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NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL DOCUMENTARY LINEUP HIGHLIGHTS VIBRANT REAL-LIFE CHARACTERS

Slate includes films on Leonardo DiCaprio, Amanda Knox, Jane Jacobs, James Baldwin, John Coltrane and the "Sixth Beatle"

TORONTO — The Toronto International Film Festival's 2016 documentary programme presents a diverse collection of works from award-winning directors including Steve James, Raoul Peck, Errol Morris, and Werner Herzog, plus new talent telling stories in global hot spots such as Syria, Pakistan, and Myanmar. Leonardo DiCaprio is prominently featured in a rousing call to action on climate change in ***The Turning Point***, in collaboration with Academy Award winner Fisher Stevens. TIFF Docs is generously sponsored by A&E IndieFilms.

"Revelations abound in this year's crop of documentaries," said TIFF Docs Programmer Thom Powers. "We gain fresh perspectives on high profile figures such as James Baldwin, Amanda Knox and The Beatles; and we meet compelling figures from the worlds of activism, music, sports and, not to be forgotten, classic burlesque."

Esteemed nonfiction auteurs include Steve James with ***ABACUS: Small Enough to Jail***, which follows the prosecution of a Chinatown bank in New York City in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis; Errol Morris profiling a longtime friend in ***The B-Side: Elsa Dorfman's Portrait Photography***; Werner Herzog partnering with volcanologist Clive Oppenheimer for ***Into the Inferno***; and Raoul Peck bringing his cinematic version of James Baldwin's writing to life in ***I Am Not Your Negro***.

Breakthrough films by emerging female directors include Erin Heidenreich's ***Girl Unbound***, which profiles Pakistani squash player Maria Toorpakai Wazir; María José Cuevas' ***Beauties of the Night***, which examines aging Mexican burlesque stars; and Maya Zinshtein's ***Forever Pure***, focusing on an Israeli soccer controversy.

Activism is a strong theme across several films. ***The Ivory Game*** delves into the illegal African ivory trade, while ***Citizen Jane: Battle for the City*** explores our urban past and future through the lens of writer Jane Jacobs.

Music remains a vital topic in this year's programme: ***The Sixth Beatle*** is a portrait of the band's forgotten manager Sam Leach; ***I Called Him Morgan*** offers a new perspective on the murder of jazz trumpeter Lee Morgan; and ***Chasing Trane: The John Coltrane Documentary*** explores the life and work of the legendary jazz saxophonist.

Global headlines and recent history are explored in films such as ***Amanda Knox***, which offers an account of the American student accused of murder in Italy who made headlines around the world; ***The War Show*** takes a closer look at several years of the Syrian conflict; while Petra Epperlein and Michael Tucker's ***Karl Marx City*** focuses on the Stasi secret police in East Germany.

The 41st Toronto International Film Festival® runs September 8 to 18, 2016.

Films screening as part of the TIFF Docs programme include:

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The Sixth Beatle Tony Guma and John Rose, USA/United Kingdom/Germany World Premiere
This fresh take on music history argues for recognition in The Beatles' legacy of the early promoter Sam Leach. Leach was a working-class Liverpudlian who championed the group, but was eventually replaced as manager by the wealthy, posh-accented Brian Epstein. Interviewing Leach, the band's original drummer Pete Best and other Liverpool musicians, the film gives a touching portrait of a rock 'n' roll true believer.

ABACUS: Small Enough to Jail Steve James, USA World Premiere
Accused of fraud, Abacus Federal Savings of Chinatown, New York City becomes the only U.S. bank to face criminal charges in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, forcing its owners — the Chinese immigrant Sung family — into an underdog battle to defend their reputation and their community's financial way of life.

Amanda Knox Brian McGinn and Rod Blackhurst, USA/Denmark World Premiere
Twice convicted and twice acquitted by Italian courts of the brutal killing of her British roommate Meredith Kercher, Amanda Knox became the subject of global speculation over the decade-long case. Featuring unprecedented access to key people involved and never-before-seen archival material, the film explores the case from the inside out. *Amanda Knox* is a human story that moves past the headlines to examine the often fraught relationship between true crime tragedy, justice and entertainment.

An Insignificant Man Khushboo Ranka and Vinay Shukla, India World Premiere
Arvind Kejriwal is an activist protesting against India's government corruption when he decided to form a political party and take on the government directly. His main challenger was The Congress, one of the country's oldest political parties. With unprecedented access, this film follows Kejriwal as he tries to overcome his own shortcomings to convince the people of New Delhi that he is the honest politician they need.

The B-Side: Elsa Dorfman's Portrait Photography Errol Morris, USA International Premiere
Elsa Dorfman is a master practitioner of a rare photographic format, the large size Polaroid 20x24 camera. For three decades in her studio in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she took thousands of portraits, including those of accomplished friends like poet Allen Ginsberg and singer Jonathan Richman. Now in her late 70s, she opens her archives and her memories for this documentary by her longtime friend Errol Morris.

