



**51FEST ANNOUNCES LINEUP FOR ITS INAUGURAL FESTIVAL
JULY 18-21 IN NEW YORK CITY
*A Women in the World and IFC Center Partnership***

NEW YORK – June 27, 2019 – 51Fest, presented by Women in the World and IFC Center, today unveiled the lineup for the inaugural event. Celebrating the voice, vision and stories of the female majority through compelling screenings and conversations, all by or about women, the first annual 51Fest will be held July 18-21 in New York City.

51Fest will open at New York City's SVA Theatre with *Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story*, a docu-comedy focused on the fallout from the comedian's infamous photo holding a mask of Donald Trump's likeness and her battle to reclaim her life and career. After the screening, Griffin will sit down in conversation with Tina Brown, CEO and founder of Tina Brown Live Media/Women in the World.

"The inaugural 51Fest leaves no doubt that a woman's place is at the center of the story," said Brown. "Griffin's film is a cautionary tale of what happens when a thin-skinned authoritarian, aided by a media pile-on, attempts to silence an artist for exercising her First Amendment rights. We are proud to open 51Fest with *Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story* and I look forward to talking with Kathy after the screening."

Over the course of four days, 51Fest will offer audiences premieres of feature films, series and documentaries, followed by in-depth discussions with creators and stars. The program includes the New York debuts of *After the Wedding*, with producer and star Julianne Moore in person for a post-screening conversation; British thriller *Official Secrets*, starring Keira Knightley as an Iraq War whistleblower, followed by a discussion with HuffPost editor-in-chief Lydia Polgreen, award-winning *Democracy Now!* host Amy Goodman, and real-life subject Katharine Gun; *Brittany Runs A Marathon*, which won the Audience Award for U.S. Dramatic Feature at this year's Sundance Film Festival; *Raise Hell: The Life and Times of Molly Ivins*, a rousing portrait of the legendary firebrand journalist; *For Sama*, winner of the Oeil D'Or award for Best Documentary at this year's Cannes Film Festival; and *Untouchable*, an incisive look at movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and the sexual assault allegations against him that came to light in 2017.

The festival also includes the world premiere of the first episode of *Unbelievable*, a new limited series drama starring Toni Collette, Merritt Wever and Kaitlyn Dever; the North American premiere of the Irish drama *A Girl from Mogadishu*; and a sneak preview of the comedy *Otherhood*, starring Angela Bassett, Patricia Arquette, and Felicity Huffman, directed by *Sex and the City* veteran Cindy Chupack. Additionally, the festival will feature a conversation with Cecile Richards and Ai-Jen Poo, co-founders of the new powerhouse women's activist and organizing group Supermajority.

"From intense documentaries like *For Sama* and *Untouchable* to fun, uplifting narratives like *Brittany Runs a Marathon* and riveting performances in *After the Wedding* and *Unbelievable*, our inaugural 51Fest features women's stories from a variety of viewpoints and methods of storytelling," said 51Fest Program director Anne Hubbell.

"Congratulations to 51Fest in its inaugural year of showcasing work by and about the female majority," said Anne del Castillo, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. "The festival is the perfect complement to the City's ongoing efforts to advance opportunities for women, through programs like women.nyc and the NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music and Theatre. We applaud Women in the World and the IFC Center on their collaboration to amplify the voices of women through this new, annual event."

In addition to Brown and Hubbell, the key festival team includes Gloria Teal (Producer, Women in the World) and Monica Hickey (Booking Producer, Women in the World), with Raphaela Neihausen serving as the festival's Executive Director. The festival is a partnership between Brown's Women in the World group and IFC Center.

51Fest is made possible by Signature Sponsors AMC Networks and The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment; Friends of the Festival Essentia, PTEX and Wheelhouse Creative.

