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NEWS RELEASE

ANDREW CIVIDINO IS TIFF'S 2016 LEN BLUM RESIDENT

TORONTO — TIFF announced today that screenwriter and filmmaker **Andrew Cividino** is the 2016 Len Blum Resident. Launched in 2015, the Residency pays homage to one of Canada's most celebrated screenwriters, Len Blum, by providing one Canadian filmmaker with the opportunity to live, work and be mentored at TIFF Bell Lightbox. The Residency is generously supported by Toronto-based filmmaker and distributor, Ron Mann.

Cividino will take up residency at the Festival Tower for three months later this year and receive one-on-one script consultations with Len Blum and mentoring from TIFF's Industry and Programming teams, as well as support from TIFF partners.

A TIFF Talent Lab alumnus, Ontario-born Cividino is an award-winning filmmaker and graduate of Ryerson University. His debut feature, *Sleeping Giant*, was one of only seven international films selected for the 2015 Cannes Critics' Week, and went on to win several awards, including Best Canadian First Feature Film at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival®.

"We're delighted this talented filmmaker will be joining us at TIFF Bell Lightbox," said Kathleen Drumm, Director, Industry at TIFF. "For decades, TIFF has worked to become a supportive hub for emerging artists in the film industry and the Len Blum Residency enables us to elevate new talent and to share our resources."

"It's an honour to be selected for the Len Blum Residency and I can't wait to dive in," said Cividino. "It's an opportunity to write my film in a place that is a constant source of inspiration for me, with access to incredible industry support and the Lightbox's fantastic programming at my doorstep. I couldn't be happier."

"I am delighted to support the Len Blum Residency and thrilled to have Andrew Cividino as the 2016 recipient," said Ron Mann. "The script is the foundation of a film and so important to its success. This programme recognizes that, and will help Andrew continue along his path as a successful filmmaker."

Cividino will use the Residency to work on a new screenplay, *We Ate the Children Last*, a feature expansion of his award-winning sci-fi short film, adapted from Yann Martel's short story of the same name. It tells of a young woman's strange reaction to a radical treatment for a lethal pandemic that creates an insatiable hunger which she struggles to conceal. When other treatment patients begin to behave darkly, the ensuing media maelstrom creates chaos among the masses.

Andrew Cividino is also developing a project with Rhombus Media, as well as a slate of works at Film Forge, the production banner he co-partners with producer Karen Harnisch.

Writer-director candidates for the programme were nominated by established producers, directors and screenwriters within the Canadian film industry. The 2015 Resident was Stephen Dunn, who is presently collaborating with Len Blum on a feature film project.

The 41st Toronto International Film Festival runs September 8 to 18, 2016.

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



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 Industry Programming is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris and Visa, and Major Supporters Telefilm Canada and the Ontario Media Development Corporation.

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For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.

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