

## THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH AS RECIPIENT OF TIFF TRIBUTE ACTOR AWARD



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**TORONTO** — Joana Vicente and Cameron Bailey, Co-Heads of TIFF, are pleased to announce Academy Award–nominated actor **Benedict Cumberbatch** as the recipient of this year’s **TIFF Tribute Actor Award**. The 2021 TIFF Tribute Awards will take place during the 46th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival.

In addition to being an Academy Award nominee, Cumberbatch won an Emmy Award for playing the role of Sherlock Holmes in *Sherlock* and a BAFTA for his role in *Patrick Melrose*. He will next be seen in Netflix’s *The Power of the Dog*, directed by Jane Campion, and Amazon Studios’ *The Electrical Life of Louis Wain*, directed by Will Sharpe — both of which will have their Canadian premieres at TIFF.

“Benedict has portrayed some of the most memorable characters screened at TIFF, whether it was Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game* or Julian Assange in *The Fifth Estate*; he also has an uncanny ability to take on interesting, complex roles and make them his own in films such as *12 Years a Slave* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* — all of which screened at the Festival,” said, Vicente, Executive Director and Co-Head, TIFF. “He has had a lasting relationship with TIFF, including two TIFF People’s Choice Award-winning films, and his remarkable

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range and onscreen presence is sure to captivate audiences at this year's Festival with his upcoming films ***The Power of the Dog*** and ***The Electrical Life of Louis Wain***."

Previous recipients of the **TIFF Tribute Actor Award** include Meryl Streep, Joaquin Phoenix, Kate Winslet, and Sir Anthony Hopkins.

Cumberbatch joins a list of recently announced TIFF honourees, including his fellow actor-prize recipient, two-time Academy Award® nominee **Jessica Chastain**; award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer, singer, and activist **Alanis Obomsawin**, who will be honoured with the **Jeff Skoll Award in Impact Media** supported by Participant Media; and Academy Award®-nominated French Canadian filmmaker **Denis Villeneuve**, who will receive the **TIFF Ebert Director Award** at this year's Awards broadcast. Additional TIFF Tribute Award recipients will be announced in the coming weeks. The 2021 TIFF Tribute Awards is co-produced by Bell Media Studios and, for the second straight year, will be broadcast nationally by CTV and streamed internationally by *Variety*.

The TIFF Tribute Awards honour the film industry's outstanding contributors and their achievements, recognizing leading industry members, acting talent, directorial expertise, new talent, and a below-the-line artist and creator. The Awards also serve as TIFF's largest annual fundraiser to support TIFF's year-round programmes and core mission to transform the way people see the world through film. This year's event will raise funds for TIFF's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative and champion a safe, community-focused and inspiring return to cinemas. In 2020 the TIFF Tribute Awards celebrated the remarkable talents and contributions of Mira Nair, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Kate Winslet, Chloé Zhao, Terence Blanchard, and Tracey Deer, some of whom went on to win awards on the international stage – such as Zhao (***Nomadland***), Deer (***Beans***), and Hopkins (***The Father***). Meryl Streep, Taika Waititi, Mati Diop, Joaquin Phoenix, and Roger Deakins were celebrated during the Awards' inaugural event in 2019.

## BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH BIOGRAPHY

Academy Award nominee Benedict Cumberbatch has established himself as one of the most versatile actors of his generation with an array of emotionally searing and complex roles defining his body of work. Upcoming, he will be seen in Jane Campion's ***The Power of The Dog*** for Netflix and Will Sharpe's ***The Electrical Life of Louis Wain*** for Amazon Studios. Additional upcoming films include Jon Watts' ***Spider-Man: No Way Home*** for Columbia Pictures and ***Doctor Strange: In the Multiverse of Madness*** for Marvel. Most notably, he starred in ***The Imitation Game*** for which he received an Academy Award, Golden Globe, BAFTA and SAG Award nomination. Additional notable film credits include ***Doctor Strange, The Mauritanian*** and ***The Courier***, both of which he also produced, ***1917, 12 Years A Slave, War Horse, Atonement, The Hobbit, Star Trek: Into Darkness, Black Mass, August: Osage County, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*** and ***The Other Boleyn Girl***. Notable television credits include ***Sherlock*** for which he won the Emmy Award for Leading Actor in a Drama Series, received three Emmy nominations, a Golden Globe nomination, three BAFTA TV Award nominations, two SAG Award nominations and three Critics Choice nominations, ***Patrick Melrose*** for which he received a BAFTA TV Award, Golden Globe nomination and Emmy Award nomination, ***The Hollow Crown***, for which he received a BAFTA TV Award nomination, ***Hawking***, for which he earned a BAFTA TV nomination, ***Small Island***, for which he earned a BAFTA TV nomination, ***Parade's End***, for which he received an Emmy nomination, and ***Brexit: The Uncivil War***. Cumberbatch's stage credits include ***Frankenstein***, for which he received the Laurence Olivier Award and the Critics' Circle Theatre Award, ***Hedda Gabler***, for which he received a Laurence Olivier Award nomination and

