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Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for MoMA Contenders 2022

L.A. presentation of the acclaimed annual series features Q&As with filmmakers, cast and more

10 Screenings November 30–December 15, 2022



(Los Angeles, CA)—The Hammer Museum announced today this year’s selections for the Los Angeles presentation of the acclaimed series **MoMA Contenders**, which will screen in the Hammer’s Billy Wilder Theater. This special ticketed series organized by The Museum of Modern Art offers audiences the unique opportunity to see the year’s most important and groundbreaking films well in advance of awards season. The screenings include special introductions and intimate and revealing post-screening conversations with filmmakers, cast, and other guests. Marking the series’ eighth year at the Hammer, MoMA Contenders 2022 features **10 nights** of film from **November 30 to December 15, 2022**.

Opening the series at the Hammer on November 30 is *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* starring Daniel Craig, Janelle Monáe, and Edward Norton, written and directed by **Rian Johnson** who will introduce the screening. Other highlights include *Everything Everywhere All at Once* on December 6 followed by a conversation with **Daniel Kwan** and **Daniel Scheinert**, who wrote and directed the film; *Sr.* on December 12 with a post-screening discussion with **Chris Smith**, **Robert Downey Jr.**, and **Susan Downey**; *The Whale* on December 7 with guests **Brendan Fraser**, **Hong Chau**, **Ty Simpkins**, and **Samuel D. Hunter**; and *Women Talking* on December 13 with guest **Claire Foy**.

MoMA Contenders 2022 Schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* introduced by Rian Johnson
Thursday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., *Decision to Leave*
Monday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., *Corsage*
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., *Everything Everywhere All at Once* with Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., *The Whale* with Brendan Fraser, Hong Chau, Ty Simpkins, Samuel D. Hunter
Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., *Saint Omer*
Monday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., *Sr.* with Chris Smith, Robert Downey Jr., Susan Downey
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., *Women Talking* with Claire Foy
Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., *Bones and All* with Taylor Russell
Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m., *Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio* introduced by Guillermo del Toro

Hammer members pre-sale begins Wednesday, November 9 at 10 a.m. Tickets go on sale to the public on Monday, November 14 at 10 a.m. Check [the Hammer website](#) for details and updates. **Tickets \$20 general public / \$10 for Hammer members.**

About MoMA Contenders

For this annual series, the Department of Film at MoMA combs through major studio releases and the top film festivals in the world, selecting influential, innovative films made in the past 12 months that they believe will stand the test of time. Every year there are films that resonate far beyond a theatrical release—if they manage to find their way to a commercial screen at all—or film festival appearance. Their significance can be attributed to a variety of factors, from structure to subject matter to language, but these films are united in their lasting impact on the cinematic art form. Whether bound for awards glory or destined to become a cult classic, each of these films is a contender for lasting historical significance, and any true cinephile will want to catch them on the big screen. Previous guests at the Hammer's iteration have included directors Paul Thomas Anderson (*Licorice Pizza*, 2021), Olivia Wilde (*Booksmart*, 2019), Bong Joon-ho (*Parasite*, 2019), 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 Andrew Garfield (2021), Eddie Murphy (*Dolemite is My Name*, 2019), Jake Gyllenhaal (*Prisoners*, 2013), Jonah Hill (*The Wolf of Wall Street*, 2013), and Kristen Wiig (*Bridesmaids*, 2011).

MoMA Contenders 2022 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, Sean Egan, Senior Producer, Film Exhibitions and Projects, and Olivia Priedite, Film Program Coordinator, The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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

About the Films

Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery

Introduced by writer and director **Rian Johnson**

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

Like everyone else, the world's greatest detective (Daniel Craig returns as Benoit Blanc!) found himself unable to get motivated during the pandemic. What he really needed was a big case to solve, and writer-director Rian Johnson delivers in glorious fashion. The grand tradition of movie murder mysteries, updated for the tech-bro era, is in full effect with a starry ensemble featuring Janelle Monáe, Edward Norton, Kathryn Hahn, Dave Bautista, and Kate Hudson social-distancing to death on a Greek Island. No matter how many layers of the *Glass Onion* you think you've peeled away, there's yet another waiting to be revealed.

