



## **AGH Celebrates the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual AGH Film Festival**

**Thursday, October 17 to Sunday, October 27**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 24, 2019**

Presenting the best in international, independent, and Canadian film, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is pleased to bring over 100 films to multiple unique venues across Hamilton in celebration of the AGH Film Festival happening **Thursday, October 17 to Sunday, October 27**.

Over the last 11 years, as Hamilton's largest showcase of film and film-related programming, the AGH Film Festival has welcomed over 50,000 attendees, screened over 300 films and worked with more than 100 community and corporate partners to bring premium cinema to the region. Including an array of talks, panels, performances, parties, and other activities, the Festival fosters community, engages critical dialogue, and promotes cultural diversity throughout Hamilton and beyond.

"The annual AGH Film Festival is the largest Film Festival in Hamilton and the region, bringing a variety of film to an increasingly broader audience every year," says Shelley Falconer, AGH President & CEO. "The wide range of topics and a variety of films enable all of us to hear a diversity of views through film, one of the most accessible visual mediums. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Celebrate Ontario, presenting sponsor BMO Financial Group and all of our generous sponsors, and community partners for supporting and celebrating 11 years of the AGH Film Festival.

The Festival kicks off with Trailers & Teasers on **Thursday, September 26 at 7 pm**. Attendees to this free event will be the first to receive the 2019 AGH Film Festival Program, including the complete Festival line-up, and have the first opportunity to purchase individual tickets (Festival Lover All-Access Passes are now on sale).

“Film has a unique capacity to empower a diversity of voices,” says Ryan Ferguson, AGH Film Festival Curator. “Our team works hard on representation within our programming, presenting films and filmmakers speaking to a range of lived experiences within both our local and international context. In addition to the 24 countries, 18 languages, and many LGBTQ2+ and Indigenous voices represented in this year’s Festival, 53% of our films were directed by women – achieving a goal of gender parity strived for by the AGH Film Festival team for years.”

In addition to the dozens of feature films, this year’s Festival will also feature six separate Short Film Programs. Three of these will screen at the Lincoln Alexander Centre, while one will be a permanent installation throughout the Festival at the Tourism Hamilton Visitor Information Centre on James Street North. Toronto’s Images Festival and the AGH Film Festival’s Close-Up Film Committee will both present their separate Shorts Programs at the AGH Joey & Toby Tanenbaum Pavilion.

With more special programs still yet to be announced, the festival has already released two special Double Features - one celebrating the life of the late “Godmother of the French New Wave” Agnès Varda, the other celebrating the career of accomplished Cayuga Nation actor, Gary Farmer. The Varda program will feature her seminal *Cléo from 5 to 7* (1962) and the filmmaker’s finale, *Varda by Agnès* (2019). The Farmer program - screening at Playhouse Cinema with Gary Farmer in attendance - will feature the Jim Jarmusch cult hit, *Dead Man* (1995), as well as Hamilton filmmaker Terrance Odette’s award-winner, *Heater* (1999).

Committed to nurturing future talent in cinema arts, the Festival is proud to host the third annual Youth Film Challenge. Youth ages 13 to 18 are invited to create and submit a short film for the chance to have it presented on the big screen.

Festival highlights include a new Film Festival Partner Perks program, where ticket holders can receive discounts and special offers with local restaurants and businesses across Hamilton. There will also be restaurants opening their doors for post-screening socials each night of the Festival.

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## **Programming Highlights**

### **Trailers & Teasers**

Thursday, September 26, 7 pm  
Lincoln Alexander Centre

### **Opening Night Screening**

Thursday, October 17, 7 pm  
Lincoln Alexander Centre  
*Film to be announced at Trailers & Teasers*

### **Screening Locations**

**Lincoln Alexander Centre** (main venue): 160 King Street East, Hamilton  
**Art Gallery of Hamilton:** 123 King Street West, Hamilton  
**Cineplex Cinemas Ancaster:** 771 Golf Links Road, Ancaster  
**\*NEW\* The Westdale:** 1014 King Street West, Hamilton  
**\*NEW\* Playhouse Cinema:** 177 Sherman Avenue North, Hamilton

### **Passes and Tickets**

**Festival Pass:** until September 26, \$200. After September 26, \$250. AGH Members \$200 throughout the Festival.

**Festival 10-Pack:** \$108

**General Tickets:** \$12 (on sale September 26)

**AGH Member Tickets:** \$10 (on sale September 26 to October 11)

For details and tickets, please visit [aghfilmfest.com](http://aghfilmfest.com).

**#AGHFilmFest**

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**About the Art Gallery of Hamilton:**

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in southern Ontario. Its permanent collection, which is focused on historical Canadian, 19th-century European, and International and contemporary art, numbers more than 10,000 works and is recognized as one of Canada's finest. The AGH is a vital creative hub and centre of lifelong learning that enables people of all ages to enrich their lives by gaining a deeper understanding of art. The Gallery is supported by the City of Hamilton, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. For more information, please visit [www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com).

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