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MEDIA RELEASE

TIFF'S EXPANSIVE WAVELENGTHS PROGRAMME GOES THE DISTANCE WITH RIVETING NARRATIVE EXPERIMENTS, FEARLESS DOCUMENTARIES, AND CAPTIVATING FILM ART

Including films by James Benning, Jodie Mack, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Wang Bing, Laida Lertxundi, Bi Gan, Richard Billingham, Ulrich Köhler, Ben Rivers, Helena Wittmann, Sky Hopinka, Mariano Llinás, Elena López Riera, Sergei Loznitsa, Beatrice Gibson, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Nathaniel Dorsky, and Roberto Minervini

TORONTO – The Toronto International Film Festival®'s Wavelengths programme is thrilled to unveil the 18th edition of its adventurous and carefully curated lineup of shorts and feature films from around the world. This rich and varied selection of 43 films demonstrates the ways in which filmmakers continue to expand cinema's aesthetic, narrative, and documentary forms and languages. This year's selection comprises 4 programmes of experimental short films, 2 curated pairings, and 10 features, each contributing to an exciting, diverse lineup of moving-image art. Wavelengths is curated and overseen by Andréa Picard, with contributions from members of TIFF's international programming team, namely Giovanna Fulvi, Kiva Reardon, Steve Gravestock, and Danis Goulet.

"This year's edition of Wavelengths is undoubtedly one of its most heterogeneous, with films ranging from one minute to 14 hours in formats that include 16mm, 35mm, 70mm, and digital, offering sensual dives into fiction, structural abstraction, and uncompromising documentaries," said curator Andréa Picard. "While the term 'avant-garde' may hold less meaning today or ring suspicious, it is nevertheless clear that filmmakers and artists continue to expand cinema's aesthetic and expressive possibilities and are willing to take great risks, ensuring vibrancy in the artform. In today's cultural and political landscapes, these risks are essential and cannot be underestimated."

Wavelengths '18 offers trenchant reflections on home, memory, and a world in flux through artistic narratives produced by a mix of emerging talent and contemporary masters and working across a variety of inventive styles. Fiction highlights include Bi Gan's dazzling and mysterious *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, a dreamy neo-noir about memories, passion, and the malleability of time that received critical acclaim at Cannes; the beautiful and intimate *RAY & LIZ*, the searing debut feature by Richard Billingham, Turner Prize-nominated photographer-turned-filmmaker, inspired by his family and his own Thatcher-era childhood memories; and Mariano Llinás' epic 14-hour drama *La Flor* – the longest film in Argentine history – which took nearly a decade to produce and which explores the possibilities of cinematic narrative through impressive and

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ingenious experiments in acting and genre.

Wavelengths is equally honoured to showcase several astonishing and sure-to-be landmark documentaries, including master Chinese filmmaker Wang Bing's powerful ***Dead Souls***, a momentous, eight-hour documentary that offers sobering testimonials of experiences in China's forced re-education camps in the 1950s; the World Premiere of the stunningly shot ***The Stone Speakers*** by Igor Drlijača, a compelling documentary about faith, tourism, shifting industries, and competing historical narratives in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the provocative and powerful ***What You Gonna Do When the World's on Fire?*** by the returning Roberto Minervini, a fiery portrayal of Black life in the American South; the gripping found-footage film ***The Trial*** by Festival mainstay Sergei Loznitsa, which assembles original material from a show trial conducted under Stalin's Soviet government in 1930s Moscow; and the elegant, moving ***Erased, ___Ascent of the Invisible*** by Ghassan Halwani, a personal-essay film by the animator of *The Lebanese Rocket Society* (Wavelengths 2012) inspired by the distorted image of a mysterious man thought to have disappeared many years ago in Beirut. Andrea Bussmann's solo debut, ***Fausto***, and Jodie Mack's ***The Grand Bizarre*** are two of this year's most exhilarating cinematic experiments; they defy categorization as they meld documentary inquiry with inspired audio-visual expressions, ranging from the mythical to the musical.

Short-film highlights include new works by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Abraaj Group Art Prize winner Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Nathaniel Dorsky, Mary Helena Clark, Laida Lertxundi, Ben Rivers, Kevin Jerome Everson, Laura Huertas Millán, and more. The programme also features the World Premiere of artist-filmmaker Beatrice Gibson's ***I Hope I'm Loud When I'm Dead***, a KW Production Series co-commission with Mercer Union (Toronto), Camden Arts Centre (London), and Bergen Kunsthall (Bergen), which is supported by the Julia Stoschek Foundation and Outset Germany_Switzerland and which features appearances by poets Eileen Myles and CAConrad.

