

tiff

2018
Talent



“There has to be a little bit of ‘the rebel,’ because otherwise how can you create the new? How can you reinvent things?”

Juliette Binoche, Guest Speaker, 2014 Filmmaker Lab



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Talent drives the international film industry. It's an elusive quality that is sought after by everyone in the business.

Remarkable filmmakers, actors, screenwriters, and producers populate our screens with their compelling stories and performances. They shock, delight, terrify, and astound us. They are at the heart of every great film, bringing inspiration to the distributors, agents, sellers, and investors who gather around them in support.

We are thrilled to announce our 2018 TIFF Talents. These writers, directors, producers, and actors embody the charisma, determination, and ability that propels great storytelling on screen.

TIFF is committed to identifying, supporting, and championing the next generation of emerging creators by ensuring they have access to quality resources and mentorship opportunities. Diversity of perspective, voice, and storytelling is fostered through our professional development initiatives and supported by our trailblazing fundraising initiative, Share Her Journey.

A big thank you to all the sponsors, partners, donors, and collaborators who make our programmes possible. TIFF's Industry initiatives are generously supported by Ontario Creates and Telefilm Canada.

“It’s a great foot in the door... I’m so glad I did it.”

Tatiana Maslany, Rising Stars alumna



Tatiana Maslany won an Emmy in 2016 for *Orphan Black*. In 2017 she won the IMDb STARmeter Fan Favorite Award and starred in *Stronger*, which screened at TIFF. Her upcoming projects include Karyn Kusama's *Destroyer*, which is screening at the Festival; Guillermo del Toro's *Trollhunter: Tales of Arcadia*; and *Drunk History*, from Jeremy Konner and Derek Waters.

Rising Stars

TIFF Rising Stars empowers eight charismatic, promising young artists who are poised for international success.

They learn professional and business skills, enabling them to take charge of their careers, while their talent is showcased against the backdrop of the Toronto International Film Festival.

It's no surprise that Rising Stars from past years are featuring in some of the Festival's most highly anticipated films. Sarah Gadon, an alumna from 2011, appears in three films this year: Matthew Hannam's *Paseo*, Maxime Giroux's *The Great Darkened Days*, and Xavier Dolan's *The Death and Life of John F. Donovan*. 2014 alumnus Alexandre Landry stars in Denys Arcand's *The Fall of the American Empire*. From Rising Stars 2015, Stephan James stars in Barry Jenkins' *If Beale Street Could Talk*, while Karelle Tremblay leads Sébastien Pilote's *The Fireflies Are Gone*. And from Rising Stars 2017, Mamoudou Athie appears in Jason Reitman's political biopic *The Front Runner*; Theodore Pellerin features in Joel Edgerton's *Boy Erased*; and Jessie Buckley plays the lead in Tom Harper's *Wild Rose*.

These are the ones to watch.



Jess Salgueiro

is an actor, singer, playwright, and performance artist based in Toronto and LA. Her TV credits include recurring roles on *The Boys*, *The Strain*, *Workin' Moms*, *Mary Kills People*, *Letterkenny*, *Channel Zero*, and *Orphan Black*. She has recently appeared in the features *I'll Take Your Dead*, *Mary Goes Round*, *Instar Emergence*, and *No Sleep 'Til Christmas*. She stars in TIFF 2018 selection *MOUThPIECE*, directed by Canadian filmmaking legend Patricia Rozema. Salgueiro also runs an online feminist publication called *bitchesbewitches*.

Rising Star Aurora Fellow

CONTACT

Talent Patterson Canada,
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Devery Jacobs

was born in Kahnawà:ke Mohawk territory and is an actor and filmmaker. Known for her award-winning performances in *Rhymes for Young Ghouls* and *The Sun at Midnight*, Jacobs will soon appear in season three of CTV's *Cardinal*, the Netflix Original *The Order*, and season two of Neil Gaiman's *American Gods*. Jacobs also wrote and directed the short film *Rae*, which won Best Youth Work at the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in 2017. Devery will be in TIFF 2018's *The Lie* directed by Veenda Sud.