The 2019 lineup for 51 Fest is as follows:

Opening Night

Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story

New York Premiere. Award-winning comedian, actress, and author Kathy Griffin laughs in the face of, well... everything, including controversy. But she faced her greatest storm by far in 2017 when an infamous photo of Griffin holding a mask with President Trump's likeness went viral on a global scale. Within days, Griffin was fired, abandoned by friends, and soon became the subject of two federal investigations, ultimately having to defend herself under oath. Unbowed, Griffin created a new stand-up act, captured in this new docu-comedy, out of her life-rattling experience as a First Amendment warrior. If you think this is only the story of a D-List celebrity, think again: Griffin defiantly (and hilariously) represents all Americans in defending her right to free speech.

106 minutes. Directed by Troy Miller. A Brainstorm Media release in partnership with Fathom. *Post-screening conversation with **Kathy Griffin** and **Tina Brown***

Thursday, July 18th, 7:30pm at SVA Theatre

Special Event

Women in the World Spotlight: Supermajority

Join Tina Brown in conversation with Cecile Richards and Ai-jen Poo, the co-founders (along with Alicia Garza) of Supermajority, a new, inclusive organization that provides women with the tools, resources, and knowledge they need to channel the energy and activism of this moment and change the direction of this country—for good. The conversation will center on their personal stories of activism, their plan to shape a ‘New Deal’ for women and elevate women’s stories where they belong—at the center of the stage, the debate and the forefront of change. The conversation will be introduced by filmmaker Yoruba Richen with an exclusive clip of the forthcoming documentary *And She Could Be Next*, about a movement of women of color claiming political power.

Tina Brown in conversation with *Supermajority* co-founders ***Cecile Richards*** and ***Ai-jen Poo***, plus filmmaker ***Yoruba Richen*** with an exclusive sneak peek from her upcoming documentary **Friday, July 19th, 7:00pm at IFC Center**

Screenings

After the Wedding

New York Premiere. Academy Award-winner Julianne Moore and Academy Award-nominee Michelle Williams anchor this moving drama of secrets and connections. Williams plays Isabel, an American running a struggling orphanage in Calcutta. She is summoned to New York by Theresa (Moore), a wealthy donor who demands to meet her personally before committing any funds. But when they meet, a long-hidden truth is exposed, a secret that will forever alter the course of their lives. Adapting an Academy Award-nominated Danish-language drama, this new version changes the lead roles from male to female, crafting a rich, emotionally complex story about strong women, motherhood and second chances.

110 minutes. Directed by Bart Freundlich. A Sony Pictures Classics release.

*Post-screening conversation with producer and star **Julianne Moore** and **Tina Brown***
Saturday, July 20th, 8:30pm at IFC Center

Brittany Runs a Marathon

New York Premiere. Hilarious, outgoing and always up for a good time, New Yorker Brittany Forglar is everybody’s best friend — except maybe her own. At 27, her hard-partying ways, chronic underemployment and toxic relationships are catching up with her, but when she stops by a doctor’s office to score some Adderall, she gets slapped with a prescription she never wanted: Get healthy. Too broke for a gym and too proud to ask for help, Brit’s at a loss, until her neighbor pushes her to lace up her sneakers and run one block. The next day, she runs two. And after finishing her first mile, she sets an almost unthinkable goal: running in the New York City Marathon. Winner of the Audience Award at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, this uproarious, irreverent and surprisingly emotional comedy was inspired by real events. The irresistible cast, led by Jillian Bell, lends heart and soul to an inspirational story of a party girl who finally finds real friends — and dignity — by taking control of her future, one city block at a time.

103 minutes. Directed by Paul Downs Colaizzo. An Amazon Studios release.

Post-screening conversation with real-life subject **Brittany O'Neill** and **Ophira Eisenberg**, host of NPR's "Tell Me Another"

Saturday, July 20th, 2:45pm at IFC Center

For Sama

New York Premiere. Framed as a love letter from a young mother to her newborn daughter, *For Sama* is a personal, epic journey into a woman's experience of war. It tells the story of Waad al-Kateab's life, love, family and work through five years of violent uprising in Syria. As a journalist who has been active in the struggle against the regime, al-Kateab is faced with the heart-wrenching choice of leaving the rebel-held city of Aleppo to protect her baby or staying to continue to fight for freedom. The documentary matter-of-factly presents the toll that the harsh realities and chaos of war take on the day-to-day lives of ordinary men, women and children. Intense sequences vividly capture the determination and heartbreak of resistance fighters and medical professionals, including al-Kateab's husband, Hamza. Brave and bold storytelling choices and first hand access make this a war doc like you've never seen before, up close and through a female lens. *For Sama* has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Oeil D'Or for Best Documentary at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.

