

TIFF CELEBRATES JAMES QUANDT'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TIFF CINEMATHEQUE



Photo credit: Photo supplied

TORONTO – The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) has today acknowledged the extraordinary career and contribution of TIFF Senior Programmer James Quandt, who has chosen to retire in September as he celebrates his 65th birthday. For 31 years, Quandt's uncompromising curation for TIFF Cinematheque audiences has introduced generations of film lovers to the finest examples of film art, including acclaimed classics and rare discoveries.

TIFF Artistic Director and Co-Head Cameron Bailey acknowledged Quandt as a world-renowned leader of his craft and has offered his deepest thanks for everything he has done to build TIFF's reputation for excellence.

"TIFF has been fortunate to serve as a home for James's stellar work for over three decades," said Bailey. "He has been an inspiration for countless aspiring curators, critics, and cinephiles. His thinking on cinema is deeply perceptive without being academic, and his respect for the art form as practiced at its highest level is boundless. Among his best qualities: James follows no orthodoxies. His taste is frequently surprising but always impeccable. All of us who worked alongside him, or who benefitted from his passionate curiosity about cinema, have received a gift we will carry with us always."

In 1990, Quandt left a position curating films at Harbourfront Centre to become Cinematheque Ontario's first programmer. Since then, he has curated hundreds of film series that celebrated acknowledged masters

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



(Kurosawa, Fassbinder), shone a light on under-appreciated greats (Naruse, Masumura), and introduced new audiences to exciting contemporary filmmakers such as Lucrecia Martel and Apichatpong Weerasethakul.

One of his greatest achievements, as both curator and critic, are the international tours he has organized that have expanded beyond North America – including for Mizoguchi, Imamura, Ichikawa, and Oshima – and writing the publications that have accompanied many of these. Most notably, in 2012, his retrospective *The Poetry of Precision* toured widely beyond North America, illuminating the work of French filmmaker Robert Bresson. His 1998 book *Robert Bresson*, revised in 2012, remains the standard text in English on the filmmaker's work.

As a writer on film, Quandt also contributed regularly to publications including *Artforum*, *Sight & Sound*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The New York Review of Books*, the leading intellectual journal in North America. His numerous essays, both visual and written, and full-length commentaries are found on DVDs for Criterion as well as the Cinema Guild, Cohen Media, and Kino Lorber.

Among Quandt's many prizes, the French government awarded him the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres and he was presented with the Japan Foundation Special Prize for Arts and Culture, which recognized his extensive programming of Japanese cinema.

In the coming months, TIFF will announce further details about his final programming series, expected in 2022, so audiences throughout Canada can experience his expert curation.

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About TIFF

TIFF is a not-for-profit 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 \$200 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, the Reitman family (Ivan Reitman, Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels), The Daniels Corporation and RBC. For more information, visit tiff.net.

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