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Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for *The Contenders*

–First Los Angeles presentation of The Museum of Modern Art’s annual series of the best films of 2014–

–Accompanying intimate conversations with actors and filmmakers–

(Los Angeles, CA)—The Hammer Museum today announced the lineup for [The Contenders](#), The Museum of Modern Art’s renowned end-of-the-year film series that offers filmgoers the opportunity to see recently released films that are bound for awards glory or destined to become a cult classic. Presented for the first time in Los Angeles, *The Contenders* features intimate post-screening conversations with directors and actors. Opening the series at the Hammer on December 8 is *Snowpiercer* (2014), directed by Bong Joon-ho and starring Chris Evans, Tilda Swinton, and Ed Harris. Bong Joon-ho will participate in a post-screening discussion immediately following the film. More details for #MoMAContenders will be announced on the Hammer’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@hammer_museum), and Instagram (@hammer_museum).

Announced Schedule:

Monday, December 8, 7:30pm, *Snowpiercer* with director Bong Joon-ho (South Korea)

Wednesday, December 10, 7:30pm, *Mommy* with director Xavier Dolan (Canada)

Tuesday, December 16, 7:30pm, *Obvious Child* with lead actor Jenny Slate

Thursday, December 18, 7:30pm, *Nightcrawler* with writer/director Dan Gilroy and actor Rene Russo

Monday, January 5, 7:30pm, *The Imitation Game* (U.K.)

Tuesday, January 6, 7:30pm, *Citizenfour*

Wednesday, January 7, 7:30pm, *The Theory of Everything* with lead actor Eddie Redmayne

Thursday, January 8, 7:30pm, *Boyhood* with director Richard Linklater

Tuesday, January 13, 7:30pm, *A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night* with director Ana Lily Amirpour (Iran/U.S.)

Tickets \$15 general public / \$10 for HAMMER PLUS members.

Tickets will be available on site at the Hammer Museum’s Billy Wilder Theater Box Office and online at hammer.ucla.edu.

Similarly, the series opened at MoMA on November 13 with the New York premiere of J. C. Chandor’s third feature film, *A Most Violent Year* (2014), which stars Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain as residents of New York City during 1981, when the scourge of crime was a daily reality. More screenings for #MoMAContenders will be announced on MoMA’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@MuseumModernArt), and Instagram (@themuseumofmodernart).

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

The MoMA presentation is supported by BNP Paribas.

Media sponsorship is provided by *The Hollywood Reporter*.

About the films:

***Snowpiercer* with director Bong Joon-ho (South Korea)**

Monday, December 8, 7:30pm

"Bong Joon-ho's epic adventure describes an impending ice age caused by human hand, whose last survivors are left circling the earth in a nonstop express train. The rich are in the front carriages and the poor—from whose perspective the story is told—at the back. If you walk along a moving train from back to front, you end up traveling faster than the train itself relative to the Earth. This is the dynamic force upon which Bong's film thrives: there's only one direction in which this revolt can go and it'll be doomed to failure if its speed doesn't exceed the reaction. With its impressive cast (including Chris Evans, Tilda Swinton, Song Kang-ho, Octavia Spencer, and John Hurt) breathtaking artificial landscapes, fantastic make-up, over-the-top décor, fresh, witty dialogue, and a healthy portion of humor, Bong gives back to cinema what the Lumière brothers themselves already used to impress their audiences: the sheer force of the machine" (Berlinale, 2014). Courtesy of Radius TWC. 126 min. 2013. South Korea/Czech Republic/USA/France. Directed by Bong Joon-ho.

***Mommy* with director Xavier Dolan (Canada)**

Wednesday, December 10, 7:30pm,

Perhaps the least shocking thing about the work of 1989-born Quebecois director Xavier Dolan is its contemporary visual and linguistic fluency. From the "Instagram" formatting to the up-to-the-nanosecond slang, his latest film continues to rock the staid foundations of cinematic auteurism (as acknowledged by the jury at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival who honored him alongside fellow innovator, Jean-Luc Godard). What does, and has shocked since his debut film "I Killed My Mother" (2009), is his ability to intuit, shape, script and direct fully-formed complex women characters on screen. Taking nothing away from his brilliant collaborators (actors Anne Dorval, Suzanne Clement and Antoine-Olivier Pilon) who bring a ferocity and determination to their roles, it is Dolan's stunning insight that truly mesmerizes. Layered with a soundtrack that is both current and un-ironically 90's-retro, "Mommy" triumphantly confirms the arrival of a new (20-something!) master. Courtesy of IMDB. 139 min. 2014. Canada. Directed by Xavier Dolan.

***Obvious Child* with lead actor Jenny Slate**

Tuesday, December 16, 7:30pm

A girl walks into a bar... and starts telling jokes about her vagina and her boyfriend. It turns out the joke's on her, since he's been sleeping with her friend and takes advantage of her public, extremely off-color verbal antics to dump her. Basting in misery (she's also about to lose her job) and booze (a gay wing-man on hand to enable), she attempts to find solace in family, friends, more stand-up and ultimately a sloppy hook-up. What comes next (no spoilers here) represents a brave new frontier in comedy, and director Gillian Robespierre tackles it head on with side-splitting results. Featuring a star-making lead performance by Jenny Slate, who allows herself to laugh along with the joke-called-life. Truly a "choice" comedy. Courtesy of A24 Films. 90 min. 2014. USA. Directed by Gillian Robespierre.

