THE FRANCO-AMERICAN CULTURAL FUND ANNOUNCES LINEUP FOR THE 23rd ANNUAL COLCOA FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL, A WEEK OF FILM & SERIES PREMIERES IN HOLLYWOOD

LADJ LY'S LES MISÉRABLES TO OPEN FESTIVAL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

LOS ANGELES, CA – August 27, 2019 - The Franco-American Cultural Fund, a partnership of DGA, MPA, SACEM and WGA West, announced today the program for the 23rd COLCOA FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL that includes World, International, North American, U.S. and Los Angeles premieres. The festival runs September 23-28 at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, as part of Awards Season in Hollywood. The festival will open with the U.S. premiere of Ladj Ly's **LES MISÉRABLES** on Monday, September 23. COLCOA is delighted to be the inaugural festival event at the newly renovated DGA, as it has been COLCOA's home for 23 years. This year's new dates for the festival offer us a unique platform to promote French Films and series in Hollywood at the beginning of Awards Season. COLCOA is considered the largest festival dedicated to French films and series worldwide. Additional programming will be announced shortly.

"This high-profile program includes several films from Cannes and Venice programmed for the first time in the U.S., as well as films presented before their release in France," stated François Truffart, COLCOA Executive Producer and Artistic Director. "It shows the faithfulness of distributors, producers and sponsors, who strongly believe that COLCOA has become an established event in Hollywood."

COLCOA CINEMA

Over 25 films will premiere and compete for the COLCOA Cinema Awards, beginning on Opening Night (Monday, September 23) with Amazon Studios' **LES MISÉRABLES**, which won the Jury Prize at the last Cannes Film Festival and the 2019 D'Ornano-Valenti Prize. Victor Hugo's magnum opus is both lionized and shaken up in Ladj Ly's sprawling fresco of his native Montfermeil - a collection of housing projects crawling with sleazy cops, small-time hoods, the Muslim Brotherhood, and a ragtag group of kids left to fend for themselves... all jockeying for turf and struggling to forestall the inevitable. Majestic, stirring, gripping and compassionate, with a musical score that is, at once, moving and thrilling, the film follows an upright cop on his first day on the job, as he learns the ropes and struggles to hold onto his principles. It opens with a rousing rendition of *La Marseillaise* and a joyous eruption of *fraternité* and concludes with a resounding eleventh-hour alarm and powerful plea to diffuse the tinderbox and somehow resolve all this anger and violence.

The festival showcases both established and exciting new directors. Veteran filmmakers include Academy Award® winner writer/director Costa Gavras' political thriller, **ADULTS IN THE ROOM** (North American Premiere); w/d Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne's drama **YOUNG AHMED** (North American Premiere); w/d Cédric Klapisch's new pursuit of love, **SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE** (North American Premiere); w/d Cédric Kahn's dysfunctional family portrait, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** (North American Premiere), starring Catherine Deneuve; and w/d Nicolas Boukhrief's thriller based on Pierre Lemaitre's novel, **THREE DAYS AND A LIFE** (International Premiere).

Newcomers include w/d Antoine Raimbault's courtroom drama, **CONVICTION** (Los Angeles Premiere) and w/d Mikhaël Hers post-traumatic stress disorder drama, **AMANDA** (Los Angeles Premiere), as well as several films written and directed by women including Andréa Bescond's autobiographical feature (made with w/d Eric Métayer) about her sexual abuse as a child, **LITTLE TICKLES** (Los Angeles Premiere); w/d Mounia Meddour's Algerian civil war drama, **PAPICHA** (North American Premiere and Algeria's official entry for the Oscars); w/d Claire Burger's family drama, **REAL LOVE** (Los Angeles Premiere), director Fabienne Godet's powerful drama about recovery, **OUR WONDERFUL LIVES** (U.S. Premiere); w/d Marie-Sophie Chambon's debut feature film on how it feels to be an outsider, **STARS BY THE POUND** (North American Premiere); and w/d Sarah Suco's autobiographical film, **THE DAZZLED** (International Premiere).

