

TIFF UNVEILS PLANS FOR FESTIVAL 2020

Reimagined physical and digital festival will feature exciting new films, talks, and interactive experiences



Click [here](#) for a social distanced sit-down with TIFF Co-Heads Joana Vicente and Cameron Bailey

TORONTO – TIFF announced today that the 45th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival, taking place September 10–19, is tailored to fit the moment, with physical screenings and drive-ins, digital screenings, virtual red carpets, press conferences and industry talks. This year’s selection comprises a lineup of 50 new feature films, five programs of short films, as well as interactive talks, film cast reunions, and Q&As with cast and filmmakers.

The worldwide health crisis has affected everyone working in the cultural industries, and TIFF has been severely impacted. Its role in the ecosystem of the film industry was the impetus to move forward, to deliver a film festival that inspires and engages audiences, and to serve as a beacon of hope for Toronto, for filmmakers, and for the international film industry. TIFF is the cornerstone of a \$2-billion-a-year film industry in Toronto, generates more than \$200 million in annual economic activity for the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario, and is the chief market to launch Canadian film content into the global marketplace.

As the 2020 Festival lineup comes together, the programming teams are working to curate the most memorable experience possible for its audiences through a diverse selection of the highest quality films from around the globe. Films on offer will reflect first-rate international cinema, documentaries, and Canadian creativity. The representation of women amongst TIFF’s film programmers is reflective of the organization’s continuing commitment to normalizing gender parity and equality for future generations.

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



Concrete Cowboy (Photo Credit: Courtesy of TIFF)

TIFF is thrilled to announce that to date, **Ammonite**, directed by Francis Lee (United Kingdom); **Another Round**, from director Thomas Vinterberg (Denmark); **Bruised**, the debut film from director Halle Berry (USA); **Concrete Cowboy** by filmmaker Ricky Staub (USA); **Fauna**, from director Nicolás Pereda (Mexico/Canada); **Good Joe Bell** by director Reinaldo Marcus Green (USA); **Spring Blossom**, the debut film by director Suzanne Lindon (France); and **True Mothers** by director Naomi Kawase (Japan), will all screen at this year's Festival. More titles will be announced over the summer.

Over the first five days, TIFF's full slate of films will premiere as physical, socially-distanced screenings. Festival-goers can also enjoy drive-ins and outdoor experiences that take them beyond the movie theatre. TIFF is working closely with the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and public health officials on the safe execution of the Festival, with its number one priority being the health and well-being of both Festival filmgoers and the residents of the entire community. This presentation of TIFF's traditional in-person film festival will be contingent on the province's reopening framework to ensure that festival venues and workplaces practice, meet and exceed public health guidelines.

For the first time in its history, TIFF will launch a digital platform for the Festival, affording new opportunities to connect with audiences beyond Toronto. TIFF has partnered with Shift72 to develop this industry-leading online platform. Over the 10 days, the platform will host digital screenings, as well as numerous talks and special events.

"The pandemic has hit TIFF hard, but we've responded by going back to our original inspiration – to bring the very best in film to the broadest possible audience," said **Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director and Co-Head, TIFF**. "Our teams have had to rethink everything, and open our minds to new ideas. In countless video calls over the past three months we have rebuilt our Festival for 2020 drawing on our five decades of commitment to strong curation, support for filmmakers and engagement with audiences. We have listened to this year's urgent calls for greater representation of underrepresented voices. You'll see that this year at the Festival. And we have

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



watched as audiences have embraced cinema's ability to transport them through screens of all sizes. You'll see that too. We're excited to present thoughtful, high-impact programming this September that reflects our belief that there's no stopping great storytelling."

"TIFF has a proud history of programming award-winning films, expanding the conversation to include a multitude of voices, and in creating boundary-pushing initiatives for the industry. And this year we've added new innovations and ways to give back to the community. In doing so, we're aiming to advance what a film festival is capable of delivering – for audiences and the film industry," said **Joana Vicente, Executive Director and Co-Head, TIFF**. "We could never have anticipated the global seismic changes we would be facing in 2020. We tapped into the original spirit of the Festival from when it began in 1976 as our guiding light. The distilled edition of TIFF 2020 reflects a deep love of film, passion for our loyal audiences, commitment to the industry and a whole lot of heart."

