

TIFF PRESENTS

# HIGHER LEARNING

## Emerging Filmmakers Talk Spiritual and Cultural Identity Participant Biographies

The Higher Learning staff curate digital resource packages to complement and offer further context to the topics and themes discussed during the various Higher Learning events held at TIFF Bell Lightbox. These filmographies, bibliographies, and additional resources include works directly related to guest speakers' work and careers, and provide additional inspirations and topics to consider; these materials are meant to serve as a jumping-off point for further research. Please refer to the event video to see how topics and themes relate to the Higher Learning event.

**Yosef Baraki** studied film and philosophy at Toronto's York University and Humber College. Acting as writer, director, cinematographer, and camera operator, Yosef filmed his first feature, *Mina Walking* (15), in 19 days with non-professional actors improvising in the busiest part of Kabul. The film premiered at the 65th Berlin International Film Festival where it competed for the Crystal Bear and the Best First Feature Award. It is the recipient of the Canadian Screen Award's inaugural Discovery prize for best feature film with a budget under \$ 250,000.

**Sofia Bohdanowicz** is an experimental filmmaker from Toronto. Her most recent collection of shorts focus on her great-grandmother's poetry and screened at the 2015 First Look Film Festival at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York, as well as at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in a retrospective hosted by the Polish Consulate in 2014. Bohdanowicz recently completed her first feature length film *Never Eat Alone* (14) which was supported by the Ontario Arts Council. She is currently in post-production on her second feature *Maison du bonheur* (15).

**Sherry Coman** is a writer, educator, and story editor. She collaborates with a range of writers and artists, and has over 30 years of experience in theatre and film. Coman has Master's degrees in theology and biblical studies from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Regis College, University of Toronto. She teaches film, visual culture, and new media culture at Humber College, as well as film and theology at the University of Toronto and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

**Alex Fensham** is a Toronto-based filmmaker, director, and cinematographer. Years of making films with his family's camcorder ignited Fensham's passion for telling great stories through images. He is currently in his fourth year of study in Film and Media Production at Humber College, and is looking forward to a future in the Film and Television industry.

**Patrice Laliberté** is a Montreal-based screenwriter and director. His short film *The Motor Cycle* (14) has screened at several festivals and was nominated for The Uppsala Award in Memory of Ingmar Bergman

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for pioneering productions by upcoming directors at the Uppsala International Short Film Festival 2014. His most recent production, *Overpass* (15), won the Short Cuts Award for Best Canadian Short Film at the Toronto International Film Festival, and was included in the Canada's Top Ten Film Festival. Laliberté's upcoming short film, *Late Night Drama*, will begin filming in February 2016 with his production company.

**Kevin Papatie** was born in Kitcisakik, an Algonquin community in the Abitibi region of Quebec. His many short films include *The Amendment* (07), *A world apart (Entre l'arbre et l'écorce)* (08), *Waseya Dizihin (Treasure of Light)* (10), and *KOKOM* (15).

**Sabchu Rinpoché** was born in Nepal. He holds a Bachelor's degree in film and media production, and has spent several years travelling and teaching. Rinpoché has studied Buddhist philosophy and meditation for over twenty years, and translates English, Tibetan, Hindi, and Nepali.