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Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for *The Contenders*

—Fourth 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 the lineup for the Los Angeles presentation of *The Contenders*, a special ticketed series organized by The Museum of Modern Art that offers audiences unique opportunities to see recently released films that are bound to become classics, followed by intimate and revealing post-screening conversations with directors and actors. Now in its fourth year at the Hammer, this *The Contenders* features **10 nights** of groundbreaking filmmaking, just before awards season, from **December 4 through December 19, 2017**.

Opening the series at the Hammer on December 4 is ***Mudbound***, directed by Dee Rees, and co-written by Rees and Virgil Williams based on a novel by Hillary Jordan of the same name. The film stars Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, and Mary J. Blige, and explores a racially divided post-World War II Mississippi, where two men—one black and one white—forge a friendship based on their shared war experiences. The screening will be followed by discussion with Rees, moderated by MoMA curator Rajendra Roy. Other highlights include ***Get Out* with director Jordan Peele** on December 7, ***The Florida Project* with Willem Dafoe** on December 13, and ***Phantom Thread***, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, on December 19.

Announced Schedule:

Monday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., ***Mudbound*** with Dee Rees

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., ***Molly's Game***

Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 p.m., ***Downsizing*** with Alexander Payne

Thursday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., ***Get Out*** with Jordan Peele

Monday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., ***Lady Bird***

Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., ***The Big Sick*** with Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., ***The Florida Project*** with Willem Dafoe

Thursday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., ***The Beguiled***

Monday, December 18, 7:30 p.m., ***Detroit*** with Kathryn Bigelow

Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m., ***Phantom Thread***

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

Tickets are available online at hammer.ucla.edu/contenders2017. Tickets will also be available on site at the Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater Box Office on the day of each screening.

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 tenth 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), 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). 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:

This film program is organized by Rajendra Roy, The Celeste Bartos Chief Curator of Film, and Sean Egan, producer, film exhibitions and projects, the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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

Media sponsorship is provided by The Hollywood Reporter. Additional media support is provided by Time Out L.A.

About the films:

***Mudbound* with director Dee Rees**

Monday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.

In racially divided post-World War II Mississippi, two men—one black and one white—forge a friendship based on their shared war experiences. *Mudbound* stars Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, and Mary J. Blige. Courtesy of Netflix. 134 minutes. 2017. Directed by Dee Rees.

Molly's Game

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

Based on the true story of an Olympic-class skier who ran the world's most exclusive high-stakes poker game for a decade before being arrested in the middle of the night by 17 FBI agents, *Molly's Game* is based on the book by Molly Bloom. Her players included Hollywood royalty, sports stars, business titans and finally, unbeknownst to her, the Russian mob. Her only ally was her criminal defense lawyer Charlie Jaffey, who learned that there was much more to Molly than the tabloids led us to believe. *Molly's Game* stars Jessica Chastain, Idris Elba, Kevin Costner and Michael C. Hall. Courtesy of Sony Pictures. 140 minutes. 2017. Directed by Aaron Sorkin.

***Downsizing* with director Alexander Payne**

Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.

When scientists discover how to shrink humans to five inches tall as a solution to overpopulation, Paul (Matt Damon) and his wife Audrey (Kristen Wiig) decide to abandon their stressed lives in order to get small and move to a new downsized community — a choice that triggers life-changing adventures. Courtesy of Paramount Pictures. 135 minutes. 2017. Directed by Alexander Payne.

***Get Out* with director Jordan Peele**

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

When Chris (Daniel Kaluuya), a young African-American man, visits his white girlfriend's (Allison Williams) family estate, he becomes ensnared in the more sinister, real reason for the invitation. At first, Chris reads the family's overly accommodating behavior as nervous attempts to deal with their daughter's interracial relationship, but as the weekend progresses, a series of increasingly disturbing discoveries lead him to a truth that he could have never imagined. This speculative thriller is equal parts gripping thriller and provocative commentary. Courtesy of Universal. 104 min. 2017. Directed by Jordan Peele.

Ladybird

Monday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.

