



September 18, 2021
MEDIA RELEASE

**TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES 2021 AWARD WINNERS
2021 People's Choice Awards and Platform Prize announced
live on Tribute Awards Broadcast
IMDbPro Short Cuts, Canada Goose Amplify Voices
and Shawn Mendes Foundation Changemaker Awards close the Festival**

TORONTO – The Toronto International Film Festival® has announced its award recipients for the 46th edition of the Festival, which concluded tonight with screenings of Zhang Yimou's *One Second* at the Visa Screening Room at the Princess of Wales Theatre and Roy Thomson Hall.

"2021 brought an exceptional selection of films that excited Festival audiences around the world," said Joana Vicente and Cameron Bailey, TIFF Co-Heads. "Our lineup showcased beloved auteurs alongside fresh voices in filmmaking, including numerous women powerhouses. TIFF welcomed guests, press, industry, international stars and directors back to the city and into cinemas. The sweeping range in cinematic storytelling from around the world is a testament to the uniqueness of the films that are being made. We're so grateful and proud of this year's Festival."

Thanks to the hybrid nature of the Festival, TIFF's Industry platform welcomed close to 4,000 industry and press professionals from around the world, both digitally and in-person. TIFF remains a site of industry activity and a key marketplace for film title sales, hosting 105 market screenings and facilitating the sales of *France*, *Silent Night*, *A Banquet*, and *Huda's Salon*, as well as Industry Selects title *The Pink Cloud*. TIFF's Industry Conference presented 37 digital sessions for industry and press delegates from filmmakers to advocates and funders. The Dialogues stream featured conversations with creators E. Chai Vasarhelyi, Jimmy Chin, Sterlin Harjo, Krysty Wilson-Cairns, and Rebeca Hunt; Visionaries welcomed Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Sahraa Karimi, Greig Fraser, Nancy Utley, and Steve Gilula; Perspectives explored narrative sovereignty with Indigenous industry leaders and hosted a discussion on dismantling toxic industry culture; and Connections highlighted conversations on funding diverse films with ARRAY and talent to watch with Telefilm. TIFF also welcomed 20 new Filmmaker Lab participants, and eight new Rising Stars, who participated in intimate development labs with programme governors and special guest speakers.

TIFF's Satellite Screenings wrapped Monday, September 13 in the evening. TIFF's Film Circuit partners Bell and Cineplex worked with TIFF to bring screenings to audiences across Canada, in seven cities and six provinces (Collingwood, ON; Markham, ON; Montreal, QC; Moose Jaw, SK; Prince Rupert, BC; Saint John, NB; and Summerside, PE).

Honouring the film industry's outstanding contributors and their achievements, and serving as TIFF's largest annual fundraiser, the TIFF Tribute Awards was broadcast this evening across Canada on CTV, [CTV.ca](https://www.ctv.ca) and the CTV app and streamed internationally to the rest of the world by *Variety* for the second straight year. The

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2021 event raised funds for TIFF's diversity, equity, and inclusion fund, Every Story, and championed a safe, community-focused, and inspiring return to cinemas. During the one-hour broadcast, two-time Academy Award nominee **Jessica Chastain** at the Festival with *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* and *The Forgiven*, who will receive the **TIFF Tribute Actor Award** supported by the Tory Family; and Academy Award-nominated **Benedict Cumberbatch** who was also at TIFF with *The Electrical Life of Louis Wain* and *The Power of the Dog*, who will receive the **TIFF Tribute Actor Award**; Academy Award-nominated French Canadian filmmaker **Denis Villeneuve**, who will receive the **TIFF Ebert Director Award** and brought the epic and breathtaking *Dune* to TIFF on the big screen; award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer, singer, and activist **Alanis Obomsawin**, who will be honoured with the **Jeff Skoll Award in Impact Media** supported by Participant Media, also celebrated with a retrospective and premiere of her new powerful short film *Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair*; cinematographer **Ari Wegner**, whose stunning work was featured in *The Power of the Dog*, who will receive the **TIFF Variety Artisan Award**; Cree/Métis *Night Raiders* filmmaker **Danis Goulet** who will receive the **TIFF Emerging Talent Award**, presented by L'Oréal Paris and supported by MGM; and six-time Grammy Award-winning, music legend **Dionne Warwick** whose documentary *Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over* had a World Premiere at the Festival, will be honoured with the **Special Tribute Award**.

