



August 13, 2019

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## 2019 TIFF MASTERS LINEUP ANNOUNCED

**Under new programming leadership, Masters presents latest offerings from emerging and returning auteurs, including the World Premiere of Arturo Ripstein's *Devil Between the Legs***

**TORONTO** — The Toronto International Film Festival® has revealed the 11 films that will comprise the 2019 Masters programme, with Brad Deane assuming the role of Lead Programmer. Deane continues in his role as Director of TIFF Cinematheque and as a member of the Festival's Platform Selection Committee.

Featuring films set in Asia, Europe, North America, and Central America, the Masters lineup has titles that run the gamut, from dramatic true stories to dark comedies, from a black-and-white narrative to a documentary film, with a healthy dose of introspection and socio-political commentary throughout. The slate will bring two World Premieres to Toronto.

"One of the most exciting things about leading the vision for this programme so far has been the opportunity to explore what defines a Master and the role that these directors play in pushing the future of cinema forward," said Deane. "I made it a priority to bring filmmakers into the fold that haven't previously screened in this programme so their films can play alongside some of the more established names. By looking at the films in the programme, it's apparent that mastering the form is only the jumping-off point for unique and powerful storytelling, and I am looking forward to the discussions that will emerge among Toronto audiences about what makes a master."

In ***Devil Between the Legs***, Arturo Ripstein directs a script written by his wife, Paz Alicia Garciadiego, about a warring old couple and their maid, who eventually takes matters into her own hands. Swedish filmmaker Roy Andersson will come back to the Festival with ***About Endlessness***, a series of vignettes documenting our lack of awareness.

American-Canadian Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin will premiere her latest documentary, ***Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger***, about the long struggle of Indigenous activists to ensure equitable access to government-funded services for First Nations children. British legend Ken Loach's ***Sorry We Missed You*** presents a bittersweet tale of the gig economy in modern-day England.

Marco Bellocchio's ***The Traitor*** is a biographical drama about Tommaso Buscetta, a mafia informant whose testimony led to the largest prosecution of the Sicilian Mafia in Italian history. ***To the Ends of the Earth***, the latest from Japanese director Kiyoshi Kurosawa, tells the story of an introverted travel-show host on assignment in Uzbekistan.

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There are five first-timers in Masters this year. ***A Hidden Life***, a portrait of Franz Jägerstätter, a conscientious Austrian who refused to fight for the Nazis in World War II, will mark American director Terrence Malick's first time attending the Festival in this category. Angela Schanelec's ***I Was at Home, But...*** chronicles the aftermath of a 13-year-old student's disappearance and his mysterious reappearance. ***Zombi Child***, from France's Bertrand Bonello, spans 55 years, jumping between 1962 Haiti and present-day Paris and dealing with the repercussions of colonialism. In ***The Whistlers***, from Romanian New Wave director Corneliu Porumboiu, a corrupt cop travels to the Spanish island of La Gomera, home to a secret whistling language. And Elia Suleiman stars in his latest film, ***It Must Be Heaven***, a dark comedy centred on a man who leaves Palestine only to find that his problems follow him everywhere he goes.

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

**Films screening as part of the Masters programme include:**

***A Hidden Life*** Terrence Malick | USA/Germany  
Canadian Premiere

***About Endlessness*** Roy Andersson | Sweden/Germany/Norway  
North American Premiere

***Devil Between the Legs*** (*El Diablo entre las Piernas*) Arturo Ripstein | Mexico/Spain  
World Premiere

***I Was at Home, But...*** (*Ich war zuhause, aber...*) Angela Schanelec | Germany/Serbia  
North American Premiere

***It Must Be Heaven*** Elia Suleiman | France/Qatar/Germany/Canada/Palestine/Turkey  
North American Premiere

***Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger*** Alanis Obomsawin | Canada  
World Premiere

***Sorry We Missed You*** Ken Loach | United Kingdom/France/Belgium  
North American Premiere

***To the Ends of the Earth*** (*Tabi no Owari Sekai no Hajimari*) Kiyoshi Kurosawa | Japan/Uzbekistan/Qatar  
North American Premiere

***The Traitor*** Marco Bellocchio | Italy  
North American Premiere

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**The Whistlers** Corneliu Porumboiu | Romania/France/Germany  
North American Premiere

**Zombi Child** Bertrand Bonello | France  
North American Premiere

Alanis Obomsawin's **Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger** was a previously announced.

For film synopses, cast lists, images, and more information, see [tiff.net/masters](http://tiff.net/masters)

Festival tickets go on sale September 2 at 10am (TIFF Member pre-sale August 31 from 10am to 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).

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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 Masters programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Canadian Council of the Blind.**

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

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