



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**22ND ANNUAL NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
THE BIG SICK AS OPENING NIGHT FILM**

AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL: TRUTH TO POWER TO CLOSE FESTIVAL

**WHITNEY: CAN I BE ME SCREENS AS CENTERPIECE
DISNEY•PIXAR'S CARS 3 PRESENTED AS OPENING FAMILY FILM**

**SPOTLIGHT FILMS INCLUDE COUP D'ETAT, DOG YEARS, FUN MOM DINNER,
PATTI CAKE\$, TAKE EVERY WAVE: THE LIFE OF LAIRD HAMILTON**

New York, NY (April 25, 2017) – The Nantucket Film Festival proudly announced today the opening night selection for its 2017 festival, Lionsgate/Amazon Studios' **THE BIG SICK**, directed by Michael Showalter and written by Emily V. Gordon and Kumail Nanjiani. Based on the screenwriters' real-life courtship, the romantic comedy follows the relationship between comedian Kumail (Nanjiani) and grad student Emily (Zoe Kazan) as they struggle with cultural differences and the unexpected impact of a mysterious illness. The film also stars Holly Hunter and Ray Romano. Paramount Pictures & Participant Media's **AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL: TRUTH TO POWER**, directed by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk will close the festival. As a follow-up to the Oscar®-winning **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**, the film charts Vice President Al Gore's continuing mission to solve our climate crisis before it's too late. The 22nd Nantucket Film Festival (NFF) will take place June 21-26, 2017, and celebrates the art of screenwriting and storytelling in cinema and television.

Nick Broomfield (2017 NFF Honoree) and Rudi Dolezal's **WHITNEY: CAN I BE ME** will screen as the festival's centerpiece film. The documentary offers a candid look at the life, career, and untimely death of Whitney Houston. For the eighth year in a row, NFF will screen a Disney•Pixar film on opening day. This year the studio will showcase the anticipated animated feature **CARS 3**, the latest installment in the CARS franchise, directed by Brian Fee.

Spotlight Films include Lisa Addario and Joe Syracuse's **COUP D'ETAT** (originally presented as a staged reading at the 2006 festival), starring Michael Caine, Odeya Rush, and Katie Holmes; Aletha Jones' **FUN MOM DINNER**, starring Katie Aselton, Toni Collette, Bridget Everett, and Molly Shannon; Adam Rifkin's **DOG YEARS**, starring Burt Reynolds and Ariel Winter; Rory Kennedy's **TAKE EVERY WAVE: THE LIFE OF LAIRD HAMILTON**, a portrait of the big wave surfer; and Jeremy Jasper's **PATTI CAKE\$**, starring Danielle Macdonald, Bridget Everett, and Cathy Moriarty.

More than 40 feature selections have been announced, including: Gillian Robespierre's **LANDLINE**, starring Jenny Slate, Jay Duplass, Edie Falco, and John Turturro; Taylor Sheridan's **WIND RIVER**, starring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen; Ryan Eggold's **LITERALLY, RIGHT**

BEFORE AARON, starring Justin Long and Cobie Smulders; Amanda Lipitz's **STEP**, which showcases a Baltimore girls' high-school step dance team as they strive for success; Michael Almereyda's **MARJORIE PRIME**, starring Jon Hamm, Geena Davis, Lois Smith and Tim Robbins; Elijah Bynum's Cape Cod set **HOT SUMMER NIGHTS**, starring Timothée Chalamet and Alex Roe; and Pacho Velez and Sierra Pettengill's **THE REAGAN SHOW**, a timely look at the way Ronald Reagan used his Hollywood savvy to become our first made-for-TV president.

"NFF is proud to celebrate the vibrant power of storytelling to entertain, as well as to illuminate our world," said Mystelle Brabbée, Executive Director, Nantucket Film Festival. "We look forward to our favorite time of year when we can share an exceptional new crop of films and special events with Nantucket's passionate and committed audience." Added Basil Tsiokos, Film Program Director, Nantucket Film Festival, "This year's lineup includes a diverse array of narrative films, documentaries, and - soon to be announced - episodic programming, a range of stories that will move viewers to laugh, to cry, and to contemplate the world in which we live."

As previously announced, **Tom McCarthy**, the Oscar winning writer/director will receive the 2017 Screenwriters Tribute at the event on Friday, June 23. Acclaimed documentary filmmaker **Nick Broomfield** and ground-breaking television creators and Emmy-nominated writing team **David Crane** and **Jeffrey Klarik** will also be honored.

The 22nd Annual Nantucket Film Festival runs from June 21-26, 2017. Passes and ticket packages are on sale now on the festival's website (www.nantucketfilmfestival.org).

