

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL UNVEILS DISCOVERY PROGRAMME FEATURING 30 FILMS BY EXCITING NEW FILMMAKERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

TORONTO — The Toronto International Film Festival® announced today its Discovery programme showcasing 30 outstanding and absorbing feature films, including 16 World Premieres, by first and second time directors from Canada and across the globe.

“Discovery is the place where Festival audiences will find the future of filmmaking,” said Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival. “You can expect to uncover thrilling new voices, inspiring storytellers and hidden gems among this fantastic showcase of work from some of the most exciting new directors from around the world.”

The diverse Discovery lineup includes *Desde Allá*, an intense social drama from Venezuelan newcomer Lorenzo Vigas; Tom and Sam McKeith’s Manila-set thriller *Beast*; German filmmaker Sebastian Ko’s riveting suspense *We Monsters*; Michael Lennox’s *A Patch of Fog* which chronicles a British anti-bromance; *Very Big Shot*, the debut from Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya, delving into a darkly comedic world of coke smuggling in Lebanon; Maris Curran’s intimate drama *Five Nights in Maine*; Irish director Simon Fitzmaurice’s feature debut, the coming-of-age story *My Name is Emily*; and Mexico’s Alejandra Márquez Abellas’ debut, the poignant drama *Semana Santa*.

The Toronto International Film Festival is also delighted to announce an additional title has been added to the Cinematheque Programme — a special 20th anniversary screening of Michael Mann’s magnum-opus *Heat*, followed by a Q&A with the acclaimed writer/director; and in the Vanguard Programme, the Festival announces the world premiere of Pedro Morelli’s *Zoom*.

DISCOVERY PROGRAMME

A Patch of Fog Michael Lennox, United Kingdom World Premiere
A celebrated novelist and TV personality finds his reputation on the line when he is caught shoplifting by a lonely security guard, intent on becoming his friend for life. Stephen Graham (*Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Boardwalk Empire*) stars alongside Conleth Hill (*Game of Thrones*), Lara Pulver (*Sherlock*), Arsher Ali (*Four Lions*) and Ian McElhinney (*Game of Thrones*).

The Ardennes Robin Pront, Belgium World Premiere
Two bandit brothers, one fresh from prison, the other eager to escape their criminal past, form a potentially explosive love triangle with the ex-con’s ex-girlfriend, in Robin Pront’s Cain vs. Abel update.

Beast Tom McKeith, Sam McKeith, Australia/Philippines World Premiere
Deep in the slums of Manila, a young boxer’s life is changed forever when his father pressures him to cheat in a fight.

Black Adil El Arbi, Bilal Fallah, Belgium World Premiere
Fifteen-year-old Mavela is a member of the notorious Black Bronx gang. She falls head over heels in love with the charismatic Marwan, a boy from the rival gang 1080ers. The two young people are brutally forced to choose between loyalty to their gang and their love for each other. An impossible choice ... or not?

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



Born to Dance Tammy Davis, New Zealand

World Premiere

A Maori teen faces parental and social pressure while leading his competitive hip-hop dance crew toward the regional championships, in this exhilarating feature directorial debut from New Zealand actor Tammy Davis.

Dégradé Arab Nasser, Tarzan Nasser, Palestine/France/Qatar

North American Premiere

Gaza Strip, present day. Christine's beauty salon is heaving with female clients: a bitter divorcée, a stern religious woman, a disenchanted housewife addicted to prescription drugs, and a young bride-to-be, among others. But their day of leisure is disrupted when gunfire breaks out across the street. A gangland family has stolen the lion from Gaza's zoo, and the police have decided it's time to wrestle control. Stuck in the salon, the women start to unravel...

Desde Allá Lorenzo Vigas, Venezuela/Mexico

North American Premiere

Fifty-year-old Armando picks up young boys in the streets of Caracas and pays them to come home with him. He also regularly spies on an older man with whom he seems bound by something in the past. One day he meets 17-year-old Elder, the leader of a small gang. Violent at first, their relationship morphs into something beautiful ... until the inevitable happens.

Downriver Grant Scicluna, Australia

International Premiere

James has served time for drowning a little boy when he himself was just a child, although the body was never found. Upon his parole, a visit from his victim's mother sends him on a quest to find the truth. With little time and danger at every turn, James risks his freedom and his life to uncover the trail of sins that might give closure to a grieving mother.

