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**RICHARD DREYFUSS TO ATTEND THE 2019 FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL
WITH SPECIAL SCREENING OF THE GOODBYE GIRL**

Orlando, FL – (April 1, 2019) – Today the Florida Film Festival announced that it would also be welcoming Academy Award®-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss with a special screening of *The Goodbye Girl* (1977) on Friday, April 19th from 7:30-11PM at Enzian Theater.

The program lineup for the 28th Annual Festival, April 12-21, 2019, was announced on March 20th. The Festival will screen 184 films representing 41 countries, along with celebrity guest appearances, forums, and parties. Of the films selected, 155 have premiere status, including 25 world premieres. Full lineup, film descriptions, trailers, stills, and schedule available at: <http://www.floridafilmfestival.com/>

The Florida Film Festival is excited and honored to welcome the following special guests. All special guests will be in attendance for a Q&A with our audience after their films. *The Blair Witch Project's* attending cast and crew will also be available for a Meet & Greet after their post-film Q&A for patrons who buy a Backstage Pass. The Backstage Pass includes a limited edition screen printed poster created specifically for the event by Lure Design, a Meet and Greet with the cast and crew, and photo opportunity. Patrons must supply their own camera for the photo opportunity.

To guarantee admission to all special guest events and Backstage Pass access to *The Blair Witch Project* event, as well as an opportunity to meet Richard Dreyfuss, please purchase a [Producer Pass](#). Film Lover Passholders will be granted early access to each celebrity event, but must purchase a ticket to attend.

SPECIAL GUEST EVENTS:

[An Evening with Richard Dreyfuss, featuring *The Goodbye Girl*](#)

Friday, April 19, 7:30-11PM at Enzian

Richard Dreyfuss was born on October 29, 1947, in Brooklyn, New York. Some describe him as an American actor known for his portrayals of ordinary men driven to emotional extremes. After spending his early childhood in Brooklyn and Queens, Dreyfuss moved with his family to California, where he began acting in plays at the West Side Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles. He studied drama for a year at San Fernando Valley State College (now Cal State Northridge), and shortly thereafter, he won a recurring role on the short-lived television series *Karen* (1964). During the late 1960s and early '70s, Dreyfuss acted mostly onstage in everything from repertory theatre to Broadway shows, and he landed occasional small roles on television, but this then led to a starring role in the hit film *The Graduate* (1967) and a major screen appearance in *Dillinger* (1973), for which he received critical praise.

Perhaps Dreyfuss' most breakthrough role was in George Lucas's *American Graffiti* (1973), and his work in *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* (1974) remains one of his most-praised performances. For director Steven Spielberg, Dreyfuss starred in two of the most popular films of the decade: *Jaws* (1975) and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977). Dreyfuss capped this successful period with an Academy Award®-winning performance in the Neil Simon comedy *The Goodbye Girl* (1977); at age 29, Dreyfuss became the then youngest recipient of a best actor Oscar®.

In the late 1970s and early '80s, Dreyfuss appeared in *The Big Fix* (1978), *The Competition* (1980), *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* (1981), *The Buddy System* (1983), *Down and Out in Beverly Hills* (1986), *Stakeout* (1987), *Nuts* (1987), and *Tin Men* (1987). In the 1990s, he continued to receive critical praise in *Rozencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1990), *What About Bob?* (1991), and *Once Around* (1991). His sensitive multilayered performance in *Mr. Holland's Opus* (1995) earned Dreyfuss another Oscar nomination.

In 1996 in collaboration with Hugo Award-winning author Harry Turtledove, Dreyfuss released a critically praised novel, *The Two Georges*, a humorous look at what American life might be like had the United States not won the Revolutionary War.

Some of his best-known work at the turn of the 21st century was made for television, including *Lansky* (1999) and *Fail Safe* (2000). From 2001 to 2002 he starred in the series *The Education of Max Bickford*. More recently he portrayed corrupt investment manager Bernie Madoff in the acclaimed television miniseries *Madoff* (2016). In 2004, Dreyfuss starred in a Broadway show, a revival of Larry Gelbart's *Sly Fox*.

