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Bringing the Best Films from the World's Best Festivals to Southeast Michigan
Friday, May 8 - 17, 2020

**TWO MIDWEST PREMIERES SCREEN AT CINETOPIA FILM FESTIVAL'S DIRECT
FROM SUNDANCE EVENT AT THE MICHIGAN THEATER**

Ann Arbor, MI (February 17, 2020) - To kick off this year's festival season, Cinetopia Film Festival is delighted to bring two smash hits with strong Southeast Michigan ties from the Sundance Film Festival to Ann Arbor for their Midwest premieres.

Direct From Sundance will take place at the Michigan Theater in downtown Ann Arbor at 8pm over two nights: *The Last Shift* (2019) will play on Wednesday, February 26th, and *Dinner In America* (2020) plays on Thursday, February 27th. Both screenings will feature a post-film conversation with the director and cast.

For the past 10 years, the Cinetopia Film Festival and the Michigan Theater Foundation have hosted a screening of a Sundance film immediately following the festival's wrap in Park City, Utah, as an exclusive movie premiere. Previous screenings have included *The Biggest Little Farm* (2019), *Death of Stalin* (2018), *Wilson* (2017), *The Lobster* (2016), *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* (2015), *Infinitely Polar Bear* (2014), *The East* (2013), *For A Good Time Call* (2012), *Cedar Rapids* (2011), *Win Win* (2011), and *Cyrus* (2010).

The Last Shift features Oscar nominee Richard Jenkins who shines as a fast food worker calling it quits after 38 years ruling the restaurant's graveyard shift. His final work task is to train his young replacement (played by newcomer Shane Paul McGhie) in Ann Arbor native Andrew Cohn's serio-comic narrative debut set in Albion, Michigan.

Adam Carter Rehmeier's *Dinner In America* stars Kyle Gallner (who headlines the new CBS All Access series *Interrogation*) as an on-the-lam punk rocker and Tony nominee Emily Skeggs as a

young woman obsessed with his band who cut a swathe of foul-mouthed destruction through Detroit's suburbs in this deliriously combative misfit love story.

Cinetopia Film Festival director Sarah Escalante says of this year's event: "I am super excited to bring these two films from Sundance to the people of Southeast Michigan for their Midwest Premieres. Both films have strong Michigan ties, and both exhibit a real affection for the characters they portray. I can't think of a better way to kick off our Cinetopia season than with two smart, engaging movies from two great up-and-coming filmmakers."

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.

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.

Supporters

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