

CINEQUEST™

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Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival 2019 (Cinequest 2019)

The Unexpected! Reimagining the Festival experience with 132 World & U.S. Premiere Films plus multifaceted Creative Work & Experiences

The unexpected in storytelling, art, and technology brings exciting experiences and new opportunity. The Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival celebrates *The Unexpected* starting with a name change and expanded offerings. Cinequest 2019 will present more Film, VR & Tech than ever (10% more) plus additional creative experiences such as augmented realities, fashion, writing, television, dance, music, art, and a Creativity Summit!

Cinequest 2019 occurs March 5th to March 17th in San Jose and Redwood City (Silicon Valley) where it will showcase the work of artists from 56 countries, including 132 World and U.S. premiere films and virtual reality. One hundred works at Cinequest have been directed by women. Fifty-four celebrations, performances, and special events round out the offerings—amounting to 531 screenings, events, parties and experiences. Cinequest expects over 110,000 participants.

"[Cinequest] is the perfect film festival in a glorious place." –Neil Gaiman

Despite its new name, Cinequest's core values remain unwavering. The festival is a bastion of innovation, discovery, and creativity where festival-goers, artists, and influencers create lasting connections while enjoying Cinequest's world-renowned service from start to finish.

"What differentiates Cinequest started from its founding team being a dynamic combination of artists, technologists, and leaders. You'll find this reflected in our Leadership Council which includes legendary innovators Steve Wozniak (co-founder Apple Inc.) and Marty Cooper (father of the cell phone), as well as producers, writers, educators, and entrepreneurs. The commonality is creativity. Thus, it was natural for the Cinequest Festival to evolve from a film festival to a film & creativity festival. Our team is very excited to produce and unveil this vision." Halfdan Hussey, Co-Founder & CEO, Cinequest

Cinequest 2019 highlights include:

Opening Night Screening and Celebration: Tuesday, March 5, 7:15pm, California Theatre

Cinequest opens with *Manto*, written and directed by Maverick Spirit Award recipient Nandita Das, and starring the captivating Nawazuddin Siddiqui (*The Lunchbox*), a moving and gorgeously-crafted look at the work and life of India's beloved—and controversial—writer, Saadat Hasan Manto. At the dawn of India's independence, an air of optimism sweeps the country. Yet the euphoria flees when the country faces turmoil, violence, and fear of their quickly changing world. A horrified Manto bears witness to the upheaval in his homeland and channels his emotions into writing—a transformation of that inner turmoil. Unbelievably, he finds himself on trial for obscenity—a trial wherein the very definition of art and artistic responsibility is challenged. Pre-screening at the lavish California Theatre includes a conversation with Nandita Das and the presentation of her Maverick Spirit Award. Post-screening festivities will take place at The Glass House.

Closing Night Screening and Celebration: Sunday, March 17, 6:00pm, California Theatre

Cinequest 2019 culminates with *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*. Terry Gilliam's magnum opus celebrates its source material with delight—as it takes on the classic adventures of Don Quixote and infuses it with a reflective commentary on art and the madness of our own world. Adam Driver (*Girl, Star Wars*) is Toby, a young artist who has lost the zeal for his craft and is working in advertising. One night, while in a Spanish tavern, he is given a copy of a student film he made 10 years ago about Don Quixote. Realizing he is not far from where he shot it, he revisits the small village and discovers the profound effects the movie has had there. In fact, the shoemaker (Jonathan Pryce, *Brazil*) he had cast as his lead actually believes he IS Don Quixote and is now convinced Toby is his Sancho Panza. Thus begins a strange and magical journey across Spain. Pre-screening includes the presentation of the Cinequest Awards. Post-screening revelry will occur at The Corinthian.

Maverick Spirit Award Events:

Cinequest's highest honor, the Maverick Spirit Award, recognizes the world's most compelling visionary and creative forces. Previous recipients include: Nicolas Cage, James Franco, Tatiana Maslany, J.J. Abrams, Kevin Spacey, Rosario Dawson, Harrison Ford, William H. Macy, Gus Van Sant, Spike Lee, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Sir Ian McKellen, Neil Gaiman, Alec Baldwin, and Sir Ben Kingsley. Please watch the [Maverick Spirit Award video](#). Cinequest 2019's Maverick Spirit Award recipients are:

- Legendary star of screen and stage **Bill Nighy** (*Love Actually, State of Play, Still Crazy, Gideon's Daughter, Page Eight*): A conversation with Mr. Nighy and award presentation will occur in conjunction with the U.S. Premiere of *Sometimes Always Never*, starring Nighy, written by Frank Cottrell Boyce, and directed by Carl Hunter. Bill Nighy's work is

beloved. His power to lift people's spirits, deliver smart comedy of the highest order, and move our hearts is testimony to his unique genius and gifts.

