

## JUMP INTO THE FUTURE OF CINEMA WITH ONTARIO'S YOUNGEST FILMMAKERS

### TIFF highlights up-and-coming talent at the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase



Image Credit: Connie Tsang

**TORONTO** — This weekend, aspiring young filmmakers from across Ontario were celebrated and honoured at TIFF Bell Lightbox at the 17th annual TIFF Kids and 16th annual TIFF Next Wave Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcases. Filmmakers aged 8–18 screened their short films on the big screen and were judged in three divisions: Grades 4–6, Grades 7 & 8, and TIFF Next Wave, for high school students. This year's films were chosen from over 172 submissions to showcase the best and brightest young talent.

“It’s exceptionally rewarding to see the hard work of all these budding filmmakers,” said Theresa Scandiffio, Senior Director of Learning. “We feel incredibly honoured to be a part of their growth, learning process, and creative journey as they begin to develop who they are as artists and film lovers.”

“Providing these incredible young people with an outlet for their artistic vision is a big reason why we do what we do here at TIFF,” said Brigid Tierney, Manager, Youth & Community Initiatives. “Their voices are the future of filmmaking in Canada and we see their passion resonate and permeate throughout the industry.”

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



The showcase featured 16 finalists in the Grades 4–6 division, 9 finalists in the Grades 7 & 8 division, and 32 finalists in the TIFF Next Wave division. Both TIFF Kids divisions were adjudicated by British actor, writer, and director Anna Maguire (*Your Mother and I*, *The Sisters Tolchinski*); writer-director and Genie nominee Renuka Jeyapalan (*Big Girl*, *Arranged*, *Kim's Convenience*); actor and film composer Josh Cruddas (*Murdoch Mysteries*, *Cardinal*); and Kathy Shultz, set and puppet builder in stop-motion animation (*A Sea Turtle Story*). The TIFF Next Wave division was adjudicated by Morgana McKenzie, an award-winning director and cinematographer who has won over 40 awards, including the Canada 150 Award for Best Director from TIFF Next Wave Jump Cuts 2017; writer and actor Kevin Coughlin (*The Good Lie*, *Mean Dreams*); award-winning director and writer Joyce Wong (*Wexford Plaza*, *The Power of Love*), who was named one of CBC's "17 for '17 great Canadian filmmakers of the future"; and winner of the 2017 Jay Scott Prize from the Toronto Film Critics Association, Sofia Bohdanowicz (*Maison du bonheur*, *Never Eat Alone*).

Following screenings on Saturday, May 12 at TIFF Bell Lightbox, the below winners were selected:

The winners of the 2018 Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase are:

### TIFF Kids divisions

#### **Best Film: Grades 4–6**

*Life of a Dog*, dirs. Jack Hannah, Ciarrai O'Connell-Choi  
A boy switches places with his best friend — a dog!

#### **Best Film: Grades 7 & 8**

*Meena*, dir. Olivia Rock  
A young cat is rescued from the wilderness and brought into a foster home where she learns to trust herself and her new family, in this black-and-white animation based on a true story.

### TIFF Next Wave division

#### **Best Fiction Film**

*Cold Feet*, dirs. Dylan Gitalis, Tristan Kovacs  
Thomas wakes up in a black void and, as instructed by an unknown, deep voice, must make a series of decisions that increase in severity.

#### **Best Experimental Film**

*BOYS BEWARE*, dir. Callahan Bracken  
In recontextualizing archival footage through animation, *BOYS BEWARE* aims to explore the weight of social influences on male queer identity. In just over 60 seconds, the film highlights irony exhibited through homoerotic trends in platonic male relationships.

#### **Best Documentary or Animation**

*Wavy Head*, dir. Max Shoham  
*Wavy Head* is an honest account of the widespread journey of grappling with self-image, told through a mixture of interviews and animations that explore an extreme event.

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**Best Director**

*You Look Nothing Like Your Mother*, dir. Ava Young

This documentary explores the true meaning of family through a personal reflection of the filmmaker's relationship with her adopted mother.

For a full list of all participants, please visit [tiff.net/jumpcuts](http://tiff.net/jumpcuts)

TIFF prefers Visa.

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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 programme 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 Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, 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).

**TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto.**

**The TIFF Kids International Film Festival & The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival are supported by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Arts Council.**

**TIFF Next Wave is supported by the Slight Family Learning Foundation.**

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For more information on the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase please contact Kali Hopkins-Allen, Senior Coordinator, Communications, at [khopkinsallen@tiff.net](mailto:khopkinsallen@tiff.net) or (416) 599-8433 x 3306

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