

The Museum of Modern Art

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES THE 2019 LINE-UP FOR THE CONTENDERS, MoMA'S ANNUAL SERIES OF THE YEAR'S FINEST FILMS

Screenings of the Year's Most Buzzed-About Films Accompanied by Filmmaker and Actor Conversations

The Contenders 2019

November 7, 2019–January 8, 2020
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

NEW YORK, October 24, 2019—The Museum of Modern Art announces its selection of the best and boldest films of 2019 for the 12th annual **The Contenders**, running November 7, 2019, through January 8, 2020. MoMA's end-of-year series offers audiences the opportunity to catch up on the year's most noteworthy films, with special presentations that often feature post-screening conversations with filmmakers and actors. Tickets for the MoMA screenings go on sale two weeks prior to each screening at 9:30 a.m. at The Museum of Modern Art and online at moma.org/contenders.

Opening *The Contenders* on November 7 is ***Varda by Agnès*** (2019), the essential final work by the late Agnès Varda that sheds light on her experiences as a director. In March of this year, the diminutive giant passed. Varda profoundly influenced and nurtured the development of cinema, beginning in 1955 with her film *La Pointe Courte*. In the decades that followed, and with revelatory work in photography, video, and sculpture, Varda never grew complacent. This special opening night presentation will be introduced by Agnès's daughter, Rosalie Varda.

"As we welcome the most inspiring and challenging cinematic work of the year to MoMA, we start by sending a goodbye kiss to our dear friend Agnès Varda," remarks Rajendra Roy, MoMA's Celeste Bartos Chief Curator of Film. "She always encouraged the exploration of the hidden corners of life, and celebrated humanity in all its complexities. In that very vein, I hope this year's selection will prove to be Agnès-worthy!"

Highlights of the 2019 line-up include filmmaker appearances at screenings of *Parasite* (Bong Joon-ho), *Marriage Story* (Noah Baumbach), *Her Smell* (Alex Ross Perry), *Dragged Across Concrete* (S. Craig Zahler), *Monos* (Alejandro Landes), *End of the Century* (Lucio Castro), *American Factory* (Steve Bognar and Julia Reichert), *Edge of Democracy* (Petra Costa), *One Child Nation* (Nanfu Wang), *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (Marielle Heller), and *Charlie Says* (Mary Harron).

Additional screenings include *The Lighthouse*, *The Irishman*, *Booksmart*, *Non-Fiction*, *Jojo Rabbit*, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood...*, *Long Day's Journey into*

MoMA

Night, Les Miserables, Where's My Roy Cohn?, Give Me Liberty, Rolling Thunder Revue, The Beach Bum, Pain and Glory, Joker, The Farewell, For Sama, Invisible Life, Synonyms, Little Women, Honeyland, Missing Link, Sorry Angel, Dolemite Is My Name, Little Joe, Uncut Gems, I Lost My Body, and more.

Special to this year's program, The Museum of Modern Art will pay tribute to Strand Releasing's 30th Anniversary with a special screening of *30/30 Vision: 3 Decades of Strand Releasing* on November 25.

The Contenders schedule is available [here](#) and at moma.org/press.

SPONSORSHIP:

Media Sponsorship is provided by *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Additional support is provided by the Annual Film Fund. Leadership support for the Annual Film Fund is provided by Steven Tisch, with major contributions from Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Association of Independent Commercial Producers (AICP), The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston, Marlene Hess and James D. Zirin, Karen and Gary Winnick, and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art.

Press Contact: Maureen Masters, Maureen_masters@moma.org

Downloadable high-resolution press images are available at moma.org/press.