Film Feature: Top 20 Interviews of 2016, by Patrick McDonald

Submitted by PatrickMcD [1] on February 26, 2017 - 4:55pm

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CHICAGO –To quote the sublime Bruce Springsteen, it's just "talk, talk, talk 'til you lose your patience." Well, that ain't HollywoodChicago.com's Patrick McDonald, who throws down the über-interview on a series of movers, shakers and magical filmmakers. Oscar Day is perfect for the Top 20 talks of 2016.

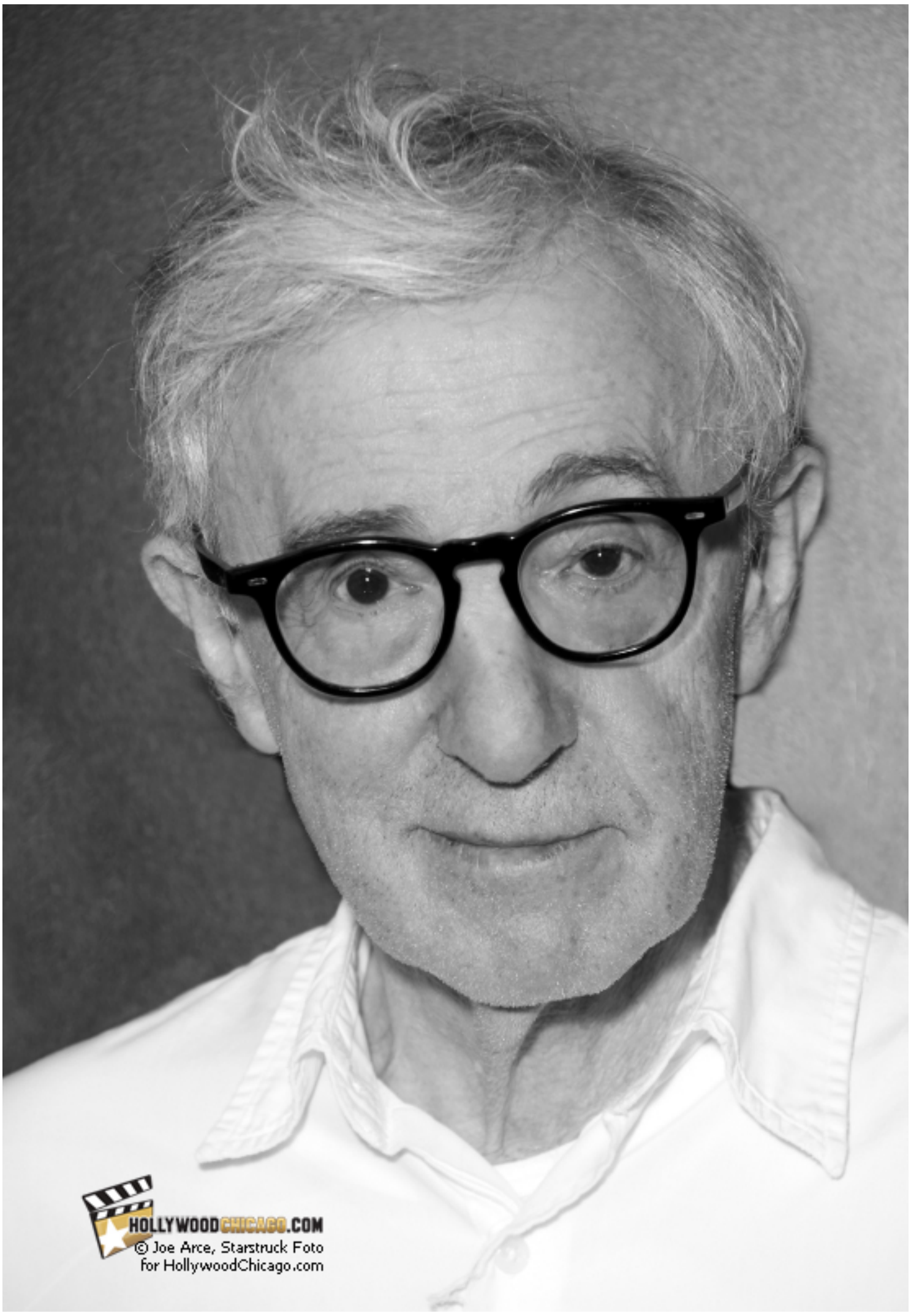
The criteria for making the list are basically who the participants were, what they happened to say and what they were representing, The least reviewed film might have the greatest quote and the bigger stars or director might provide an insight that has stuck throughout the year. It all comes down to a magic 20.

