



For Immediate Release

## MEDIA ALERT

# MONTCLAIR FILM ANNOUNCES SCIENCE ON SCREEN® PROGRAMMING

***Three screenings, featuring special presentations and Q&As with attending guests, focus on Virtual Reality and contemporary human experience***

**June 8, 2018, MONTCLAIR, NJ** - Montclair Film today announced the organization's upcoming Science On Screen programming, featuring three films with special presentations from attending guests and Q&As following each screening. The series features three films that address virtual reality and artificial intelligence, with each followed by a talk from a thought leader from the computer science community, and an audience Q&A.

The three-film series begins on Tuesday, June 26, with Alex Garland's *EX MACHINA*, starring Alicia Vikander, Domhnall Gleeson, and Oscar Isaac, followed by a talk and Q&A with Justin Hendrix, Executive Director of NYC Media Lab, discussing the process and ethics of building emotional relationships between people and virtual identities in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality development.

On Friday, June 29, Alex Rivera's *SLEEP DEALER* screens and is followed by a talk and Q&A with Emory Craig, Co-founder and Partner at Digital Bodies ([www.digitalbodies.net](http://www.digitalbodies.net)) discussing the ethical landscape of Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality development around non-fiction storytelling and human memory.

On Saturday, June 30, Richard Linklater's *A SCANNER DARKLY* plays, followed by a talk and Q&A with Jeff McFadden, Founder of Prime8, discussing Virtual Reality storytelling and experiences that speak to addiction.

This Montclair Film Science on Screen® program is an initiative of the COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE, with major support from the ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION.

Tickets for all films and events, as well as a full schedule of discussions and Q&As, available at [montclairfilm.org](http://montclairfilm.org)

Select images for these films can be found at <http://bit.ly/MontclairFilmJuneScienceOnScreen>



### **EX MACHINA**

**Runtime: 108 min**

**Director: Alex Garland**

**Producer: Andrew Macdonald, Allon Reich**

**Cast: Alicia Vikander, Domhnall Gleeson, Oscar Isaac**

Caleb Smith (Domhnall Gleeson), a programmer at a huge Internet company, wins a contest that enables him to spend a week at the private estate of Nathan Bateman (Oscar Isaac), his firm's brilliant CEO. When he arrives, Caleb learns that he has been chosen to be the human component in a Turing test to determine the capabilities and consciousness of Ava (Alicia Vikander), a beautiful robot. However, it soon becomes evident that Ava is far more self-aware and deceptive than either man imagined.

This screening will be followed by a talk and Q&A with Justin Hendrix, Executive Director of NYC Media Lab, discussing building human emotional relationships in Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality development.

### **SLEEP DEALER**

**Runtime: 90 min**

**Director: Alex Rivera**

**Producer: Anthony Bregman**

**Cast: Luis Fernando Peña, Metztli Adamina, José Concepción Macías**

**Country: USA, Mexico**

Memo (Luis Fernando Peña) is a hacker living an impoverished existence in the degraded Mexico of the future. Upon detecting his hacking activities, the military attacks his home. Memo escapes to Tijuana, where he becomes involved with Luz (Leonor Varela), a journalist who plugs her body into the Internet and sells her memories for others to download. When Luz takes on a mysterious assignment and Memo lands a high-tech factory job, they descend into a cyber-nightmare and discover a deadly truth.

This screening will be followed by a talk and Q&A with Emory Craig, Cofounder and Partner at Digital Bodies ([www.digitalbodies.net](http://www.digitalbodies.net)) discussing the ethical landscape of Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality development around non-fiction storytelling and human memory.

Emory Craig has 25 years of experience as an innovator and leader in the art world and higher education. He is currently the Director of eLearning at The College of New Rochelle, with responsibility for a wide range of technology initiatives. A Frye Fellow and frequent keynote speaker, he has written and presented extensively at both national and international conferences on innovation in the education, corporate and nonprofit sectors. His current research focuses on the social and ethical implications of virtual reality platforms in the learning environment. In 2017, he co-authored the EDUCAUSE-ELI series: "VR and AR: Stepping into the New Frontier of Learning."

He is the Cofounder and Partner at Digital Bodies, a global consulting group assisting corporate, nonprofit and educational organizations in the implementation and use of immersive and wearable



technologies. Digital Bodies is frequently cited as a must-read website for news and analysis of emerging technology development and has been recognized as a top 10 Higher Education blog for three consecutive years. An active participant in the NYC startup community, he currently teaches an online seminar on New Media and Society.

#### **A SCANNER DARKLY**

**Runtime: 100 min**

**Director: Richard Linklater**

**Producer: Tommy Pallotta, Jonah Smith, Erwin Stoff, Anne Walker-McBay**

**Cast: Keanu Reeves, Winona Ryder, Robert Downey Jr.**

**Country: USA**

In the near future, as America virtually loses the war on drugs, Robert Arctor (Keanu Reeves), a narcotics cop in Orange County, Calif., becomes an addict when he goes undercover. He is wooing Donna (Winona Ryder), a dealer, to ferret out her supplier. At the same time, he receives orders to spy on his housemates, one of whom is suspected of being Donna's biggest customer.

This screening will be followed by a talk and Q&A with Jeff McFadden, Founder of Prime8, discussing building Virtual Reality stories and experiences that speak to addiction.

Jeff is a musician and tech entrepreneur who has spent decades as a professional composer mastering the skills to craft audio-led, emotional experiences for film, television, advertising and new media. His compositions can be heard in television series and network promos on NBC, CBS, PBS, HBO, AMC, A&E, FX, Nat Geo, and History. Commercial clients have included Mercedes-Benz, Verizon, Toshiba, L.L. Bean, Ford, Progressive, and Nabisco, as well as a variety of independent films, digital media and album projects. He is the Founder of Prime8, a creative lab developing immersive audiovisual projects, and has recently launched Composure an audio-focused brand creating immersive experiences for stress relief. Prime8's next project harnesses the power of virtual reality storytelling, along with data research and data visualization, to teach the non-addicted public what it means and feels like to be addicted.

#### **ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM**

Montclair Film, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, nurtures, and showcases the talents of filmmakers from around the region and world. Montclair Film unites, empowers, educates, and celebrates our region's diverse cultural heritage and robust artistic community by presenting engaging programs and events all year long. The eighth annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from May 3-12, 2019. Montclair Film's year-round and festival programming is made possible through generous support from Investors Bank; Audible; Hackensack Meridian Health; the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; Ashenfelter, Slous, Trembulak, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP; Chubb; Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; William H. Connolly & Co.; The Nature Conservancy, and others. Our programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For information about Montclair Film, visit [www.montclairfilm.org](http://www.montclairfilm.org)



**ABOUT SCIENCE ON SCREEN ®**

The Coolidge Corner Theatre's Science on Screen® series has enhanced film and scientific literacy with this popular program, which launched at the Coolidge in 2005. In partnership with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and its pioneering nationwide film program, the Coolidge has expanded Science on Screen to 72 cinemas nationwide. Throughout the academic year, SoS creatively pairs screenings of classic, cult, science fiction, and documentary films with lively presentations by notable experts from the world of science and technology. Each film is used as a jumping-off point for a speaker to introduce current research or technological advances in a manner that engages popular culture audiences—from the function of the amygdala in the zombie brains of NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD to how far epidemiology has come since THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN.

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