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MEDIA RELEASE

TIFF UNVEILS 2018 TELEFILM CANADA'S PITCH THIS! FINALISTS **Showcasing new voices in Canadian filmmaking**

TORONTO — One of the most anticipated and popular Industry events during TIFF, Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS! is returning for its 20th edition. Six teams of talented emerging filmmakers will have six minutes each to pitch their feature-film idea to a live audience of industry experts and a jury of film professionals. The winning team will take home \$15,000 to help bring their film one step closer to production, with support from a script consultant. The challenge will take place at the Glenn Gould Studio on September 9 and is open to all Press & Industry delegates.

"We are delighted to partner with Telefilm Canada once again on PITCH THIS!" said Kathleen Drumm, Industry Director at TIFF. "This lively competition was created to foster and support emerging feature filmmakers and continues to be one of the most popular programmes in the Conference schedule. Not only does it deliver an entertaining lineup of pitches, but it also provides real results: several projects of past participants have been successfully completed, such as Pat Mills' *Don't Talk to Irene* and Molly McGlynn's *Mary Goes Round*. We look forward to cheering on the 2018 contestants."

Designed to highlight homegrown talent, Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS! provides an invaluable opportunity to bring up-and-coming filmmakers and industry experts together under the same roof.

The 2018 finalists are:

Hailu Mergia - When the Time Comes Simon Ennis Alex Ordanis

Decades after leaving behind a life of fame under a military dictatorship, Ethiopian jazz legend Hailu Mergia is rediscovered driving a cab in Washington, DC, and embraced by a new audience.

Jusqu'à la fin (A Moment of Pure Joy) Charles S. Roy, Francois Blouin

A reluctant, legendary European filmmaker shooting a sci-fi Hollywood movie in Montreal. An international crew that barely speaks the same language. A headstrong young director. A missing lead actor. What can possibly go wrong?

Learn to Swim Alona Metzger, Thyron Tommy, Marni van Dyk

After a tragic and mysterious loss, a jazz musician tries to escape, only to find himself haunted by the painful truths of his past.

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



Saint Joan's Seven Josh Epstein, Katey Hoffman, Cheyenne Maberley

A washed-up wrestler meets his toughest match when he's forced to mentor the Saint Joan's Seven — a class of misfit, juvenile delinquent girls with a knack for violence.

The Incident Report Julie Baldassi, Naomi Jaye

Mid-level librarian Miriam Gordon's world is interrupted when she begins receiving a series of odd and increasingly hostile letters from a mysterious author who casts himself as Verdi's tragic hunchback, Rigoletto, and Miriam as his murdered daughter, Gilda.

Wildhood Gharrett Paon, Bretten Hannam

In this inspiring two-spirit coming-of-age drama, a rebellious Mi'kmaw teenager runs away from home to find his birth mother and reclaim his heritage.

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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.

The Toronto International Film Festival is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Ontario, Telefilm Canada, and the City of Toronto.

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Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS! Is generously supported by presenting partner Telefilm Canada.

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