

TIFF STUDIO CALLS FOR CANADIAN FILMMAKERS

Talent development programme will now focus on writer-directors

TORONTO — TIFF® announced today the call for participants for its industry development initiative, **STUDIO**. Now in its fourth year, for the first time the programme will shift its spotlight from producers to focus exclusively on talent development for Canadian writer-directors.

“We support Canadian screen professionals to develop their artistic skills, and to gain a greater understanding of trends and developments in the marketplace,” said TIFF Industry Director Kathleen Drumm. “As STUDIO continues to evolve, we’d like to offer this opportunity to writer-directors, who we recognize have unique creative needs.”

STUDIO will schedule monthly modules at TIFF Bell Lightbox between June 3, 2016 and January 21, 2017. Sessions feature guest speakers and renowned industry experts who will share professional knowledge and interact directly with STUDIO participants. Up to 10 writer-directors will be selected for the STUDIO programme, which is supported by the Directors Guild of Canada and co-presented by the Harold Greenberg Fund.

With an emphasis on feature filmmaking, STUDIO aims to strengthen storytelling skills while providing specialized mentorship to participants. The programme will cover development, adaptation, packaging and talent agents, working with actors and casting agents, the art of pitching, festival readiness, marketing and finance, along with a look at micro- to big-budget filmmaking. Selected candidates will also receive a complimentary Industry Pass for both the Toronto International Film Festival in September and the Canada’s Top Ten Film Festival in January.

Established in 2013, STUDIO has assisted 33 Canadian producers to elevate their projects and marketplace understanding through sessions with hand-picked industry experts. STUDIO alumni includes **Daniel Bekerman** (co-producer, *The Witch* by Robert Eggers); **Paula Devonshire** (producer, *Remember* by Atom Egoyan); **Karen Harnisch** (producer, *Sleeping Giant* by Andrew Cividino); **Floyd Kane** (producer, *Jean of Joneses* by Stella Meghie); **Matthew Miller** (producer, *Operation Avalanche* by Matt Johnson) and **Ingrid Veninger** (director-producer, *He Hated Pigeons*).

2016 STUDIO applicants must be in development (second or third draft) on a feature-length project or series and should submit a project to workshop. Successful applicants will be curious about all forms of media — film, TV, documentary, online, interactive and transmedia.

The deadline for STUDIO applications is Monday, April 25, 2016.
For more information about STUDIO, visit tiff.net/industry/studio.

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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

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