For Immediate Release

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Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival Engages Community with

Educational Workshops and Bold Conversations Event Series

September 17, 2019 – The Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival (OTRFF), organized by LADD, presented by the Financial Independence Project, is delighted to add to their 2019 slate a variety of industry-themed workshops, panels and conversations. In addition to the many feature length and short film screenings, these themed events are open to the public to attend. They will take place throughout the festival’s five days covering current topics which celebrate difference, diversity and our shared humanity.

Highlights of the festival’s workshops:

* **Kate Rigg** (award-winning multicultural and multilingual art star) will join a group of diverse panelists on Thursday, October 3rd at the Art Academy of Cincinnati for “Eyes Open to Biased Casting,” a discussion of the struggles and realities of #CastingSoWhite.
* Festival Curator **TT Stern-Enzi** (critic) and **Kevin Fleishman** will moderate “One Family, One Screen” on Saturday, October 5th at AMC Newport on the Levee. Interact with their discussion of how adults can better engage with children about what they watch and learn which questions to ask to help children think critically about what they are watching and why.
* **Chase Crawford** (actor from Monroe, OH) and **Ya’Ke Smith** (2019 Duncanson Artist-in-Residence for the Taft Museum of Art) will join a panel of successful, independent filmmakers at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on Saturday, October 5th for “Realities of Micro-Budget Filmmaking,” a discussion on the realities and pitfalls of funding a micro-budget film.

Highlights of the festival’s conversations series:

* **Margaret McGurk** (critic) and **Ann Hornaday** (author and film critic at The Washington Post) will host “Bold Conversations: Accomplished Female Critics” at the Garfield Theater on Friday, October 4th, speaking on their experiences as women in the industry.
* **Joe Horine** (University of Cincinnati instructor and Associate Director for the Underground Academy of Cinematic Arts and the Golden Lion Awards) and **Matt Zoller-Sietz** (Editor for RogerEbert.com, critic, filmmaker and author) will discuss their film experiences during “Bold Conversations: Our Love for Film and How it Affects Us” at the Art Academy of Cincinnati on Saturday, October 5th.

Other industry professionals contributing to these events as moderators and panelists include: **Jeff Blevins** (Head of University of Cincinnati’s Journalism Department); **Steve Oldfield** (Thomas Moore Instructor, critic and filmmaker); **Stephan Wallace Pruitt** and **Mary Settle Pruitt** (independent filmmakers); and, **Russ Kindle** (director of three festival films: *Artifact Artist, Instruments of War, Man in the Cameo Jacket)*.

**These special events are open for the public to attend but tickets for all festival screenings are on sale now. For tickets or more information on all the special events and films at the 2019 Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival visit** **[OTRFilmFest.org](http://www.otrfilmfest.org).**