Eva Nová Marko Škop, Slovakia

World Premiere

Eva would do anything to regain the love of the one she hurt the most — her son. She is a recovered alcoholic, but decades ago she was a famous actress.

Five Nights in Maine Maris Curran, USA

World Premiere

Reeling from the tragic, sudden death of his wife, a man travels to rural Maine to seek answers from his estranged mother-in-law, who is herself confronting guilt and grief over her daughter's death. Starring David Oyelowo (*Selma*), Dianne Wiest and Rosie Perez.

The Here After (*Efterskalv*) Magnus von Horn, Poland/Sweden/France

North American Premiere

When John returns home to his father after serving time in prison, he is looking forward to starting his life afresh. However in the local community, his crime is neither forgotten nor forgiven. John's presence brings out the worst in everyone around him and a lynch-mob atmosphere slowly takes shape. Feeling abandoned by his former friends and the people he loves, John loses hope and the same aggressions that previously sent him to prison start building up again. Unable to leave the past behind, he decides to confront it.

Ixcanul Jayro Bustamante, Guatemala/France

Canadian Premiere

María, a young 17-year-old Mayan girl, lives and works with her parents on a coffee plantation in the foothills of an active volcano in Guatemala. An arranged marriage awaits her. Although María dreams of going to the "big city," her status as an indigenous woman does not permit her to change her destiny. A snake bite forces her to go out into the modern world where her life is saved, but at what price?

James White Josh Mond, USA

Canadian Premiere

James White (Christopher Abbott) is a troubled twenty-something trying to stay afloat in a frenzied New York City. He retreats further into a self-destructive, hedonistic lifestyle, but as his mother (Cynthia Nixon) battles a serious illness James is forced to take control of his life. The directorial debut of *Martha Marcy May Marlene* producer Josh Mond, *James White*, which had its world premiere at Sundance Film Festival 2014 where it was the winner of the Audience Award: NEXT, is a confident and closely observed debut that explores loss and the deep relationship between a mother and son.

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



Keeper Guillaume Senez, Belgium/Switzerland/France

North American Premiere

Maxime and Mélanie are in love. Together, they clumsily explore their sexuality with fiery curiosity until the day Mélanie realizes she's pregnant. At first Maxime takes the news badly, but then he gets used to the idea of becoming a father. He convinces Melanie to keep the baby. So it's been decided – Maxime and Mélanie, all of fifteen years old, will become parents.

Les Cowboys Thomas Bidegain, France/Belgium

North American Premiere

A vast prairie, a country and western gathering somewhere in the east of France. Alain is a central figure in this community. He's dancing with his daughter, 16-year-old Kelly, as his wife and their young son Kid watch from the sidelines. But on this day, Kelly disappears, and the family falls apart. Alain embarks on a relentless search for his daughter, even though it costs him everything and takes him to dark, unsettling places, where his sole support is Kid, who sacrifices his youth to accompany his father on this seemingly endless quest.

Meghmallar Zahidur Rahim Anjan, Bangladesh

World Premiere

A case of mistaken identity throws an apolitical chemistry teacher into the maelstrom of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, in the striking debut feature from director Zahidur Rahim Anjan.

Mountain Yaelle Kayam, Israel/Denmark

North American Premiere

An Orthodox Jewish woman, living at the edge of the cemetery on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, becomes fascinated by a nocturnal community of prostitutes and drug dealers congregating amongst the tombstones. *Mountain* is a haunting and dramatic exploration of a women's search for identity.

My Name is Emily Simon Fitzmaurice, Ireland

North American Premiere

Packed off to a foster home after her father is institutionalized, a rebellious young Irish girl resolves to bust her dad out of the hospital where he's been confined, in this spirited coming-of-age tale from celebrated memoirist and first-time feature director Simon Fitzmaurice.

The Paradise Suite Joost van Ginkel, Netherlands/Sweden/Bulgaria

World Premiere

This dexterous tale of survival from director Joost van Ginkel traces the intersecting stories of six immigrants from very different backgrounds in Amsterdam who learn that they can irreversibly influence each other's lives, sometimes with just one glance.

