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MEDIA RELEASE

PIETRO MARCELLO'S *MARTIN EDEN* WINS 2019 TORONTO PLATFORM PRIZE

**Kazik Radwanski's *Anne at 13,000 ft* and Alice Winocour's *Proxima* receive
honourable mentions**

TORONTO — Today the Toronto International Film Festival® announced the winner of the 2019 **Toronto Platform Prize** at a reception at the Bisha Hotel, hosted by Joana Vicente, TIFF's Executive Director and Co-Head. Pietro Marcello's *Martin Eden* was chosen as the winner of the \$20,000 CAD prize by the jury, which is comprised of award-winning filmmaker Athina Rachel Tsangari, Berlinale Artistic Director Carlo Chatrjian, and international film critic Jessica Kiang.

"Our main prize goes to a thrilling and eloquent work of art that we agreed on unanimously and instantaneously," said the jury. "A politically and philosophically provocative story told with extraordinary cinematic invention and grace, this film reaffirms a faith that is easy to lose in 2019: that the cinema we know is an iceberg with nine-tenths still remaining to be discovered. This is a classic story told in a novel manner that dips below the surface to find highly unconventional, often archival modes of expression that are irreverent and anachronistic and yet that honour and participate in the history of cinema."

Additionally, the jury awarded two honourable mentions. One of the recipients is Kazik Radwanski's *Anne at 13,000 ft*, which the jury highlighted as "a film that creates a horror-movie level of buzzing tension out of a mercilessly close-up, yet deeply compassionate portrait of an unstable young woman, brought unforgettably to life in Deragh Campbell's riveting central performance."

The other honourable mention was awarded to Alice Winocour's *Proxima*, which the jury considered "a beautifully down-to-earth, procedural approach to a story about the lure of space vying with the bonds of home, that is for once told from the point of view of a woman who does not apologize for finding as much joy in her vocation as in her family."

TIFF presents a free screening of Toronto Platform Prize winner *Martin Eden* at TIFF Bell Lightbox on Sunday, September 15 at 12:15pm. Tickets to this free screening will be available online, by phone, and in person starting September 15 at 10am. This screening is Rush eligible.

Named after Jia Zhang-ke's trailblazing second feature, **Platform** is the Toronto International Film Festival's competitive programme championing bold directorial visions. The programme includes up to 12 films and aims to spotlight these outstanding works within the Festival.

Now in its fifth year, **Platform** is curated by TIFF Artistic Director and Co-Head Cameron Bailey and Co-Curator Andréa Picard, who is also Lead Curator for the Wavelengths programme. Platform's Selection Committee is

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composed of TIFF Cinematheque Director Brad Deane; Ming-Jenn Lim, Senior Manager of Theatrical Programming at TIFF Bell Lightbox; and Lydia Ogwang, TIFF Cinematheque Coordinator and Associate Programmer.

TIFF will announce further Festival award winners, including the Grolsch People's Choice Award, on Sunday, September 15.

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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.

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