



August 9, 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

JOAQUIN PHOENIX TO RECEIVE TIFF TRIBUTE ACTOR AWARD AT INAUGURAL TRIBUTE GALA

TORONTO — Joana Vicente and Cameron Bailey, Co-Heads of TIFF, today announced that three-time Academy Award-nominated actor **Joaquin Phoenix** will be honoured with one of two **TIFF Tribute Actor Awards** at this year's TIFF Tribute Gala awards event. Taking place on Monday, September 9 at Fairmont Royal York, during the 44th Toronto International Film Festival, the Gala is an annual fundraiser to support TIFF's year-round programmes and core mission to transform the way people see the world through film, and to celebrate the film industry's outstanding contributors.

With a wide-ranging career spanning over 35 years, Phoenix has starred in such films as *The Master*, *Inherent Vice*, *Walk the Line*, *Gladiator*, *To Die For*, and *Her*. He has been nominated for three Academy Awards for his roles as Commodus in *Gladiator*, Freddie Quell in *The Master* and Johnny Cash in *Walk the Line*, for which he won a Golden Globe. This fall, Phoenix portrays the title character in Todd Phillips' *Joker*, a standalone origin story that will have its North American Premiere at TIFF.

"Displaying both raw instinct and consummate technical skill, Joaquin Phoenix is the complete actor, and one of the finest in contemporary cinema," said Bailey. "Over three decades, he has brought a piercing truth to each groundbreaking role. TIFF is thrilled to be celebrating an artist of his calibre with this inaugural award. We can't wait for Festival audiences to experience his electric turn in *Joker*."

"We're thrilled that the extraordinarily talented Joaquin Phoenix will be honoured at the TIFF Tribute Gala this September," said Vicente. "His outstanding contribution to cinema acts as a testament to TIFF's core mission to transform the way people see the world through film."

Director Todd Phillips' *Joker* centres on the iconic arch-nemesis and is an original, fictional story not seen before on the big screen. Phillips' exploration of Arthur Fleck, who is indelibly portrayed by Phoenix, is of a man struggling to find his way in Gotham's fractured society.

TIFF previously announced that **Meryl Streep** will receive the other **TIFF Tribute Actor Award**, sponsored by RBC. **Taika Waititi** will receive the **TIFF Ebert Director Award**, and **Participant Media** will receive the **TIFF Impact Award**, accepted by Founder and Chairman Jeff Skoll and CEO David Linde. In addition, there will be a special tribute to multi-hyphenate musician David Foster. The **Mary Pickford Award**, presented by MGM and honouring a female emerging talent in the industry in celebration of United Artists' 100th anniversary, will be given to a recipient to be announced shortly.

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



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

For information on purchasing a table for the TIFF Tribute Gala, please contact development@tiff.net.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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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.

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For more information, contact Emma Kelly, Senior Manager, Communications & Brand at ekelly@tiff.net or the Communications Department at 416.934.3200, or email proffice@tiff.net.

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