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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **STRAIGHT TO THE HEART: TIFF KIDS AND TIFF NEXT WAVE SELECTIONS TACKLE ESSENTIAL STORIES FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES**

**New lineups selected for the young and the young at heart that address representation, champion new voices, and take no prisoners**

**TORONTO** – The kids are all right if the TIFF Kids and TIFF Next Wave selections, announced today by the Toronto International Film Festival®, are any indication. Film lovers of all ages and interests will find electric new voices, radical perspectives, and mesmerizing coming-of-age stories to enjoy all Festival long.

The TIFF Kids selection, curated by Jennifer Barkin, Senior Programming Manager, TIFF Kids, features four films that will take young audiences and families around the world. TIFF Kids offers entertainment and a new way to approach difficult subjects within a context accessible to children.

“Selected with our youngest cinephiles in mind, these films provide an opportunity to talk about difficult yet important topics, including immigration, fear, and perseverance, in accessible ways,” said Jennifer Barkin. “They ignite conversation, not just about their love of film, but also to help them make sense of the world around them. At their core, the hearts of these films are the young protagonists relatable for audiences of all ages.”

This year’s selection includes ***The Elephant Queen***, a fascinating documentary following the elephant Athena and her herd, narrated by Chiwetel Ejiofor; ***Icebox***, based on an award-winning short of the same name that follows a twelve-year-old Honduran, Oscar, who faces the harsh reality of navigating immigration after fleeing gang violence in his hometown; ***Minuscule – Mandibles From Far Away***, a story of a young ladybug who works to save the rainforest after being swept away on a grand adventure; and the stunningly animated ***Tito and the Birds***, which follows ten-year-old Tito on his quest to learn more about birds as his town faces a strange new affliction that makes people sick when they get scared.

This year’s TIFF Next Wave lineup features 11 titles selected by the TIFF Next Wave committee, a group of young film aficionados responsible for picking the films they believe their peers would most enjoy. From the Ethiopian civil war (***Fig Tree***) to the Closing Night Film of Midnight Madness (***Diamantino***), Next Wave champions new and diverse voices. This year’s lineup boasts five films helmed by women and eight feature filmmaking debuts, including the world premieres of Jonah Hill’s nostalgic coming of age film, ***Mid90s***, and Jasmin Mozaffari’s skillfully tenacious ***Firecrackers***, made by an almost entirely female key crew.

“Film is witnessing an emergence of creators and storytellers whose voices have long been underutilized or ignored,” said TIFF Next Wave committee member Chloe Bhumgara. “In our lineup, we have selected diverse stories that exemplify both the multitudinous nature of the coming-of-age experience and its universal struggles. The beauty of cinema is its ability to remind us of our common humanity and evoke empathy for

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those in radically different situations than those we know in our own lives. These 11 stories, all from unique perspectives, provide visibility for a number of different coming-of-age experiences, which we hope allows our audiences to feel seen.”

For more information about the lineups, film synopses, cast lists, and images, see [tiff.net/kidstiff18](http://tiff.net/kidstiff18) and [tiff.net/nextwavetiff18](http://tiff.net/nextwavetiff18).

The 43rd Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 6 to 16, 2018.

**Films screening as part of the TIFF Kids selection include:**

***The Elephant Queen*** Victoria Stone, Mark Deeble | United Kingdom/Kenya  
World Premiere (TIFF Docs)  
*Recommended for ages 7+*

***Icebox*** Daniel Sawka | USA  
World Premiere (Discovery)  
*Recommended for ages 11+*

***Minuscule – Mandibles From Far Away*** (*Minuscule – Les Mandibules du Bout du Monde*) Thomas Szabo, Hélène Giraud | France  
World Premiere (Contemporary World Cinema)  
*Recommended for ages 6+*

***Tito and the Birds*** (*Tito e os Pássaros*) Gustavo Steinberg, Gabriel Bitar, André Catoto | Brazil  
North American Premiere (Discovery)  
*Recommended for ages 8+*

**Films screening as part of the TIFF Next Wave selection include:**

***Diamantino*** Gabriel Abrantes, Daniel Schmidt | Portugal/France/Brazil  
North American Premiere (Midnight Madness)

***Fig Tree*** Aäläm-Wärqe Davidian | Israel/Germany/France/Ethiopia  
World Premiere (Discovery)

***Firecrackers*** Jasmin Mozaffari | Canada  
World Premiere (Discovery)

***Giant Little Ones*** Keith Behrman | Canada  
World Premiere (Special Presentations)

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**Girl** Lukas Dhont | Belgium  
Canadian Premiere (Discovery)

**The Grizzlies** Miranda de Pencier | Canada  
World Premiere (Special Presentations)

**The Hate U Give** George Tillman, Jr. | USA  
World Premiere (Gala Presentations)

**Mid90s** Jonah Hill | USA  
World Premiere (Special Presentations)

**Phoenix (Føniks)** Camilla Strøm Henriksen | Norway/Sweden  
World Premiere (Discovery)

**Rafiki** Wanuri Kahiu | Kenya/South Africa/France/Lebanon/Norway/Netherlands/Germany/USA  
North American Premiere (Discovery)

**Teen Spirit** Max Minghella | United Kingdom  
World Premiere (Special Presentations)

The 2018 Toronto International Film Festival Official Film Schedule was released today and is available at TIFF Bell Lightbox or at [tiff.net/schedule](http://tiff.net/schedule).

Festival tickets go on sale September 3 at 10am (with TIFF Member pre-sale on September 1 from 10am to 4pm). Buy tickets online at [tiff.net](http://tiff.net), by phone at 416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433, or in person at a box office. See box office locations and hours at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets). Enjoy daytime Festival screenings on weekdays for \$10 if you're 25 or under!

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 program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$189 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors

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

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

**The TIFF Docs Programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of A&E IndieFilms.**

**The Gala programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Fairmont Hotels & Resorts.**

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For images visit the media site at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

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