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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **TIFF AND MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG ANNOUNCE RESIDENCY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

**Toronto** — TIFF announced today the launch of a new Residency Exchange programme that will offer one Canadian and one German filmmaker the opportunity to live, work, and find inspiration in two countries. The initiative is in collaboration with Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and will begin in 2017.

The international exchange programme will expand the creative reach and opportunities for the participants of TIFF's Len Blum Residency in Toronto and Medienboard's Artist-in-Residence in Berlin. Selected filmmakers will divide their time between the two cities, where they will be provided with professional support, accommodation, travel, and living allowance, as well as a package of benefits unique to each programme.

"Providing filmmakers with opportunities to inspire and develop their craft lies at the heart of TIFF's talent development programmes," said Kathleen Drumm, Director, TIFF Industry. "Collaborating with Medienboard on this exchange opens important international doors for participants. It also provides a great way for TIFF to expand its international remit by providing a home for outstanding German talent here at TIFF Bell Lightbox."

"We are delighted to be working with TIFF to offer our Artist-in-Residence the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the Canadian and North American film industry," said Kirsten Niehuus, CEO, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg. "Both Berlin and Toronto are significant cities in the industry, with established film professionals that are able to share their experience and knowledge with the next generation of filmmakers."

The importance of the relationship between the Canadian and German film industries was recognized during the Festival at the new series *Breakfast at TIFF*. The session "Doing Business in Germany" was jointly hosted by TIFF and German Films.

TIFF's Len Blum Residency is open to writer-director candidates nominated by established producers, directors, and screenwriters within the Canadian film industry. The selected filmmaker will take the next step forward in his/her career and produce a story idea or script to be developed.

Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg's residency is open to established Berlin-Brandenburg film professionals working at an international level, with an interest in the North American market.

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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

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TIFF Bell Lightbox Reitman Square, 350 King Street West, Toronto ON Canada M5V 3X5 T 416-599-TIFF / 1-888-599-8433

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#### **About Medienboard**

The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg is the main institution for the film and media industry in the German capital region. The Film Funding division provides funding for films and film-related projects, advises filmmakers on financing issues, and supports the development of the film industry. The Media Development division represents Berlin-Brandenburg as a key media location in Germany at international markets and festivals, provides market research and analysis and organizes networking events.

**Toronto International Film Festival Industry Programming is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris and Visa, and Major Supporters Telefilm Canada and the Ontario Media Development Corporation.**

**The Len Blum Residency is generously supported by Ron Mann.**

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For information, please contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).

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