

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second annual Cinetopia International Film Festival breaks 8,500 attendance mark

Twenty Feet from Stardom and *Blancanieves* among audience favorites

Ann Arbor, Mich. – Over 8,500 attendees flocked to the 45 films shown at the second annual Cinetopia International Film Festival on June 6-9. Film screenings took place in Ann Arbor at the Michigan and State Theaters, in Angell Hall on the University of Michigan campus, and at a free pop-up rooftop cinema at the Maynard Street parking structure. For the first time, Cinetopia expanded into Detroit, where screenings took place at the Detroit Institute of Arts' beautiful Detroit Film Theatre auditorium. "There is obviously a lot of demand for something like this," said attendee Martin Fischhoff. "People want to have a choice of dozens and dozens of independent and art-house movies. I hear a lot of buzz about it. It's only in its second year and it's already a big tradition."

Audiences gave top ratings to [Blancanieves](#), a modern silent film (akin to *The Artist*) about a bull-fighting Snow White, and [Twenty Feet from Stardom](#), a documentary that shines the spotlight on unsung back-up singers – both of which won the Cinetopia Audience Award. [Commencement](#), a drama about a young woman and her family in transition after college graduation, and [I Am Divine](#), a documentary about the titular larger-than-life cult superstar, each won the Cinetopia Spirit Award, given for special merit by the festival's programming team. The four award-winning films will have return engagements at the Michigan Theater later this summer.

During the festival weekend, the University of Michigan's Department of Screen Arts and Cultures hosted a well-attended [Robert Altman Symposium](#) in conjunction with Cinetopia, which featured three screenings of the director's work. The partnership between UM and Cinetopia will continue next year, as plans take shape to host independent filmmaker John Sayles and his collaborators.

The more than 30 filmmakers attending Cinetopia had high praise for the festival, as well. "Just wanted to let you know we all had a really great time at Cinetopia – you guys are doing an incredible job with the festival and all of your hard work shows," said Sean O'Grady, the producer of [Big Sur](#), a film about Jack Kerouac's experience writing his second novel. "Everyone at the festival was almost unimaginably inviting, and made us feel completely at home."

Cinetopia 2013 was also a financial success. Between ticket sales and sponsorships, the Michigan Theater met its attendance, growth, and financial benchmarks. A little over half of the total revenue generated came from sponsors, including title sponsor AT&T and charter sponsors Zingerman's Community of Businesses, Dickinson Wright law firm, and Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority. Cinetopia is expected to grow in terms of attendance, sponsorship, and duration in 2014 as it works in partnership with the Detroit Film Theatre and other Detroit-area sponsors and partners to become a world-class-scale international film festival for the metropolitan Detroit area.

This year's record-breaking attendance, acclaim from filmmakers and audiences, and solid financial return means there will be a third Cinetopia Festival on June 4-8, 2014 – so mark your calendars now.

About Cinetopia International Film Festival presented by AT&T: Created for the people of southeastern Michigan, the Cinetopia International Film Festival features the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (e.g. Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, etc.). The extensive festival program is selected exclusively for Cinetopia by a programming team that includes Indiewire Influencer Russ Collins, the national "dean" of art house programming Elliot Wilhelm, Festival Director Amanda Bynum, and Festival Programmer Brian Hunter. Cinetopia honors the rich heritage of cinematic culture and Michigan's proud legacy of outstanding screenwriters through special pre- and post-film events, including presentations, discussion panels, and Q&A sessions with directors, writers, and stars. Venues include the Michigan Theater's historic auditorium and screening room, the State Theater, the University of Michigan, and the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Visit cinetopiafestival.org for more info.

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About the Michigan Theater: Now celebrating its 86th year, the Michigan Theater is Ann Arbor's not-for-profit historic center for fine film and performing arts. The theater is located in downtown Ann Arbor at 603 East Liberty Street. Regular movie prices are \$10 for the general public; \$8 for students, seniors, U.S. veterans, and children under 12; \$7.50 for Michigan Theater members; and \$7 for weekday matinees before 6pm. Visit michtheater.org or call the 24-hour information line at (734) 668-TIME for more info.

About the Detroit Film Theatre: Located within the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), the Detroit Film Theatre (DFT) is dedicated to cultivating appreciation, understanding, and knowledge of the cinematic medium and its history. Regular movie prices are \$7.50 for the general public and \$6.50 for students, seniors, and DIA members. Visit dia.org/dft.asp or call the box office at (313) 833-4005 for more info.

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