The interview highlights are broken down by "Background and Behind-the-Scenes" and the "Memorable Quote" associated with each subject, and are often accompanied with exclusive photography by Joe Arce of HollywoodChicago.com. Seven notables who just missed the list include (click the name) For a third time talk, the comic actor Craig Robinson, [26] a featured performer in "Moonlight," Naomie Harris, [27] co-stars in the film "Rules Don't Apply," Alden Ehrenrich & Lily Collins, [28] comic character actor Dave Franco, [29] activist and filmmaker, James Redford, [30] the star of TV's "Blacklist," Harry Lennix, [31] and the Director of the Illinois Film Office, Christine Dudley. [32]

One of the humbling elements of doing a number of film and entertainment talks over the years is when a notable and previously interviewed celebrity passes away. Rest in peace to the great Debbie Reynolds, [33] TV legend Hugh O'Brian, [34] character actor extraordinaire George Kennedy, [35] Oscar winner and TV star Patty Duke, [36] and a hip hop pioneer, of "A Tribe Called Quest," the unforgettable Phife Dawg. [37]

The following interviews represents the films, events and memories of 2016. Happy Oscar!

Woody Allen



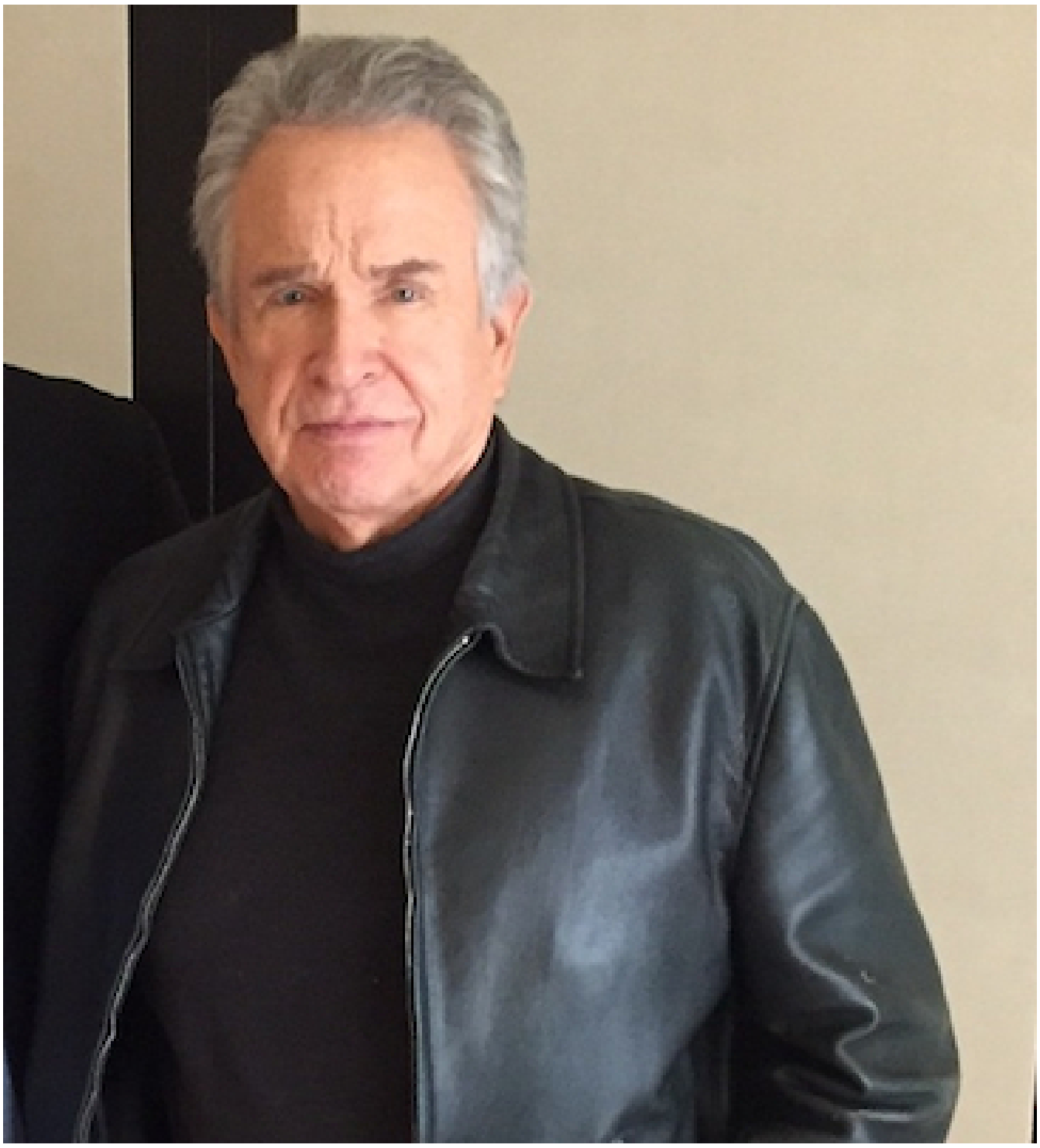
Woody Allen on July 29th, 2016
Photo credit: Joe Arce of Starstruck Foto for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: Woody Allen is one of my favorite living filmmakers, a history that goes back to my college days and the expressive miracle of “Annie Hall.” The opportunity to talk to him, even in the truncated format of the red carpet, was a career highlight. Woody Allen ONLY does red carpets in Chicago, as a key financial backer to his films resides here. I broke it down to three key subjects in a video interview…his current film (“Café Society), his stand up comic past, and his philosophy on love.

Memorable Quote: “*[Love] has always been great, and foolish, and it doesn’t work most of the time. But you get a short buzz from it that lasts for a period of time…it’s like no other high.*”

Click here [38] for the full interview with Woody Allen.

