

## TIFF KIDS SHORT FILMS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

### TIFF Kids International Film Festival brings the best short films from around the world

**TORONTO** — The world's best short films for children and youth aged 3 to 13 hit the big screen at the 2016 TIFF Kids International Film Festival™. The shorts programme showcases 111 Canadian and international live-action and animated films that address important issues faced by kids such as gender identity, bullying, loss of a loved one and peer pressure, and deal with a range of themes such as friendship, courage and self-discovery. Each shorts programme runs 60 to 85 minutes. This year's 13 programmes include our **Aardman 40th Anniversary Retrospective**, celebrating 40 years of craft, comedy and characters from Aardman Animations, the creators of Wallace & Gromit, and the **60th Anniversary Screening: The Red Balloon**.

Additional programming information can be found at [tiff.net/kids](http://tiff.net/kids).

#### **REEL RASCALS: SHORT AND SWEET**

This assortment of animated short stories was carefully selected from all around the world for our youngest audiences. Join us as we move and groove through lessons in friendship, caring and sharing, cooking and growing up, with such memorable characters as a tree running wild through the streets, a tidy mouse that is eager to please, and a soaring snowflake that needs to sneeze. Recommended for ages 3 and up.

***The Birdie (Ptichka)***, dir. Yekaterina Filippova, Russia, No dialogue

#### **Canadian Premiere**

A birdie and a hippo become fast friends, frolicking in the flowers and building a lovely house to live in.

***One, Two, Tree***, dir. Yulia Aronova, France/Switzerland, No dialogue

#### **Toronto Premiere**

A tree jumps into a pair of boots and goes off for a walk, inviting everyone it meets to follow.

***Perfect Houseguest***, dirs. Ru Kuwahata, Max Porter, USA, No dialogue

#### **Toronto Premiere**

A house is visited by a clean, organized and well-mannered guest.

***Octopus (Krake)***, dir. Julia Ocker, Germany, No dialogue

#### **International Premiere**

The octopus is all set to bake a yummy cake, but one of her arms is following a different recipe all its own.

***Lili Brushes Her Teeth (Lili børster tænder)***, dir. Siri Melchior, Denmark/United Kingdom, English

#### **North American Premiere**

Lili may be too small for many things, but she's big enough to brush her teeth all by herself!

***I Am Not a Mouse***, dir. Evgenia Golubeva, United Kingdom, English

#### **World Premiere**

Every time Lucy is called 'Mouse' by her Mum, she turns into a real mouse! What is Lucy going to do?

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



***Konigiri-Kun A Small Rice Ball* (*Konigiri-Kun*), dir. Mari Miyazawa, Japan, Japanese with English subtitles**

**Canadian Premiere**

Konigiri-kun the rice ball joins in on a big race with his best friend Kerokke and his pet broccoli.

***Hippo and Juice* (*Begemot y compot*), dir. Alexey Minchenok, Russia, English**

**North American Premiere**

All Hippo wants is his scrumptious blueberry pie and jug full of juice, but Monty the Mouse's birthday party guests have other plans for them.

***SOME THING***, dir. Elena Walf, Germany, No dialogue

**Canadian Premiere**

For the little mountain, it's impossible to keep up with the others who seem to have so much more to offer; all he has in his possession is this strange and useless something.

***Schwammerlbert***, dir. Pia Auteried, Germany, No dialogue

**North American Premiere**

In a clearing in the middle of the forest, a little mushroom awakes one morning without his hat.

***Achoo!***, dir. Yuki Hirakawa, Japan, No dialogue

**Canadian Premiere**

Anticipation—and precipitation—builds as evaporating water droplets discover just how thrilling the water cycle is atop majestic Mount Fuji.

***The Landing***, dir. Marjolaine Perreten, Switzerland, No dialogue

**Canadian Premiere**

Two frogs in a pond are waiting for something, when suddenly a graceful bird appears.

***Where Are The Chicks, Pikkuli?***, dirs. Metsamarja Aittokoski, Antti Aittokoski, Finland/Spain, No dialogue

**Toronto Premiere**

Pikkuli and his papa help the chirping chicks reunite with their mother just in time for the concert.