Then Dreyfuss decided to join Oxford University St Antony's College as a senior research advisor and spent four years studying the damaging effect of the lack of civics being taught in the American school system over the last 50 years. Dreyfuss divided his time between London and the U.S., becoming an activist in what he realized was the one issue he had been concerned about for the majority of his life. In 2005 he met, fell in love with, and married Svetlana Wolfe of St. Petersburg, Russia, and together they have been on the quest to make sure that civics learning became a priority in U.S. education. They started a non-profit called the Dreyfuss Institute, a nation-wide enterprise to encourage, revive, elevate and enhance the teaching of civics in American schools.

While Dreyfuss tried to turn sharply away from acting, a number of feature film projects drew him back to his craft including *Poseidon* (2006); *W.*, Oliver Stone's biopic of Pres. George W. Bush; and *My Life in Ruins* (2009); *Leaves of Grass* (2009), *Piranha 3D* (2010), *RED* (2010), and *Book Club* (2018).

Dreyfuss has four adult children and is also a doting grandfather. He and his wife Svetlana live near San Diego, California and are loving life to the fullest. Dreyfuss is currently publishing a book on the damage created by civics' absence which he affirms puts us in harm's way because "we don't know who we are as Americans." Dreyfuss says he would love to find a way to film the Civic War, "just as the intense first act of a story that no one has written."

The Goodbye Girl

Directed by Herbert Ross

USA, 1977, 111 MIN

Rated PG

In a textbook example of a brilliant screenplay finding the perfect cast at the perfect moment in time, *The Goodbye Girl* stands proud as one of the most hilarious depictions of love overcoming seemingly total incompatibility ever committed to screen. After being dumped by her live-in boyfriend, an unemployed ex-chorus girl (Marsha Mason) and her precious daughter (Quinn Cummings) are reluctantly forced to share an apartment with a neurotic off-off-Broadway actor (Richard Dreyfuss) in this masterful romantic comedy by the great Neil Simon. *Time* magazine noted, "It is rare that an actor can move an audience from hilarity to sorrow in a matter of seconds, but that is what Dreyfuss does in *The Goodbye Girl*. Astoundingly enough, a small movie has given birth to a major star." Nominated for five Academy Awards®, including best picture, best actress, best supporting actress (for 10-year-old Cummings), and best screenplay, *The Goodbye Girl* made star Richard Dreyfuss (at the age of 30) the then youngest-ever recipient of the Oscar® for best actor. With an additional four Golden Globe wins, including as best motion picture, musical, or comedy, the film's place in cinematic history was cemented in 2002 when the American Film Institute named it one of the "100 Greatest Love Stories of All Time." The Florida Film Festival welcomes you to a celebration of this cinema classic on Enzian's big screen, followed by a conversation with Richard Dreyfuss.

Mr. Dreyfuss will be in attendance for a Q&A following the film.

[An Evening with The Blair Witch: A 20th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Sunday, April 14, 8-10:30PM at Enzian

Directed by Dan Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez
USA, 1999, 81 MIN, Rated R

It was 20 years ago today...

We all remember the storyline: three student filmmakers (Heather Donahue, Michael Williams, and Joshua Leonard) make a deep excursion unto the Black Hills of Maryland to shoot a documentary about an eerie local legend, a woman named Elly Kedward who was banished from the Township of Blair in the late 1700s for witchcraft. For the next 150 years or so, Blair was plagued by sporadic disappearances, gruesome unexplained deaths, and a series of brutal, ritualistic child murders in the 1940s. Things have been pretty quiet since then, and to the ill-fated trio of documentarians, it seems like an ideal time to chip away at the folklore and discover the truth. But the truth may have discovered them first. Several days into the project, they disappear without a trace, never to be seen again. One year later, their footage is found, revealing the terrifying events leading up to their mysterious vanishing. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Employing vérité-style camerawork, boasting ultra-realistic performances by the three leads, and utilizing the internet as a key promotional tool in sparking interest regarding the veracity of the story, *The Blair Witch Project* brilliantly reinvented the horror genre and has become one of the most influential films of our generation. Its team of creators—directors Eduardo Sanchez and Daniel Myrick; producers Mike Monello, Gregg Hale, and Robin Cowie; and production designer Ben Rock—are all UCF Film graduates (as well as Enzian alumni, in a couple of cases), and the film became the first Orlando-produced feature to ever play Sundance, where it was acquired for major distribution. It went on to win an award at Cannes, appear on the cover of

