MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL
GEMS 2017
MIAMI DADE COLLEGE
October 12 - 15, 2017
PROGRAM GUIDE
Following his micro-budget break-out Tangerine, Sean Baker cements his status as one of our freshest and most vital filmmakers with The Florida Project.

Set in Orlando, this freewheeling film, like its predecessor, offers a big-hearted portrait of America’s marginalized. This time around Baker’s subjects are 22-year-old Halley and her six-year-old daughter Moonee. The pair resides in a cheap motel tucked near a freeway and a theme park. Halley struggles to pay for cereal and shelter, while Moonee doesn’t let a little thing like destitution prevent her from exploring her surroundings or playing jokes on a motel staff-member (beautifully depicted by Willem Dafoe).

The Florida Project is pure film of the highest order; it reminds us that even in the direst circumstances life will always yield small yet unforgettable joys. –Jaie Laplante

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 7:00PM

SPECIAL PREVIEW

The Florida Project

USA | 2017 | 115 min | English

DIRECTOR BIO

Sean Baker was born in Summit, New Jersey. He received his degree in film studies from New York University. His television credits include Greg the Bunny (05), which he co-created. His films include Prince of Broadway (08), which screened at Miami Film Festival 2009; Starlet (12) and Tangerine (15), The Florida Project (17) is his latest film.

Director: Sean Baker
Executive Producers: Darren Dean, Elayne Schniederman Schmidt
Producers: Sean Baker, Chris Bergoch, Kevin Chinoy, Andrew Duncan, Alex Saks, Francesca Silvestri, Shih-Ching Tsou
Screenwriters: Sean Baker, Chris Bergoch
Cinematographer: Alexis Zabi
Music: Matthew Hearon-Smith
Cost: William Dafoe, Brodylinn Prince, Bia Vinate, Valeria Cotto
Production Company: June Pictures
US Distributor: A24

ON SALE DATES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Tickets on sale to Miami Film Society Members & Sponsors

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Tickets on sale to General Public

PRICES

General Screenings
General Admission $13
Miami Film Society Members $10
Seniors (65+) $12
Students $10
Masterclass Seminars $9 (MDC Students FREE with student ID)

Special Event
Opening Night Film Only $25 | MFS $20
Opening Night Film & Party $50 | MFS $40
Can’t Say Goodbye Brunch $50

Group Rates
15% off with a single purchase of 20 or more tickets to the same screening.
NOTE: A $1 per ticket processing fee applies to all regular screenings and seminars. A higher per-ticket fee may be applied to special events.

VENUES

MDC’s Tower Theater Miami
1508 SW 8th St., Miami, FL 33135
Ella’s Oyster Bar
1615 SW 8th Street Miami, FL 33135

Visit miamifilmfestival.com for the most up-to-date info.

GEMS is Miami Dade College’s Miami Film Festival’s annual fall showcase for the best films of the season, in preparation for the 35th annual Miami Film Festival (which runs next year March 9-18, 2018). Taking place over four days (October 12-15, 2017), GEMS will provide Floridians and visitors with an exclusive specially curated program of new movies that will dominate award-season conversations, as well as international box office sensations and special discoveries.

HOW TO BUY

Miami Film Society MEMBERS: Friday, September 15
Look for special instructions by email to place your order (order by Sept 21 for priority)
Review benefits and/or become a Member at miamifilmfestival.com/membership or call 305-237-7979.

GENERAL PUBLIC: Friday, September 22
Onsite: miamifilmfestival.com
Phone: 1-844-565-6333 (MFF)
Mon - Fri: 9 AM – 6 PM
Sat - Sun: 10 AM – 2 PM

IN PERSON: MDC’s Tower Theater Box Office:
1508 SW 6th St., Miami, FL 33135

During Festival: Box Office opens one hour before the first screening of the day. Patrons may purchase tickets for all Festival screenings, when available. Same-day tickets take priority in lines.

Rush Line: If screening nears capacity, rush line forms at venue. If seats become available, 2 tickets per person max.

