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MEDIA RELEASE

TIFF 2018 CANADIAN FEATURES SLATE ANNOUNCED WITH NEW WORKS BY FESTIVAL VETS AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING FILM DEBUTS

Presenting new films from Maxime Giroux, Ron Mann, Jennifer Baichwal, Denys Arcand, Bruce Sweeney, and exciting newcomers Jasmin Mozaffari and Renée Beaulieu

TORONTO – Today, the Toronto International Film Festival® added another 19 Canadian titles to the Festival's lineup. The selection includes nine films directed by women and six exciting debut features. From personal dramas exploring identity to documentaries that spotlight a world at risk and democracy in jeopardy, this year's lineup is rich in stories that tap into contemporary Canadian and International anxieties.

"We're especially proud to present such a diverse group of films," said Steve Gravestock, Senior Programmer, TIFF. "Ranging from science fiction to fantasy, myth to documentary, and romance to a dystopic vision of our neighbours to the south, this year's Canadian films come from every region in the country, stretching from east to west and north to south."

TIFF presents the World Premieres of three films that showcase Indigenous talent: Gwaai Edenshaw and Helen Haig-Brown's ***Edge of the Knife***, the first feature-length film made in Haida, which is classified by UNESCO as an endangered language; Darlene Naponse's ***Falls Around Her***, a moving portrait of healing and resilience, starring renowned Métis actor Tantoo Cardinal; and Miranda de Pencier's feature directorial debut ***The Grizzlies***, a creative collaboration between De Pencier and Inuit producers Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and Stacey Aglok MacDonald that tells an inspiring, true story and that was shot on location in MacDonald's home community in Nunavut.

"We're thrilled with this year's lineup of compelling and distinctive films," said Danis Goulet, TIFF Canadian Features Programmer. "The films feature characters who push hard against prescribed boundaries, asking vital questions about the state of the world and the status quo. We are especially excited to have a strong slate of bold and dynamic women-centric stories. Forty percent of the Canadian film slate this year is directed by women."

This year's lineup also includes works by legendary Canadian documentary filmmakers that look at contemporary culture through a critical lens, such as Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier, and Edward

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Burtynsky's highly anticipated documentary ***Anthropocene***, Ron Mann's ***Carmine Street Guitars*** and Thom Fitzgerald's ***Splinters***; Festival alumnus Igor Drlijača is making his feature-documentary debut at the Festival with ***The Stone Speakers***, and veteran Barry Avrich returns with ***Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz***, a portrait of the United States' chief prosecutor during the Nuremberg trials.

A highlight of the festival will be a Special Event World Premiere and tribute showcasing the illuminating documentary ***Sharkwater Extinction***, the final work by the late filmmaker and conservationist Rob Stewart. Other works by TIFF alumni premiering at the Festival include Canadian master Denys Arcand's ***The Fall of the American Empire***; Bruce Sweeney's ***Kingsway***; Sébastien Pilote's ***The Fireflies Are Gone***; Maxime Giroux's ***The Great Darkened Days***; and Astra Taylor's ***What is Democracy?*** Renée Beaulieu is at TIFF for the first time with ***Les Salopes or the Naturally Wanton Pleasure of Skin***, a study of a professor's hidden desires.

The Canadian feature debuts at this year's Festival are: Gwaai Edenshaw and Helen Haig-Brown's Haida epic ***Edge of the Knife***; Akash Sherman's sci-fi fantasy drama ***Clara***; Jasmin Mozaffari's ***Firecrackers***; Andrea Bussmann's first solo project, ***Fausto***; Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein's ***Freaks*** and Miranda De Pencier's ***Grizzlies***.

This year's slate also features performances by multiple Canadian and international stars, such as Amanda Crew, Graham Greene, Brigitte Poupart, Salma Hayek, Maria Bello, and Kyle MacLachlan. Other talent includes TIFF 2018 Rising Star Michaela Kurimsky (***Firecrackers***) and former TIFF Rising Stars Sarah Gadon (***The Great Darkened Days***) and Karelle Tremblay (***The Fireflies Are Gone***).

All 23 Canadian feature films at the Festival are eligible for the Canada Goose® Award for Best Canadian Feature Film. All five Canadian feature directorial debuts are eligible for the City of Toronto Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film. This year's Canadian feature-film jury is composed of award-winning Montreal filmmaker **Mathieu Denis** (***Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves***), renowned Toronto journalist and documentarian **Michelle Shephard** (***Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr***), and legendary Turkish director **Ali Özgentürk**, who wrote the screenplay for ***The Girl with the Red Scarf***.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS*

Anthropocene Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier, Edward Burtynsky | Canada
World Premiere

The Fall of the American Empire Denys Arcand | Canada
Toronto Premiere

The Grizzlies Miranda de Pencier | Canada
World Premiere

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* Previously announced Canadian features at the Festival include Keith Behrman's *Giant Little Ones* (Special Presentation), Kim Nguyen's *The Hummingbird Project* (Special Presentation), Patricia Rozema's *MOUTHPIECE* (Opening Special Presentation), and Don McKellar's *Through Black Spruce* (Special Presentation).

SPECIAL EVENT

Sharkwater Extinction Rob Stewart | Canada
World Premiere

TIFF DOCS

Carmine Street Guitars Ron Mann | Canada
North American Premiere

Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz Barry Avrich | Canada
World Premiere

What is Democracy? Astra Taylor | Canada
North American Premiere

DISCOVERY

Clara Akash Sherman | Canada
World Premiere

Edge of the Knife Gwaai Edenshaw, Helen Haig-Brown | Canada
World Premiere

Firecrackers Jasmin Mozaffari | Canada
World Premiere

Freaks Zach Lipovsky, Adam Stein | Canada
World Premiere

CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA

Falls Around Her Darlene Naponse | Canada
World Premiere

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The Fireflies Are Gone Sébastien Pilote | Canada
North American Premiere

The Great Darkened Days Maxime Giroux | Canada
World Premiere

Kingsway Bruce Sweeney | Canada
World Premiere

Les Salopes or the Naturally Wanton Pleasure of Skin Renée Beaulieu | Canada
World Premiere

Splinters Thom Fitzgerald | Canada
World Premiere

WAVELENGTHS

Fausto Andrea Bussmann | Canada/Mexico
North American Premiere

The Stone Speakers Igor Drljača | Canada/Bosnia and Herzegovina
World Premiere

For film synopses, cast lists, images, and more information, see tiff.net/tiff.

Festival ticket packages start at \$105. Purchase packages online at 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 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

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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.

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

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