Over the past 21 years the Nantucket Film Festival has mixed highly anticipated awards contenders with the films of talented emerging filmmakers. NFF has brought together the film industry's most recognized screenwriters and storytellers, including Oliver Stone, Steve Martin, Judd Apatow, Beau Willimon, Kathryn Bigelow, Sarah Silverman, Alexander Payne, David O. Russell, Diane Keaton, Robert Towne, Glenn Close, and Aaron Sorkin. NFF has also produced the All-Star Comedy Roundtable Presented by Ben Stiller; the ever-popular Late Night Storytelling event featuring personal stories with a specific theme from the likes of Mike Birbiglia, Tina Fey, Michael Ian Black, Lily Taylor, and many others; and the insightful conversation series In Their Shoes With...®, which has included Robin Wright and Beau Willimon with Chris Matthews, Molly Shannon with Michael Ian Black, and Bradley Whitford with Chris Matthews.

The full feature film program for the 2017 Nantucket Film Festival is listed below. Additional programming to be announced in the coming weeks.

OPENING NIGHT FILM

THE BIG SICK

Narrative Feature

Screenwriter: Emily V. Gordon, Kumail Nanjiani

Director: Michael Showalter

Based on the screenwriters' real-life courtship: Pakistan-born comedian Kumail and grad student Emily fall in love, but they struggle with cultural differences and the unexpected impact of a mysterious illness. Featuring Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan, Holly Hunter, and Ray Romano.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL: TRUTH TO POWER

Documentary Feature

Directors: Bonni Cohen, Jon Shenk

More timely than ever, this follow-up to the Oscar-winning An Inconvenient Truth - a film which brought climate change into the popular consciousness a decade ago - charts Vice President Al Gore's continuing mission to solve our climate crisis before it's too late.

OPENING FAMILY FILM

CARS 3

Animation Feature

Original Story: Brian Fee, Ben Queen, Eyal Podell, Jonathon E. Stewart

Screenplay: Kiel Murray, Bob Peterson, Mike Rich

Director: Brian Fee

Continuing NFF's opening day Disney•Pixar tradition! Lightning McQueen sets out to prove to a new generation of racers that he's still the best race car in the world. Featuring Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, and Armie Hammer.

CENTERPIECE FILM

WHITNEY: CAN I BE ME

Documentary Feature

Directors: Nick Broomfield, Rudi Dolezal

This moving documentary offers a candid look at Whitney Houston, who was the most awarded female recording artist of all time, and died tragically at the age of 48.

SPOTLIGHT FILMS

COUP D'ETAT

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Lisa Addario, Joe Syracuse

An exiled dictator in hiding teaches a rebellious suburban teen how to overthrow the "mean girls" in her high school. Featuring Michael Caine, Odeya Rush, and Katie Holmes.

DOG YEARS

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Adam Rifkin

Former box office superstar Vic Edwards (Burt Reynolds) is forced to reassess his life when he is invited to a film festival to receive a lifetime achievement award. Featuring Ariel Winter, Chevy Chase, Clark Duke, and Ellar Coltrane.

FUN MOM DINNER

Narrative Feature

Writer: Julie Rudd

Director: Alethea Jones

Four very different moms gather for a ladies' night out that takes unpredictable but hilarious twists and turns. Featuring Katie Aselton, Toni Collette, Bridget Everett, Molly Shannon, Adam Scott, and Adam Levine.

PATTI CAKE\$

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Jeremy Jasper

Straight out of Jersey comes Patricia Dombrowski, AKA Patti Cake\$, an aspiring rapper on an unlikely quest for glory. Featuring Danielle Macdonald, Bridget Everett, and Cathy Moriarty.

TAKE EVERY WAVE: THE LIFE OF LAIRD HAMILTON

Documentary Feature
Director: Rory Kennedy

The remarkable story of a pioneering figure who changed the landscape of big wave surfing forever.

FEATURE FILM PROGRAM

500 YEARS

Documentary Feature
Director: Pamela Yates

The third film in a 35-year trilogy which contributed to the downfall of Guatemala's dictator. This sweeping story of resistance focuses on the nation's indigenous Mayan population, poised to reimagine their society. Co-presented with Facing History and Ourselves.

ABUNDANT ACREAGE AVAILABLE

Narrative Feature
Writer/Director: Angus MacLachlan

Siblings wrestle with questions of family, legacy, and generational responsibility when a group of strangers arrive possessing a surprising connection to their land.

AFTER AUSCHWITZ: THE STORIES OF SIX WOMEN

Documentary Feature
Director: Jon Kean

Six courageous Holocaust survivors detail how they forged new lives after their liberation from Auschwitz-Birkenau.

