

For Immediate Release: November 14, 2018

Contact: Nancy Lee, Senior Manager, Public Relations, 310-443-7016, nlee@hammer.ucla.edu

Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for *MoMA Contenders 2018*

—Fifth 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 2018*, 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, followed by intimate and revealing post-screening conversations with directors and actors. Now in its fifth year at the Hammer, *MoMA Contenders 2018* features **10 nights** of groundbreaking filmmaking from **December 3 through December 18, 2018**.

Opening the series at the Hammer on December 3 is *Cold War* directed by **Pawel Pawlikowski**, who will be a part of a discussion following the screening. A passionate 1950s love story between two fatefully mismatched people shot in dramatic black-and-white, “Cold War” won the best director prize at Cannes. Other highlights include *Widows* with director **Steve McQueen** on December 5, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* with **Melissa McCarthy** on December 17, and *Sorry to Bother You* with director **Boots Riley** on December 18.

Confirmed Schedule:

Monday, December 3, 7:30 p.m., *Cold War* with Pawel Pawlikowski

Tuesday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., *Black Panther*

Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., *Widows* with Steve McQueen

Thursday, December 6, 7:30 p.m., *Free Solo* with Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi

Monday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., *Bisbee '17* with Robert Greene

Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., *The Front Runner* with Jason Reitman

Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., *Roma*

Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., *The Hate U Give* with George Tillman Jr. and Amandla Stenberg

Monday, December 17, 7:30 p.m., *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* with Melissa McCarthy

Tuesday, December 18, 7:30 p.m., *Sorry to Bother You* with Boots Riley

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

There will be a special members pre-sale from November 14-18. [Join or upgrade today.](#) Beginning November 19, tickets will be available to the public 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 eleventh 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 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).

MoMA Contenders 2018 is organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. 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:

***Cold War* with Pawel Pawlikowski**

Monday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.

In the ruins of post-war Poland, Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) and Zula (Joanna Kulig) fall deeply, obsessively and destructively in love. As performing musicians forced to play into the Soviet propaganda machine, they dream of escaping to the creative freedom of the West. But one day, as they spot their chance to make a break for Paris, both make a split decision that will mark their lives forever. As the years march on in the wake of that moment, Wiktor and Zula watch the world changing around them, always struggling to find their moment in time. Courtesy of Curzon Artificial Eye. 2017. Poland. 89 mins. Directed by Pawel Pawlikowski.

Black Panther

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

Following the tragic death of his father, crown prince T'Challah (Chadwick Boseman) returns to the kingdom of Wakanda to take the throne. T'Challah's plans to continue his father's legacy are disrupted by the arrival of a challenger, Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) who intends to reveal Wakanda's concealed technological utopia to the world and disrupt long-held peace. *Black Panther's* release broke records while becoming a cultural touchstone, and with its exploration of power and identity, it is the first Marvel film to feature a predominantly black cast, heralding a new age of superhero films. Courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures. 2018. USA. 135 mins. Directed by Ryan Coogler.

***Widows* with Steve McQueen**

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

Steve McQueen brings considerable artistic force to a transfixing tale of betrayal, revenge, and self-discovery. Oscar winner Viola Davis leads a knockout ensemble of women and men who must face the consequences of lives shackled by lies and attempt to course-correct before death claims them all. Infused with the best elements of feminist thrillers, crime-family sagas, and kick-ass action movies, *Widows* also brings timely new perspectives and unexpected depth to a blockbuster film. McQueen challenges us to revisit our expectations about genre, heroes and villains, and loyalty. Courtesy of Twentieth-Century Fox. 2018. USA. 130 mins. Directed by Steve McQueen.

***Free Solo* with Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi**

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

Free Solo follows mountaineer Alex Honnold as he prepares for his lifelong dream of climbing the world's most famous rock, Yosemite's 3000 ft. El Capitan—without a rope. Celebrated as one of the greatest athletic feats of any kind, Honnold's climb set the ultimate standard: perfection or death. Experienced mountain-doc filmmakers Elisabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin (*Meru*) take on the dual challenge of capturing the record-breaking free climb, and the peripatetic life of their subject. The result is both an edge-of-your seat thriller and an inspiring portrait of an athlete who exceeded our current understanding of human physical and mental potential. Courtesy of National Geographic Films. 2018. USA. 97 mins. Directed by Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi.