Produced by Bell Media Studios, with *etalk's* Tyrone Edwards and Chloe Wilde returning as hosts, the third annual awards show opened with an introduction from Sigourney Weaver and special tributes were presented by Shamier Anderson, Kirsten Dunst, Rebecca Ferguson, Emma Ferreira, Gladys Knight, Phillip Lewitski, L'Oréal Paris brand ambassador Eva Longoria, David Oyelowo, Michael Showalter, and Kiefer Sutherland. Starting on Sunday, September 19, the TIFF Tribute Awards will be available to view on Crave.

New this year, the highly anticipated winners of the TIFF People's Choice Award and Platform Jury Prize were announced live during the awards broadcast, just moments ago. Academy Award-nominated actor Riz Ahmed, head of the jury for the 2021 Platform Prize, announced the prize winner for that competition, and the 2021 People's Choice Award winner was announced by TIFF Co-Heads Cameron Bailey and Joana Vicente.

PLATFORM PRIZE

Named after Jia Zhang-ke's trailblazing second feature, Platform is the Toronto International Film Festival's competitive programme championing bold directorial visions. Now in its sixth year, Platform is curated by TIFF Artistic Director and Co-Head Cameron Bailey. The Platform Prize Jury members for 2021 are Riz Ahmed (Jury President), Clio Barnard, Anthony Chen, Kazik Radwanski, and Valerie Complex.

The Platform jury provided this statement: "The jury was moved by a film that brings a fresh, intimate perspective to a coming-of-age story, marked by a subtle structure, delicate framing, and lush cinematography. For drawing us into a unique inner world too rarely seen on screen, the 2021 Platform Prize goes to **Yuni**, directed by Kamila Andini."

An honourable mention from the Platform Prize Jury goes to **Mlungu Wam (Good Madam)**, dir. Jenna Cato Bass.

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PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

For the 44th year, the People's Choice Awards distinguish the audience's top title at the Festival as voted by the viewing public. Audiences watching films at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Roy Thomson Hall, the Visa Screening Room at the Princess of Wales Theatre, Scotiabank Theatre, the Ontario Place Cinesphere IMAX Theatre, the Visa Skyline Drive-In, the RBC Lakeside Drive-In, the West Island Open Air Cinema, and at home via digital screenings on the digital TIFF Bell Lightbox platform voted online. All films in TIFF's Official Selection that screened both in-person and on digital TIFF Bell Lightbox were eligible.

The TIFF 2021 People's Choice Award winner is: ***Belfast***, dir. Kenneth Branagh. The first runner-up is ***Scarborough***, dirs. Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson. The second runner-up is ***The Power of the Dog***, dir. Jane Campion.

The TIFF 2021 People's Choice Documentary Award winner is ***The Rescue***, dirs. E. Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin. The first runner-up is ***Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over***, dirs. Dave Wooley and David Heilbroner. The second runner-up is ***Flee***, dir. Jonas Poher Rasmussen.

The TIFF 2021 People's Choice Midnight Madness Award winner is ***Titane***, dir. Julia Ducournau. The first runner-up is ***You Are Not My Mother***, dir. Kate Dolan. The second runner-up is ***DASHCAM***, dir. Rob Savage.

SHAWN MENDES FOUNDATION CHANGEMAKER AWARD

Presented by the Shawn Mendes Foundation, the 2021 Changemaker Award is awarded to a Festival film that tackles issues of social change, and comes with a \$10,000 cash prize. The winning film was selected by TIFF's Next Wave Committee, a group of young film lovers who recognize cinema's power to transform the world. The Shawn Mendes Foundation will also be making an annual contribution in support of TIFF Next Wave, helping TIFF deliver key initiatives to elevate young voices. The jurors for the Changemaker Award are members of TIFF's Next Wave Committee: Norah Daudi, Sia Mehta, Saharla Ugas, Julia Yoo, Lina Zhang, Charles Liu, Naiya Forrester, Honora Murphy, Dev Desai, Elli Tripp, Michelle Kofia, and David Rhomberg.

The 2021 Changemaker Award is presented to ***Scarborough***, dirs. Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson. Shasha Nakhai developed ***Scarborough*** at TIFF Industry in 2019 as an inaugural TIFF Talent Accelerator filmmaker.

