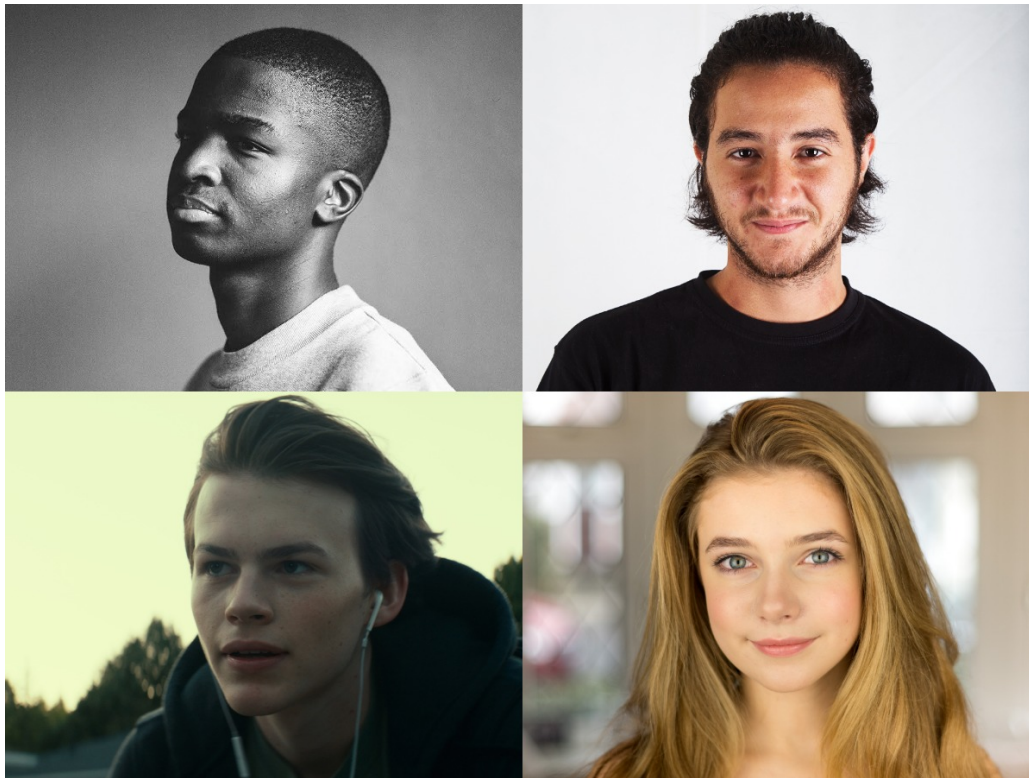


**TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
STÉPHANE BAK, AHMED MALEK, JOSH WIGGINS, AND  
ELEANOR WORTHINGTON-COX AS 2018  
INTERNATIONAL RISING STARS**

**Rising Stars from France, Egypt, the United States, and England round out the 2018 programme**



Clockwise, from top left: Stéphane Bak, Ahmed Malek, Eleanor Worthington-Cox and Josh Wiggins

**TORONTO** – The Toronto International Film Festival® announced today that **Stéphane Bak, Ahmed Malek, Josh Wiggins, and Eleanor Worthington-Cox** are TIFF 2018 Rising Stars. Already notable in their home countries of France, Egypt, the US, and England, the International Rising Stars stars join the four previously announced Canadian Rising Stars – Devery Jacobs, Lamar Johnson, Michaela Kurimsky, and Jess Salgueiro – to round out the popular talent programme that showcases and helps develop the skills of promising actors throughout the 2018 Festival.

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



“This year, Rising Stars returns with an extremely gifted group of up-and-coming actors,” said Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director of TIFF. “From a young stand-up comedian to an Olivier Award–winning musical performer, this diverse group is multi-talented and eager to make their mark. We’re so glad TIFF can provide this platform to help elevate them to the world stage.”

The TIFF Rising stars will participate in a curated Festival experience designed to support their professional development, consisting of valuable networking opportunities and industry events, as well as red-carpet and media engagements.

Performances from all four international Rising Stars are featured in this year’s TIFF Official Selection. Starring alongside Maxine Peake, Eleanor Worthington-Cox will play the title role in William McGregor’s *Gwen*, and France’s Stéphane Bak will star in Joël Karekezi’s survival odyssey *The Mercy of the Jungle*. Last year, Ahmed Malek played a leading role in the 2017 TIFF Closing Night Special Presentation *Sheikh Jackson*; this year, he will be featured in Ahmad Abdalla’s Contemporary World Cinema title *EXT. Night*. Josh Wiggins will co-star alongside film and television veteran Kyle MacLachlan in Keith Behrman’s Canadian drama *Giant Little Ones*.

Previous International Rising Stars alumni include Jessie Buckley and Mamoudou Athie, who return to the Festival this year with roles in the films *Wild Rose* and *The Front Runner*, respectively.

## About the Rising Stars

### Stéphane Bak

Stéphane Bak began his career as a comedian in Paris, producing his own shows in small theatres before moving on to such venues as Le Palace, Le Grand Rex, and the Casino de Paris. His film roles include Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar’s *Once in a Lifetime*, Christophe Barratier’s *Team Spirit*, David Moreau’s *Alone*, and Paul Verhoeven’s award-winning *Elle*. More recently, Bak has starred in Sebastian Schipper’s *Roads*, André Téchiné’s *Les Ennemis*, and Joël Karekezi’s *The Mercy of the Jungle*, which screens at TIFF ’18.

### Josh Wiggins

Josh Wiggins recently completed shooting Aaron Schneider’s *Greyhound* opposite Tom Hanks and Paul Harrill’s *Light From Light*, produced by Elisabeth Moss and James M. Johnston. Previously, he starred with Oscar winner J. K. Simmons and Julie Delpy in Kurt Voelker’s *The Bachelors* and in Harbinger Pictures’ *Walking Out* alongside Matt Bomer. He made his TIFF and Cannes debuts in Nathan Morlando’s *Mean Dreams*, with Sophie Néllisse and Bill Paxton. At TIFF ’18, he will appear in Keith Behrman’s *Giant Little Ones* opposite Maria Bello and Kyle MacLachlan.

### Ahmed Malek

Ahmed Malek is an Egyptian actor known for his roles in Mohamed Diab’s *Clash*, which opened Un Certain Regard at Cannes in 2016, and Amr Salama’s *Sheikh Jackson*, which premiered at TIFF in 2017. Other acting credits include *EXT. Night* by Ahmad Abdalla, which is premiering at TIFF 2018; *Gunshot* by Karim El Shenawy; and *The Guest* from Hadi El Bagoury. Malek will play the lead in *Montréal Girls*, from 2018 Filmmaker Lab

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participant Patricia Chica.

### **Eleanor Worthington-Cox**

Eleanor Worthington-Cox starred in the London stage musical *Matilda*, winning an Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical, the youngest-ever recipient. She appeared as Young Aurora in Disney's *Maleficent*, and in the British miniseries *The Enfield Haunting*, earning a BAFTA nomination. Worthington-Cox recently played the lead in Paramount Pictures' *Action Point*, and will appear in the Amazon Prime/Sky series *Britannia*. She plays the title role in William McGregor's *Gwen*, which premieres at TIFF '18.

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

For images and more information, see [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

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](http://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](http://tiff.net/tickets).

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### **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](http://tiff.net).

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**L'Oréal Paris is proud to be the TIFF Rising Stars Hair and Makeup Sponsor.**

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**TIFF Rising Stars is supported by IWC Schaffhausen and Telefilm Canada.**

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For images, visit the media site at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

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