

For Immediate Release: November 12, 2025
Contact: Emma Jacobson-Sive, emma@ejs-media.com
Scott Tennent, stennent@hammer.ucla.edu

Hammer Museum Announces Lineup for MoMA Contenders 2025 with Screenings and Exclusive Q&A's with Cast and Filmmakers

10 Screenings throughout December



(Los Angeles, CA) — The Hammer Museum announced today this year's selections for MoMA Contenders 2025, the annual film series organized by The Museum of Modern Art taking place at the Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater from December 2–18, 2025. These special and ticketed screenings offer an exclusive opportunity to see some of the year's most groundbreaking films just before awards season. Marking the series' tenth year at the Hammer, MoMA Contenders 2025 features **10 nights of film**, followed by **intimate post-screening conversations with filmmakers, cast, and crew**.

Highlights of the series at the Hammer include *Sinners*, followed by a conversation with director **Ryan Coogler** and actress **Wunmi Moskau**, on December 10; and *Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere* with director **Scott Cooper** on December 17. Other films, including Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another*, Richard Linklater's *Nouvelle Vague*, and Kathryn Bigelow's *A House of Dynamite* will be featured in the series, with post-screening Q&A's to be announced soon.

MoMA Contenders 2025 Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.	Frankenstein with talent TBA
Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.	If I Had Legs I'd Kick You
Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.	A House of Dynamite with talent TBA
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.	It Was Just an Accident
Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.	Sinners with director Ryan Coogler and actress Wunmi Moskau
Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.	Nouvelle Vague with talent TBA
Monday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.	Jay Kelly with talent TBA
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.	The Mastermind
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.	Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere with director Scott Cooper
Thursday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.	One Battle After Another with talent TBA

Images (L-R): *Nouvelle Vague*. 2025. France. Directed by Richard Linklater. Courtesy Netflix; *Jay Kelly*. 2025. USA. Directed by Noah Baumbach. Courtesy Netflix; *Sinners*. 2025. USA. Directed by Ryan Coogler. Courtesy Warner Brothers.

Hammer members pre-sale begins on Thursday, November 13 at 11:00AM PST. Tickets go on sale to the public on Thursday, November 20, at 11:00AM PST 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 director Steve McQueen (*Blitz*, 2024), 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 Contenders is organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. This 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

Frankenstein

With special guests TBA

Tuesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.

A project **Guillermo del Toro** (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *The Shape of Water*, *Pinocchio*) has long dreamed of realizing—even before he learned how to direct—*Frankenstein* is a deeply personal adaptation of Mary Shelley's timeless novel, bearing the unmistakable touch of a filmmaker known for his signature blend of gothic horror and dark fantasy. Ambitious, arrogant scientist Victor Frankenstein (**Oscar Isaac**) “plays God” by creating the Creature (**Jacob Elordi**), whose rejection by humankind ignites a tragic chain of events. Del Toro conjures a visually baroque, sensory-rich odyssey in which the Creature's monstrous exterior conceals a soul aching for connection. Beneath layers of prosthetics and makeup, Elordi delivers a remarkable performance of anguish and vulnerability in this hauntingly beautiful reimagining of a classic tale.

2025. USA. Written and directed by Guillermo del Toro. With Oscar Isaac, Jacob Elordi, Mia Goth. DCP. 149 min. Courtesy Netflix.

If I Had Legs I'd Kick You

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

Struggling with a child's mysterious illness, an absentee husband, and a collapsed ceiling in their apartment, a woman spirals into crisis in this dark comedy-horror mashup. Writer-director **Mary Bronstein** brings a perfectly calibrated touch of humor to her manic situations, serving both as stress relief and a sharp lens on her character's absurd, surreal desperation. **Rose Byrne**'s bravura performance as a woman in full-throttle descent earned her the Berlin Film Festival's Silver Bear for Best Leading Performance, and she is ably supported by a stellar ensemble including **Conan O'Brien**, **Delaney Quinn**, **A\$AP Rocky**, and **Christian Slater**.

2025. USA. Written and directed by Mary Bronstein. With Rose Byrne, Delaney Quinn, A\$AP Rocky. DCP. 113 min. Courtesy A24.

