

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Cinetopia International Film Festival to expand its Detroit presence in 2014

*Additional days, venues, and events added to line-up*

Ann Arbor, Mich. – After a successful expanded run in Detroit this past June, the **Michigan Theater** announced today that the **Cinetopia International Film Festival** will be even bigger in 2014. The festival will grow from four days to five (June 4-8, 2014), add three or more new Detroit venues, and bring in additional filmmakers for pre- and post-film events. The Cinetopia Film Festival will also continue to work with its existing Detroit partners, the **Detroit Film Theatre** at the Detroit Institute of Arts (led by **Elliot Wilhelm**, the Director and Curator of Film) and **Detroit Public Television**.

The Cinetopia Film Festival is able to increase its scope thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge**, which funds innovative projects that engage and enrich Detroit. The Challenge awarded \$2.1 million to 56 such projects. "We're excited to help build on the creative momentum in Detroit, and everything that artists and social entrepreneurs are doing to push the city forward," says **Dennis Scholl**, Vice President / Arts for Knight Foundation. **Russ Collins**, Director of the Michigan Theater and Cinetopia Film Festival, agrees – "Knight Foundation's generous grant has created a tremendous opportunity to grow a Detroit festival destined to rival the biggest and most exciting film festivals in the world," he says. "Detroit's creative energy, the power of cinema to tell relevant, enlightening and entertaining stories, the excitement provided by a festival setting, and the essential support of corporate sponsors and trendsetting funders like Knight Foundation has set the stage to grow Cinetopia grandly and organically into a dynamic Detroit cinema celebration."

**About Cinetopia International Film Festival:** Created for the people of southeastern Michigan, the Cinetopia International Film Festival features the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (e.g. Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, etc.). The extensive festival program is selected exclusively for Cinetopia by a programming team that includes Indiewire Influencer Russ Collins, the national "dean" of art house programming Elliot Wilhelm, festival manager Amanda Bynum, and festival programmer Brian Hunter. Cinetopia honors the rich heritage of cinematic culture and Michigan's proud legacy of outstanding cinema artists through special pre- and post-film events, including presentations, discussion panels, and Q&A sessions with directors, writers, and stars. Visit [cinetopiafestival.org](http://cinetopiafestival.org) for more information.

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