

TIFF CANADIAN SLATE OFFERS PEEK INTO COUNTRY'S CINEMATIC FUTURE WITH BOLD FEATURE DEBUTS ALONGSIDE NEW WORKS FROM FESTIVAL VETS

Lineup packed with exciting World Premieres, including Mary Harron's much-anticipated mini series *Alias Grace*, as well as new works by Alanis Obomsawin, Denis Côté, Kim Nguyen, Simon Lavoie and Alan Zweig.

TORONTO — Canada's filmmaking future is in good hands! The Toronto International Film Festival® unveiled today the 26 titles that make up the Festival's Canadian feature slate. Featuring a crop of provocative first features, this year's diverse and varied Canadian lineup boasts one of the highest numbers of feature directorial debuts ever, as well as one of the highest numbers of films from Western Canada in recent years. Over 30% of the titles have a first-time feature director, while seven out of nine are TIFF alumni.

This year's Canadian slate is bolstered by a number of titles from Canadian Festival veterans. Among these titles are: Alanis Obomsawin's *Our People Will Be Healed*; Alan Zweig's *There is a House Here*; Simon Lavoie's *The Little Girl Who Was Too Fond of Matches* (*La petite fille qui aimait trop les allumettes*); Mina Shum's *Meditation Park*; Robin Aubert's vérité zombie flick *Les Affamés*; Ingrid Veninger's *Porcupine Lake*; Pat Mills' high school misfit comedy *Don't Talk to Irene*; Oscar nominee Kim Nguyen's *Eye on Juliet*; Adam MacDonald's *Pyewacket*; celebrated director Denis Côté's *Ta peau si lisse* (*A Skin So Soft*); and Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier's previously announced *Long Time Running*.

Among the Canadian first features at the 2017 Festival are: Sadaf Foroughi's *AVA*, a superbly crafted drama about an Iranian teenager at a pivotal crossroad; Ian Lagarde's *All You Can Eat Buddha*, which follows a man's surreal impact on vacationers at a Cuban resort; Carlos and Jason Sanchez's *A Worthy Companion*, a psychological thriller about obsession and trauma; *Trailer Park Boys* star Cory Bowles' *Black Cop*, an arresting satirical exploration of police-community relations; Kathleen Hepburn's powerful family drama *Never Steady, Never Still*; Grayson Moore and Aidan Shipley's *Cardinals*, a disturbing look at the impact of a convicted murderer's return to her community; Wayne Wapeemukwa's *Luk'Luk'I*, a look at the denizens of an impoverished Vancouver neighbourhood; and Molly McGlynn's *Mary Goes Round*, about an addiction counsellor struggling with her own issues.

Two exciting titles making their World Premieres at the Festival are Mary Harron's *Alias Grace*, based on the award-winning novel by Margaret Atwood, written by Sarah Polley and starring Sarah Gadon, Anna Paquin and Paul Gross; and Sean Menard's *The Carter Effect*, on how NBA All-Star Vince Carter made an impact on Toronto.

Rounding out the programme are Kyle Rideout's winning comedy about eccentricity and high school *Public Schooled*; Tarique Qayumi's powerful Afghanistan-set drama *BLACK KITE*; and Matt Embry's shocking and poignant MS doc *Living Proof*.

The slate also features performances by multiple Canadian and international stars, including Sandra Oh; Sheila McCarthy; Don McKellar; Russell Peters; Evan Rachel Wood; Geena Davis; Sarah Gadon; Sarah Julia Stone; Scott Thompson; Judy Greer; Afghanistan's most prominent rising star Haji Gul; and beloved Chinese actress Cheng Pei-Pei.

"It is exciting to see a new wave of Canadian first-time feature directors play with genres and take risks," said Steve Gravestock, Senior Programmer, TIFF. "This year's lineup has a truly international feel to it, too, with a number of features shot all over the globe — something that also speaks to the boldness of many of the filmmakers included in the slate."