- Actor, director, writer, and activist **Nandita Das**: With more than 40 films (encompassing 10 languages) in her rich resumé, Nandita Das, a mega-star of international cinema, could simply bask in the warm glow of klieg lights and the heady aura of celebrity. She could, as her Hindi name translates into English, just be “happy.” But, despite her glamorous looks and storied career, Das has always used her talents and status to pursue a higher ground, and to strive towards making the world a better place through art.
- Life of a Maverick Award Recipient, **Esther Wojcicki**: Her revolutionary maverick approach to education has turned the concept of traditional schooling upside down. She employs an ancient idea anchored in mythology that enables empowerment by discovering one's passion, (or by “following your bliss,” as Joseph Campbell put it). Wojcicki's great passion is education, and she epitomizes the teacher-as-coach approach—allowing her students (many famous such as James Franco) to blossom through personalized experiential learning. Called “the godmother of the Silicon Valley” or just “Woj,” Esther calmly ignites an ardor that burns for a lifetime. She is the co-author of *Moonshots* and founder of the Moonshots Organization that includes powerhouses like Alibaba founder (and former teacher) Jack Ma. Her new book, *How To Raise Successful People*, releases in May. She is the mother of Susan, Anne, and Janet, and wife of Stanley Wojcicki. A conversation and award presentation will occur during the Creativity Summit.

Creativity at Cinequest 2019:

The format of the new creativity experiences at Cinequest 2019 will be three-fold:

1) Live performances of Dance, Fashion, Music and more, preceding film premieres at the California and Hammer theatres; 2) Standalone events and programs such as “Poets N’ Film,” a new Television and Webisode Program section, plus VR & AR showcases; 3) Experiences like Augmented Reality, Live Art, Music, Food, and Theatrical performances at parties, soirees and meetups; and the headlining Creativity Summit.

PICTURE THE POSSIBILITIES – MOONSHOTS CREATIVITY SUMMIT

This exciting Creativity Summit connects youth with scientists, artists, and entrepreneurs to share their creative work and wisdom, discuss hot topics, foster creativity, and cross-inspire each other around the globe. The summit includes the following experiences:

- **Keynote Conversation with “Life of a Maverick” Winner Esther Wojcicki.**
- **Picture The Possibilities - Moonshots** workshop stars present their creative projects and vision for the future
- **Moderated Conversations** with youth and luminaries exploring topics that effect the power to create and impact our world

- **Zoom Conference Presentations**

Picture The Possibilities. Picture It. Create It. [Picture The Possibilities](#) by Cinequest empowers global youth with the tools, confidence, and inspiration to form and create their dreams from art to science—driving an optimal future...for all of us. [Moonshots](#) believes that all students deserve to be taught in a way that enriches their minds, unlocks their true potential, and provides them with lifelong skills to really flourish in today's world.

Please see www.cinequest.org after February 14, for Summit date, time, and lineup.

Virtual Reality:

Cinequest, set in the Silicon Valley, maintains its position as the unrivaled leader in implementing and showcasing groundbreaking media technologies as they influence creators and audiences. The hot area for tech meets creativity remains virtual and augmented reality. Cinequest 2019's Virtual & Augmented Reality Experience features: 1) VR Cinema Programs; 2) Workshops delving into the How-To's and opportunities of VR & AR; 3) a VR Lounge with immersive experiences; and 4) VR Awards. Cinequest VR includes nine U.S. & World Premieres, a workshop with Emmy nominated Jim Lima, a Sci-Fi feature exploring the future of our relationships with augmented reality entitled *Auggie*; and Cinequest's first-ever hyper reality VR Installation, "Eclipse." Please see the Cinequest Virtual Reality Experience press release or visit www.cinequest.org/virtualreality for more details.

