

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOMI COLLABORATES WITH QUEENS WORLD FILM FESTIVAL ON THREE SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS

Indie film pioneers Melvin Van Peebles (Mar. 16) and Susan Seidelman (Mar. 19) in person with iconic works, plus the world premiere of the documentary *Saving Jamaica Bay* (Mar. 17)

Astoria, Queens, New York (February 9, 2016)—Museum of the Moving Image is pleased to be the premier venue for the 6th Annual Queens World Film Festival (QWFF), which will present 144 films from 23 countries from March 15 through 20, 2016. Additional QWFF venues include the Secret Theatre, P.S. 69, and the All Saints Episcopal Church. The Museum will partner with QWFF in presenting three spotlight events in the majestic Sumner M. Redstone Theater, featuring appearances by pioneering independent filmmakers **Melvin Van Peebles** (with *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*, on March 16) and **Susan Seidelman** (*Smithereens*, on March 19), and the world premiere of the documentary *Saving Jamaica Bay* (on March 17).

Please see below for the spotlight programs, which are co-presented by the Museum and QWFF. For more information about the Queens World Film Festival and to view the full schedule, visit queensworldfilmfestival.com.

Tickets for the spotlights programs are \$15 (\$11.25 Museum members at the Film Lover and MoMI Kids Premium levels and above). Advance tickets are available online at movingimage.us. (Tickets for other QWFF screenings are available at queensworldfilmfestival.com.)

***Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* With director Melvin Van Peebles in person**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Melvin Van Peebles. 1971, 97 mins. 35mm. With Melvin Van Peebles. Melvin Van Peebles's revolutionary cri de coeur dropped like an X-rated bombshell on 1970s America and set off a wave of subversive black cinema. The writer/producer/director/composer stars as the eponymous sex show performer who strikes back against white oppression and embarks on a wild, surreal flight through South Central Los Angeles. Queens World Film Festival is honoring Melvin Van Peebles with this year's "Spirit of Queens" award.

Saving Jamaica Bay

With director David Sigal and producer Daniel Hendrick in person

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 8:00 P.M.

Dir. David Sigal. 2016, 76 mins. Digital projection. *World premiere*. Jamaica Bay is the largest open space in New York City—and a key part of a national park called Gateway National Recreation Area. After a long fight, Jamaica Bay is cleaner now than it has been in generations. In this era of rapidly growing cities and rising seas, urban nature is more important than ever. What can we learn from Jamaica Bay as we prepare for this uncertain future? And what role can all of us play in protecting it? *Saving Jamaica Bay* tells the untold stories of this unique natural resource and the unlikely urban environmentalists struggling to save the bay, and their way of life.

Smithereens

With director Susan Seidelman in person

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Susan Seidelman. 1982, 89 mins. Digital projection. With Susan Berman, Brad Rijn, Richard Hell. Susan Seidelman's dissection of fame and failure in the early '80s Lower East Side punk underground is a gritty time capsule of the era's music, fashion, and attitude, in which an ambitious Jersey girl elbows her way into the downtown scene demimonde. Punk icon Richard Hell co-stars.

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets for screenings are \$12 (\$9 students and seniors / free for Museum members at the Film Lover and MoMI Kids Premium levels and above) will be available for advance purchase online at movingimage.us. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3–12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.