

TIFF Next Wave Committee

2020-2021
Application Kit



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what is TIFF Next Wave?

TIFF Next Wave is the heartbeat of year-round programming for young audiences at the Toronto International Film Festival located in downtown Toronto. It includes a selection of youth friendly films that screen at the Festival in September, the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival in February, and the TIFF Next Wave Film Club, a monthly series that brings young film-lovers together to explore all things film.

The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival features **FREE** movies for anyone under 25 (including new releases from around the world), amazing guests and Q&A sessions, industry workshops and panels, a throwback Movie Marathon with timeless classics, the ever-epic kick-off at Battle of the Scores, and more!



what happened at this year's TIFF Next Wave Film Festival?

This year's TIFF Next Wave feature-film lineup included bold new films from around the world and featured authentic, diverse representations of youth on screen. Highlights include **Kuessipan**, the story of two childhood best friends who begin to realize their futures may separate them, despite their ties to each other, their family, and their Québec Innu community; writer-director Tayarisha Poe's first feature, **Selah And The Spades**, a stylish look at five factions vying for social supremacy at a posh Pennsylvania boarding school; **And Then We Danced**, the story of a young dancer at the National Georgian Assembly who has his life turned upside down with the arrival of a new colleague, sparking both a strong rivalry and romantic desire in director Levan Akin's refreshing take on the queer coming-of-age story; and **CRSHD**, Emily Cohn's hilarious, inventive female-driven sex comedy which follows a college freshman and her two best friends navigating the messy ups and downs of life and love in the age of social media.

The festival also featured a Growing Pains Movie Marathon, with timeless classics like *Boy*, *Josie and the Pussycats*, *Love & Basketball*, *Step Up*, and *My Own Private Idaho*.



Josie and the Pussycats (2001)

Returning for the second year, there was also the Young Creators Showcase! A free lineup of films made for youth, by youth - featuring 14 incredible shorts from emerging Canadian filmmakers with a diverse mix of voices and visions. Check out everything that happened at this year's festival at: www.tiff.net/nextwave.

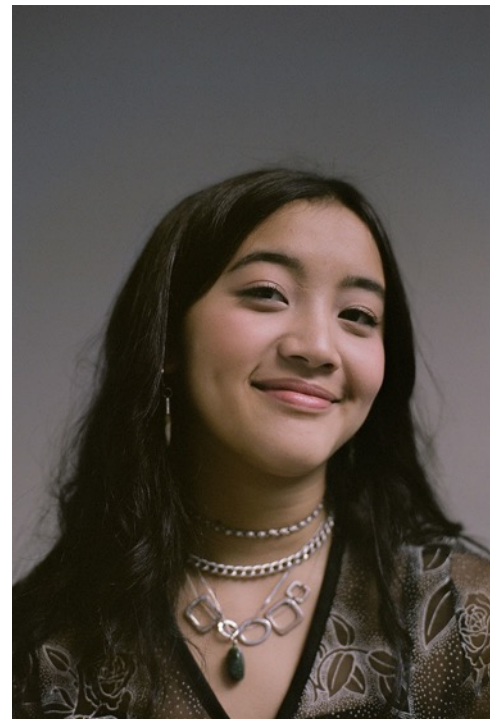
what is the TIFF Next Wave Committee?

Founded in 2010, the TIFF Next Wave Committee is a group of twelve students aged 15 to 18 who are selected from a pool of hopeful young film enthusiasts. Hailing from specialized arts institutions, public schools, alternative schools and private schools across the GTA, the Committee members' tastes, opinions, and critical voices are as diverse as they are strong. Some are aspiring filmmakers, writers and actors; some are interested in learning the business of film and festivals; some like planning cultural events; and some just love movies. All have demonstrated a spirit that has impressed TIFF leaders. With the guidance of TIFF staff, the Committee is charged with planning major teen-oriented events and digital engagements at TIFF Bell Lightbox, including the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival.



what will I do on the Committee? and how will COVID-19 impact the committee programme?

The committee supports the planning and programming of all TIFF Next Wave events. They watch A LOT of movies, discuss them as a committee and help select the ones that screen at the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival in February and as Next Wave-tagged films at the Toronto International Film Festival in September. At both festivals, committee members are also responsible for film introductions and Q&As. They get to know other film lovers and interact with people in the film industry, including TIFF staff and more! Under normal circumstances, the committee meets every second Tuesday from August to June, on occasional screening weekends, and a two-week screening period in July. During COVID-19, we anticipate meetings to take place digitally to start. At the moment, we're experimenting with Zoom meet-ups and may move towards a combination of digital and in-person committee meetings as social distancing guidelines evolve over the coming months.



the application

The application consists of **2 parts**:

1. Fill in the [Application Google form](#) with all of your basic information.
2. Complete the meaty part, consisting of **one of the three** following options.
Please send this part to us at nextwave@tiff.net

a. A "to-camera" intro

- i. Talk directly to the camera.
- ii. Tell us about yourself: what you're into, what you like.
- iii. Tell us why you want to join the TIFF Next Wave Committee.
- iv. Please include things you find exciting about the opportunity and what you think you could bring to it.
- v. Add anything else you want to share!

