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MEDIA RELEASE

LONGTIME PROGRAMMERS JANE SCHOETTLE AND DIMITRI EIPIDES STEP DOWN FROM TIFF TEAM

TORONTO – Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director and Co-Head of TIFF, honours veteran programmers Jane Schoettle and Dimitri Eipides as they step down from the Toronto International Film Festival programming team following a combined 49 years of curatorial excellence.

During her 21 years as part of the TIFF programming team, Jane Schoettle curated a diverse selection of films from Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and the US. Prior to her Festival years, Schoettle was the founder and Director of the TIFF Kids International Film Festival and created TIFF's Reel Comfort programme, which brings the magic of film to individuals in mental health facilities to aid in the recovery process. She also co-programmed the Contemporary World Cinema strand of TIFF's Reel Talk series, which provides a global snapshot of the best cinema from around the world, focusing on non-English-language, art-house films that may not see wide release. Most recently, Schoettle also ran TIFF Talent for the Industry Office. Her immaculate eye for excellence produced several People's Choice Award winners, including *Hotel Rwanda* (2004) and *Bella* (2006), and she has passionately given her energy to cultivating fresh and exciting voices. Schoettle will wrap up her year-round work for TIFF by the end of March 2019.

"Jane has been a tireless and committed champion of new voices in cinema, of women, and of talent wherever she finds it," said Bailey. "In addition to her uncanny ability to programme People's Choice Award winners, she is responsible for bringing Toronto audiences the early works of filmmakers like Ava DuVernay (*Middle of Nowhere*), Samuel Moaz (*Lebanon*), and Barry Jenkins' *Medicine for Melancholy*, and many, many more. She has been instrumental to the growth of the organization and will be greatly missed."

"I feel very privileged to have spent so many years doing a job that I love," said Schoettle. "I have worked side by side with so many incredible filmmakers, sales agents, and studios, and have had the good fortune of spotting some true talent from around the world. My departure from TIFF is bittersweet. Like any great story, it's important to know when to call 'cut,' and making that choice has been one of the hardest ones of my career. I am extremely proud of the work I have done, and I am excited to know what the future will bring."

In his role, Dimitri Eipides helped shape and enrich the Festival's regional programming for Central and Eastern Europe, Central and Western Asia, and Greece over the past 28 years. In his first year with TIFF, Eipides programmed 26 films from Iran, marking one of the earliest of such presentations to Western audiences – and with great success. With myriad major accomplishments throughout his career at TIFF, Eipides is renowned as one of the Festival's most daring voices.

"Dimitri is one of TIFF's founding curatorial voices," stated Bailey. "From our first decade, he brought his exacting and global vision of cinema to Toronto, introducing audiences to Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Béla Tarr, and the Dardenne brothers, among many others. We are thankful for his unique voice which brought TIFF audiences some of the most audacious films and filmmakers. His legacy will never be forgotten."

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



"We thank both Jane and Dimitri for their dedication to cinema, its makers, and especially its audiences here in Toronto."

In line with the recently announced additions and updates to the TIFF 2019 programming team, the regions Schoettle and Eipides covered will continue to be represented across all Festival programmes.

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

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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.

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