@miamicity
@towerevents
#GemsFF
#MiamiFF
#TowerTheaterMiami
#MiamiFF
#GemsFF
#TowerTheaterMiami

PLEASE NOTE

When planning your outing, make sure to allow time for traffic and parking. Seating for Ticket Holders is guaranteed up to 15 minutes prior to start of screening. If you arrive after this, even a ticket does NOT guarantee a seat. At 15 minutes to showtime, the theater manager reserves the right to release your seat to the Rush Line. No refunds or exchanges. All programs and times are subject to change without notice. Students & Seniors must show valid ID at Box Office.
# GEMS Schedule

**Thursday, October 12**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>CALL ME BY YOUR NAME</td>
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<td>T2</td>
<td>VR ESCAPE</td>
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<td>VIRTUAL REALITY</td>
<td>OPENING NIGHT PARTY</td>
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**Friday, October 13**

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<td>T1</td>
<td>SUMMER 1993</td>
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<td>T2</td>
<td>LIFE AND NOTHING MORE</td>
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<td>VIRTUAL REALITY</td>
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**Saturday, October 14**

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<td>THE WORKSHOP</td>
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<td>T2</td>
<td>THE SQUARE</td>
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<td>VIRTUAL REALITY</td>
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**Sunday, October 15**

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<td>T1</td>
<td>CAN'T SAY GOODBYE BRUNCH</td>
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<td>T2</td>
<td>FACES PLACES</td>
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<td>VIRTUAL REALITY</td>
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**Special Event**

- CAN'T SAY GOODBYE BRUNCH @ Ella's Oyster Bar 11:00 AM

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Talent Expected
Italian auteur Luca Guadagnino (I Am Love) makes splashy, sensual films brimming with big emotions, but the foundation of his work is a rare tenderness.

In 1983 in the Lombardy countryside, an antiquities academic, Professor Perlman (Michael Stuhlbarg, who could earn an Oscar for this role), invites a young American Jewish scholar named Oliver (Armie Hammer) to stay with his family at their 17th century palazzo, and assist him with a summer research project. To the Professor's dismay, his restless adolescent son Elio (Timothée Chalamet) soon falls under a spell of fascination with the gregarious, extroverted American. As Elio shows Oliver the natural delights of an Italian summer with nearby Swiss and French influences, exquisite dreams begin to take flight before our eyes—and those of Elio's watchful father and mother, Annella.

Call Me By Your Name, adapted by the legendary James Ivory (of the famous Merchant-Ivory filmmaking team) from a novel by André Aciman, is swooning and alive—a new masterpiece. Sufjan Stevens contributes original new songs that add immeasurably to the film's heart-fluttering texture, and the film also does for peaches what I Am Love did for prawns! —Jaie Laplante.

After the premiere of Call Me by Your Name, be transported to Northern Italy while staying in the heart of Little Havana. Enjoy Alta Italia-inspired cuisine, wines and delicacies while we capture the Italian zest for life.

9:30PM inside MDC's Tower Theater
CAN’T SAY GOODBYE
(NO SÉ DECIR ADIÓS)
SPAIN | 2017 | 96 min. | Spanish with English subtitles

Sunday, October 15 @ 5:00pm

Balancing a barrage of unruly feelings with an air of philosophical wisdom, Spanish director Lino Escalera’s feature debut, winner of four awards at this year’s Málaga Film Festival, is an emotionally searing portrait of familial strife.

José Luis (Juan Diego) is dying. His daughter Carla (Nathalie Poza), a bored executive who self-medicates with booze, cocaine and male attention, insists her father keep fighting the grim reaper. His daughter Blanca (Lola Dueñas), an aspiring actress, is willing to submit José Luis to palliative care and let him go gently into that good night. These conflicting attitudes lay bare the sisters’ divergent coping mechanisms and teach them a great deal about their own fraught lives.

Watch this intense, smart, tender drama—and you might learn something too. –Jaie Laplante

THE DESERT BRIDE
(LA NOVIJA DEL DESIERTO)
ARGENTINA, CHILE | 2017 | 78 min. | Spanish with English subtitles

Saturday, October 14 @ 9:30pm

The inimitable Paulina García (star of Sebastián Leilo’s soaring character study Gloria) stars in this story of mid-life self-discovery from directorial duo Cecilia Atán and Valeria Pivato.

