

Press Release: Dublin, 22nd February 2018

(N.B Festival Photographer Brian McEvoy will issue photos of Paul Schrader with the Volta Award to photodesks by 6.45pm this evening)

Acclaimed director and screenwriter Paul Schrader tonight receives the Audi Dublin International Film Festival's prestigious Volta Award at the Irish Premiere of *First Reformed*

Paul Schrader, renowned director of films such as *Blue Collar*, *Hardcore*, *American Gigolo*, *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*, *The Comfort of Strangers*, *Light Sleeper*, *Patty Hearst* and *Affliction* among many others, and screenwriter of *Taxi Driver* and co-writer of *Raging Bull*, tonight receives the Audi Dublin International Film Festival highest honour, the Volta Award, at the Irish Premiere of his new film *First Reformed*. The Volta Award celebrates the careers of individuals who have made a significant contribution to the world of film. Paul Schrader's visit to ADIFF will include an in-depth Public Interview in the O'Reilly Theatre, broadcast live as an RTÉ Radio 1 Arena Special, and will introduce a series of screenings of films that have inspired him. Tickets are available to book now at www.diff.ie.

Gráinne Humphreys, Festival Director, said "*I'm thrilled that the Audi Dublin International Film Festival will tonight bestow our highest honour, the Volta Award, to one of the great writer-directors at the Irish Premiere of his new film First Reformed. Paul Schrader started his career as one of the talented young filmmakers who were at the centre of an extraordinary renaissance of American cinema in the*

1970s. Schrader has also had a remarkable career as a director and, as a critic, he's a passionate advocate and interrogator of film culture."

In *First Reformed*, ex-military chaplain Toller (Ethan Hawke) is tortured by the loss of the son he encouraged to enlist and struggles with his faith. A faith that's challenged by befriending a radical environmentalist, Michael, and upon learning of his church's complicity with unscrupulous corporations.

Previous winners of Audi Dublin International Film Festival's Volta Award include Al Pacino, Julie Andrews, Danny DeVito, Daniel Day-Lewis, Joss Whedon, Brendan Gleeson, Angela Lansbury, Stanley Tucci, Stellan Skarsgård, Kristin Scott Thomas and Ennio Morricone. The Volta Award is named after Ireland's first dedicated cinema, the Volta Picture Theatre on Mary Street in Dublin, which was opened on the 20th December 1909 by an enterprising young novelist named James Joyce.

Schrader will be this year's ADIFF Guest Curator, selecting and introducing three films that have inspired his own work as a filmmaker including Robert Bresson's *Pickpocket* (1959), Yasujirō Ozu's *An Autumn Afternoon* (1962), and Donald Cammell & Nicolas Roeg's *Performance* (1970).

Tickets for the Public Interview and the Paul Schrader season are available now via the ADIFF Box Office (www.diff.ie or 01 687 7974).

SCHEDULE Paul Schrader – ADIFF 2018 Guest Curator

Thursday 22nd February

18.00 (Cineworld) ***First Reformed*** (Irish Premiere with Q&A and Volta Award Presentation)

Friday 23rd February

14.00 (Light House Cinema) - ***Pickpocket*** (1959), introduced by Paul Schrader

16.00 (Light House Cinema) - ***Performance*** (1970), introduced by Paul Schrader

18.45 (O'Reilly Theatre) - ***Paul Schrader Public Talk***

Saturday 24th February

14.00 (Light House Cinema) - ***An Autumn***

Afternoon (1962), introduced by Paul Schrader (Light House Cinema)

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First Reformed Credits:

Written & Directed by Paul Schrader

Starring

Ethan Hawke, Amanda Seyfried,
Cedric Antonio Kyles, Victoria Hill, Philip Ettinger

Produced by

Christine Vachon p.g.a., David Hinojosa p.g.a., Frank
Murray p.g.a.,
Jack Binder, Greg Clark, Victoria Hill, Gary Hamilton,
Deepak Sikka

A Killer Films Production

An Omeira Studio Partners Production

A Fibonacci Films Production

In Association with Arclight Films International

**About Audi Dublin International Film Festival (21st Feb-
4th March 2018)**

Founded in 2003, the Dublin International Film Festival sets the agenda of the year with its programme of outstanding Irish and international film. Offering unique access to a plethora of filmmaking talent, the festival transforms Dublin into a hub of glamour, creativity and film appreciation.

Over the past fifteen years, the festival has hosted over 600 major guests, including winners of the festival's prestigious Volta Award such as Al Pacino, Julie Andrews, Danny DeVito, Daniel Day-Lewis, Joss Whedon, Brendan Gleeson, Angela Lansbury, Stanley Tucci, Stellan

Skarsgård, Kristin Scott Thomas and Ennio Morricone.

The festival has screened world cinema from 52 different countries, a total of almost 1,500 films, of which 300 were Irish features including Irish premieres of *Sing Street*, *Once*, *Ondine*, *In Bruges*, *Calvary*, *The Stag* and *The Secret of Kells*. The festival's young people's programme Fantastic Flix is expanding each year, engaging schools and families and building a new generation of film fans.

The Dublin International Film Festival is sponsored by Audi, its principal funder is the Arts Council and it is also in receipt of funding from official industry partner, the Irish Film Board. Key partners and funders include hotel partner The Merrion Hotel, print transport partner Wells Cargo, post-production partner Windmill Lane, social listening partners Olytico, digital out-of-home provider Orbscreen, official food ordering app Just Eat and champagne partner Moët & Chandon, with media partners Entertainment.ie, 98FM, The Times & The Sunday Times and micromedia.ie. Kerry Foods' Cheestrings are sponsors of the ADIFF's Fantastic Flix family programme. Venue Partners include Cineworld.

ABOUT AUDI

Audi is Ireland's leading premium car brand. *Vorsprung durch Technik* combines progression, sportiness and sophistication, and is at the core of Audi's car-building philosophy. Audi leads the way in technological and engineering excellence, pioneering new innovations, such as quattro®, for a truly unique driving experience.

The Dublin International Film Festival is sponsored by Audi, and funded by The Arts Council and The Irish Film Board.

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