

## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2016 AWARD WINNERS

**TORONTO** — The Toronto International Film Festival® announced its award winners at a ceremony at TIFF Bell Lightbox today, hosted by Piers Handling, CEO and Director of TIFF, and Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival. To watch the presentation, visit [tiff.net/ceremony](http://tiff.net/ceremony). The 41st Festival wraps up this evening.

The short film awards below were selected by a jury comprised of American filmmaker Abteen Bagheri (*That B.E.A.T.*), French filmmaker Eva Husson (*Bang Gang*), and Canadian filmmaker Jeff Barnaby (*Rhymes for Young Ghouls*).

### SHORT CUTS AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN SHORT FILM

The Short Cuts Award for Best Canadian Short Film goes to **Alexandre Dostie's *Mutants***. The jury remarked, "*Mutants* takes a summer in Quebec and infuses it with a ribald lyricism. Awkward moments of sexual awakening paired with self cannibalism and self immolation rise it above standard nostalgia. It was a film that took chances with both its subject matter and humour, and framing it through the eyes of children. Congratulations." The award offers a \$10,000 cash prize.

### SHORT CUTS AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM

The Short Cuts Award for Best Short Film goes to **Raymund Ribay Gutierrez's *Imago***. The jury remarked, "Some films are not easy to watch. But it's a beautiful thing to find a filmmaker who has a daring voice. We feel that with this movie we witnessed a bold, cinematic statement, and we cannot wait to see what features this director will give to the world." The award offers a \$10,000 cash prize.

The jury gave honourable mentions to Or Sinai's *Anna*, and Orlando von Einsiedel's *The White Helmets*.

The Canadian awards below were selected by a jury comprised of producers Luc Déry (*Incendies, Monsieur Lazhar*) and Anita Lee (*Stories We Tell, Invention*), filmmaker Mina Shum (*Double Happiness, Ninth Floor*), and cultural critic and novelist Hal Niedzviecki.

### CITY OF TORONTO AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN FIRST FEATURE FILM

The City of Toronto Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film goes to **Johnny Ma's *Old Stone* (*Lao shi*)**. The jury remarked, "For its remarkably mature, powerfully rendered portrait of an innocent taxi driver caught in a proto-capitalist China, the jury is pleased to select *Old Stone*." This award carries a cash prize of \$15,000, made possible by the City of Toronto.

### CANADA GOOSE AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN FEATURE FILM

The Canada Goose Award for Best Canadian Feature Film goes to **Mathieu Denis and Simon Lavoie for *Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves* (*Ceux qui font les révolutions à moitié n'ont fait que se creuser un tombeau*)**. The jury remarked, "For its uncompromising, electrifying portrait of youthful idealism and democratic exhaustion in contemporary Canada, and for its capacity to stir both heart and mind, the jury is thrilled to select *Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves*." This award carries a cash prize of \$30,000 and a custom award, sponsored by Canada Goose.

### THE PRIZES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM CRITICS (FIPRESCI PRIZES)

The Festival welcomed an international FIPRESCI jury for the 25th year. The jury members composed of jury president Steffen Moestrup (Denmark), Neta Alexander (Israel), Michael Sicinski (USA), Diego Faraone (Uruguay), Jake Howell (Canada), and Louis-Paul Rioux (Canada).

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



**Prize of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI)** for the **Discovery** programme is awarded to **Mbithi Masya** for ***Kati Kati***. The jury remarked, "With a generous and poetic tone, not without a degree of anger at personal and political injustice, FIPRESCI is pleased to present the prize in the Discovery programme to an exciting and unique new voice in cinema, Mbithi Masya for his debut feature *Kati Kati*."

**Prize of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI)** for **Special Presentations** is awarded to **Feng Xiaogang** for ***I Am Not Madame Bovary***. The jury remarked, "For its ambitious rendering of a woman's Kafkaesque struggle as she takes on the Chinese legal system, and sophisticated play of both form and content, FIPRESCI presents the prize in the Special Presentations programme to Feng Xiaogang's *I Am Not Madame Bovary*."

