



August 11, 2021

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## TIFF UNVEILS PLATFORM PROGRAMME, TIFF SHORT CUTS PROGRAMME & SPECIAL EVENTS

### Riz Ahmed announced as head of jury for TIFF 2021 Platform Competition

### TIFF Cinematheque presents Alanis Obomsawin retrospective *Celebrating Alanis* and marks 20th Anniversary of *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*

**TORONTO** – The Toronto International Film Festival® today announced the full Platform programme and revealed that Academy Award–nominated actor Riz Ahmed will head the jury for the 2021 Platform Competition. TIFF is also delighted to present a special **TIFF Cinematheque** retrospective of Abenaki artist, filmmaker, singer, writer, and activist Alanis Obomsawin, entitled *Celebrating Alanis*. Curated by Jason Ryle, this presentation of films spans Obomsawin’s vast accomplishments and is co-presented with the National Film Board of Canada. TIFF also announced five Special Events, as well as the 2021 TIFF Short Cuts programme, comprising 38 short films.

“It’s a pleasure for TIFF to provide the Platform programme as a stage that celebrates brilliant filmmakers. We’re certain that TIFF audiences will be pleasantly surprised with their unique approach to cinematic expression,” said Joana Vicente and Cameron Bailey, TIFF Co-Heads. “*Sound of Metal* had its World Premiere at TIFF and was part of Platform’s 2019 lineup. Having Riz Ahmed join as Head of the 2021 Platform competition jury is a huge privilege.”

“I am honoured to be named president of the Platform jury at TIFF this year and to be a part of TIFF with *Encounter*,” said Ahmed. “TIFF has always been a festival that showcases bold and daring cinema on a global stage. Its commitment to celebrating small independent films, like *Sound of Metal*, has had such a significant impact on my career and many others. I’m looking forward to watching all of this year’s selections and working alongside my fellow jury members.”

## PLATFORM PROGRAMME

**Arthur Rambo** Laurent Cantet | France  
World Premiere

**Drunken Birds (Les oiseaux ivres)** Ivan Grbovic | Canada  
World Premiere

**Earwig** Lucile Hadžihalilović | United Kingdom/France/Belgium  
World Premiere

**Huda's Salon** Hany Abu-Assad | Palestine/Egypt/Netherlands/Qatar  
World Premiere

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***Mlungu Wam (Good Madam) (Mlungu Wam)*** Jenna Cato Bass | South Africa  
World Premiere

***Montana Story*** Scott McGehee, David Siegel | USA  
World Premiere

***Silent Land (Cicha Ziemia)*** Aga Woszczyńska | Poland/Italy/Czech Republic  
World Premiere

***Yuni*** Kamila Andini | Singapore/France/Indonesia/Australia  
World Premiere

## TIFF CINEMATHEQUE PROGRAMME

### ***Celebrating Alanis***

“Alanis Obomsawin is often described as an activist filmmaker,” said Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director and Co-Head. “Alanis’s body of work focuses on discrimination and injustice, but also on Indigenous strength and resistance. It is an honour to celebrate her work with these 19 films in the retrospective, including the world premiere of her newest title, ***Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair***. Every story matters, and through *Celebrating Alanis*, audiences can experience how her work has fundamentally impacted how people in Canada, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, understand ourselves.”

“It’s a true gift to know Alanis as a friend and through her films. Her works are imbued with tenacity, dignity, and love in equal measures and they have been transformational across nations,” said series curator Jason Ryle. “Her astonishing legacy continues to grow with each year and with each new film in her long career. Within the global Indigenous community she is a beacon of our pride and a symbol of the power of film to change the world. It’s been a pleasure to curate this programme for TIFF and my hope is that her works reach even broader international audiences.”

A member of the Abenaki Nation and one of Canada’s most distinguished filmmakers, Alanis Obomsawin is a filmmaker and producer at the National Film Board of Canada, where she has worked since 1967. On December 10, 2020, Obomsawin received the Rogers-DOC Luminary Award at the DOC Institute Honours, which is given to an individual who embodies the creative spirit of the Canadian documentary tradition and displays generosity by supporting the next generation of doc makers through mentorship. In October, she received the Glenn Gould Prize, as chosen by an international jury. Obomsawin’s 2019 production *Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger* (TIFF ’19 Official Selection) was her 52nd film, completed in the 52nd year of a legendary filmmaking career devoted to chronicling the lives and concerns of First Nations people and exploring issues of importance to all. On June 27, 2019, Obomsawin was named a Companion of the Order of Canada – its highest honour. In winter 2022, the retrospective *Alanis Obomsawin: Lifework* will be presented at the Haus der

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Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. Obomsawin will also be honoured with the Jeff Skoll Award in Impact Media supported by Participant Media at the 2021 TIFF Tribute Awards during the Festival.

