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## ***YOURS SINCERELY, LOIS WEBER* WINS BEST DOCUMENTARY AT LA SHORTS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**[LOS ANGELES; August 11, 2017]** *Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber* took the prize for Best Documentary at the 21st Annual LA Shorts International Film Festival. Winners were announced during the festival's closing night ceremony on August 10, 2017.

One of the most prestigious international short film festivals, LA Shorts is officially recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. As the winner of Best Documentary, *Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber* now qualifies to contend for an Academy Award® nomination for Documentary - Short Subject at the 90th Academy Awards ceremony, to be held on March 4, 2018.

"I am thrilled to see how audiences are responding to this film," said *Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber* director Svetlana Cvetko, who served as director of photography on both Charles Ferguson's Oscar®-winning documentary feature *Inside Job* (2011) and Jason Cohen's Oscar®-nominated documentary short *Facing Fear* (2014). "As a filmmaker, it is gratifying to know that we are raising awareness about the incredible accomplishments of the trailblazing silent film director Lois Weber."

"As we continue to strive for gender equality in moviemaking, it is important to remember the path paved by Lois Weber, on whose shoulders so many current filmmakers stand, including myself," said Elizabeth Banks, who appears in the film and served as executive producer.



Weber, one of the most accomplished and prolific directors of the silent film era, was the first (and only) woman to be inducted into the Motion Pictures Directors Association, an all-male precursor to the Directors Guild of America, as well as the first woman to own her own film studio. By 1916, she was Universal's highest paid director, male or female. Weber was known for tackling social issues such as wage inequality and women's rights in her work, as well as for such technical innovations as pioneering the use of the split screen technique.

The film uses reenactments, behind-the-scenes images and archival footage from seminal Weber films—including *Hypocrites* (1915), *Where Are My Children?* (1916), *Shoes* (1916) and *The Blot* (1921)—to tell the story of Weber's reign in Hollywood during the silent film era.

"It boggles the mind to think the legacy of one of Hollywood's biggest directors a century ago has been virtually forgotten today," said Benjamin Alfonsi, executive producer of the film. "It's been humbling to see how her story is inspiring audiences who had never even heard of Lois Weber."

Following its win at LA Shorts—whose alumni directors include Tim Burton, Terry Gilliam, Paul Haggis, David Lynch, Jason Reitman, Tony Scott and John Woo—*Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber* will continue its run on the international film festival circuit.

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***Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber***

presented by Double Take Pictures, Metabook Films, Brownstone Productions  
directed by Svetlana Cvetko  
executive producers: Elizabeth Banks, Benjamin Alfonsi  
producer: David Scott Smith