

ONTARIO'S YOUNGEST FILMMAKERS SHOW OFF THEIR CINEMATIC TALENTS

Finalists selected for the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase

Toronto – The **TIFF Kids International Film Festival™** has chosen the finalists for the 15th annual **Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase**. The selected films will screen during the TIFF Kids Festival on **Sunday, April 24 at 1 p.m.** (Grades 4 to 6) and **1:15 p.m.** (Grades 7 & 8) at TIFF Bell Lightbox. Following the screenings, the winners of the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase will be announced at the free **TIFF Kids Awards Ceremony**, which takes place on **Sunday, April 24 at 3:15 p.m.**

Open to Ontario youth in two categories, Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 & 8, the Jump Cuts competition encourages young filmmakers to use film as a medium for self-expression and provides them the opportunity to view their work on the big screen.

This year's selection showcases 40 short films from finalists in communities across Ontario. The lineup explores many topics that impact young people today, such as fitting in, bullying, battling stereotypes or racism, and raising mental health awareness and explores such themes as the power of friendship, the arts, and imagination. The films include stop-motion, live-action, and computer animation, and range from inspiring documentaries to creative dramas and historical period pieces. Finalists were chosen based on proficiency in form, expression, experimentation, and content.

A jury comprised of film industry professionals will select the grand prize-winning film in each grade category. This year's jury includes actress, writer, and producer **Lauren Collins** (*Degrassi: The Next Generation*); **Ravi Srinivasan**, Executive Director of the South Western International Film Festival (SWIFF) and Programming Associate for Toronto International Film Festival; and **Kim Cooper**, creative content strategist specializing in youth initiatives, former editor at OWLKids, and digital producer for Family Channel, Disney XD, and Disney Junior.

The **2016 Jump Cuts Prizes** are as follows:

The Frederick Simpson Award for Best Film (Grades 4 to 6)

The Veronica Herman Award for Best Film (Grades 7 & 8)

"filmpossible" award presented by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (Grades 4 to 6)

New for 2016, select filmmakers in grades 4 to 6 are competing for the "filmpossible" award, presented by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, for the most accomplished film to have an onscreen representation of disability. The winning film will receive a trophy and \$500 bursary. This year's finalists are: ***My Life with My Brother Rhys***; ***Out of Focus***; and ***Walking Alone***. This award will be determined by Holland Bloorview's Children's Advisory Council (CAC), which is comprised of children and youth with disabilities and their siblings, who range in age from 3 to 13 years.

The Frederick Simpson and Veronica Herman Awards are generously supported by **Garrett Herman**.

The TIFF Kids International Film Festival takes place at TIFF Bell Lightbox from April 8 to April 24. Tickets for the TIFF Kids Festival are on sale now for TIFF Members and the general public. Prices are Adult \$13, Student/Senior \$10.50, and Children (13 and under) \$9. Opening Night Film and Party \$35 per person. Premium Screenings (Closing Night Film and Special Events) \$20 per person. Some activities are free. For more information on screenings and activities or to purchase tickets, please visit tiff.net/kids, call 416-599-TIFF (8433) or 1-800-599-TIFF, or visit the Steve & Rashmi Gupta Box Office at TIFF Bell Lightbox. TIFF prefers Visa.

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

The 2016 Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase Finalists

Grades 4 to 6

Always Connect, dirs. Ana Klasnja, Ayush Nair, Alborz Islami, Anastasia Filipoiu, Sarina Piroznia, Andrei Enescu, Ezra Francis-Orji, Soul Park, Jordan Medeiros, Charlene Xia, Yahnique Bent, Pinar Ari, Shaliyah Kerr

Toronto

A friendship is based on connection and like a strong thread, it is hard to break. But even if this happens, you can always connect again.

ANIMALIA, dirs. Anna Choulova, Maya Makhmud, Oleg Yurchenko, Vicky Yurchenko, Maxim Besshaposhnikov

Toronto

Mad scientists create a potion that causes a mysterious anomaly in children.

Closer Look At Things Around Us, dirs. Alina Shirinova, Mariia Babenko, Liana Shirinova, Liubov Babenko

Toronto

Life moves too fast. Stop for a moment to take a closer look at the things around you.

Come Play, dirs. Ayana Pak, Zoë Reichert, Lizzie Sherman

Toronto

Always on her computer, a girl is finally confronted by her friends and realizes how much fun she has been missing out on.

Courage, dir. Ruchi Srivastava

North York

A bullied student finds the courage to stand up for himself.