#### NETPAC AWARD

As selected by a jury from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Pacific Cinema for the 5th consecutive year, the **NETPAC Award for World or International Asian Film Premiere** goes to **Maysaloun Hamoud's *In Between (Bar Bahar)***. Jury members include jury chairperson Jeannette Paulson Hereniko (USA), Bina Paul (India), and Sabrina Baracetti (Italy). The jury remarked, "A confident debut about three contemporary Palestinian women living in Tel Aviv whose strong bond of sisterhood supports an exploration and shift in relationships, careers, and sexuality."

#### TORONTO PLATFORM PRIZE

This is the sophomore year for Platform, the Festival's juried programme that champions director's cinema from around the world. The Festival welcomed an international jury comprised of legendary filmmakers Brian De Palma and Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, and acclaimed actor Zhang Ziyi, who awarded the **Toronto Platform Prize to Pablo Larraín for *Jackie***. The jury remarked, "Our decision was unanimous. We found one film that combined an extraordinary script with precise direction and unforgettable acting. For its exploration of the myth of American Camelot and its preeminent performance by Natalie Portman, the 2016 prize goes to *Jackie*." The award offers a \$25,000 cash prize and a custom award.

The jury awards a special mention to **Khyentse Norbu's *Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song While I Wait (he-mà he-mà)***, "for a film that is a metaphor for our time. In an age of technology, this film uses masks to reconnect its characters with human instinct and emotion."

#### GROLSCH PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

This year marked the 39th year that Toronto audiences were able to cast a ballot for their favourite Festival film for the **Grolsch People's Choice Award**. This year's award goes to **Damien Chazelle's *La La Land***. Writer-director Damien Chazelle captures the story of Mia, an aspiring actress, and Sebastian, a dedicated jazz musician, who are struggling to make ends meet in a city known for destroying hopes and breaking hearts. Set in modern day Los Angeles, this original musical about everyday life explores the joy and pain of pursuing your dreams. The award offers a \$15,000 cash prize and custom award, sponsored by Grolsch. The second runner up is **Mira Nair's *Queen of Katwe***. The first runner up is **Garth Davis's *Lion***.

The Festival presents a **free screening** of the award-winning film ***La La Land*** tonight at 6 p.m. at Roy Thomson Hall. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 4 p.m. at Roy Thomson Hall.

The **Grolsch People's Choice Midnight Madness Award** goes to **Ben Wheatley's *Free Fire***. Justine has brokered a meeting in a deserted warehouse between two Irishmen and a gang led by Vernon and Ord who are selling them a stash of guns. But when shots are fired in the handover, a heart stopping game of survival ensues. The second runner up is **Julia Ducournau's *Raw***. The first runner up is **André Øvredal's *The Autopsy of Jane Doe***.

The **Grolsch People's Choice Documentary Award** goes to **Raoul Peck for *I Am Not Your Negro***. With unprecedented access to James Baldwin's original work, Raoul Peck completes the cinematic version of the book Baldwin never finished — a radical narration about race in America today that tracks the lives and assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Medgar Evers. The second runner up is **Fisher Stevens' *Before the Flood***. The first runner up is **Steve James' *ABACUS: Small Enough to Jail***.

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### **DROPBOX DISCOVERY PROGRAMME FILMMAKERS AWARD**

The **Dropbox Discovery Programme Filmmakers Award** goes to **Yanillys Perez** for **Jeffrey**. Jury members include Lane Kneeder, Director of Programming at AFI, producer Caroline Benjo of Haut et Court, and Alice Tynan of Dropbox. The jury remarked, "A true collaboration between subject and storyteller, *Jeffrey* weaves verite and socially conscious observation together with poetic moments of magical realism. With this beautiful combination, director Yanillys Perez not only captures the boundless spirit and imagination of her protagonist, but also offers new possibilities for narrative filmmaking. We believe people will love discovering *Jeffrey*." The production team is awarded a free Dropbox for Business account.

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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](http://tiff.net).

**The City of Toronto is the supporter of the Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film.**

**Canada Goose is the sponsor of the Award for Best Canadian Feature Film.**

**Grolsch is the sponsor of the People's Choice Awards.**

**Dropbox is the sponsor of the Discovery Programme Filmmakers Award.**

**The Toronto International Film Festival 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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For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).

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