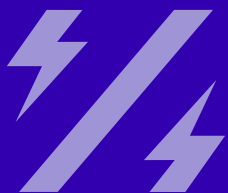


A FILM FESTIVAL FOR THE FEMALE MAJORITY



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S VOICES



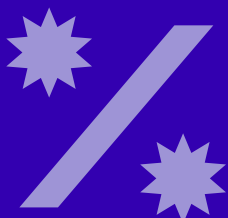
51 **FEST**

PRESENTED BY
WOMEN IN THE WORLD

JULY 18–21 @ IFC CENTER & SVA THEATRE



FESTIVAL GUIDE | 51FEST.ORG & [@51FEST](https://www.instagram.com/51FEST)   



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GUESTS AND MODERATORS, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story

Kathy Griffin, Actor & Comedian
Moderator **Tina Brown**

Women in the World Spotlight: Supermajority

Cecile Richards, Supermajority Co-founder
Ai-jen Poo, Supermajority Co-founder
Yoruba Richen, Filmmaker of *And She Could Be Next*
Moderator **Tina Brown**

Unbelievable

Susannah Grant, Showrunner & Executive Producer
Sarah Timberman, Executive Producer
Lisa Cholodenko, Executive Producer & Episode Director
Kaitlyn Dever, Actor
Danielle Macdonald, Actor
Merritt Weaver, Actor

Raise Hell: The Life & Times of Molly Ivins

Janice Engel, Director
Moderator **Rachel Dry**, Deputy Politics Editor for Enterprise at *The New York Times*

Brittany Runs a Marathon

Brittany O'Neill, Real-life Subject
Moderator **Ophira Eisenberg**, Host of NPR's *Ask Me Another*

Official Secrets

Katharine Gun, Real-life Subject
Amy Goodman, Host of *Democracy Now!*
Moderator **Lydia Polgreen**, Editor-in-Chief of *HuffPost*

After the Wedding

Julianne Moore, Producer & Actor
Moderator **Tina Brown**

For Sama

Waad al-Kateab, Director
Edward Watts, Director
Dr. Hamza al-Kateab, Subject
Moderator **Anne Barnard**, former *New York Times* Beirut Bureau Chief

Otherhood

Cindy Chupack, Director
Cathy Schulman, Producer
Jason Michael Berman, Producer
Moderator **Mario Cantone**, Actor & Comedian

A Girl from Mogadishu

Mary McGuckian, Writer & Director
Ibrahim Ahmed, Real-life Subject
Barkhad Abdi, Actor
Moderator **Caroline Modarressy-Tehrani**, Verizon Media

Untouchable

Ursula Macfarlane, Director
Hope D'Amore, Subject
Erika Rosenbaum, Subject



51FEST TEAM

Founder & CEO of Tina Brown Live Media,
Women in the World
Tina Brown

Executive Director
Raphaëla Neihausen

Program Director
Anne Hubbell

Producer,
Women in the World
Gloria Teal

Booking Producer,
Women in the World
Monica Hickey

Strategic Partnerships Director
Marisa Farina

Director of Operations
Dana Krieger

Program Manager
Melissa Jacobson

Publicist
Sunshine Sachs

Marketing & Outreach
Together Films

Graphic Design
Korly DeVries & Joshua Levi

Trailer
Jeremy Workman, Wheelhouse Creative

Photography
8 Salamander Productions, Simon Luethi

Festival Coordinator
Sarah Modo

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**John Frankfurt, Dan Sandin,
Steven Saverino, Erik Strand**

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Lisa Schwartz, Arianna Bocco, Betsy Rodgers, Svetla Sands, Paul Grippo and the rest of the IFC Films team along with all IFC Center staff & members.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

July 18, 2019

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to send greetings to all those attending 51Fest: The Female Majority on Screen.

New York has always been a place where the arts and creativity have thrived, and our city continues to shape the future of cinema and the film industry. Through the leadership of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and groundbreaking initiatives like the "Made in NY" Women's Film, TV and Theatre Fund, we are working harder than ever to address the underrepresentation of female and female-identifying creatives in the film sector, and that's why we are proud to join Women in the World and the IFC Center in hosting 51Fest in our city. In addition to offering a screening series of both fiction films and documentaries, 51Fest will include conversations with groundbreaking filmmakers and activists to help amplify and celebrate women's voices and share their stories with new audiences. As we break down barriers to support even more artists in their creative pursuits, I applaud all of the festival's organizers and participants for sharing these visual narratives with New Yorkers and using them to forge a more equitable future.

On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for an inspiring festival and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



Dear Friends,

It is a thrill to welcome you to the launch of 51Fest!