Rising Star Aurora Fellow

CONTACT

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Lamar Johnson

is a Canadian dancer and actor who is dedicated to building his craft and inspiring others. At the age of nine, he was cast alongside Jessica Alba in *Honey*. He has performed at the Apollo Theater in NYC and was a co-host of *Pop It!* on TVOKids. He has appeared on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, *Rookie Blue*, *Saving Hope*, and *The Next Step*. His film credits include *Kings*, alongside Halle Berry and Daniel Craig, *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*, and *Native Son*. At TIFF 2018, he appears in George Tillman, Jr.'s adaptation *The Hate U Give*.

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Michaela Kurimsky

is a Toronto-based actor, filmmaker, and professionally trained singer through the Royal Conservatory of Music. She graduated from Ryerson with a BFA in film studies. Kurimsky's eclectic repertoire and unique perspective on acting have allowed her to collaborate with Canada's new wave of independent filmmakers. She has mentored with Aaron Poole, John Gordon's *The Dirt Underneath*, and LS&CO Studios. She will make her feature acting debut in Jasmin Mozaffari's *Firecrackers*, which premieres at TIFF '18.

Rising Star Aurora Fellow

CONTACT

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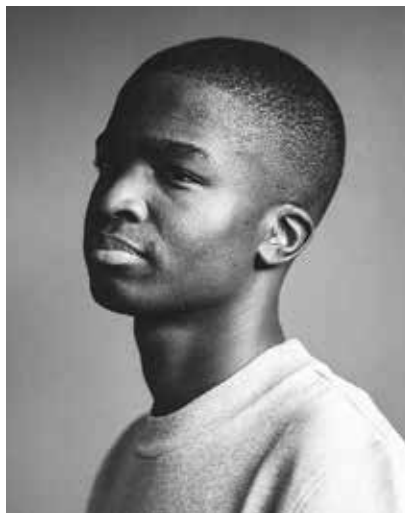


Ahmed Malek

is an Egyptian actor known for his roles in Mohamed Diab's *Clash*, which opened Un Certain Regard at Cannes in 2016, and Amr Salama's *Sheikh Jackson*, which premiered at TIFF in 2017. Other acting credits include *EXT. Night* by Ahmad Abdalla, which is premiering at TIFF 2018; *Gunshot* by Karim El Shenawy; and *The Guest* from Hadi El Bagoury. Malek will play the lead in *Montréal Girls*, from 2018 Filmmaker Lab participant Patricia Chica.

CONTACT

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Stéphane Bak

began his career as a comedian in Paris, producing his own shows in small theatres before moving on to such venues as Le Palace, Le Grand Rex, and the Casino de Paris. His film roles include Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar's *Once in a Lifetime*, Christophe Barratier's *Team Spirit*, David Moreau's *Alone*, and Paul Verhoeven's award-winning *Elle*. More recently, Bak has starred in Sebastian Schipper's *Roads*, André Téchiné's *Les Ennemis*, and Joël Karekezi's *The Mercy of the Jungle*, which screens at TIFF '18.

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Josh Wiggins

recently completed shooting Aaron Schneider's *Greyhound*, opposite Tom Hanks, and Paul Harrill's *Light From Light*, produced by Elisabeth Moss and James M. Johnston. Previously, he starred with Oscar-winner J. K. Simmons and Julie Delpy in Kurt Voelker's *The Bachelors* and in Harbinger Pictures' *Walking Out* alongside Matt Bomer. He made his TIFF and Cannes debuts in Nathan Morlando's *Mean Dreams*, with Sophie Nélisse and Bill Paxton. At TIFF '18, he will appear in *Giant Little Ones* opposite Maria Bello and Kyle MacLachlan.

