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Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for MoMA Contenders 2024 with Screenings and Exclusive In-Person Q&A's

10 Screenings, Dec. 3 – Dec. 19, 2024



(Los Angeles, CA) — The Hammer Museum announced today this year's selections for MoMA Contenders 2024, the annual West Coast edition of the film series organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, which will take place at the Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater from December 3 through December 19, 2024. This special and ticketed experience offers a unique opportunity to see some of the year's most meaningful and groundbreaking films just before the awards season. Marking the series' eighth year at the Hammer, MoMA Contenders 2024 features **10 nights of films**, followed by intimate **post-screening conversations with filmmakers, actors, and special guests**.

Opening the series at the Hammer on December 3 is **Brady Corbert's *The Brutalist*** with special guest to be announced, followed by ***The Piano Lesson*** on December 4, directed by **Malcolm Washington** with a post-screening discussion with actress **Danielle Deadwyler**. Other highlights of the series include the winner of the Jury Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival, ***Emilia Pérez***, on December 9 including a Q&A with the film's composers, **Clément Ducol and Camille**; Apple's original film ***Blitz*** will screen on December 10, with a post-screening conversation with director **Steve McQueen**; and **Sean Baker's** Palme d'Or winner ***Anora*** will screen on December 19.

MoMA Contenders 2024 Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 7.30 p.m.

The Brutalist with special guest to be announced

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7.30 p.m.

The Piano Lesson with actress Danielle Deadwyler

Thursday, Dec. 5, 7.30 p.m.

Memoir of a Snail with special guest to be announced

Monday, Dec. 9, 7.30 p.m.

Emilia Pérez with composers Clément Ducol and Camille

Images (L-R): *Blitz*. 2024. UK. Directed by Steve McQueen. Courtesy Apple; *The Brutalist*. 2024. USA. Directed by Brady Corbet. Courtesy A24; *The Substance*. 2024. USA/UK. Directed by Coralie Fargeat. Courtesy MUBI

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7.30 p.m	Blitz with director Steve McQueen
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7.30 p.m.	Maria
Thursday, Dec. 12, 7.30 pm	Good One with writer/director India Donaldson
Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7.30 p.m.	Late Night with the Devil with actor David Dastmalchian
Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7.30 p.m.	The Substance with special guest to be announced
Thursday, Dec. 19, 7.30 p.m.	Anora

Hammer members pre-sale begins on Tuesday, November 12 at 10 a.m. [Become a member today](#) for 50% discount and early access to tickets.

Tickets go on sale to the **general public** on Monday, November 25 at 10 a.m. and can be purchased via the [Hammer website](#).

Pricing: **\$20** for 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 Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (*Everything Everywhere All at Once*, 2022), 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 Brendan Fraser (*The Whale*, 2022), Claire Foy (*Women Talking*, 2022), Eddie Murphy (*Dolemite is My Name*, 2019), Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong’o, and Angela Bassett (*Black Panther*, 2018), Jake Gyllenhaal (*Prisoners*, 2013), Jonah Hill (*The Wolf of Wall Street*, 2013), and Kristen Wiig (*Bridesmaids*, 2011). MoMA also presents the related annual series *The Contenders* in New York each November through January.

MoMA Contenders 2024 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

The Brutalist. 2024. USA.

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

Introduced by a special guest

In this towering vision from American director **Brady Corbet**, an accomplished Hungarian Jewish architect and World War II survivor named László Toth (**Adrien Brody**) reconstructs his life in America, reconnecting with family in Pennsylvania. While awaiting news of his wife's relocation from Budapest, fate leads the Bauhaus-instructed genius into the orbit of the volatile Harrison Lee Van Buren (**Guy Pearce**), an obscenely wealthy captain of industry, who leads him to both professional success and personal chaos. Co-written by **Corbet** and **Mona Fastvold**, this richly detailed recreation of postwar America is alternately hopeful and nightmarish in its portrayal of immigrant living, accruing in meaning and power as it builds to its overwhelming final passages. Interweaving a provocative tapestry of ideas around privilege, money, religious identity, architectural aesthetics, and the persistence of historical trauma, *The Brutalist* is an absorbing, brilliantly acted American epic that reminds us the past is always present.

