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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## TIFF NEXT WAVE COMMITTEE 2019 SELECTION UNVEILED

**TIFF's youngest programming team champions authenticity and international voices in their line-up of ten films essential for young film lovers**

**TORONTO** — The TIFF Next Wave Committee, a group of 12 film-loving high school students, have reviewed the films headed to TIFF and curated this year's Next Wave lineup: 10 films that will unite young film lovers who are eager to see their own lives authentically depicted on screen. Young protagonists shine in these stories of love, home, and friendship while they embark on quests for independence and explore their identities.

The TIFF Next Wave Committee is proud to showcase films about youth from across the globe, with representation from 12 countries spanning four continents. These portraits of resilience look at the desire for emancipation and the joy of finding oneself in the process. The Committee is comprised of 83% female or gender non-conforming programmers, which is mirrored by the diversity of experiences shown on screen this year. 50% of the films in the Next Wave lineup were directed or co-directed by women.

"Our TIFF Next Wave Committee has chosen films that shed vivid new light on the topics that shape their worlds, whether it's migration, police violence, family bonds, or sexuality," said Steph Guthrie, Manager, Youth and Community Initiatives at TIFF. "Working with a team of brilliant, creative young people is the best way to programme films that speak authentically about what it means to be young."

"This year's Next Wave lineup features films from around the globe for young people and about young people that speak on universal issues," said Julia Yoo, TIFF Next Wave Committee member. "These films enrich conversations and connections through new perspectives and centre on concepts and aspects of life important to today's youth. Next Wave is thrilled to present films made accessible to young film lovers that resonate with their lived experiences, and to open doors for young people to experience film in unique ways."

Highlights from this year's lineup include Platform Opening Night Film **Rocks**, directed by Sarah Gavron, following a teen girl's efforts to take care of herself and her brother while leaning on her tight-knit circle of friends; Trey Edward Shults's **Waves**, the visceral story of a young athlete's unravelling and the ripple effects on his community; **Flatland**, a neo-noir feminist road movie from one of South Africa's most exciting new voices, Jenna Bass, which follows two best friends fleeing for their lives; and Hikari's debut feature **37 Seconds**, about a young woman with cerebral palsy whose drive to become a successful manga artist sends her on a journey of independence and self-discovery.

The 44th Toronto International Film Festival runs September 5–15, 2019.

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



**Films screening as part of the TIFF Next Wave selection include:**

**37 Seconds** Hikari | Japan/USA  
Canadian Premiere (Contemporary World Cinema)

**Atlantics** Mati Diop | France/Senegal/Belgium  
North American Premiere (Contemporary World Cinema)

**August (Agosto)** Armando Capó | Cuba/Costa Rica/France  
World Premiere (Discovery)

**Flatland** Jenna Bass | South Africa/Luxembourg/Germany  
North American Premiere (Contemporary World Cinema)

**Hala** Minhal Baig | USA  
Canadian Premiere (Contemporary World Cinema)

**How to Build a Girl** Coky Giedroyc | United Kingdom  
World Premiere (Special Presentations)

**Rocks** Sarah Gavron | United Kingdom  
World Premiere (Platform)

**The Obituary of Tunde Johnson** Ali LeRoi | USA  
World Premiere (Discovery)

**Waves** Trey Edward Shults | USA  
International Premiere (Special Presentations)

**White Lie** Calvin Thomas, Yonah Lewis | Canada  
World Premiere (Contemporary World Cinema)

Festival tickets go on sale September 2 at 10am (with TIFF Member pre-sale on August 31, 10am–4pm). Buy tickets online at [tiff.net](http://tiff.net), by phone at 416.599.2033 or 1.888.258.8433, or in person at a box office. See box office locations and hours at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets). Enjoy daytime Festival screenings on weekdays for \$11 if you're under 25!

TIFF prefers Visa.

**Social Media:**

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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 \$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).

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**The TIFF Next Wave Committee is supported by the Slaight Family Foundation Learning Fund.**

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

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