



Washington, DC International Film Festival

For Immediate Release: April 2, 2019

**Filmfest DC Returns For Its 33rd Year of International Cinema
and Cultural Discovery**

80 Films • 45 Countries • 11 Days

Special Focus this Year on Foodflix, Music, and Social Justice

April 25-May 5, 2019

(April 2, 2019) - WASHINGTON, DC - [Filmfest DC](#) is back for its 33rd year in Washington, DC, bringing new and exciting international films to the community. Filmfest DC hosts **80 films** from **45 countries** to show across **11 days** for **1** exciting festival. This year's films span across a variety of categories, including **World View** (international films), **Foodflix**, **Music**, **Justice Matters**, **Thrillers**, **Comedy**, **Shorts** and more!

Opening night kicks off on April 25th at AMC Mazza Gallerie (5300 Wisconsin Ave, NW) with the Australian comedy-drama, "**Ladies in Black**". Opening Night is sponsored by the Embassy of Australia. The Embassy of France (4101 Reservoir Rd, NW) will host the Closing Night ceremony on May 5th where the film "**C'est la vie!**" will be screened. In addition to AMC Mazza Gallerie, screenings will also take place at Landmark's E Street Cinema (555 11th St, NW).

Highlights in the Foodflix category include "**Michelin Stars: Tales From the Kitchen**," a film that goes behind the scenes of the mythical Michelin Guide. The film will be introduced by DC's own Michelin starred chef, **Aaron Silverman (Rose's Luxury, Pineapples and Pearls)**. Another highlight in that category is "**The Best Sommelier in the World**," a documentary that captures the intense competition at the prestigious World Sommelier Competition. That screening will feature an introduction by special guest, **Lindsey Fern**, Sommelier at the world-renowned **Inn at Little Washington**.

The most anticipated film in the Music category this year is "**Echo in the Canyon**," a film detailing the 1960's folk rock explosion within the storied Laurel Canyon district of Los Angeles. The film features musical luminaries **The Byrds**, **The Mamas & the Papas**, **Buffalo Springfield** and more. Many of the musicians are interviewed and there are musical performances throughout the documentary which is directed by Andrew Slater and executive produced by **Jakob Dylan**. The screening will be followed by a concert featuring **Jakob Dylan**, **Cat Power** and **Jade Castrinos**. The screening and concert will take place at the **Lincoln Theater** (1215 U Street, NW).

Other highlights in the Music category include, “**Hugh Hefner’s After Dark**,” a film looking back at the Playboy mogul’s 70’s era groundbreaking television program featuring musicians like **James Brown, Joan Baez, Sammy Davis** and **Nina Simone**, and “**Piazzolla: The Years of the Shark**” about the tango master musician.

Another major highlight of the festival, is the World Premier of “**DC Noir**”. The crime anthology series by **George Pelecanos** (*The Wire, Treme, The Deuce*) is adapted from his many acclaimed short stories and set and filmed entirely in Washington, DC. Other notables involved in the series include **Fugazi’s Brendan Canty**, who scored the film, and rapper **Wale**, who appears in the series.

Another DC film highlight is the Virtual Reality documentary, “**Traveling While Black**,” which shows the connection between 1950s segregationist policies to present day police violence. The 19-minute film is set inside of DC landmark Ben’s Chili Bowl, which was listed in the “Green Book” of the 1950s as a safe space for African Americans. The film, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival is set to screen at Ben’s Chili Bowl. Several local luminaries, including Mayor Muriel Bowser, are expected to attend.

The Justice Matters block of films features the world premiere of “**Dear Walmart**,” by acclaimed DC area filmmakers Kiley Krasouskas and Michael Blain. The documentary film tells the personal stories of workers at America’s largest private employer who are standing up and fighting back against unfair labor practices. “**Corporate Coup d’Etat**” examines how the election of Donald Trump is not necessarily the problem, but rather a symptom of a long line of failed neoliberal policies. “**Rafiki**” is an LGBTQ drama set (and banned) in Kenya. Finally, “**A Letter to a Friend in Gaza**” and “**A Tramway in Jerusalem**” are two films (one short, one feature) by acclaimed Israeli filmmaker, **Amos Gitai** - who will be present afterward for a discussion, via Skype.

Directors and filmmakers from many of these features will be present throughout the festival for questions and discussions. For full schedule, program and ticket information, please visit the festival website at: www.filmfestdc.org

Tickets go on sale April 5th. The full festival catalog will be distributed as an insert in the Friday, April 19th edition of the Washington Post.

- What:** 33rd Annual Filmfest DC
- When:** April 25-May 5, 2019
- Where:** Landmark’s E Street Cinema and AMC Mazza Gallerie Theaters
- Website:** Additional information, including film summaries and Opening and Closing night events, available at Filmfestdc.org.

Social Media: Twitter: [@filmfestDC](#)
[Facebook](#)
Instagram: [@filmfestdc](#)
Hashtag: #filmfestdc

Event Information: Members of the public who have questions should call (202) 234-FILM or email filmfestdc@filmfestdc.org.

Media Contact: Members of the media who have questions, would like screeners, press tickets, or other requests should contact Travis Hare at Travis@kendrarubinfeldpr.com

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For 33 years, **Filmfest DC** has sought to keep pace with global culture and social activities, taking a special focus on issues of the moment in hopes of increasing clarity and civil discourse. Filmfest DC is made possible by the support of our Board of Directors, sponsors, staff and hundreds of volunteers. Filmfest DC believes that good movies make the world a better place. www.filmfestdc.org