

WINNER OF TIFF-CBC DIVERSE SCREENWRITER'S GRANT ANNOUNCED

TORONTO — Canadian writer Jorge Manzano was announced today as the recipient of the first **TIFF-CBC Diverse Screenwriter's Grant** for his feature film screenplay *The Strike*. The grant was created to support both Canada's diverse screenwriting talent and the discovery of a great Canadian screenplay. Manzano will receive a \$10,000 grant to develop his script.

"Writing can be a somewhat lonely place and this award gives me a renewed sense of hope and excitement," stated Manzano. "I know that it will help make my dream of making this film a real possibility. The next chapter in this story's journey will require hard work, but knowing that I will have access to the wisdom of industry professionals only makes this next challenge all the more exciting."

The decision was made by a jury of screen industry professionals which included CBC's Mehernaz Lentin; Celluloid Dreams Vice President of Sales, Charlotte Mickie; filmmaker and TIFF Short Cuts Programmer, Danis Goulet; Artistic Director of the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Jason Ryle, and TIFF's Industry Director and the grant's Jury Chair, Kathleen Drumm.

On making the announcement, the jury said: "Jorge Manzano's political thriller *The Strike* impressed us as a dynamic page-turner full of twists, betrayals, daring escapes and vivid scenarios." Set in 1973, it tells the tale of a woman who must lead a band of leftist guerrillas, as Chilean dictator Pinochet brutally sweeps to power.

A **Special Mention** was awarded by the jury to screenwriter Anita Doron for *Children of a Wolf Mother*. The jury described the screenplay as "a bold and distinctive vision of a group of subversive women struggling for survival in a near-future, dystopian world of economic collapse."

Six screenplays were shortlisted for the grant - Lindsay MacKay's *Clear Blue*; Anita Doron's *Children of a Wolf Mother*; Eric Janvier's *Stories My Grandfather Taught Me*; Gia Milani's *Strathcona*; Jorge Manzano's *The Strike* and Shannon Walsh's *Unidentified Minor*.

All screenplay applications were read and rated anonymously, without readers knowing the names of screenwriters. Projects were considered based on the quality of the script, the originality of the idea, story structure, dialogue and characters, as well as likely audience appeal and achievability.

The TIFF-CBC Diverse Screenwriter's Grant is a subset of the CBC's [Breaking Barriers Film Fund](#), which supports the production of narrative films from experienced Canadian filmmakers who are either female, indigenous, a visible minority or who have a disability, and who have had at least one feature-length film showcased at one of the Fund's [list of recognized film festivals](#).

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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

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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.

About CBC Breaking Barriers Film Fund

Offering new opportunities for filmmakers who have historically been at a disadvantage in accessing financing and making their unique voices heard, the CBC Breaking Barriers Film Fund helps finance English-language feature film projects that are written or directed by Canadian women, Indigenous persons, visible minorities and persons with a disability who have had at least one feature length film showcased at a recognized film festival. Submissions are now being accepted on an ongoing basis with no formal deadlines. Further information and application guidelines are available at www.cbc.ca/breakingbarriers/.

About CBC/Radio-Canada

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. We are Canada's trusted source of news, information and Canadian entertainment. Deeply rooted in communities all across the country, CBC/Radio-Canada offers diverse content in English, French and eight Indigenous languages. We also provide international news and information from a uniquely Canadian perspective. In 2017, CBC/Radio-Canada will be at the heart of the celebrations and conversations with special 2017-themed multiplatform programming and events across Canada.

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