THE BALLAD OF LEFTY BROWN

Narrative Feature
Writer/Director: Jared Moshé

Aging sidekick Lefty Brown (Bill Pullman) has ridden with Wild West legend Eddie Johnson (Peter Fonda) his entire life. Forced out from his partner's shadow, Lefty must confront the ugly realities of frontier justice. Featuring Kathy Baker, Jim Caviezel, and Tommy Flanagan.

BEACH RATS

Narrative Feature
Writer/Director: Eliza Hittman

A suburban Brooklyn teenager leading a double life faces dark consequences when he tests the limits of his emerging desire.

BILL NYE: SCIENCE GUY

Documentary Feature
Directors: David Alvarado, Jason Sussberg

A famous television personality struggles to restore science to its rightful place in a world hostile to evidence and reason.

BOMBSHELL: THE HEDY LAMARR STORY

Documentary Feature
Director: Alexandra Dean

The story of the glamorous Austrian-born Hollywood actress, focused on her groundbreaking but under-acknowledged work as an inventor.

CHAVELA

Documentary Feature
Directors: Catherine Gund, Daresha Kyi

A portrait of iconoclastic singer Chavela Vargas, who was legendary throughout Latin America for her romantic songs, had a love affair with Frida Kahlo, and served as a muse to Pablo Almódovar.

CITY OF GHOSTS

Documentary Feature
Director: Matthew Heineman

An immersive profile of a group of anonymous Syrian citizen journalists who risk their lives to stand up against ISIS and report the truth of the Syrian conflict to the outside world.

DINA

Documentary Feature
Directors: Dan Sickles, Antonio Santini

An unforgettable couple, both on the autism spectrum, navigate the complexities of sex and romance in this Sundance Grand Jury Prize winning film.

FITS AND STARTS

Narrative Feature
Writer/Director: Laura Terruso

Struggling writer David (Wyatt Cenac) finds it hard to escape the shadow of his published wife's success in this satire of literary world pretension.

FOR AHKEEM

Documentary Feature
Directors: Jeremy Levine, Landon Van Soest

In this intimate coming-of-age story, a young African-American teenager is determined to make a better future for herself in her rough St. Louis neighborhood.

A GRAY STATE

Documentary Feature
Director: Erik Nelson

The tragic fate of an Iraq veteran who was making a controversial political film fuels conspiracy theories in this insightful film executive produced by Werner Herzog.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Elijah Bynum

Lonely teen Daniel (Timothée Chalamet), sent away to Cape Cod for the summer of 1991, he re-invents himself when he befriends the charismatic town rebel (Alex Roe).

LANDLINE

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Gillian Robespierre

Writer: Elisabeth Holm

Secrets and lies abound in this 1990s set dramatic comedy following the dysfunctions of a Manhattan family. Featuring Jenny Slate, Jay Duplass, John Turturro, and Edie Falco.

LITERALLY, RIGHT BEFORE AARON

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Ryan Eggold

Adam (Justin Long), still harboring feelings for his ex, Allison (Cobie Smulders), tries to brave the awkwardness of her wedding in this romantic comedy.

THE LITTLE HOURS

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Jeff Baena

A young servant fleeing from his master takes refuge at a dysfunctional convent in medieval Tuscany. Featuring Alison Brie, Dave Franco, Kate Micucci, Aubrey Plaza, Nick Offerman, John C. Reilly, and Molly Shannon.

LOOK & SEE: A PORTRAIT OF WENDELL BERRY

Documentary Feature

Directors: Laura Dunn, Jef Sewell

A profile of the changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America, as witnessed by influential farmer, activist, and author Wendell Berry.

LOVE AFTER LOVE

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Russell Harbaugh

Writer: Eric Mendelsohn

After the death of her husband, a mother and her two grown sons navigate the peaks and valleys of life over the next several years. Featuring Andie MacDowell, Chris O'Dowd, and James Adomian.

LUCKY

Narrative Feature

Writers: Logan Sparks, Drago Sumonja

Director: John Carroll Lynch

Lucky (Harry Dean Stanton), a 90-year-old self-sufficient loner living in a desert town, embarks on a journey of self-discovery to try to come to terms with his own mortality.

MARJORIE PRIME

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Michael Almereyda

In the near future, Marjorie, suffering from dementia, is told the story of her life by a hologram in the form of her late husband. What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance? Featuring Jon Hamm, Geena Davis, Lois Smith, and Tim Robbins.

MENASHE

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Joshua Z Weinstein

Writer: Alex Lipschultz, Musa Syeed

Within Brooklyn's Hasidic Jewish community, a widower struggles to prove himself a worthy father to retain custody of his son in this gentle drama.

