



March 1, 2017

**NEWS RELEASE**

## TRANSCEND THE ORDINARY AND REIMAGINE CINEMATIC CLASSICS AT TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX

**Spring season highlights include an examination of transcendental style in film, an exploration of Indigenous rights issues, tributes to legendary director Martin Scorsese and French playwright/filmmaker Marcel Pagnol, and a spotlight on iconic director David Lynch**

**TORONTO** – TIFF invites audiences to leave winter behind and spring into a new season at TIFF Bell Lightbox. Experience illuminating moments in film, explore Indigenous rights issues, and enjoy a slate of thought-provoking new releases.

Devoted to classics, favourites, rarities and recent restorations, the spring edition of **TIFF Cinematheque** sends audiences on a spiritual journey through film; enjoy a keynote lecture and onstage conversation with director/screenwriter Paul Schrader, the voice behind such films as *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, and *Cat People*, which kicks off the series **Transcendental Style: Spirituality in the Films of Bresson, Dreyer and Ozu**, diving into the work that inspired the filmmaker; and **TIFF Cinematheque Special Screenings** pays tribute to auteurs Martin Scorsese and Abbas Kiarostami, and French novelist, playwright, and filmmaker Marcel Pagnol.

Additional highlights include: the ongoing **Short Cuts** programme, showcasing the best of Canadian and international short films, this edition exploring **Our Digital Lives**; two additions to the ongoing series **Aabiziingwashi (Wide Awake/Unable to Sleep): Films and Conversations**; and TIFF's free year-long programme **Canada on Screen** continues to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial.

New Releases this season include: **David Lynch - The Art Life**, a documentary directed by Jon Nguyen with Rick Barnes and Olivia Neergaard, which follows the notorious director on an intimate journey through the formative years of his life; director François Ozon's elegiac tale of love and remembrance **Frantz**, in which a young woman mourning the death of her fiancé forms a bond with a mysterious Frenchman who has arrived to lay flowers on her beloved's grave; Juho Kuosmanen's irresistible and touching debut feature **The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki** captures the true story of the famous Finnish boxer; graphic novelist Dash Shaw recruits the voices of Lena Dunham, Susan Sarandon, and Jason Schwartzman for his first animated feature **My Entire High School Sinking Into the Sea**; Matt Tyrnauer's documentary **Citizen Jane: Battle for the City** chronicles legendary writer and urban activist Jane Jacobs' struggle to save historic New York neighbourhoods; and **Lady Macbeth** from acclaimed theatre director William Oldroyd, which subverts Nikolai Leskov's 19th century novella *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsenk* into a feminist cautionary tale of betrayal and revenge..

Tickets for the spring season go on sale **today** for TIFF Members and **March 8 at 10 a.m.** for the public. TIFF prefers VISA.

### TIFF CINEMATHEQUE

#### **Transcendental Style: Spirituality in the Films of Bresson, Dreyer and Ozu— April 8 to April 25**

On April 3 at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Paul Schrader revisits the themes of his book *Transcendental Style in Film* — which articulated a shared, spiritually-based aesthetic in the work of filmmakers Robert Bresson, Carl Theodor Dreyer, and Yasujiro Ozu.

**Transcendental Style: Spirituality in the Films of Bresson, Dreyer and Ozu** will examine what these varied filmmakers have in common – all in 35mm prints! Some highlights include: Robert Bresson's **Diary of a Country Priest** (1950), in which a young minister

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dying of cancer confronts the cruelty, indifference and malice of his parishioners while trying to make his own peace with God; Carl Dreyer's *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928) an unforgettable account of the interrogation and martyrdom of the French saint, one of the most legendary and influential films in cinema history; and Yasujiro Ozu's *Tokyo Story* (1953), an ineffably moving meditation on mortality, concerning an elderly couple's heart-wrenching visit to their ungrateful children.

