo-sik, Park So-dam. 132 min.

Named by many as the film of the year, created by the possible "director of the century" (A.O. Scott), Bong Joon-ho's Palme d'Or winner has already smashed box office records around the world. More importantly, it has laid bare in an utterly compelling (and often hilarious) manner the corrupt reality of late-stage capitalism. Focusing on the divisions and connections between two Korean families on opposite sides of the rich/poor social divide, *Parasite* attempts and lands more tone shifts than should be artistically possible in one film. The results are breathtaking, as are the modernist production designs that set the stage for the definitive cinematic parable of our time.

***One Child Nation* with Nanfu Wang**

**Thursday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.**

*One Child Nation*. 2019. China/USA. Directed by Nanfu Wang, Jialing Zhang. In Mandarin; English subtitles. 88 min.

For three and a half decades, China's one-child policy was the rule of the land, enforced through propaganda, severe penalty, forced sterilization, and abortion. An untold number of women were forced against their will to undergo procedures. Countless babies, mostly girls, were abandoned, trafficked—

some died and others adopted by families overseas. Directors Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang investigate this dark chapter in the nation's history, interviewing individuals with varying degrees of complicity and uncovering chilling stories. What emerges is an ingeniously crafted and complex portrait of a traumatized nation.

***The Farewell with Lulu Wang***

**Monday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.**

*The Farewell*. 2019. USA. Directed and written by Lulu Wang. With Awkwafina, Shuzhen Zhao, Diana Lin. 100 min.

Based on true events that unfolded after director Lulu Wang's grandmother Nai Nai was diagnosed with cancer, her second feature film is a rare convergence of intimate storytelling, accomplished filmmaking, and undeniable sincerity. Upon learning of Nai Nai's near-fatal diagnosis, following with Chinese tradition, the family decides it is best to keep the news from her. After spending the majority of her life in the United States, Billi (a piercing performance by Awkwafina) is frustrated by this choice to withhold information. Her anxiety builds as her family returns to China for a "fake" wedding to gather the family once more before Nai Nai's death. Equally humorous and heartfelt, *The Farewell* is a testament to the strength of family across generations, countries, and ideologies.

***Booksmart with Olivia Wilde***

**Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.**

*Booksmart*. 2019. USA. Directed by Olivia Wilde. With Kaitlyn Dever, Beanie Feldstein, Jessica Williams. 105 min.

In her directorial debut, Olivia Wilde delivers a fresh take on the high school dramedy centered on an inseparable pair of over-achievers trying to cram a night of partying into their high school careers on the eve of graduation, with no shortage of the genre's misadventures and bon mots. With a razor-sharp script and standout performances by Beanie Feldstein and Kaitlyn Dever (think Lucy and Ethel by way of Abbi and Ilana), *Booksmart's* takeaway on female friendship and empowerment is that figuring it out is better with a BFF.

***The Irishman with Sebastian Maniscalco***

**Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.**

*The Irishman*. 2019. Directed by Martin Scorsese. Written by Steve Zaillian. With Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci, Al Pacino. 209 min.

Forgoing his trademark flashy camerawork, music cues, and intricate montages, Martin Scorsese delivers a somber masterpiece in *The Irishman*. Working from Steve Zaillian's script (itself adapted from Charles Brandt's book *I Heard You Paint Houses*), Scorsese deftly weaves together multiple, decade-spanning story lines, all centered around Frank Sheeran (Robert De Niro), a Philadelphia mob hit man who finds himself at the intersection of crime and power in mid-20th-century America. Sheeran works his way up the organized crime food chain, from union driver to working for boss Russel Bufalino (a mesmerizing Joe Pesci) to bodyguard and mob liaison for Jimmy Hoffa (Al Pacino). Joy, ostensibly derived from the ever-present envelopes of cash, or the layers of family that insulate each man, is almost completely absent from the characters' lives. The film's final third is an expertly crafted elegy to the loneliness of the aged gangster.

***Marriage Story with Laura Dern***

**Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.**

*Marriage Story*. 2019. USA. Written and directed by Noah Baumbach. With Adam Driver, Scarlett Johansson, Laura Dern. 136 min.

"Noah Baumbach's latest film is about the rapid tangling and gradual untangling of impetuosity, resentment, and abiding love between a married couple negotiating their divorce and the custody of their son. Adam Driver is Charlie, a 100-percent New York experimental theater director; Scarlett Johansson is Nicole, his principal actress and soon-to-be L.A.-based ex-wife. Their 'amicable' breakup

devolves, one painful rash response and hostile counter-response at a time, into a legal battlefield, led on Nicole's side by Laura Dern and on Charlie's side by nice Alan Alda and not-so-nice Ray Liotta. What is so remarkable about *Marriage Story* is its frank understanding of the emotional fluctuations between Charlie and Nicole: they are both shortsighted, both occasionally petty, both vindictive, and both loving. The film is as harrowing as it is hilarious as it is deeply moving." (New York Film Festival 2019)

### **Judy with Renée Zellweger**

**Monday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.**

*Judy*. 2019. USA. Directed by Rupert Goold. With Renée Zellweger, Jessie Buckley, Finn Wittrock. 118 min.

What becomes a legend most? In this case, a soaring homage by a brilliant actor delivering her best performance in years. Renee Zellweger never mimics Garland in this adaptation of the stage play *End of the Rainbow*, rather she channels the collected rage and passion of a child prodigy whose life has always been shaped by the men around her, but whose talent is hers alone. At turns heartbreaking and exuberant, *Judy* is at its most powerful with Zellweger on stage, spotlighted and singing her heart out for all the love and loves lost in the too-short life of Ms. Judy Garland.

### **Monos with Alejandro Landes**

**Tuesday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.**

*Monos*. 2018. Colombia/Argentina/Netherlands/Germany/Sweden/Uruguay. Directed by Alejandro Landes. Written by Landes and Alexis Dos Santos. With Moises Arias, Sofia Buenaventura, Julianne Nicholson. English and Spanish with English subtitles. 102 min.

*Monos*, which won a Special Jury Award at Sundance, is sure to be one of the most hotly debated films of 2019—one critic called it "*Apocalypse Now* on shrooms." In Alejandro Landes's intensely thrilling twist on *Lord of the Flies*, Julianne Nicholson plays a terrorized American engineer held captive by teenage guerilla bandits in an unnamed South American jungle. Leaderless and rootless, the child soldiers puff themselves up with names like Rambo, Smurf, and Bigfoot (the latter a brutal Moises Arias), and survive the tedium and predation of the wilderness through sexual games and cult-like rituals. As they wage physical and psychological warfare on perceived enemies—and, inevitably, among themselves—they are reduced to a state of desperate barbarism. The film's sense of surreal menace is amplified by Mica Levi's discordant soundscape and Jasper Wolf's cinematography.

### **ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art, as well as programs that spark meaningful encounters with art and ideas. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the biennial, *Made in L.A.*, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

### **HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free, made possible through the generosity of benefactors Erika J Glazer and Brenda R. Potter.

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking \$7 (maximum 3 hours) or \$7 flat rate after 6 p.m. Visit [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu) for details or call 310-443-7000.