

## WINNERS OF TIFF–CBC FILMS SCREENWRITER AWARD ANNOUNCED



TORONTO – Canadian screenwriting team Tracey Deer and Meredith Vuchnich are the joint recipients of the **TIFF–CBC Films Screenwriter Award** for their feature project, *Beans*. Elyse Friedman’s murderous black comedy, *Better Now*, was awarded a Jury Prize.

The TIFF–CBC Films Screenwriter Award was created to support Canada’s diverse screenwriting talent and to fund the development of great Canadian screenplays. The Award is open to creators who are women, who are Indigenous, who are a visible minority, or who have a disability, and whose work reflects, represents, and reframes diverse perspectives at the centre of the Canadian experience.

“Writing *Beans* has been a labour of love, and we’ve been on a tremendous journey to get the script to this stage, so we are extremely grateful and thrilled to have it recognized by the jury and honoured with this prestigious award,” stated Deer and Vuchnich.

*Beans* tells the story of a 12-year old Mohawk girl who must grow up fast and become her own kind of warrior, during the turbulent summer of the 1990 Oka Crisis. The team will receive \$13,500, support from a script consultant, and complimentary access to the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival and TIFF Industry Conference in September.

On making the announcement, the jury said, “We were compelled by this intimate insider take on how a young girl and her family are affected by one of Canada’s most significant historical moments.”

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



Jury Prize winner Elyse Friedman will receive a cash award of \$1,500 and a complimentary pass to TIFF in September.

The decisions were made by a jury of screen-industry professionals: Mehernaz Lentin, Senior Director of CBC Films and Feature Film Pre-Licensing; Charlotte Mickie, Vice President of Sales at Celluloid Dreams; Danis Goulet, TIFF Canadian Feature Programmer; Magali Simard, Film Officer at the City of Toronto; and Kathleen Drumm, Jury Chair and TIFF Industry Director.

All screenplay applications were read and rated anonymously, without readers knowing the names of screenwriters. Projects were considered based on the quality of the script, the originality of the idea, story structure, dialogue and characters, and likely audience appeal and achievability.

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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 an annual economic impact of \$189 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, 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).

#### **About CBC Breaking Barriers Film Fund**

Offering new opportunities for filmmakers who have historically been at a disadvantage in accessing financing and making their unique voices heard, CBC Films helps finance English-language feature film projects that are written or directed by Canadian women, Indigenous persons, visible minorities and persons with a disability who have had at least one feature-length film showcased at a recognized film festival. Submissions are now being accepted on an ongoing basis with no formal deadlines. Further information and application guidelines are available at [www.cbc.ca/breakingbarriers/](http://www.cbc.ca/breakingbarriers/).

#### **About CBC/Radio-Canada**

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