MONKEY BUSINESS: THE ADVENTURES OF CURIOUS GEORGE'S CREATORS

Documentary Feature

Director: Ema Ryan Yamazaki

The story of Hans and Margret Rey, who fled Nazi-occupied Europe as refugees, carrying with them one of the most beloved children's book characters of all time.

MORE ART UPSTAIRS

Documentary Feature

Director: Jody Hassett Sanchez

Who gets to decide what is good art? A competition touting the biggest cash prize in the art world demonstrates what happens when the cultural elite butts up against Midwest populism.

MOTHERLAND

Documentary Feature

Director: Ramona S. Diaz

An immersion into the experiences of new mothers in the world's busiest maternity hospital, located in one of its poorest and most populous countries.

POP AYE

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Kirsten Tan

A chance encounter with an elephant named Pop Aye kicks off an eventful road trip for both man and beast.

PORTO

Narrative Feature

Writer/Director: Gabe Klinger

Writer: Larry Gross

Two outsiders in Portugal - Jake (Anton Yelchin), an American loner, and Mati (Lucie Lucas), a French student - experience a brief but intimate connection that leaves a haunting impression.

QUEST

Documentary Feature

Director: Jonathan Olsheski

A portrait of a North Philadelphia family and the creative sanctuary offered by their home music studio, intimately filmed over a decade.

THE REAGAN SHOW

Documentary Feature

Directors: Pacho Velez, Sierra Pettengill

1980s news footage and videos produced by the Reagan White House reveal the first made-for-TV president, one uniquely suited to face off against a charismatic Russian rival.

SCHOOL LIFE

Documentary Feature

Director: Neasa Ní Chianáin

Co-Director: David Rane

Set in private boarding school in Ireland - a real-life Hogwarts - a married pair of teachers contemplate retirement after more than 40 years.

SERENADE FOR HAITI

Documentary Feature

Director: Owsley Brown

This portrait of a classical music school in Haiti - before and after the earthquake - is a poignant testament to resilience, hope, and the power of music.

SHADOWMAN

Documentary Feature

Director: Oren Jacoby

Before Banksy, there was Richard Hambleton. A pioneer of street art in early 1980s New York City, he succumbed to personal demons - but now stands on the brink of a comeback.

SPETTACOLO

Documentary Feature

Directors: Jeff Malmberg, Chris Shellen

Once upon a time there was a tiny village in Tuscany whose residents found a remarkable way to confront their issues – they turned their lives into a play each summer.

STEP

Documentary Feature

Director: Amanda Lipitz

High-school seniors in the inaugural class of the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women strive for success both academically and through their fierce step dancing team.

THE STRANGE ONES

Narrative Feature

Writer: Christopher Radcliff

Directors: Lauren Wolkstein, Christopher Radcliff

In this engrossing, atmospheric mystery, an innocent road trip into the woods by two brothers is not all as it seems. Featuring Alex Pettyfer and James Freedson-Jackson.

TRUE CONVICTION

Documentary Feature
Director: Jamie Meltzer

A team of men, exonerated for crimes they did not commit after decades in prison, work together to investigate other wrongfully convicted innocents.

WIND RIVER

Narrative Feature
Writer/Director: Taylor Sheridan

An FBI agent teams with a veteran game tracker to investigate a murder that occurred on a Native American reservation. Featuring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen.

ABOUT THE NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL

The Nantucket Film Festival was founded by brother and sister team Jonathan and Jill Burkhart in 1996 to promote the cultural awareness and appreciation of the fine art of screenwriting in the world of cinema. Since then, NFF has become one of the premier destination film festivals in the world. Visitors come from all over to experience the preview screenings, unique signature programs, and stand out hospitality on a magical island rich with history, a friendly atmosphere, and beautiful sandy beaches. In addition to screening over 75 films across six days, The Screenwriters Tribute, In Their Shoes... hosted by Chris Matthews, Late Night Storytelling, the daily Morning Coffee With... series, and much more.

The Nantucket Film Festival is supported by Showtime, The White Elephant Nantucket Island Resorts as Major Sponsors; A&E IndieFilms, EPIX, BrandContent, and Delta Air Lines as Signature Sponsors; Diageo, Cape Air/Nantucket Airlines, Stella Artois, Entravision, Harborview Nantucket, Pure Leaf Iced Tea and Travel+Leisure as Producing Sponsors; and Lifetime, The Beachside on Nantucket, Citi, Maui Jim, Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket Today, Nantucket Bank, SAGIndie, Festily, and the WGA East as Contributing Sponsors.

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