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NEWS RELEASE

YOUNG FILMMAKERS DEBUT THEIR WORK ON THE BIG SCREEN

Finalists selected for the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase, to be shown during TIFF Kids Festival

TORONTO — The 16th edition of TIFF Kids International Film Festival's™ **Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase** celebrates the future of filmmaking and shines a spotlight on budding talent. A selection of short films, submitted by Ontario youth, will screen during the TIFF Kids Festival on **Sunday, April 23** at 12 p.m. (Grades 4 to 6) and 12:30 p.m. (Grades 7 & 8) at TIFF Bell Lightbox. Following the screenings, the winners of the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase will be announced at the free **TIFF Kids Awards Ceremony** at 3:00 p.m. Encouraged to use film as a medium for self-expression, the Jump Cuts competition provides young filmmakers the opportunity to view their work on the big screen and explore their artistic impulses.

This year's selection showcases 38 short films exploring many topics that impact young people today, such as the power of imagination, bullying, the importance of friendship, facing adversity, and finding yourself in the process. As a nod to Canada's sesquicentennial, two of the films, ***The B(m)aking of Canada / La cuisson du Canada*** and ***Alliances and Betrayals in Canada 1850-1914***, explore Canadiana, the country's history, and what Canada means to them. Other film highlights include an exposé on the homework that goes missing in your locker, what happens when Santa Claus shows up in the summer, and the spy thriller ***Code: Squirrels***. The films vary in genre such as silent film, stop motion, live action, and computer animation, and range from light-hearted comedies to compelling dramas and animated music videos. Finalists were chosen based on proficiency in form, expression, experimentation, and content.

A jury comprised of film industry professionals will select the grand prize-winning film in each grade category. This year's jury includes Toronto-based filmmaker **Joële Walinga** (*Cave Big, Cave Small*); **Audrey Dwyer**, the artistic director for the Children's Theatre Company *Cow Over Moon* and *DORA* nominee; filmmaker and animator **Nathan Jurevicius** (*Scarygirl; Junction* - TIFF Kids 2016 Official Selection); and Toronto filmmaking instructor **Brent Orr** (Never Too Short Productions).

The 2017 Jump Cuts Prizes are as follows:

The Frederick Simpson Award for Best Film (Grades 4 to 6)
The Veronica Herman Award for Best Film (Grades 7 & 8)

The Frederick Simpson and Veronica Herman Awards are generously supported by **Garrett Herman**.

The 2017 Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase Finalists

Grades 4 to 6

A.D.D.: A Student's Perspective, dirs. Eddie Wiseman, Zachary Allison, Keith Schoenfeld-Miller, Mackensi MacDonald, Elizabeth Bieganski, Bailey Hurst, Abigayle Austin, Hannah Longlade, William House, Mitchell Luckhurst, Felix Radvanszki, William Young, Aaliyah Crouse, Landon Nicholas, Maia Dempsey, Catherine Garus, Carson Horne, Jessica Wise, Dylan Morris, Ryan Copeland, St. Patrick's Media Group

Woodstock

This film tells the story of a young boy who has been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, and shows his daily struggles and triumphs. Told through the eyes of someone who lives with the condition, the film aims to educate so that people won't be so quick to judge others affected by ADD.

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

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C'est L'halloween, dirs. Mariia Babenko, Alsana Amrenova

Toronto

Don't judge a book by its cover — even a frightening beast can have a beautiful soul.

Code: Squirrels, dirs. Mariia Babenko, Liubov Babenko, Alsana Amrenova, Aileen Amrenova, Kseniya Miller-Gruntovskaya, Maria Moga, Maryam Khafizova, Timur Khafizov

Toronto

Agent J24 is on her biggest mission yet to recover all the stolen food, demonstrating that there is always a peaceful way to solve any problem.

Don't Wake Santa, dir. Danielle Ionova

Toronto

It's always exciting when Santa brings the Christmas spirit and all the presents, but what would happen if he came in the summer?!

Duckling and Chick, dirs. Ava Archer, Kristal Elgohary, Marcus Mosqueda

Scarborough

A plasticine story about a little chicken who learns it is not such a good idea to follow a duck everywhere, even if they are friends.