CONTACT

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Eleanor Worthington-Cox

starred in the London stage musical *Matilda*, winning an Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical, the youngest-ever recipient. She appeared as Young Aurora in Disney's *Maleficent*, and in the British miniseries *The Enfield Haunting*, earning a BAFTA nomination. Worthington-Cox recently played the lead in Paramount Pictures' *Action Point*, and will appear in the Amazon Prime/Sky series *Britannia*. She plays the title role in William McGregor's *Gwen*, which premieres at TIFF '18.

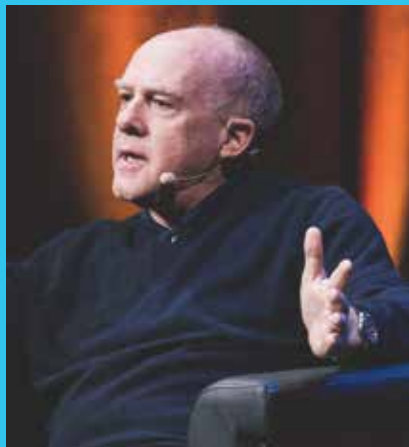
Rising Star Aurora Fellow

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“It’s always a thrill for me to meet new talent and have my mind expanded with their new ideas and points of view, while at the same time guiding them with my experience and perspective.”

Cassian Elwes,
2018 Governor, Filmmaker Lab



Filmmaker Lab

Each year the Lab brings together outstanding creators from around the world, deepening their understanding of the industry, and empowering them to move forward with their projects.

Since its inception, Filmmaker Lab has supported hundreds of directors to further their artistry and craft.

Renowned cinematic voices join the participants to provide inspiration, encouragement, and guidance. Mentorship is led by four distinguished Governors — producer Cassian Elwes (*Mudbound*), director Julie Dash (*Daughters of the Dust*), director William Oldroyd (*Lady Macbeth*), and producer Elizabeth Karlsen (*Carol*).

Filmmaker Lab (previously Talent Lab), has helped develop the careers of many creators, such as Michelle Latimer (*Rise*), Sherry White (*Maudie*), Pat Mills (*Don't Talk to Irene*), Jonas Carpignano (*A Ciambra*), Andrew Cividino (*Sleeping Giant*), and Joan Chemla (*If You Saw His Heart*).



Alex Anwandter

is a director, screenwriter, musician, and prominent queer activist from Santiago, Chile. In 2012, *Time* Magazine named him as one of 10 musicians poised for US stardom. His debut feature, *You'll Never Be Alone* (16), had its World Premiere at Berlin, where it won a prestigious Teddy Award. Anwandter's current project, *A Golden Shotgun*, tells the story of a young, upper-class gay man who faces off with his religious housekeeper when she disputes his inheritance.



Rodrigo Barriuso

is an award-winning Cuban-Canadian filmmaker based in Toronto. His short *For Dorian* (12) won awards at Inside Out, MIX Copenhagen, and the Torino Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Barriuso's debut feature, *Un Traductor* (18), premiered at Sundance and won Best Director at the Shanghai International Film Festival. His current project is *Epochal*, in which a transgender woman's self-determination and identity are challenged as she faces Alzheimer's.



Amie Batalibasi

(Kosi/Feralimae) is an Australian–Solomon Islander writer, director, and producer. She was the Sundance Institute’s 2017 Merata Mita Fellow and is a Berlinale Talents 2018 alumna. Her current project is a feature adaptation of her award-winning short film *Blackbird* (15), which explores the little-known history of Australia’s Pacific Islander sugar slaves.



James Brown

is an Australian-British filmmaker based in London. He spent a decade working in film acquisitions in the UK, the US, NZ, and Australia, before shifting to production, notably the award-winning film *Still Alice* (14) which garnered a Best Actress Oscar for Julianne Moore. He directed the children’s feature *You Can Tutu* (17) and the short *Failure to Thrive* (17). He is currently developing the feature *Black Cab*, in which a London florist is the only person who can stop a terrifying serial killer.