***Bisbee '17* with Robert Greene**
Monday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

Bisbee '17 is a nonfiction feature film by award-winning filmmaker Robert Greene set in Bisbee, Arizona, an eccentric old mining town just miles away from both Tombstone and the Mexican border. Radically combining collaborative documentary, western and musical elements, the film follows several members of the close knit community as they attempt to reckon with their town's darkest hour. In 1917, nearly two-thousand immigrant miners, on strike for better wages and safer working conditions, were violently rounded up by their armed neighbors, herded onto cattle cars, shipped to the middle of the New Mexican desert and left there to die. This long-buried and largely forgotten event came to be known as the Bisbee Deportation. Courtesy of Impact Partners. 2018. USA. 89 mins. Directed by Robert Greene.

***The Front Runner* with Jason Reitman**
Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.

It's hard imagine a time in American politics when candidates believed that their personal lives were off limits to the press and voters, and even harder to imagine that it was as recent as the 1980s. Perhaps the last presidential candidate to enter the race assuming his personal "affairs" would not be scrutinized was Gary Hart, and campaigns have never been the same since. Jason Reitman directs Hugh Jackman in an engaging, timely portrait of a brilliant political mind undone by hubris and changing attitudes about privacy and public life. Cowritten by Matt Bai and Jay Carson (both of whom have spent careers inside the political realm), *The Front Runner* is authentic and frenetic, much like the Hart campaign of 1987. Courtesy of Columbia Pictures. 2018. USA. 112 mins. Directed by Jason Reitman.

Roma
Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

Based on director Alfonso Cuarón's own childhood in a middle-class home in 1970s Mexico City, *Roma* is the gentle and intricate portrait of Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio), the family's housekeeper and nanny. An incredible work of social realism, *Roma* chronicles a year from Cleo's perspective, featuring the emotional and domestic labor she provides to the family and her rare personal moments away from the home. Cuarón's return to Mexico after 17 years in Hollywood, *Roma* is a magnificent example of a master telling a deeply personal story with impeccable craft. Remarkably photographed in gorgeous black and white (also by Cuarón) this film is mesmerizing in every aspect. Courtesy of Netflix. 2018. Mexico. 135 mins. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón.

***The Hate U Give* with George Tillman Jr. and Amandla Stenberg**
Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.

Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds: the poor, mostly black, neighborhood where she lives and the rich, mostly white, prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressures from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right. *THE HATE U GIVE* is based on the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller by Angie Thomas and stars Amandla Stenberg as Starr, with Regina Hall, Russell Hornsby, Issa Rae, KJ Apa, Algee Smith, Sabrina Carpenter, Common and Anthony Mackie. Courtesy of 20th Century Fox. 2018. USA. 132 mins. Directed by George Tillman Jr.

***Can You Ever Forgive Me?* with Melissa McCarthy**
Monday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.

Melissa McCarthy stars as Lee Israel, the best-selling celebrity biographer (and cat lover) who made her living in the 1970s and 80s profiling the likes of Katharine Hepburn, Tallulah Bankhead, Estée Lauder and journalist Dorothy Kilgallen. When Lee found herself unable to get published because she had fallen

out of step with the marketplace, she turned her art form to deception, abetted by her loyal friend Jack (Richard E. Grant). Courtesy of Fox Searchlight. 2018. USA. 106 mins. Directed by Marielle Heller.

Sorry to Bother You with Boots Riley

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

Oakland resident Cassius Green (Lakieth Stanfield), overwhelmed by back rent and a nagging uncle, is in desperate need of a job. He finds a steady paycheck and unexpected success as a telemarketer, eventually getting promoted to an elite role selling a morally questionable service. This satirical, absurdist, genre-bending film takes a truly fresh look at the intersections of ethics, race, class, and art, creating a uniquely relevant snapshot of our current moment. An incendiary calling card from director Boots Riley, *Sorry to Bother You* is as intellectually bold as it is stylistically ambitious. Courtesy of Annapurna Pictures. 2018. USA. 111 mins. Directed by Boots Riley.

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 \$6 (maximum 3 hours) or \$6 flat rate after 6 p.m. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310-443-7000.

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.