"In the heart of Silicon Valley, there is perhaps no other (festival) better placed to show the latest and greatest in VR. It's fitting that the festival is known for discovering talent and films long before they become a thing too, as many of the best VR filmmakers are nowhere near household names at the moment." – Wareble (Husain Sumra)

"This year's festival theme, *The Unexpected*, examines the marvelously unforeseen results of blending visionary art with the world's top technology. In addition to appreciating the obvious benefits of living in a global community brimming with AI-made conveniences, Cinequest asks what exactly happens when you throw *art* into the mix? The two mediums cross illuminate one another and open new ways of perceiving the world. When immersed in a VR space designed to explore marginalized communities, for example, the VR user is transported into another's reality, and a heightened sense of understanding and compassion can be cultivated there. This positive shift in perspective could then have a ripple effect that creates a better tomorrow." – May Yam, VR Producer (Cinequest)

Television & Webisodes at Cinequest 2019:

It wasn't that long ago when award-winning actors, directors, and producers wouldn't dream of working in television or creating a web series. All of that has changed as the golden era of TV prevails. Cinequest is extremely proud to offer a First Look at upcoming shows, and you get to experience these dynamic stories on the big screen!!! Lineup includes:

- **THE BLACKOUT (U.S. Premiere)**
A glorious addition to the science fiction genre, *The Blackout* defies expectations and electrifies.
- **JOE ALL ALONE**
Joanna Nadin’s bestseller about finding optimism and adventure in deprived circumstances. Thirteen-year-old Joe Holt is left behind when his mum and unsavory boyfriend take a week-long holiday.
- **M (U.S. Premiere)**
An exhilarating horror-thriller from Argentina, *M* follows Diane and Tim, a young American couple who travel to Patagonia to search for Tim's father, a biologist who disappeared 10 years earlier.
- **OVER WATER (U.S. Premiere)**
Over Water is a captivating psychological drama set against the raw background of a sea port. Former television star John Beckers is given one last chance to get his life back on track.
- **TABOO (U.S. Premiere)**
Called “The comedy show you shouldn’t laugh with,” *Taboo* examines that which we often take for granted and forget to cherish.
- **UNDERCOVER (U.S. Premiere)**
One of the largest ecstasy producers in the world, Ferry Bouman, lives a charmed life in his villa, but things start to change when two undercover agents move into his territory.

Notable Star Performances & Spotlight Cinema:

- **AUGGIE** – Starring Richard Kind (*Spin City*, *Inside Out*, *Argo*)
- **THE CHAPERONE** – Written by Julian Fellowes; Starring Miranda Otto (*Lord of the Rings Trilogy*), Elizabeth McGovern (*Downton Abbey*), Cambell Scott (*House of Cards*), Blythe Danner (*Meet the Parents*) and Haley Richardson (*Split*, *The Edge of Seventeen*)
- **BOOTSTRAPPED** – Starring Maribeth Monroe (*The Good Place*), Danielle Uhlarik (*Liza on Demand*), Sam Richardson (*Veep*)
- **BOY BOY GIRL GIRL** – Starring Katie Holmes (*Batman Begins*, *Dawson's Creek*), Ajay Naidu (*Office Space*)
- **BRENTWOOD** – Starring Brent Spiner and Levar Burton (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*)
- **CLOWNVETS** – Documentary on Patch Adams
- **CROW: THE LEGEND** – Voiced by John Legend, Constance Wu (*Crazy Rich Asians*), Diego Luna (*Rogue One*), Oprah Winfrey, Liza Koshy (*Freakish*), Tye Sheridan (*Ready Player One*)
- **THE DEAD CENTER** – Starring Shane Carruth (*Primer*, *Upstream Color*), Poorna Jagannathan (*Gypsy*, *The Night Of*), Jeremy Childs (*Preacher*)
- **FREAKS** – Starring Emile Hirsch (*Into the Wild*), Bruce Dern (*Nebraska*)

