

# TIFF Next Wave Committee

2024-2025  
Application Kit



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*She Sat There Like All Ordinary Ones 2024*

## what is TIFF Next Wave?

TIFF Next Wave is the heartbeat of year-round programming for young audiences at the Toronto International Film Festival located in downtown Toronto. It includes a selection of youth friendly films that screen at the Festival in September, the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival in April, the 48-Hour Film Challenge in July, and TIFF Next Wave Presents — a monthly screening series for young film lovers, curated by the Next Wave Committee.

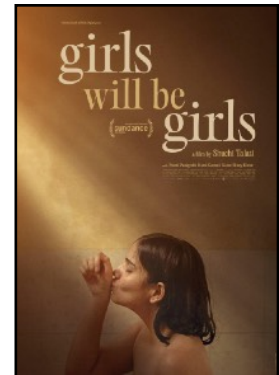
The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival features **free** movies for anyone under 25, including new releases from around the world, amazing guests and Q&A sessions, special events, industry workshops and talks, the ever-epic Battle of the Scores competition, and more!



## what's happening at this year's TIFF Next Wave

The 13th edition of TIFF Next Wave runs **April 11-14**, with bold new films from around the world, exploring authentic and compelling stories of self-discovery and teenagehood. Highlights include:

Shuchi Talati's **Girls Will Be Girls**, a captivating exploration of gendered power, as 16-year-old Mira navigates desire and rebellion, while competing with her overbearing mother for a boy's attention; Youjia Qu's **She Sat There Like All Ordinary Ones**, following a laid-back high school senior whose life becomes inextricably linked to an enigmatic classmate after the theft of a starting pistol; in Luck Razanajaona's **Disco Afrika: A Malagasy Story**, a



young man returns to his hometown in Madagascar, where he contends with ghosts of the past and questions of loyalty and revolution; 26-year-old-director Luna Carmoon's **Hoard**, a haunting, hypnotic look into the emotional weight of our childhood memories, and the bond between mother and daughter; Geng Zihan's **A Song Sung Blue**, follows a teenager who becomes captivated by an older girl while staying with her dad for the



summer, in this dreamlike, queer coming-of-age; and euphoric freedom teeters on the edge of panicked despair for three sisters abandoned by their parents in Mika Gustafson's **Paradise Is Burning**, an intimate exploration of girlhood and teenage rebellion.



The festival also features a TIFF Next Wave Advance Screening of **Cuckoo**, the highly anticipated new horror film starring Hunter Schafer; a full day of industry talks for emerging filmmakers at the **Young Creators Co-Lab**; four bands score a silent short film in a live showcase of film and music talent at **Battle of the Scores**; and a lineup for short films made by emerging filmmakers from across Canada at the **Young Creators Showcase**.

Check out all things TIFF Next Wave and learn more at:  
[www.tiff.net/nextwave](http://www.tiff.net/nextwave).



## what's is the TIFF Next Wave Committee?

Founded in 2010, the TIFF Next Wave Committee is a group of twelve students aged 15 to 18 who are selected from a pool of hopeful young film enthusiasts. Hailing from specialized arts institutions, public schools, alternative schools and private schools across the GTA, the Committee members' tastes, opinions, and critical voices are as diverse as they are strong. Some are aspiring filmmakers, writers and actors; some are interested in learning the business of film and festivals; some like planning cultural events; and some just love movies. All have demonstrated a spirit that has impressed TIFF leaders.

With the guidance of TIFF staff, the Committee is charged with planning some major teen-oriented events at TIFF Lightbox, including the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival.



## what will I do on the Committee?

The committee supports the planning and programming of all TIFF Next Wave events. They watch A LOT of movies, discuss them as a group and help select the ones that screen at the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival and as Next Wave-approved films at the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

At both festivals, committee members get to do film introductions and moderate Q&As with directors and guests. They get to connect and interact with people in the film industry, including TIFF staff and more! They also curate Next Wave Presents, a monthly screening series at TIFF Lightbox, and plan the annual 48-Hour Film Challenge and other events for young film lovers and creators throughout the year. The committee meets every other Tuesday from September to June, on occasional screening weekends, and a two-week screening period in July.



## the application

the application consists of **2 parts**:

**Part One:** Fill in the [Google Form](#) with all your basic information and some questions to get to know you

**Part Two:** Choose option **a. or b.** and send this part to us at [nextwave@tiff.net](mailto:nextwave@tiff.net)

### a. A "to-camera" intro video

- talk directly to the camera
- tell us about yourself: what you're into, what you like
- tell us why you want to join the TIFF Next Wave Committee
- please include things you find exciting about the opportunity and what you think you could bring to it
- add anything else you want to share!

