

ACTRESS HONG CHAU WILL BE CELEBRATED AT CINEQUEST WITH THE MAVERICK SPIRIT AWARD

The path to stardom is unique, but actress Hong Chau's path featured stops in Thailand, New Orleans, Boston, and a decade of stops and starts in Hollywood.

SAN JOSE, CA, UNITED STATES, February 26, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Every path to stardom is unique, but for actress Hong Chau it was especially long, featuring stops in Thailand, New Orleans and Boston, as well as a decade of stops and starts in Hollywood. Then in 2017 she received a Golden Globe nomination for her role in the film *Downsizing* (co-starring Matt Damon) and her career took off, including a featured role in last year's acclaimed HBO miniseries *Watchmen*.

Chau is receiving the Maverick Spirit Award at this year's Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival (Cinequest) along with a screening of her brilliant new movie *Destiny*. (co-starring Brian Dennehy). The award recognizes those who stand apart from the crowd, willing to create and innovate from a place of personal yet global vision. The Maverick leads, takes risks, tries the difficult, if not impossible, and delivers original work and an original life. This spirit sums up the best of the worlds of cinema and Silicon Valley.

Previous recipients have included Nicolas Cage, Elle Fanning, J.J. Abrams, Neil Gaiman, and Harrison Ford

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Hong Chau, recipient of Cinequest's 2020 Maverick Spirit Award

She was born in a refugee camp in Thailand. Her parents were Vietnamese “boat people” who fled the Communist regime in 1979. Her family later immigrated to New Orleans after a Vietnamese Catholic Church there found a sponsor for them. Once in the U.S., her parents were similar to many immigrants in that they found work in the low-wage service industry. They currently run a

convenience store in Louisiana.

Chau's parents were determined to see her and her brothers graduate from college. For Chau, that was at Boston University. She initially studied creative writing but switched to film studies at her parents' urging because it was more practical. She had intended to work in documentary film but decided to give acting a try after classmates praised her work in their student films.

CINEQUEST™

Cinequest will be from March 3 to March 15, 2020



Actress Hong Chau

In 2010, she landed a role in David Simon's critically acclaimed but little seen HBO series Treme. What followed were several years of guest starring spots on everything from How I Met Your Mother to NCIS, as well as the 2014 film Inherent Vice from director Paul Thomas Anderson. However, in 2017 she broke out with the role as Ngoc Lan Tran in Downsizing and a featured role in the cultural smash Big Little Lies on HBO.

Chau will receive her Maverick Spirit Award and engage in a conversation about her career on March 7 at the California Theatre in Downtown San Jose following a screening of her new film Driveways.

Driveways tells the story of the friendship between eight-year-old Cody and 80-year-old Korean War veteran Del, played by Golden Globe and Tony Award-winner Brian Dennehy. Earlier this year, Chau was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for her role as Cody's mother Kathy.

She will be seen this summer as a fairy who can rejuvenate at will in the Disney film Artemis Fowl, directed by five-time Academy Award nominee Sir Kenneth Branagh.

Despite her recent success, Chau is well aware that diversity on screen continues to lag far behind the reality of U.S. demographics.

"In Hollywood, there's not a lot of roles for Asian people. So a lot of it is waiting and waiting and waiting," said Chau.

Silicon Valley will not have to wait long for Chau's appearance. It will be in the city with the largest Vietnamese population in the U.S., San Jose, at the 30th Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival on March 7th.

About Cinequest:

Cinequest fuses innovation with the arts to empower great creations and to connect audiences, youth, artists, and innovators with these creations and with each other—forging community, joy, and our future. Set in Silicon Valley, Cinequest's uniqueness, impact, and legacy result from applying this powerful integration of creativity and technology to democratize opportunity and to transform lives. Cinequest does this through the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival, Mavericks Studio, and Picture The Possibilities global youth programs. The Story of Cinequest video. www.cinequest.org

The 30th edition of the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival occurs March 3 – 15 in San Jose and Redwood City, CA (Silicon Valley) We're commemorating CINEQUEST's 30th Anniversary by celebrating the power of creativity today and the future of CINEQUEST itself! All of us who bring you Cinequest are elated with the experiences, events and community involvement that will stir and uplift your hearts, spirits, and minds! Thus we've chosen the theme "Elation" and we hope you feel all the power of this special 2020 year!

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