This multi-platform event led by Tina Brown, Anne Hubbell, Raphaela Neihausen, Gloria Teal, and Monica Hickey, is a wonderful complement to the City of New York's efforts to amplify the voices of women. At the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, we have launched a series of initiatives to make sure that women are equitably represented in the ranks of the industries we support. Earlier this year, we announced the first round of recipients of the NYC Women's Fund, a first-of-its-kind grant program for female-identified creatives working in film, theatre, television and web content. In partnership with the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), we awarded total of \$1.5 million in finishing funds to 63 projects. The next application cycle opens this summer, with the program expanded to include music projects in all genres.

In the spring we featured a four-part comedic series entitled "Half Life" by Patty Carey, who was the winner of #GreenlightHer, our women's TV scriptwriting competition for stories by, for, or about women. The program aired on NYC Life, the city's flagship channel 25, which also features the Emmy Award-winning original series "Her Big Idea," which profiles successful New York City women entrepreneurs. Throughout the year we provide professional development opportunities and training programs for female-identified creatives. The Film Finance Lab in partnership with Winston Baker provides women filmmakers with the opportunity to meet and pitch their projects to venture capital firms and angel investors. Sound Thinking NYC is a free educational program that provides young women with training in music production, audio technology and sound recording.

We welcome you to visit our website – www.nyc.gov/mome – and follow us on Twitter – @madeinny – to find out more about our programs.

Congratulations to Tina Brown's Women in the World and the IFC Center on their collaboration to celebrate the female majority.

Enjoy the festival!

Sincerely,

Anne del Castillo
Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

Welcome to the inaugural 51Fest! During a time when women's voices have gained new traction and resonance, Women in the World is happy to partner with IFC Center, a longtime NYC home for independent and documentary films, in a festival that puts women's voices and cinematic vision front and center. For ten years, the Women in the World summit has hosted on its stage female leaders, CEOs, senators, journalists, filmmakers, and artists, who are shaping our world. We've seen the transformative power, vivid creativity and revelatory new perspectives unleashed when women tell stories in front of the camera and behind it. So we hope you will enjoy our roster of feature film and documentary premieres which showcase the talent and voices of women actors, writers, directors, and producers. The line-up includes new movies starring Academy Award-winner Julianne Moore and comedian Kathy Griffin — both of whom will join us in post-screening conversations.

And in a festival that celebrates the super female majority, we have a bonus program: a conversation with Cecile Richards, former president of Planned Parenthood, who just co-founded Supermajority, the new national political organization that promises to be a powerhouse player and platform for women's activism in the 2020 election.

We're glad you can join us!

Tina Brown
*Founder & CEO of Tina Brown Live Media,
Women in the World*



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**NEW YORK
PREMIERE**

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 7:30PM AT SVA THEATRE

Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story

Award-winning comedian, actor, 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.

Post-screening conversation with **Kathy Griffin** and **Tina Brown**.

106 minutes. Directed by Troy Miller. A Brainstorm Media release, in partnership with Fathom.



SPOTLIGHT CONVERSATION

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 7:00PM AT IFC CENTER

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 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 the upcoming documentary *And She Could Be Next*.



WORLD PREMIERE

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 8:30PM AT IFC CENTER

Unbelievable

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 a 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.

World premiere of episode 1, followed by a 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**.

60 min. Episode directed by Lisa Cholodenko. A Netflix release.



**NEW YORK
PREMIERE**

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 12:00PM AT IFC CENTER

Raise Hell: The Life & Times of Molly Ivins

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.

Post-screening conversation with director **Janice Engel**, moderated by **Rachel Dry**, a deputy politics editor at *The New York Times*.

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



**NEW YORK
PREMIERE**

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2:45PM AT IFC CENTER

Brittany Runs a Marathon

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.

Post-screening conversation with real-life subject **Brittany O’Neill** and **Ophira Eisenberg**, host of NPR’s *Ask Me Another*.

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



**NEW YORK
PREMIERE**

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 5:30PM AT IFC CENTER

Official Secrets

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.

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

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



**NEW YORK
PREMIERE**

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 8:30PM AT IFC CENTER

After the Wedding

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.

After the screening join **Tina Brown** in conversation with producer and star **Julianne Moore**.

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



NEW YORK
PREMIERE

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 12:00PM AT IFC CENTER

For Sama

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 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 firsthand 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.

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.

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



SNEAK
PREVIEW

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2:30PM AT IFC CENTER

Otherhood

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 Jason Michael Berman (*Juanita*). Bassett, Arquette and Huffman shine in this refreshing, endearing story of female friendship and middle-aged self-discovery.