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won the Ian Charleson Award, and *Hamlet*, for which he earned his third Laurence Olivier Award nomination.

The Government of Canada opened its borders for non-essential travel from American citizens and permanent residents on August 9, 2021 and plans to open to citizens of any country on September 7, 2021 provided that the domestic epidemiologic situation remains favourable, and that visitors have been fully vaccinated with Government of Canada–approved vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen - Johnson & Johnson - AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD) at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Those meeting these requirements can travel to Canada without having to quarantine, including the elimination of the three-night hotel quarantine policy. As of August 9, 61.4% of Canada’s population is fully vaccinated – one of the highest vaccination rates in the world. Toronto boasts the highest percentage of fully-vaccinated citizens in North America with 72% as of the same date.

As a result of the opening of the border and increased capacities in cinemas in Ontario, TIFF has added to its list of venues to accommodate a number of additional in-person Public and Press & Industry screenings. TIFF Festival venues include: TIFF Bell Lightbox and marquee venues the Visa Screening Room at the Princess of Wales Theatre and Roy Thomson Hall, Scotiabank Theatre, and the Cinesphere IMAX Theatre at Ontario Place, plus outdoor screening venues at Ontario Place Festival Village, including the Visa Skyline Drive-In, the RBC Lakeside Drive-In, and the West Island Open Air Cinema. Press & Industry screenings will be held at the Scotiabank Theatre and TIFF Bell Lightbox. Public in-person screenings will have limited Press & Industry access.

Additionally, Public digital screenings will be programmed on digital TIFF Bell Lightbox for the accessibility of Festival-goers, but are limited to Canadian audiences. The TIFF Digital Cinema Pro platform will host digital Press & Industry screenings, as well as the TIFF Industry Selects market for industry buyers. Films available to Press & Industry on TIFF Digital Cinema Pro will be accessible to delegates worldwide; however, some exceptions may occur where the film rights holders have not authorized an online screening in selected regions. The TIFF Bell Digital Talks platform will host a variety of Public and Press & Industry talks, including: the In Conversation With... talks series, the Industry Conference, and Press Conferences.

TIFF continues to work closely with the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and public health officials on the safe execution of the Festival, with its number-one priority being the health and well-being of both Festival filmgoers and residents of the community. To help ensure the safest possible experience, TIFF has once again partnered with Medcan, a global health care leader providing medical expertise, consultation, and health inspiration to achieve its mission to help people “Live Well, For Life.” Based on the pillars of evidence-based care, exceptional client service, and the latest in technology, Medcan’s team of over 90 physicians supports employee health care across the continuum of health, including its “Safe at Work System,” which helps organizations navigate the pandemic.

For TIFF Tribute Awards support opportunities, please contact [development@tiff.net](mailto:development@tiff.net).

For headshots and images of *The Power of the Dog* and *The Electrical Life of Louis Wain*, please see [tiff.net/press](https://tiff.net/press).

The 46th Toronto International Film Festival runs September 9–18, 2021.

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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, learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$200 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).

**TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Ontario, Telefilm Canada, and the City of Toronto.**

**The TIFF Tribute Actor Award being presented to Jessica Chastain is supported by the Tory Family.**

**The Jeff Skoll Award in Impact Media is supported by Participant Media.**

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For more information, contact: Netta Rondinelli, Communications Specialist, at [nrondinelli@tiff.net](mailto:nrondinelli@tiff.net) and Alejandra Sosa, Head, Festival Media Relations & Strategy, at [masosa@tiff.net](mailto:masosa@tiff.net).

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