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MEDIA RELEASE

DEMOCRACY, COMMUNITY, AND CULTURAL HISTORIES ARE AMONG THIS YEAR'S TOPICS AT THE 2018 TIFF SPEAKER SERIES

A series of talks on *Look at Me*, *The Other Story*, *Donbass*, *The Public*, *Birds of Passage*, and "*I Do Not Care If We Go Down In History As Barbarians*" in partnership with the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

TORONTO – Returning for its seventh year at the Toronto International Film Festival®, the TIFF Speaker Series, in partnership with the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, includes a lineup that will confront cultural histories, political statements, and examine the power of community through the lens of personal storytelling. The programme offers audiences the opportunity to interact with filmmakers and scholars in extended discussions following each film's second public screening. This year's speakers include Randall Hansen, Janice Stein, Robert Austin, Joseph Wong, and Teresa Kramarz.

The TIFF Speaker Series lineup:

Look at Me

Randall Hansen, Interim Director at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, will join Tunisian actor and director Nejib Belkadi in a Q&A following the screening of his film *Look at Me*.

Torn between the life he thought he could leave behind in Tunisia and the life he's created for himself in Marseille, a man finds himself at a crucial crossroads, in Nejib Belkadi's latest film.

The Other Story (Sipur Acher)

Janice Stein, Founding Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, will join Avi Nesher in discussing the Israeli film *The Other Story*.

Two rebellious young women, one fleeing the chaos of secular hedonism for the disciplined comforts of faith, the other desperate to transcend her oppressive religious upbringing for sexual and spiritual freedom, cross paths unexpectedly in Jerusalem – with startling consequences – in this empowering drama from Avi Nesher.

Donbass

Robert Austin, Associate Professor at the Munk's School Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, will join Ukrainian director Sergei Loznitsa to examine his film *Donbass*.

Told through a series of impressively choreographed vignettes, Sergei Loznitsa's scathing political commentary follows the war that has been raging in Eastern Ukraine for years, wielding both artillery and propaganda as weapons.

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



The Public

Joseph Wong, Ralph and Roz Halbert Professor of Innovation at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, will take the stage with actor-director Emilio Estevez for a Q&A following the screening of *The Public*.

A sit-in by patrons at a public library escalates into a police standoff and a media sideshow, in Emilio Estevez's arresting drama that explores issues surrounding homelessness, mental health, and community. Featuring Estevez, Alec Baldwin, Taylor Schilling, Jeffrey Wright, Jena Malone, Gabrielle Union, Christian Slater, and Michael K. Williams.

Birds of Passage (*Pájaros de verano*)

Teresa Kramarz, Director of the Munk One program, will discuss filmmaking duo Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra's latest film, *Birds of Passage*.

Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra (*Embrace of the Serpent*) once again team up for this exquisitely detailed story of a Wayuu man's downward spiral – and its effects on his community – as he becomes increasingly involved in northern Colombia's drug trade.

"I Do Not Care If We Go Down In History As Barbarians" (*Îmi este indiferent dacă în istorie vom intra ca barbari*)

Radu Jude's resonant feature chronicles a young theatre director's efforts to stage an accurate re-enactment of the Odessa Massacre – in which Romanian soldiers slaughtered tens of thousands of Ukrainian Jews – despite the municipal government's attempts to censor her.

Speaker to be confirmed.

For film synopses, cast lists, images, and more information visit tiff.net.

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

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