Emma and Wizard, dirs. Ana Klasnja, Maya Gezehan

Toronto

A young girl named Emma falls under the magic spell of wizard when she says something unpleasant, and must learn how to fix it the hard way.

Little Boat, dirs. Nikita Semenov, Daniel Speziali, Gianluca Speziali, Hubert Sulkowski

Toronto

A stop-motion animated tale where a group of woodland creatures co-operate in building a boat and mistakenly leave a friend behind.

Lost Memory, dirs. Maya Gezehan, Nikita Kaurov, Daniel Shumeiko

Toronto

All is peaceful in Santa's village until the Wicked Witch starts cooking, in this story about Christmas, friendship, magic, and happy endings.

Optics, dirs. Diana Balko, Sophie Lalancette, Maude Puseljic, Maiden Godsoe, Evelyn Minty, Gloria Chowdhury

Toronto

A girl learns to see clearly and stand up for herself with the help of her friends.

Panda Dreams, dir. Anya Sekdorian

Toronto

In Anya Sekdorian's short film, she uses a mix of real footage and stop motion to reveal the kinds of dreams — both good and bad — that she has.

Philip and Cat, dirs. Andrew Bryce, Grace Mongiat Leroux

Scarborough

Philip and his cat go on a walking adventure through the forest.

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Rebound, dirs. A.J Nock, Liam Dunlop, Alexander Tracey

Toronto

A bullied and depressed boy can't seem to fit in, but when he realizes how life can be, he rebounds.

The B(m)aking of Canada (*La cuisson du Canada*), dirs. Artash Nath, Arushi Nath

Toronto

A short film that celebrates 150 years of Canada's heritage.

The Giant's First Day of School, dirs. Enzo Tozzi Lira, Anna Choulova, Hubert Sulkowski

Toronto

It's Tom's first day of school and he has a good opportunity to make new friends, as he realizes that unexpected and incredible things can happen when we are generous.

The Mysterious Portal, dirs. Austin Bray, Cameron Bretz, Dhiren Chander, Luke Flint

Toronto

Three boys go on an adventure through various worlds.

The Notepad, dirs. Grace Ostafin, Riley Cantera, Brin Bernard, Jahtorah Sziro-Griffith, Hanna Rose Clark

Toronto

A bullied girl forgets her notebook in the bathroom, but when two girls find it and try to return it, she runs away. She finds it on her porch the next morning, realizing that they were just trying to help and be her friend.

The Song Of The Street, dirs. Yahnique Bent, Ekaterina Dimitrova, Ana Klasnja, Danielle Ionova

Toronto

A few young girls find out that the Earth has music — you just need to listen with your heart.

The Wonder, dirs. Theodore Bondarenko, Daniel Speziali, Gianluca Speziali, Nikita Semenov

Toronto

The elder brother takes his younger sibling on a trip to the mountains to show him a wonder.

Three Busy Cats, dirs. Mihaela Ngira-Batware, Shailyn Pinili, Stella Valiquet

Scarborough

Three cats — one white, one grey, and one black — change their colours while on a day-long mouse chase.

What Is Friendship?, dirs. Maxim Besshaposnikov, Anna Choulova, Enzo Tozzi Lira, Misha Petrenko, Michael Petrenko, Sasha Petrenko, Hubert Sulkowski, Andrew Torgovtsev, Anna Veloumian, Victoria Veloumian, Victor Yakauleu, Nicole Yakovlev

Toronto

Kids offer their understanding of friendship through animated characters.

Who Said Meow?, dirs. Maxim Besshaposnikov, Anna Choulova, Danielle Ionova, Christian Sung, Andrew Torgovtsev, Oleg Yurchenko, Viktoriya Yurchenko

Toronto

A small dog looks for someone (or something) who might have said "meow."

Who, What, Where, Why?, dirs. Molly Frolick, Alison Lei

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Toronto

A girl comes to school on her birthday to find that all is not as it appears to be.

