

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CINEMA EYE HONORS NOMINEES, AMONG THE BEST NONFICTION FILMS OF 2015, TO BE SHOWN IN MUSEUM SERIES

Titles include *Cartel Land*, Albert Maysles's *Iris* and *In Transit*, *The Look of Silence*, *Taxi, (T)error*, and *Westerr*, plus special screening of Legacy Award-winner *American Movie*

January 9–12, 2016

Astoria, Queens, NY, December 22, 2015—The art of nonfiction filmmaking continues to evolve and thrive, with forms, methods, and genres developing in astonishing and unpredictable ways. Since 2011, Museum of the Moving Image has hosted the Cinema Eye Honors, an annual ceremony honoring exemplary craft and innovation in nonfiction film. In anticipation of this year's Awards night (on January 13), the Museum will present ***The Best of Nonfiction Film 2015: Selections from the Cinema Eye Honors***, January 9 through 12, 2016, a series featuring seven representative works from among the nominated films, and a special screening of *American Movie*, 2016 winner of the Cinema Eye Honors Legacy Award, with director Chris Smith in person.

The 2015 films include *Iris* and *In Transit*, the final works by legendary director Albert Maysles; two films shortlisted for the Academy Award, *Cartel Land* and *The Look of Silence*; Jafar Panahi's *Taxi, (T)error*, and *Western*. Filmmakers, including Joshua Oppenheimer, Lyric Cabral, David Felix Sutcliffe, and others, will be in attendance with some of the screenings.

Schedule and descriptions are below; advance tickets will be available online at movingimage.us. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$12 (with discounts for seniors and students / free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above).

SCHEDULE FOR 'THE BEST OF NONFICTION FILM 2015: SELECTIONS FROM THE CINEMA EYE HONORS,' JANUARY 9–12, 2016

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria, New York. Tickets are \$12 adults (\$9 seniors and students / \$6 children 3–12) and free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above. Advance tickets are available online at <http://movingimage.us>. Ticket purchase includes same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Iris and In Transit

With Iris producer Laura Coxson and In Transit directors Nelson Walker and Lynn True in person

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1:00 P.M.

Iris. Dir. Albert Maysles. 2014, 79 mins. Digital projection. One of the final two films by legendary documentarian Albert Maysles, *Iris* is a dream pairing between the late 88-year-old filmmaker and the quick-witted, flamboyantly dressed, owl-bespectacled 93-year-old style maven Iris Apfel. From dressing rooms to museum galleries, sessions with high-class fashionistas to domestic moments with her adoring and good-natured husband Carl, Maysles captures a woman always on the go, always with a New York-inflected wisecrack, and somehow with a life force to equal his own. Nominated for the Cinema Eye Honors Audience Choice Award. ***In Transit***. Dirs. Albert Maysles, Lynn True, David Usui, Nelson Walker III, Benjamin Wu. 2015, 76 mins. Digital projection. *In Transit* brings viewers aboard the Empire Builder, America's busiest long-distance train route. Riding on the train as it hurtles back and forth between Chicago and Seattle/Portland, Maysles and Co. move between interconnected vignettes, overheard conversations, and sudden moments of transcendence. Nominated for the Cinema Eye Honors Award for Outstanding Achievement in Direction.

(T)error

Directors Lyric R. Cabral and David Felix Sutcliffe in person

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 4:45 P.M.

Dirs. Lyric R. Cabral, David Felix Sutcliffe. 2015, 83 mins. Digital projection. The first film to place filmmakers on the ground during an active FBI counterterrorism sting operation, Sundance Jury Prize-winner *(T)error* introduces us to Saeed "Shariff" Torres, a prickly, conflicted 63-year-old Black revolutionary turned government informant. Unbeknownst to his superiors, Saeed grants the filmmakers access to his communications with a suspected Jihadist, whose actions begin to seem less suspicious the more Saeed is pressured to proceed. A tautly constructed, real-life thriller that takes a truly shocking turn, *(T)error* offers a grim view of the modern surveillance state and breaks new ground in terms of both access and reportorial disclosure. Nominated for the Cinema Eye Honors Spotlight Award.

Cartel Land

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 7:15 P.M.

