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CINÉFEST SUDBURY ANNOUNCES EARLY SELECTIONS FOR THE 2018 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS PROGRAM

SUDBURY – Cinéfest Sudbury is thrilled to announce early selections for the Special Presentations programme in the 30th edition of the festival. The Special Presentations program offers a diverse mix of high caliber comedies and dramas, and features some of the finest filmmakers from Canada and around the world.

An Audience of Chairs [Deanne Foley, Canada, A71 Entertainment, 2018] Starring: Carolina Bartczak, Peter MacNeill, Gord Rand, Edie Inksetter and Christopher Jacot

Based on the award-winning novel by Joan Clark, *An Audience of Chairs* follows the heartbreaking story of Maura (Bartczak) and the aftermath that follows the incident of leaving her two young daughters unattended on an island near her summer home during a mental breakdown. Although the children are both rescued unharmed, her world slowly begins to unravel further when her husband Duncan (Jacot) makes the difficult choice to end their marriage and take the children to his native home in Scotland. *An Audience of Chairs* was filmed in part in the City of Greater Sudbury.

Dogman [Matteo Garrone, Italy/France, Mongrel Media, 2018, In Italian with English subtitles] Starring: Marcello Fonte, Edoardo Gero, Nunzia Schiano, and Adamo Dionisi

Marcello (Fonte), a small and gentle dog groomer, finds himself involved in a dangerous relationship of subjugation with Simoncino (Pesce), a former violent boxer who terrorizes the entire neighborhood. In an effort to reaffirm his dignity, Marcello will submit to an unexpected act of vengeance. This is the latest feature film from acclaimed writer/director Matteo Garrone, whose film *Gomorrah* was featured at the 2008 edition of Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival.

La Chute de Sparte (The Fall of Sparta) [Tristan Dubois, Canada, Filmoption International, 2018, In French with English subtitles] Starring: Lévi Doré, Johnathan St-Armand, Eric K. Boulianne, William Cantin and Lili-Ann De Francesco

When you're young, sometimes it feels like the whole world is against you. At least, that's how sixteen year-old Steeve Simard (Doré) feels. Having just begun his final year at suburban Gaston-Miron High, he's sharp-witted and bookish, and has a hard time relating to his parents and other students. He hides behind his books and music, keeping the world at bay, except for his one close friend, Virgil (St-Armand). An unexpected incident involving the Spartans' linebacker—the biggest, toughest guy in school—forces Steeve to take charge of his own destiny.

Shoplifters [Hirokazu Kore-eda, Japan, Mongrel Media, 2018, In Japanese with English subtitles] Starring: Lily Franky, Kirin Kiki, Sôsuke Ikematsu, and Sakura Andô

After one of their shoplifting sessions, Osamu (Franky) and his son comes across a little girl in the freezing cold. At first reluctant to shelter the girl, Osamu's wife, Hatsue (Kiki), agrees to take care of her after learning the hardships she faces. Although the family is poor, barely making enough to survive through petty crime, they seem to live happily together until an unforeseen incident reveals

The Silent Revolution (Das schweigende Klassenzimmer) [Lars Kraume, Germany, M2K MILE END, 2018, In German and Russian with English subtitles] Starring: Leonard Scheicher, Tom Gramenz, Florian Lukas, Jördis Triebel and Burghart Klaubner

Theo (Scheicher) and Kurt (Gramenz) are two teenage boys who, upon traveling to West Berlin to visit the grave of Kurt's grandfather, a former SS officer, stumble upon a cinema newsreel about the Hungarian uprising. Together, they persuade their East German classmates to participate in a silent protest within the classroom as a way to commemorate the victims of the violent uprising. An investigation led by the headmaster (Lukas), the Education Board (Triebel), and the Education Minister (Klaubner) forms in an attempt to figure out which students are responsible for spreading Western propaganda in the East.

All Special Presentation screenings will take place at SilverCity Sudbury, located at 355 Barrydowne Road.

The 30th edition of Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival runs from September 15th – 23th, 2018.

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