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



“We are thrilled to have a lineup with such a rich diversity of voices and perspectives,” said Magali Simard, Programmer and Theatrical Senior Manager, TIFF. “Not only are different regions of the country represented, but so are multiple age groups, backgrounds, languages and filmmaking styles. This lineup showcases the incredible wealth of talent currently at work in Canada.”

All 25 Canadian feature films at the Festival are eligible for the Canada Goose Award for Best Canadian Feature Film. All nine Canadian feature directorial debuts are eligible for the City of Toronto Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film. This year’s Canadian awards jury is composed of **Mark Adams**, Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival; Canadian documentarian and Hillman Prize winner **Min Sook Lee** (*Migrant Dreams*); and artist and filmmaker **Ella Cooper**, who is also the founder of Black Women Film! Canada.

The 42nd Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 7 to 17, 2017.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Eye on Juliet Kim Nguyen, Canada
North American Premiere

MASTERS

Our People Will Be Healed Alanis Obomsawin, Canada
World Premiere

TIFF DOCS

The Carter Effect Sean Menard, Canada/USA
World Premiere

Living Proof Matt Embry, Canada
World Premiere

There is a House Here Alan Zweig, Canada
World Premiere

DISCOVERY

A Worthy Companion Carlos Sanchez, Jason Sanchez, Canada
World Premiere

All You Can Eat Buddha Ian Lagarde, Canada
World Premiere

AVA Sadaf Foroughi, Iran/Canada/Qatar
World Premiere

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



Black Cop Cory Bowles, Canada
World Premiere

Cardinals Grayson Moore, Aidan Shipley, Canada
World Premiere

Luk'Luk'I Wayne Wapeemukwa, Canada
World Premiere

Mary Goes Round Molly McGlynn, Canada
World Premiere

Never Steady, Never Still Kathleen Hepburn, Canada
World Premiere

CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA

BLACK KITE Tarique Qayumi, Canada/Afghanistan
World Premiere

Don't Talk to Irene Pat Mills, Canada
World Premiere

Les Affamés Robin Aubert, France/Canada
World Premiere

Meditation Park Mina Shum, Canada
World Premiere

Porcupine Lake Ingrid Veninger, Canada
World Premiere

Public Schooled Kyle Rideout, Canada
World Premiere

Pyewacket Adam MacDonald, Canada
World Premiere

The Little Girl Who Was Too Fond of Matches (*La petite fille qui aimait trop les allumettes*) Simon Lavoie, Canada
World Premiere

PRIMETIME

Alias Grace Mary Harron, Canada/USA
World Premiere

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



WAVELENGTHS

PROTOTYPE Blake Williams, Canada
North American Premiere

Ta peau si lisse (*A Skin so Soft*) Denis Côté, Canada/Switzerland
North American Premiere

Previously announced Canadian features at the Festival include Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier's *Long Time Running* (Gala) and Seth A. Smith's *The Crescent* (Midnight Madness).

For film synopses, cast lists, images and more information, see tiff.net/tiff

Festival ticket packages start at \$105. Purchase packages online at tiff.net/tickets, by phone (416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433), or in person at TIFF Bell Lightbox until August 13 while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

Social Media:

@TIFF_NET

#TIFF17

Facebook.com/TIFF

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.

The Toronto International Film Festival is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Ontario, Telefilm Canada and the City of Toronto.

The Special Presentations Programme is generously sponsored by Canada Goose.

The TIFF Docs Programme is generously sponsored by A+E IndieFilms.

The Contemporary World Cinema programme is generously sponsored by Sun Life Financial.

Wavelengths is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts

-30-

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



For information on the Festival's Canadian lineup, contact Daniela Ponce, Festival Publicist, at 416 599 8433 x. 2686 or email dponce@tiff.net

For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.

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

TIFF Bell Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King Street West, Toronto ON Canada M5V 3X5 416-599-TIFF / 1-888-599-8433

tiff.net

*Toronto International Film Festival Inc. Charitable Registration # 11930 4541 RR0001