95 minutes. Directed by Waad al-Kateab and Edward Watts. A PBS Distribution/Frontline release.

*After the screening filmmakers **Waad al-Kateab** and **Edward Watts** and subject **Dr. Hamza al-Kateab** will be interviewed by **Anne Barnard** who led coverage of the war in Syria for the New York Times from 2012 to 2018, as Beirut bureau chief.*

Sunday, July 21st, 12:00pm at IFC Center

A Girl from Mogadishu

North American Premiere. You might not think that the taboo topic of Female Genital Mutilation, (FGM) would lend itself to the traditional narrative of a heroine's journey, but Ifrah Ahmed is no traditional heroine. A true story, based on the testimony of multi-award-winning Irish-Somali FGM campaigner (played by Aja Naomi King/*How To Get Away With Murder*), the film opens with a harrowing escape, as 17-year-old Ifrah flees war-torn Somalia, evading smugglers and traffickers to seek asylum in Ireland. Traumatized by the revelation of her FGM during a routine medical examination, she vows to dedicate her life to ending the practice. Learning English at record speed, she quickly emerges as a powerful speaker determined to legislate against it in Ireland and beyond. Her campaign takes her back to Somalia where she finally confronts her family for condoning the cultural practice of 'cutting'. Invoking the power of testimony to strengthen, heal and channel change underpins this hopeful film about one woman's determination to save all young girls at risk of FGM.

112 minutes. Directed by Mary McGuckian.

*Post-screening discussion with writer-director **Mary McGuckian**, actor **Barkhad Abdi**, and real-life subject **Ifrah Ahmed**, moderated by journalist **Caroline Modarressy-Tehrani** of Verizon Media*

Sunday, July 21st, 5:15pm at IFC Center

Official Secrets

New York Premiere. Based on actual events, *Official Secrets* tells the remarkable story of Katharine Gun and her effort to stop an illegal war. In 2003 at her job as a British intelligence specialist, Gun (Keira Knightley) comes across a disturbing email from the US National Security Agency division chief: a request for UK assistance in blackmailing members of the United Nations Security Council into endorsing an invasion of Iraq. Shocked, she makes a decision that

will change her life and put her family in danger. Gun leaks the email to the press, setting off a chain of events that exposes an international conspiracy and lands her in custody, charged under Britain's Official Secrets Act. The movie is part political thriller and part personal journey as Gun navigates and endures the consequences faced by an ordinary person committing an extraordinary act. Knightley beautifully captures the moral complexity and vulnerability of a high-stakes whistleblower whose fight against government misinformation remains unnervingly relevant. The powerhouse cast includes Matt Smith as journalist Martin Bright and Ralph Fiennes as a human rights lawyer who steps in to defend Gun.

112 minutes. Directed by Gavin Hood. An IFC Films release.

*Post-screening conversation with real-life subject **Katharine Gun**, moderated by Democracy Now! host **Amy Goodman** and HuffPost editor-in-chief **Lydia Polgreen***

Saturday, July 20th, 5:30pm at IFC Center

Otherhood

Sneak Preview. Longtime friends Carol (Angela Bassett), Gillian (Patricia Arquette), and Helen (Felicity Huffman) are fed up with being left out of the lives of their adult sons and forgotten on Mother's Day. Over brunch cocktails, they decide to head from Poughkeepsie down to NYC and surprise each of their sons by moving in with them until they reconcile their relationships. Of course, the plan doesn't go exactly as expected—there's drinking, dancing, cooking, cleaning, crying, laughing, breaking and entering, spying, judging and forgiving. Over the course of a few days each woman learns to see her son, her friends and, ultimately, herself a little differently. Veteran television writer/director Cindy Chupack (*Sex and the City*) infuses her first narrative feature with heartfelt humor. OTHERHOOD is produced by Academy Award® winning producer Cathy Schulman (*Crash*) and by Jason Michael Berman (*Juanita*). Bassett, Arquette and Huffman shine in this refreshing, endearing story of female friendship and middle-aged self-discovery.

