

TIFF Next Wave Committee

2022-2023
Application Kit



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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 Spring, and the TIFF Next Wave Film Club, a series that brings young film lovers and creators together to explore all things film.

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, industry workshops and talks, a throwback Movie Marathon with timeless classics, the ever-epic kick-off at Battle of the Scores, and more!



what's happening at this year's TIFF Next Wave Film Festival?

Back in theatres for 2022, the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival runs **April 22–24**, with bold new films from around the world featuring diverse, authentic representations of youth on screen. Highlights include: the Opening Night film ***Slash/Back*** from Iqaluit-raised director Nyla Innuksuk, about a girl gang in Pangnirtung, Nunavut fighting off a mysterious alien force to save their community; ***Freda***, Haitian writer-director Gessica Génés's debut feature, about young Freda's journey to make peace with her family, stay close to her culture, and find herself along the way; Ukrainian director Kateryna Gornostai's ***Stop-Zemlia***, whose cast of non-professional actors explore friendship, belonging, and romance with transcendent authenticity; and the Argentina-set ***4 Feet High*** — the first-ever television series to play at the festival — about Juana, a 17-year-old wheelchair user finding her voice and exploring her sexuality.



Slash/Back (2022)

The festival also features a special **In Conversation With... Maitreyi Ramakrishnan**; a full day of industry workshops and talks at the **Young Creators Co-Lab**; a showcase of young film and music talent at **Battle of the Scores**; the **Young Creators Showcase**, a lineup of short films made by youth; and a Nostalgia Ultra Movie Marathon, with timeless classics like *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, *Slums of Beverly Hills*, and *Y tu mamá también*.

Check out everything that's happening at this year's festival at: www.tiff.net/nextwave.



what 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 Bell 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 committee 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 are also responsible for film introductions and Q&As. They get to know other film lovers and interact with people in the film industry, including TIFF staff and more! The committee meets every second 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**:

1. Fill in the [Application Google form](#) with all of your basic information.
2. Complete the meaty part, consisting of **one of the three** following options (a., b., or c.) Please send this part to us at nextwave@tiff.net

a. A "to-camera" intro

- i. Talk directly to the camera.
- ii. Tell us about yourself: what you're into, what you like.
- iii. Tell us why you want to join the TIFF Next Wave Committee.
- iv. Please include things you find exciting about the opportunity and what you think you could bring to it.
- v. Add anything else you want to share!

The video should be 1-4 (max) minutes long and can be shot on your phone or a fancy camera- it's up to you!

b. A personal essay introducing yourself

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

The personal essay should be typed and 1-3 pages.

c. A programmer assignment

- i. Put your film programmer hat on! Design a Movie Marathon for young people your age.
- ii. Choose a theme and 3-5 feature films that fit within the theme.
- iii. Support your ideas: why or how you chose your theme, why you selected these films, and what kind of audience your Movie Marathon would suit. As a Next Wave Committee Member that is an important part of your analysis.

The film programmer assignment should be typed and 1-3 pages.

deadline and submission details

Fill in the [Application Google form](#) + complete the “meaty-part” of your application (see above) and send it to us at nextwave@tiff.net.

**Applications are due Monday
May 23rd**

Submit by email to: nextwave@tiff.net



about TIFF

TIFF is dedicated to presenting the best of international and Canadian cinema to film lovers. Our vision is to lead the world in creative and cultural discovery through the moving image. What began as a 10 day film festival has grown to embrace programming 365 days a year. TIFF offers screenings, lectures, discussions, festivals, workshops, industry support, and the chance to connect with filmmakers from Canada and around the world.

In September 2010, the opening of our new home, TIFF Bell Lightbox, enabled TIFF to expand to truly become a creative, community and global leader, and one of the world's premier organizations in the discovery and understanding of film.

The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival is supported by The Shawn Mendes Foundation.

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 Spring and to tag as "youth-friendly" at the Festival in September. That takes up most of our meetings from July until April. Otherwise, we plan Film Club events for youth, 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 Bell 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. During COVID-19, committee meetings sometimes take place on Zoom.

"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, North York, Pickering 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 as long as you are in high school. So if you start in grade 9, you can stay right through to grade 12. 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 join?"

Yes, you need to be enrolled in high school to be on the TIFF Next Wave Committee.

"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 70-80 applications for the TIFF Next Wave Committee each year and only 5-9 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? feelings? need support getting this done?
get in touch!**

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