



January 27, 2021

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## TIFF NEXT WAVE INVITES YOUTH TO MEET AT THE MOVIES – AT HOME

### Celebrating 10 years, the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival goes national on digital TIFF Bell Lightbox

TORONTO – TIFF is calling young people from across Canada to come together at home to celebrate this year's TIFF Next Wave Film Festival, running February 12–15, 2021. The festival – which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year – will be held online via digital TIFF Bell Lightbox and TIFF social media channels, making the best youth narratives available to viewers across the country for the first time. Curated for youth, by youth, the titles selected for this year's lineup demonstrate the power, tenacity, and steadfastness of the next generation, and feature stories of self-discovery and community. The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival offers FREE films for anyone under 25. Complete festival details, including the list of film titles, schedules, and ticket information, are available at [tiff.net/nextwave](http://tiff.net/nextwave).

In addition to an Official Selection slate of 10 feature films, the festival offers a unique and engaging lineup of digital programming, including: the **Young Creators Showcase**, a shorts programme highlighting emerging Canadian filmmakers; a throwback **Movie Marathon**; a virtual **Battle of the Scores** competition; and a special **In Conversation With... Finn Wolfhard**. Young aspiring filmmakers can also hear from and connect with industry experts at the **Young Creators Co-Lab**. The festival kicks off with a bang at the digital **TIFF Next Wave Opening Night Party** on February 12.

"The TIFF Next Wave Committee has curated a lineup that highlights the diversity and nuance of youth experiences from around the world," said Ikoro Huggins-Warner, Senior Coordinator, TIFF Youth & Community Initiatives. "This year's films widen our understanding of what coming-of-age stories can be, championing complex and honest perspectives on growing up, on finding one's voice and place in the world, and the importance of young people seeing themselves and their communities represented on screen."

This year's Official Film Selection consists of features and short films that are of the moment and represent a variety of experiences and perspectives of youth around the world, from Canada and the United States to Brazil and the United Arab Emirates. Seventy percent of features are directed by women. Highlights include: **Beans** (2020), TIFF Emerging Talent Award-winning filmmaker Tracey Deer's story of a 12-year-old Mohawk girl during the 1990 Oka Crisis; **My Name is Baghdad** (2020), a naturalistic look at skateboarding culture and a girl whose life is transformed by her crew; queer coming-of-age story **Tahara** (2020); and **Unapologetic** (2020), a documentary looking at the Movement for Black Lives in Chicago through the eyes of two community activists.

The filmmakers of tomorrow can connect with other emerging artists at the **Young Creators Co-Lab**. This intensive will give youth the chance to get inspired and learn tips from filmmaking pros in a full-day online session of workshops and talks. Among the sessions are a Master Class with **Tahara** director Olivia Peace and "Music in Motion," a creative session on bringing music to life on screen.

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



The TIFF Next Wave Film Festival is led by the TIFF Next Wave Committee, a group of 12 socially-engaged high-school students who are passionate about film. Working together, the TIFF Next Wave Committee curates the festival's core lineup of films and digital programming, bringing new perspectives and voices to young audiences across Canada.

"I'm incredibly excited about this year's TIFF Next Wave Film Festival, as going online gives us the ability to grow our community across Canada!" said Julia Yoo, TIFF Next Wave Committee member. "Being able to showcase diverse, fresh, and authentic stories to young people across the country in a welcoming and accessible way is a Next Wave dream. Being stuck indoors is hard, but I hope this year's lineup can act as a reminder of the passion, love, joy, and community that perseveres in the film community."

### **TICKET PRICING FOR THE TIFF NEXT WAVE FILM FESTIVAL IS AS FOLLOWS:**

Tickets for the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival will be available starting **January 27** for TIFF Members and **February 3** for the public. There are a limited number of FREE Official Selection film tickets for people under 25, available to reserve online until February 10 at 11:59pm via TIFF Account Manager. Individuals not under 25 are asked to please leave free tickets for those who are.

#### Tickets for viewers under 25

TIFF Next Wave Official Selection: **FREE** (\$9.03 including taxes and fees starting February 12)

Young Creators Showcase: **FREE** (\$9.03 including taxes and fees starting February 12)

In Conversation With... Finn Wolfhard: **FREE**

Movie Marathon single film: \$5.64 including taxes and fees

Movie Marathon four-film bundle: \$18.07 including taxes and fees

#### Tickets for viewers 25 and over

TIFF Next Wave Official Selection: \$9.03 including taxes and fees

Young Creators Showcase: \$9.03 including taxes and fees

In Conversation With... Finn Wolfhard: **FREE**

Movie Marathon single film: \$5.64 including taxes and fees

Movie Marathon four-film bundle: \$18.07 including taxes and fees

Passes to the Young Creators Co-Lab and the Opening Night Party are free with pre-registration. TIFF Next Wave strives to make films accessible for youth. For more information on screenings and activities, or to purchase tickets, please visit [tiff.net/nextwave](http://tiff.net/nextwave) or email [customerrelations@tiff.net](mailto:customerrelations@tiff.net).