The video should be 1-4 (max!) minutes long and can be shot on your phone or a fancy camera- it's up to you!

b. A personal essay introducing yourself

- i. This is like a written version of the "to-camera" introduction.
- ii. Tell us about yourself: what you're into, what you like.
- iii. Tell us about your love of film: when you discovered it, why you're passionate about it.
- iv. Share ideas about TIFF Next Wave outlining what you think you could bring to the committee and the programme as a whole.
- v. Add anything else you want to share!

The personal essay should be typed and 1-3 pages.

c. A programmer assignment

- i. Put your programmer hat on! Design a Movie Marathon for young people your age.
- ii. Choose a theme and 3-5 films that fit within the theme.
- iii. Support your ideas - why you selected these films, how you chose your theme, and what kind of audience your Movie Marathon would suit! As a Next Wave Committee Member that is an important part of your analysis.

The film programmer assignment should be typed and 1-3 pages.

deadline and submission details

Fill in the [Application Google form](#) + complete the “meaty-part” of your application (see above) and send it to us at nextwave@tiff.net.

**Applications are due Monday
June 22nd**

Submit by email to: nextwave@tiff.net

about TIFF

TIFF is dedicated to presenting the best of international and Canadian cinema to film lovers. Our vision is to lead the world in creative and cultural discovery through the moving image. What began as a 10 day film festival has grown to embrace programming 365 days a year. TIFF offers screenings, lectures, discussions, festivals, workshops, industry support, and the chance to connect with filmmakers from Canada and around the world.

In September 2010, the opening of our new home, TIFF Bell Lightbox, enabled TIFF to expand to truly become a creative, community and global leader, and one of the world's premier organizations in the discovery and understanding of film.

FAQs

"What do you actually do on the Committee?"

The Committee spends a lot of time watching films to program for the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival in February and to tag as "youth-friendly" at the Festival in September. That takes up most of our meetings from July until February. Otherwise, we plan monthly Film Club events, attend cultural and youth events (in-person or digitally) like Hot Docs and Inside Out, and explore all things where youth and film collide. When we are not in full festival prep mode, the Committee is able to plan meetings and decide how things look!

"What does a typical meeting look like?"

Meetings vary depending on the time of year, but under normal circumstances, we meet at 5pm, eat pizza (or something else... but usually pizza), check-in, get to know each other, and share updates and announcements. Then we watch a film for programming and when it's over, we record our feedback personally and then have a discussion as a group. During COVID-19, we anticipate meetings to take place digitally to start. As social distancing guidelines evolve over the coming months, we'll look to have a mix digital and in-person meetings.

"How many people are on the Committee?"

There are a total of 12 people on the Committee.

"Can I share the films we are watching with my friends and/or tell them all about the movies we watch in meetings?"

As film programmers, we are required to keep everything completely confidential until it is officially, publicly announced via press release. This includes all festival plans, the films we screen as a group, guests confirmed, and your opinions and views on the films selected.

"I live really far from downtown, is that ok?"

Yes! We have had Committee members from all over- Markham, Mississauga, North York, Pickering and downtown. We anticipate meetings to take place digitally to start. Once we're able to meet in-person, we assist with transit costs and support folks in

getting to downtown Toronto for meetings and screenings, so if you are able to make it, we are very happy to have you. We would like the Committee to represent the entire GTA.

“What are you looking for in candidates?”

We are looking for all kinds of passionate and excited young people. There is no one kind of Next Waver - we strive to make sure it is full of different kinds of people with different interests, skills and abilities. We encourage people in their applications to be themselves - let us see the real you!

“How many years can a person stay on the Next Wave Committee?”

You can stay on the TIFF Next Wave Committee as long as you are in high school. So if you start in grade 9, you can stay right through to grade 12. We check in with Committee members at the end of every year, however, to make sure they want to stick around. It is not mandatory.

“Do I need to be in high school to join?”

Yes. Officially, you need to be enrolled in high school to be on the TIFF Next Wave Committee.

“Do I need a background in film or filmmaking experience?”

No! You do not need any formal training or experience in film or filmmaking, but a love for film definitely makes the experience a fuller one.

“I like ‘x’ type of movies; can I still apply to be on the Committee?”

Yes! No matter what kind of movies you love, you can definitely apply to be on the Committee. Action, drama, comedy, horror, obscure genres that we haven’t heard of - anything goes! The bigger the mix, the better.

“How many people apply to be on the Next Wave Committee?”

Generally we have approximately 70 applications every year for the TIFF Next Wave Committee and only 5-9 spots to fill depending on the number of graduating members. If you don’t make it this year, we encourage applicants to re-apply and/or volunteer with us!

**questions? feelings? need support getting this done?
get in touch!**

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