### **TIFF Cinematheque Special Screenings — April 8 to May 23**

The spring edition of this seasonal series devoted to classics, favourites, rarities, and recent restorations pays tribute to Martin Scorsese with screenings of the renowned director's (unofficial) spiritual trilogy, *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988), a 35mm print of *Kundun* (1997), and his latest film *Silence* (2016); an extraordinary trio of films written by French novelist, playwright, and filmmaker Marcel Pagnol, Alexander Korda's *Marius* (1931), *Fanny* (1932), directed by Marc Allégret, and Pagnol's own *César* (1936) with a full range from comedy to tragedy, this trilogy showcases the people of the Marseille waterfront. Other highlights include: a 35mm screening of Abbas Kiarostami's *Through the Olive Trees* (1994) in which a young bricklayer uses his casting in a film as an opportunity to woo the young woman who has already turned down his proposal of marriage; and Lena Dunham's feature directorial debut *Tiny Furniture* (2010).

### **CANADA ON SCREEN**

#### **Canada on Screen — April 14 to May 21 | FREE**

In celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial, TIFF continues its free year-long programme, based on a list of the 150 essential moving-image works from Canada's history. Season highlights include *Léolo* (1992), a coming-of-age fantasy by the late Jean-Claude Lauzon, who evokes Fellini in this surreal, semi-autobiographical tale; Zacharias Kunuk's *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* (2001) a tale of ambition, jealousy and murder on the frozen plains of northern Canada, which awarded the director the Camera d'Or for "Best First Film" at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival; **Canada on Screen Shorts Programme 3** will feature Roman Kroitor and Wolf Koenig's *Lonely Boy* (1962) and Guy Maddin's *The Heart of the World* (2000) with **Jody Shapiro** (producer of Guy Maddin's film) in attendance for an introduction and Q&A; **Canada on Screen Shorts Programme 4** featuring John Weldon's animated classic *Log Driver's Waltz* (1979), set to the Wade Hemsworth song as performed by the McGarrigle sisters, it is part of the NFB series **Canada Vignettes**; and *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould* (1993), the Canadian Classic by François Girard written for the screen by Don McKellar, the film highlights the acclaimed pianist's life work through a collection of vignettes.

#### **Canada à l'écran – Du 14 avril au 21 mai | GRATUIT**

Pour célébrer le 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Canada, le TIFF poursuit son programme Canada à l'écran, qui présente gratuitement toute l'année des films et vidéos tirés de la liste des 150 œuvres essentielles de l'histoire du Canada. Parmi les projections de la saison se trouve *Léolo* (1992), un récit d'apprentissage fantaisiste, semi-autobiographique et rempli de références à Fellini signé par le regretté Jean-Claude Lauzon. On y présentera aussi *Atanarjuat, la légende de l'homme rapide* (2001), une histoire de jalousie, d'ambition et de meurtre se déroulant dans le Grand Nord canadien qui a valu à Zacharias Kunuk la Caméra d'Or pour le meilleur premier film au Festival de Cannes. Canada à l'écran présente également deux de ses programmes de courts métrages : le programme 3 met en vedette *Lonely Boy* (1962) de Roman Kroitor et Wolf Koenig, ainsi que *The Heart of the World* (2000) de Guy Maddin, en présence du producteur **Jody Shapiro** pour l'introduction et la séance de questions/réponses; tandis que le programme 4 comprend l'animation classique *La valse du maître-draveur* (1979), de John Weldon, qui fait partie de la série de l'ONF « Canada vignettes » et s'appuie sur l'interprétation d'une chanson de Wade Hemsworth par les sœurs McGarrigle. Également au menu : le classique du cinéma canadien *Trente-deux films brefs sur Glenn Gould* (1993), dont les divers tableaux scénarisés par Don McKellar et réalisés par François Girard mettent en lumière les moments marquants de la vie et de la carrière du célèbre pianiste.

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## FILM SERIES

### **Aabiziingwashi (Wide Awake/Unable to Sleep): Films & Conversations — April 13 and May 13**

This ongoing series, co-presented with the NFB, explores social, cultural and justice issues using cinema and informed discussions with artists, experts, activists and community leaders in the Indigenous community. TIFF pairs film screenings with accompanying talks by subject-matter experts to transform the Cinematheque into a forum for ideas, discussion and debate. Spring edition highlights include: Alanis Obomsawin's ***Our Nationhood*** (2003), a documentary that looks at the attempts made by Listuguj Mi'qmaq people to settle land-claim differences with Quebec officials; and Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge, and Jeremiah Hayes' ***Reel Injun*** (2009), an entertaining, insightful and incisive documentary on the history of First Peoples' representation on screen, which features Graham Greene, Adam Beach, Clint Eastwood, Jim Jarmusch, Robbie Robertson, and Zacharias Kunuk.