After working more than three decades as housekeeper to a Buenos Aires family, Teresa (García) is let go and must travel 700 miles for a new position in San Juan. On route, Teresa’s bus is forced to make an unexpected overnight stop in a desert town. A sudden storm and a lost bag propel Teresa on an unexpected odyssey in the company of a charismatic merchant named El Gringo (Claudio Rissi). Their search becomes a kind of impromptu courtship—and this elegant little film assumes a seductive air that will stay with you long after the closing credits.

–Jaie Laplante

Join director Lino Escalera before the screening at our CAN’T SAY GOODBYE Sunday brunch. It’s always tough to say goodbye to another year of GEMS, but Ella’s Oyster Bar is the way to do it. See page 22 for details.
DON’T TAKE YES FOR AN ANSWER:
EDSON JEAN, JOSHUA JEAN-BAPTISTE AND VAKABON

SEMINAR CONVERSATION

Imagine you have a dream to create your own episodic series. You enter your three-minute video pitch in Project Greenlight’s first post-HBO initiative—and you win the $25,000 top prize! That’s what happened last year to Miami’s Haitian-American filmmakers, actors and roommates Edson Jean and Joshua Jean-Baptiste. Dream come true? Not so fast. “Edson won’t take YES for an answer,” explained producer Andrew Hevia (Moonlight). If Edson and Joshua’s proposed web series VAKABON (a Haitian-Creole word meaning “delinquent, vagabond, troublemaker”) is good enough to win the “Get The Greenlight” prize, why not fund the entire eight-episode first season? Flash-forward to the summer of 2017: with LA-based Adaptive Studios on board with a $25 million budget, Edson and Joshua are shooting the full season on location in Miami just blocks from the locations that inspired their idea.

Join Edson, Joshua and Festival director Jaie Laplante as they discuss the journey from shooting no-budget test-episodes to working with a 70-person crew and over 50 Miami-based actors. Learn the secrets of a helming a successful production to working with a 70-person crew and over 50 Miami-based filmmakers, actors and roommates Edson Jean and Joshua Jean-Baptiste. Dream come true? Not so fast. “Edson won’t take YES for an answer,” explained producer Andrew Hevia (Moonlight). If Edson and Joshua’s proposed web series VAKABON (a Haitian-Creole word meaning “delinquent, vagabond, troublemaker”) is good enough to win the “Get The Greenlight” prize, why not fund the entire eight-episode first season? Flash-forward to the summer of 2017: with LA-based Adaptive Studios on board with a $25 million budget, Edson and Joshua are shooting the full season on location in Miami just blocks from the locations that inspired their idea.

For over five decades, Eric Clapton has been creating rock music deeply influenced by the blues. This documentary traces the guitar virtuoso’s career through the Yardbirds, Cream, Blind Faith, Derek & The Dominos and his solo years, telling the stories behind hits like “For Your Love,” “Layla,” and “Tears in Heaven.”

Clapton struggled with the demands of the music business, tumultuous love affairs, drug addiction and the tragic loss of his young son. Featuring a candid interview with Clapton and drawing from an extensive archive of performances and home movies, Life in 12 Bars traces how Clapton coped with these challenges. We come away with a deeper sense of what has inspired so much memorable music. –Thom Powers

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Faces Places (Visages Villages)
France | 2017 | 89 min. | French with English subtitles

Sunday, October 15 @ 6:30pm

Faces Places (Visages Villages) France | 2017 | 89 min. | French with English subtitles

Agnès Varda was born in Ixelles, Belgium. She studied art history and photography at Paris’ École des Beaux-Arts. Her many films include Cléo from 5 to 7 (62), One Sings, the Other Doesn’t (77), Vagabond (85), which won the Golden Lion at Venice, The Gleaners & I (00) and The Beaches of Agnès (08). Faces Places (17) is her latest film.

JR is a French artist. His primary artistic activity has been documenting his travels and anonymously pasting the evidence on outdoor façades all over the world, including Miami Dade College’s Freedom Tower in 2013. His work as a filmmaker has included Women Are Heroes (10), Walking New York (15), Ellis (15) and Faces Places (17), made in collaboration with Agnès Varda.

