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NEWS RELEASE

TIFF'S PRIMETIME LINEUP PREMIERES PROVOCATIVE NEW SERIES

Slate features debuts of *The Deuce*, *Dark*, season two of *The Girlfriend Experience*, and *Under Pressure*

TORONTO — The Toronto International Film Festival® **Primetime** programme, now in its third year, continues to gain traction in episodic programming with five powerful, dramatic and thought-provoking premieres from countries including Canada, Brazil, Germany and the United States. The 2017 lineup showcases works created by Amy Seimetz, Lodge Kerrigan, Sarah Polley, Baran bo Odar, Jantje Friese, David Simon, George Pelecanos, Andrucha Waddington and Jorge Furtado. The programme includes Q&A sessions with show creators following each of the first screenings.

"As the lines of length and venue for cinema are dissolving, I feel honoured to be presenting some of the most cinematic, episodic content that is out in the world today," said Michael Lerman, Primetime Programmer. "These shows not only represent great entertainment, but also the level of deep thought and research that can go into a long term storytelling project."

This year's lineup spotlights intense and provocative series such as *The Deuce*, starring James Franco and Maggie Gyllenhaal — a gritty new drama from David Simon and George Pelecanos (*The Wire*, *Treme*) that traces the evolution of the porn industry in NYC's Times Square in the 1970s. The second season of *The Girlfriend Experience*, executive produced by Steven Soderbergh, is a reimagining of his 2009 critically acclaimed movie of the same name and explores the relationships between escorts and their elite clientele, for whom they provide far more than just sex. Season two focuses on entirely new characters and takes on a new format by following two parallel storylines, each written, directed and executive produced by Lodge Kerrigan and Amy Seimetz.

Adding further global appeal to the lineup, *Dark*, Netflix's first German production, is a family saga with a supernatural twist, set in a present-day German town where the disappearance of a teenager exposes the double lives and long-hidden secrets of the local families. *Under Pressure* chronicles the daily routine of a medical team at a under-equipped and understaffed guerrilla hospital in a poverty-stricken community in Rio de Janeiro.

Previously announced series in the Canadian lineup include the CBC/Netflix original production *Alias Grace*, based on the award-winning novel by Margaret Atwood.

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

Series screening as part of Primetime include:

Dark Germany, 2 episodes
Showrunners: Baran bo Odar, Jantje Friese
Director: Baran bo Odar
World Premiere

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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The Deuce USA, 2 episodes

Showrunners: David Simon, George Pelecanos
Directors: Michelle MacLaren, Ernest Dickerson
Episode 1, Canadian Premiere
Episode 2, World Premiere

The Girlfriend Experience Season 2, USA, 4 episodes

Showrunners and directors: Amy Seimetz, Lodge Kerrigan
World Premiere

Under Pressure Brazil, 2 episodes

Showrunners: Andrucha Waddington, Jorge Furtado
Directors: Andrucha Waddington, Mini Kerti
International Premiere

Previously announced series in the Canadian lineup:

Alias Grace Canada/USA, 2 episodes

Showrunner: Sarah Polley
Director: Mary Harron
World Premiere

For film synopses, cast lists, images and more information see tiff.net/primetime.

Festival tickets go on sale September 4 at 10 am (with TIFF Member pre-sale on September 2 from 10am to 4pm). Buy tickets online at 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.

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 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.

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For information on the Primetime programme, contact Monique Camenzuli, Senior Festival Publicist at 416.599.8433 x2691 or email mcamenzuli@tiff.net.

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For images visit the media site at tiff.net/press.

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