All programmes in *Celebrating Alanis* will screen for free on digital TIFF Bell Lightbox with the exception of *The Dignity of Children: Programme 2*, which will be presented as a ticketed, in-cinema event. The full TIFF 2021 schedule will be announced on August 24.

*Celebrating Alanis* is co-presented by the National Film Board of Canada. Special thanks to TIFF's Programming Partner, the Indigenous Screen Office, and Community Partner imagineNATIVE.

Portraits: Programme 1

**Puberty - Part 1 (1975)**

**Puberty - Part 2 (1975)**

**Mother of Many Children (1977)**

Portraits: Programme 2

**Richard Cardinal: Cry from a Diary of a Métis Child (1986)**

**No Address (1988)**

Lighting the Fire: Programme 1

**The Canoe (1972)**

**Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance (1993)**

Lighting the Fire: Programme 2

**Moose Call (1972)**

**Amisk (1977)**

**Incident at Restigouche (1984)**

The Dignity of Children: Programme 1

**Snowshoes (1972)**

**Walking Is Medicine (2017)**

**Our People Will Be Healed (2017)**

The Dignity of Children: Programme 2

**Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair (World Premiere; 2021)**

**Mount Currie Summer Camp (1975)**

**Children (1972)**

**Sigwan (2005)**

**When All the Leaves Are Gone (2010)**

**Christmas at Moose Factory (1971)**

*The Dignity of Children: Programme 2* will include a special preview trailer for the new animated short film **Seeds: The Art of Alanis Obomsawin**, created and directed by Terril Calder and proudly presented by The Glenn Gould Foundation. The film will be projected as a spectacular outdoor sound and light show onto the east

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façade of the Royal Ontario Museum for a two-week run starting October 4, 2021.

Of Calder's new work, The Glenn Gould Foundation says: "Obomsawin's life has been dedicated to the arts. Many know her for the 53 films she has made with the National Film Board of Canada, but she is a force of nature across other mediums as well. *Seeds* uses stop-motion technology, exploring Alanis's visual art coupled with her powerful musical compositions. It is an opportunity to be guided through the compelling work of an Indigenous artist who has devoted her life's journey to love, justice, kindness, and creation — kicking doors down with grace and beauty."

### **Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner: 20th Anniversary**

In 2001, Inuk filmmaker and producer Zacharias Kunuk's groundbreaking film ***Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*** — the first Canadian feature film produced entirely in Inuktitut — won the Best Canadian Film Award at the 26th Toronto International Film Festival and became the first Canadian film to win the Camera d'Or at Cannes. TIFF Cinematheque marks 20 years since the film opened the Festival and captivated audiences, with a free screening of the film in its digitally remastered version.

***Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner (2001)*** Zacharias Kunuk | Canada

*Digitally remastered DCP courtesy of the TIFF Film Reference Library Screening Collection.*

## **TIFF SHORT CUTS PROGRAMME**

TIFF is thrilled to unveil this year's Short Cuts lineup, which comprises 38 new live-action narrative, documentary, and animated shorts by a diverse group of filmmakers representing 22 countries. Along with works by emerging talents from all over the world, the programme includes new films by such TIFF alumni as Zacharias Kunuk, Albert Shin, Matias Piñero, Lois Patiño, and Seth A. Smith. Among the filmmakers returning to Short Cuts are Terril Calder, Lee Filipovski, Rakan Mayasi, and Ayçe Kartal, as well as recent award-winner Paul Shkordoff (2020 IMDbPro Short Cuts Award for Best Canadian Film for *Benjamin, Benny, Ben*).

"We believe the 38 selections we are presenting in Short Cuts this year are some of the most remarkable films audiences will see this year," says Short Cuts programmer Jason Anderson. "They are also a testament to the strength, imagination, and resilience that filmmakers have displayed in the face of all the recent challenges. And while these works may differ wildly when it comes to the stories they tell, the forms they take, and the people and perspectives they portray, they are all unique and deeply personal visions that we are thrilled to share with viewers."

Films programmed in this year's Short Cuts selection are eligible for three jury-selected IMDbPro Short Cuts Awards (Best Film, Best Canadian Film, and the Share Her Journey Award for Best Film by a woman) and the Shawn Mendes Foundation Changemaker Award.

Short Cuts is also proud to continue introducing TIFF audiences to many of cinema's most remarkable new talents. Among the Short Cuts alumni directors who are bringing first features to the Festival this year are

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Danis Goulet (*Night Raiders*), Thyrone Tommy (*Learn To Swim*), Haya Waseem (*Quickening*), Mounia Akl (*Costa Brava, Lebanon*), Justine Bateman (*Violet*), and Carlo Francisco Manatad (*Whether the Weather is Fine*).