Semana Santa Alejandra Márquez Abella, Mexico

World Premiere

Dali and her eight-year-old son Pepe take a vacation to Acapulco with Dali's boyfriend, Chavez. Instead of bringing them closer, their beach holiday brings out things in each of them that threaten to pull this emerging family apart.

Spear Stephen Page, Australia

World Premiere

Djali, a young Aboriginal man, sets off on a journey of initiation to understand what it means to be a man in a modern day world. He sees the problems being faced by Aboriginal men in remote and urban communities. As he struggles to find his place, he becomes awakened to a spiritual force within, guiding him on his journey into manhood.

Very Big Shot (*Film Kteer Kbeer*) Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya, Lebanon/Qatar

World Premiere

Intending to smuggle the amphetamine Captagon to Iraqi Kurdistan, a small-time Lebanese drug dealer discovers that a way to foil customs, with the help of a talentless filmmaker. Posing as a film producer, he has no qualms manipulating public opinion to his advantage.

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 T 416-599-TIFF / 1-888-599-8433

tiff.net

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



The Wait (*L'attesa*) Piero Messina, Italy

North American Premiere

Waiting for someone is an act of faith. Anna and Jeanne, isolated in a Sicilian country house in Caltagirone, are waiting for Giuseppe's arrival. He is the former's son, the latter's boyfriend. Their wait turns into a mysterious act of love and will, while in the streets people are celebrating Easter.

We Monsters (*Wir Monster*) Sebastian Ko, Germany

North American Premiere

Paul and Christine know their teenage daughter Sarah has been thrown off track by their separation — but is she capable of committing a horrible crime? Wanting to protect her, they decide attempt to hide her wrongdoing, but their joint guilt forces the family back together under a web of lies. The directorial debut from German actor Sebastian Ko, *We Monsters* is a gripping psychological thriller.

Wedding Doll (*Chatona Meniyar*) Nitzan Gilady, Israel

International Premiere

Fixated on romantic fantasies, a kindly and strong-willed young woman with a mild mental disability embarks on a relationship — much to the concern of her protective mother — in this assured first feature from director Nitzan Gilady.

Previously announced Canadian titles in the Discovery Programme include Stephen Dunn's *Closet Monster*, Adam Garnet Jones' *Fire Song*, Jamie M. Dagg's *River*, Kire Paputts' *The Rainbow Kid*, and Andrew Cividino's *Sleeping Giant*.

CINEMATHEQUE PROGRAMME

Heat Michael Mann, USA

Hard-boiled ex-con Neil McCauley is the leader of a crew of seasoned thieves who operate with grim determination and military discipline. But when a last-minute replacement on his team leads to a bloody triple murder during an armoured truck robbery, McCauley is targeted by veteran detective Vincent Hanna, whose obsessive dedication both mirrors and contrasts with McCauley's ruthless professionalism. Starring Al Pacino and Robert DeNiro with Jon Voight, Val Kilmer, Ashley Judd, Tom Sizemore and Amy Brenneman.

VANGUARD PROGRAMME

Zoom, Pedro Morelli, Canada/Brazil

World Premiere

Zoom is a fast-paced, pop-art inspired, multi-plot contemporary comedy. The film consists of three seemingly separate but ultimately interlinked storylines about a comic book artist, a novelist and a film director. Each character lives in a separate world but authors a story about the life of another.

The 40th Toronto International Film Festival runs September 10 to 20, 2015.

The 2015 Toronto International Film Festival® Official Film Schedule was released today and is available at TIFF Bell Lightbox or by visiting tiff.net/festival. Copies will also be distributed in the *Toronto Star* and *Metro* on Thursday, August 27. A section about the Festival will appear in the *Toronto Star* on Thursday, September 3, and will include the full film schedule.

Purchase Festival ticket packages until August 26 while quantities last. Individual tickets are on sale from Sunday, September 6 to Sunday, September 20. Purchase packages and tickets online 24 hours a day at tiff.net/festival, by phone at 416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433. Festival Box Office, located at 225 King Street West, opens on August 25.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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

**Social Media:**

@TIFF_NET

#TIFF15

Facebook.com/TIFF

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.

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.

The Discovery Programme is sponsored by Dropbox.

-30-

For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.

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

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 T 416-599-TIFF / 1-888-599-8433

tiff.net

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