Directed by Brady Corbet. Screenplay by Corbet, Mona Fastvold. With Adrien Brody, Felicity Jones, Guy Pearce. 35mm courtesy A24. In English, Hungarian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Italian; English subtitles. 215 min. Runtime includes 15-minute intermission.

Memoir of a Snail. 2024.

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

Followed by a conversation with special guest

Grace Pudel (voiced by **Sarah Snook**) is a book-loving, snail-collecting misfit that falls into a series of misfortunes after being separated from her twin brother Gilbert (voiced by **Kodi Smit-McPhee**). Despite her hardships, inspiration and hope arise when Grace begins a friendship with an eccentric elderly woman named Pinky (voiced by **Jackie Weaver**). From Academy Award-winning writer and director **Adam Elliot**, *Memoir of a Snail* is a heartfelt and hilarious chronicle of the life of an outsider finding her confidence and silver linings amongst the clutter of everyday life.

Australia. Written and directed by Adam Elliot. With Sarah Snook, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Eric Bana. DCP courtesy IFC Films. 94 min.

Emilia Pérez. 2024.

Monday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Followed by a conversation with **Clément Ducol, Camille**, composers

From the moment it introduces its titular antiheroine, a Mexican drug-cartel boss seeking gender-affirming surgery, this boldly genre-dissolving tour de force is predicated on the power of astonishing

transformations. The most ambitious and exuberant film to date by **Jacques Audiard**, one of contemporary cinema's most versatile filmmakers, *Emilia Pérez* is at once a darkly funny crime drama and a jaw-dropping musical, powered by a quartet of superb actors—**Zoe Saldaña**, **Karla Sofía Gascón**, **Selena Gomez**, and **Adriana Paz**—whose fearless performances defy every expectation. Winner of the Jury Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival, where its four leads also shared the Best Actress prize.

France. Written and directed by Jacques Audiard. With Zoe Saldaña, Karla Sofía Gascón, Selena Gomez. 35mm courtesy Netflix. 132 min.

Blitz. 2024. UK.

Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

Followed by a conversation with **Steve McQueen**

In his fifth foray into fiction, **Steve McQueen** moves further into the mainstream with a period drama about life under fire that recalls classic British wartime cinema of the 1940s. Forced to relocate to the countryside by his widowed mother (**Saoirse Ronan**) during the Blitz, a nine-year old boy (the irresistible **Elliott Heffernan**) makes a harrowing journey across war-torn London to get home. A series of challenging encounters with people across different social classes teaches the boy, who is struggling with his own biracial identity, to better appreciate who he is. Touching lightly on issues of racism, antisemitism, and female empowerment that he's explored more directly in his previous work—and featuring memorable set pieces like a ferocious firefight and a macabre nightclub sequence—McQueen's visually arresting, Dickensian epic is his most classical, audience-friendly film to date.

Written and directed by Steve McQueen. With Saoirse Ronan, Elliott Heffernan, Harris Dickinson. DCP courtesy Apple. 120 min.

Maria. 2024. USA/Italy/Germany.

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

Following his acclaimed historical biopics *Jackie* and *Spencer*, about Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Princess Diana, respectively, Chilean director **Pablo Larraín** has made his third entry in an unofficial trilogy about world-famous women dealing with the blinding glare of celebrity while at emotional crossroads. In an all-consuming performance at once poignant and imperious, **Angelina Jolie** becomes Maria Callas, the American-born, Greek opera singer whose voice and intensely dramatic life captivated millions before her death from a heart attack at the age of 53. Set in Paris, September 1977, during the final week of her life, Maria follows the legendary soprano as she negotiates her public image and private self and reckons with the increasingly blurred boundaries between the venerated "La Divina" and the vulnerable human being Maria.

Directed by Pablo Larraín. Screenplay by Steven Knight. With Angelina Jolie, Haluk Bilginer, Kodi Smit-McPhee. DCP courtesy Netflix. 124 min.