***A Few Miles South*** Ben Pearce | United Kingdom  
World Premiere

***Angakusajaujuq – The Shaman's Apprentice (Angakusajaujuq)*** Zacharias Kunuk | Canada  
North American Premiere

***Anxious Body*** Yoriko Mizushiri | France/Japan  
North American Premiere

***ASTEL*** Ramata-Toulaye Sy | France/Senegal  
World Premiere

***Beity*** Isabelle Mecattaf | Lebanon/United States of America  
International Premiere

***Bhai*** Hamza Bangash | United Kingdom/Canada/Pakistan  
World Premiere

***Boobs*** Marie Valade | Canada  
North American Premiere

***Charlotte*** Zach Dorn | United States of America  
World Premiere

***DEFUND*** Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah, Araya Mengesha | Canada  
World Premiere

***Displaced (Pa Vend)*** Samir Karahoda | Kosovo  
North American Premiere

***DUST BATH*** Seth A Smith | Canada  
World Premiere

***Egúngún (Masquerade)*** Olive Nwosu | United Kingdom/Nigeria  
World Premiere

***Fanmi*** Sandrine Brodeur-Desrosiers, Carmine Pierre-Dufour | Canada  
World Premiere

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***Hanging On*** Alfie Barker | United Kingdom  
International Premiere

***I Gotta Look Good for the Apocalypse*** Ayçe Kartal | France  
North American Premiere

***I Would Never*** Kiran Deol | United States of America  
World Premiere

***Little Bird*** Tim Myles | Canada  
World Premiere

***Love, Dad (Milý tati)*** Diana Cam Van Nguyen | Czech Republic/Slovakia  
Canadian Premiere

***Meneath: The Hidden Island of Ethics*** Terril Calder | Canada  
World Premiere

***Motorcyclist's Happiness Won't Fit Into His Suit (Al motociclista no le cabe la felicidad en el traje)***  
Gabriel Herrera | Mexico  
Canadian Premiere

***Nuisance Bear*** Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden | Canada  
World Premiere

***Ousmane*** Jorge Camarotti | Canada  
World Premiere

***Saturday Night*** Rosana Matecki | Canada  
World Premiere

***Shark*** Nash Edgerton | Australia  
World Premiere

***Soft Animals*** Renee Zhan | United Kingdom  
North American Premiere

***Some Still Search (Algunos Siguen Buscando)*** Nesaru Tchaas | United States of America  
World Premiere

***Srikandi*** Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto | Indonesia/Canada  
World Premiere

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**Successful Thawing of Mr. Moro (Lyckad upptining av herr Moro)** Jerry Carlsson | Sweden  
International Premiere

**Sycorax (Sycorax)** Lois Patiño, Matías Piñeiro | Portugal/Spain  
North American Premiere

**The Future Isn't What It Used To Be** Adeyemi Michael | United Kingdom  
Canadian Premiere

**The Infantas (Las Infantas)** Andrea Herrera Catalá | Spain  
World Premiere

**The Syed Family Xmas Eve Game Night** Fawzia Mirza | United States of America/Canada  
World Premiere

**Together (Ham-Gye)** Albert Shin | Canada/South Korea  
World Premiere

**Trumpets in the Sky** Rakan Mayasi | Palestine/Lebanon/France/Belgium  
World Premiere

**Twelve Hours** Paul Shkordoff | Canada  
World Premiere

**White Devil** Mariama Diallo, Benjamin Dickinson | United States of America  
World Premiere

**You and Me, Before and After** Madeleine Gottlieb | Australia  
International Premiere

**Zero (Nula)** Lee Filipovski | Canada/Serbia  
World Premiere

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

Reflecting the breadth of TIFF audiences' interests, TIFF announced Part One of its Special Events Programme to engage and entertain audiences:

### Special IMAX Screenings of *Dune*

TIFF previously announced that the award-winning Canadian filmmaker and 2021 TIFF Ebert Director Award honouree Denis Villeneuve will screen his film *Dune* as a World Exclusive Special IMAX Screening at Cinesphere Theatre at Ontario Place. The film, based on Frank Herbert's classic novel, will screen at the **Cinesphere** in Toronto on the following dates:

- Saturday, September 11 – World Exclusive IMAX Special Event
- Sunday, September 12 – Repeat IMAX Screening
- Saturday, September 18 – Public IMAX Screening

TIFF is also delighted to announce an additional Special IMAX screening of *Dune* in Montreal presented by Bell at Cinéma Banque Scotia Montréal on Sunday, September 12.

This screening is made possible in venue partnership with Cineplex as part of TIFF's Canadian Satellite Screening programme. An additional screening of *Dune* will take place in Toronto at Scotiabank Theatre on September 13.

