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.
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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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.

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For more information, contact Jill Rosen, Festival Publicist, at jrosen@tiff.net, or the Communications Department at 416.934.3200, or email proffice@tiff.net.

For images, visit the media site at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).