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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## WHAT'S NEXT: FIRST-TIME FILMMAKERS, FEARLESS PROTAGONISTS, AND FIERCE YOUTH

The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival celebrates the stories that matter to today's youth — FREE for attendees under 25



**TORONTO** — New voices, perspectives, and stories take centre stage at TIFF Bell Lightbox this February. The **TIFF Next Wave Film Festival™** is back and bolder than ever, featuring seven first-feature filmmakers and showcasing new, diverse voices. Running from **February 16 to 18, 2018**, TIFF Next Wave brings the heat with a day of filmmaking workshops and panels designed for young creators; an awesome party; the coolest people you'll ever meet; and, most importantly, all regular screenings and Movie Marathon titles are **FREE for anyone under 25!**

The festival, now in its seventh year, brings back a weekend jam-packed with a stellar film lineup and thrilling programming, including the always electric **Battle of the Scores** — hosted this year by the Rivoli's biggest fans: Matt Johnson and Jay McCarrol (*VICELAND's nirvana the band the show*); **24-Hour Film Challenge**; **Heat (🔥) Movie Marathon**; an exclusive **In Conversation With... Amandla Stenberg** and the return of the wildly successful **Young Creators Co-Lab**, a full-day of programming tailored exclusively for young creators interested in exploring the world of film and filmmaking. Whether it's reveling in the nostalgia of the Movie Marathon, or flipping through the official Next Wave Zine, TIFF Bell Lightbox is the place to be.

This year's film highlights include Anton Yelchin's final film, **Thoroughbreds** (2016), about two upper-class teenage girls in suburban Connecticut rekindling their friendship to solve both of their problems, no matter the cost; the award-winning, Thai box office-breaking heist thriller **Bad Genius** (2017), inspired by the real-life news of students cheating on the SAT; **A Kid from Somewhere** (2017), a short documentary featuring Olivia Bee, Pat O'Rourke — who will be in attendance to host an extended panel about their work and respective journeys as photographers and creators — and LA Timpa; and Helen Hegemann's volatile, impulse-driven directorial debut, **Axolotl Overkill** (2017), about a girl who refuses to concede or conform to adult convention.

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

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TIFF's popular **In Conversation With...** series joins the TIFF Next Wave lineup, featuring actress **Amandla Stenberg** in an intimate onstage discussion on **February 15**. A leading voice of her generation in the film industry and beyond, Amandla Stenberg has found success in blockbuster film franchises such as *The Hunger Games* and powerful independent films like *As You Are*, *Everything, Everything*, and the highly anticipated *The Hate U Give*. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see one of the most influential emerging creators and activists in person, as Amandla discusses her meteoric rise to stardom as well as her boundary-pushing work with fellow gender-nonconforming young adults on essential initiatives such as the Art Hoe Collective, which aims to create space for queer POC artists.

As always, this festival is steered by the TIFF Next Wave Committee, an advisory team made up of 12 youth from across the GTA who are dedicated to bringing quality film programming and film-related events to young film lovers across the city. The committee carefully curates not just what young people want to see, but what they should be seeing and to which new voices they should be listening.

"TIFF Next Wave, championed by 12 incredibly gifted and passionate young people, not only shows great films that capture the complexity of young people across the world, but demonstrates how young voices resonate throughout the film industry," said Brigid Tierney, Manager, Youth and Community Initiatives. "Their voices and vision are essential to what we do at TIFF, and what the future of filmmaking looks like: politically aware, diverse, bold, smart and fun."

"Come to TIFF Next Wave to support creators doing incredible work in this industry. Come to meet like minded people and explore new interests. Most of all, come to see yourself honestly and genuinely represented on screen," said Chloe Bhumgara, Next Wave Committee member.

"TIFF Next Wave is here because we want to expand the context of young people in film. We want to program a festival with diversity onscreen and off. That means having events besides screenings, like our party or the 24-Hour Film Challenge. Next Wave isn't just films, it's community," said Nara Wrigglesworth, Next Wave Committee member. "The films at Next Wave acknowledge what teens are actually like, that we are smart and capable and way more interesting than what some Hollywood exec thinks."

The hottest Movie Marathon yet is sure to keep new audiences on the edge of their seats and returning audiences running back to their favourites. The marathon features a rare opportunity to see the 1991 documentary *Paris is Burning* on the big screen, lauded for its representation of drag culture, accompanied by a live vogue performance; *Bring it On* (2000), the iconic cheer-classic that brought Spirit Fingers to the mainstream; and Matthew McConaughey's big-screen — and infamous catch-phrase — debut in Richard Linklater's *Dazed and Confused* (1993).

Special guests will be announced in the coming weeks on [tiff.net/nextwave](http://tiff.net/nextwave).

