



# 18th BRATISLAVA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## Bratislava IFF Will Present Celebrated Hits of Festival Season

Bratislava, October 19, 2016

Every year, the Cinema Now programme section of the 2016 edition of the Bratislava International Film Festival (BIFF) has an ambition to present the most prominent and progressive motion pictures that have resonated during this year's festival season. Both ***The Birth of a Nation*** and ***Nocturnal Animals*** are abundant in masterful acting that promises to send chills down festival-goers' spines.

American actor/director **Nate Parker's** feature-length debut, ***The Birth of a Nation*** (2016), claimed two main prizes – namely Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize – at this year's Sundance film festival amidst the ultra-white Oscar season. On top of directing it, he also wrote the screenplay and rendered the main character of Nat Turner, a priest who in 1831 led a rebellion of black slaves in Virginia. A revenge drama, ***The Birth of a Nation*** is a tale of righteous and bloody punishment for an unforgivable crime. Like *Twelve Years a Slave* (2013) by Steve McQueen, it is most powerful when it dwells on the particulars of that crime, on the everyday wickedness of 19th-century slavery.

By teaching her son's childhood playmate and now young slave Nate to read the Bible, the mother of slave-owner Samuel Turner invoked in him a perverse pastoral calling. At first, Nate wanders around the country to preach obedience to his fellow slaves, but as he witnesses their unspeakable torture and deprivation he becomes radicalised and his eloquence, charisma and knowledge of Scripture become the weapons deployed against his oppressors. A strong story with a terrific momentum is further amplified by beautiful imagery and stunning performances. A film that has been mentioned as a potentially strong competitor at upcoming Oscars, ***The Birth of a Nation*** will not make it to commercial distribution, which means that the Bratislava IFF gives all cinephiles in Slovakia a unique opportunity to see it on the big screen.

A distinguished fashion designer and acclaimed director/scriptwriter, **Tom Ford** captured attention of film buffs and critics alike already back in 2009 by his directorial debut, *Single Man*. This year, he comes with a gripping thriller noir, ***Nocturnal Animals*** (2016), which snatched Grand Jury Prize from this year's Venice IFF. When writing the screenplay, Ford said he drew inspiration from *Tony and Susan*, a nail-biting psychological novel by American author Austin Wright.

Susan is a relatively happy and successful woman. When she lays hands on a manuscript of ***Nocturnal Animals***, a new novel written by her ex-husband Edward, she initially views it as pleasant pastime, only if its story was not so unsettling: a happy middle-aged man takes his family to a vacation in New Mexico, which is cut short abruptly by a chance night meeting with three violent men on a deserted Texas highway. While tantalised by the story, Susan experiences uneasy feelings that evolve into extreme physical anxiety. The longer she reads the more she realises that the manuscript is a carefully crafted revenge of her ex-husband



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for hurting him bad a long time ago. The divorced couple is about to learn the grim truth about themselves. This riveting mysterious drama is also an acting concerto for Jake Gyllenhaal and Amy Adams.

Like last year, the 18<sup>th</sup> BIFF will be hosted by three cinemas of **Kino Lumière** as well as by **Kino Mladost'** and **Kino Nostalgia** while **Gorila.sk Urban Space** will provide room for the festival's official lounge. Besides pleasant atmosphere, cinemagoers can look forward to special screenings and ample side events of the festival.

For latest updates on the programme of the Bratislava International Film Festival, please visit our official website at [www.bratislavaiff.sk](http://www.bratislavaiff.sk) or our official Facebook account at [www.facebook.com/bratislavaiff](http://www.facebook.com/bratislavaiff).

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**November 11 – 17, 2016**

**Kino Lumière, Kino Mladost', Kino Nostalgia, Gorila.sk Urban Space**

Main Organisers: **Partners Production, Ars Nova civic association**

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Main Partners: **Slovenská elektrizačná prenosová sústava, KiK textil a Non-Food, Transpetrol**

**COME AND EXPERIENCE IT!**

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