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AFI elects 'Bobby' as fest opener

By Gregg Kilday

Emilio Estevez's "Bobby" has been selected as the opening-night film at AFI Fest, the American Film Insti-



Estevez

tute's annual festival that kicks off Nov. 1 at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

Written and directed by Estevez, "Bobby" — which revisits the night Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles in 1968 — will have its U.S. premiere at the fest, which runs through Nov. 12. MGM will release the Weinstein Co. film Nov. 17.

"This is a film that chronicles a powerful moment in American history — a moment that is also significant in the history of the city of Los Angeles," AFI president and CEO Jean Picker Firstenberg said. "As AFI Fest celebrates its 20th year, we are

especially proud to premiere this film here."

The fest, which will be headquartered at the Arclight Cinemas in Hollywood, also announced 13 world premieres Tuesday: David Cunningham's Moscow-set thriller "After ..."; J.B. Rutugarama's autobiographical look at Rwandan genocide "Back Home"; Chad Lowe's 1970s coming-of-age tale "Beautiful Ohio"; Dave Boyle's "Big Dreams, Little Tokyo," which looks at the world of Japanese businessmen; Alan White's love story "Broken"; and Daniel Jones and Dann Sytsma's "Comic Evangelists," which takes place at the Toronto International Improv Festival.

The lineup also includes Alante Kavaite's "Ecoute le temps," from France; David Stern's "Girl 27," a documentary about a 1937 Hollywood scandal; Henry Jaglom's "Hollywood Dreams," a Hollywood-set love story; Yukihiko Tsutsumi's "Memories of Tomorrow," a drama about Alzheimer's disease; Sedika Mojadidi's "Motherland Afghanistan," a docu about maternal mortality rates in Afghanistan; Arnie Williams' "No Sweat," a docu about the Los Angeles garment district; and Carla Garapedian's "Screamers," which looks at the rock band System of a Down's campaign to stop genocide. ■