Tickets for the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival go on sale **today** to TIFF Members and to the public on **January 17 at 10am**. Pricing as follows: Regular film screenings and the Heat (🔥) Movie Marathon are FREE to youth under 25 or with valid student identification if over 25 (Battle of the Scores and Opening Night Party, and special screenings \$11.50); adults \$14 and students/seniors \$11.50. TIFF Next Wave Young Creators Co-Lab full-day ticket \$15, Class Drop-In Pass \$5 per event. TIFF Next Wave 24-Hour Film Challenge \$40. In Conversation With... Amandla Stenberg ticket \$11.50 for anyone under 25 or with a valid student ID, \$23.75 adults/seniors. For more information on screenings and activities or to purchase tickets, please visit [tiff.net/nextwave](http://tiff.net/nextwave), call 416.599.TIFF (8433) or 1.888.599.8433 or visit the box office at TIFF Bell Lightbox.

TIFF prefers Visa.

For all events and films, see below.

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**Social:**  
#TIFFNextWave

## EVENTS FOR TIFF NEXT WAVE FILM FESTIVAL

### Battle of the Scores

Opening Night (**Friday, February 16**) kicks off once again with the popular **Battle of the Scores**, a high-profile showcase for young musical talent. High school bands perform their original soundtrack for a short film scene from **Master Controlled** written and directed by Next Wave alum Ethan Godel and co-creator Ryan Bobkin. This year's event will be hosted by **Matt Johnson and Jay McCarroll of VICELAND's nirvana the band the show**. Prizes will be awarded by the audience and a panel of professional judges from the Toronto music and film community, including Lauren Grant and Jovanka Vuckovic. The grand jury prize winner receives studio time with **Oak Recording Studio** and a **scoring opportunity in Jovanka Vuckovic's upcoming feature Riot Girls**.

### Young Creators Co-Lab

Next Wave signals the return of the **Young Creators Co-Lab (February 16)**, a full day of programming tailored exclusively for young creators interested in exploring the world of film and filmmaking. More information on the Young Creators Co-Lab lineup and guests will be revealed in the coming weeks on [tiff.net/nextwave](http://tiff.net/nextwave).

### Heat (🔥) Movie Marathon

The festival presents a special **Heat (🔥) Movie Marathon** on **Saturday, February 17** with back-to-back timeless classics that bring the heat: Gurinder Chadha's **Bend It Like Beckham** (2002) [12pm]; Peyton Reed's **Bring It On** (2000) [2:30pm]; Richard Linklater's **Dazed and Confused** (1993) [6:15pm]; Joe Cornish's **Attack the Block** (2011) [8:30pm]; and Jennie Livingston's **Paris is Burning** (1991) [10pm].

### TIFF Next Wave 24-Hour Film Challenge

The highly anticipated **TIFF Next Wave 24-Hour Film Challenge** welcomes teams of youth aged 14 through 18 to make an original short film in 24 hours. Starting the weekend before the festival, the event takes place from **Saturday, February 10 at 10am to Sunday, February 11 at 10am**, with the final films screening on **Sunday, February 18** during the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival. The TIFF Next Wave 24-Hour Film Challenge jury includes **Kelly Fyffe, Kazik Radwanski, and Adam Bovoletis**. The winning team will receive a **\$500 cash prize**.

### Jump Cuts

Until **March 19**, TIFF Next Wave is accepting submissions from youth across Ontario for the **Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase** (taking place in May), which presents short films created for young people by young people.

## FILMS

**A Kid From Somewhere** dirs. Adam Beck and Paul Johnston | Canada | 2017 | English  
**Saturday, February 17 at 7pm**

**Axolotl Overkill** dir. Helene Hegemann | Germany | 2017 | German and English w/ English subtitles  
**Sunday, February 18 at 10pm**

**Bad Genius** dir. Nattawut Poonpiriya | Thailand | 2017 | Thai w/ English subtitles

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**Sunday, February 18 at 8:45pm**

***Bad Lucky Goat*** dir. Samir Oliveros | Columbia | 2017 | Creole w/English subtitles

**Saturday, February 17 at 4pm**

***Barley Fields on the Other Side of the Mountain*** dir. Tian Tsering | United Kingdom | 2017 |

Tibetan w/English subtitles

**Sunday, February 18 at 1:45pm**

***Beyond Dreams (Dröm Vidare)*** dir. Rojda Sekersöz | Sweden | 2017 | Swedish w/ English subtitles

**Sunday, February 18 at 5pm**

***Dayveon*** dir. Amman Abassi | USA | 2017 | English

**Sunday, February 18 at 2:45pm**

***Fake Tattoos (Les Faux Tatouages)*** dir. Pascal Plante | Canada | 2017 | French w/ English subtitles

**Sunday, February 18 at 4:15pm**

***High Fantasy*** dir. Jenna Bass | South Africa | 2017 | English

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**Sunday, February 18 at 7:45pm**

***Person to Person*** dir. Dustin Guy Defa | USA | 2017 | English

**Sunday, February 18 at 5pm**

This film is co-presented with MDFF.

***Thoroughbreds*** dir. Cory Finley | USA | 2016 | English

**Saturday, February 17 at 9:30pm**

## 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 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](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.**

**TIFF Next Wave Film Festival is supported by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Arts Council.**

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

**VICE Canada is the official media partner for TIFF Next Wave Film Festival**

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For information, contact Rebecca Silver at [rsilver@tiff.net](mailto:rsilver@tiff.net) or the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).

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

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