The Cinesphere is the world's first permanent IMAX movie theatre, located on the grounds of Ontario Place. Constructed in 1971, it is the largest IMAX theatre in Ontario and has a longstanding relationship with TIFF: in 1976, the inaugural edition of TIFF, then called The Festival of Festivals, screened its first Opening Night film, *Cousin, Cousine*, and Closing Night film *Gypsies are Found Near Heaven* at the Cinesphere.

### NBA Films For Fans created with OLG

On November 1, 1946, the NBA's first-ever game was held at Maple Leaf Gardens, where the hometown Toronto Huskies played the New York Knickerbockers. Seventy-five years later, as part of the league's anniversary celebrations, the NBA honours its Canadian roots at TIFF 2021.

TIFF is proud to announce the launch of **NBA Films For Fans created with OLG**. This can't-miss Special Event will feature five short films from Canadian filmmakers and basketball fans: Thyron Tommy – also at this year's Festival with his debut feature, *Learn to Swim* – and fellow Torontonians and TIFF talent development alumni Romeo Candido, Shawn Gerrard, and S.M. Turrell, as well as Vancouverite Kat Jayme, also a Talent Alumni as the 2019 Pitch This winner. Learn more about the Special Event and register for updates at [NBAFilmsForFans.com](http://NBAFilmsForFans.com).

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### Special Event Films

TIFF is pleased to announce that the following films will be presented as part of the Special Event Programme. Full details on the events that will complement these screenings will be announced in the coming weeks.

***A Hero (Ghareman)*** Asghar Farhadi | Iran

***Memoria*** Apichatpong Weerasethakul | Colombia/Thailand/United Kingdom/France/Germany/Mexico

***Spencer*** Pablo Larraín | United Kingdom/Germany

The Government of Canada opened its borders for non-essential travel from American citizens and permanent residents on August 9, 2021 and plans to open to citizens of any country on September 7, 2021 provided that the domestic epidemiologic situation remains favourable, and that visitors have been fully vaccinated with Government of Canada-approved vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen - Johnson & Johnson - AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD) at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Those meeting these requirements can travel to Canada without having to quarantine, including the elimination of the three-night hotel quarantine policy. As of August 9, 61.4% of Canada's population is fully-vaccinated, one of the highest vaccination rates in the world. Toronto boasts the highest percentage of fully-vaccinated citizens in North America with 72% as of the same date.

As a result of the opening of the border and increased capacities in cinemas in Ontario, TIFF has added to its list of venues to accommodate a number of additional in-person Public and Press & Industry screenings. TIFF Festival venues include: TIFF Bell Lightbox and marquee venues the Visa Screening Room at the Princess of Wales Theatre and Roy Thomson Hall, Scotiabank Theatre, and the Cinesphere IMAX Theatre at Ontario Place, plus outdoor screening venues at Ontario Place Festival Village, including the Visa Skyline Drive-In, RBC Lakeside Drive-In and the West Island Open Air Cinema. Press & Industry screenings will be held at the Scotiabank Theatre and TIFF Bell Lightbox. Public in-person screenings will have limited Press & Industry access.

Additionally, Public digital screenings will be programmed on digital TIFF Bell Lightbox for the accessibility of festival goers, but are limited to Canadian audiences. The TIFF Digital Cinema Pro platform will host digital Press & Industry screenings, as well as the TIFF Industry Selects market for industry buyers. Films available to Press & Industry on TIFF Digital Cinema Pro will be accessible to delegates worldwide, however, some exceptions may occur where the film rights holders have not authorized an online screening in selected regions. The TIFF Bell Digital Talks platform will host a variety of Public and Press & Industry talks, including: the In Conversation With... talks series, the Industry Conference and Press Conferences.

TIFF continues to work closely with the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and public health officials on the safe execution of the Festival, with its number-one priority being the health and well-being of both Festival filmgoers and residents of the community. To help ensure the safest possible experience, TIFF has once again partnered with Medcan, a global health care leader providing medical expertise, consultation, and health

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inspiration to achieve its mission to help people “Live Well, For Life.” Based on the pillars of evidence-based care, exceptional client service, and the latest in technology, Medcan’s team of over 90 physicians supports employee health care across the continuum of health, including its “Safe at Work System,” which helps organizations navigate the pandemic.

Please visit [tiff.net](http://tiff.net) for more information.

Images are available at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

The 46th Toronto International Film Festival runs September 9–18, 2021.

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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, learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$200 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](http://tiff.net).

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**TIFF Short Cuts Programme is supported by the Ontario Arts Council.**

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For more information, contact Alejandra Sosa, Head, Festival Media Relations & Strategy [masosa@tiff.net](mailto:masosa@tiff.net).

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