



August 1, 2017

**NEWS RELEASE**

## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL DOCUMENTARY LINEUP SPOTLIGHTS LARGER-THAN-LIFE, BOUNDARY-BREAKING FIGURES IN THE WORLD OF POLITICS, SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND FASHION

**Slate features premieres from Morgan Spurlock, Sara Driver, Brett Morgen, Greg Barker, Jason Kohn, Sam Pollard, Matt Tyrnauer, Frederick Wiseman, Sophie Fiennes, Heidi Ewing & Rachel Grady**

**TORONTO** — The Toronto International Film Festival's® 2017 documentary programme presents a distinct collection of works from award-winning directors with an increased number of World Premieres and potential awards contenders. The TIFF Docs section will open with Sophie Fiennes' *Grace Jones: Bloodlight & Bami*, a film that captures the legendary performer on and off stage. The lineup features celebrated filmmakers, including Morgan Spurlock, who reignites his battle with the food industry in *Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!*; Brett Morgen, with his portrait of primatologist Jane Goodall in *Jane*; Greg Barker, who grants viewers unprecedented access into President Barack Obama's foreign policy team in *The Final Year*; Frederick Wiseman, who takes us behind the scenes of a New York institution in *Ex Libris - The New York Public Library*; and Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, who follow three Hasidic Jews who attempt to enter the secular world in *One of Us*. The TIFF Docs Programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of A+E IndieFilms.

"Resistance is a key theme in this year's documentaries," said TIFF Docs Programmer Thom Powers. "We pay witness to rebels challenging the status quo in art, politics, sexuality, religion, fashion, sports and entertainment. They speak powerfully to our times as audiences seek inspirations for battling powerful and corrupt systems."

The theme of resistance plays out in a diverse range of films, including Jed Rothstein's *The China Hustle*, executive produced by Alex Gibney and Frank Marshall, which confronts a new era of Wall Street fraud; Matt Tyrnauer's *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood*, which profiles the sexual taboo breaker Scotty Bowers; Anjali Nayar and Hawa Essuman's *Silas*, which portrays Liberian activist Silas Siakor; and Erika Cohn's *The Judge*, which follows the first female Shari'a judge, Kholoud Al-Faqih, practicing law in the West Bank.

We gain insights into high-profile figures in the worlds of entertainment and sports in films such as Chris Smith's *Jim & Andy: the Great Beyond - the story of Jim Carrey & Andy Kaufman with a very special, contractually obligated mention of Tony Clifton*, which examines Jim Carrey's immersion into the role of Andy Kaufman; Lili Fini Zanuck's *Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars*, which delivers the definitive biography of the rock legend; and Jason Kohn's *Love Means Zero*, which investigates the controversial tennis coach Nick Bollettieri and his history with Andre Agassi.

Several films deepen our understanding of black cultural figures, including Sam Pollard's *Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me* on the complex career of the multi-talented Rat Pack performer; Kate Novack's *The Gospel According to André* on the trend-setting fashion writer André Leon Talley; and Sara Driver's *BOOM FOR REAL The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat* on the formative years of the acclaimed artist.

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

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TIFF Docs upholds its tradition of featuring films and filmmakers from around the world with films such as Violeta Ayala's ***Cocaine Prison*** on the drug trade in Bolivia; Mila Turajlić's ***The Other Side of Everything*** on the dissident activism of her Serbian mother; Hüseyin Tabak's ***The Legend of the Ugly King*** on the Kurdish filmmaker Yılmaz Güney; Sabiha Sumar's ***Azmaish: A Journey through the Subcontinent*** on the politics of India and Pakistan; and Gustavo Salmerón's ***Lots of Kids, a Monkey and a Castle*** on his eccentric family in Spain. The TIFF Docs closing film is Emmanuel Gras' ***Makala***, which won the Grand Jury prize at Cannes' Critics Week and portrays the heroic struggles of a subsistence labourer in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The 42nd Toronto International Film Festival® runs September 7 to 17, 2017.

**Films screening as part of the TIFF Docs programme include:**

***Azmaish: A Journey through the Subcontinent*** Sabiha Sumar, Pakistan  
North American Premiere

***BOOM FOR REAL The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat*** Sara Driver, USA  
World Premiere

***The China Hustle*** Jed Rothstein, USA  
World Premiere

***Cocaine Prison*** Violeta Ayala, Australia/Bolivia/France/USA  
World Premiere

***Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars*** Lili Fini Zanuck, United Kingdom  
World Premiere

***Ex Libris - The New York Public Library*** Frederick Wiseman, USA  
North American Premiere

***The Final Year*** Greg Barker, USA  
World Premiere

***The Gospel According to André*** Kate Novack, USA  
World Premiere

**Documentary Programme Opening Film**

***Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami*** Sophie Fiennes, United Kingdom/Ireland  
World Premiere

***Jim & Andy: the Great Beyond - the story of Jim Carrey & Andy Kaufman with a very special, contractually obligated mention of Tony Clifton*** Chris Smith, USA/Canada  
North American Premiere

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**Jane** Brett Morgen, USA  
World Premiere

**The Judge** Erika Cohn, Palestine/USA  
World Premiere

**The Legend of the Ugly King** Hüseyin Tabak, Germany/Austria  
World Premiere

**Lots of Kids, a Monkey and a Castle** Gustavo Salmerón, Spain  
North American Premiere

**Love Means Zero** Jason Kohn, USA  
World Premiere

**Documentary Programme Closing Film**

**Makala** Emmanuel Gras, France  
North American Premiere

**OF SHEEP AND MEN** Karim Sayad, Switzerland/Qatar  
World Premiere

**One of Us** Heidi Ewing, Rachel Grady, USA  
World Premiere

**The Other Side of Everything** Mila Turajlić, Serbia/France/Qatar  
World Premiere

**Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me** Sam Pollard, USA  
World Premiere

**Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood** Matt Tyrnauer, USA  
World Premiere

**Silas** Anjali Nayar and Hawa Essuman, Canada/South Africa/Kenya  
World Premiere

**Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!** Morgan Spurlock, USA  
World Premiere

Canadian documentaries to be announced on August 9.

For film synopses, cast lists, images and more information see [tiff.net/docs](http://tiff.net/docs)

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Festival ticket packages start at \$105. Purchase packages online at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets), by phone (416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433), or in person at TIFF Bell Lightbox until August 13 while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

**Social Media:**

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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).

**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.**

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

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For information on the Documentary programme, contact Monique Camenzuli, Festival Publicist at 416.599.8433 x2691 or email [mcamenzuli@tiff.net](mailto:mcamenzuli@tiff.net)

For information, contact 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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