Dir. Matthew Heineman. 2015, 100 mins. Digital projection. This widely acclaimed, multiple Sundance Award-winning film takes an immersive look at the journeys of two modern-day vigilante groups and their shared enemy—the murderous Mexican drug cartels. In the Mexican state of Michoacán, Dr. Jose Mireles, a small-town physician known as "El Doctor," leads the Autodefensas, a citizen uprising against the vicious Knights Templar cartel. Meanwhile, in Arizona's Altar Valley, Tim "Nailer" Foley, an American veteran, heads up a small paramilitary group to police the leaky border. Filmmaker Matthew Heineman and cameraman Matt Porwoll travel deep into dangerous territory to witness ambushes, double-crossings, and intense street combat, and the result is a chilling meditation on the breakdown of order and the blurred line between good and evil. Nominated for five Cinema Eye Honors, including Outstanding Achievement in Direction and Nonfiction Feature Filmmaking.

Taxi

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Jafar Panahi. 2015. 82 mins. Digital projection. The third film the great Iranian director has made since being arrested, imprisoned, and banned from making movies for twenty years, *Taxi* is an expansive road movie in the best tradition of the genre, even though by necessity it travels in circles. Via a dash-mounted camera, Panahi films himself picking up seemingly random passengers off of the streets of Tehran. Like previous projects *This Is Not A Film* and *Closed Curtain*, it is a crafty, surveillance-like work-around of the no-film ban. Yet there's a well-sketched design to what transpires, from a dramatic scramble to take a wounded man to the hospital, to the director's convivial rapport with a DVD bootlegger on the make, along with humor and subtle wisdom to spare. Nominated for the Cinema Eye Honors Heterodox Award, recognizing fiction films that incorporate nonfictional strategies.

Western

With Directors Bill Ross IV and Turner Ross in person

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 4:30 P.M.

Dirs. Bill Ross IV and Turner Ross. 2015, 92 mins. Digital projection. For generations, all that distinguished Eagle Pass, Texas, from Piedras Negras, Mexico, was the Rio Grande. But when violence from Mexican drug cartels begins to spill into these previously peaceable border towns, a cowboy, a lawman, and an entire way of life are threatened. For their third feature film, the Ross Brothers (*45365*, *Tchoupitoulas*) infuse sensitive observational filmmaking with the texture and mythos of the western. Nominated for two Cinema Eye Honors, including Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography.

The Look of Silence

With director Joshua Oppenheimer in person

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 7:30 P.M.

Dir. Joshua Oppenheimer. 2014, 103 mins. DCP. "One of the greatest and most powerful documentaries ever made"—Errol Morris. A masterful companion to the acclaimed *The Act of Killing*, Joshua Oppenheimer's return to the killing fields of the 1965 Indonesian genocide focuses on the legacy of survivors. Adi is an optometrist and youngest son of still-grieving elderly parents who bravely decides to confront the killers of his slain brother, breaking decades of silent subjugation to ask men still in power to accept responsibility for their actions—all while also testing their eyesight. Exquisitely crafted and immensely moving, *The Look of Silence* is the rare film that is simultaneously a political, historical, and artistic breakthrough. Nominated for four Cinema Eye Honors, including Direction and Nonfiction Feature Filmmaking.

*Please note: *The Look of Silence* is also part of the ***Curators Choice*** series.

American Movie

With director Chris Smith in person

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Chris Smith. 1999, 107 mins, 35mm. A sleeper hit when it came out in 1999, *American Movie* has aged into an American classic. A story of scrappy, cheapo, small-town filmmaking in the era just before the digital revolution, Chris Smith's breakthrough documentary is both hilarious and poignant. Inspired by such films as *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and *Night of*

the Living Dead, movie-mad Milwaukee man Mark Borchardt had tried for years to make a feature film, but he always lacked the money, resources, and let's say, "professionalism" to make it happen. In a questionable business move, and with the help of his sweet, mustachioed sidekick Mike Shank, Mark decides to finish and peddle his short film, *Coven*, in order to finance his dream picture, *Northwestern. American Movie* is the 2016 winner of the Cinema Eye Honors Legacy Award.

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Images available.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open on Monday and Tuesday, December 28 and 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, January 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (and closed on November 26 and December 25).

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3–12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$12 adults / \$9 students and seniors / \$6 children 3–12 / free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above. Advance purchase is available online. Film tickets include same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.