Beauties of the Night María José Cuevas, Mexico Canadian Premiere
Eight years in the making, *Beauties of the Night* is a captivating group portrait of iconic Mexican showgirls, still thriving with grace and style in their ostensible golden years. Their stories speak volumes about what it means to be a no-longer-young woman in a career grounded in physical beauty and erotic appeal.

Bezness as Usual Alex Pitstra, Netherlands North American Premiere
During the rise of mass tourism in the 1970s, young Tunisian men from poor families made it their business — or "bezness" — to romance women visiting from Europe. Among the children born from these relationships was filmmaker Alex Pitstra, who was raised by his mother in Holland and scarcely knew his father in Tunisia. In *Bezness as Usual*, Pitstra attempts to reconnect with his father and navigate the differences in their cultural attitudes and economic opportunities.

Chasing Trane: The John Coltrane Documentary John Scheinfeld, USA International Premiere
Revolutionary artist and innovator, John Coltrane expanded the frontiers of his craft by introducing elements from musical traditions the world over. *Chasing Trane* reveals the critical events, passions, experiences, and challenges that shaped the life of John Coltrane and his revolutionary sounds. It is a story of demons and darkness, of persistence and redemption. Above all else, it is the incredible spiritual journey of a man who found himself and, in the process, created an extraordinary body of work that transcends all barriers of geography, race, religion and age.

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The Cinema Travellers Shirley Abraham and Amit Madheshiya, India — North American Premiere

Once every year, travelling cinemas bring the wonder of the movies to faraway villages in India. Seven decades on, as their lorries and cinema projectors crumble and film reels become scarce, their audiences are lured by slick digital technology. Filmed over five years, *The Cinema Travellers* accompanies a shrewd exhibitor, a benevolent showman and a maverick projector mechanic who bear a beautiful burden — to keep the last travelling cinemas of the world running.

Citizen Jane: Battle for the City Matt Tyrnauer, USA — World Premiere

Jane Jacobs, whose classic book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* changed the way we look at and live in cities, would have celebrated her 100th birthday this year. This film explores our urban past and the future of cities through the lens of Jacobs, one of the 20th century's great public intellectuals, and a pioneering community organizer, whose campaigns against New York's master builder, Robert Moses, are the stuff of legend.

Forever Pure Maya Zinshtein, Israel/United Kingdom/Ireland/Norway — International Premiere

Beitar Jerusalem Football Club is the most controversial sports team in Israel. Loyal fans, known as La Familia, take pride in Beitar being the only team in the Israeli Premier League that has never fielded an Arab player. In 2012, team owner Arcadi Gaydamak, a Russian-born billionaire signs two Muslim players from Chechnya. Their presence turns La Familia into opponents of their own team and initiates an ideological contest with wide ripples.

Gaza Surf Club Philip Gnadt and Mickey Yamine, Germany — World Premiere

Trapped in “the world’s largest open-air prison” and ruled by war, a new generation is drawn to the beaches. Sick of occupation and political gridlock, they find their own personal freedom in the waves of the Mediterranean — they are the surfers of Gaza.

Gimme Danger Jim Jarmusch, USA — North American Premiere

Emerging from Ann Arbor, Michigan amidst a countercultural revolution, The Stooges’ powerful and aggressive style of rock ‘n’ roll blew a crater in the musical landscape of the late 1960s. Assaulting audiences with a blend of rock, blues, R&B, and free jazz, the band planted the seeds for what would be called punk and alternative rock in the decades that followed. Jim Jarmusch’s new film chronicles the story of The Stooges, one of the greatest rock ‘n’ roll bands of all time.

Girl Unbound Erin Heidenreich, Pakistan/Canada/Hong Kong/South Korea — World Premiere

Maria Toorpakai Wazir has spent her young life defying expectations. At age 25, she is an internationally competitive squash player. But in her family’s region of Waziristan, Pakistan, the Taliban forbid women from playing sports. This film follows Maria over several months as she represents Pakistan on the national team and carves her own identity, despite threats to her family.

I Am Not Your Negro Raoul Peck, USA/France/Belgium/Switzerland — World Premiere

With unprecedented access to James Baldwin’s original work, Raoul Peck completes the cinematic version of the book Baldwin never finished — a radical narration about race in America today that tracks the lives and assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Medgar Evers.

I Called Him Morgan Kasper Collin, Sweden/USA — Canadian Premiere

On a snowy night in February 1972, celebrated jazz musician Lee Morgan was shot dead by his wife Helen during a gig at a club in New York City. The murder sent shockwaves through the jazz community, and the memory of the event still haunts those who knew the Morgans. Filmmaker Kasper Collin examines the two unique personalities and the music that brought them together.

India in a Day Richie Mehta, India/United Kingdom — International Premiere

India in a Day is India’s largest crowd-sourced documentary: the story of a single day, October 10, 2015. The film is a unique document, capturing a remarkable range of characters and personal reflections on what it means to be alive in India today, submitted by individuals from across the country.