TIFF's Next Wave Committee provided this statement: "This film is etched on my heart. ***Scarborough*** is an utterly captivating and earth-shattering story of three intertwined families who are no strangers to hardship. Through the charms of misfits and unlikely heroes, directors Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson pose big social questions while framing them in a real and affirming story of resilience, community, and love. Written and directed with power and grace, this film truly feels like home."

Directors Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson offered this statement: "Thank you to TIFF for giving this film a platform. It has been a really long and challenging road to get here, and we are so grateful to the TIFF Next Wave Committee and the Shawn Mendes Foundation for this award. We're happy folks are coming away from

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the film feeling moved, seen, and affirmed, with a renewed commitment to community — and what we hope is a renewed commitment to resisting the forces that seek to erase, fracture, and monetize community. We are excited to bring this film to wider audiences after the Festival, and especially looking forward to using it as a tool to support the front-line work already being done on the myriad issues that it tackles.”

AMPLIFY VOICES AWARDS PRESENTED BY CANADA GOOSE

Canada Goose embraces diversity in all its forms and definitions, including technique and passion that transports storytelling to the screen. This year, Canada Goose presents the Amplify Voices Awards to the three best feature films by under-represented filmmakers. All feature films in Official Selection by emerging BIPOC filmmakers and Canadian filmmakers were eligible for these awards, and the three winners will receive a cash prize of \$10,000 each, made possible by Canada Goose.

The three Amplify Voices Awards presented by Canada Goose winners are:

Amplify Voices Award for Best Canadian Feature Film: **Ste. Anne**, dir. Rhayne Vermette

Jury’s statement: “Rhayne Vermette’s debut feature shows us a unique vision that makes full use of all the tools of filmmaking to lure us into its emotional topography. Deeply personal yet inviting, **Ste. Anne** is true cinematic art made in a setting that’s often missing from the landscape of Canadian film.”

Special Mention: **Scarborough**, dirs. Shasha Nakhai, Rich Williamson

Jury’s statement: “With a strong sense of place, **Scarborough** tells a heartfelt story about community that charms with great performances from its actors, both young and old.”

Amplify Voices Award: **The Gravedigger’s Wife**, dir. Khadar Ayderus Ahmed

Jury’s statement: “At once specific to Somali culture and universally recognizable, **The Gravedigger’s Wife** tells a deeply romantic tale that’s both emotionally and visually textured. With Omar Abdi as its magnetic lead, Guled’s journey captivates from the first scene to the final frame.”

Amplify Voices Award: **A Night of Knowing Nothing**, dir. Payal Kapadia

Jury’s statement: “Payal Kapadia’s unique documentary balances the personal and political with a surprising snapshot of her home country. Shocking at times, but also sweeping in its beauty, **A Night of Knowing Nothing** is a first feature that already demonstrates her strong voice as a filmmaker.”

The 2021 jurors for the Amplify Voices Awards presented by Canada Goose are Yung Chang, Calvin Thomas, Kaniehtiio Horn, Hugh Gibson, and Aisha Jamal.

IMDbPro SHORT CUTS AWARDS

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The 2021 IMDbPro Short Cuts Awards are for Best Film, Best Canadian Film, and the Share Her Journey Award for best film by a woman. Each winning film will receive a bursary of \$10,000 CAD and a one-year membership to [IMDbPro](#), the essential resource for entertainment industry professionals, to help them continue achieving success in their careers. These awards build on IMDbPro's nearly 20-year history of empowering entertainment professionals to discover new talent and projects, and on its ongoing commitment to supporting and collaboratively working with organizations that create greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in the entertainment industry, including TIFF's Share Her Journey campaign.

The winners of the three awards are:

IMDbPro Short Cuts Award for Best Film: ***Displaced***, dir. Samir Karahoda

Jury's statement: "Standing out in a strong selection of films, Samir Karahoda's ***Displaced*** captivated us with its unique look, locations, and characters that all brought to life the quixotic yet enduring dedication to a sport — and a country — that is hard to articulate, even to one's self."

Honourable Mention: ***Trumpets in the Sky***, dir. Rakan Mayasi

IMDbPro Short Cuts Award for Best Canadian Film: ***Angakusajaujuq - The Shaman's Apprentice***, dir. Zacharias Kunuk

Jury's statement: "Zacharias Kunuk's ***Angakusajaujuq - The Shaman's Apprentice*** is an enthralling stop-motion that encapsulates an array of textures, sound, and nuanced expressions that collectively invite you into the apprentice's journey in learning traditional knowledge and caring for community while confronting your own fears. You can't help but feel the questions asked of the apprentice are for us all to consider: Who are you? What have you learned?"