Post-screening conversation with director **Cindy Chupack** and producers **Cathy Schulman** and **Jason Michael Berman**, moderated by actor and comedian **Mario Cantone**.

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



**NORTH AMERICAN
PREMIERE**

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 5:15PM AT IFC CENTER

A Girl from Mogadishu

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 the 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.

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

112 minutes. Directed by Mary McGuckian.



**NEW YORK
PREMIERE**

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 8:15PM AT IFC CENTER

Untouchable

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.

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

98 minutes. Directed by Ursula Macfarlane. A Hulu release.

NYC WOMEN'S FUND FOR MEDIA, MUSIC & THEATRE



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Mayor

Anne del Castillo
Commissioner

nyc.gov/nycwomensfund

The NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music & Theatre provides grants to encourage and support the creation of film, television, digital, live theatre, and music that reflects the voices and perspectives of female-identified creatives. The Women's Fund is the latest in a groundbreaking series of initiatives by the City of New York Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) to address the underrepresentation of women in the creative industries. The Fund is administered by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA).

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SCHEDULE, TICKETS & VENUES

THURSDAY, JULY 18

7:30pm, SVA Theatre | NY Premiere: **Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story** (p.7)

FRIDAY, JULY 19

7:00pm | Women in the World Spotlight: **Supermajority** (p.8)

8:30pm | World Premiere: **Unbelievable** (p.9)

SATURDAY, JULY 20

12:00pm | NY Premiere: **Raise Hell: The Life & Times of Molly Ivins** (p.10)

2:45pm | NY Premiere: **Brittany Runs a Marathon** (p.11)

5:30pm | NY Premiere: **Official Secrets** (p.12)

8:30pm | NY Premiere: **After the Wedding** (p.13)

SUNDAY, JULY 21

12:00pm | NY Premiere: **For Sama** (p.14)

2:30pm | Sneak Preview: **Otherhood** (p.15)

5:15pm | North American Premiere: **A Girl from Mogadishu** (p.16)

8:15pm | NY Premiere: **Untouchable** (p.17)

VENUE INFORMATION

The Opening Night screening of *Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story* is at SVA Theatre. All other events take place at IFC Center.

SVA Theatre

333 West 23rd St.
(between 8th & 9th Ave.)
Subway: C, E to 23rd St.

IFC Center

323 Sixth Ave. (at West 3rd St.)
Subway: A, B, C, D, E, F, M to West 4th; 1 to Christopher St.

TICKET PURCHASES

Purchase Online

Visit 51fest.org

Purchase In-person

IFC Center Box Office
Open Daily 10:30am–10:00pm
Same-day tickets for Opening Night's Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story will also be available at the SVA Theatre box office starting at 7:00pm on July 18.

TICKET PRICES

Opening Night

\$25 General Admission
\$20 IFC Center Members

All Other Festival Events

\$18 General Admission
\$15 IFC Center Members

51Fest Pass

\$350 General Admission
\$300 IFC Center Members
Includes priority access and reserved seating to all festival screenings and discussions



KATHY GRIFFIN: A HELL OF A STORY
JULY 18



SUPERMAJORITY
JULY 19



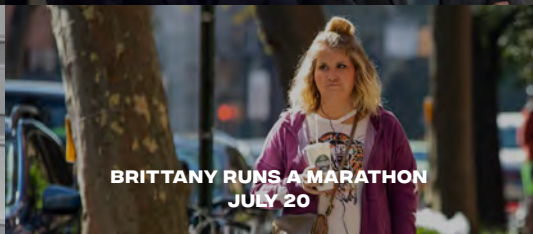
AND SHE COULD BE NEXT
JULY 19



UNBELIEVABLE
JULY 19



**RAISE HELL:
THE LIFE & TIMES OF MOLLY IVINS**
JULY 20



BRITTANY RUNS A MARATHON
JULY 20



OFFICIAL SECRETS
JULY 20



AFTER THE WEDDING
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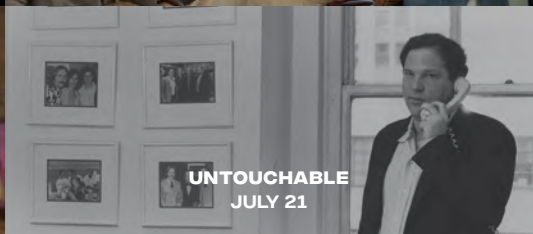
FOR SAMA
JULY 21



OTHERHOOD
JULY 21



A GIRL FROM MOGADISHU
JULY 21



UNTOUCHABLE
JULY 21