### Get creative and have fun with it!

The video should be **1–4 minutes** long and can be shot on your phone, your computer, or a fancy camera, it's up to you!

### b. A "personal essay" introducing yourself

- this is like a written version of the "to-camera" introduction
- tell us about yourself: what you're into, what you like
- Tell us about your love of film: when you discovered it, why you're passionate about it, and why you want to join the committee
- Share ideas about TIFF Next Wave outlining what you think you could bring to the committee and the programme as a whole
- add anything else you want to share!

### We want to get to know you better, don't be afraid to stand out!

The personal essay should be **500-1000 words**, double-spaced.



## deadline and submission details

Fill in the [Google Form](#) + send us your "to-camera" video or "personal essay" to complete your application (see above).

**Applications are due Monday, May 20**

Submit by email to: [nextwave@tiff.net](mailto:nextwave@tiff.net)



## about TIFF

TIFF is a not-for-profit cultural organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world through film. TIFF is dedicated to presenting the best of international and Canadian cinema for film lovers and creators of all ages and backgrounds. As Canada's premiere home of cinema, TIFF offers screenings, lectures, discussions, festivals, workshops, events, professional development and opportunities to meet, hear and learn from filmmakers from Canada and around the world.

TIFF Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including 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).

The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival is supported by the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Toronto.



## FAQs

### **“What do you actually do on the Committee?”**

The Committee spends a lot of time watching films to program for the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival in April and to tag as “youth-approved” at the Festival in September. That takes up most of our meetings from July until April. Otherwise, we plan year-round screenings and events for youth like the 48-Hour Film Challenge, attend cultural events and other festivals in the city like Hot Docs and Inside Out, and explore all things where youth and film collide. When we are not in full festival prep, the Committee is able to plan meetings and decide how things look!

### **“What does a typical meeting look like?”**

Meetings vary depending on the time of year, but for the most part, we meet at TIFF Lightbox at 5pm, check-in, get to know each other, plan events for the festival, and share updates and announcements. Then we watch a film for programming and when it’s over, we record our feedback personally and then have a discussion as a group.

### **“How many people are on the Committee?”**

There are a total of 12 people on the Committee.

### **“Can I share the films we are watching with my friends and/or tell them all about the movies we watch in meetings?”**

As film programmers, we are required to keep everything completely confidential until it is officially, publicly announced via press release. This includes all festival plans, the films we screen as a group, guests confirmed, and your opinions and views on the films selected.

### **“I live really far from downtown, is that ok?”**

Yes! We have had Committee members from all over: Markham, Mississauga, Brampton, North York, Scarborough and downtown. We assist with transit costs and support folks in getting to downtown Toronto for meetings and screenings, so if you are able to make it, we are very happy to have you. We would like the Committee to represent the entire GTA.

**“What are you looking for in candidates?”**

We are looking for all kinds of passionate and excited young people. There is no one kind of Next Waver - we strive to make sure it is full of different kinds of people with different interests, skills and abilities. We encourage people in their applications to be themselves!

**“How many years can a person stay on the Next Wave Committee?”**

You can stay on the TIFF Next Wave Committee for a maximum of two years. We check in with Committee members at the end of every year, however, to make sure they want to stick around. It is not mandatory.

**“Do I need to be in high school to apply for the Next Wave Committee?”**

Yes, you need to be enrolled in high school to apply for the TIFF Next Wave Committee. Please note: for applicants who are in their last year of high school and plan to pursue post-secondary education, you must be based in the GTA to participate on the committee as a post-secondary student.

**“Do I need a background in film or filmmaking experience?”**

No! You do not need any formal training or experience in film or filmmaking, but a love for film definitely makes the experience a fuller one.

**“I like ‘x’ type of movies; can I still apply to be on the Committee?”**

Yes! No matter what kind of movies you love, you can definitely apply to be on the Committee. Action, drama, comedy, obscure genres that we haven’t heard of - anything goes! The bigger the mix, the better.

**“How many people apply to be on the Next Wave Committee?”**

Generally we receive 60-70 applications for the Next Wave Committee each year and have 7-9 spots to fill depending on the number of graduating members. If you don’t make it this year, we encourage applicants to re-apply and/or volunteer with us!

**questions? need support getting this done?  
get in touch!**

**who:**

**Ikorō Sekai**

Manager, TIFF Next Wave

Toronto International Film Festival

**how:**

**e:** [nextwave@tiff.net](mailto:nextwave@tiff.net)

**w:** [www.tiff.net/nextwave](http://www.tiff.net/nextwave)

