

**Sarah Escalante, Cinetopia Film**

**Festival**

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(Above number and email not for publication)

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Bringing the Best Films from the World's Best Festivals to Southeast Michigan  
**Returning May 14 - 23, 2021**

## **CINETOPIA FILM FESTIVAL CANCELLED, RETURNING IN 2021**

**Ann Arbor, MI** (June 30, 2020) -

Cinetopia Film Festival and the Michigan Theater Foundation are committed to the safety and wellbeing of our audience, filmmaker guests, and staff during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Because a film festival naturally brings thousands of people together in enclosed spaces, the Cinetopia leadership has taken the difficult but necessary decision to cancel this year's festival, scheduled for August 21-30, 2020.

This was not an easy decision, but the health and safety of our community is paramount. We look forward to coming together in person at our venue partners throughout Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit for next year's festival, taking place May 14-23, 2021.

Patrons who have already purchased passes and tickets are being contacted directly about pass and ticket refunds and other options.

Our team is working to put together virtual Cinetopia Presents events throughout the summer and fall to help keep the Cinetopia spirit alive during 2020. The Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival-Cinetopia collaboration A Summer of Film is virtual now and runs through August 31 in the Michigan Theater's Virtual Movie Palace. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.cinetopiafestival.org/jewish-film-festival-program>. The festival's two short film programs, A2 Tech Film Showcase and Detroit Voices Short Film Competition, will also take place virtually later in the summer.

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Cinetopia Film Festival Director Sarah Escalante says: “We are all deeply saddened to have to take the step of cancelling this year’s festival. The Cinetopia team was hopeful that, by pushing back to August, we would still be able to hold an in-person event this year. However, we have decided that it is in everyone’s best interests to instead look forward to next May. In the meantime, we are excited to be able to offer some of our special programs as virtual events throughout the summer, and encourage everyone to take part.”

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**About the Cinetopia Film Festival**

The Cinetopia Film Festival is Southeast Michigan’s regional film festival serving multicultural audiences from Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit. Over the course of 10 days each May, Cinetopia brings over 120 film screenings of 60+ narrative and documentary films from the world’s leading industry and regional film festivals (Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, and more) to a growing audience of 40,000+. Started in 2011 by the Michigan Theater Foundation, 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 actors. For more information, visit [cinetopiafestival.org](http://cinetopiafestival.org).

**About the Michigan Theater Foundation**

The Michigan Theater Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is joyfully serving community, history, public storytelling and the arts through diverse year round programming at the Michigan Theater and State Theatre and the presentation of the annual Cinetopia Film Festival. For more information, visit [michtheater.org](http://michtheater.org).

**Supporters**

Cinetopia is proud to acknowledge the continued major support of Michigan Medicine and the Ford Motor Company Fund.

**Social Media**

#Cinetopia2021 #Cinetopia

Twitter: @cinetopiaFF

Instagram: @cinetopiafilmfest



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**Press/Media Contacts**

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