



**URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
SPOTLIGHT CONVERSATION ON DIRECTING WITH FESTIVAL ALUMNI
FILMMAKER AVA DuVERNAY**

*Event Will Include Exclusive First Look Behind the Scenes Clip Presentation of her
Highly-Anticipated Paramount Pictures' Release SELMA*

*Additional Festival Participants Include Bevy Smith, Director Malcolm Lee, Condola Rashad,
Sabi, Michael Jai White and Marc Lamont Hill*

NEW YORK, NY – September 11, 2014 – **The 18th Annual Urbanworld® Film Festival** today announced a spotlight conversation with acclaimed festival alumni, writer/director **Ava DuVernay**, in her first public dialogue about her upcoming film, *SELMA*. One of the most exciting new voices in American cinema, **DuVernay will share a behind the scenes clip presentation of SELMA exclusively at Urbanworld®**. This special event, moderated by **Urbanworld® Executive Producer Gabrielle Glore**, will take place on **Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. at Manhattan's AMC Loews 34th Street 14**.

"It is such an honor to have Ava join us at this year's festival to share clips and insights on her latest cinematic accomplishment, *SELMA*," said Glore. "Ava's relationship with Urbanworld over the last decade has evolved from festival publicist to first time director to award-winning filmmaker. From the premiere of her first short film, *Saturday Night Life*, to her first documentary feature, *This Is The Life*, to her narrative features *I Will Follow* and *Middle of Nowhere*, Ava has found a home at Urbanworld, exposing our festival-goers to distinctive and diverse stories traditionally underrepresented in the industry. We look forward to giving our audience an up close and personal look at what's next in her body of work with *SELMA*."

SELMA, from Paramount Pictures, Pathe and Harpo Films, stars **David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo, Tim Roth, Lorraine Touissant, Common, Giovanni Ribisi, Andre Holland, Colman Domingo, Wendell Pierce, Tessa Thompson, Keith Stanfield, Stephan James and Alessandro Nivola** with **Tom Wilkinson and Oprah Winfrey** and chronicles Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic struggle to secure voting rights for all people – a dangerous and terrifying campaign that culminated with an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The film will be released by Paramount Pictures on December 25, 2014.

Winner of the Best Director Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, DuVernay was honored with the 2013 John Cassavetes Independent Spirit Award and the Tribeca Film Institute 2013 Affinity Award for her second feature film *Middle of Nowhere*. Her previous films include the critically-acclaimed feature *I Will Follow* and the celebrated documentaries *This is The Life*, *Venus Vs* for ESPN, *My Mic Sounds Nice* for BET, along with *John Legend Interludes Live* and *Essence Music Festival* for TV One. In 2013, she directed ABC's *Scandal*, as well as acclaimed fashion and beauty films for Prada and Fashion Fair Cosmetics. DuVernay is the founder of AFFRM, the African-American Film Festival Releasing Movement. She is a member of the Academy of

Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, as well as the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and a board member for Film Independent, Imagination and the Sundance Institute.

A screening of *ISA*, hosted by Comcast NBCUniversal Telemundo, has also been added to the festival. The film is directed by Jose Nestor Marquez and follows Isa Reyes (**Jeanette Samano**) who thinks she's a normal American teenager until she discovers that a chip in her brain is causing her dreams to merge with reality. When Isa is kidnapped by a company that wants to exploit her powerful dreams, her friends Nataly Gomez (**Sabi**) and Officer Diaz (**Eric Ochoa**) come to her aid. Together they uncover a conspiracy that spans from the forests of Mexico to Wall Street. Sabi is confirmed to host the special late night screening on Friday, September 19, 2014 at 11:00 p.m.

Focusing on diversity in the urban action film genre, **Michael Jai White** will be a featured guest at a Q&A session that will follow a screening of his film *Falcon Rising*, the story of an ex-marine (played by White) who travels to the slums of Brazil to hunt down the Yakuza after the brutal beating of his sister (**Laila Ali**). Cinemax® and The Urban Action Showcase & Expo are sponsoring the event slated for Friday, September 19, 2014 at 10:00 p.m.

Also confirmed to participate in the festival, *Best Man Holiday* director **Malcom Lee** will moderate the panel discussion with the stars and filmmakers from the opening night film *Beyond the Lights* on Thursday, September 18, 2014; Bravo's *Fashion Queens* co-host **Bevy Smith** will moderate the clips and conversation event for *Addicted* on Friday, September 19, 2014 and commentator **Marc Lamont Hill** will co-host the festival's invitation-only awards brunch along with Tony® nominated actress **Condola Rashad** on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

For the complete slate of films, film synopsis, ticket information and daily updates on the nation's largest competitive multicultural film festival, **September 17-21, 2014 in New York**, visit www.urbanworld.org.

ABOUT URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL

The Urbanworld® Film Festival, founded in 1997 by Stacy Spikes, is the largest internationally competitive festival of its kind. The five-day festival includes narrative features, documentaries, short films, spotlight screenings, events, live staged screenplay readings, the Urbanworld® Digital track focused on digital and social media panels and workshops and Urbanworld® Music, which highlights emerging talent in live performances during after party events. Over the last 18 years, Hollywood studios, indie film distributors, and established and emerging filmmakers have consistently chosen Urbanworld® to premiere box office and award-winning hits. Urbanworld® has also provided a platform for some of today's leading brands seeking to reach key influencers across the industry and within the consumer marketplace. The Urbanworld® Film Festival is an initiative of the Urbanworld® Foundation Inc., a nonprofit organization that endeavors to consistently manifest its mission of redefining and advancing the presence and impact of the multicultural community in cinema and cross-platform media. By implementing initiatives that actively support and develop content creators of color, Urbanworld® significantly contributes to the evolution of the media and entertainment landscape and the diversity that it reflects. Gabrielle Glore serves as Executive Producer & Head of Programming for the Urbanworld® Film Festival. The festival website is www.urbanworld.org.

ABOUT BET NETWORKS

BET Networks, a subsidiary of Viacom Inc. (NYSE: VIA, VIA.B), is the nation's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs television programming for the African-American audience. The primary BET channel reaches more than 90 million households and can be seen in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and sub-Saharan Africa. BET is the dominant African-American consumer brand

with a diverse group of business extensions: BET.com, a leading Internet destination for Black entertainment, music, culture, and news; CENTRIC, a 24-hour entertainment network targeting the 25- to 54-year-old African-American audience; BET Digital Networks - BET Gospel and BET Hip Hop, attractive alternatives for cutting-edge entertainment tastes; BET Home Entertainment, a collection of BET-branded offerings for the home environment including DVDs and video-on-demand; BET Event Productions, a full-scale event management and production company with festivals and live events spanning the globe; BET Mobile, which provides ringtones, games and video content for wireless devices; and BET International, which operates BET in the United Kingdom and oversees the extension of BET network programming for global distribution.

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Staci R. Collins Jackson

The Collins Jackson Agency

312.600.7774 | StaciRCollinsJackson@TheCollinsJacksonAgency.com

Terrece Walker

BET Networks

212.205.3264 | Terrece.Walker@BET.net