Director JR, Agnès Varda
Producer Rosalie Varda, Charles S. Cohen, Julie Gayet, Nadia Turincev, Nichole Fu, Etienne Comar
Cinematographer Roberto De Angelis, Claire Duguet, Julia Fabry, Nicolas Guichet, Romain Le Bonnec, Raphael Minnesota, Valentin Vignet
Music Matthieu Chedid aka -M-
Cast Agnès Varda, JR, Jean-Luc Godard, Laurent Levesque
Distributor Cohen Media Group

IN THE FADE (Aus Dem Nichts)
Germany | 2017 | 106 min. | German with English subtitles

Saturday, October 14 @ 6:00pm

In the Fade (Aus Dem Nichts) Germany | 2017 | 106 min. | German with English subtitles

Turkish-German filmmaker Fatih Akin (The Edge of Heaven) boldly navigates the confluence of cultures that comprises contemporary Europe. This new tale of terror and vengeance is just as brilliant as Akin’s previous films—and much more bracing.

Katja (Inglorious Basterds’ Diane Kruger) experiences the unthinkable: her husband, a legal advisor to Germany’s Turkish and Kurdish communities, and her young son are killed in a Neo-Nazi terrorist bombing. As In the Fade draws us ever-deeper into the myriad ways that the legal system fails Katja, our heartbroken heroine takes justice into her own hands.

Akin tackles the boggling complexities of modern violence with intelligence and focus. Kruger, meanwhile, is an actress of astonishing emotional dexterity, and In the Fade pushes her—and her character—to new limits.

Director Fatih Akin
Producer Fatih Akin, Mélita Toscan du Plantier, Marie-Jeanne Pascal
Screenwriter Fatih Akin
Cinematographer Rainer Klausmann
Music Josh Homme
Cast Diane Kruger, Denis Moschitto, Johannes Krisch, Ulrich Tukur, Samia Chancrin, Numan Acar, Rafael Santana
Production Company Bombero International
Distributor Magnolia Pictures
**LIFE AND NOTHING MORE**

**SPAIN, USA | 2017 | 113 min. | English**

Still in the prime of her life, Regina works long hours at a Tallahassee fast-food stop, barely earning enough to scrape by and feed her two children – Andrew, an emotionally cagey adolescent, and her young daughter. When a charismatic stranger shows interest, Regina isn’t sure she can muster enough trust to let him into her fraught life—and Andrew’s ongoing confrontations with authorities don’t help matters. With smoldering resentment at his incarcerated father and dealing with a mother nearing the end of her fraying tether, Andrew is more at risk than he realizes.

Dividing its attention—and compassion—evenly between Andrew and Regina, *Life and Nothing More* is an invigorating work of modern neorealism set on the fringes of urban Florida. Spanish writer-director Antonio Méndez Esparza displays an astonishing grasp of the conundrum of race, family and justice that suffuse our contemporary America. *Life and Nothing More* is essential cinema for our present moment.

-Jaie Laplante

**MY FRIEND DAHMER**

**USA | 2017 | 107 min. | English**

There’s something different about Ohio high school student Jeff Dahmer. To get through the days, Jeff plays the class clown, feigning spastic fits to attract attention. After school, he retreats to his makeshift lab, where he dissolves roadkill in jars of acid. No one could foresee what he would become...

Based on the graphic novel by John Backderf—one of Dahmer’s former classmates—*My Friend Dahmer* is a grim origin story. Anchored by former Disney star Ross Lynch’s chilling lead performance, this is a terrifying, surprisingly empathetic look into one troubled teen’s descent into madness. Jeffrey Dahmer would later become one of the most notorious serial killers in American history. But here, he’s simply known as “Dahmer” – a not-so-regular high school student. –Lauren Cohen

**DIRECTOR BIO**

Antonio Méndez Esparza was born in Madrid. He has also lived in Mexico and New York, where he studied film at Columbia University. His feature debut *Aquí y allá* (12) won numerous international awards, including the Critics Week Grand Prize at Cannes. *Life and Nothing More* (17) is his second feature.

