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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **TIFF DISCOVERY PROGRAMME UNVEILS DEBUTS FROM CAPTIVATING NEW VOICES SPANNING THE GLOBE**

**Includes World Premieres from Hinde Boujemaa, Oren Gerner, Antoneta Kastrati, Filippo Meneghetti, Mahnaz Mohammadi, Jorunn Myklebust Syversen, and María Paz González among others**

**TORONTO** – At this year’s Toronto International Film Festival®, the revamped Discovery programme features a robust lineup of 37 films from emerging filmmakers representing 35 countries, including 33 World Premieres and four films making international debuts.

“This year’s Discovery builds on our track record of identifying major new filmmakers early,” said Cameron Bailey, TIFF’s Co-Head and Artistic Director. “This is where you want to look for the next decades’ masters, and it’s great to see longtime TIFF programming associate Dorota Lech shaping the section as Discovery’s Lead Programmer.”

“I’m thrilled to be curating the Discovery programme, a showcase of films that – regardless of form – expand, embolden, or even challenge notions of storytelling beyond what is established or expected,” said Lech. “TIFF has long held a space for first- and second-time directors, acting as a springboard for launching the international careers of cinematic giants such as Yorgos Lanthimos, Maren Ade, Christopher Nolan, Alfonso Cuarón, Lav Diaz, Kim Seung-woo, Barry Jenkins, Jean-Marc Vallée, Dee Rees, and Jafar Panahi. Expect the programme to push cinematic boundaries, pointing us in unexpected directions. As in previous years, it is a place to find work that could be poetic, bold, or challenging, but that is always passionate.”

Discovery continues to celebrate and reflect TIFF’s unwavering commitment to championing women’s directorial voices, with 54% of its selection directed by women. This year’s programme opens with Chiara Malta’s ***Simple Women***, in which a director serendipitously meets Elina Löwensohn, an actor she idolized in her youth, prompting her to question her filmmaking process. Malta was inspired by her own encounter with Löwensohn in this tender, playful, and multi-layered fiction debut. Women’s journeys are also explored as central themes in Antoneta Kastrati’s ***ZANA***, Filippo Meneghetti’s ***Two of Us***, Hinde Boujemaa’s ***Noura’s Dream***, Hisham Saqr’s ***Certified Mail***, Ina Weisse’s ***The Audition***, Jorunn Myklebust Syversen’s ***Disco***, Kim Seung-woo’s ***Bring Me Home***, Klaudia Reynicke’s ***Love Me Tender***, Mahnaz Mohammadi’s ***Son-Mother***, María Paz González’s ***Lina from Lima***, Maria Sødahl’s ***Hope***, Neasa Hardiman’s ***Sea Fever***, and Tamar Shavgulidze’s ***Comets***.

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

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**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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Discovery is curated and overseen by Lech, with contributions from members of TIFF's international programming team, namely Cameron Bailey, Giovanna Fulvi, Steve Gravestock, Michael Lerman, Michèle Maheux, Kiva Reardon, Diana Sanchez, and Ravi Srinivasan.

The 44th Toronto International Film Festival runs September 5–15, 2019.

**Films screening as part of the Discovery programme include:**

**1982** Oualid Mouaness | United States/Lebanon/Norway/Qatar  
World Premiere

**AFRICA** Oren Gerner | Israel  
World Premiere

**The Antenna** (*Bina*) Orçun Behram | Turkey  
World Premiere

**The Audition** (*Das Vorspiel*) Ina Weisse | Germany/France  
World Premiere

**August** (*Agosto*) Armando Capó | Cuba/Costa Rica/France  
World Premiere

**Black Conflux** Nicole Dorsey | Canada  
World Premiere

**Bring Me Home** (*Na-reul cha-ja-jwo*) Kim Seung-woo | South Korea  
World Premiere

**A Bump Along The Way** Shelly Love | United Kingdom  
International Premiere

**Calm With Horses** Nick Rowland | United Kingdom/Ireland  
World Premiere

**Certified Mail** (*Bi Elm El Wossul*) Hisham Saqr | Egypt  
World Premiere

**Comets** Tamar Shavgulidze | Georgia  
World Premiere

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**Disco** Jorunn Myklebust Syversen | Norway  
World Premiere

**Easy Land** Sanja Zivkovic | Canada  
World Premiere

**Entwined** Minos Nikolakakis | Greece  
World Premiere

**The Giant** David Raboy | USA  
World Premiere

**The Good Intentions** (*Las Buenas Intenciones*) Ana García Blaya | Argentina  
World Premiere

**Hearts and Bones** Ben Lawrence | Australia  
International Premiere

**Hope** (*Håp*) Maria Sødahl | Norway/Sweden  
World Premiere

**Kuessipan** Myriam Verreault | Canada  
World Premiere

**Lina from Lima** María Paz González | Chile/Argentina/Peru  
World Premiere

**The Lost Okoroshi** Abba Makama | Nigeria  
World Premiere

**Love Me Tender** Klaudia Reynicke | Switzerland  
International Premiere

**Murmur** Heather Young | Canada  
World Premiere

**My Life as a Comedian** (*En komikers uppväxt*) Rojda Sekersöz | Sweden/Belgium  
World Premiere

**Noura's Dream** Hinde Boujemaa | Tunisia/Belgium/France  
World Premiere

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***The Obituary of Tunde Johnson*** Ali LeRoi | USA  
World Premiere

***Pompei*** Anna Falguères, John Shank | Belgium/Canada/France  
World Premiere

***Raf*** Harry Cepka | Canada/USA  
World Premiere

***The Rest of Us*** Aisling Chin-Yee | Canada  
World Premiere

***Sea Fever*** Neasa Hardiman | Ireland/Sweden/Belgium/United Kingdom  
World Premiere

**Discovery Opening Film**

***Simple Women*** Chiara Malta | Italy/Romania  
World Premiere

***Sole*** Carlo Sironi | Italy/Poland  
International Premiere

***Son-Mother (Pesar-Madar)*** Mahnaz Mohammadi | Iran/Czech Republic  
World Premiere

***Stories From The Chestnut Woods (Zgodbe iz kostanjevih gozdov)*** Gregor Božič | Slovenia/Italy  
World Premiere

***Sweetness in the Belly*** Zeresenay Berhane Mehari | Ireland/Canada  
World Premiere

***Two of Us (Deux)*** Filippo Meneghetti | France/Luxembourg/Belgium  
World Premiere

***ZANA*** Antoneta Kastrati | Albania/Kosovo  
World Premiere

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Previously announced Discovery films include Nicole Dorsey's ***Black Conflux***, Sanja Zivkovic's ***Easy Land***, Myriam Verreault's ***Kuessipan***, Heather Young's ***Murmur***, Harry Cepka's ***Raf***, and Aisling Chin-Yee's ***The Rest of Us***.

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

Festival ticket packages start at \$110. Purchase packages online at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets), by phone (416.599.2033 or 1.888.258.8433), or in person at TIFF Bell Lightbox until August 11 while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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**About TIFF**

TIFF is a not-for-profit 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).

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For more information, contact Jill Rosen, Festival Publicist, at [jrosen@tiff.net](mailto:jrosen@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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