For 2020, TIFF will be welcoming **TIFF Ambassadors**, 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors invited to help TIFF deliver a strong Festival this year for the film industry. They will include **Ava DuVernay, Taika Waititi, Anurag Kashyap, Nicole Kidman, Martin Scorsese, Nadine Labaki, Alfonso Cuarón, Tantoo Cardinal, Riz Ahmed, Rian Johnson, Jason Reitman, Isabelle Huppert, Claire Denis, Atom Egoyan, Priyanka Chopra, Viggo Mortensen, Zhang Ziyi, David Oyelowo, Lulu Wang, Rosamund Pike, Sarah Gadon, Denis Villeneuve, and Darren Aronofsky** to name a few.

TIFF will also present its annual **TIFF Tribute Awards**, acknowledging and celebrating outstanding contributors to the film industry. Launched in 2019, the TIFF Tribute Awards honoured, among others, the remarkable talents and contributions of Meryl Streep, Taika Waititi, Mati Diop, and Joaquin Phoenix. This tradition will continue for 2020 and audiences worldwide will be able to experience the Awards virtually. Additional information on the Awards and 2020 honourees will be announced in the coming months.

TIFF's Industry Conference will welcome thousands of film professionals as always, but online this year, with screenings for press and industry taking place on the Festival's digital platform. Industry delegates can expect advanced security and anti-piracy measures, access to buyers, and opportunities for networking. International and Canadian press attending TIFF will be able to experience in-depth conversations with actors and filmmakers, and will have access to filmmakers for interviews. Now in its third year, TIFF's Media Inclusion Initiative will continue to accredit eligible Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, LGBTQ+ and female emerging film critics who are working towards amplifying their voices in the press corps. New this year, TIFF is offering companies and individuals the opportunity to gift industry access to 250 underrepresented emerging filmmakers from around the world, opening doors for those who need it most.

The global health crisis and its financial impact has affected everyone, making partnerships and alliances essential to aid in the recovery of the film industry. TIFF 2020 represents an unprecedented collaboration with other film festivals in Toronto, like our long-time partners the Reel Asian International Film Festival and Inside Out; across Canada with the Vancouver International Film Festival; and internationally, with Venice, Telluride, and New York, to support filmmakers and bring the gift of cinema to audiences.

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



TIFF temporarily closed its year-round offices and cinemas at TIFF Bell Lightbox in March due to the pandemic. Immediately following the closure, TIFF launched the successful Stay-at-Home Cinema programme in partnership with Bell Media's Crave, which has seen hundreds of thousands of Canadians and film fans from around the world engage with top talent from past Festival favourites. TIFF is taking the necessary steps to prepare for reopening, ensuring its facilities are outfitted with appropriate health precautions in preparation for when the Province permits larger public gatherings, and working with medical advisors and public health officials to ensure the safety of audiences, partners, and staff.

Earlier this week, TIFF confirmed the reduction of 31 full-time staff positions as a response to the financial impact brought on by COVID-19 and the temporary closure of its building. The global health crisis also necessitated a redesign of TIFF's business and activities, for both TIFF Bell Lightbox and the Festival, in order for the organization to continue to deliver on its mission to transform the way people see the world through film. These factors, along with the restrictions on travel and large gatherings as well as a projected slow return to normal audience behaviour, resulted in a forecasted 50% reduction in revenue from 2019.

TIFF's work would not be possible, particularly this year, without the involvement and dedication of long-time lead partner Bell, major partners RBC, L'Oréal Paris, Visa, the Government of Ontario, Telefilm Canada, and the City of Toronto.

As a non-profit, TIFF continues to develop ways to secure financial support. TIFF's For the Love of Film Fund was launched earlier this spring and supports TIFF's work to re-imagine the in-cinema experience in the digital age for its audiences, and invests in TIFF's recovery and the future of film. The Koolum Foundation will match every dollar donated to the For the Love of Film Fund.

Further information regarding film selection, screening venues, ticket sales for both Members and the public, accreditation and TIFF's Industry Conference will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information, please see tiff.net.

Social Media:

facebook.com/TIFF

youtube.com/TIFF

twitter.com/TIFF_NET

instagram.com/TIFF_NET

#TIFF20

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, learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. 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

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



RBC. For more information, visit tiff.net.

The Toronto International Film Festival 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.

-30-

For more information, email the Communications Department at proffice@tiff.net.

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

TIFF Bell Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King Street West, Toronto ON Canada M5V 3X5 416-599-TIFF / 1-888-599-8433

tiff.net

©Toronto International Film Festival Inc. Charitable Registration # 11930 4541 RR0001