*Post-screening discussion with director **Cindy Chupack** and producers **Cathy Schulman** and **Jason Michael Berman**.*

100 minutes. Directed by Cindy Chupack. A Netflix release.

Sunday, July 21st, 2:30pm at IFC Center

Raise Hell: The Life and Times of Molly Ivins

New York Premiere. Media firebrand Molly Ivins was six feet of Texas trouble who, despite her Houston pedigree, took on Good Old Boy corruption wherever she found it. Best-selling author, Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist, and a popular TV pundit, Molly had a nation of "fans" and "frenemies." She courageously spoke truth to power, but always served up her reportage with a heaping dollop of humor. Her razor-sharp wit left both sides of the aisle laughing and craving her coverage. At the height of her popularity, 400 newspapers carried her column. When she died of breast cancer in 2007, the nation lost a true champion and a woman who seemed to be afraid of nothing. Director Janice Engel's vibrant portrait combines fascinating archival footage with interviews with many of the notable figures Ivins influenced, from Rachel Maddow to Dan Rather and Cecile Richards (also attending 51Fest for a Spotlight conversation about her new political organization, Supermajority). Who today could fill Molly Ivins' size-12 shoes? Why all of us, of course, as she herself would be the first to insist. And in times like these, a little Molly Ivins-style hell-raising might be exactly what we need.

93 minutes. Directed by Janice Engel. A Magnolia Pictures release.

*Post-screening conversation with director **Janice Engel** along with friends and admirers of Molly Ivins.*

Saturday, July 20th, 12:00pm at IFC Center

Unbelievable

World Premiere. When teenager Marie Adler (Kaitlyn Dever) files a police report claiming she's been sexually assaulted by an intruder in her home, the investigating detectives, as well as the people closest to her, come to doubt the truth of her story. Meanwhile, hundreds of miles away, detectives Grace Rasmussen and Karen Duvall (Emmy winners Toni Collette and Merritt Wever) meet while investigating an eerily similar pair of intruder rapes and partner to catch a potential serial rapist. Inspired by the real events in The Marshall Project and ProPublica Pulitzer Prize-winning article, "An Unbelievable Story of Rape," written by T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong, and the *This American Life* radio episode, "Anatomy of Doubt", with episodes directed by Oscar nominees Susannah Grant and Lisa Cholodenko, *Unbelievable* is new limited series drama about unspeakable trauma, unwavering tenacity, and astounding resilience. Showrunner Susannah Grant executive produces the series, from CBS Television Studios, along with Sarah Timberman, Carl Beverly, Lisa Cholodenko, Ayelet Waldman, Michael Chabon, Katie Couric, Richard Tofel, Neil Barsky, Robyn Semien, and Marie. 60 min. Episode directed by Lisa Cholodenko. A Netflix release.

*Post-screening conversation with showrunner and executive producer **Susannah Grant**, executive producer **Sarah Timberman**, executive producer and episode director **Lisa Cholodenko**, and actors **Kaitlyn Dever**, **Danielle Macdonald** and **Merritt Wever**.*