A House of Dynamite

With special guests TBA

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

There is no time to waste when an unidentified intercontinental ballistic missile bound for the US is detected; in under 20 minutes, it is on course to strike Chicago. Top-level government personnel spring into action to avert a crisis that, until now, was largely hypothetical. A brilliant ensemble cast (including **Rebecca Ferguson**, **Idris Elba**, **Anthony Ramos**, **Jared Harris**, and **Tracy Letts**) channels panic, composure, and quiet distress in equal measure. Known for high-stakes thrillers like *The Hurt Locker* and *Zero Dark Thirty*, **Kathryn Bigelow** once again combines kineticism and realism to craft an immersive, gripping portrait of doomsday in motion. The unmistakable plausibility of the scenario lends this apocalyptic vision a chilling immediacy.

2025. USA. Directed by Kathryn Bigelow. Screenplay by Noah Oppenheim. With Idris Elba, Rebecca Ferguson, Gabriel Basso. DCP. 112 min. Courtesy Netflix.

It Was Just an Accident

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

Winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes, **Jafar Panahi**'s *It Was Just an Accident* sees the director returning to a more traditional narrative form, yet it is also his most daring, unflinching political work. Based on his own experience as a political prisoner, and on stories shared by fellow cellmates, the film brings together a group of Iranian citizens who debate what they should do with a man they believe tortured them in prison, after a chance encounter brings them together again. Fifteen years after being banned from making films by the Iranian government, during which time he produced a remarkable run of clandestine works, Panahi courageously confronts his oppressor with a psychological drama about survival, moral choices, and political resistance.

2025. Iran/France/Luxembourg. Written and directed by Jafar Panahi. With Vahid Mobasseri, Ebrahim Azizi, Mariam Afshari. DCP. In Persian with English subtitles. 103 min. Courtesy NEON.

Sinners

With special guest writer/director **Ryan Coogler** and actress **Wunmi Moskau**

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

Presented in 70mm

The horror film has never been as accepted as a mainstream storytelling genre, or a more powerful

mirror of troubled times, as it is today. Rooted in the intertwined histories of Black cultural achievement and racism in America, *Sinners* is destined to be regarded as a landmark of the genre. Twin brothers “Smoke” and “Stack” (**Michael B. Jordan**, in a remarkable double performance), back from the trenches of WWI, use money stolen from the Chicago mob to purchase a sawmill and open an exclusive juke joint for a Black community in Mississippi. The irresistible energy of the music and dance emanating from within draws a coven of immigrant Irish vampires to the crowded club doors; at first they modestly request entry as fellow entertainers, but soon they are picking off locals before mounting a ferocious, climactic assault. Writer and director **Ryan Coogler** uses vampirism as a metaphor for the complex history of racial “passing” and assimilation in America is profoundly affecting, as is the film’s inclusion of marginalized Chinese and Native American characters in the film’s horrific—and historically accurate—portrayal of the nation’s culture of prejudice. Not since the late Indigenous Canadian filmmaker Jeff Barnaby used horror to recall the history of abuse suffered by First Nations peoples in *Rhymes for Young Ghouls* (2013) and *Blood Quantum* (2019) has a director so provocatively employed the genre to lay bare the monstrous political realities of his place and time. *Sinners* may be set in 1932, but it calls for serious reflection in 2025.

2025. USA. Written and directed by Ryan Coogler. With Michael B. Jordan, Miles Caton, Andrene Ward-Hammond, Wunmi Moskau. 70mm. 137 min. Courtesy Warner Brothers.

Nouvelle Vague

With special guests TBA

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

Richard Linklater pays tribute to a film that shook the world like few others and sparked an aesthetic revolution that still fascinates audiences: Jean-Luc Godard’s *À bout de souffle* (*Breathless*) (1960). In *Nouvelle Vague*, the American director revives the French New Wave and goes back to the locations where Godard’s tiny film crew improvised scenes to offer a fly-on-the-wall tale on how a semi-chaotic, seemingly unimportant shoot led by a young, moody visionary became one of the most influential films in cinema history.

2025. France. Directed by Richard Linklater. Screenplay by Holly Gent, Laetitia Masson, Vincent Palmo Jr., Michèle Pétin. With Guillaume Marbeck, Zoey Deutch, Aubry Dullin. DCP. 106 min. Courtesy Netflix.