Warren Beatty



Warren Beatty in Chicago
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: It was an interesting year indeed when the titanic star Warren Beatty is second on any list, because as a life adventurer he is second to none. The day before I talked to him, I went to an appearance Q&A he was doing for his new film “Rules Don’t Apply,” just to get a feel for how he answers questions – he has a reputation for being particular in interviews. The next day, we had a fine chat.

Memorable Quote: “*What’s interesting about that is how often I am quoted incorrectly. And the most important point can be left out of the quote, because this is the technology that we’re living in. It’s hard now for anyone to be missing. Privacy, as we used to mislead ourselves that we once had, just doesn’t exist now. To get back to the question [about his parents reaction to he and his sister Shirley MacLaine’s movie stardom], I can’t think of anything that wouldn’t be reductive, and I don’t want to do a disservice to our parents. The nice thing is I can’t think of anything negative to say about them. They were positive people.*”

Click here [39] for the full interview with Warren Beatty.

Iconic TV Producer Norman Lear



Just Another Version of Me: Norman Lear was the Subject of a New Documentary
Photo credit: Music Box Films

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: Since I was a child of the 1970s, Norman Lear was the man. Simply by inserting more authenticity into the media, he produced ground-breaking television (beginning with "All in the Family") that changed the way programming was presented from his day forth. In town to promote a new documentary, the engagingly entitled "Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You," the then 93-year-old TV titan was everything I wanted him to be. This was memorable and significant at the same time.

Memorable Quote: "*[Regarding America's Wars post WWII] In one question you are expressing a world of opinion. Because it is you who thinks that America has been mistakenly starting these conflicts. I happen to agree with you, [laughs] and I will repeat what your question suggested…we have mistakenly gotten into one fracas after another. Why we do that, I think it's because we're afraid to look in the mirror and understand who we are. I think America, unfortunately, collectively thinks of itself as the 'chosen people.' To my knowledge, there are no chosen people, we are all human beings.*"

Click here [40] for the full interview with Norman Lear.

Actor Don Cheadle



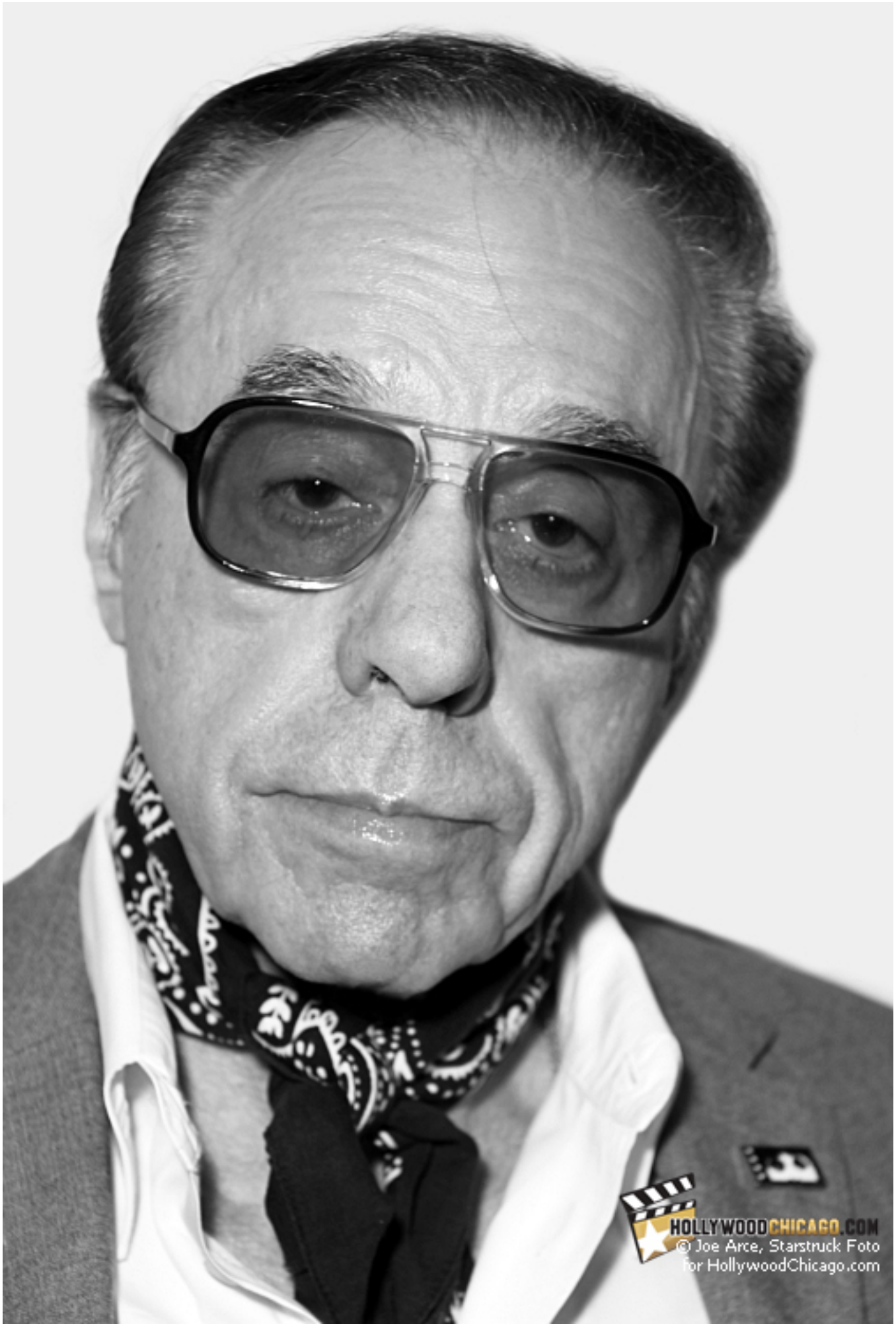
Don Cheadle is ‘Miles Ahead’
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: The essential and intellectual Mr. Cheadle was in town to talk about his underrated biography film of jazzman Miles Davis – “Miles Ahead” – that he co-wrote, performed and directed. He is sincere, passionate and vital in person, and if you want some real entertainment, experience how he converses on Twitter. Like Miles Davis, the great Don Cheadle will never be ordinary.