Creator vs. Destroyer, dir. Enzo Tozzi Lira

Toronto

Creation and destruction, the two most basic concepts of the universe, represent the circle of life.

Friendly GIANT, dir. Soul Park, Ezra Francis-Orji, Alborz Islami

Toronto

Even giants want to be friends! This claymation short reveals how it is always better to have a cup of tea than to fight.

"Funny Set" at Rendezvous, dirs. Ana Klasnja, Ayush Nair, Alborz Islami, Anastasia Filipoiu, Sarina Piroznia, Andrei Enescu, Ezra Francis-Orji, Soul Park, Jordan Medeiros, Charlene Xia, Yahnique Bent, Pinar Ari, Shaliyah Kerr

Toronto

This behind-the-scenes short shows what it takes to make a movie, as filmmaking not only takes hard work and organized actors — it also requires a large dose of fun!

A Lesson Learned, dirs. Stefan Charters, Adam Webster, Jacob Polidori, Alina Wilson, Abby McNamara, Paige Jacklin, Ben Allard, Justin Martens

Woodstock

Two girls take a stand against a friend's racist remarks.

Magic School Bus, dir. Alina Shirinova

Toronto

On their way to school, a group of kids are lifted high into the air by a magical bus that brings them to Angel Bus Stop.

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Mentally Healthy School, dirs. Clayton Bigras, Mia Wayne, Ebuka Uzochukwu, Landon Nicholls, Aiden Collette, Kiel McLeod, Andrew Force, Josh Morris, Logan Wheeldon, Seth Bender, Erin Whittaker, Nicholas Hiscox, Peyton Braun, Caitlyn Young, Julius Repasy, Mason Maher, Martha Katarzynski, Chevonne D'Souza, Cameron Moniz

Woodstock

This short PSA encourages schools to promote a mentally healthy environment.

My Dream, dir. Giancarlo Haidar

Toronto

A stop-motion short about a young boy's dreams.

My Life With My Brother Rhys, dir. Owen McIntyre

Toronto

"filmpossible" award finalist

A glimpse into a boy's life with his brother Rhys, complete with its challenges and celebrations.

The Notebook, dir. Olivia Rock

Toronto

A lonely girl, who spends all of her time drawing, gets sucked into her notebook and goes on an epic adventure.

One Piece Won't Hurt, dirs. Leigh Hannah and Liv Lilley

Toronto

A young girl doesn't care about littering or pollution and is forced to deal with the consequences of her actions.

Out of Focus, dirs. Amy Cohen, Keegan Wilson, Joshua Parker, Emma Bolden

Toronto

"filmpossible" award finalist

With the help of his friends, a boy struggling with ADHD learns that his condition is just part of what makes him unique.

A Song About a Little Fir Tree, dirs. Dasha Beshshaposhnikova, Theodore Bondarenko, Daniel Speziale, Gianluca Speziale, Nikita Semenov, Vicky Yurchenko

Toronto

In this charming claymation short, people and animals from different countries gather around a little fir tree to celebrate the winter holidays.

Soaring, dirs. Clayton Bigras, Landon Nicholls, Mia Wayne, Julius Repasy, Peyton Braun, Aiden Collette, Josh Morris, Keith Schoenfeld-Miller, Ebuka Uzochukwu, Seth Wiseman, Seth Bender, Stephanie Divinski, Andrew Force, Nicholas Hiscox, Erin Kalcic, Martha Katarzynski, Mason Maher, Kiel McLeod, Annikka McMurchy, Cameron Moniz, Tyler Mulligan, Natalie Turek, Logan Wheeldon, Erin Whittaker, Caitlyn Young

Woodstock

A class is offered a once-in-a-lifetime prize — a trip to outer space — as motivation to do well on a test.

Tatiana, dirs. Jessica Bosanac, Lucas Bosanac, Kiara Elgohary, Cassandra Geronga, Giancarlo Haidar, Lianne Alex Ignacio, Olivia Lariviere, Mikaela Mochonas, Eva Puggioni, Milan Reindorf, Chantel Scott, Arielle Torres-Hirdaramani, Ellen Unan

Toronto

A young girl who feels like she doesn't belong meets a kind-hearted person who opens her eyes to the love-filled world around her.

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Walking Alone, dirs. Victoria Santos, Beatrice Smith, Sarah Cheung.

Toronto

"filmpossible" award finalist

This poignant short gives a first-hand look at what it's like to feel different, told from the perspective of a student struggling with dyslexia.

