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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## LOCAL HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS JUMP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AT TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX

### Talented Ontario students light up TIFF's annual Jump Cuts High-School Filmmakers Showcase

**TORONTO** — This past weekend, TIFF celebrated young filmmakers from all over Ontario with its 17th annual TIFF Jump Cuts High-School Filmmakers Showcase, screening short films from emerging new voices. 92 films from young creators were submitted in myriad genres, including documentary, experimental, fiction, and animation. In support of the variety of fresh talent in front of and behind the camera this year, award categories now highlight Best Film, Best Original Idea, Best Acting, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Art Direction.

"The young creators, as part of this showcase, are experimenting with form, playing with narratives, and telling diverse stories," said Keith Bennie, Acting Director, Learning. "This showcase gives them a chance to see their work on the big screen, often for the first time, and share in the magic of storytelling with family, friends, and film lovers."

"We are thrilled to give young creators the chance to make their TIFF debut," said Daniella Marchese, Senior Manager, School and Family Programmes. "For most of these filmmakers, their journey began and is still inspired in the classroom. Working with educators reinforces the power of film as a tool for learning and gives students a chance to explore ideas, flex their creativity, and learn more about the craft of filmmaking."

The showcase featured 26 finalists and was adjudicated by artist and filmmaker Brent Orr, director and producer Caitlin Durlak (*Mermaids*, 2017), and Margarita Brodie, past TIFF Next Wave Committee member and film and theatre artist (*Drenched*, 2018).

The winners of the 2019 Jump Cuts High-School Filmmakers Showcase are:

#### **Best Film**

***My Fair Robot***, dir. Cole London

Claude Watson Film Arts

*When Charlie can't get a date to the dance, he decides his best option is to build one and train it to be the perfect date.*

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



### **Best Original Idea**

***Hair Drying the Puddle Out and Away***, dir. Omneya Tollar

Etobicoke School of the Arts

*A person trapped in a puddle receives a gift.*

### **Best Acting**

***Sunsets***, dir. Ava Young

Etobicoke School of the Arts

*Ava Young presents a meditation on friendship and loss by examining the strength and love of a young female relationship.*

### **Best Screenplay**

***General Tso's Chicken***, dir. Haikun Liu

Metropolitan Preparatory Academy

*General Tso's Chicken depicts a Chinese Canadian teenager's personal struggle with cultural identity and cultural differences. Using food as a tool to portray the unspoken love between family members, the film tackles the themes of commitment, dedication, and love while also reflecting on the cultural appropriation and oppression of Chinese culture in North America. It also explores the adverse effect of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 in modern society and the negative connotations surrounding Chinese food.*

### **Best Cinematography**

***Chicago Undercover***, dir. Mateen Missaghi

Emily Carr Secondary School

*In this 1960s-set film, Butch Buchanan, a hardboiled and highly decorated detective in the Chicago Police Department, teams up with Maxine Padlowski, a bold and cunning private eye who is often mistreated and neglected in the department. The two detectives begin to crack down on a case to bust an infamous cartel in the city, but during the pursuit, Butch discovers something shocking about his partner.*

### **Best Art Direction**

***How to Hide a Body***, dir. Callahan Bracken

Etobicoke School of the Arts

*An exploration of space and vulnerability, How to Hide a Body looks at the alienating nature of heteronormative spaces, using the director's experiences to illustrate the universal subjectivity and exclusivity of public spaces. Navigating three different hand-crafted sets, the film examines how these spaces influence and ultimately destroy each other, in an attempt to understand how queer youth are forced into a state of self-rejection.*

For a full list of all participants, please visit [tiff.net/jumpcuts](https://tiff.net/jumpcuts).

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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 programme 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 Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, 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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For more information on the TIFF Jump Cuts High-School Filmmakers Showcase, please contact Rebecca Silver, Coordinator, Communications, at [rsilver@tiff.net](mailto:rsilver@tiff.net), or the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).

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