



August 2, 2016
Pierson Grant Public Relations
954/776-1999
Chris Feeley, ext. 237
cfeeley@piersongrant.com

**AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER ANNOUNCES
THE 2016-2017 AVENTURA FOREIGN FILM SERIES**
Tickets go on sale on August 2, 2016

AVENTURA, Fla. – The 2016-2017 Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Foreign Film Series spotlights eight internationally acclaimed, award-winning feature films from Belgium, France, Iceland, Italy and Japan.

Shelly Isaacs, founder/programmer and commentator for South Florida's popular Café Cinematheque International programs, once again will host the Foreign Film Series, by introducing the films and leading post-screening discussions.

Opening the series is ***Mustang*** on **Tuesday, October 18 at 7 p.m.** Winner of the Europa Cinemas Prize at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, this striking portrayal of female determination tells the story of five free-spirited sisters on summer break from school in a small village in Northern Turkey. When they frolic with male classmates, merely for innocent fun, their family overreacts and literally shuts the girls away, subjecting them to endless lessons in preparation for becoming brides. The sisters' fierce love for one another empowers them to rebel in an attempt to control their own destinies. Presented in Turkish with English subtitles.

Winner of the Audience Award at the 2015 Santa Barbara International Film Festival and Best Film at the 2015 Toronto Jewish Film Festival, ***Once in a Lifetime*** will be screened on **Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m.** This heartwarming film is based on a true story at inner city high school in a diversely populated suburb of Paris, where a dedicated teacher manages to get her toughest class to cooperate in a collective project for a national high school competition. The project's theme centers on what it meant to be a teenager in a Nazi concentration camp and through their work together, the students garner a whole new understanding of one another and the experience completely impacts their lives. Presented in French with English subtitles.

Our Little Sister, on **Tuesday, November 22 at 7 p.m.**, won Best Film and Best Director at the 2016 Japanese Academy Awards and Best Film at the 2015 San

Sebastian Film Festival. Directed by Hirokazu Koreeda (*Like Father, Like Son*), this gripping family drama begins with three sisters in their 20s who learn of their estranged father's death, and find out they have a 14-year-old half-sister who now has no one to care for her. They invite their sister to live with them and it changes their lives forever. Presented in Japanese with English subtitles.

Franco-Italian director Nanni Moretti, *Caro diario (Dear Diary)*, *Las stanza del figlio (The Son's Room)*, both directed and appears as the lead character's bother in ***Mia Madre***, which will be shown on **Tuesday, January 3 at 7 p.m.** The story centers on Margherita, a woman in crisis both personally and professionally. On the professional side, her work as a director on a film about a factory strike is fraught with unprepared actors and unhelpful advice. Personally, her romantic entanglement, strained relationship with her daughter and her mother's illness all converge as she struggles to come to terms with herself and her life. Winner of the Ecumenical Jury Prize at Cannes in 2015, *Mia Madre* is presented in French and Italian with English subtitles.

On Tuesday, February 7 at 7 p.m., *In Harmony* will draw the audience into a story about renunciation, passion and courage. Florence (Cécile de France) is an insurance agent who is tasked by her boss to handle the case of Equestrian stuntman (Albert Dupontel) after a serious accident leaves him a broken man. Although the pair has nothing in common, a brief meeting will impact them both in ways they could never imagine. Presented in French with English subtitles.

Winner of a slew of international awards, including the 2015 Cannes Un Certain Regard Prize for 2015, Icelandic film ***Rams*** will be screened on **Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m.** The compelling story of two sheep farmer brothers who have not spoken to each other in 40 years comes to a head as they learn that their ancestral sheep-stock must be destroyed and their pens burned due to a fatal degenerative disease plaguing the area's livestock. One brother complies but hides a few non-symptomatic ewes and a ram in his basement. For the sake of the herd, the two brothers are forced to flee together with the sheep to the highlands where unforeseen complications ensue. Presented in Icelandic with English subtitles.

2015 Japanese film ***Sweet Bean***, shown on **Tuesday April 4 at 7 p.m.**, chronicles the complicated and tragic relationship between a middle-aged manager of a dorayaki (pancake) stall and an elderly woman seeking employment. At first the manager rejects her application until he tastes her homemade bean jelly. Despite both of their pasts and the unforeseen effects of her illness, the two forge a relationship that is about much more than street food. Presented in Japanese with English subtitles.

The Foreign Film Series concludes with 2016 Golden Globe nominee ***The Brand New Testament*** on **Tuesday, May 2 at 7 p.m.**, a dark comedy from Belgium which has God living in human form as a cynical writer in present-day Brussels, who is saddled with a young, opinionated daughter. Concluding that her dad is doing a terrible job, she decides to rewrite the world, which leaves her father angry and adamant to reclaim his power. The film is presented in French and German with English subtitles.

Individual tickets and eight-film subscription packages go on sale August 2. Tickets for individual screenings are \$11. Eight-film series subscriptions are available at \$9 per film and represent a savings of 15 percent on individual tickets. All screenings are general admission and the auditorium opens for seating 30 minutes prior to the start time.

Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Aventura Arts & Cultural Center and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at aventuracenter.org; by phone at 877-311-7469; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center box office Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to each performance. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers. For Group Sales, please call 954-660-6307.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts manages the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, a 14,864-square-foot, 330-seat waterfront complex that hosts performing arts, cultural and educational programming for all ages. The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is located at 3385 N.E. 188 Street in Aventura. Join the conversation on Twitter at #aventuracenter.

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CALENDAR BRIEF

The 2016-2017 Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Foreign Film Series spotlights eight internationally acclaimed, award-winning feature films from Belgium, France, Iceland, Italy and Japan. The eight-film series consists of *Mustang* (Oct. 18), *Once in a Lifetime* (Nov. 1), *Our Little Sister* (Nov. 22), *Mia Madre* (Jan. 3), *In Harmony* (Feb. 7), *Rams* (March 7), *Sweet Bean* (April 4) and *The Brand New Testament* (May 2). The series is hosted by Shelly Isaacs who introduces the films and leads post-screening discussions. Individual tickets and eight-film subscription packages go on sale August 2. Tickets for individual screenings are \$11. Eight-film series subscriptions are available at \$9 per film and represent a savings of 15 percent on individual tickets. All screenings are general admission and the auditorium opens for seating 30 minutes prior to the start time. Buy tickets online at aventuracenter.org; by phone at 877-311-7469; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center box office Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to each performance.

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