



August 1, 2018

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **TIFF ANNOUNCES THE WORLD PREMIERE OF XAVIER DOLAN'S *THE DEATH AND LIFE OF JOHN F. DONOVAN***

**TORONTO** – The Toronto International Film Festival® today revealed Xavier Dolan's *The Death and Life of John F. Donovan* will have its World Premiere at the Festival this September. The surprise announcement was made at TIFF's Canadian press conference, held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

*The Death and Life of John F. Donovan* follows the story of a young actor (Jacob Tremblay) as he reminisces on the letters he once shared with an American TV star (Kit Harington), who passed away a decade earlier, and the impact those letters had on both their lives. The film also stars Natalie Portman, Ben Schnetzer, Susan Sarandon, Jared Keeso, Kathy Bates, Thandie Newton, Emily Hampshire, and former TIFF Rising Star Sarah Gadon.

"In only a few short years, Xavier Dolan has drawn film lovers all over the world into his personal vision," said Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director of TIFF. "That vision and his remarkable skill as a filmmaker are on full display in his English-language debut. We are honoured to premiere it in Toronto."

*The Death and Life of John F. Donovan* will screen as part of the Special Presentations programme.

The 43rd Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 6 to 16, 2018.

For film synopses, cast lists, images, and more information, see [tiff.net/tiff](http://tiff.net/tiff).

Festival ticket packages start at \$105. Purchase packages online at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets), by phone (416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433), or in person at TIFF Bell Lightbox until August 13, while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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### **About TIFF**

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

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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 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](http://tiff.net).

**TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto.**

**This film is eligible for the Grolsch People's Choice Award.**

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For more information, contact Communications Manager Emma Kelly [ekelly@tiff.net](mailto:ekelly@tiff.net) or the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).

For images, visit the media site at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

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