David Casademunt

is a writer-director from Barcelona whose work has won more than 60 international awards. His short *Jingle Bells* (07) was selected for San Sebastián, and his documentary *Rumba Tres: De ida y vuelta* (16) won Best National Documentary at In-Edit. He is currently developing his first feature, *The Beast*, in which a boy and his mother, who live alone in the country, notice an eerie presence watching them — and getting a little closer each day.

Participation supported by La Incubadora.



Patricia Chica

is an award-winning Latina Canadian director, producer, writer, and editor. Her work has garnered over 50 awards and screened at over 300 festivals. Chica is currently working on her dramatic debut feature, *Montréal Girls*, which tells the story of an Egyptian student who meets two women in Canada — after which his perceptions are shattered and his destiny revealed.

Temerty Family Fellow



Luis De Filippis

is a Toronto-based trans femme filmmaker whose work celebrates otherness and employs a fierce female gaze. Their work has played internationally at festivals such as TIFF and Rotterdam. Their most recent work, *For Nonna Anna* (17), won the Special Jury Prize at Sundance. Their current project, *Something You Said Last Night*, follows Ren, a young trans woman in her mid-twenties, as she navigates mounting tensions on a family vacation.

Francis/Edwards Fellow



Tracey Deer

is an award-winning Mohawk filmmaker. She was the co-creator, director, and co-showrunner of the critically acclaimed TV series *Mohawk Girls* (10–17). Her documentaries have won two Gemini Awards, and in 2016, she received the Birks Diamond Tribute Award. Deer is currently developing her first narrative feature, *Beans*, which tells the story of a 12-year-old girl torn between innocent childhood and delinquent adolescence during the Oka crisis of 1990.

Temerty Family Fellow



Georgia Fu

Georgia Fu grew up between Taiwan and the US. Her short film *Miss World* (17) won the Jury Prize for Best Narrative Short at New Orleans IFF. She is currently developing her first feature based on her short film *You Win USA Vacation Resort* (18), which tells the story of a young Chinese migrant factory worker who will do anything to achieve her American dream.



Jeremy Guenette

has worked as a writer, director, producer, and editor in both English and French. His first feature film, *Mia* (17), was awarded Best Feature at the Windy Awards in Manitoba. He is currently developing his second feature, *The Forest*, in which an estranged father seeks the truth after finding out his son is on the run as a murder suspect.

“The reason I like to come to Toronto is to get inspired.”

Darren Aronofsky, 2014 Lab speaker



Yuqi Kang

was born in Inner Mongolia, China. Her feature documentary, *A Little Wisdom* (17), premiered at Busan, SXSW, Karlovy Vary, and Shanghai, and was awarded Best Canadian Documentary Feature at Hot Docs. She is currently developing her first narrative feature, *May You Have a Good Time*, which explores the well-being of China's single-child generation.

Sara and Graeme Thomson Family Fellow



Cynthia Kao

is an award-winning writer and director based in Los Angeles. Her work includes the short film *Groundhog Day For A Black Man* (16) and the WhoHaHa web series *In The Kitchen* (17), featuring Mae Whitman (*Arrested Development*) and Jane Levy (*Shameless*). Kao has written for *Ground Floor* (13–15), CollegeHumor, and *Adam Ruins Everything* (15–). Her debut feature project, *The One*, is a romantic comedy about a co-dependent stunt woman who dates herself to figure out how to find her soulmate.



Jules Koostachin

is MoshKeKo Cree and a band member of Attawapiskat First Nation in Ontario. She is most known for *AskiBOYZ* (16), her TV series with APTN; the short documentary *NiiSoTeWak* (17); and the short film *OChiSkwaCho* (18). She is currently developing the feature film *Broken Angel*, which follows an abused woman who must face her greatest fear and choose between fight and flight.

