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**NEWS RELEASE**

## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS ZOMBIES, RATS, CANNIBALS, KARATE KILLERS AND DEMONS... THIS CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING — MIDNIGHT MADNESS IS BACK!

**TORONTO** — Run for cover and grab your loved ones, Midnight Madness just unleashed its terrific lineup for the 41<sup>st</sup> Toronto International Film Festival®. From high-octane crime films, gruesome visceral horrors, to a creepy, hair-raising documentary, and nerve-wrenching thrillers, this year's slate will whet all appetites and leave audiences shocked, thrilled and checking under their beds before turning out the lights. Midnight Madness is generously sponsored by Cineplex Entertainment.

This year Midnight Madness welcomes back several alumni including **Adam Wingard** and **Ben Wheatley**; and exciting newcomers and heavy hitters **André Øvredal**, **Greg McLean**, **Colm McCarthy**, directing duo **Kimo Stamboel** and **Timo Tjahjanto** (*The Mo Brothers*), **Kōji Shiraishi** and **Julia Ducournau**; and for the first time at Midnight — **Paul Schrader** and **Morgan Spurlock**.

"Midnight Madness is the destination for those who love to sink their teeth into excessive, unrelenting, weird and wild films," said Colin Geddes, International Programmer for the Festival. "And this year we have the perfect fix for adrenaline junkies and blood thirsty fiends. Audiences can pick their poison from Paul Schrader's frenzied crime caper starring Nicolas Cage and Willem Dafoe, Iko Uwais as an ultimate killing machine, the ruthlessly violent *The Belko Experiment*, late night autopsies, insatiable cannibalism served French-style, a zombie dystopian thriller, and the long-awaited return of *Blair Witch*. Midnight Madness has you covered!"

Bloody fights for survival bookend Midnight Madness — opening with Ben Wheatley's hotly anticipated ***Free Fire***, starring Brie Larson, Armie Hammer and Cillian Murphy, and closing with the ultimate showdown between J-horror icons from *The Ring* and *The Grudge* in ***Sadako vs. Kayako***.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 8 to 18, 2016.

**Films screening as part of the Midnight Madness programme include:**

***The Autopsy of Jane Doe*** André Øvredal, USA World Premiere  
Tommy Tilden and his son Austin run a family-owned morgue and when the Sheriff brings in their next case — a 'Jane Doe' — it seems like an open-and-shut case. But as the autopsy proceeds, Tommy and Austin are left reeling as each layer of their inspection brings frightening new revelations and an unnatural force takes hold of the crematorium. Starring Emile Hirsch and Brian Cox.

***The Belko Experiment*** Greg McLean, USA World Premiere  
On what appears to be a normal day at Belko Industries, Belko employees are horrified when they find out that they've become guinea pigs in a company-wide experiment which will lead them to either kill their fellow employees or be murdered themselves. The experiment is masterminded by a mysterious voice which is controlling the loud speaker and instructing the employees to slaughter each other by any means necessary.

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**Blair Witch** Adam Wingard, USA

World Premiere

A group of college students venture into the Black Hills Forest in Maryland to uncover the mysteries surrounding the disappearance of James' sister who many believe is connected to the legend of the Blair Witch. At first the group is hopeful, especially when a pair of locals offer to act as guides through the dark and winding woods; but as the endless night wears on, the group is visited by a menacing presence. Slowly, they begin to realize the legend is all too real and more sinister than they could have imagined.

**Dog Eat Dog** Paul Schrader, USA

North American Premiere

*Dog Eat Dog* is a gritty contemporary crime thriller about a trio of ex-cons, deep in the underbelly of Cleveland, who are hired for a kidnapping. When the botched abduction goes awry and gets completely out of control, the cons find themselves on the run, vowing to stay out of prison at all costs. Starring Nicolas Cage and Willem Dafoe.

**Midnight Madness Opening Night Film**

**Free Fire** Ben Wheatley, United Kingdom

World Premiere

Justine has brokered a meeting in a deserted warehouse between two Irishmen and a gang led by Vernon and Ord who are selling them a stash of guns. But when shots are fired in the handover, a heart stopping game of survival ensues. Starring Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy, Michael Smiley, Sharlto Copley, and Armie Hammer.

**The Girl With All the Gifts** Colm McCarthy, United Kingdom

North American Premiere

A heart-stopping original Sci-fi thriller, about hope, humanity and a young girl who wants to save the world. Based on the critically acclaimed novel by Mike Carey. Starring Gemma Arterton, Paddy Considine, Glenn Close, and Sennia Nanua.

**Headshot** Kimo Stamboel and Timo Tjahjanto, Indonesia

World Premiere

The indomitable Iko Uwais (*The Raid*) stars in this fast and furious actioner as an amnesiac whose mysterious past as a killing machine comes to the fore when he takes on the henchmen of a vengeful drug lord.

**Rats** Morgan Spurlock, USA

World Premiere

Inspired by Robert Sullivan's *New York Times* bestselling book, *Rats* is a horror documentary that plunges into the darkest depths to expose human kind's most insidious parasite. Thriving in every corner of the globe, rats are harbingers of disease, death, and psychological trauma. In this film, exterminators, farmers, scientists, and even chefs bring us face-to-face with this complicated creature.

**Raw (Grave)** Julia Ducournau, France/Belgium

International Premiere

Everyone in Justine's family is a vet. And a vegetarian. At 16, she's a brilliant and promising student. When she starts at veterinary school, she enters a decadent, merciless and dangerously seductive world. During the first week of hazing rituals, desperate to fit in whatever the cost, she strays from her family principles when she eats raw meat for the first time. Justine will soon face the terrible and unexpected consequences of her actions as her true self begins to emerge...

**Midnight Madness Closing Night Film**

**Sadako vs. Kayako** Kōji Shiraishi, Japan

International Premiere

After viewing a legendary cursed videotape, Natsumi discovers she has only two days before she will be killed by the demonic entity known as Sadako. The only solution: pitting the demon Sadako against Kayako, an accursed spirit possessing a haunted house where everyone who enters disappears.

Purchase Festival ticket packages online 24 hours a day at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets); by phone from 10am to 7pm ET daily at **416.599.TIFF** or **1.888.599.8433**; or visit the Steve & Rashmi Gupta Box Office at TIFF Bell Lightbox in person from 10am to 10pm ET daily at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King Street West, until August 14 for My Choice packages and August 24 for TIFF Choice packages, while quantities last.

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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 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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**Midnight Madness is generously sponsored by Cineplex Entertainment.**

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