

WWII Drama *Darkest Hour* Featured at 2017 Gold Coast International Film Festival

— Festival Spotlights Academy-Award Frontrunner Starring Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill; Q&A with Edwina Sandys, Winston Churchill's Granddaughter Follows Screening —



GREAT NECK, NY — October 10, 2017 —The [2017 Gold Coast International Film Festival](#) has announced an exciting slate of more 80 feature-length and short films, including this year's Spotlight Film, *Darkest Hour*. *Darkest Hour* stars Academy Award nominee Gary Oldman as Sir Winston Churchill, Kristin Scott Thomas as Clementine Churchill and Lily James as Elizabeth Layton, the shy young typist sent to transcribe Churchill's thoughts. Directed by Joe Wright, *Darkest Hour* is the dramatic and inspiring story of four weeks in 1940 during which Churchill's courage to lead changed the course of world history. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Sir Winston Churchill's granddaughter and world-renowned sculptor, Edwina Sandys.

During the early days of World War II, with the fall of France imminent, Britain faced its darkest hour as the threat of invasion looms. As the seemingly unstoppable Nazi forces advances, and with the Allied army cornered on the beaches of Dunkirk, the fate of Western Europe hung on the leadership of the newly-appointed British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. While maneuvering his political rivals, he confronted the ultimate choice: negotiate with Hitler and save the British people at a terrible cost or rally the nation and fight on against incredible odds. *Darkest Hour* will screen on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Soundview Cinemas located at 7 Soundview Market Place, Port Washington, NY 11050. Tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/gciffdarkesthour>.

For lovers of history and Hollywood, the Gold Coast International Film Festival is featuring several other films that dramatically recount important moments in world history.

In a rare and fortuitous piece of cinematic archeology, *Ben-Gurion, Epilogue* tells the story of Israel's founding father and former prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. Compiled from six hours of newly discovered conversations with Ben-Gurion interviewed at his secluded desert home over the course of several days in 1968, the film presents never-before-seen footage of the then 82-year-old former prime minister in his final years after leaving office. An introspective David Ben-Gurion reflects on the loss of his wife, his health, political legacy, and his hopes for peace in the Middle East. The film is a work of undeniable historical significance with prophetic implications for Israel's future and an offering of hindsight on the Zionist enterprise. A very special live Q&A with David Ben-Gurion's grandson, Alon Ben-Gurion, will follow the screening. Tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/gciffgurion>.

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story is the story of the "Most Beautiful Woman in the World" who was also, shockingly, the inventor of the "secret communication system" that helped the Allies beat the Nazis. Alexandra Dean's illuminating documentary tells the story of this fascinating Austrian Jewish émigré who acted by day and drew mechanical and electronic inventions by night. Weaving in Lamarr's voice from archival recordings, Dean reveals how Lamarr gave her patent to the Navy, received no credit for her contributions, and wound up impoverished in her later years. A Q&A with the director, Alexandra Dean, will follow the screening. This film is for lovers of history, Hollywood and science and will screen on Monday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Neck Squire Theater, 115 Middle Neck Rd, Great Neck, NY 11021. Tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/gciffbombshell>.

Other standout films and events at this year's Gold Coast International Film Festival include more than 40 premieres, including *Dare to Be Different*, the story of WLIR, the small suburban Long Island radio station that changed the sound of radio forever. Director/Producer Ellen Goldfarb and Executive Producer Denis McNamara, along with dozens of other DJs and special guests featured in the film will join us at this premiere; *Yellow Birds*, starring Jennifer Aniston, Toni Collette, Alden Ehrenreich and Tye Sheridan; French movie-star **Isabelle Huppert**'s new film *Souvenir*; **Burt Reynolds**'s new film *Dog Years*; and the timely *Bill Nye: Science Guy*. The festival is also the delightful documentary *Hummus! The Movie*, followed by "The Great Gold Coast Hummus Taste-Off"; and the East Coast premiere of the Iranian film *Gholam*, starring **Shahab Hosseini**, star of the 2016 Oscar-winning film *The Salesman*, which premiered at last year's festival. On Saturday, November 11, the festival will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Oscar-winning Hollywood musical *Pal Joey*, starring Frank Sinatra, Rita Hayworth, and Kim Novak. Sinatra's granddaughter, Amanda Erlinger will join us for a Q&A following the screening.

Sponsors and partners of this year's Gold Coast International Film Festival include: founding partners, the Town of North Hempstead and Douglas Elliman Real Estate; major partners, Hofstra University and the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency; as well as Neiman Marcus Garden City; GEICO; Deluxe Entertainment Services Group; AARP Long Island; A.L. Sarroff Fund; Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP; The Katz Institute for Women's Health at Northwell Health; St. Mary's Kids; , Jet Blue; Biener Audi; LVR Rental; The Inn at Great Neck; The Andrew Hotel; WLIW21; Altice; New York Women in Film & Television; Anton

Publications; Blank Slate Media; LI Pulse; Edelman Financial Services, LLC; and LOLA of Great Neck.

For tickets to all screenings and events visit www.goldcoastfilmfestival.org.

Images for all films can be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/GCIFF2017%20Media%20Assets>

About the Gold Coast International Film Festival

Since 2011, the festival has brought the latest Hollywood hits and Indie favorites to standing room only audiences throughout the fabled Gold Coast of Long Island. Add A-list celebrities and unforgettable events to the mix and it's easy to see why the Gold Coast International Film Festival has become the "go to" festival for film buffs and the public; (it is also the last major film festival on the East Coast before Awards season). The Gold Coast International Film Festival is produced by the not-for-profit Gold Coast Arts Center.

Previous honorees and special guests of the festival and the Gold Coast Arts Center include film industry VIPs **Francis Ford Coppola, Hugh Grant, Baz Luhrmann, Brian Dennehy, Paul Sorvino, Ed Burns, Bruce Dern, Isabella Rossellini, Lou Diamond Phillips, Morgan Spurlock, Eli Wallach, Gabriel Byrne, Jacques Pepin, Bill Plympton, Phil Donahue, Phylicia Rashaad, Joan Allen, Jay McInerney and Michael Cuesta**, as well as composer **Morton Gould**, artists **James Rosenquist, Oleg Cassini, Edwina Sandys and Bob Gruen**, comedian **Susie Essman**, Broadway stars **Kelli O'Hara, Melissa Errico and Savion Glover**, and 4-time Oscar winner for production and costume design **Catherine Martin**.

About the Gold Coast Arts Center

The [Gold Coast Arts Center](http://www.goldcoastarts.org) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting the arts through education, exhibition, performance and outreach. Located on the North Shore of Long Island, it has brought the arts to tens of thousands of people throughout the region for over 20 years. Among the Center's offerings are its School for the Arts, which holds year-round classes in visual and performing arts for students of all ages and abilities; a free public art gallery; a concert and lecture series; film screenings and discussions; the annual Gold Coast International Film Festival; and initiatives that focus on senior citizens and underserved communities. These initiatives include artist residencies, after-school programs, school assemblies, teacher-training workshops and parent-child workshops. The Gold Coast Arts Center is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Partners in Education program, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. More information can be found at www.goldcoastarts.org.

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For Tickets or More Information on the Festival visit www.goldcoastfilmfestival.org

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