

NEWS RELEASE

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Skirball Cultural Center and Ryan Murphy Television announce

HALF FEST DIRECTORS SHOWCASE

Saturday, August 26, 12:00–7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 27, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

FREE admission

Screenings and conversations will shine a light on the Half Foundation's efforts to support women and minorities in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, CA—During the weekend of August 26–27, the Skirball Cultural Center will host the first-ever Half Fest Directors Showcase. This free two-day event is presented in partnership with the Half Foundation—a new initiative to offer mentorships and jobs to women, people of color, and members of the LGBT community seeking employment in entertainment. Attendees will have the opportunity to watch short films by the first cohort of Half Foundation mentees, as well as attend Q&As and talks on how to succeed in Hollywood.

The Half Foundation was founded in 2016 by acclaimed TV writer-creator Ryan Murphy (*Glee*, *American Horror Story*, *American Crime Story*, *Feud: Bette and Joan*). Murphy himself has succeeded in staffing 60% of his shows with women and minority directors. In its first year, his Half Foundation has mentored nearly thirty emerging directors from these underrepresented groups.

"I'm pleased that the public will have a chance to view the work of rising talented directors," remarked Murphy. "The Half directing mentees range from college students to professionals and have created worthy short films."

"The work of advancing diversity and equity in American life is a shared responsibility that benefits us all," commented Andrew Horwitz, Skirball Vice President and Director of Programs. "As an institution dedicated to welcome and inclusion, the Skirball is proud to partner with the Half Foundation in its efforts to nurture the talents of women and minorities in Hollywood, as well as diversify the stories that enter our homes and our lives."

In addition to the afternoon screenings, Saturday's showcase will conclude with a panel discussion on the range of director programs around town, with tips on how applicants can stand out among their peers. Panelists include industry executives from Half, Fox, NBC, CBS, and Warner Bros. Following Sunday's afternoon screenings, attendees can hear from accomplished directors **Jennifer Lynch** and **Nelson Cragg**.

The complete Half Fest Directors Showcase is available at skirball.org/half-fest. Reservations open today.

About the Half Foundation

Ryan Murphy launched Half within Ryan Murphy Productions to aim to make Hollywood more inclusive by creating equal opportunities for women and minorities behind the camera.

About the Skirball

The Skirball Cultural Center is a place of meeting guided by the Jewish tradition of welcoming the stranger and inspired by the American democratic ideals of freedom and equality. We welcome people of all communities and generations to participate in cultural experiences that celebrate discovery and hope, foster human connections, and call upon us to help build a more just society.

Visiting the Skirball

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049. Museum hours: Tuesday–Friday 12:00–5:00 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; closed Mondays and holidays. Admission to *Future Aleppo* is FREE. Admission to all other exhibitions: \$12 General; \$9 Seniors, Full-Time Students, and Children over 12; \$7 Children 2–12, and FREE to Skirball Members and Children under 2. All exhibitions are FREE to all visitors on Thursdays. For general information, the public may call (310) 440-4500 or visit skirball.org.