



Media contact
Sarah Parker
press@chelseafilm.org
347.614.8029

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15th, 2016

**CHELSEA FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES ITS OPENING NIGHT FILM
MISFORTUNE by Desmond Devenish**

Chelsea, NY — The Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) announces today that its early submissions are currently open.

The Chelsea Film Festival will open its Fourth Edition with the NY Premiere of Dramatic Feature Film, **MISFORTUNE** directed by Desmond Devenish, on **Thursday, October 13th** at Cinepolis Chelsea (260 W 23rd St.) at 7pm.

Desmond Devenish (Director/Producer/Co-writer/Lead Actor), Xander Bailey (Lead Actor/Co-Writer) and Sarah Kinga Smith (Manager/Executive Producer) are confirmed to attend the NY Premiere of MISFORTUNE.



90 min | Drama | United States | 2016

SYNOPSIS:

After being released from prison, Mallick hunts down his ex-partner's son, Boyd, an out of work mechanic, whom he believes could lead the way to the missing stolen diamonds which landed him in lockup years earlier.

With the threat of death and chance at a potential small fortune, Boyd, his diner-shift gal Sloan and best friend Russell, a small time crook, set out on a rugged search through the treacherous desert. As events spiral out of control, the prospects of a criminal fugitive lifestyle become an inevitable reality.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

"Misfortune" was an opportunity to utilize a beautiful swathe of great American landscape, Tucson, Arizona. Recalling John Ford's Southwest scenery and characters with simple needs and good intentions gone wrong, our story delves into the underbelly and blowback of how greed readily finds danger, with severe life-changing integrity challenges.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY:

Born and raised in New York City, he received his B.A. in theater from Marymount Manhattan College. His focus on directing was showcased in staged productions of No Exit by Jean-Paul Sarte and Samuel Beckett's Krapp's Last Tape. He studied film at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and The Los Angeles Film School, where his thesis project Split found distribution at the Cannes Film Market with Shorts International. Produced, directed and

acting in by Devenish, his second short, Closure, a film about psychosis and spirituality was inspired by real events. It played twenty festivals worldwide and garnered several awards, including best dramatic short at Spiffest and Houston Worldfest. His third short, Pull Away, a post-breakup road movie just completed and was filmed in seven states on a Black Magic Design Pocket Cinema Camera. Shot in the Sonoran Desert, Misfortune, a gritty dramatic-thriller, marks his debut feature film. It boasts a well-acted ensemble cast, with the likes of Steve Earle, Kevin Gage, Nick Mancuso and a collection of strong emerging talent.

Devenish was an original cast member of the 1995 Broadway production of On The Waterfront, along with Steppenwolf founding member, Terry Kinney; David Morse and James Gandolfini.

CFF was founded by actresses Ingrid & Sonia Jean-Baptiste to give voices to the unheard by providing a platform to independent films and discovering new talents.

Chelsea Film Festival Board of Directors consists of renowned industry insiders: Paul Calderon, Elizabeth Kemp, and John Patrick Shanley.

The Advisory Board includes: Bruno Chatelin, Georges Leclere, Jeff Bandman, Pascal Chemin, Michel Abramowicz, Michael Ruotolo, Pascal Bonifay, Patrick Braoude, Ron Agam, Thandeka Zwana, Thembi Mtshali-Jones, Wissam Chahine and more.

The Chelsea Film Festival program will highlight international feature-length, short films and documentaries from independent or emerging filmmakers. **The Fourth Edition of the Chelsea Film Festival will focus on "Youth", and will introduce foreign films to the public.**

As Ingrid Jean-Baptiste, Founder of The Chelsea Film Festival, stated:

“Making the World a Better Place by Giving a Voice to the Unheard”

The Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) will hold its fourth edition in Chelsea, Manhattan from October 13-17, 2016.

Our Mission:

The Chelsea Film Institute is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural organization that will help expose the underprivileged youth in Chelsea, NYC to the arts. Throughout the year, CFI will offer free Arts classes to these economically disadvantaged children.

Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) is an international film festival, enlightening the work of emerging filmmakers, producers, and actors. It offers a wide range of films, such as shorts, documentaries, and feature-length pieces. It empowers the work of risk-taking storytellers and remains committed to its mission to discover and develop independent artists and audiences around the world.

Connect with Chelsea Film Festival on our Social Media pages.