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In Exile Tin Win Naing, Germany/Myanmar World Premiere
Having filmed politically sensitive events such as the Saffron Revolution, Tin Win Naing fled his home country of Myanmar in 2009. Forced to leave his wife and children behind, he crossed illegally into Thailand, where he encountered the world of Burmese migrants toiling as plantation workers. Theirs is a world of exploitation and danger, but also of solidarity and resilience. This beautiful work of deeply compassionate first-person filmmaking is a testament to their struggle for justice.

Into the Inferno Werner Herzog and Clive Oppenheimer, United Kingdom/Austria International Premiere
Werner Herzog and volcanologist Clive Oppenheimer take a global journey for a meditation on volcanoes and their meaning, with stops in Indonesia, Ethiopia, Iceland and North Korea. *Into the Inferno* artfully blends reportage, history, and philosophy into a riveting cinematic experience.

The Ivory Game Kief Davidson and Richard Ladkani, Austria/USA International Premiere
The Ivory Game follows undercover intelligence operatives in Africa, Asia and Europe who are taking down the ivory cartels, as activists and rangers fight for the survival of the African elephant. As suspenseful as any thriller, the film follows a network of organized crime and corruption. The courage of these elephant advocates makes for a pulse-racing adventure with real-life urgency.

Karl Marx City Petra Epperlein and Michael Tucker, USA/Germany World Premiere
During the Cold War, filmmaker Petra Epperlein grew up in the German Democratic Republic — a.k.a. East Germany. Twenty-five years after its collapse, she returns to find the truth about her father's rumoured connections to the notorious Stasi secret service. Epperlein and Tucker tap into declassified Stasi footage to explore a world that has eerie corollaries to expanding government surveillance today.

Mali Blues Lutz Gregor, Germany North American Premiere
With her radiant voice and magnetic presence, Fatoumata Diawara is a rising star in world music. In *Mali Blues*, we follow her as she returns to her country to give her first home concert. Along the way, we meet other great Mali musicians: the Griot Bassekou Kouyaté, rapper Master Soumy, and Tuareg guitarist Ahmed Ag Kaedi, who fled the northern desert under threats by fundamentalists. The film is a powerful testament to their artistry and resilience.

Politics, Instructions Manual (*Política, manual de instrucciones*) Fernando León de Aranoa, Spain International Premiere
Against a backdrop of social cutbacks, unemployment and street protests, the Spanish government invites those unhappy with the system to organize their own party and run for election. A group of activists and university professors accept the challenge. *Politics, Instructions Manual* is the story of how Podemos was built. The documentary constitutes a practical manual about how to elaborate and communicate a political project in only one year.

Rodnye (Close Relations) Vitaly Mansky, Latvia/Germany/Estonia/Ukraine North American Premiere
Russian citizen and Soviet-born Ukrainian native Vitaly Mansky criss-crosses Ukraine to explore the experiences of his own large family after the Maidan revolution. They live scattered all across the country: in Lviv, Odessa, the separatist area in Donbass, and Sevastopol in Crimea. With his elegantly composed camerawork, Mansky gains a privileged view on a time of sweeping change.

The Turning Point USA World Premiere
From Academy Award–winning filmmaker Fisher Stevens and Academy Award–winning actor, environmental activist, and U.N. Messenger of Peace Leonardo DiCaprio, *The Turning Point* presents an engaging account of how society can prevent the demise of endangered species, ecosystems, and native communities across the globe. DiCaprio interviews individuals from every facet of society in both developing and developed nations who provide unique, impassioned, and pragmatic views on what must be done today to transition our economic and political systems into environmentally friendly institutions.

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The War Show Andreas Dalsgaard and Obaidah Zytoon, Denmark/Finland/Syria North American Premiere
Obaidah Zytoon and her friends journey through Syria to take part in the country's revolution. It is an experience that will change their lives forever as they witness Syria's spiral descent into civil war. In a highly personal road movie, we see a patchwork of epic, but real, human stories.

Water and Sugar: Carlo Di Palma, the Colours of Life Fariborz Kamkari, Italy International Premiere
A veritable journey through Italian cinema spanning Neorealism and "commedia all'italiana", to the Manhattan of Woody Allen. This film celebrates the great Italian cinematographer Carlo di Palma who marked the history of world cinema forever**.**

Previously announced documentaries include Brigitte Berman's *The River of My Dreams: A Portrait of Gordon Pinsent,* Hubert Davis' *Giants of Africa*, Nicholas de Pencier's *Black Code*, Hugh Gibson's *The Stairs*, Jaime Kastner's *The Skyjacker's Tale,* Dilip Mehta's *Mostly Sunny* and Fred Peabody's *All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and The Spirit of I.F. Stone*, and screening in TIFF Docs; plus Jonathan Demme's *JT + The Tennessee Kids* and Paul Dugdale's *The Rolling Stones Olé Olé Olé! : A Trip Across Latin America* for the Gala programme.

Purchase Festival ticket packages online 24 hours a day at 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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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.

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