

August 12, 2020

**MEDIA RELEASE****TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND BELL MEDIA PRESENT THE  
FIRST-EVER BROADCAST OF THE TIFF TRIBUTE AWARDS ON CTV****Sir Anthony Hopkins, Chloé Zhao, and Mira Nair are newly announced honourees, joining  
previously announced recipient Kate Winslet**

**TORONTO** – TIFF and Bell Media today unveiled that television audiences can tune in to the **2020 TIFF Tribute Awards**, to be broadcast on Tuesday, September 15 at 8pm ET/PT on CTV and everywhere CTV content can be found, during the 45th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival. Produced by Bell Media Studios, the first-ever one-hour broadcast will feature special messages from the honourees. The broadcast will be streamed to a global audience by *Variety*.

The TIFF Tribute Awards ceremony is an annual fundraiser to support both TIFF's year-round programming and the organization's core mission to transform the way people see the world through film. The 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.

"In what has been a challenging year for our global filmmaking community, we're delighted to partner with Bell Media to unite cinemagoers across Canada, and around the world, to share in our love of film and celebrate the industry's leading talent," said Joana Vicente, Executive Director and Co-Head, TIFF.

"Featuring incredible career retrospectives along with appearances by extraordinary talent, we're thrilled to be working with the TIFF team to create the inaugural broadcast of the **2020 TIFF Tribute Awards** for viewers in Canada and around the world," said Randy Lennox, President, Bell Media.

In making the announcement, TIFF revealed that Academy Award-winning actor **Sir Anthony Hopkins** will receive a **TIFF Tribute Actor Award**; director **Chloé Zhao** will receive the **TIFF Ebert Director Award**; and Academy Award-nominated filmmaker **Mira Nair** will be honoured with the **Jeff Skoll Award in Impact Media**. TIFF previously announced Academy Award-winning actress Kate Winslet will receive a TIFF Tribute Actor Award.

**Sir Anthony Hopkins**

Vicente said Hopkins' onscreen presence continues to captivate, entertain, and inspire audiences and actors alike: "Sir Anthony's brilliant and compelling performance in Florian Zeller's *The Father* affirms his position as a true acting legend." With a career spanning over 60 years, Hopkins has starred in films including *The Bounty*, *Howards End*, *Hitchcock*, and the *Thor* series. He won an Academy Award for his role as Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, and was nominated for four other Academy Awards for his roles in *The Remains of the Day*, *Nixon*, *Amistad*, and *The Two Popes*. In addition, he has won three BAFTAs and two Emmys, has been nominated for seven Golden Globe awards, and was honoured with the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2006. Hopkins stars alongside Olivia Colman in Zeller's *The Father*, about a man struggling with aging, which will screen at TIFF and be released by Sony Pictures Classics on November 20, 2020.

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

**Chloé Zhao**

Vicente said Zhao's upcoming film *Nomadland* reminds us, particularly right now, that cinema has the power to connect us all no matter how far apart we might feel: "Chloé's work consistently exemplifies her signature flair for authentic, humane, and emotionally intimate storytelling."

Zhao was born in Beijing, China. She was raised there and also in Brighton, England. After moving to the US, she studied political science at Mount Holyoke College and film production at NYU. *Songs My Brothers Taught Me*, her debut feature film as a writer, director, and producer, premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and screened in the Directors' Fortnight section at the Cannes Film Festival, receiving a nomination for the Caméra d'Or Award for best first feature. Her sophomore feature, *The Rider*, an impressionistic drama about a South Dakota cowboy, premiered at Cannes' Directors' Fortnight in 2017 and won the Art Cinema Award. The film went on to receive critical acclaim, with Zhao nominated for Best Director at the Independent Spirit Awards and won Best Feature at the IFP Gotham Awards. Zhao's upcoming film *Nomadland*, which explores the vast landscape of the American West, stars Frances McDormand, David Strathairn, Linda May, and Charlene Swankie. The film will screen at TIFF and will be released by Searchlight Pictures this fall. Zhao's other upcoming feature is *The Eternals* from Marvel Studios.

**Mira Nair**

Vicente said Nair's brilliant adaptation of *A Suitable Boy* acts as a testament to her extraordinary talent for authentic storytelling. "Mira's passion for creating impact through film and storytelling, coupled with her masterful cinematic style, extends far beyond the screen; and resonates through her deep commitment for talent development in the US, East Africa, and India."

Nair is an Academy Award- and BAFTA-nominated filmmaker who has directed numerous films, including *Mississippi Masala*, the Venice Golden Lion-winning *Monsoon Wedding*, *The Namesake*, and *Queen of Katwe*. Her first film, *Salaam Bombay!*, won the Caméra d'Or at Cannes in 1988, was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and won the BAFTA Award for Best Film Not in the English Language. She was awarded the Laura Ziskin Lifetime Achievement Award at the Athena Film Festival, a Tribute at the IFP Gotham Awards, and a Muse Award from NYWIFT. Nair's production company, Mirabai Films, specializes in creating films about the world, for the world. In 1998, Nair used the profits from *Salaam Bombay!* to create Salaam Baalak Trust, which works with street children in India, and in 2005, she established Maisha Film Lab in Kampala, Uganda, a non-profit training initiative for emerging East African filmmakers. In 2012, Nair was awarded the Padma Bhushan – India's second-highest civilian honour – by the president of India. Nair's six-part miniseries *A Suitable Boy* will screen at TIFF.

Last year the inaugural TIFF Tribute Gala celebrated the remarkable talents and contributions of Meryl Streep, Taika Waititi, Mati Diop, and Joaquin Phoenix, among others. 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 the residents of the entire community. Additional honourees for 2020 will be announced in the coming weeks.

The **2020 TIFF Tribute Awards** is produced by Bell Media Studios in partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival. Emmanuel Groneveldt is Director of Entertainment Production, Bell Media Studios and Executive Producer. Chris Perez is Executive Producer, Bell Media Studios. Nanci MacLean is Vice-President, Bell Media

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Studios and President, Pinewood Toronto Studios. Mike Cosentino is President, Content and Programming, Bell Media. Randy Lennox is President, Bell Media.

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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 Bell Media**

Bell Media is Canada's leading content creation company with premier assets in television, radio, out-of-home advertising, digital media, and more. Bell Media owns 35 local television stations led by CTV, Canada's highest-rated television network, and the French-language V network in Québec; and 29 specialty channels, including leading specialty services TSN and RDS. Bell Media is Canada's largest radio broadcaster, with 215 music channels, including 109 licensed radio stations in 58 markets across the country, all part of the iHeartRadio brand and streaming service. Bell Media owns Astral, an out-of-home advertising network of 50,000 faces in five provinces. The country's digital media leader, Bell Media develops and operates websites, apps, and online platforms for its news and entertainment brands; video streaming services Crave, TSN Direct, and RDS Direct; and multi-channel network Much Studios. The company owns a majority stake in Pinewood Toronto Studios; is a partner in Just for Laughs, the live comedy event and TV producer; and jointly owns Dome Productions Partnership., one of North America's leading production facilities providers. Bell Media is part of BCE Inc. (TSX, NYSE: BCE), Canada's largest communications company. Learn more at [bellmedia.ca](http://bellmedia.ca).

**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.**



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