In addition to Amazon Studios' **LES MISÉRABLES**, COLCOA is working with several U.S. distributors to present films in Hollywood before their U.S. release including Netflix's anticipated animated film, **I LOST MY BODY**, by w/d Jérémy Clapin (presented in association with Animation is Film); Strand Releasing's **ON A MAGICAL NIGHT** (North American Premiere) by w/d Christophe Honoré; Roadside Attraction's **CYRANO, MY LOVE** (U.S. Premiere), a comedy by w/d Alexis Michalik, based on his hit play, Distrib Films US's adoption drama **IN SAFE HANDS** (Los Angeles Premiere) by w/d Jeanne Herry; and Kino Lorber's **THE TROUBLE WITH YOU** (Los Angeles Premiere), the new comedy by w/d Pierre Salvadori.

In addition to **I LOST MY BODY** and five animation shorts, the festival will offer the audience an opportunity to experience the new technology in the DGA's renovated theater with the Los Angeles Premiere of w/d Hélène Giraud and Thomas Szabo's animated 3D delight **MINUSCULE: MANDIBLES FROM FAR AWAY.**

The **COLCOA CLASSICS** will include an homage to late writer/director Agnès Varda and French composer Michel Legrand with a special presentation of the1962 breakout film, **CLEO FROM 5 TO 7** (in association with Rialto Pictures); w/d Jean Renoir's 1932 digitally-restored drama, **TONI** (International Premiere), about a real life love triangle that went awry; as well as w/d Jacques Becker's 1954 digitally-restored mobster film, **TOUCHEZ PAS AU GRISBI** (Los Angeles Premiere). **TONI** and **TOUCHEZ PAS AU GRISBI** are presented in association with Janus Films.

The popular ***COLCOA High School screening*** program will run for five days during the festival with the Los Angeles Premiere of the musical coming-of-age tale **IN YOUR HANDS** w/d by Ludovic Bernard. More than 3,000 Southern California students and teachers are expected to attend free screenings and conversations, as well as participate in a student film critic contest. This program, celebrating its 12th year, is produced in partnership with ELMA (European Languages and Movies in America), with the support of AATF-SC (American Association of Teachers of French – Southern California). Additionally, master classes will take place at several film schools across the city with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the US and ELMA.

Other exciting programs offered throughout the festival include: ***After 10 series*** (September 24 - 28); ***COLCOA Classics*** (September 24-27), ***COLCOA Documentaries*** (September 24-28); ***World Cinema Produced by France, French NeWave 2.0,*** exploring a new generation of

filmmakers, and the **Happy Hour Talks**, a series of panels presented in association with Variety (September 24-28) that are free to the general public.

COLCOA AWARDS

The complete recipient list of the 2019 Awards for the three competitions (Cinema, Television, and Shorts) will be announced on Sunday, September 29 by the Franco-American Cultural Fund. For the twelfth year, LAFCA will partner with COLCOA Cinema for the Critics' Awards.

For the third year, a student jury made of high school and college students, will vote for the COLCOA AMERICAN STUDENTS' AWARD.

The COLCOA AWARDS are presented in association with KPCC-89.3, TITRAFILM, TV5 Monde USA, and AIR TAHITI NUI.

As Previously Announced

The Documentary section includes five films and one television movie competing for the 2019 COLCOA Best Documentary Award. **FORWARD** (North American Premiere), introduces the audience to children from around the globe who will change the world, **HOLY TOUR** (Los Angeles Premiere) takes us to the Tour de France to meet the fans; **OH LES FILLES**! (North American Premiere), showcases France, a land where women rock; and **WINE CALLING** (Los Angeles Premiere) showcases some of France's most exciting winemakers. **WOMAN** (North American Premiere), is a worldwide project giving voice to 2000 women in 50 different countries; and the television movie **HOSTAGE(S)** (International Premiere) lets the audience meet several individuals who share their experiences of being hostages.

The Television section includes 11 selections comprised of five series, four TV movies and one documentary (**HOSTAGE(S)**, mentioned above) competing for the COLCOA 2019 Television Awards given by both the audience and a professional jury. The section is presented in association with TITRAFILM and TV France International.