Memorable Quote: “*Most people who approach me, they’re very respectful, they usually want to talk about how they admire a particular performance that I’ve done. BUT, I do have to say that now that everyone has a camera, it’s a little different. I feel sometimes that I’m just an item that people need to check off in a treasure hunt. It’s like, ‘I got one! I got a dude that’s on something!’ [laughs] Then it is posted for all that social media. Sometimes I’ll say, instead of taking a picture, ‘why don’t we sit and chat for a minute.’ They look at me like, ‘what good is that to me? I don’t want to talk, I need the photo, because otherwise how can I prove I met you?’ I’m just a relic. My kids are always saying, ‘what are they going to do with that shit? You’re just my dumb Dad.’ [laughs]*”

Click here [41] for the full interview with Don Cheadle.

Director Peter Bogdanovich



Peter Bogdanovich at the 52nd Chicago International Film Festival, October 16th, 2016
Photo credit: Joe Arce of Starstruck Foto for HollywoodChicago.com

One of the hardest Hollywood names to spell is a director who made one of the greatest American films. Peter Bogdanovich created a sensation in 1971 with the poignant film masterpiece “The Last Picture Show.” He continues to make films and create ideas within a career that has spanned nearly 50 years. In Chicago to be honored at the 52nd International Film Festival, Bogdanovich is also an incredible student of film history, and helped to revive the honor of many studio-era director titans (like John Ford) in the pre-internet era. I could probably talk to PB for several days.

Memorable Quote: ”*I thought ‘Star 80’ was a piece of shit. [about the murdered lover of PB, Dorothy Stratten] It was badly made, and had nothing to do with the real people involved. Bob [Fosse, director] had never met Dorothy, and had no clue as to what she was actually like – he made her a generic blonde. I actually called him when they announced they were making the film, since it was in such bad taste. I asked him why he was making the film, and he told me it was a good story. I told him I don’t even know the whole story, how the hell did he know it? Then I concluded the conversation with, ‘Bob, if this had happened to you I wouldn’t make a movie about it, that’s all I have to say.*”

Click here [42] for the full interview with Peter Bogdanovich.

Director Damien Chazelle of ‘La La Land’



Rosemarie DeWitt and Damien Chazelle at the Chicago International Film Festival
Photo credit: Joe Arce of Starstruck Foto for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: The latest wunkerkind filmmaker, with his sophomore film “La La Land,” has received a record-tying 14 Oscar nominations. The man that brought back the lush Hollywood musical is all of 32 years old, and was appearing at the 52nd Chicago International Film Festival on behalf of his beloved (and divisive) film. This was actually the second time I had interviewed him – he was paired with “La La Land” performer Rosemarie DeWitt – and I experienced a slightly older and wiser show business boy wonder. Tonight, I expect some trophies in his hand.

Memorable Quote: “*I think really it’s about meeting people, and having people you respect actually see the film. One thing fed into another, like meeting Patricia Kelly [Gene Kelly’s third wife]. She manages his estate and legacy now, and invited Ryan [Gosling] and I to ‘rummage around the drawers’ of his career. We saw the original ‘Singing in the Rain’ script, for example. That’s the great thing that came out of ‘Whiplash,’ at the core is the connections. I got to sit with Shirley MacLaine and talk to her about working with Bob Fosse, which was entirely special. That’s when I was really pinching myself, as a movie junkie, to make sure it wasn’t just a dream.*”

Click here [43] for the full interview with director Damien Chazelle and actress Rosemarie DeWitt.