***Nightcrawler* with writer/director Dan Gilroy and actor Rene Russo**

Thursday, December 18, 7:30pm

Dan Gilroy's debut film takes the viewer deep into nocturnal Los Angeles and into the world of his singular creation, freelance videographer Louis Bloom. As played by an electric Jake Gyllenhaal, Louis is opportunistic, intelligent, and a sociopath. The film is a commentary on the 'if it bleeds, it leads' ethos of contemporary television journalism and an intense character study of a unique twenty-first century creature who lives on the fringe of society until he discovers a path to power in the media world. Rene Russo shines as a new producer whose ethics have been corroded by her profession and who meets her match (and then some) in the mercurial Bloom. Gilroy, inspired by the work of pioneering photographer Weegee, creates a memorable tableau of Los Angeles as a back lot of grisly crime scenes and shady operators. *Nightcrawler* noir not to be missed. Courtesy of IMDB. 117 min. 2014. USA. Directed by Dan Gilroy.

***The Imitation Game* (U.K.)**

Monday, January 5, 7:30pm

"One of the greatest stories of our time began back in the darkest days of the Second World War. Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) was a brilliant Cambridge mathematician hired by the British military to break Nazi codes. His work leading a group of misfit geniuses (Keira Knightly, Matthew Goode, Rory Kinnear) didn't only shorten the war, it pushed technology to the point where computers could be imagined. But Turing paid a price" (The Toronto International Film Festival, 2014). Winner of the Audience Award at the Toronto and Hamptons International Film Festivals. Courtesy of The Weinstein Company. 113 min. 2014. Great Britain/USA. Directed by Morten Tyldum.

Citizenfour

Tuesday, January 6, 7:30pm

In early 2103, Oscar-nominated filmmaker and erstwhile Homeland Security watchlist designee, Laura Poitras was working on the third in a what was to be a trilogy on the ramifications of post-9/11 wars and policies when she received encrypted emails from an anonymous source identified only as "citizen four". What followed proved to be an unveiling of covert surveillance on a previously unimaginable scale, and a massive news story. The central protagonist was an American freelancer for the NSA named Edward Snowden. Poitras first exposed his face to the world, through a short video statement released in tandem with initial articles by journalist Glenn Greenwald. What was not exposed at that time was just how incredibly articulate and charismatic a figure Snowden is, nor the full scale of the real-life thriller that the release of the documents created. There is more tension in the eight days spent in a small hotel room in Hong Kong than in the sweeping arcs of most political thrillers in contemporary cinema today. Essential viewing for anyone concerned with the implications of a "security-society" as well as lovers of great documentary filmmaking. Courtesy of IMDB. 114 min. 2014. USA/Germany. Directed by Laura Poitras.

***The Theory of Everything* with lead actor Eddie Redmayne**

Wednesday, January 7, 7:30pm

Starring Eddie Redmayne ("Les Misérables") and Felicity Jones ("The Amazing Spider-Man 2"), this is the extraordinary story of one of the world's greatest living minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who falls deeply in love with fellow Cambridge student Jane Wilde. Once a healthy, active young man, Hawking received an earth-shattering diagnosis at 21 years of age. With Jane fighting tirelessly by his side, Stephen embarks on his most ambitious scientific work, studying the very thing he now has precious little of – time. Together, they defy impossible odds, breaking new ground in medicine and science, and achieving more than they could ever have dreamed. The film is based on the memoir "Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen," by Jane Hawking, and is directed by Academy Award winner James Marsh ("Man on Wire"). Courtesy of Focus Features 123 min. 2014. Great Britain. Directed by James Marsh.

***Boyhood* with director Richard Linklater**

Thursday, January 8, 7:30pm

"In 2002, Richard Linklater started constructing a fictional story centered on a six-year-old boy named Ellar Coltrane. For 12 years, Linklater, Coltrane, actors Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette and several nonprofessionals (including the director's daughter Lorelei) got together once a year, working out a loose storyline and

incorporating his young star's experiences into the mix. Stepdads come and go; ditto a girlfriend. Time is marked by fluctuating weights and heights, as well as a jukebox's worth of pop songs. Not much happens...just life, in all its messy glory. A boy becomes a man before one's very eyes. The result is nothing short of a masterpiece, an extraordinary collaborative gamble that succeeds in charting the rocky terrain of childhood like no other movie" (David Fear, San Francisco Film Festival, 2014). Courtesy of IFC Films. 165 min. 2014. USA. Directed by Richard Linklater.

***A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night* with director Ana Lily Amirpour (Iran/U.S.)**

Tuesday, January 13, 7:30pm

Strange things are afoot in Bad City. The Iranian ghost town, home to prostitutes, junkies, pimps and other sordid souls, is a bastion of depravity and hopelessness where a lonely vampire stalks its most unsavory inhabitants. But when boy meets girl, an unusual love story begins to blossom... blood red. Courtesy of Sundance Film Festival. 107 min. 2014. Directed by Ana Lily Amirpour.

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 \$15 / Members \$10

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11am–8pm; Saturday & Sunday 11am–5pm. 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 \$3 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](#)

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