both *Time* and *Newsweek*, and eventually gross nearly a quarter of a billion dollars. Early versions of the film were test-screened at Enzian, and *The Blair Witch Project* had its east coast premiere and second US showing as the opening night film of the 1999 Florida Film Festival. To this day, it is still the highest grossing film ever in the 34-year history of the theater. Enzian and FFF are proud to have been even a little part of the journey for this innovative piece of cinema history and the artists behind it.

Join us for this very special 20th anniversary celebration with a rare 35mm screening of the low-budget supernatural chiller that started a revolution. Then stick around for a post-film reunion featuring cast and crew members.

The Blair Witch Project's cast and crew will be in attendance for a Q&A following the film. A Meet & Greet is also available after their Q&A for patrons who buy a Backstage Pass. The Backstage Pass includes a limited edition screen printed poster created specifically for the event by Lure Design, a Meet and Greet with the cast and crew, and photo opportunity. Patrons must supply their own camera for the photo opportunity.

The cast and crew members attending the event are: Michael Williams, Joshua Leonard, Eduardo Sanchez, Dan Myrick, Mike Monello, Robin Cowie, and Ben Rock.

2019 FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 28th year, the Florida Film Festival is an Oscar®-qualifying festival, premiering the best in current, independent, and international cinema. Through ten days of 180+ films and first-class events, film lovers mingle with filmmakers and celebrities over hand-crafted cocktails and a locally-sourced menu.

"[We] had a great time at the festival. We've been to a few festivals with the film, and Florida is one of our favorites!" – Academy Award® winner Ron Judkins, FINDING NEIGHBORS

"Congrats on a fantastic festival. I loved being there. Have never seen a finer venue than Enzian." – Andrew Goldman, THE DESK

"We had such a phenomenal time at the festival and it really exceeded our expectations in every way. The staff, the screening experience, the A/V, the audiences – everything was exceptional." – Dan Berk & Robert Olsen, BODY

"Besides the amazing hospitality, I must say, the films were strong – steady, uncompromising programming. Way to go! Orlando is a powerhouse." – Udy Epstein, 7th Art Releasing, FFF 2015 Juror

Festival tickets are available for purchase online or at the Enzian box office:

www.FloridaFilmFestival.com/tickets

The Festival is a program of the non-profit Enzian Theater. 2019 Festival sponsors to date include:

Primary Sponsor: Full Sail University

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Our Sponsor community enriches the Festival experience and helps sustain the year-round programs of the not-for-profit Enzian.

Enzian

Since 1992, Enzian has been the proud host of the Florida Film Festival. As part of its mission to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect the community through film, Enzian presents innovative and original cinematic programming not just during the Festival, but all year long. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-supported arts organization for which ticket revenue accounts for only 25% of its operating budget, Enzian owes its existence to the generosity of fans of film, food, and fun--like you. [Enzian.org](http://enzian.org)

Full Sail University:

Full Sail University is an award-winning educational leader for those pursuing careers in entertainment, media, arts and technology. Founded in 1979, Full Sail has received accolades throughout its history, including most recently: One of the 2017 "Top Graduate & Undergraduate Schools to Study Game Design" by The Princeton Review, one of the 2016 "Top 25 Music Schools" by The Hollywood Reporter, and one of the 2016 "Top 50 Film Schools" by The Wrap Magazine. The Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges also named Full Sail the 2016 "School/College of the Year."

Full Sail University is a graduate and undergraduate degree-granting institution offering on-campus and online degree programs in areas related to Art & Design, Business, Film & Television, Games, Media & Communications, Music & Recording, Sports, and Technology. With over 60,000+ graduates worldwide, Full Sail alumni have worked on countless award-winning projects with individual recognition including OSCAR®, Emmy®, GRAMMY®, ADDY®, MTV Video Music Award, and Video Game Award honors.

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