Sara and Graeme Thomson Family Fellow



Giuliana Monteiro

is a Brazilian writer and director based in NYC and São Paulo. She has an MFA in filmmaking from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Her shorts have been selected by the Berlinale and other major festivals. She is currently working on her first feature, *Estrada para Livramento*, in which two estranged brothers embark on a journey through the south of Brazil in search of their younger brother.



Ng'endo Mukii

is a Kenyan filmmaker. Her film credits include the award-winning shorts *Yellow Fever* (13) and *Nairobi Berries* (17). She is currently developing her debut feature, *The Goat Sunday*, which tells the story of two sisters trying to survive an otherworldly battle between good and evil after they are sent to live with their estranged, hyper-religious grandparents in rural Kenya.



Mikko Myllylahti

is a writer, director, and award-winning poet from Finland. His feature screenplay *The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki* (16) won the Prize of Un Certain Regard at Cannes, was the Finnish entry for the Academy Awards, and has sold to more than 30 countries. His short film *The Tiger* (18) premiered at Cannes' Critics' Week. His directorial debut will be *The Woodcutter Story*, which follows a kind and optimistic woodcutter who is tested after an open-pit mine is unearthed in his village.



Yanillys Pérez

is a Dominican film director, writer, producer, and actor. Her feature documentary, *Jeffrey* (16), won the Dropbox Discovery Programme Filmmakers Award at TIFF; the FilmSlam Student Choice Award for Best Feature Film at Cleveland; and Best Feature Documentary at Trinidad+Tobago. Pérez is currently developing her first narrative feature, *Candy Town*, in which four young Dominican women commit armed robberies in order to buy luxury items they see advertised on TV.

Participation supported by DGCine -
Dominican Republic Film Commission.



Andrew Sala

is a filmmaker from Argentina. He has written and directed several shorts, including *Murder in Junin* (12), which won the Best Fiction prize at the Tampere Film Festival and the Prix Spécial du Jury at Poitiers. His debut feature, *Pantanal* (14), premiered at Warsaw. Currently, Sala is working on his second feature, *La Barbarie*, about an introverted teenager from the city who is sent to work on his father's ranch.



David Strasser

is a Vancouver-based writer and director. His recent projects are the award-winning feature *Delinquent* (18) and the documentary series *Against the Grain: A Guide to Nonconformity* (18). In 2018, Strasser was a JETS participant at the Berlinale and won the Telus STORYHIVE Banff Fellowship. His feature project *Jackrabbit* tells the story of sibling runaways who embark on a violent crime spree to avenge the man responsible for their mother's death.



R.T. Thorne

is a multi-disciplinary filmmaker based in Toronto. He has directed series for Netflix, Disney, Bell Media, Hulu, and Corus, earning him DGC and Canadian Screen Awards nominations. His short *The Time Traveler* (16) won Best Short at the Canadian Film Festival. He is currently developing his debut feature, *40 Acres*, in which a Black family of militarized farmers find themselves forced to choose between helping an outsider and defending their birthright.

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a modern interior space. In the foreground, there is a long, dark wooden table with several red plastic chairs tucked under it. The chairs have a unique design with a large oval cutout in the backrest. The table and chairs are set on a patterned rug. In the background, there is a large window with a dark frame, looking out onto a city street. A white, starburst-shaped chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is bright and contemporary.

COOL SPACES FOR EVENTS & MEETINGS

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Rati Tsiteladze

has directed and produced several award-winning shorts, which have screened at Melbourne, Tampere, Guanajuato, and Locarno. His short documentary, *Prisoner of Society* (18), was nominated for a European Film Academy Award. His current feature project, *The Empty House*, follows a 12-year-old girl caught in a whirlpool of conflicting emotions when her father returns from prison after seven years of absence.