Director Ira Sachs



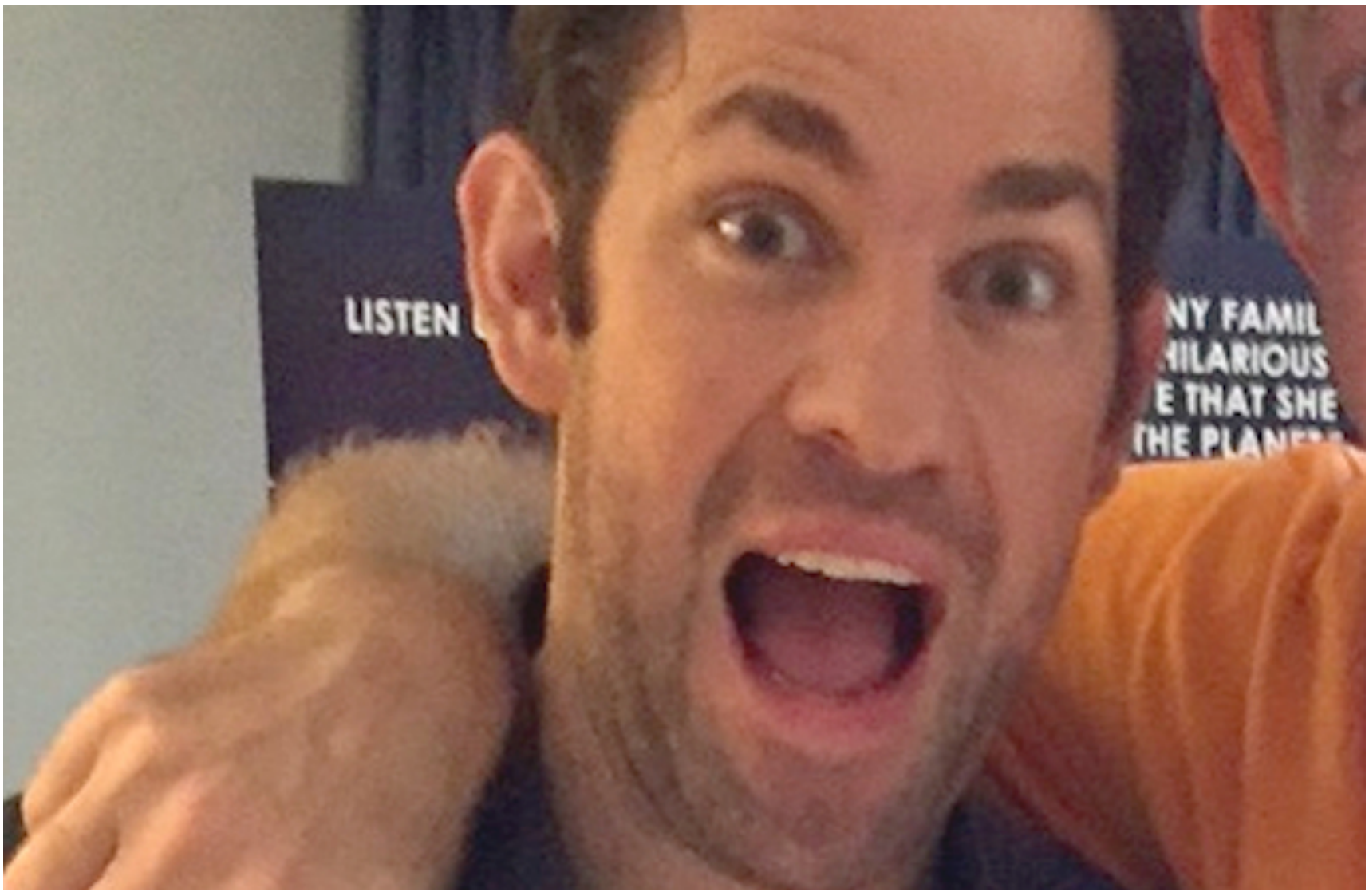
Ira Sachs at the Chicago Critics Film Festival
Photo credit: Joe Arce of Starstruck Foto for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: I always will have room for, and deep respect, for the first film interview subject I ever had, in 2008. Director Ira Sachs was in town for the Chicago Critics Film Festival, and for the third time we sat down to talk, this time about his excellent 2016 film, “Little Men.” He is one of the most underrated filmmakers on the scene, releasing great film after great film. His point of view is necessary in these strange times.

Memorable Quote: “*To come to change, there had to be conflict and pain. To bring it back to the ‘Little Men,’ I do leave Jake’s [main character’s sexual] orientation up in the air, but I hope that he doesn’t have to experience the same pain as the teenage character in my first film [The Delta, 1996]. His sexuality was hidden and shameful, and I want Jake – whoever he becomes – to not have that pain.*”

Click here [44] for the full interview with director Ira Sachs.

Actor John Krasinski



Actor John Krasinski Joins ‘The Office’ Club
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: John Krasinski is just as cool, and just as nice, as the character Jim he portrayed for many years on TV’s “The Office.” He was in town to promote his film “The Hollars,” which he directed and starred in. When I told him I had taken several wacky selfies with his “Office” cast mates, he was up to the challenge, and the result is above. Steve Carrell, I’m coming for you.