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## EVENTS AT THE 2021 TIFF NEXT WAVE FILM FESTIVAL:

### **Opening Night Party**

**February 12, 8:30pm EST**

This year, the party goes from IRL to URL with lotsa digital bops and a few hundred (online) friends virtually raising your roof. Get down during lockdown from anywhere in Canada at the TIFF Next Wave Film Festival's online opening bash, with a lineup of young DJs and live performances. Stay tuned for the full lineup to be announced on February 3 at [tiff.net/nextwave](https://tiff.net/nextwave).

### **In Conversation With... Finn Wolfhard**

**February 13, 6pm EST**

TIFF Next Wave proudly presents a live conversation with actor, writer, director, and musician Finn Wolfhard. The 18-year-old Vancouverite has already accumulated an impressive list of credits, ranging from his award-winning portrayal of Mike Wheeler in the Netflix Original series *Stranger Things* to lead roles in such feature films as *It*, the upcoming *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*, and Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*. Wolfhard joins us for a discussion about his passion for music and film, his work in front of the camera, and his collaborations with emerging filmmakers on short films – including his own directorial debut, *Night Shifts*. This event will be available for free on TIFF's Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube channels.

### **Young Creators Co-Lab**

**February 13, 1pm EST**

Connect with other emerging artists and get inspiration and tips from industry experts in a series of online workshops and talks (via Zoom) at this year's Young Creators Co-Lab. Offering a day of connective and engaging programming for filmmakers and creatives, Co-Lab is FREE and accessible to youth anywhere in Canada. More information on the Young Creators Co-Lab lineup and guests is available at [tiff.net/nextwave](https://tiff.net/nextwave).

### **Battle of the Scores**

Three bands will score three short films for one big prize. Visit @TIFF\_NET on Instagram February 8–11 to see the films, hear the scores, and cast your vote. Winners will be announced on February 12 at TIFF Next Wave's Opening Night Party.

### **Movie Marathon: A Trip**

**February 12, starting at 10am EST**

This year's Movie Marathon is made up of four supremely bingeable throwback classics, guaranteed to be A Trip. On February 12, fans can see *Crystal Fairy & the Magical Cactus*, *High Fantasy*, *Let the Right One In*, and *Paprika* back to back to back to back online, from anywhere in Canada.

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## **TIFF Next Wave Film Festival Official Selection**

**Beans** dir. Tracey Deer | Canada | 2020 | English/French

**Cocoon** (*Kokon*) dir. Leonie Krippendorff | Germany | 2020 | German

**Death of Nintendo** dir. Raya Martin | USA/Philippines | 2019 | Tagalog/Filipino

**La Leyenda Negra** dir. Patricia Vidal Delgado | USA | 2020 | English/Spanish

**My Name is Baghdad** (*Meu nome é Bagdá*) dir. Caru Alves de Souza | Brazil | 2020 | Brazilian Portuguese

**The Night of the Beast** (*La noche de la bestia*) dir. Mauricio Leiva Cock | Colombia/Mexico | 2020 | Spanish

**Scales** (*Sayidat Al Bahr*) dir. Shahad Ameen | Saudi Arabia/United Arab Emirates/Iraq | 2019 | Arabic

**Summertime** dir. Carlos López Estrada | USA | 2020 | English

**Tahara** dir. Olivia Peace | USA | 2020 | English

**Unapologetic** dir. Ashley O'Shay | USA | 2020 | English

## **Young Creators Showcase**

Created by young, emerging filmmakers, this shorts programme explores themes of identity, connection, self-discovery, and finding one's place in the world. From animation to documentary, these shorts feature a dynamic mix of voices, visions, and methods of storytelling. They showcase bold, new ways youth are engaging in film to create honest, intersectional stories about their experiences. The lineup features 14 films by the next wave of Canadian filmmaking talent.

**COPING** dir. Vivien Forsans | Canada | 2019 | No Dialogue

**heroes** dir. Andy Nguyen | Canada | 2020 | English

**I Wanna Make a Movie, or I Wanna Die Trying** dirs. Sydney Nicole Herauf, Eric Bizzarri | Canada | 2019 | English

**The Gift** (*Kaudo*) dir. Natalie Paton | Canada | 2020 | Farsi/English

**LUZ** dir. Andrea Villanueva | Canada | 2020 | English

**My Head Aches When I Look Too Long** dir. Callahan Bracken | Canada | 2020 | English

**No Justice No Peace** dir. KhaRå Martin | Canada | 2020 | English

**No More Parties** dir. Natalie Murao | Canada | 2020 | English/Cantonese

**Prey** dirs. Aiken Chau, Yusheng Nathan Chen | Canada | 2020 | English

**sunday** (*일요일*) dir. kim hayung | Canada | 2020 | Korean/English

**this is a completely normal home movie** dir. Tessa Hill | Canada | 2020 | English

**Under The Bridge** dir. Peter Widdrington | Canada | 2019 | English

**Wash Day** dir. Jaida Salmon | Canada | 2019 | English

**With Love From Munera** dir. Yazmeen Kanji | Canada | 2020 | English

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Additional information is available [tiff.net/nextwave](http://tiff.net/nextwave).

To access digital TIFF Bell Lightbox, please visit [digital.tiff.net](http://digital.tiff.net).

TIFF prefers Visa.

**Social:**

#TIFFNextWave

@TIFF\_NET

**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).

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**The TIFF Next Wave Committee is supported by The Slight Family Foundation Learning Fund.**

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