Jay Kelly

With special guests TBA

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

It has been thirty years since **Noah Baumbach** arrived on the scene with *Kicking and Screaming* (1995), a film that announced a generational talent. In *Jay Kelly*, Baumbach returns to some of the thornier areas of investigation in his work—the examination of failure, the endless complexities of family, and treacherous journeys of self-discovery. As uniquely embodied by **George Clooney** as the title character, and **Adam Sandler** as his endlessly loyal manager, we experience both the euphoria and pain of a creative life lived in the public eye. Co-written with **Emily Mortimer** and featuring an all-star line-up of acting talent, this is an “insiders” view that invites us all along for the ride.

2025. USA. Directed by Noah Baumbach. Screenplay by Baumbach and Emily Mortimer. With George Clooney, Adam Sandler, Laura Dern. DCP. 132 min. Courtesy Netflix.

The Mastermind

Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

Understated auteur **Kelly Reichardt**'s return to more suspenseful genre fare since *Night Moves* (2013) is *The Mastermind*, an art heist-turned-character portrait of a Massachusetts father inching closer to the fringes. A frequent visitor to the sleepy Framingham Museum of Art with his wife and kids, out-of-work architect JB Mooney (**Josh O'Connor**), enlists a shaggy group of local crooks to swipe a few Arthur Dove paintings from the galleries in broad daylight. As the investigation into the robbery begins, Mooney starts to unravel. Set in 1970, Reichardt skillfully uses an America upended by the Vietnam War and transformed by the Civil Rights Movement as a backdrop for the frenzied and desperate Mooney to stay out of the hands of the authorities. Underpinned by stellar performances from the ensemble, including **Hope Davis**, **Bill Camp**, **Alana Haim**, **Gaby Hoffman**, and **John Magaro**, *The Mastermind* is an exemplary Reichardt film with a richly intimate and flawed world, populated by even more textured characters.

2025. USA. Written and directed by Kelly Reichardt. With Josh O'Connor, Alana Haim, Hope Davis. DCP. 110 min. Courtesy MUBI.

Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere

With special guest director **Scott Cooper**

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

In 1981, after his first number-one album (*The River*) and top-ten single ("Hungry Heart"), Bruce Springsteen was on the verge of becoming a worldwide sensation and fulfilling the vision of his manager, the former music critic Jon Landau, who had written just a few years earlier, "I saw rock and roll's future, and its name is Bruce Springsteen." Instead, Springsteen stepped back and isolated himself in his native New Jersey with an acoustic guitar, a portable four-track recorder, and Suicide's eponymous debut album to lay out his personal demons on a cassette that became one of the most introspective DIY albums in history: *Nebraska*. Sunken in a depression and haunted by family ghosts, *Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere* is the story of a man facing the darkness that surrounds an anxious, luminous heart before embracing the future that awaits him.

2025. USA. Written and directed by Scott Cooper. Based on the book by Warren Zanes. With Jeremy Allen White, Jeremy Strong, Odessa Young. DCP. 120 min. Courtesy 20th Century Studios.

One Battle After Another

With special guests TBA

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

Presented in 70mm

Bob Ferguson is: a former revolutionary with the French 75, a self-described "drug and alcohol lover", a single father to 16-year-old Willa (**Chase Infiniti**), and above all, a classic cinematic buffoon who has righteousness on his side but not much else. As embodied by **Leonardo DiCaprio** in a brilliant comic and tender performance, Bob is on the run—pursued by his past and by the vindictive Col. Stephen J. Lockjaw (an amazing **Sean Penn**)—while chasing his own daughter as she grows up and is drawn into the precarious world that he once inhabited. DiCaprio and Infiniti are supported by a volcanic **Teyana Taylor** as Willa's MIA mother Perfidia Beverly Hills and **Benicio del Toro** as the calm and centered Sensei Sergio St. Carlos, and director **Paul Thomas Anderson** drops these characters into an epic story that sprawls across California and its unique alchemy of conspiracy and independence. The result is one of the best films of the year, and one that Anderson originally shot in VistaVision and will be presented in 70mm at the Hammer Museum.

2025. USA. Written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson. Inspired by the novel *Vineland* by Thomas

Pynchon. With Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Chase Infiniti, Benicio del Toro. 70mm. 161 min. Courtesy Warner Brothers.

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. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310-443-7000