Wavelengths is also pleased to present a number of historical restorations and rediscoveries. This year's archival selections include the previously unseen ***1986 Summer*** (1986), by Japanese avant-garde titan Toshio Matsumoto; Lisa Baumgardner's punchy ***Girl Pack*** (1981), recently restored by the Museum of Modern Art in New York; and the fascinating and idiosyncratic portrait film ***Alice*** (1974), directed by Austrian painter and filmmaker Maria Lassnig as part of her *Soul Sisters* series.

The 43rd Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 6 to 16, 2018.

WAVELENGTHS SHORT FILM PROGRAMMES

Wavelengths 1: Earth, Wind & Fire

Polly One Kevin Jerome Everson | USA | Canadian Premiere

Blue Apichatpong Weerasethakul | France/Thailand | International Premiere

Fainting Spells Sky Hopinka | Ho-Chunk Nation/USA | International Premiere

Prologue to the Tarot: Glenna Brittany Gravely, Ken Linehan | USA | World Premiere

Hoarders Without Borders Jodie Mack | USA | World Premiere

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ante mis ojos Lina Rodriguez | Colombia/Canada | World Premiere
ALTIPLANO Malena Szlam | Chile/Argentina/Canada | World Premiere

Wavelengths 2: Another Brick in the Wall

Ada Kaleh Helena Wittmann | Germany | World Premiere
The Glass Note Mary Helena Clark | USA | North American Premiere
mumok kino Philipp Fleischmann | Austria | International Premiere
TREES DOWN HERE Ben Rivers | United Kingdom | International Premiere
1986 Summer (1986 夏) Toshio Matsumoto | Japan | International Premiere
Words, Planets Laida Lertxundi | Spain/USA | Canadian Premiere
The Invisible Cinema 3 Philipp Fleischmann | Austria | International Premiere
Walled Unwalled Lawrence Abu Hamdan | Germany | North American Premiere

Wavelengths 3: Centerfold

Girl Pack Lisa Baumgardner | USA | International Premiere
Please step out of the frame. Karissa Hahn | USA | Toronto Premiere
The Air of the Earth in Your Lungs Ross Meckfessel | USA/Japan | World Premiere
Sira (سيرة) Rolla Tahir | Canada | World Premiere
Slip Celia Perrin Sidarous | Canada | Toronto Premiere
Alice Maria Lassnig | USA | Canadian Premiere
Fallen Arches Simon Liu | United Kingdom/USA/Hong Kong | World Premiere
I Hope I'm Loud When I'm Dead Beatrice Gibson | USA/Italy/United Kingdom | World Premiere

Wavelengths 4: We've Only Just Begun

Colophon (for the Arboretum Cycle) Nathaniel Dorsky | USA | World Premiere
A Return James Edmonds | Germany | North American Premiere
The Labyrinth (El Laberinto) Laura Huertas Millán | Colombia/France | North American Premiere
Île d'Ouessant David Dudouit | France | North American Premiere
Julio Iglesias's House (La casa de Julio Iglesias) Natalia Marín | Spain | North American Premiere
Man in the Well (Jing li de ren) Hu Bo | China | North American Premiere

PAIRINGS

L. COHEN James Benning | USA
Canadian Premiere
preceded by
Arena Björn Kämmerer | Austria
International Premiere

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The Grand Bizarre Jodie Mack | USA

North American Premiere

preceded by

Those Who Desire (*Los que desean*) Elena López Riera | Switzerland/Spain

International Premiere

FEATURES

Dead Souls (*Si Ling Hun*) Wang Bing | France/Switzerland

North American Premiere

Erased,___Ascent of the Invisible (*Tirss, Rihlat Alsoo'oud ila Almar'i*) Ghassan Halwani | Lebanon

North American Premiere

Fausto Andrea Bussmann | Canada/Mexico

North American Premiere

In My Room Ulrich Köhler | Germany/Italy

North American Premiere

The Flower (*La Flor*) Mariano Llinás | Argentina

North American Premiere

Long Day's Journey Into Night (*Di qiu zui hou de ye wan*) Bi Gan | China/France

North American Premiere

RAY & LIZ Richard Billingham | United Kingdom

North American Premiere

The Stone Speakers (*Kameni Govornici*) Igor Drljača | Canada/Bosnia/Herzegovina

World Premiere

The Trial Sergei Loznitsa | Netherlands

North American Premiere

What You Gonna Do When the World's on Fire? Roberto Minervini | Italy/USA/France

North American Premiere

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Previously announced Canadian titles in the Wavelengths Programme include Lina Rodriguez's *ante mis ojos*, Andrea Bussmann's *Fausto*, Rolla Tahir's *Sira*, Celia Perrin Sidarous' *Slip*, and Igor Drljača's *The Stone Speakers*.

For film synopses, cast lists, images, and more information, see tiff.net/wavelengthstiff18.

Festival tickets go on sale September 3 at 10am (TIFF Member pre-sale September 1 from 10am to 4pm). Buy tickets online at tiff.net, by phone at 416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433, or in person at a box office. See box office locations and hours at tiff.net/tickets.

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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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