

The Museum of Modern Art

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES THE 2020 LINE-UP FOR THE CONTENDERS

Screenings of This Year's Films Accompanied by Filmmaker Conversations Will Take Place on MoMA's New Virtual Cinema Platform

The Contenders 2020

December 10, 2020–February 28, 2021
moma.org

NEW YORK, November 20, 2020—The Museum of Modern Art announces its selection of the best and boldest films of 2020 for the 13th annual edition of **The Contenders**, running entirely online from December 10, 2020, through February 28, 2021. MoMA's end-of-year series offers audiences the opportunity to catch up on the year's most celebrated films, from the comfort of home.

The Contenders 2020 will be the first of MoMA's film series to be presented via the Museum's new Virtual Cinema platform. Virtual Cinema will be accessible exclusively to MoMA members via moma.org. Beginning on December 10, MoMA members can select the Contenders screenings they would like to view and, once attendance is confirmed, they will receive access to a five-day viewing window. New Contenders titles will go live on moma.org each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the series. Individual films may have maximum viewing capacities. As in previous editions of *The Contenders*, Q&As will accompany most every film presentation, and are included with film access.

Opening the series on December 10 is Garrett Bradley's ***Time***. Bradley produced and directed this astounding documentary, which spans 20 years detailing one woman's fight for the release of her husband from a 60-year prison sentence. This year's Centerpiece selection is George C. Wolfe's ***Ma Rainey's Black Bottom***. Based on the play by August Wilson and starring Viola Davis and Chadwick Boseman, the film follows tensions that arise between Ma Rainey and her band and music executives at a Chicago recording studio in 1927. The Contenders Closing Night film is Chloé Zhao's ***Nomadland***. Based on Jessica Bruder's book *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century*, the film stars Francis McDormand as a newly widowed, jobless woman who abandons her rural Nevada town in search of work, meeting other nomads along the way.

The Contenders screening of *Time* also coincides with MoMA's exhibition *Projects: Garrett Bradley*, on view at the Museum November 21, 2020, through March 21, 2021.

Special to this year's program, MoMA presents an entire week devoted to Oscar-winning writer/director Steve McQueen's five-part anthology series ***Small Axe***. Set within London's West Indian community, the series relays five unique stories spanning from the late 1960s to the early '80s.

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“In the spirit of ‘new eras’ and adapting to challenging times, we’re thrilled that our annual celebratory series, The Contenders, will help launch our new Virtual Cinema,” says Rajendra Roy, MoMA’s Celeste Bartos Chief Curator of Film. “Leading off with the brilliant Garrett Bradley, and including visionary artists such as George C. Wolfe, Eliza Hittman, Ramin Bahrani, Steve McQueen, and Chloe Zhao, this year’s edition demonstrates that the art of film is still thriving, and is more relevant than ever.”

Highlights of the 2020 line-up include filmmaker Q&As at screenings of *First Cow* (Kelly Reichardt), *The Assistant* (Kitty Green), *Dick Johnson Is Dead* (Kirsten Johnson), *76 Days* (Hao Wu), *The 40-Year-Old Version* (Radha Blank), *Babyteeth* (Shannon Murphy), *Boys State* (Amanda McBaine & Jesse Moss), *Crip Camp* (Nicole Newnham & Jim Lebrecht), *Da 5 Bloods* (Spike Lee), *Kajillionaire* (Miranda July), *Never Rarely Sometimes Always* (Eliza Hittman), *The Midnight Sky* (George Clooney), *Feels Good Man* (Arthur Jones), and *The White Tiger* (Ramin Bahrani).

Additional screenings include *Monsoon*, *Tesla*, *Martin Eden*, *Gunda*, *La nuit des rois (Night of the Kings)*, *Collective*, *Herself*, *On the Rocks*, *MLK/FBI*, *Pieces of a Woman*, *City Hall*, *His House*, *Welcome to Chechnya*, *Mank*, *The Wolf House*, and more.

The Contenders schedule will be announced at moma.org/film.

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