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Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for *The Contenders*

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

(Los Angeles, CA)—The Hammer Museum today announced the lineup for the Los Angeles presentation of [*The Contenders*](#), a special ticketed series organized by The Museum of Modern Art that offers filmgoers the opportunity to see recently released films that are bound for awards glory or destined to become cult classics. Now in its third year at the Hammer, *The Contenders* features **10 nights** of films and intimate post-screening conversations with directors and actors from **December 1 through December 15, 2016**.

Opening the series at the Hammer on December 1 is *Loving*, written and directed by Jeff Nichols and starring Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga; Nichols and Edgerton will participate in a post-screening discussion. *Loving* tells the story of interracial couple Richard and Mildred Loving, whose courage and commitment paved the way for marriage equality. Other highlights include *Nocturnal Animals* with director **Tom Ford** on December 2 and *Into the Inferno* with **Werner Herzog** on December 13.

Announced Schedule:

Thursday, December 1, 7:30 p.m., *Loving* with director Jeff Nichols and lead actor Joel Edgerton

Friday, December 2, 7:30 p.m., *Nocturnal Animals* with director Tom Ford

Monday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., *Manchester by the Sea* with director Kenneth Lonergan

Wednesday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., *Arrival* with director Denis Villeneuve

Thursday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., *Lion* with lead actor Dev Patel

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., *Into the Inferno* with director Werner Herzog

*Additional screenings for December 6, 12, 14, and 15 will be announced on the Hammer's website.

Tickets \$12 general public / \$8 for Hammer members.

Tickets will be available on site at the Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater Box Office and online at 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 *The Contenders* represent the best of mainstream movies, independents, foreign-language films, documentaries, and art-house sensations. Now in its ninth year, the series highlights films that are contenders for lasting historical significance, often with special appearances by directors and actors. Previous guests have included directors Alfonso Cuarón (*Gravity*, 2013), Kathryn Bigelow (*Zero Dark Thirty*, 2012), and David O. Russell (*Silver Linings Playbook*, 2012) and actors Jake Gyllenhaal (*Prisoners*, 2013), Jonah Hill (*The Wolf of Wall Street*, 2013), and Kristen Wiig (*Bridesmaids*, 2011). The exhibition is organized by Rajendra Roy, The Celeste Bartos Chief Curator, and Sean Egan, Producer, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

Sponsorship:

The MoMA presentation is supported by the Annual Film Fund.

The Hollywood Reporter is the Official Media Sponsor of *The Contenders*.

About the films:

***Loving* with director Jeff Nichols and lead actor Joel Edgerton**

Thursday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

Loving celebrates the real-life courage and commitment of an interracial couple, Richard and Mildred Loving, who married and then spent the next nine years fighting for the right to live as a family in their hometown. Their civil rights case, *Loving v. Virginia*, went all the way to the Supreme Court, which in 1967 reaffirmed the very foundation of the right to marry—making their love story an inspiration to couples everywhere” (Cannes Film Festival). Courtesy of Focus Features. 123 min. 2016. Directed by Jeff Nichols.

***Nocturnal Animals* with director Tom Ford**

Friday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.

Amy Adams, Jake Gyllenhaal and Armie Hammer headline the second feature from director Tom Ford (*A Single Man*), about a woman who is forced to confront the demons of her past as she is drawn into the world of a thriller novel written by her ex-husband. Tom Ford has turned to Austin Wright's novel *Tony and Susan* as the source for his second feature, a brilliantly assembled, unsettling work that signals a major step forward for the fashion designer/film director after his well-received debut.... If skeptics wondered about Ford's commitment to cinema, *Nocturnal Animals* will lay all such doubts to rest. The film is stylish and gorgeous to look at — as sleek as a panther — but it's far more than an exercise in aesthetics as it turns its gaze on the complex inner life of a middle-aged woman whose world is about to be turned upside down. Susan (Amy Adams) is a successful Los Angeles art-gallery owner who wants for very little, yet she finds her paradise troubled by the frequent absences of her second husband (Armie Hammer), a handsome young doctor, due to his incessant travelling. Susan is rattled further when a manuscript arrives on her desk, written by her long-estranged first husband, Tony (Jake Gyllenhaal). Alone, with her current husband away in New York, Susan opens the manuscript and is propelled into the fictional life of a teacher (also Gyllenhaal) whose drive to his summer house with his family is about to turn into a nightmare. As Susan gets deeper into the book, she is forced to examine her own past. Oscillating effortlessly between Susan's reality and the story within a story, Ford slowly and meticulously turns the screws, delving into suspense while keeping a firm hand on the disturbing drama. *Nocturnal Animals* is both an effective thriller and a psychological study of a woman in crisis. Aply supported by his superb cast, Ford never puts a foot wrong as he deftly navigates these two sides; his crisp direction is totally suited to the material. The result is a sheer delight from beginning to end” (Toronto Film International Festival). Courtesy of Focus Features. 116 min. 2016. Directed by Tom Ford.