Grades 7 & 8

A Sip for Everyone, dirs. Sofia Santos, Claire Montgomery-Flamenco, Ridley Linton-Martin, Georgia Helverson

Toronto

A girl loves her cup, but eventually outgrows it and throws it out. When a homeless man finds it and loves it as his own, things go horribly wrong.

Alliances and Betrayals in Canada 1850-1914, dirs. Oliver Fentum, Kieran Walls, Eric Wu, Kolya Salter, Musa Kamara, Devon Jeremy, Finneas Forbes, Santiago Barrera-Thirlwall, Aden Shapland, Alice Sykes, Ella Tsang, Piper Boyd-Bell, Ieuan Dunstan, Will Clarke, Sebastian Simardone, Aonghus Lo, Matthew Ye, Christopher Ginou, Kira Navarre, Chloe Canning, Willow Solowoniuk, Emeline Bepalov, Kathryn Deva

Toronto

Focusing on three instances of alliances and betrayals displayed in Canada from 1850 to 1914, this short addresses the underrepresentation of minority groups like the Métis and the Fenians, and aims to reveal a different side of our Canadian history.

Anxiety, dir. Leigh Hannah

Toronto

Leigh Hannah's short film offers a peek into life of someone with anxiety, and how others can learn in order to support people who struggle.

Group Work, dirs. Avi Druxerman, Jake Daley, Prasanna Ojha, Sophie Linton

Toronto

When three students are forced to work together on a film project, they must decide whether to direct a sports drama, tortilla mystery, or test-taking breakdown.

How Far Would You Go for a Friendship?, dir. Julia Pizzirusso

Toronto

When Tana's friends want her to change and be just like them, she must make the difficult decision whether to maintain her friendships or stay true to herself — or can she do both?

Jazz Quartet, dirs. Maxim Besshaposhnikov, Anna Choulova, Maya Makhmud, Andrew Torgovtsev, Polina Valiakmetova, Oleg Yurchenko, Viktoriya Yurchenko

Toronto

A jazz quartet come to life from a piece of art, in this animated music video.

Locker People, dirs. Eric Proud, Jamie Easterbrook, Noah Isaac, Rhys Bernard

Toronto

A girl searches for her missing homework and discovers the existence of the Locker People.

Our World, dirs. Josey Haste, Kaitlyn Haardt, Naziyah Muhith

Toronto

This animated short calls attention to environmental issues that affect the world.

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Sam's Guide to Taking Care of Fluffy, dir. Daniel Richardson

Toronto

Little stick bots take care of a giant hamster.

She, dir. Ruchi Srivastava

Toronto

Brooke is repeatedly rejected from her school's basketball team, but her perseverance shows her peers that any challenge can be overcome if you put your mind to it.

The Box Kid, dirs. Brooke Denomme-Warren, James Vanderburg, Naomi Bailey, Nate Parsons, Sarah Gordon, Wajeeh Syed

Toronto

A girl gets an empty box for her birthday and uses her imagination to make many different items, including a robot, a bus, a tank, and even a phone!

The Girl Who Gives Everything, dir. Chantel Scott

Scarborough

When he is down, she gives him what he needs to lift him up.

The Hawk and The Fish, dir. Olivia Rock

Toronto

A fish wishes to fly and a hawk wants to swim. One day they meet and decide to swap places, but soon discover that it's best to just be yourself!

The Locker to Sarnia, dirs. Ayana Pak, Zoë Reichert

Toronto

When two girls go through a locker and discover a magical world, they must battle the forces that protect it.

The Pongers, dirs. Callum Gaw, Jack Apreda, Richard Shao, Scott Raetsen, Travis Truong

Toronto

Through hard work and training, an aspiring ping ponger reaches the tournament and faces the best pongers in the game! Pong life!

Social:

#TIFFKIDS

tiff.net/kids

About TIFF Kids

Marking its 20th anniversary this year, the TIFF Kids International Film Festival is the premiere festival in North America for children ages 3–13. Running April 7–23, the festival is larger than ever with over 160 films, consisting of 33 feature films and over 125 shorts hailing from over 40 countries including Canada, Algeria, Germany, Hong Kong, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Mexico, and many more.

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

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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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For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.
For images and artist bios, visit tiff.net/press.

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