APNEA / Une Île (TV Series - International Premiere), **EDEN** (TV Series – International Premiere), **FAMILY SHAKE / Le Grand Bazar** (TV Series, Season 1 – International Premiere), ; **HUNGRY FOR LOVE / Connexion Intime** (TV Movie – International Premiere), **THE INSIDE GAME / Jeux d'influence** (TV Series, Season 1 – International Premiere), **JACQUELINE SAUVAGE, IT WAS HIM OR ME / Jacqueline Sauvage** (TV Movie – International Premiere), **LAST DANCE / La Fin de l'été** (TV Movie – World Premiere), **MENTAL / HP** (TV Series, Season 1 – International Premiere), **THE SILVER FOREST / La Forêt d'argent** (TV Movie – World Premiere), and **VERNON SUBUTEX** (TV Series – U.S. Premiere).

The Shorts section is presented with the support of Unifrance. 16 Shorts will be in competition for the COLCOA Short Awards and to be presented every afternoon September 24-27.

ADAM'S SKIRT, BARKING DOGS, BRAZIL, **BY A HAIR, DON'T ASK FOR YOUR WAY**, **FIRE ME IF YOU CAN**, **I'M GOING OUT FOR CIGARETTES, INVISIBLE HERO, MEMORABLE, MODERN JAZZ, MY BRANCH SO THIN**, **MY GENERATION**, **MY LADY OF THE CAMELLIA**, **ONE AFTER THE OTHER**, **SPEECHLESS,** and **WILD LOVE**.

The COLCOA Shorts Competition will be available in the U.S. after the festival on the cinema-on-demand program of TV5 Monde, an Official Partner of COLCOA.

COLCOA FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL is presented by the Franco-American Cultural Fund, a unique collaboration between the Directors Guild of America, the Motion Picture Association, the Writers Guild of America West, and France's Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers of Music (SACEM). COLCOA is also supported by France's Society of Authors, Directors and Producers (L'ARP) the Film and TV Office of the French Embassy in Los Angeles, TV France International, and Unifrance.

COLCOA FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL is sponsored by Air Tahiti Nui, Bank Of The West/ BNP Paribas, Sling & TV5MONDE, Variety (Official Sponsors); Barnes, Barnstormer, France Télévisions, Los Angeles Times, 89.3 KPCC, Los Angeles Times, The Hollywood Reporter (Premier Sponsors); Brumont, Champagne Didier Chopin, ELMA, Sunset Marquis, Titra Film, West Coast Event Productions, Wine Wine Situation (Major Sponsors); Alliance Française de Los Angeles, Cinando, D'Alessio Law Group, French American Chamber of Commerce, Gaumont, Karine & Jeff, Laemmle, LA Philharmonic, Marché du Film/Festival de Cannes, Miraval/Vineyard Brands/La Vielille Ferme, Paul M. Young Fine Wines, Saint Germain, Vital Proteins (Platinum Sponsors); Avène, Cinelife, France-Amérique, French Morning, Gayot, Gaumont, Klorane, La Chouquette, Lycée International Los Angeles, Le Pain Quotidien, MAC, René Furterer, Rosenthal, RS Eyeshop, Snowdonia, Vizo (Supporting Sponsors), Alan Rosenbach, Black Flour, Brûlée Château de Berne, Holy Quiche, International Services For Artists, La Boulisterie, Mulholland Distilling (Community Sponsors).

All programs are presented with English subtitles or in English. Tickets are available for advance purchase online at www.colcoa.org. The online box office and RSVP will be open until the night before each show at the festival. Tickets will be also available on site at the Directors Guild of America, 7920 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90046 during the event. For sold out shows, some tickets may become available 20 minutes before each screening. Please visit www.colcoa.org for box office hours. Depending on screenings ticket prices are $14/$10 for adults; $11/$7 tickets for seniors (62+), disabled, and members of American Cinematheque, ASC, ICG, Film Independent, SAG-AFTRA or Women in Film; $7/$5 for students and under 21. Limited opening night tickets available for $150. Tickets are complimentary for DGA and WGAW guild members. All screenings and events before 4 pm during weekdays are free on a first come, first served basis, with no reservation needed.

For film and press information log onto www.colcoa.org.

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