2022. USA. Written and directed by Rian Johnson. DCP. 139 min. Courtesy Netflix

Decision to Leave

With special guests TBA

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

Following the grisly death of her husband, Seo-rae (Tang-Wei) fails to show the typical signs of grief, prompting crackerjack investigator Hae-joon (Park Hae-il) to consider her a suspect in the man's murder. Over the course of a series of stakeouts and interrogations, Hae-joon is increasingly drawn to his magnetic, mysterious target. Is the ace detective falling in love, or into a trap? At once a masterfully crafted police procedural and an incisive meditation on the nature of love and identity, *Decision to Leave* is a tour-de-force of neo-noir filmmaking. Winner of the Best Director prize at the Cannes Film Festival, veteran auteur Park Chan-wook (*Oldboy*) expertly weaves together each intriguing thread as he spins this haunting tapestry of murder, madness, and deceit.

2022. South Korea. Directed by Park Chan-wook. Screenplay by Park, Jeong Seo-kyeong. In Korean and Chinese; English subtitles. 138 min. Courtesy MUBI

Corsage

With special guests TBA

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

In the 1870s, no woman in Europe was more admired than the Empress Elisabeth of Austria (Vicky Krieps,). Known as 'Sisi,' Elisabeth was ahead of her time, living a life of freedom and power that eluded almost all other women of her age. In *Corsage* director Marie Kreutzer finds Elisabeth on the verge of her 40th birthday, an age that most believed made the Empress an elderly matron. But with an unquenchable thirst for a life filled with curiosity and passion, Elisabeth refused to let the limits of her time define her.

2022. Austria. Written and directed by Marie Kreutzer. 113 min. In German; English subtitles. Courtesy IFC Films

Everything Everywhere All at Once

Q&A with writer-directors **Daniel Kwan** and **Daniel Scheinert**

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

Everything Everywhere All at Once imagines no cultural barrier and total freedom in the multiverse, where everyone belongs and anything goes. A Chinese American laundromat owner is thrust into the multiverse amid tax-filing mayhem, marital crisis, and domestic meltdown. Directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert whip up a wild mix of absurdist comedy, martial arts, sci-fi, and adventure. Forget about logic, reason, or timeline and allow yourself to freefall into pure sensory and cognitive overload. Michelle Yeoh is the central character in multiple manifestations, is joined by Ke Huy Quan, Jamie Lee Curtis, James Hong, and Stephanie Hsu.

2022. USA. Written and directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert. 140 min. Courtesy A24

The Whale

Q&A with actors **Brendan Fraser**, **Hong Chau**, and **Ty Simpkins**, and writer **Samuel D. Hunter**

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

From director Darren Aronofsky comes *The Whale*, the story of a reclusive English teacher living with severe obesity who attempts to reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter for one last chance at redemption. Based on the acclaimed play by Samuel D. Hunter.

2022. USA. Directed by Darren Aronofsky. Screenplay by Samuel D. Hunter. DCP. 117 min. Courtesy A24

Saint Omer

With special guests TBA

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

Motherhood and sacrifice: the two have long been thought inseparable, but what if the sacrifice is of one's own child, whether out of noble vengefulness (*Medea*), the agony of a worse fate (slavery in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*), or perhaps for reasons that can never be fathomed. Director Alice Diop brings the tenderness and acuity of her documentaries *We* and *The Death of Danton* to bear on her first fiction feature, in which a young Senegalese woman is put on trial in the small French town of Saint Omer for the murder of her baby daughter. A tense courtroom drama and a work of great psychological complexity, *Saint Omer* follows a novelist covering the case who finds her assumptions about race, class, culture, and motive torn asunder, her character loosely based on Marguerite Duras, who in 1985 wrote a notorious essay "Sublime, Necessarily Sublime, Christine V" that wrongly imagined the mother of a murdered boy, 4-year-old Gregory Villemin, as the culprit.

