

CINEQUEST™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 17, 2023

Contact: Angela Ostermeier
E-mail: publicity@cinequest.org

Virtual Festival Announces New User Features & Lineup ***Cinejoy featuring the Artists & Films of Cinequest***

SILICON VALLEY—***Cinejoy/Cinequest Virtual*** occurring March 1-12, 2023, continues to evolve beyond a film festival that streams movies to an experience that translates the fun, excitement, and power of live film events to global audiences online. Lineup includes: 155 Showcase films from 52 countries, 500 participating artists, live Spotlight Events, and interactive Passport, Group Share, and Screening Party experiences.

Cinequest's legacy as 'the future of film' brought to life the world's first online film festival in 2005-07, as our board and partners pioneered media technologies and implementations. Cinequest accepted the pandemic challenge to create a new virtual platform for film and film events and to make it vanguard and democratized. Additionally, Cinequest envisioned this virtual platform thriving and serving beyond the pandemic with an experience that is much more than streaming movies.

Notable Spotlight Live Event Presentations include:

Bobcat Moretti | **Drama** | *Director(s): Rob Margolies* | *Producer(s): Rob Margolies, Vivica A. Fox, Taryn Manning* | *Starring* Tim Realbuto ("Yes", "The Sopranos"), Vivica A. Fox ("Kill Bill", "Soul Food"), Taryn Manning ("Orange is the New Black", "Hustle and Flow"), Matt Peters ("Weeds"), Coolio, and Sally Kirkland ("Anna"), **BOBCAT MORETTI** is a "Rocky" meets "My Left Foot" story that is a powerful psychological drama about an obese Multiple Sclerosis patient who takes up his late father's sport of boxing to overcome immense personal tragedy and find inner peace.

Daddy | **Comedy, Sci-Fi** | A wonderful and heartfelt comedy that takes place in a dystopian society where the state has the power to determine who can and cannot father children. Four men show up to a government-sanctioned retreat in the remote mountains of California. Each has their own reason for wanting to be a father. Each has to be chosen as "worthy" of the role. When they show up at the site, they find no guide or instructions. Confusion and panic sets in, as they are left to their own devices and must prove to themselves—and to each other—that they have what it takes. | *Principal Cast: Neal Kelley, Pomme Koch, Yuriy Sardarov, Jono Sherman, Jacqueline Toboni*
(World Premiere)

East Bay | **Comedy, Drama, Romance** | *Director(s): Daniel Yoon | Exec. Prod: Daniel Yoon, Edmund Sim, Andrew Tremayne, Alvin Ng, Earl Stuart, Chung-Bin Yoon, Taek-Soon Yoon | Producer(s): Daniel Yoon | Starring Constance Wu (“Crazy Rich Asians”, “Fresh Off the Boat”), EAST BAY is an extremely funny and deceptively intricate comedy about the enormous pressure people are under to be happy and successful in this life, which for all we know might be a massive simulation. Jack is a Korean-American man, who at age thirty-nine, decides he’s had it with trying to be happy and successful. Suspicious that we’re all in a simulation anyway, he lazily explores spirituality. In the process his psyche unravels, and he blows up the lives of those around him.*

Gringa | **Comedy, Drama** | *Director(s): EJ Foerster, Marny Eng | Exec. Prod: J. Kenneth Tate | Producer(s): EJ Foerster, Marny Eng, Eric Hedayat, Eric Reid | Starring Steve Zahn (“The White Lotus”), Jess Gabor (“Shameless”), Judy Greer (“Jurassic World”), and Rosalyn Sanchez (“Fantasy Island”), the beautiful story of a young girl, Large Marge Bickford, “Butt too big, boobs too small—generation XL”, who after a great loss, flees to Mexico in search of the father she barely knows.*

How To Ruin The Holidays | **Comedy** | *Starring Colin Mochrie (“Whose Line Is It Anyway?”), Luke Davis (“That Was Awesome!”), and Amber Nash (“Archer”), a hilarious comedy following the craziness that ensues when families gather for the holidays. (World Premiere)*

Scrap | **Drama** | *Starring Vivian Kerr (Grey’s Anatomy, Criminal Minds), Anthony Rapp (Rent, Star Trek: Discovery), and Lana Parrilla (Once Upon a Time), the engrossing story of a young single-mom who, after getting laid off, finds herself living in her car and struggling to hide her homelessness from her estranged brother Ben and his wife. "A Woody Allen-style American chronicle that evokes complicated subjects with lightness and humor." - Antoine Corte, Bulles de Culture (United States Premiere)*

Share? | **Sci-Fi** | *A gripping sci-fi feast about a man (Melvin Gregg; “The United States vs. Billie Holiday”) who struggles to survive after awakening alone, trapped in a society connected only by a primitive computer network, where the ability to entertain is the only currency. Grappling with a flickering, faulty memory of his life before, the film’s nameless protagonist discovers that his unseen audience seems to reward most highly his moments of humiliation and pain. Building off this realization, he crafts a self-destructive comedic persona that allows him to not just survive, but thrive in his new world. Also starring Bradley Whitford (“Get Out”, “The West Wing”), Alice Braga (“Suicide Squad”), and Danielle Campbel (“Tell Me a Story”). (World Premiere)*

"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 and a commitment to opportunity for all." Halfdan Hussey, Co-Founder & CEO



About Cinequest: Cinequest fuses innovation with the arts to empower great creations and to connect audiences, youth, artists, and innovators with these creations and with each other—forging community, joy, and our future. Set in Silicon Valley, Cinequest’s uniqueness, impact, and legacy result from applying this powerful integration of creativity and technology to democratize opportunity and to transform lives. Cinequest does this through the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival, Cinejoy Virtual Festival, Maverick Studio, and Picture The Possibilities global youth programs.

About Creatics: Creatics Enterprises is a Cinequest partner, providing the online platform for the Cinejoy Virtual Festival.

Please watch [The Story of Cinequest](#).

Please watch [Cinejoy Highlights](#).

Cinejoy featuring the Artists & Films of Cinequest occurs virtually March 1-12 Globally
Cinequest In Person occurs later in San Jose CA / Silicon Valley

Cinequest-Cinejoy Partners (*partial list*) Clos de la Tech, James Boyce Trust & Kris Otis, The Wolff Family, Applied Materials (NASDAQ: AMAT), Kaiser Permanente, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, ZOOM (NASDAQ: ZM), Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Highland Park Whiskey, Wyoming Whiskey, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Agile Ticketing Solutions, T.J. & Valeta Rodgers, Jennifer Krach, Ramona Reichl, Eddie Lira, Metro, NBC Bay Area, San Francisco Examiner, Telemundo 48, Content, iHeartMedia, El Observador, The Continental Bar Lounge & Patio, TETRA Hotel, AC Marriott Sunnyvale, Backstage, WESTBANK, Peterson, OPTrust, Urban Community, Jay Paul

Company, The Morrison & Foerster Foundation, San Mateo Journal, City of San Jose, SV Creates, Urban Catalyst, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, Drake's Brewing Company, Pruneyard Cinemas, 3Below Theaters, and Redwood City Arts Commission.

###