Grades 7 & 8

The American Revolution, dirs. Ana Damiao de Medeiros and Grady Shin

Toronto

Some of the major events, people, and outcomes of the American Revolution are outlined on a whiteboard in this educational film.

The Basement, dirs. Adam Strickland, Evan Coughlin, Graydon Bebbington, Jacyn Bardy, Owen Smith

Toronto

The rumours about Bowmore's basement are true! In a mix of horror and humour, two students go missing and it's up to the school news team to solve the case.

Beats, dirs. Janet Chen and Yue Wang

Toronto

In this short film inspired by John Cage's composition 4'33", a sad girl finds comfort and excitement in the little background noises around her house.

blocked out, dirs. Miles Anderson, Adam Attwood, Nadir Susur, Praveen Perera

Toronto

A boy facing personal struggles at home and at school discovers that he is not alone.

Canadian History Moments, dirs. Raqib Sulaiman, Betty Charles, Kate Snider, Milo Fowler, Chloe Canning, Grace Kakarelis-Bowen, Trinity Oosterdag, Maxx Koladich, Sophia Thompson, Landon Navarre, Kai Luk-Laughton, Ava Brown, Finnoula O'Neill-King, Christopher Ginou, Violet Kumagai, Finn Joyce

Toronto

Featuring important figures and quotes from Canadian history, this short offers a reenactment of key events from the War of 1812 and the Rebellions of 1837.

CANVAS, dirs. Lillian Jacobs and Emily Wiljer

Toronto

Armed with her sketchbook, a girl goes for a walk and meets some strange creatures along the way.

Colour Abstract, dirs. Lucas Bosanac and Chantel Scott

Toronto

Colours come alive, mix and match, and bloom into flowers in this vibrant short.

Cooking with Anika!, dir. Livie Angus

Palgrave

In this fun mix of live action and animation, Chef Anika teaches kids how to make a smoothie with no fruit — except avocados!

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Crazy Clay, dirs. Alexander Chien and Samuel Cho

Toronto

Craziness unfolds as a group of plasticine friends roll out some magic clay and fall victim to a klutzy accident.

A Dark Silhouette, dirs. Isobel Tohill, Sammie Rogers, Adie Holt

Toronto

Based on an original poem by Isobel Tohill, this moving short follows the life of a girl dealing with depression and anxiety.

Everyone's After Norbert the Dragon, dir. Noah Braun

Toronto

In this funny and imaginative animated short, a friendly dragon named Norbert finds his true calling, while a young knight discovers a way to bond with his busy dad.

Face Sucker dir. Kai Korven

Toronto

A man finds a cell phone on the street and becomes absorbed in a game, but after completely losing track of time, he realizes that he is trapped.

The Friendship Apple, dirs. Maneesha McAuley and Maeve Van Driel

Toronto

A girl who feels like an outsider makes a sacrifice she comes to regret, in this short film about the importance of friendship and staying true to oneself.

Hearing With Your Eyes, dir. Caroline McCall

Toronto

Sign language helps a deaf student build a bond with a new friend.

Innovation, dirs. Ben Lemke, David Teresi, Evan Bialo

Toronto

After spending tons of time and energy building a giant Rube Goldberg machine, a group of enthusiastic workers start to question why they made it in the first place.

The Poo Strikes Back, dirs. Mila MacNeil, Maria Xiropodis, Kathleen Wernick, Nathan Hagon

Toronto

In this humorous and suspenseful tale of revenge, a girl faces the consequences of not picking up after her dog.

THE SPOOKS, dirs. Zoe Lebel-Pantazopoulos, Mireille Parsons, Zaheen Noor

Toronto

A hermit's home might be haunted, and it'll give just about anyone the heebie-jeebies.

The Stages of Procrastination, dirs. Maya Tomaiuolo, Maya Casas, Patrick Nohos, Ben Kelcher, Ryan Moran, Dennis Ilyutkin

Scarborough

A group of students go to extreme lengths to avoid doing their homework.

Stand Out, dirs. Riley Couch and Brie Macmillan

Toronto

A purple paper crane feels alone and different until he realizes it's okay to stand out.

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Wishkers, dirs. Alexander Webb-Hackl, Cian Hudder, Rowan Carter

Toronto

Feeling left out by his peers, Max turns to his magical wish-granting cat Wishkers to help him find what he is looking for.

Social:

#TIFFKids

#digiPlaySpace

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 Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, 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.

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

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