2022. France. Directed by Alice Diop. Screenplay by Diop, Amrita David, Marie N'Diaye, Zoé Galeron. In French; English subtitles. 122 mins. Courtesy SUPER

Sr.

Q&A with director **Chris Smith, Robert Downey Jr., and Susan Downey**

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

Surprisingly or not, Robert Downey Jr., one of Hollywood's A-list actors—a voice of the world-weary, drug-addled Gen X in the 1980s (*Less than Zero*) turned Marvel superhero (*Iron Man*)—is descended from underground movie royalty. It was from his father, Robert Downey Sr. (*Putney Swope, Pound, Greaser's Palace*), and to a significant extent his actress mother, Elsie Downey, that Robert Jr. learned the craft of no-budget moviemaking, of improvisation both on screen and off, and of a certain reckless and sometimes immensely rewarding kind of creative abandon. Directed with uncommon sensitivity and acuity by Chris Smith (*American Job, The Pool, Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond*), this freewheeling portrait of Robert Downey Sr. features hilarious and revealing anecdotes of the highs and lows of 1960s and '70s counterculture... and of growing up within it. Featuring interviews with Paul Thomas Anderson, Alan Arkin, Norman Lear, and more.

2022. USA. Directed by Chris Smith. 89 min. DCP. Courtesy Netflix

Women Talking

Q&A with actor **Claire Foy**

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

Sarah Polley brings ferocious honesty and restrained urgency to her screen adaptation of Miriam Toews's acclaimed novel about a group of women from a remote religious community dealing with the aftermath of sexual assault perpetrated by the colony's men. A film of ideas brought to life by Polley and an ensemble cast—including Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, Jessie Buckley, Frances McDormand, Ben Whishaw, and Judith Ivey—*Women Talking* is a deep and searching exploration of self-determination, group responsibility, faith, and forgiveness, philosophically engaging and emotionally rich in equal measure.

2022. USA. Written and directed by Sarah Polley. 104 min. Courtesy United Artists Releasing

Bones and All

Q&A with actor **Taylor Russell**

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

Maren (Taylor Russell), a teenager who survives by eating human flesh, has spent her life roving from town to town with her father. As soon as she turns eighteen (and bites a girl from school), her father abandons her, leading Maren to finally search for her mother who left when she was a small child. Along her journey, Maren encounters Lee (Timothée Chalamet), who shares her affliction, sparking the flame of first love and first true kinship. Director Luca Guadagnino crafts a textured balance of the goriness of his *Suspiria* (2018) and the tenderness of *Call Me by Your Name* (2017), resulting in a singular tale of love on the margins.

USA. Directed by Luca Guadagnino. Screenplay by David Kajganich, based on the novel by Camille DeAngelis. 130 min. DCP. Courtesy United Artists Releasing

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio

Introduced by director **Guillermo del Toro**

Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.

"From my many wanderings on this Earth, I had so much to say about imperfect fathers and imperfect sons," begins Sebastian J. Cricket, chronicler of the life of the wooden boy, Pinocchio. Directors Guillermo del Toro and Mark Gustafson transport Carlo Collodi's 1883 book to Fascist-era Italy in del Toro's first stop-motion-animated feature film. While Collodi—and the many, many subsequent retellings of the classic story—focus on the obedience of children, del Toro celebrates righteous disobedience, chosen family, and what it means to be truly alive. Brought to life by Wood Sprite to heal a grieving Geppetto, Pinocchio navigates the exploitative worlds of the military and the entertainment industry as he tries to find out what it means to be a good son. Though del Toro and Gustafson take a naturalistic approach to their handmade animation, the fantastical creatures Pinocchio

meets along the way wrap the film in an aura of otherworldly magic. An international production that spanned from Portland, Oregon, to Guadalajara and Manchester, *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio* is a sweeping love letter to—and a towering achievement in—the craft of stop-motion animation.

2022. USA. Directed by Guillermo del Toro and Mark Gustafson. Screenplay by del Toro, Patrick McHale. 114 min.

Courtesy Netflix

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. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. 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. Tuesday-Sunday: 11am to 6pm. 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 for details or call 310-443-7000.