

ALETHEA ARNAQUQ-BARIL'S ANGRY INUK WINS THE CANADA'S TOP TEN FILM FESTIVAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

TORONTO — *Angry Inuk* has been voted winner of the Canada's Top Ten Film Festival People's Choice Award. TIFF's celebration of Canadian cinema, screen talent, and creativity crowned its people choice award winner, with Toronto audiences voting Alethea Arnaquq-Baril's documentary *Angry Inuk* their favourite pick from the festival's 10 feature films.

Angry Inuk investigates the global anti-sealing movement's impact on Inuit communities. Director Arnaquq-Baril joins her fellow Inuit activists as they challenge outdated perceptions of Inuit and present themselves to the world as a modern people in dire need of a sustainable economy.

Commenting on winning the People's Choice Award, director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril said, "I want to say thank you to everyone who came out and saw *Angry Inuk* and was willing to open their hearts and minds to a perspective that they have not seen before. We are heading into our European and American premieres in the next couple of weeks so this is wonderful news to receive."

Watch Alethea's full acceptance speech here: <https://youtu.be/M0NG9nG-wJ0>

Canada's Top Ten Film Festival presents a programme of screenings, special events and a collection of unique Canadian film moments. Zacharias Knuck's *Maliglutuit (Searchers)* opened the festival on January 13th at TIFF Bell Lightbox to a sell-out crowd; and the festival's showcase of innovative and original films featured prominent guests including Johnny Ma, Ashley McKenzie, Gordon Pinsent, Atom Egoyan, Jennifer Baichwal, Michael Snow and many more.

This year's Canada's Top Ten lineup includes movies from British Columbia to Nunavut to Nova Scotia. The festival's growing national scope continues its expansion with audiences in Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, Regina, Edmonton and Saskatoon seeing a selection of the year's best Canadian feature films, shorts and student shorts this week. Canada's Top Ten Film Festival travels to Winnipeg, Halifax and Ottawa throughout the spring. More about details about the national tour can be found on TIFF.net and in local listings.

The festival's programme also included full day industry session; three In-conversation With... events; a series of free *Canada on Screen* classic titles celebrating the Sesquicentennial; and Canada's Top Ten Film Festival officially draws to a close on Thursday 26th of January with a special TIFF Members screening of Nathan Morlando's *Mean Dreams*, in partnership with Movie Nights Across Canada, with guests director Nathan Morlando and stars Colm Feore and Sophie Nélisse among the VIP guests attending.

Canada's Top Ten Film Festival People's Choice Award

The People's Choice Award goes to *Angry Inuk*, directed by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril.

Seal hunting, a critical part of Inuit life, has been controversial for a long time. Now, a new generation of Inuit, armed with social media and their own sense of humour and justice, are challenging the anti-sealing groups and bringing their own voices into the conversation. Director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril (*So!*) joins her fellow Inuit activists as they challenge outdated perceptions of Inuit and present themselves to the world as a modern people in dire need of a sustainable economy.

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TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world, through film.



Student Film Awards

The Canada's Top Ten Film Festival spotlights student shorts in its annual lineup, presenting the top student shorts from colleges and universities across the country. In a ceremony held on January 14 at TIFF Bell Lightbox, prizes were awarded to student films in the live action and animation categories.

The winners were selected by the Canada's Top Ten Film Festival shorts panel of filmmakers and industry professionals, including: producer Stacey Donen; TIFF Short Cuts programmer and filmmaker Danis Goulet; writer-director Ashley McKenzie; filmmaker and musician Blaine Thurier and Winnipeg Film Group's Ben Williams.

Best Live Action Student Short

The winner of the Best Live Action Student Film award is **Les Beiges**, directed by **Étienne Lacelle** (Concordia University). Shifting between striking close-ups, intimate details, and cars spinning around a race track, *Les Beiges* delicately captures the world occupied by a group of car enthusiasts in St-Eustache, Québec.

The award comes with: a rental grant worth \$6,000 provided by William F. White International Inc.; a DCP output of the film courtesy of Technicolor; \$1,000 from the Directors Guild of Canada; two tickets to the Directors Guild of Canada Awards, and an Industry Pass to the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival.

Runner-up for Best Live Action Student Short

The Land of Nod, directed by **Ivan Ramin Radnik** (Humber College), was awarded Runner-up for Best Live Action Student Film. The drama portrays a young man tormented by classmates, haunted by the dead, and consumed by the question of whether he is anything like his violent absent father.

The Runner-up prize awards a rental grant worth \$3,500 provided by William F. White International Inc.

Best Animated Student Short

The prize for Best Animated Student Film goes to **Feathers**, directed by **Sarah Kieley** (Sheridan College). Beautifully captured through vibrant stop-motion animation, *Feathers* is a story of love and acceptance in which a mother and daughter struggle to cope with an unusual change.

The award comes with: a DCP output of the film courtesy of Technicolor; \$1,000 courtesy of the Directors Guild of Canada; two tickets to the Directors Guild of Canada Awards, and an Industry Pass to the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival.

Established by TIFF in 2001, the Canada's Top Ten Film Festival celebrates and promotes contemporary Canadian cinema and raises awareness of Canadian achievements in film.

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For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.

For images, visit the media site at tiff.net/press.

About TIFF

TIFF is a charitable cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world, through film. An international leader in film culture, TIFF projects include the annual Toronto International Film Festival in September; TIFF Bell Lightbox, which features five cinemas, major exhibitions, and learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$189 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by

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