Memorable Quote: “*It’s totally surreal. I’ve heard in many interviews and opinions that ‘they asked for it, because they’re in the public eye!’ I guess I understand that, but we [he and his wife Emily Blunt] roll with the punches as we got along, but we also know we wouldn’t be where we are if the fans didn’t like what we do. But it’s also cool to have a barrier. You deserve a barrier, and I deserve a barrier. The guy sitting next to on the train should have a barrier. I remember one time we were in New York City, on a Valentine’s Day date. I leaned across the table to kiss my wife, my total romantic move for the night, and suddenly a head popped up. This person was so close, it was almost a three way kiss. [laughs] They said, ‘I hate myself for interrupting, but could I get a picture.’ I said, ‘No you can’t, I’m trying to kiss my wife.’*”

Click here [45] for the full interview with John Krasinski.

Actress and Daughter of Charlie, Geraldine Chaplin



Geraldine Chaplin on the Red Carpet at the 52nd Chicago International Film Festival
Photo credit: Joe Arce of Starstruck Foto for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: It's always wild to have Hollywood royalty in front of me, and Geraldine Chaplin may be the most royal. The daughter of Charlie Chaplin is also a notable actress in her own right ("Dr. Zhivago") and was in Chicago to accept a Lifetime Achievement Award in the very studio (Essanay) where her father worked in 1914, that still stands on the north side of the city. Her perspective is nothing less than a lens through to film history.

Memorable Quote: "*[On her mother, Oona O'Neill] She was 18 when she married my father, and the studio thought she was just another one of his bimbos. But she took over everything, and she became the only person my father truly respected. He would run everything he'd written through her, she would actually correct him, and sometimes they'd have fights about it. But in the end, he'd do exactly what she suggested. She was a genius.*"

Click here [46] for the full interview with Geraldine Chaplin.

Actor Tom Hiddleston



Tom Hiddleston was Hank Williams in 'I Saw the Light'
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: Known mostly, and most famously, as Marvel super-villain Loki in "Thor" and "The Avengers," British-born Tom Hiddleston is a Shakespearian trained actor, took on the role of iconic American singer Hank Williams in "I Saw the Light," and represented that biopic with director Marc Abraham while in Chicago. His new film, "Kong: Skull Island" opens on March 10th, 2017, and he's on board as Loki for a new "Thor" film later in the year. He was an introspective and self-effacing individual.

Memorable Quotes: "*I was able to portray Shakespeare's Coriolonus on stage in London, and the producers of that theater were satisfied that my name would draw an audience. I was also able to sign onto a British independent film called 'High-Rise' [2016] – a very provocative piece of work based on a J.G. Ballard novel, directed by Ben Wheatley – and that my attachment can release a certain amount of financing. That is what I'm grateful for, aside from the fact that Loki is an incredible character. He's a cocktail of psychological damage, mischief and charisma, that yes, I lucked out.*"

Click here [47] for the full interview with Tom Hiddleston and Marc Abraham of "I Saw the Light."

Barry Jenkins, Tarell McCraney & André Holland of "Moonlight"



André Holland of 'Moonlight'
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: The Oscar nominated "Moonlight" has gone beyond a movie, to become a cultural touchstone. The story of identity, told in three chapters, with three different actors portraying the main character in different phases of his life, has created an energy of its own. In October, the director Barry Jenkins, story creator Tarell McCraney and actor (in the third chapter of the film) André Holland came to Chicago to promote their epic statement. I also loved Holland in the Jackie Robinson film, "42," and we talked at length about that.

Memorable Quotes: "*[Holland:] I hope that when people see ['Moonlight's' main character] Black at the end, in the African American persona that everyone has been taught to be afraid of, that it challenges us to understand him. This is a person who has been led to this place, not all on his own, but within the circumstances that created him. If we all just give it a second, and not turn away, we might be surprised by the value that he possesses – to you and the world. [McCraney:] I rarely get to talk about Kevin [best friend of main character], so I'm going to talk about him. The real ones in my life, and the character. Kevin is the type of person you meet in your life that no matter how well you think you know yourself, he knows you better. He's always been there, and you look at him and think, 'why do I have such room for you in my heart and psyche, and why do you have room for me?' When you find that person in your life, it's difficult to let loose of them. Even though they are no longer around you, they serve a purpose. I love that about him.*"

Click here [48] for the full interview with Barry Jenkins & Tarell McCraney, which will lead to the other "Moonlight" interviews.

Chef Robert Irvine



Chef Robert Irvine at Studio Xfinity in Chicago
Photo credit: Comcast

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: If you love the Food Network, then you know the muscle-bound motivator, Chef Robert Irvine, who was doing a promotion at the Studio Xfinity store in Chicago last November. Whether he is upgrading an American eatery in "Restaurant: Impossible" or competing on "Iron Chef," Irvine is a motivated and high-energy force of nature. He also currently has a syndicated self improvement talk show, so get off the couch!

Memorable Quote: "*I've never been a competition guy. I'm appearing next month, for example, on 'Guy's Grocery Games' for charity – like 'Chopped' last year, it's all charity driven. I think people are getting tired of it, I'm tired of it, and I want to see food and chefs on the Food Network. Right now, they're are so many food shows on all networks, so the Food Network should get back to what it was always about, the food.*"

Click here [49] for the full interview with Chef Robert Irvine.

