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MEDIA RELEASE

TIFF 2019 DOCUMENTARY LINEUP INCLUDES WORLD PREMIERES OF *THE CAVE*, *AND WE GO GREEN*, *DADS*, *DESERT ONE*, *RED PENGUINS*, *SING ME A SONG*, *THE CAPOTE TAPES*, AND *BIKRAM: YOGI, GURU, PREDATOR*

Slate includes new work from Feras Fayyad, Barbara Kopple, Bryce Dallas Howard, Thomas Balmès, Eva Mulvad, Alan Berliner, Alex Gibney, Eva Orner, Ebs Burnough, Alla Kovgan, Gabe Polsky, and Fisher Stevens & Malcolm Venville

TORONTO – The Toronto International Film Festival® documentary programme reveals its lineup of 25 non-fiction works, including 18 World Premieres with representation from 18 countries. The films cover many high-profile figures, both famous and infamous – including Truman Capote, Merce Cunningham, Ron Howard, Bikram Choudhury, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, and Imelda Marcos – and a broad range of themes, including artistic achievement, the power of journalism, immigration, global politics, and resistance against corrupt leaders. Three films use sports as a framework to look at environmentalism, capitalism, and racism.

“This year’s programme captures characters you’ll never forget: lovers, fighters, dancers, athletes, despots, rebels, hustlers, and heroes,” said Thom Powers, serving his 14th year as TIFF Docs programmer this Festival. “We’ll be talking about these films for a long time to come.”

The section will open with the World Premiere of *The Cave* from Oscar-nominated director Feras Fayyad, about an underground hospital led by a female doctor in war-torn Syria. Other World Premieres from renowned directors include Alan Berliner’s *Letter to the Editor*, a personal reflection on photojournalism; Barbara Kopple’s *Desert One*, chronicling a perilous mission to rescue hostages in Iran; Thomas Balmès’ *Sing Me A Song*, following a young monk in Bhutan who forms a long-distance relationship via his smartphone; *And We Go Green*, about racers in the Formula E competition for electric cars, directed by Fisher Stevens and Malcolm Venville and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio; and Eva Orner’s *Bikram: Yogi, Guru, Predator*, about the controversial yoga teacher who had multiple lawsuits filed against him for sexual misconduct.

First-time documentarians present films on prominent figures: Bryce Dallas Howard’s *Dads* explores fatherhood with leading comedians and her own father, Ron Howard; Alla Kovgan’s *Cunningham*, shot in 3D, captures the artistry of dancer Merce Cunningham; and Ebs Burnough, who previously served in the Obama administration, makes his debut with *The Capote Tapes*, a biography of American writer Truman Capote.

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

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The everyday lives of refugees and migrants are brought to centre stage in Eva Mulvad's ***Love Child***, following a couple at risk of execution for their love affair; ***Ready for War***, directed by Andrew Renzi and executive produced by Drake, Future, and David Ayer, which tells the story of immigrants who served in the US military only to be deported; Hind Meddeb's ***Paris Stalingrad*** which follows migrants from Africa and Afghanistan living on the streets in the city of lights; and ***My English Cousin***, Karim Sayad's portrait of the director's real-life Algerian cousin who discovers the challenges of returning home.

Russian politics and the rise of capitalism are examined in Gabe Polsky's ***Red Penguins***, recounting a comic tale of American hustlers bringing NHL-style hockey to Moscow, and Alex Gibney's ***Citizen K***, profiling the oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who turned against Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Rounding out the section are stories from around the globe, including Garin Hovannisian's ***I Am Not Alone***, about a peaceful resistance movement in Armenia; and Mark Cousins' ***Women Make Film: A New Road Movie Through Cinema***, a recently completed 14-hour exploration of female directors around the world. The first four hours of ***Women Make Film***, which was executive produced by Tilda Swinton, were previewed at last year's Festival. Alexander Nanau's ***Collective*** follows crusading Romanian journalists who uncover a scandal; Daniel Gordon's ***The Australian Dream***, executive produced by Ben Simmons, tells the story of football legend Adam Goodes, who battled racism in the AFL; and Lina Al Abed's ***Ibrahim: A Fate to Define*** centres on the mysterious disappearance of a Palestinian secret agent. Also featured are Patricio Guzmán's ***The Cordillera of Dreams***, completing the director's trilogy about the Chilean landscape, and Lauren Greenfield's ***The Kingmaker***, a profile of Imelda Marcos.

Last year's TIFF Docs lineup showcased ***Free Solo***, which went on to win the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. The 2018 Festival also presented a strong market for distribution deals for titles such as ***The Biggest Little Farm***, ***The Elephant Queen***, and ***Maiden***.

The 44th Toronto International Film Festival runs September 5–15, 2019.

Films screening as part of the TIFF Docs programme include:

And We Go Green Fisher Stevens, Malcolm Venville | USA
World Premiere

The Australian Dream Daniel Gordon | Australia/United Kingdom
International Premiere

Bikram: Yogi, Guru, Predator Eva Orner | USA

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World Premiere

The Capote Tapes Ebs Burnough | United Kingdom
World Premiere

TIFF Docs Opening Film

The Cave Feras Fayyad | Syria/Denmark/Germany/USA/Qatar
World Premiere

Citizen K Alex Gibney | USA/United Kingdom
North American Premiere

Collective (Colectiv) Alexander Nanau | Romania/Luxembourg
North American Premiere

Coppers Alan Zweig | Canada
World Premiere

The Cordillera of Dreams (La Cordillera de los Sueños) Patricio Guzmán | France/Chile
North American Premiere

Cunningham Alla Kovgan | Germany/France/USA
World Premiere

Dads Bryce Dallas Howard | USA
World Premiere

Desert One Barbara Kopple | USA
World Premiere

I Am Not Alone Garin Hovannisian | Armenia/USA
World Premiere

Ibrahim: A Fate to Define Lina Al Abed | Lebanon/Palestine/Denmark/Qatar/Slovenia
North American Premiere

The Kingmaker Lauren Greenfield | USA/Denmark
Canadian Premiere

Letter to the Editor Alan Berliner | USA

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World Premiere

Love Child Eva Mulvad | Denmark

World Premiere

My English Cousin Karim Sayad | Switzerland/Qatar

World Premiere

Paris Stalingrad Hind Meddeb | France

International Premiere

Ready for War Andrew Renzi | USA

World Premiere

Red Penguins Gabe Polsky | USA/Russia

World Premiere

Sing Me A Song Thomas Balmès | France/Germany/Switzerland

World Premiere

There's Something in the Water Ellen Page, Ian Daniel | Canada

World Premiere

This Is Not a Movie Yung Chang | Canada/Germany

World Premiere

Women Make Film: A New Road Movie Through Cinema Mark Cousins | United Kingdom

World Premiere

Previously announced TIFF Docs films include Alan Zweig's **Coppers**, Ellen Page and Ian Daniel's **There's Something in the Water**, and Yung Chang's **This Is Not a Movie**.

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

Festival ticket packages start at \$105. Purchase packages online at tiff.net/tickets, by phone (416.599.2033 or 1.888.599.8433), or in person at TIFF Bell Lightbox until August 13, while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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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.

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The TIFF Docs programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of A&E IndieFilms.

These films are eligible for the Grolsch People's Choice Documentary Award. Vote for your favourite films at tiff.net/vote.

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For more information, contact Yejide Collman, Festival Publicist, at ycollman@tiff.net, or the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or proffice@tiff.net.

For images, visit the media site at tiff.net/press.

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