

## TIFF EXPANDS ITS COMMITMENT TO LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY THROUGH EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH INSIDE OUT

The collaboration launches with an exclusive, free run of *Queerskins: a love story*, a cinematic virtual-reality experience running at TIFF Bell Lightbox June 2–30

*Year-round partners also include Pride Toronto and Planned Parenthood Toronto, among others*



Photo Credit: *Queerskins* (2018)

**TORONTO** — Today, TIFF announces a partnership with Inside Out that marries the passion, expertise, and resources of both charitable organizations to have a stronger impact on their shared mission of transforming the way people see the world through film. TIFF and Inside Out will work in tandem to bring fresh LGBTQ+ curated programming to TIFF Bell Lightbox, in addition to providing a space and resources for community events and access to programming for partner organizations.

This robust, year-round partnership kicks off with the opening of ***Queerskins: a love story***, presented by **Aurora Cannabis**. Created by artists Illya Szilak and Cyril Tsiboulski, *Queerskins: a love story* is a multisensory, virtual-reality experience anchored in an interactive and immersive installation. Both the VR experience and the installation explore the dynamic tension between the “real” and the virtual, fact and fiction, and memory and desire. The emotionally powerful story revolves around a complex relationship between a devoutly Catholic mother and her gay son who dies of AIDS, and explores the quintessential human desire to transcend ordinary reality through memory, belief, and imagination. The month-long installation will run from June 2 to 30. Tickets will be available for TIFF Members beginning May 30 and for the public beginning May 31, at [tiff.net/queerskins](http://tiff.net/queerskins).

“It is incumbent on TIFF to underscore the importance of diverse voices and create a permanent platform for challenging narratives that help people reimagine contemporary society and everyday life,” said Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director, TIFF. “As one of the city’s leading arts institutions, being a place that is inviting to all, with programming that our audience wants, is paramount to TIFF. Partnering with an established and knowledgeable organization like Inside Out gives us a platform to do that.”

Throughout the opening weekend, visitors to the gallery are invited to contribute an object related to their personal story of love and loss that will become a permanent part of the *Queerskins* project. In addition, Tagger Yancey, *Queerskins*’ collaborating artist — whose photos are featured in the installation, online at <http://vr.queerskins.com>, and on Instagram at [@queerskins](https://www.instagram.com/queerskins) — will photograph visitors posing anonymously with an object from the installation that speaks to their own story.

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



"We are so excited to expand our partnership with TIFF beyond our festival at TIFF Bell Lightbox and to explore new opportunities for collaboration that will serve our LGBTQ audiences and industry," said Andria Wilson, Executive Director, and Andrew Murphy, Director of Programming, Inside Out. "Kicking off this partnership with *Queerskins* is a perfect example of how we can share our resources to bring innovative programming to Toronto year-round."

As part of their year-round initiatives, TIFF and Inside Out will curate an ongoing series that explores the world through a kaleidoscope, giving audiences new and engaging ways to learn about the world around them and the communities with which they connect. Stage talks and special presentations, along with pop-up retail experiences inspired by storytellers, will come to life at TIFF.

TIFF will continue to work closely with other LGBTQ+ organizations including Pride Toronto, Planned Parenthood Toronto, Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, Supporting Our Youth, and Trans Workforce to provide facilities, support, and access to programming year-round. We are grateful for the community we are fostering with these amazing organizations and look forward to working with dynamic groups like Pride Toronto and all of our partners to keep TIFF progressive and in-tune with the intersectional landscape of Toronto.

"TIFF has continually demonstrated its commitment to Pride Toronto and the LGBTQ+ community through not only its work with us, but in its efforts to include our community in the work it does during Pride Month and year-round," said Olivia Nuamah, Executive Director, Pride Toronto.

**On now at TIFF Bell Lightbox, celebrating LGBTQ+ creative spirits behind and in front of the camera:**

**Conversations about *Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami* June 5 7pm**

This electrifying journey through the public and private worlds of pop-culture mega-icon Grace Jones juxtaposes musical sequences with intimate personal footage, all the while brimming with Jones' bold aesthetic. Following a screening of the film, a panel of artists will consider Jones' influence on music, performance, and popular culture by exploring the ways in which she subverts preconceived notions about race, gender, and celebrity.

**Non-Conforming! Celebrating Fluidity Onscreen and IRL June 16 5pm**

Join us for a celebration of gender non-conforming, trans, fluid and two-spirit youth who are taking space online by creating radical, self-expressive film and media that builds community and challenges the limits of mainstream gender representation. Creators will share their work and join in a discussion that explores how they are developing their own content and platforms to make space for bigger, better, and brighter expressions of multiple and complex identities in the media. Co-presented by Pride Toronto and TIFF.

Throughout the month of June, TIFF Shop will come alive offering a curated selection of clothing, accessories, and readables from Inside Out, Pride Toronto, and a catalogue and limited-edition photographs from *Queerskins: a love story*. TIFF Shop pop-ups will continue year-round in partnership with local influencers and Inside Out. Pop into the shop, check in on Instagram, or go to <https://shop.tiff.net/> to see what is being featured.

TIFF prefers Visa.

Celebrate, create conversation, and connect with community year-round at TIFF Bell Lightbox and online through social.

**Social Media:**            [@TIFF\\_NET](https://twitter.com/TIFF_NET)                      [Facebook.com/TIFF](https://www.facebook.com/TIFF)                      [#InsideOut18](https://twitter.com/InsideOut18)

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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 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](http://tiff.net).

### **About Inside Out**

Inside Out produces the Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival, which runs for 11 days each May and attracts audiences of more than 33,000 to the state-of-the-art TIFF Bell Lightbox. Inside Out also produces the Inside Out Ottawa LGBT Film Festival, the year-round Toronto-based More Play Screening Series, the New Visions mentorship program, and community screenings throughout the province of Ontario.

**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.**

**Aurora Cannabis is the Presenting Partner of *Queerskins: a love story*.**

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For information, contact Kali Hopkins-Allen, TIFF Communications at 416.934.3200 or email [khopkinsallen@tiff.net](mailto:khopkinsallen@tiff.net).

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