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MEDIA RELEASE

VOICE AND SPIRIT: TIFF CELEBRATES THE CAREER AND IMPACT OF OPERA ICON JESSYE NORMAN

***Divine: A Jessye Norman Tribute* will run February 11–13 at TIFF Bell Lightbox, In Conversation with... Jessye Norman on February 12**

TORONTO – In celebration of one of opera’s most renowned voices, TIFF is pleased to announce *Divine: A Jessye Norman Tribute*, a three-event series honouring musical legend Jessye Norman. Programmed in collaboration with the Glenn Gould Foundation and in acknowledgement of her receipt of the 12th Glenn Gould Prize, *Divine* will encompass a selection of films in which Norman’s performances take centre stage, along with the works that have inspired her. The series will run February 11–13.

“It isn’t every day that we have the opportunity to celebrate a music legend,” said Keith Bennie, Director of Learning at TIFF. “With numerous accolades, including the National Medal of Arts and multiple Grammy Awards, Norman’s work over the past five decades speaks for itself. We know that opera and film fans alike will be delighted to learn more about her remarkable career during an intimate conversation, and drink in the grandeur of these productions onscreen.”

Complementing this tailored retrospective is an in-depth conversation with Norman herself. This In Conversation With... event will focus on her tremendous career in opera, her collaborations with notable filmmakers and performers, and her observations about such famed cinematic adaptations of operas as Ingmar Bergman’s *The Magic Flute* and Joseph Losey’s *Don Giovanni*.

Divine: A Jessye Norman Tribute runs February 11 through February 13 at TIFF Bell Lightbox. In Conversation With... Jessye Norman will take place February 12 at 6:30pm.

Programming Details:

The Tales of Hoffmann – February 11

dirs. Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger | UK | 1951 | 127 minutes | Digital

4K Digital Restoration!

Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's dazzling cinematic envisioning of the Jacques Offenbach opera is even more ambitious and formally adventurous than their celebrated 1948 drama *The Red Shoes*.

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



Jessye Norman Sings Carmen followed by Oedipus Rex with Jessye Norman – February 12

Jessye Norman Sings Carmen

dirs. Albert Maysles, Susan Froemke, Peter Gelb, Charlotte Zwerin | France/USA | 1989 | 57 minutes | Digital

Oedipus Rex

dir. Julie Taymor | UK/Japan | 1993 | 58 minutes | Digital

Shot by documentary legend Albert Maysles, *Jessye Norman Sings Carmen* offers a powerful behind-the-scenes look at the charismatic performer's recording of George Bizet's classic opera with conductor Seiji Ozawa and the Orchestre National de France during the summer of 1988. This hour-long doc is followed by *Oedipus Rex*, Julie Taymor's theatrical adaptation of Stravinsky's oratorio, captured in 1993 for PBS's *Great Performances* series and featuring Norman as Jocasta, Philip Langridge in the title role, and the Saito Kinen Orchestra as conducted by Ozawa.

Diva – February 13

dir. Jean-Jacques Beineix | France | 1981 | 117 minutes | 35mm

Jean-Jacques Beineix's exhilarating fusion of high culture and pulp thriller follows an opera-loving Parisian postman who becomes entangled with brutal gangsters and mysterious bohemians.

About Jessye Norman

Jessye Norman is an acclaimed artist who has performed with the world's premier opera companies, in solo recitals and in concerts. Her classical repertoire is bolstered by her recent expansion into jazz music. She has received over 40 honorary doctorate degrees, five Grammy awards – including a Lifetime Achievement Award – and the White House's National Medal of Arts. She is a Kennedy Center Honoree, and she sits on the Board of Trustees for Carnegie Hall and the New York Public Library. She is also involved in advocacy for arts education through the Jessye Norman School of the Arts in Augusta, Georgia.

Starting today, tickets for the series *Divine: A Jessye Norman Tribute* are on sale for TIFF Members. Tickets are on sale to the general public on January 18. Tickets for *In Conversation With...Jessye Norman* are now available. For more information, visit tiff.net/jessyenorman.

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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.

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

The Glenn Gould Foundation is the Programming Partner of *Divine: A Jessye Norman Tribute* and *In Conversation With... Jessye Norman*

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For images, visit the media site at tiff.net/press.

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