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## **Special Screening of Award-Winning Documentary Skid Row Marathon to be held in Downtown L.A. Ahead of 2018 Los Angeles Marathon**

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After amassing 13 separate awards from 9 different film festivals during the 2017-2018 season, the inspiring Los Angeles-based documentary Skid Row Marathon will hold a special screening in downtown L.A. ahead of the 2018 Los Angeles Marathon. To date, reviews of the film have been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. According to David Wild, writer, producer, and Rolling Stone contributing editor, "Skid Row Marathon is one of the most inspiring and ultimately uplifting movies that I have ever seen. It's a true story that needs to be seen about the most important marathon of all -- life."

Directed by Mark Hayes, Skid Row Marathon follows Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Craig Mitchell over a period of four years as he starts a running club on L.A.'s infamous Skid Row. If club members stay clean, off the streets and out of jail, the Judge will take them around the world to run marathons. The runners fight the pull of addiction and homelessness at every turn. Not everyone crosses the finish line. The feature-length documentary was produced by Gabriele Hayes and Doug Blush. Blush is an award-winning producer, editor, and director whose credits include 2018 Academy Award Best Documentary nominee Icarus, 2012 nominee The Invisible War, and 2013 Oscar Winner 20 Feet From Stardom.

Skid Row Marathon has received more than a dozen awards during the 2017-2018 festival season including: Audience Award Best Documentary Feature and LA Muse Award for Best Documentary Film at the 2017 LA Film Festival; Audience Award Favorite Documentary Feature and Best Documentary Feature at the 2017 Napa Valley Film Festival; Best Documentary Feature and Audience Favorite Documentary at the 2017 Coronado Island Film Festival; Audience Choice Award and Special Jury Award for Best Use of Cinematic Technique at the 2017 Port Townsend Film Festival; Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2018 Palm Springs International Film Festival, and Audience Choice Award at the 2018 Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

The event will be held at Regal LA Live Stadium 14 in downtown L. A. just days before the 2018 Los Angeles Marathon. Cast members including Judge Craig Mitchell and runners Benjamin Shirley and Rafael Cabrera – fresh off the plane from competing in the 2018 Jerusalem Marathon – will be in attendance for a Q&A following the screening. Judge Mitchell, Cabrera, and Shirley will also be running in the Los Angeles Marathon days later, on March 18, 2018.

Skid Row Marathon Director Mark Hayes, said hosting this special screening in downtown Los Angeles, ahead of the 2018 L.A. Marathon, just made sense. "We had a remarkable response to the film when we screened it in Berlin ahead of the 2017 Berlin Marathon. To be able to finally bring this film to Downtown Los Angeles, where this story all began more than five years ago, is tremendously rewarding. We're thrilled that marathoners, the Skid Row community, and fellow

Los Angelenos will be able to enjoy this story of hope, friendship, and dignity. In a world full of depressing news, bringing an uplifting story such as this to life is a great honor.”

Tickets for the Los Angeles screening of Skid Row Marathon on March 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm can be purchased through Eventbrite for \$10.

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