Friday, July 19th, 8:30pm at IFC Center

Untouchable

New York Premiere. The inside story of the meteoric rise and shocking fall of movie titan Harvey Weinstein, *Untouchable* reveals how Weinstein acquired and deployed his formidable power over decades, exploring both the method and the collateral damage of his alleged abuses. Ursula Macfarlane's documentary begins by giving context to the scandal and chronicling the rise and domination of Miramax and The Weinstein Company. Former employees re-examine what they thought they knew, and speak of their sense of shame and 'survivor's guilt'. But it is most impactful when the women who Weinstein allegedly harmed give their painfully frank accounts of what the alleged abuse did to their lives – physically, emotionally, professionally and financially. Compelling interviews with Rosanna Arquette, Hope D'Amore, Paz de la Huerta, Erika Rosenbaum and others underline how the wounds Weinstein allegedly inflicted, and the shame and guilt that have festered for years, continue to blight lives. Through the power of personal storytelling, *Untouchable* makes clear the vital importance of the #MeToo movement and the entertainment industry's long overdue cultural reckoning. A haunting parable for our times, the film is also a beacon call for future generations. 98 minutes. Directed by Ursula Macfarlane. A Hulu release

*Post-screening conversation with director **Ursula Macfarlane** and subjects **Hope D'Amore** and **Erika Rosenbaum***

Sunday, July 21st, 8:15pm at IFC Center

VENUE & TICKET INFORMATION

The Opening Night screening of KATHY GRIFFIN: A HELL OF A STORY takes place at the SVA Theatre, 333 West 23rd Street (between 8th & 9th Avenues). All other festival events take place at IFC Center, 323 Sixth Avenue (at West 3rd Street).

Tickets are available online at 51Fest.com or at the IFC Center box office, open daily 10:30am-10:00pm. Tickets for festival events are \$25 **opening night** (\$20 IFC Center members) \$18 **general admission** (\$15 IFC Center members) to all other screenings

A **51Fest Pass**, including priority access and reserved seating to all festival screenings and discussions, is available for \$350 (\$300 for IFC Center members).

###

ABOUT 51FEST

51Fest, a partnership between Women in the World and IFC Center, is a festival celebrating the voice and vision of the female majority through screenings and conversations, all by or about women. The result is compelling and original entertainment for everyone. Women make up more than half of our population, and 51Fest puts women where they belong: at the center of the story.

The festival builds on the mission of the Women in the World Summit, founded by Tina Brown in 2009, to amplify and celebrate women's voices from around the globe by convening women activists, artists, CEOs, peacemakers, entrepreneurs, and dissidents to share their remarkable, often untold, stories.

<https://www.51Fest.org/>

Hashtag: #51Fest

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/51Fest>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/51Fest/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/51Fest/>

ABOUT WOMEN IN THE WORLD

Since its launch in 2009, Women in the World has garnered international acclaim for illuminating the global issues of our time through the prism of first-person narratives by pioneering women. Yet what Women in the World has become most recognized for are the stories by and about relatively unknown firebrands and innovators from all over the world. From CEOs and politicians to artists, activists and dissidents, the storytellers on our stage forge a profound and intimate connection to the audience, thereby igniting commitment. Last April, the New York Summit generated 17.7 billion press impressions and 1.1 billion Twitter impressions. Women in the World holds summits and salons around the U.S. and the world.

ABOUT IFC CENTER

IFC Center is a five-screen, state-of-the-art cinema in the heart of New York's Greenwich Village that opened in June 2005 following an extensive renovation of the historic Waverly Theater. IFC Center presents the very best in new foreign-language, American independent and documentary features to audiences and is also known for its innovative repertory series and festivals, showing short films before its regular features in the ongoing "Short Attention Span Cinema" program, and special events such as the guest-programmed "Movie Nights" and frequent in-person appearances by filmmakers. In 2010, IFC Center launched the acclaimed DOC NYC festival, a high-profile showcase that celebrates nonfiction filmmaking and is now the largest documentary festival in the US. In 2017, the theater created Split Screens Festival, focused on the art and craft of television, and in 2018 launched the genre festival What The Fest!? For additional theater information, visit ifccenter.com.

PRESS CONTACTS:

Please reach out for ticket requests, red carpet credentials, press materials and additional information to the team at Sunshine Sachs: 51Fest@sunshinesachs.com / 212-691-2800.

###