

NEW WORKS BY INTERNATIONAL LEGENDS AND AUTEURS SHINE IN TIFF'S 2018 MASTERS SLATE

New films by Merzak Allouache and Paolo Sorrentino set to make their World Premieres as part of the programme, with Jean-Luc Godard, Hong Sang-soo, Carlos Reygadas, Jia Zhang-ke, and Nuri Bilge Ceylan among renowned Masters

TORONTO – The Toronto International Film Festival® has unveiled the lineup for the 2018 Masters programme, comprised of 11 daring new films by acclaimed, established auteurs with remarkable bodies of work. With projects that reflect on history, focus on personal introspection, and take a critical look at society, this year's programme proves that innovation in storytelling is not exclusive to newer generations of filmmakers.

"We are delighted to present incisive new works from master filmmakers from virtually every continent in the world," said Piers Handling, TIFF Director & CEO. "While each of these filmmakers has undeniably already established a reputation, it is inspiring to witness that none of them have lost their commitment to bold and meaningful cinema – one that is alive with ideas."

Included in the 2018 Masters lineup are new works by three acclaimed European directors that unwaveringly address contemporary adversities: the debut of the single-installment version of Italian maestro Paolo Sorrentino's corrosive comedy, *Loro*, which stars Toni Servillo as infamous politician Silvio Berlusconi; legendary French–Swiss auteur Jean-Luc Godard's *The Image Book*, winner of the inaugural 2018 Special Palme d'Or at Cannes; and German director Christian Petzold's daring *Transit*, an adaptation of Anna Seghers' World War II novel set in an era resembling the present day, which offers subtle and timely reflections on rootlessness and exile.

Among the auteurs in the lineup are: Algerian visionary Merzak Allouache, who explores religious radicalization with *Divine Wind*, the latest in a remarkable filmography that spans over four decades; acclaimed Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan, who is known for his distinct cinematic use of landscape and who returns to the Festival with *The Wild Pear Tree*; Mexican master Carlos Reygadas, who delivers an existential meditation on a couple's open relationship in *Our Time*; South Korean director Hong Sang-soo, who returns to the programme with *Hotel by the River*, a black-and-white-drama set in an isolated hotel during a cold winter; British director Mike Leigh, who explores the history of British parliamentary reform in *Peterloo*; and Iranian maverick Jafar Panahi, who presents *3 Faces*, a thoughtful examination of traditional gender roles and artistic independence.

Chinese pioneer Jia Zhang-ke will introduce his largest production to date, *Ash Is Purest White*, a look at the rapid evolution of Chinese capitalist society explored through the romance between two mismatched people, while veteran Japanese director Shinya Tsukamoto will present *Killing*, an ambitious samurai genre film set in mid-19th century Japan.

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



The 43rd Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 6 to 16, 2018.

Films screening as part of the Masters programme include:

3 Faces Jafar Panahi | Iran
North American Premiere

Ash Is Purest White (*Jiang Hu Er Nü*) Jia Zhang-ke | China/France
North American Premiere

Divine Wind (*Rih rabani*) Merzak Allouache | Algeria/France/Qatar/Lebanon
World Premiere

Hotel by the River (*Gangbyun Hotel*) Hong Sang-soo | South Korea
North American Premiere

Killing (*Zan*) Shinya Tsukamoto | Japan
North American Premiere

Loro Paolo Sorrentino | Italy/France
World Premiere

Our Time (*Nuestro Tiempo*) Carlos Reygadas | Mexico/France/Germany/Denmark/Sweden
North American Premiere

Peterloo Mike Leigh | United Kingdom
Canadian Premiere

The Image Book (*Le livre d'image*) Jean-Luc Godard | Switzerland/France
North American Premiere

The Wild Pear Tree (*Ahlat Ağacı*) Nuri Bilge Ceylan | Turkey/France/Germany/Bulgaria
North American Premiere

Transit Christian Petzold | Germany
North American Premiere

For film synopses, cast lists, images, and more information, see tiff.net/masters.

Festival tickets go on sale September 3 at 10am (TIFF Member pre-sale September 1 from 10am to 4pm). Buy tickets online at tiff.net, by phone at 416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433, or in person at a box office. See box office locations and hours at tiff.net/tickets.

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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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For images, visit the media site at tiff.net/press.

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