- Director Antonio Méndez Esparza
- Executive Producer Paul Cohen
- Producer Pedro Hernández Santos
- Screenwriter Antonio Méndez Esparza
- Cinematographer Barbu Balasoiu
- Cast Andrew Bleechington, Regina Williams, Robert Williams, Rynesia Chambers
- Production Company Aquí Y All Films
- Sales Agent Film Constellation

**DIRECTOR BIO**

Marc Meyers has written and directed the features *Approaching Union Square* (06), *Harvest* (10), *How He Fell in Love* (15). His most recent film, *My Friend Dahmer* (17), had its World Premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival.

- Director Marc Meyers
- Producer Jody Girgenti, Marc Meyers, Adam Goldworm, Michael Merlob, Milan Chakraborty
- Screenwriter Marc Meyers
- Cinematographer Daniel Katz
- Music Andrew Hollander
- Cast Ross Lynch, Anne Heche, Alex Wolff, Dallas Roberts, Miles Robbins, Tommy Nelson, Vincent Kartheiser
- Production Company Ibid Filmworks
- Distributor FilmRise

**US PREMIERE**

⭐ TALENT EXPECTED
A beguiling fusion of thrilling cinema and passionate music, No, A Flamenco Tale sweeps us off to a land where the joys and hardships of life are expressed in breathtaking spectacle and song.

Clapping hands, stamping feet, stirring singing, intricate guitar and arresting dance: flamenco is a tradition of bold, soul-piercing gestures. Spanish director José Luis Tirado matches these gestures with a loose story about No, a dancer who works at a small venue in Seville’s Triana Market. At times No feels alienated by the world she inhabits, yet she finds communion in sundry public spaces where her dance provokes reactions from fellow citizens.

Let NO take hold of your senses—and you too will be provoked, inspired and moved. –Jaie Laplante
**THE SQUARE**

SWEDEN, GERMANY, FRANCE | 2017 | 145 min.
Swedish, Danish, French, German, English with English subtitles

It has been 23 years since a comedy won the highest film award of Cannes Film Festival, the Palme d’Or - and it took *The Square*, a jaw-dropping art-world satire to do it.

Needing a provocative idea to draw attention to his palatial Stockholm museum, head curator Christian spends millions on “The Square,” a barely-visible installation that invites visitors to exercise altruism. When the museum’s uber-cool ad agency comes up with an “edgy” campaign for the accompanying exhibit, Christian is too obsessed with the loss of his cell phone to pay much attention. The downward spiral that transpires is a neat summation of our current anxieties, and a gnawing dread that civilization’s advances since our evolution from the apes may all be for naught.

*The Square* is brilliant, biting and unnervingly hilarious.
—Jaie Laplante

**DIRECTOR BIO**

Ruben Östlund is a Swedish filmmaker. His films include *Involuntary* (08), a 2009 Miami Film Festival official selection, *Play* (11) and *Force Majeure* (14), which swept major prizes at festivals all over the world. The Square (17), his latest film, won the Palme d’Or at this year’s Cannes Film Festival.

Director Ruben Östlund
Executive Producers Tomas Eskilsson, Agneta Perman, Dan Friedkin, Bradley Thomas
Producers Erki Hemmendorff, Philippe Bober
Screenwriter Ruben Östlund
Cinematographer Fredrik Wenzel
Cast Claes Bang, Elisabeth Moss, Dominic West, Terry Notary, Christopher Laessø, Marina Schiptjenko, Elijandro Edouard
Production Companies Plattform, Production, Essential Films, Parisienne
US Distributor Magnolia Pictures

**SUMMER 1993**

(SUStIU 1993)

SPAIN | 2017 | 96 min. | Catalan with English subtitles

Winner of the Best First Feature Award in Berlin, Spanish writer-director Carla Simón’s autobiographical coming-of-age tale is delicate, transporting and, in its confident, unassuming way, profoundly moving.

Sublimely embodied by little Laia Artigas—whose arresting presence at times recalls the young Ana Torrent—six-year-old Frida is sent from Barcelona to her aunt and uncle’s home in the Catalán countryside. Frida has lost both her parents, and though her new family is welcoming, her new surroundings overturn her inchoate understanding of the world.

In its steady accumulation of precise, evocative moments—a child’s upturned face lit by fireworks; two girls sharing a bath and learning to hold their breath—*Summer 1993* renders a time of tumultuous transition with grace and wonder.

