



August 20, 2019

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **TIFF SPEAKERS SERIES SPARKS ENRICHING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FILMMAKERS, EXPERTS AND AUDIENCES WITH CAPTIVATING STORIES**

**A series of talks on *Made in Bangladesh*, *Collective*, *Comets*, *Adam*, *Love Child*, and *Incitement*, in partnership with the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy**

**TORONTO** – The TIFF Speaker Series, in partnership with the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, returns for its eighth year at the Toronto International Film Festival®. The programme’s lineup spans three continents and expands its scope to include two TIFF Docs selections and one Discovery feature – all essential works that capture the personal journeys of those affected by social and political crises. The programme encourages audiences to engage in enriching discussions with filmmakers and experts after each film’s second public screening.

TIFF’s Adult Learning team worked collaboratively with Munk School experts to identify significant and diverse international issues, and to invite audiences into the conversation.

Included in the series are four films directed by women that highlight how resilience is strengthened by human connections: Rubaiyat Hossain’s powerful story of resistance ***Made in Bangladesh***, Maryam Touzani’s heartwarming directorial debut ***Adam***, Eva Mulvad’s thought-provoking refugee documentary ***Love Child***, and Tamar Shavgulidze’s LGBTQ+ love story ***Comets***. Alexander Nanau’s investigative ***Collective*** and Yaron Zilberman’s gripping ***Incitement*** detail the cataclysmic consequences of political strife and class struggle. The discussions will be led by distinguished scholars, who will help facilitate a deeper understanding of how our world is reflected onscreen and the essential role storytelling plays in shining a light on the most pressing issues of our time.

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

### **The TIFF Speaker Series lineup:**

#### ***Adam***

The lives of two vulnerable women in Casablanca – one pregnant, homeless, and shunned (Nessrine Erradi), the other widowed and bereft (Lubna Azabal, *Incendies*) – converge and transform in this heartwarming

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directorial debut from celebrated actor Maryam Touzani (*Razzia*).

Guest speaker: Janice Stein, Founding Director at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

### **Collective**

Director Alexander Nanau follows a crack team of investigators at the Romanian newspaper *Sports Gazette* as they try to uncover a vast health-care fraud that enriched moguls and politicians — and led to the deaths of innocent citizens.

Guest speaker: Joseph Wong, Ralph and Roz Halbert Professor of Innovation at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

### **Comets**

Three decades after their separation, Irina and Nana remain mesmerized by memories of earlier days. But when Irina returns to the small community she left — where Nana stayed to start a traditional family — the women must reconcile with the past and their complex feelings, in director Tamar Shavgulidze's emotive drama.

Guest speaker: Julie Moreau, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto

### **Incitement**

This rigorous psychological thriller by American-Israeli director Yaron Zilberman (*A Late Quartet*) depicts the lead-up to the 1995 assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin through the worldview of his assassin, Yigal Amir.

Guest speaker: Ron Levi, George Ignatieff Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and Director of Global Strategy at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

### **Love Child**

This new film from veteran Danish documentarian Eva Mulvad (*The Good Life*) offers a poignant portrait of a family of asylum seekers desperate to start a new life, but stalled in bureaucratic limbo.

Guest speaker: Randall Hansen, Interim Director at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

### **Made in Bangladesh**

When a woman attempts to organize her garment factory co-workers in Dhaka following a fatal fire, ugly walls of resistance arise, in Rubaiyat Hossain's piercing indictment of exploitative labour practices and the global trade apparatus supporting them.

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Guest speaker: Rachel Silvey, Richard Charles Lee Director, Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy.

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

Festival tickets go on sale September 2 at 10am (TIFF Member pre-sale August 31, 10am–4pm). Buy tickets online at [tiff.net](http://tiff.net), by phone at 416.599.2033 or 1.888.258.8433, or in person at a box office. See box office locations and hours at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets).

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).

**About the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy**

The Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto is a world leader in interdisciplinary research, teaching, and public engagement. The Munk School is home to cutting-edge researchers and more than 58 centres, labs, and programs, including the Master of Global Affairs and Master of Public Policy. For more information, please visit [munkschool.utoronto.ca](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca).

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