

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Nation's Hottest Sports Topic Discussed at Florida Theatre's Civic Cinema**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.,— Civic Cinema, a community project presented by the historic, nonprofit Florida Theatre, and sponsored by Times-Union Media, will present an interactive discussion and viewing of *Concussion* on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7pm.

Admission to this event is free to the public. Tickets can be secured by calling the Florida Theatre Box Office at 904.355.ARTS (2787) or at [floridatheatre.com](http://floridatheatre.com).

Before the film, Alan Verlander of Airstream Ventures will facilitate a panel discussion with Jacksonville Sports Medicine experts. Their discussion will focus on the timely topic of sports-related brain injury. Panelists include: Jennifer Maynard, MD Mayo Clinic; Stephan Esser, MD Southeast Orthopedic Specialist; Sarah Lahey, PhD, Brooks Rehab; Bradley Wallace, MD Lyerly Neurosurgery and Robert Sefcik, LAT, ATC from the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program.

"We are going to talk concussions," said Alan Verlander of Airstream Ventures. "This day and age, concussions are a major concern in all kinds of sports. Some of the best and brightest from our community that have studied this topic for a long time will be here to discuss what's going on in the brain, what creates a concussion, and many of the details behind the current studies on concussion science."

"Civic Cinema uses issue-oriented Hollywood films as a jumping-off point to explore topics of interest in our community, and not just arts and culture topics, either," said Numa Saisselin, Florida Theatre President. "In Jacksonville, concussions are a major topic of interest, because we're a sports town, but also because we have a significant Veteran population, and a significant medical community. Making the Florida Theatre's stage and screen available as a catalyst for this discussion is something we're enormously proud to do for our community."

Will Smith stars in *Concussion*, based on the incredible true David vs. Goliath story of American immigrant Dr. Bennet Omalu, the brilliant forensic neuropathologist who made the first discovery of CTE, a football-related brain trauma, in a pro player and fought for the truth to be known. Omalu's emotional quest puts him at dangerous odds with one of the most powerful institutions in the world.

Civic Cinema is sponsored by Times-Union Media with digital projection provided by AVL Productions.

The historic, nonprofit Florida Theatre is sponsored by Community First Credit Union. For a complete list of upcoming events or to buy tickets visit the Theatre's official web site [floridatheatre.com](http://floridatheatre.com).

*[Florida Theatre](http://floridatheatre.com) : From ballet and opera to contemporary pop, jazz, rock, country and blues the nonprofit Florida Theatre offers 200 cultural and entertainment events annually for every taste and age. More than just an entertainment center, The Florida Theatre is also home to graduations, awards ceremonies, lectures, business*

*meetings and charity events that support the community's schools, churches, hospitals and civic groups. As an anchor to downtown development along the beautiful St. Johns River, The Florida Theatre draws 250,000 people to Jacksonville's center each year. The magnificently restored Florida Theatre is recognized as one of the finest concert venues in the Southeast. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Florida Theatre holds special memories for four generations. From the Vaudeville acts and silent films of its earliest days to today's blend of performances of all kinds, The Florida Theatre has served as Jacksonville's premier entertainment center since 1927.*

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