Melissa Rauch ("The Bronze") & Simon Helberg ("Florence Jenkins") of "The Big Bang Theory"



Melissa Rauch Goes for the Gold in 'The Bronze'
Photo credit: Sony Pictures Classics

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: The two co-stars of TV's "The Big Bang Theory" – Melissa Rauch (Bernadette) and Simon Helberg (Howard) – came to Chicago on separate promotion tours, for the films next to their names in the headline. But what a great opportunity to talk about the this juggernaut of a popular series, with the characters that populate it.

Memorable Quotes: "*[Melissa Rauch] 'The Big Bang Theory' was like that. I was suppose only do one episode. What was different was the cast and production staff was so welcoming, even though I was only scheduled for a week. I was thrilled, because I loved the show. I did my best, thinking I'd just move onto the next job, and not to try to be a recurring character or anything. Toward the end of the taping, there were rumblings that I would come back. I was so excited, and couldn't believe it. [Simon Helberg] I think it becomes more instinctual than specifically thought about, and the writers on the show do a tremendous job of evolving Howard. He begins on the page, and then I get the script, and suddenly I know something else about him. 'That's interesting,' I say to myself. [laughs] At this point, though, I do want to keep him fresh, but obviously I can't be gratuitous about it. It's not like I can give Howard a nose ring, because I was bored.*"

Click here [50] for the full interview with Melissa Rauch. Click here [51] for the full interview with Simon Helberg.

Director Whit Stillman of "Love & Friendship"



Director Whit Stillman of ‘Love & Friendship’
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: Whit Stillman has always been a bit of a cultish director, after successes with “Metropolitan,” “Barcelona” and “Last Days of Disco,” but he hadn’t had a significant hit until 2016 with “Love & Friendship,” a comical adaptation of a Jane Austen short story. The magnanimously opinionated Mr. S. came to Chicago to promote the film, and regaled with stories of his father’s days in the John F. Kennedy administration.

Memorable Quote: “*[Kennedy’s death] was devastating for my father, and I think it eventually broke up my parent’s marriage, which led to a bad period for my family. It killed my father’s political ambitions. He tried to continue after the assassination, but Lyndon Johnson eventually got rid of all the Kennedy people. It was very depressing for him, because no one would tell him why he didn’t have a job. It was short-sighted on Johnson’s part, because he disenfranchised all the Kennedy-ites and East Coast liberals, so when [Senator] Eugene McCarthy challenged his presidency regarding the Vietnam War, there was all this dry tinder of disenfranchised Kennedy people, and they all joined the 1968 Bobby Kennedy campaign. But 1968 was also a bad year.*”

Click here [52] for the full interview with Whit Stillman.

Director & Animator Travis Knight



Director Travis Knight of 'Kubo and the Two Strings'
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: "Kubo and the Two Strings" is not only one of the best animated films of the year (and Oscar Nominated in that category), but one of the best films period. A sumptuous visual feast, it has roots in the Japanese samurai traditions, but is an original story. The director of the film, Travis Knight, also has another footnote – he is the son of Phil Knight, the founder of Nike. The brilliant thing about Travis K. is that he has forged his own legacy through Laika Entertainment, and will undoubtedly contribute more to the animation culture.

Memorable Quote: "*[On using Anglo actors to voice Japanese characters in 'Kubo] It's an important question, and an important issue, and I can appreciate that the casting process can be opaque. But there are well-considered reasons behind every decision we make. It's important to note that acting in live action films and animation are two different things. What an actor looks like in a live action film is a defining quality, but that is not the case in animation. In performance, there is what you see and what you hear. Obviously in live action those two things are bound together, in animation those two things are totally separate. Ultimately, what matters most for us is the ability of the actor to capture the entire range of performance and emotions that we need for the role, independent of their genetic code.*"

Click here [53] for the full interview with Travis Knight.

Gordon Quinn of Kartemquin Films



Award-Winning Filmmaker Gordon Quinn of Kartemquin Films
Photo credit: Patrick McDonald for HollywoodChicago.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: Kartemquin Films, one of the most significant filmmaking houses in Chicago, celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2016, and the year-long celebration included an exhibit downtown, a memory of their greatest documentary hit, “Hoop Dreams,” and a visit for me to their north side neighborhood headquarters, to interview co-founder Gordon Quinn – who is the “quin” in Kartemquin Films. The avuncular Mr. Q sat down for a perspective-filled three part interview, and filled in the historic gaps. Kartemquin continues it’s reign as one of the best.

Memorable Quote: “*We had all been politicized by the civil rights movement. Coming out of the University of Chicago, where we had been studying literature and philosophy, we had this idea that a style of filmmaking – recording-reality-as-it-unfolds – had a role in democracy. All of our early films are influenced by that philosophy, like ‘Thumbs Down,’ ‘Inquiring Nuns,’ ‘Home for Life’ and ‘Marco.’ They all had a political dimension, but the political dimension is not embedded in the surface. It came out of the people’s lives that we were profiling.*”

Click here [54] for the full interview with Gordon Quinn, as Part One redirects to the other two parts at the end of the article.

