

## **DONNYBROOK TO OPEN TIFF 2018 PLATFORM PROGRAMME**

**World Premiere of Tim Sutton's powerful heartland drama set to launch programme**



Photo credit: Courtesy of TIFF

**TORONTO** — The Toronto International Film Festival® announced today that the World Premiere of ***Donnybrook***, the powerful new film from Tim Sutton (*Memphis, Dark Night*) will be the opening film of the Festival's Platform programme. Starring Frank Grillo, Margaret Qualley, James Badge Dale and Jamie Bell, the film is Sutton's fourth directorial effort, most ambitious project to date, and his first title at the Festival.

"Tim Sutton's unflinching portrayal of the American heartland masterfully captures many of the anxieties that exist in our society today," said TIFF Director & CEO Piers Handling. "*Donnybrook* is the perfect choice to open Platform, showcasing not only the calibre of filmmaking in the lineup, but also the depth of the challenging stories that make up the programme."

Set in the shadows of today's America, *Donnybrook* tells the story of a young veteran who — seeing no way out for his poverty-stricken family — robs a gun shop to fund his entry fee into a legendary, bare-knuckle tournament, where the winner gets \$100,000 and a chance for a new life.

"It's a profound honour that *Donnybrook* was chosen to open this year's Platform section at TIFF," said Sutton. "I set out to make a film that reckons with the extreme times we are living in. *Donnybrook* is about the fight to

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survive – physically, financially, and emotionally. While creating it I found not only darkness, fear, and violence, but also beauty, tenderness, and wonder. I'm thrilled the programmers responded to the film, and I look forward to presenting it to audiences on the big screen with the cast and crew by my side."

**Donnybrook** is a Backup Studios presentation and a Rumble Films production in association with Sierra/Affinity. It is produced by David Lancaster and Stephanie Wilcox. Executive Producers from Backup Studios include Joël Thibout, David Atlan-Jackson and Jean-Baptiste Babin. Executive producers from Rumble include Jon Shiffman and Andrew Schwartzberg. UTA Independent Film Group is handling North American sales. Sierra/Affinity is handling world sales.

The 43rd Toronto International Film Festival runs from September 6 to 16, 2018.

The Platform programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Air France.

For the full film lineup, synopses, cast lists, images, and more information, see [tiff.net/platform](http://tiff.net/platform).

Festival ticket packages start at \$105. Purchase packages online at [tiff.net/tickets](http://tiff.net/tickets), by phone (416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433), or in person at TIFF Bell Lightbox until August 13, while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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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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For images, visit the media site at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

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