

KIDS AND FAMILIES DIVE INTO A NEW REALITY WITH DIGIPLAYSPACE

Warm up this winter by kicking off TIFF's season of kids' programming with the mixed reality-themed interactive playground



Courtesy of Connie Tsang

TORONTO — TIFF is inviting families to come in from the cold and get moving with physical, virtual and mixed reality learning-based activities. Parents and kids can feel the thrill of creating original music by moving their bodies, transform interactive sculptures with the touch of a hand and witness a machine draw a picture based on how it feels. All of these unique adventures are coming to the seventh annual **digiPlaySpace** at TIFF Bell Lightbox from **February 17 to April 22, 2018**.

The award-winning, globally-touring interactive playground for kids showcases hands-on games and installations from acclaimed Canadian and international new media artists. The exhibition features interactive games, mind-bending augmented-reality installations, and innovative coding activities that showcase the creative potential of new technologies. digiPlaySpace, opening just in time for Family Day, kicks off TIFF's season of kids' programming which also includes the 2018 TIFF Kids International Film Festival taking place at TIFF Bell Lightbox from March 9 to 18.

"We live in an increasingly digital world, where the lines between what is real and what is virtual get blurry quickly," said Piers Handling, Director and CEO of TIFF. "digiPlaySpace empowers kids and adults by creating a space to explore this blurriness in a fun

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and thoughtful way. The exhibition shows people different ways to interact with technology that explore our relationship to these new media, and help learn how to use them for self-expression and collaboration.”

“digiPlaySpace is an interactive playground designed specifically for kids,” said Matt Nish-Lapidus, curator, digiPlaySpace. “It’s an open space that inspires playful experiences and concepts that support the use of technology as a means of creative expression and storytelling across different media. Both children and adults will come away with new experiences, and new ways to think about how we interact with and relate to media and technology in our daily lives.”

The lineup includes 21 highly interactive installations with artists from 12 countries. Many of them involve integrating the participant directly into the installation. Mesmerizing **Mas que la cara** uses facial recognition to transform the viewer’s face into a mask generated by an algorithm and showcases a blended image of the real face with virtual constructs. Torontonians will be able to try it out as they pass TIFF Bell Lightbox, with the installation accessible from the building’s King St window. **Mizaru** allows kids to control music and alter a virtual sculpture through touch. Kids can also see their own image reflected in the style of classical artwork thanks to the machine learning of **Style Transfer Mirrors**. The system has learned the styles of three famous artists and paints what it sees in real time.

Additional highlights include the **Sketch Aquarium**, which allows kids to draw a fun sea creature, scan it, then watch it spring to life before their eyes in a massive virtual aquarium. The fascinating **Mindfulness Machine** uses sensor and camera inputs to compute an emotional state, then draws a picture based on how it feels. Each image created is entirely unique and based on the surrounding environment. Kids can also explore concepts of collaborative play via **Trente pas entre terre et ciel 2018** by Heather Kelley, Them Games, and Pamela Stickney. In this interactive, full body hopscotch experience, participants work their way across the play surface, sometimes racing, sometimes crossing paths while an original musical score responds to their every movement.

Two touring versions of digiPlaySpace are currently being showcased at the Buffalo Museum of Science in the US and at Eureka! The National Children’s Museum in the UK.

digiPlaySpace is curated by Matt Nish-Lapidus. The full lineup with links is below.

2018 digiPlaySpace lineup

AR Experiments – YesYesNo | USA

A Tiny Technicolour World – Veronica Classen | Canada

Connecting! Train Blocks – teamLab | Japan/USA

Dance with fIARmingos – Kristin Lucas | USA

Everything Machine – Tinybop | USA

Gruffalo Spotter – Nexus Studios | UK

Hammering – teamVoid | South Korea

Hopscotch: Make Games – Hopscotch | USA

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Hidden Folks – Adriaan de Jongh | The Netherlands

Kaleidoscope – Karina Smigla-Bobinski | Germany/Poland

Mas que la cara – YesYesNo | USA

Mizaru – Purring Tiger | USA

RotoRing – Gregory Kogos | Israel/Ukraine

Sago Mini World – Sago Mini | Canada

Sketch Aquarium – teamLab | Japan/USA

Sound-Controlled Intergalactic Teddybear – Støj | Denmark

Style Transfer Mirrors – Gene Kogan | Russia/USA

SUN – Philip Schuette | Germany/The Netherlands

The Mindfulness Machine – Seb Lee-Delisle | UK

Trente pas entre terre et ciel 2018 – Heather Kelley, Them Games, and Pamela Stickney | USA

Wilderness Wiggle – Chris O'Shea and Nexus Studios | UK/USA

Tickets for digiPlaySpace go on sale **January 10 at 10am** for TIFF Members, and **January 17 at 10am** to the public. Entry to digiPlaySpace is \$11 on weekdays and \$13 on weekends and holidays; TIFF Members get in for free and have access to a preview day on Friday, February 16.

The 21st TIFF Kids International Film Festival takes place at TIFF Bell Lightbox from **March 9 to 18**. Tickets for the TIFF Kids Festival go on sale **February 14 at 10am** for TIFF Members, and **February 21 at 10am** for the public. Programming for the 21st edition of will be announced in February.

TIFF prefers Visa.

Social:

#TIFFKids

tiff.net/kids

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
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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 Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, 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.

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For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.
For images and artist bios, visit tiff.net/press.

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