Elad Tzadok

is an Israeli-Canadian director, producer, and editor based in Vancouver. His award-winning short film *Run* (16) screened internationally and was nominated at the 2016 Leo Awards. His first narrative feature film, *Wrath*, explores the generational impacts of systemic racism and examines a dark part of Canada's not-so-distant past.

“There are people
they’ve brought in who
are heroes — people
whose films you’ve
admired for years... and
you’re there in a room
with them, and you can
ask them anything”

Ian Harnarine, Lab alumnus







Ashley McKenzie's *Werewolf* won Best Canadian Film at the 2017 Toronto Film Critics Association Awards. In 2016 she won Best First Film by a Canadian Director and was nominated for Best Screenplay by the Vancouver Film Critics Circle.

“Women exercising their unique authorial voices in their own ways is where I see radical changes brimming in cinema.”

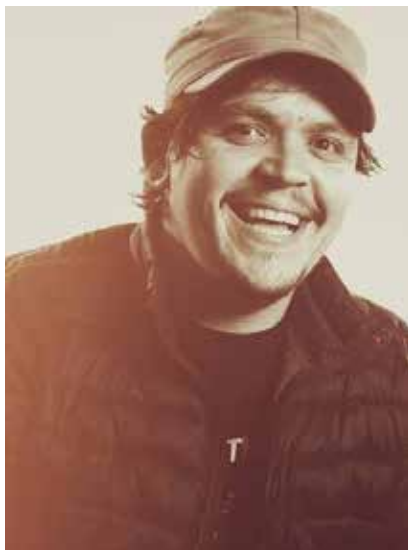
Ashley McKenzie, Studio alumna and Share Her Journey Ambassador

TIFF Writers' Studio

Our eight-month programme provides space for 12 mid-career Canadian screenwriters to consolidate their skills, exchange ideas, and discuss challenges in a collaborative and artistic environment.

This year's candidates are developing their chosen screenplay with expert support from international script consultants, Avi Nesher, Alicia Weston and Isabelle Fauvel.

Over the years, Studio has helped cultivate exciting new cinematic voices. Notable alumni include Pat Mills (*Don't Talk to Irene*) and Share Her Journey Ambassadors Molly McGlynn (*Mary Goes Round*), Joyce Wong (*Wexford Plaza*), and Ashley McKenzie (*Werewolf*).



Danilo Baracho

is a Brazilian-Canadian filmmaker who studied audiovisual communication at the University of Salamanca in Spain. He has written and directed five short films, which have screened at over 100 international film festivals. He is an alumnus of TIFF Talent Lab and Reykjavik Talent Lab.



Yung Chang

is the writer and director of *Up the Yangtze* (07), *China Heavyweight* (12), and *The Fruit Hunters* (13). He is completing a screenplay for his first dramatic feature, *Eggplant*, and in production for a feature documentary about Robert Fisk. Chang's films have screened at Sundance, the Berlinale, TIFF, San Francisco, Vancouver, and Hong Kong.



Martin Edralin

is a Toronto-based filmmaker whose films have screened at TIFF, Sundance, VIFF, and the Festival du nouveau cinéma. His film credits include *Hole* (14), which won a Canadian Screen Award; *Emma* (16), which screened at Canada's Top Ten Film Festival; and *Building History: The Story of Benjamin Brown* (16), which was nominated for a Heritage Toronto Public History Award. He is an alumnus of the Locarno Filmmakers Academy and Reykjavik Talent Lab.



Sarah Goodman

is an award-winning director, producer, and writer whose works have played at TIFF, IDFA, and Hot Docs. Her credits include *Army of One* (03), *When We Were Boys* (09), *Hidden Driveway* (11), and *Porch Stories* (14). She is an alumna of TIFF Talent Lab and Berlinale Talents. She is currently developing her next feature, *Lake 239*, while acting as consulting producer on a new scripted series.