—Jaie Laplante

**DIRECTOR BIO**

Carla Simón is a Spanish filmmaker. She studied at various institutions, including the University of California, the Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona and the London Film School. Her short films include “Lipstick” (13) and “Las pequeñas cosas” (15). *Summer 1993* (17) is her first feature.

Director Carla Simón
Producer Valérie Delpierre
Screenwriter Carla Simón
Cinematographer Santiago Racaj
Cast Laia Artigas, Paula Robles, Bruna Cusi, David Verdugo, Fermí Reixach
Production Company Avalon
US Distributor Oscilloscope

**SWEDEN’S SUBMISSION TO 90TH ACADEMY AWARDS**

**2017 GWFF BEST FIRST FEATURE JURY AWARD**

**2017 WINNER GOLDEN BIZNAGA AWARD**
Laurent Cantet’s Palme d’Or-winning The Class was a profound examination of contemporary education in all its social and pedagogical complexities. Set in a summer creative writing workshop Cantet’s new film The Workshop veers into a very different, very intriguing direction.

Presided over by a published crime novelist and comprised of a handful of working-class, mixed-race adolescents, the workshop’s objective is to collectively compose a novel set in their coastal French town. Reaching consensus proves difficult, and Antoine, the most outspoken, contentious participant begins to dominate—and destabilize—the proceedings.

Under Cantet’s steely focus, The Workshop seamlessly shifts from a film in which people discuss a thriller to a film that is itself a fiercely intelligent thriller, grounded in the fraught sociopolitical landscape these kids are inheriting.

—Jaie Laplante

Laurent Cantet is a French filmmaker. His films include Time Out (01), Heading South (05), The Class (08), which won the Cannes Palme d’Or and was nominated for an Oscar, and the Havana-set Return to Ithaca (14), scripted by Leonardo Padura. The Workshop (17) premiered at Cannes earlier this year.

Director Laurent Cantet
Producer Denis Freyd
Screenwriters Robin Campillo, Laurent Cantet
Cinematographer Pierre Milon
Music Bedis Tir, Edouard Pons
Cast Marina Foïs, Matthieu Lucci
Production Companies Archipel 35, France 2 Cinema
US Distributor Strand Releasing

After the Storm you will witness the struggles of entire communities that were destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, creating the potential for cholera outbreaks in its wake.

—Diana Cadavid

Angélique Soto was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. He has made numerous short films, among them In the Privacy Of My Home (2011), which screened at the Festival. The Farm (2015), his feature debut as writer-director, also screened at the Festival. Angélique is also in the forefront of Virtual Reality, directing and supervising VR Content for RYOT News. His latest critically acclaimed VR doc, Bashir’s Dream, premiered in Sundance and has since then been presented all over the world, including the 2017 Cannes Film Festival NEXT Program.

VR escape is an extra-cinematic experience not to be missed.

—Jaie Laplante

As Puerto Rico’s debt crisis deepens and legislators in Washington continue not to act, ordinary Puerto Ricans are taking matters into their own hands.

INTERCEPT PIECE

The World Inside Room offers an exclusive behind-the-scenes onto the set of the highly suspenseful and deeply emotional film Room.

—Diana Cadavid

VR escape experience will be located on the mezzanine level of MDC’s Tower Theater.
Close out GEMS 2017 on a delicious note with our Can’t Say Goodbye Brunch at the newest Miami gem, Ella’s Oyster Bar. Join other film lovers and director of Can’t Say Goodbye, Lino Escalera at a classic Oyster Bar reimagined in the heart of Little Havana. Providing sophisticated flavors in a playful atmosphere that’s comfortable and casual with the exciting variety of a modern Miami Oyster Bar.

**Can’t Say Goodbye**

**Brunch**

1615 SW 8th Street Miami, FL 33135

**Sunday Oct 15**

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**BECOMING A MEMBER**

**MIAMI FILM SOCIETY**

Means joining a community that believes in the power of film to inspire, entertain, and change the way we see the world.

Starting at just $100, an MFS membership grants the best access to all of our programming, including significant ticket discounts, advance sales to Miami Film Festival and GEMS, invitations to free screenings throughout the year, and exclusive access to our curated film streaming service.

**JOIN TODAY**

Miamifilmfestival.com

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