



August 3, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL REVEALS PARTICIPANTS FOR 2016 TALENT LAB AND TELEFILM CANADA PITCH THIS!

Atom Egoyan, Christine Vachon, and Jim Stark to act as Governors for 13th annual Talent Lab

Toronto — The Toronto International Film Festival® today announced the participants in the 2016 editions of **Talent Lab™** and **Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS!** Produced by TIFF's Industry team, these programmes provide an opportunity for talented emerging filmmakers to learn from leading international film artists, helping to develop their skills and knowledge of the industry at a pivotal point in their careers.

"We are delighted to welcome all the participants in these two terrific programmes," said Kathleen Drumm, Director, Industry at TIFF. "It's a great chance for them to hone their craft, to develop their projects and to access the knowledge of highly respected voices in the industry."

Now in its 13th year, the Talent Lab is a comprehensive, five-day artistic development programme led by esteemed Governors, who will guide 20 filmmakers to develop their creativity, artistic process, and independent voices. Featuring both Canadian and International participants, the Talent Lab is designed to launch the careers of the next generation of filmmakers. This year's Governors include **Atom Egoyan** (*The Sweet Hereafter*, *Adoration*), **Christine Vachon** (*Carol*, *Boys Don't Cry*), and **Jim Stark** (*Coffee and Cigarettes*). Additional guests will be announced in the coming weeks. Talent Lab runs from September 6 to 10, 2016.

Returning for its 17th year, Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS! gives six talented teams the chance to bring their feature film project to life. Each team will have six minutes to pitch their original projects, live in front of a jury of international film experts, and an audience of over 200 industry professionals. The winner will be awarded a \$15,000 prize to develop their project.

TALENT LAB TORONTO

The 2016 Talent Lab participants:

Canadian Participants	International Participants
Ben Petrie	Alejandra Márquez Abella (Mexico)
Caroline Monnet	Aleksandra Terpinska (Poland)
Frieda Luk	Anwar Boulifa (United Kingdom)
Jesse Klein	Bryn Chainey (Australia)
Joyce Wong	Mark Noonan (Ireland)
Kelton Stepanowich	Martín Morgenfeld (Argentina)
Meryam Joobeur	Mateo Bendesky (Argentina)
Randall Okita	Myrsini Aristidou (Cyprus)
Reem Morsi	Sofia Carrillo (Mexico)
Slater Jewell-Kemker	Zamo Mkhwanazi (South Africa)

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



The 2016 Talent Lab Governors:

Atom Egoyan

Atom Egoyan is a Canadian director, writer, and producer. He has won numerous awards, including five prizes at the Cannes Film Festival (the Grand Prix, International Critics Awards, and Ecumenical Jury Prizes), two Academy Award nominations, eight Genie Awards, prizes from the National Board of Review, and an award for Best International Adaptation at the Frankfurt Book Fair. His films have been presented in numerous retrospectives across the globe and 14 have played at the Festival.

Christine Vachon

Christine Vachon is an American film producer. She is an Independent Spirit Award and Gotham Award winner and co-founded indie powerhouse Killer Films with partner Pamela Koffler in 1995. Over the past decade and a half, the two have produced some of the most celebrated American indie features, including *Carol* (nominated for six Academy Awards), *Far From Heaven* (nominated for four Academy Awards), *Still Alice* (Academy Award winner), *Boys Don't Cry* (Academy Award winner), *One Hour Photo*, *Kids*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Happiness*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Safe*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *Camp*, *Swoon*, and *I'm Not There* (Academy Award nominated).

Jim Stark

Jim Stark is an independent American producer. He has been involved in writing, developing, financing, producing, selling, distributing, and marketing low budget fiction feature films since 1983. His films have won numerous prizes and have been selected to premiere in major festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Sundance, and TIFF, and have been exhibited theatrically and broadcast on television in countries around the world.

Congratulations to Talent Lab participants Caroline Monnet (*Tshiuetin*) and Kelton Stepanowich (*Gods Acre*) on the selection of their films in the 2016 Short Cuts programme and to the following Talent Lab alumni with films in the Festival's 2016 selection:

Feature Films:

- Ashley McKenzie, Director, *Werewolf*
- Hugh Gibson, Director, *The Stairs*
- Johnny Ma, Director, *Old Stone*
- Kevan Funk, Director, *Hello Destroyer*
- Tony Elliot, Director, *Arq*

Short Cuts Canada:

- Maxwell McCabe-Lokos, Director, *Ape Sodom*
- Tess Girard, Co-Director, *The Road to Webequie*

TELEFILM CANADA PITCH THIS!

Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS! challenge takes place on Sunday, September 11 at 4:30 p.m. and is open to all Festival Industry and Press delegates.

The 2016 Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS! finalists are:

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Mary Goes Round Matt Code and Molly McGlynn

Mary Goes Round is a comedic drama about a closeted alcoholic and substance abuse counsellor who gets arrested for a DUI and loses both her job and fiancé. When she gets a call from her estranged father, she returns to her hometown in New Jersey where she must learn to take responsibility for herself and her family. She learns that her father is dying of cancer and he wants Mary to form a bond with her teenaged half-sister whom she's never met.

Qalupalik Sean Wainsteim and Nyla Innuksuk

Set amidst stunning Baffin Island landscape in Nunavut and filmed in the Inuit language of Inuktitut, *Qalupalik* is a thriller about an Inuit girl who returns to her hometown to search for her missing brother, only to discover that she's being hunted by creatures awakened from Inuit legend.

Sharkasaurus Spencer Estabrooks and Greg Jeffs

The story of a pair of star-crossed lovers. When the rebellious Emo, son of a paleontologist, falls for the promiscuous daughter of a widowed creationist, they accidentally awaken a prehistoric tunneling dino-shark and they must evolve their ideological difference or succumb to the inevitable jaws of Sharkasaurus.

The Art of Being Busy Lauren Grant, Chris Ross, and Lauren Corber

The Art of Being Busy is a romantic comedy about a young woman who's terrified her newly discovered breast cancer is going to ruin a hot new romance and derail her career, so she uses social media to pretend she's far away...having the time of her life.

The Edible Woman Francine Zuckerman and Karen Shaw

When a soon-to-be married, market research employee who has recently lost her appetite for food meets a freewheeling academic in 1960s Toronto, she must decide to accept the life laid out in front of her or use her newly blossoming appetite for life to create a future of her choosing.

To Be Continued Rob Grant, Luke Black, and Mike MacMillan

After committing suicide, bullied teen Evan discovers that he and his friends return to life every time they die — sparking an increasingly bloody prom-night battle between the tormented and their aggressors.

Purchase Festival ticket packages online 24 hours a day at tiff.net/tickets; by phone from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET daily at **416.599.TIFF** or **1.888.599.8433**; or visit the Steve & Rashmi Gupta Box Office at TIFF Bell Lightbox in person from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET daily at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King Street West. Festival ticket packages are available until August 14 for My Choice packages and August 24 for TIFF Choice packages, while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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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 Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, 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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Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS! is generously supported by presenting partner Telefilm Canada.

RBC is the Presenting Sponsor of Talent Lab.

Talent Lab is supported by Telefilm Canada, The Slaight Family Foundation and Anne-Marie Canning.

Special Thanks to The Slaight Family Foundation.

The Short Cuts programme is made possible through the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council.

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For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.

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