- **THE GIVE AND TAKE** – Directed by Anna Hopkins (*Bad Blood, The Expanse, Arrow, Defiance*)
- **HOOK UP 2.0** – Directed by Dana Nachman; Starring Veronica Dunne (*Disney Channel star*)
- **THE HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT** – Directed by Kim Nguyen (*War Witch* - Academy Award-nominated); Starring Jesse Eisenberg (*The Social Network*), Alexander Skarsgård (*True Blood*), Salma Hayek (*Frida*)
- **IMPOSSIBLE MONSTERS** – Starring Santino Fontana (*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Frozen*)
- **GUEST ARTIST** – Directed by Timothy Busfield (*The West Wing*); Written by and Starring Jeff Daniels
- **HOTEL MUMBAI** – Starring Dev Patel (*Slumdog Millionaire, Chappie, Lion*), Armie Hammer (*Call Me By Your Name, The Social Network*), Nazanin Boniadi (*Homeland, Counterpart*), Jason Isaacs (*Harry Potter series, The Patriot*)
- **MANTO** – Directed by Nandita Das; Starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui (*The Lunchbox*)
- **NOCTURNE** – Starring Beth Grant (*Mindy Project, Jackie*)
- **PETERLOO** – Directed by Mike Leigh; Starring Rory Kinnear (*Penny Dreadful*)
- **PRINCESS OF THE ROW** – Starring Martin Sheen (*The West Wing*), Ana Ortiz (*Ugly Betty*), Jacob Vargas (*Luke Cage*)
- **THE PUBLIC** – Written and Directed by Emilio Estevez; Starring Emilio Estevez, Christian Slater, Alec Baldwin, Jena Malone, Gabrielle Union, Jeffrey Wright, Taylor Schilling
- **MADE PUBLIC** – Starring Jeanine Mason (*Grey's Anatomy, Roswell, New Mexico*)
- **THE MAN WHO KILLED DON QUIXOTE** – Directed by Terry Gilliam (*Brazil, Monty Python, 12 Monkeys*); Starring Adam Driver (*Star Wars, BlackKkKlansman, Girls*), Jonathan Pryce (*Brazil, Game of Thrones*), Stellan Skarsgård (*Thor, Avengers, Good Will Hunting*)
- **NAYSAYER** – Starring Stephen Yeun (*The Walking Dead*), Alanna Masterson (*The Walking Dead*)
- **NICE IRANIAN GIRL** – Directed by Sarah Shahi (*Person of Interest, Chicago Fire, Reverie, The L Word*)
- **ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN** – Starring Beth Grant (*Mindy Project, Jackie*)
- **ONE CAMBODIAN FAMILY PLEASE FOR MY PLEASURE** – Starring Emily Mortimer (*Mary Poppins Returns*); Music by Britta Phillips (*major indie rock star, with the band LUNA and her solo work*)
- **SHADOW** – Directed by Zhang Yimou (*House of Flying Daggers, Hero, Curse of the Golden Flower, The Great Wall, Raise the Red Lantern*)
- **THE SOCIAL ONES** – Starring Richard Kind (*Luck*), Debra Jo Rupp (*That 70s Show*), Peter Scolaro (*Newhart, Girls*), Stephanie March (*Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*)
- **SORRY, NOT SORRY** – Starring M. Emmett Walsh (*Raising Arizona, Blade Runner*), Wallace Langham (*C.S.I.*)
- **TEEN SPIRIT** – Directed by Max Minghella (*The Handmaid's Tale*); Starring Elle Fanning (*Super 8, Maleficent, Trumbo*), Rebecca Hall (*The Prestige, The Town, Vicky Cristina Barcelona*)

- **THE WEDDING GUEST** – Directed by Michael Winterbottom (*A Mighty Heart, 24 Hour Party People*); Starring Dev Patel (*Slumdog Millionaire, Chappie, Lion*)
- **WORK/FRIENDS** – Starring Laura Spencer (*Big Bang Theory, Bones*), April Grace (*Sons of Anarchy*)

About Cinequest:

The story and legacy of Cinequest is bringing together the Silicon Valley’s technologies and spirit of innovation with the arts to empower great creations—and connecting audiences, youth, artists, and innovators with these creations and with each other, improving our lives and our future. Cinequest’s uniqueness and impact result from being ahead of the curve in the powerful integration of creativity and innovation. Cinequest does this through the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival (Voted Best Film Festival by *USA Today* Readers) and Picture The Possibilities by Cinequest. Please watch [The Story of Cinequest](#) video.

Cinequest 2019 Partners:

Cinequest Partners: Applied Materials (NYSE: AMAT), HP (NYSE: HPQ), Kaiser Permanente, ZOOM, Bank of America (NYSE: BAC), Harmonic (NYSE: HLIT), Canon (NYSE: CAJ), IMDb an Amazon Company (AMZN), Seagate (NYSE: STX), Panasonic (OTCMKTS:PCRFY), Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Google (NYSE: GOOG), Red Digital Cinema, Samsung, Hint Water, Kaleidescape, Comerica Incorporated (NYSE: CMA), Agile Ticketing Solutions, NBC Bay Area, Metro, El Observador, KQED, SF Media Co., Telemundo, Cinemark (NYSE: CNK), Fairmont San Jose, Marriott San Jose (NYSE: MAR), Hotel De Anza, Barco, VTA, Caltrain, SamTrans, Eddie Lira, SV Creates, San Jose Downtown Association, Team San Jose, and the City of San Jose.

www.cinequest.org

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