Adam Devine and Director Jake Szymanski of “Mike and Dave…”



Adam Devine, Zac Efron, Anna Kendrick and Aubrey Plaza of ‘Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates’
Photo credit: 20th Century Fox Films

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: One of more hilarious comedies of the year, the under-the-radar “Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates,” featured up-and-coming comic actor Adam Devine (“Modern Family”). He came to town with director Jake Szymanski in tow, and the two had a ball relating the stories of Zac Efron, Anna Kendrick and the rest of film’s gang. Devine in particular has a very skewered view of his own career.

Memorable Quote: “*Jake blessed me with freedom. It’s really about committing super-hard to whatever you’re trying to create. In essence, I’m just copying my favorite comedic actors, and it’s the people who make me laugh the hardest who commit the hardest. I wanted the audience to fully believe in Mike, even though he’s doing outlandish things. If the viewer believes the character, then he will be funny. I’m always thinking, ‘my career is over, I have to move back to Omaha, and work on the railroad, with the rest of my family. [laughs] So no, I’m never thinking I’ve ‘arrived.’ I think that’s a good way to be.*”

Click here [55] for the full interview with Adam Devine and Jake Szymanski.

Actor Paul Dooley



The Dad: Paul Dooley, with Dennis Christopher, in ‘Breaking Away’
Photo credit: 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: If there is a quintessential “Dad” in films during the last couple of generations, actor Paul Dooley might get the nod. Besides his classic turn as Poppa Ray in “Breaking Away,” he also played the father in “Sixteen Candles” and Robert Altman’s “A Wedding.” Dooley is in his eighties now, but still robust and working. His career stretches back to New York City in the 1960s, when he worked in a revue facilitated by Chicago’s “The Second City.” He even did a one-man show last year that was very popular in Los Angeles. Paul Dooley rocks.

Memorable Quote: “*If you know my acting, I have a tendency to play Dads – grumpy Dads, cranky Dads, sometimes nice Dads – but a lot of my other work involves a deadpan and dry comedy. My father was a man who never smiled his whole life, and that is a bit embedded in me. Although I’ve done every range of character, my father is the one I do naturally. All the Dads I play is my father.* ”

Click here [56] for the full interview with Paul Dooley.

Food Critic Jonathan Gold



Food Critic Jonathan Gold in his ‘City of Gold’
Photo credit: Sundance Selects

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: “City of Gold” was a documentary about a food critic, who is worshipped in Los Angeles, named Jonathan Gold. When he came to Chicago to promote the film, the well-fed Mr. G was a great raconteur, and his passion for the subject of food was right on point. Besides the where-to-eat-in-Chicago inevitability of the interview, he waxed philosophical about cuisine in general, and it was – as they say – a chat feast.

Memorable Quote: “*I think the point of obsession with food means we’re healthy as a species. When we’re hungry, everything tastes good, hunger is the best spice. When you’re in a area that has few resources, you work incredibly hard to have something. And then you make the something taste good. The greatest food in the world comes from the inventiveness of great privation. What emerges is all the miraculous fermentations and all the strong flavors. You put it together in the right way, it’s delicious. That defines survival, and our human species.*”

Click here [57] for the full interview with Jonathan Gold.

Richard Cotovsky, Chicago’s “Godfather of Storefront Theater”



Richard Cotovsky (right) in ‘American Buffalo’
Photo credit: MaryArrchie.com

Background and Behind-the-Scenes: It is appropriate that the last interview in this Top 20 list is with a true Chicago legend. Richard “Rich” Cotovsky oversaw one of the great “storefront theaters” (Angel Island) in Chicago for over 30 years, through his theater company, Mary-Arrchie. I’ve known Rich for over ten years, and have participated in his annual “Abbie Hoffman Died for Our Sins” Theater Festival in that time (2016 also saw the last iteration of that festival). He is a generous soul, a terrific actor and my friend. It was an honor to do a two part interview with him after he announced the final show – a production of “American Buffalo” by David Mamet, the very show that inspired him as a young man to go into acting.

Memorable Quote: “*I’m not going to look back. ‘Don’t look back, something might be gaining on you.’ I don’t have anything specific in mind. I want to do what comes my way. No plans, no idea, I believe in things happening organically. Right now the plan is to wrap things up - we’ve got one more Abbie Hoffman Fest to put together - whatever happens after that is unknown. I’m not going to push anything beyond passive behavior. [laughs] Maybe I’ll just hang around my [old stage site] and tell people ‘We used to do theater here.’*”

Click here [58] for the full interview with Richard Cotovsky.

CLICK HERE [59] for the 10 Best Films of 2016 by Patrick McDonald of HollywoodChicago.com.

CLICK HERE [60] for the 10 of 2016’s Worst Films by Patrick McDonald, Spike Walters and Jon Espino of HollywoodChicago.com.

To directly access the reviews, interviews and writings of Patrick McDonald, Writer and Editorial Coordinator of HollywoodChicago.com, click here. [16] HollywoodChicago.com also does VIDEO interviews, conducted by publisher Adam Fendelman, and produced by Jeffrey Doles. Click the name to view 2016 interviews with singer Michael Bolton, [61]CeeLo Green, [62] “Denial” film subject Deborah Lipstaldt, [63] Red-Carpet interviews for the 2016 film Ben-Hur [64] and singer John Legend. [65]


[66]

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