Carinne Leduc

is an award-winning French-Canadian actor, writer, and director. She co-wrote and starred in her first feature film, *3 Saisons* (08), which was nominated for three Genie Awards, including Best Motion Picture. Leduc has directed a number of short films, music videos, and commercials and has two features in development.



Jennifer Liao

is a director, writer, and producer. Her credits include the social-media storytelling project *Crushing It! A Social Media Love Story* (10), the feature film *Sex After Kids* (13), episodes of the crime drama *Blood and Water* (15–), and *End of Days, Inc.* (15). Liao was a creative consultant on the TV adaptation of the Ava Lee novels.



Frieda Luk

is a director and writer. Her credits include *Delicacy* (12), which screened at Telluride and Tribeca, and *American Sisyphus* (12) and *The Encounter* (14), which both premiered at TIFF. In 2011 she was nominated for a New York Women in Film & Television award, and in 2013 she won a scholarship to study in France that was supported by the Carla Bruni-Sarkozy Foundation. Luk has an MFA in directing from Columbia and is an alumna of TIFF's 2016 Talent Lab.



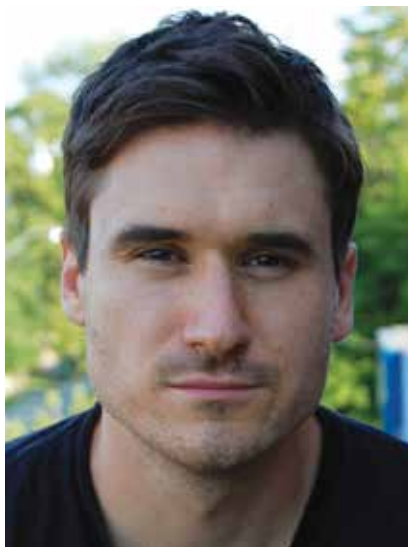
Kaveh Nabatian

is an Iranian-Canadian director and writer. He has spent the last decade directing and shooting films, music videos, and television series all over the world, including Montreal, Nunavut, Haiti, Mexico, and South Africa. Recent projects include a feature documentary about Leonard Cohen and collaborations with Arcade Fire, Leif Vollebekk, Kahlil Joseph, and Half Moon Run.



Celeste Parr

made her television debut writing for CBC's *This Life* (16), which earned her a nomination for a 2017 WGC Award for Best Writing for a Television Drama. In 2017, the pilot for her original drama series *The Brac* was selected for the TV writing program from the ATX Television Festival and The Black List. Parr is currently developing a TV show and several features.



Kazik Radwanski

studied film at Ryerson and co-founded the production company MDFF in 2008. His films have screened at Berlin, Locarno, TIFF, Venice, NYFF, and the BFI London Film Festival. His credits include *Tower* (12); *How Heavy This Hammer* (15), which was nominated for Best Canadian Film of the Year by the Toronto Film Critics Association; and *Scaffold* (17).



Lina Rodriguez

is a Colombian-Canadian filmmaker. Her shorts have played the Images Festival and NYFF, and her film and video installations and performances have been exhibited at Nuit Blanche. Her first feature, *Señoritas* (13), premiered at Cartagena. Her second feature, *Mañana a esta hora* (16), premiered at Locarno, was released in six cities in Colombia, and opened theatrically in NYC and Toronto.



Jorge Thielen-Armand

is a director and producer. His debut feature, *La Soledad* (16), premiered at Venice and screened at over 50 festivals, including Durban, where it won Best Screenplay. His documentary *Flor de la Mar* (15) won the Jury Award for Best Documentary Short at Cine Las Americas. In 2015, he founded La Faena Films with Rodrigo Michelangeli.

Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS!

Six teams of Canadian filmmakers have six minutes to pitch their feature-film idea to a live audience of industry experts and a jury of film professionals.

One of the most anticipated and popular Industry events during Festival, Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS! returns for its 20th edition.

The winning team takes home \$15,000 to help bring their project one step closer to production, with support from a script consultant.