Good One. 2024. USA.

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

Followed by a conversation with **India Donaldson**

A seemingly small incident has monumental implications in the extraordinary feature debut of **India Donaldson**, a film of expertly harnessed naturalism and restrained emotional intensity. Seventeen-year-old high school senior Sam (a revelatory **Lily Collias**) has agreed to join her father Chris (**James Le Gros**) and his longtime buddy Matt (**Danny McCarthy**) on a camping trip in the Catskills, though she'd rather be hanging with her friends for the weekend. Affable and wise, Sam at first seems to enjoy the intergenerational bonding experience with the two divorced dads, yet the men's own festering, middle-aged resentments begin to change the emotional tenor of the trip—until something happens that alters Sam's perception of the men and her place in their orbit. Amidst the lush beauty and contemplative forest atmosphere in upstate New York, *Good One* asks provocative questions about the dynamics of family, friendship, and what it means to engage in or avoid conflict.

Written and directed by India Donaldson. With Lily Collias, James Le Gros, Danny McCarthy. DCP courtesy Metrograph Pictures. 90 min.

Late Night with the Devil. 2024. USA.

Tuesday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.

Followed by a conversation with **David Dastmalchian**

Johnny Carson rival Jack Delroy hosts a syndicated talk show that has long been a trusted companion to insomniacs around the country. However, ratings for the show have plummeted since the tragic death of Jack's beloved wife. Desperate to turn his fortunes around, on October 31st, 1977, Jack plans a Halloween special like no other—unaware he is about to unleash evil into the living rooms of America.

Writer-director duo **Colin and Cameron Cairnes** craft a suspenseful narrative that unfolds mostly in real time, as the broadcast makes surprising turns from the amusing to the bizarre to the deliciously sinister. In his first major lead role, **David Dastmalchian** brings compelling charisma and gravitas to the character of Jack Delroy. At its core, *Late Night with the Devil* is a tale about the cult of personality and the price of fame... with plenty of supernatural thrills along the way.

Written and directed by Cameron Cairnes, Colin Cairnes. With David Dastmalchian, Laura Gordon, Ian Bliss. DCP courtesy IFC Films. 93 min.

The Substance. 2024. USA/UK.

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

Followed by a conversation with a special guest

Demi Moore gives a career-best performance as Elisabeth Sparkle, a former A-lister past her prime and

drawn to the opportunity presented by a mysterious new drug. All it takes is one injection and she is reborn—temporarily—as the gorgeous, twentysomething Sue (**Margaret Qualley**). The only rule? Time needs to be split: exactly one week in one body, then one week in the other. No exceptions. Easy, right?

Deliriously entertaining and ruthlessly satirical, **Coralie Fargeat**'s explosive Cannes sensation is a be-careful-what-you-wish-for fable for the ages.

Written and directed by Coralie Fargeat. With Demi Moore, Margaret Qualley, Dennis Quaid. DCP courtesy MUBI. 141 min.

Anora. 2024. USA.

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

Sean Baker's Palme d'Or winner *Anora* is an audacious, thrilling, and comedic variation on a modern-day Cinderella story. **Mikey Madison** captivates as Ani, a young sex worker from Brooklyn whose life takes an unexpected turn when she meets and impulsively marries the impetuous son of a Russian billionaire. However, when his parents catch wind of the union, they send their henchmen to annul the marriage, setting off a wild chase through the streets of New York. Baker always takes a good-natured, sociological approach to his subject matter and milieu, and here he has created an authentic 21st-century screwball comedy that tackles sex, love, class, and money with matter-of-fact directness.

Written and directed by Sean Baker. With Mikey Madison, Mark Eydelshteyn, Yura Borisov. 35mm courtesy NEON. 139 min.

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 Made in L.A. biennial, 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. Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking is \$8 for the first 3 hours (maximum \$22), or \$8 flat rate after 5 p.m. Valet parking is available at the Lindbrook Drive entrance for \$10. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310-443-7000.

Free Admission at the Hammer Museum is courtesy of Marcy Carsey, the Erika J Glazer Family Foundation, and the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.