### **Short Cuts: Spring 2017 — May 9**

Delivering the best of Canadian and international short films to Toronto all year round, **Short Cuts** returns on **May 9** with **Our Digital Lives**, a collection of short films that explores the way that technology has changed the way people experience the world, interact with one another and form a sense of self.

Previously announced season highlights include: the return of TIFF's subscription series [Books on Film](#); the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#) with a poignant documentary lineup showcasing brave cinematic works from around the world; [Postindustrial](#), an exhibition of Canadian filmmaker and artist Richard Kerr's latest lightboxes that explore the materiality of film on now until June 10; and [TIFF Kids International Film Festival](#) returns for its 20th year with the best films from around the world for children aged 3 to 13.

## NEW RELEASES

### **Opens April 7**

#### ***David Lynch - The Art Life***

dir. Jon Nguyen | USA 2017 | 90 min.

David Lynch takes us on an intimate journey through the formative years of his life. From his idyllic upbringing in small town America to the dark streets of Philadelphia, we follow Lynch as he traces the events that have helped to shape one of cinema's most enigmatic directors.

#### ***Frantz***

dir. François Ozon | France/Germany 2016 | 113 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2016*

Director François Ozon's elegiac tale of love and remembrance is set in a small German town in the aftermath of World War I, where a young woman mourning the death of her fiancé forms a bond with a mysterious Frenchman who has arrived to lay flowers on her beloved's grave.

### **Opens April 14**

#### ***The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki***

dir. Juho Kuosmanen | Finland/Germany/Sweden 2016 | 92 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2016*

Winner of a top prize at this year's Cannes festival, this irresistible and touching debut feature is a funny and forlorn comedy-drama inspired by the real-life showdown between Finnish boxer Olli Mäki and American champion Davey Moore in 1962 Helsinki.

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### ***My Entire High School Sinking Into the Sea***

dir. Dash Shaw | USA 2016 | 72 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2016*

The title tells the tale in this inventive, beautiful and bizarre animated feature from acclaimed graphic novelist Dash Shaw, featuring the voices of Jason Schwartzman, Lena Dunham, Maya Rudolph, Susan Sarandon and Reggie Watts.

### **Opens April 21**

#### ***Citizen Jane: Battle for the City***

dir. Matt Tyrnauer | USA 2016 | 92 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2016*

This timely and inspirational documentary chronicles legendary writer and urban activist Jane Jacobs' battle to save historic New York City neighbourhoods from the draconian redevelopment plans of ruthless power broker Robert Moses in the 1960s.

### **Opens June 9**

#### ***Lady Macbeth***

dir. William Oldroyd | United Kingdom 2016 | 89 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2016*

Acclaimed theatre director William Oldroyd relocates Nikolai Leskov's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* to 19th-century England, in this Gothic tale about a young woman trapped in a marriage of convenience whose passionate affair unleashes a maelstrom of murder and mayhem on a country estate.

### **Social Media:**

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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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**TIFF Cinematheque is generously supported by the Ontario Media Development Corporation and Canada Council for the Arts.**

**The Government of Canada, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Government of Ontario are Presenting Partners of Canada on Screen / Le gouvernement du Canada, la Banque Royale du Canada, et le Gouvernement de l'Ontario sont des partenaires présentateurs de Canada à l'écran.**

**Canada on Screen is supported by Telefilm Canada / Téléfilm Canada est un partenaire de soutien de Canada à l'écran.**

**Canada on Screen is co-produced by Library and Archives Canada, The Cinémathèque québécoise, and The Cinematheque in Vancouver / Canada à l'écran est une coréalisation de Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, de la Cinémathèque québécoise et de The Cinematheque de Vancouver.**

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**Shortcuts is Supported by the Ontario Arts Council.**

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***The Walrus* is the Media Partner for Books on Film.**

**Paul Schrader on Revisiting the Transcendental Style in Film is co-presented with the Institute for Christian Studies.**

**TIFF Kids is supported by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Arts Council.**

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For information contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).  
For images visit the media site at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

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