



July 31, 2019

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## TIFF ANNOUNCES 2019 TELEFILM CANADA'S PITCH THIS! FINALISTS

**The competition returns for its 20th edition as six Canadian teams present their feature-film visions for production support**

**TORONTO** – The Toronto International Film Festival® announced today the finalists for Telefilm Canada's **PITCH THIS!** competition. For the 20th year, six teams of emerging filmmakers will spend six minutes each pitching their feature-film idea to a live audience and a jury of film professionals. The winning team will receive \$15,000 for project development.

Considered an annual highlight of the TIFF Industry Conference, this year's edition of **PITCH THIS!** will feature a slate of narrative and doc projects, created by diverse talent from across Canada and representing the future of national cinema. The full industry jury for 2019 will be announced at a later date.

"It's exciting to celebrate two decades of partnership with Telefilm Canada," said Jane Kim, TIFF Industry Programming Producer. "We take so much pride in giving these up-and-coming Canadian storytellers a platform to tell an international audience of industry professionals about the films they mean to bring into the world, and in granting the winning team funds that often make the difference in bringing projects to completion."

The competition will take place at the Glenn Gould Studio on September 8 and is open to all press and industry delegates.

The 2019 finalists are:

***La Cercanía*** Jorge Thielen Armand, Rodrigo Michelangeli

When Oana's father falls gravely ill in Venezuela, she breaks a 15-year exile in Canada to return home and visit her family one last time. But when she reconnects with Sofia, her estranged half-sister, Oana must commit to helping Sofia transition into adulthood amid the devastation caused by the economic crisis.

***What Night Taught Her*** Lauren Grant, Lisa Rideout, Ashley Cooper (Documentary)

An intimate look inside Canada's first sex workers' rights organization and the people who run it. Delving into the ups and downs of three outreach workers' lives, the film reveals the harsh realities of a job that can mean the difference between life or death.

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



**Blue Flower** (*Fleur bleue*) Geneviève Dulude-De Celles, Sarah Mannering, Fanny Drew

When a video of a six-year-old Romanian art prodigy goes viral on the internet, Mihai is sent to evaluate the girl's production – meaning he has to return to his home country for the first time in 30 years.

**Paying For It** Kristy Neville, Natalie Urquhart

After his long-time girlfriend begins sleeping with another man, a painfully introverted cartoonist begins sleeping with prostitutes, to the disapproval of his friends and former lover. *Paying For It* is an unconventional romantic comedy about a modern man's search for love and connection.

**Worst Team Ever** Kathleen Jayme, Michael Grand, James Brown (Documentary)

This 80- to 90-minute documentary tells the unfortunate story of what happened to the Vancouver Grizzlies, Canada's other NBA team – gone, but far from forgotten – who just might have been the worst professional sports franchise in history.

**Epochal** Rodrigo Barriuso, Kyah Green

When dementia begins to progress, a transgender woman living with Alzheimer's at a transphobic nursing home finds herself mentally regressing to a time before her transition. As the complexities of gender identity resurface, her sense of self becomes an emotional battlefield that she will have to defend and uphold.

The 44th Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 5 to 15, 2019. Register for Festival Industry accreditation online by August 23 at [tiff.net/industry](http://tiff.net/industry).

Social Media:

@TIFF\_NET

#TIFF19

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 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).

**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.**

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](http://tiff.net)

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



-30-

For more information, contact Sylvy Fernández at [sfernandez@tiff.net](mailto:sfernandez@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).

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