***Manchester by the Sea* with director Kenneth Lonergan**

Monday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.

In *Manchester by the Sea*, the latest film from award-winning writer and director Kenneth Lonergan, the life of a solitary Boston janitor is transformed when he returns to his hometown to take care of his teenage nephew. The story of the Chandlers, a working-class family living in a Massachusetts fishing village for generations, *Manchester by the Sea* is a deeply poignant, unexpectedly funny exploration of the power of familial love, community, sacrifice and hope. 137 min. 2016. Directed by Kenneth Lonergan.

***Arrival* with director Denis Villeneuve**

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

Visionary Quebecois auteur Denis Villeneuve (*Prisoners*, *Enemy*, *Sicario*) directs Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner and Forest Whitaker in this sci-fi drama about the panic that follows a wave of mysterious spacecraft landings across the globe. Throughout his film career, acclaimed Canadian director Denis Villeneuve has adapted to different genres, and his latest feature, *Arrival*, is no exception. *Arrival* honours classic science fiction while also creating something truly original. When 12 alien spacecraft land around the world, linguistics expert Dr. Louise Banks (Amy Adams) and theoretical physicist Ian Donnelly (Jeremy Renner) are recruited by the US military to obtain the answer to one question: "What do they want?" ...Certain to thrill mainstream moviegoers, cinephiles, sci-fi fans, and linguistics nerds alike, *Arrival* challenges the notion that technology improves our ability to communicate by focusing on the fundamentals. Villeneuve finds excitement in the details, crafting an atmosphere where dissecting the various components and interpretations of a sentence is as gripping as the first sight of aliens. Aided by

Bradford Young's arresting cinematography, Jóhann Jóhannsson's captivating score, and long-time collaborator Patrice Vermette's minimalist production design, Villeneuve shows masterful control over tone as he creates palpable tension that quietly builds to the film's powerful conclusion. At once beautiful and haunting, *Arrival* is an alien movie that is fundamentally human" (Toronto Film International Festival). Courtesy of Paramount Pictures. 116 min. 2016. Directed by Denis Villeneuve.

***Lion* with lead actor Dev Patel**

Thursday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.

The indomitability of the human spirit is a recurrent theme in some of the best-loved films in cinema history. Garth Davis's *Lion* updates the against-all-odds genre for the 21st century by reminding us that, no matter how far technology brings us, it is the heart that propels us forward. Based on the experiences of Saroo Brierley (as recounted in his nonfiction book *A Long Way Home*) and featuring moving performances by Dev Patel, Rooney Mara, Nicole Kidman, David Wenham, and the astonishing newcomer Sunny Pawar as a five-year-old Saroo lost on a train hurtling hundreds of miles away from the family he loves, *Lion* is a five-hanky triumph. 129 min. 2016. Directed by Garth Davis.

***Into the Inferno* with director Werner Herzog**

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.

Filmmaker, globetrotter, and shaman Werner Herzog and volcanologist Clive Oppenheimer dare us to stare into the fiery abyss and not jump. So intoxicating are the tales they tell—of island rituals, volcano worship, and earthly forces beyond comprehension—that you may leave the theater wanting to abandon the mundane world of Western civilization. In the great tradition of his *Encounters at the End of the World* and *Grizzly Man*, Herzog invites us to abandon our comfort zones and embrace the rush of the natural world. 104 min. 2016. Directed by Werner Herzog.

Hammer Museum Information Visit www.hammer.ucla.edu or call **310-443-7000** for current exhibition and program information.

This is a special ticketed event series: Tickets \$12 / Members \$8

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

Museum Admission: Admission to all exhibitions and public programs is free and open to the public.

Location/Parking: The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard in Westwood Village, three blocks east of the 405 Freeway's Wilshire exit. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$6 for three hours with Museum validation. Bicycles park free and the Hammer is easily accessible via [public transportation](#).

Tours: For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.

[Hammer Museum Blog](#), [Hammer Museum on Facebook](#), [Hammer Museum on Twitter](#), [Hammer Museum on Instagram](#), [Hammer Museum on YouTube](#), [Hammer Museum on Flickr](#)

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 708-9400, MoMA.org.

Hours: Saturday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$25 adults; \$18 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$14 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Free admission during Uniqlo Free Friday Nights: Fridays, 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

MoMA.org: No service charge for tickets ordered on MoMA.org. Tickets purchased online may be printed out and presented at the Museum without waiting in line. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs).

Film and After Hours Program Admission: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$8 full-time students with current I.D. The price of an After Hours Program Admission ticket may be applied toward the price of a Museum admission ticket or MoMA Membership within 30 days.

[MoMA/MoMA PS1 Blog](#), [MoMA on Facebook](#), [MoMA on Twitter](#), [MoMA on YouTube](#), [MoMA on Flickr](#)