Honourable Mention: ***Nuisance Bear***, dirs. Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden

IMDbPro Short Cuts Share Her Journey Award: ***ASTEL***, dir. Ramata-Toulaye Sy

Jury's statement: "Ramata-Toulaye Sy's ***ASTEL*** moved us with its powerful storytelling, beautiful shots, and a captivating lead performance that explores the complex nuances of womanhood, patriarchy, and coming of age when you least expect it."

Honourable mention: ***Love, Dad***, dir. Diana Cam Van Nguyen

The 2021 jurors for the IMDbPro Short Cuts Awards are filmmakers Sudeep Sharma, Tiffany Hsiung, and Nicole Delaney.

AFTER THE FESTIVAL

This fall, TIFF Bell Lightbox reopens its doors to audiences for year-round programming with a full roster of new titles, Festival hits, and beloved favourites. TIFF programming will restart with the Festival Midnight

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Madness body-horror smash hit ***Titane***, from director Julia Ducournau (***Raw***). ***Titane*** begins screening October 1 at TIFF Bell Lightbox.

Starting October 14, TIFF also invites audiences to enjoy *Welcome Back*, TIFF Cinematheque's lineup of big-screen favourites – including Stanley Kubrick's ***2001: A Space Odyssey***, Abbas Kiarostami's ***Certified Copy***, Jane Campion's ***The Portrait of a Lady***, Spike Jonze's ***Being John Malkovich***, and Claire Denis' ***Beau Travail***.

Following a highly anticipated Special Event Festival screening of *Dune*, TIFF Cinematheque presents *The Uncanny Vision of Denis Villeneuve*, an in-cinema programme of the filmmaker's earlier works (***Arrival***, ***Enemy***, ***August 32nd on Earth***), as well as films selected by Villeneuve that have inspired him throughout his career (David Lean's ***Lawrence of Arabia***, Martin Scorsese's ***The Last Temptation of Christ***, and Henri-Georges Clouzot's ***Le Mystère Picasso***). *The Uncanny Vision of Denis Villeneuve* begins October 15.

Rounding out the Fall Season in-cinema lineup is *In Case You Missed It*, a selection of acclaimed titles from recent Festivals, starting on October 6. Audiences who may have missed their chance the first time around will now have the opportunity to have the full theatrical experience for titles like Kazik Radwanski's ***Anne at 13,000 ft***, Lee Isaac Chung's ***Minari***, and Chloé Zhao's ***Nomadland***, winner of TIFF 2020's People's Choice Award. Additional programming will be announced in the coming weeks.

TIFF is also pleased to announce that digital offerings will continue for film lovers across the country. TIFF patrons across Canada can experience Ann Shin's ***A.r.tificial I.mmortality***, David Lowery's ***The Green Knight***, and Heidi Ewing's ***I Carry You With Me***, among other titles, from the comfort of their homes via digital TIFF Bell Lightbox.

COVID-19 health and safety measures will continue as TIFF Bell Lightbox reopens for year-round operation. As of September 22, audience members and visitors entering TIFF Bell Lightbox will be required to show proof they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks remain mandatory throughout the building, including in cinema. Additional details are available at tiff.net/covid-19.

Learn more about the Every Story fund at tiff.net/everystory

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

TIFF prefers Visa.

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About TIFF

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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. TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Ontario, Telefilm Canada, and the City of Toronto.

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TIFF gratefully acknowledges Canada Goose for its support of the Amplify Voices Awards.

TIFF gratefully acknowledges IMDbPro for its support of the Short Cuts Awards.

The Short Cuts programme is supported by the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Toronto.

TIFF gratefully acknowledges Visa as its Presenting Sponsor of the Visa Skyline Drive-In at Ontario Place and the Visa Screening Room at the Princess of Wales Theatre.

TIFF gratefully acknowledges RBC as its Presenting Sponsor of the RBC Lakeside Drive-In at Ontario Place.

The TIFF Emerging Talent Award is presented by L'Oréal Paris and supported by MGM.

IMDbPro is proud to be the Media Partner of TIFF Rising Stars.

TIFF acknowledges RBC for its support of three films by emerging artists, including **Scarborough** by Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson.

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