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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **JOIN CELEBRATED DIRECTOR CATHERINE HARDWICKE AT TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX FOR ONSTAGE CONVERSATION**

**Writer and director Catherine Hardwicke visits TIFF for *In Conversation With...* event on July 20**

**Toronto** – TIFF® announced today that **Catherine Hardwicke**, award-winning filmmaker of *Thirteen*, *Twilight*, and *Miss You Already*, will take the stage at TIFF Bell Lightbox for a special *In Conversation With...* event on **July 20 at 7 p.m.** Co-presented with Film Fatales, a network of women filmmakers, the discussion will spotlight Catherine's distinguished film career and her trailblazing work for gender parity in the film industry. Tickets for the event will go on sale July 13 for TIFF Members and July 15 for the public. For ticket information visit [tiff.net](http://tiff.net).

"We are very excited to have such a hugely influential female filmmaker join us at TIFF," says Theresa Scandiffio, Director of TIFF Adult Learning. "Catherine's impressive career in film as writer, director and production designer spans 30 years — earning her a spot as one of the most powerful female voices in Hollywood. Her recent involvement in the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission inquiry into systemic discrimination against female directors will be a fascinating draw for TIFF audiences and we eagerly anticipate the insight and debate this special event will bring."

Catherine holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from UT Austin and studied animation at the UCLA Film School. Her first film, *Thirteen* (2003), won awards at numerous international film festivals including the Directing Award at the Sundance Film Festival, and also received Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations. Her other credits include *Lords of Dogtown* (2006), *Twilight* (2008) — which landed her in the Guinness Book of World Records for "Highest-Grossing Movie By A Female Director" — and *Red Riding Hood* (2011). Her book *The Twilight Director's Notebook* became an international bestseller and has been translated into 20 languages. Hardwicke previously worked as a production designer on the films of Richard Linklater, David O. Russell, and Cameron Crowe, and has also directed television for AMC, CBS, MTV, and most recently the pilot for USA Network's *Eyewitness* (2016). She frequently works as a mentor at labs for the Sundance Institute, Film Independent, and the Ghetto Film School.

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).

**TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris and Visa,  
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**Co-presented with Film Fatales.**

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For information, please contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).

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