Pat Mills' *Don't Talk to Irene* and Molly McGlynn's

Mary Goes Round are just two examples of projects that were pitched and went on to completion.

2018 Finalists

Hailu Mergia - When the Time Comes

Simon Ennis, Alex Ordanis

Decades after leaving behind a life of fame under a military dictatorship, Ethiopian jazz legend Hailu Mergia is rediscovered driving a cab in Washington, DC, and embraced by a new audience.

Jusqu'à la fin (A Moment of Pure Joy)

Charles S. Roy, Francois Blouin

A reluctant, legendary European filmmaker shooting a sci-fi Hollywood movie in Montreal. An international crew who barely speaks the same language. A headstrong young director. A missing lead actor. What can possibly go wrong?

Learn to Swim

Alona Metzer, Thyrone Tommy, Marni van Dyk

After a tragic and mysterious loss, a jazz musician tries to escape, only to find himself haunted by the painful truths of his past.

Saint Joan's Seven

Josh Epstein, Kyle Rideout, Katey Hoffman, Cheyenne Mabblerley

A washed-up wrestler meets his toughest match when he's forced to mentor the Saint Joan's Seven — a class of misfit, juvenile delinquent girls with a knack for violence.

The Incident Report

Julie Baldassi, Naomi Jaye

Miriam's world is interrupted when she receives a series of increasingly hostile letters from a mysterious author who casts himself as Verdi's tragic hunchback, Rigoletto, and Miriam as his murdered daughter, Gilda.

Wildhood

Gharrett Paon, Bretten Hannam

In this inspiring two-spirit coming-of-age drama, a rebellious Mi'kmaw teenager runs away from home to find his birth mother and reclaim his heritage.



Nikki Saltz

Micki Moore Residency

Canadian writer Nikki Saltz was awarded the inaugural Micki Moore Residency for her feature comedy screenplay, *Work It*. Her story tells of an overweight young woman who, after an episode of ritual humiliation, decides to liberate her fitness-instructor boyfriend from his controlling father.

Saltz is a comedy writer and story editor. She is the founder of the script consulting firm House of Stories and the creator of the web series *Slutty Book Club*. Saltz also writes and directs horror films and is serving as a story consultant for WIFTV's genre-writing incubator, *From Our Dark Side*. Her writing has appeared in *Chatelaine* and *Good Housekeeping*, and she won the Emerging Writer Prize in this year's What's Your Story? contest, hosted by the Ontario Book Publishers Organization and East End Arts. She is currently developing multiple comedy projects for film and TV.

SUPPORTED BY

MICKI MOORE



Jorge Manzano

TIFF–CBC Diverse Screenwriters Grant

Chilean-Canadian writer and artist Jorge Manzano was awarded the first-ever TIFF–CBC Diverse Screenwriters Grant for his feature screenplay *The Strike*. The award was created to support Canada's growing and diverse screenwriting talent. Manzano's political thriller is a dynamic page-turner full of twists, betrayals, daring escapes, and vivid scenarios. Set in 1973, *The Strike* tells the tale of a woman who must lead a band of leftist guerrillas as Chilean dictator Pinochet brutally sweeps to power.

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TIFF's Talent Development Team

TIFF Rising Stars

Natalie Semotiuk, Producer
Emma Bulpin, Associate Producer

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Jane Schoettle, Producer
Eloise Veber, Associate Producer

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Jane Schoettle, Producer
Brittany Allan, Senior Coordinator, Industry

Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS!

Niall Macpherson, Industry Programmer
Asiah Sunish, Coordinator, Industry Programming

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Micki Moore Residency / TIFF–CBC Diverse Screenwriters Grant

Kathleen Drumm, Industry Director

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Amira Abdellahi, Film Office Coordinator, Film Office & Event Production
Mckensy Hamner, Event Coordinator, Film Office & Event Production
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