In *Lady Bird*, Greta Gerwig reveals herself to be a bold new cinematic voice with her directorial debut, excavating both the humor and pathos in the turbulent bond between a mother and her teenage daughter. Christine “Lady Bird” McPherson (Saoirse Ronan) fights against but is exactly like her wildly loving, deeply opinionated and strong-willed mom (Laurie Metcalf), a nurse working tirelessly to keep her family afloat after Lady Bird's father (Tracy Letts) loses his job. Set in Sacramento, California in 2002, amidst a rapidly shifting American economic landscape, *Lady Bird* is an affecting look at the relationships that shape us, the beliefs that define us, and the unmatched beauty of a place called home. Courtesy of A24 Films. 93 min. 2017. Directed by Greta Gerwig.

***The Big Sick* with lead actor Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon**

Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

Based on the real-life courtship between Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon, *The Big Sick* tells the story of Pakistan-born aspiring comedian Kumail (Nanjiani), who connects with grad student Emily (Zoe Kazan) after one of his standup sets. However, what they thought would be just a one-night stand blossoms into the real thing, which complicates the life that is expected of Kumail by his traditional Muslim parents. When Emily is beset with a mysterious illness, it forces Kumail to navigate the medical crisis with her parents, Beth and Terry (Holly Hunter and Ray Romano), who he's never met, while dealing with the emotional tug-of-war between his family and his heart. Courtesy of Amazon Studios. 120 mins. 2017. Directed by Michael Showalter.

***The Florida Project* with Willem Dafoe**

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

Few visitors to Disney's Magic Kingdom ever notice the parallel universe of cheap motels lined up along the adjacent highways, where struggling families live week by week. Breakout star Brooklynn Prince plays six-year-old firecracker Moonee, who runs wild with her fellow little rascals to turn the shabby neighboring area into their own private theme park, oblivious to the dark secrets unfolding in the adult world. Willem Dafoe, in an exceptionally nuanced performance, plays the motel manager who gets tough on the troublemakers but is quietly looking out for their well-being. 35mm film renders a visually wondrous world seen through the eyes of the youngsters. In the end, the magic belongs to the children and the human spirit of survival. Courtesy of A24 Films. USA. 115 min. 2017. Directed by Sean Baker.

The Beguiled

Thursday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.

Cpl. John McBurney is an injured Union soldier who finds himself on the run as a deserter during the Civil War. He seeks refuge at an all-female Southern boarding school where the teachers and students seem more than willing to help. Soon, sexual tensions lead to dangerous rivalries as the women tend to his wounded leg while offering him comfort and companionship. *The Beguiled* stars Nicole Kidman, Collin Farrell, Kirsten Dunst and Elle Fanning. Courtesy of Focus Features. USA. 93 min. 2017. Directed by Sofia Coppola.

***Detroit* with Kathryn Bigelow**

Monday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.

In the summer of 1967, rioting and civil unrest starts to tear apart the city of Detroit. Two days later, a report of gunshots prompts the Detroit Police Department, the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Army National Guard to search and seize an annex of the nearby Algiers Motel. Several policemen start to flout procedure by forcefully and viciously interrogating guests to get a confession. By the end of the

night, three unarmed men are gunned down while several others are brutally beaten. *Detroit* stars John Boyega, Will Poulter, Algee Smith, Jason Mitchell, John Krasinski and Anthony Mackie. Courtesy of Annapurna Pictures. 143 min. 2017. Directed Kathryn Bigelow.

Phantom Thread

Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.

Set in the glamour of 1950's post-war London, renowned dressmaker Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis) and his sister Cyril (Lesley Manville) are at the center of British fashion, dressing royalty, movie stars, heiresses, socialites, debutants and dames with the distinct style of The House of Woodcock. Women come and go through Woodcock's life, providing the confirmed bachelor with inspiration and companionship, until he comes across a young, strong-willed woman, Alma (Vicky Krieps), who soon becomes a fixture in his life as his muse and lover. Once controlled and planned, he finds his carefully tailored life disrupted by love. With his latest film, Paul Thomas Anderson paints an illuminating portrait both of an artist on a creative journey, and the women who keep his world running. Courtesy of Annapurna Pictures. 115 min. 2017. Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson.

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

This is a special ticketed event series: Tickets \$20 / Members \$10

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](#)