***Bat Time***, dir. Elena Walf, Germany, No dialogue

**International Premiere**

It's nighttime, and the little bat is looking for friends to play with— but everyone else is asleep!

***You Are (Not) Small***, dir. Virginia Wilkos, USA, English

**World Premiere**

Just because you're not big doesn't mean you're small—it's all relative!

***Head Up!* (*Kopf hoch!*), dir. Gottfried Mentor, Germany, No dialogue**

**International Premiere**

An adorable baby mountain goat helps its dad discover that kidding around can be a great way to learn new things.

***Perfect Piggies***, dir. Sandra Boynton, USA, English

**Canadian Premiere**

Five harmonizing hogs sing a lively, a cappella swing song about their own perfect pig selves.

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## HELPING HANDS

The protagonists in these films all face challenges that are better solved with the help of a friend. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

***The Peacock Who Wanted to Be a Star***, dir. Danielle Heitmuller, USA, English  
**International Premiere**

Despite his determination to become a singing sensation, a peacock can't seem to find an audience — until a hummingbird offers to lend his singing voice and the peacock realizes he has other talents that can make him a star.

***Stone Soup (La Soupe au Caillou)***, dir. Clementine Robach, Belgium/France, French with English subtitles  
**Canadian Premiere**

In an update of the famous folktale, an apartment building's power goes out in the middle of a cooking show. With no one able to complete the recipe, residents come together to create a delicious soup.

***My 2014 Neighbor (Ang Kapitbahay Ko Sa 2014)***, dir. Anya Zulueta, Philippines, Filipino with English subtitles  
**Canadian Premiere**

Having never met in person, two girls play together from the facing windows of their respective apartments. But will their friendship change when one of the girls crosses the street and they finally meet up-close?

***Cold Feet***, dir. Jacob Kafka, USA, No dialogue

Determined not to miss a function they're to attend, two turtles brave a winter storm. As they encounter numerous obstacles along the way, it takes the help of a friend for them to reach their final destination.

***Looks***, dir. Susann Hoffmann, Germany, No dialogue  
**Canadian Premiere**

A grey lynx feels left out in a world of colour. Tired of being excluded, he decides to steal another animal's colour. But with that animal now being teased, the lynx realizes that colour isn't everything.

***(un)Sunny (Desolado)***, dir. Víctor Nores, Spain, No dialogue  
**Toronto Premiere**

Unable to withstand sun exposure due to his very fair complexion, Tito imagines a world where he can play outside with his friends. And so, in an effort to keep the sun from rising, he enlists his friends to assist with a painting project.

***Moom***, dirs. Daisuke Tsutsumi, Robert Kondo, Japan, English  
**Toronto Premiere**

Stuck in a world of discarded objects that hold onto memories of previous owners, Moom cannot break loose. One day, Moom encounters a memory just like him, and it's through this friendship that he is finally ready to move forward.

***Tiny's New Home***, dir. Justin Hayward, USA, English  
**International Premiere**

A little girl's new goldfish, Tiny, keeps jumping out of its bowl. Despite the girl's attempts to make Tiny's home more hospitable, he just won't stay put. Out of ideas, she turns to a friend, and together they set out to find Tiny a new place to live.

***A House For Hermit Crab***, dirs. Melissa Reilly Ellard, Paul R. Gagne, Motoko Inoue, David Trexler, USA, English  
Hermit Crab has outgrown his shell and must rely on new friends to make it feel like home, in this animated short based on Eric Carle's classic tale.

### **LOOT BAG JUNIOR: LEAPS AND BOUNDS!**

Featuring some of the year's best animated shorts, across a variety of styles, this collection offers a chance to explore new worlds of creation and imagination. Taking us from snowy mountains to arid plains, from inside the mind to outer space—these films know no limits! Recommended for ages 6 and up.

**Stone Soup** (*La Soupe au Caillou*), dir. Clementine Robach, Belgium/France, French with English subtitles  
**Canadian Premiere**

In an update of the famous folktale, an apartment building's power goes out in the middle of a cooking show. With no one able to complete the recipe, residents come together to create a delicious soup.

**Stellar Moves: The Story of Pluto**, dirs. Millivette Gonzalez, Tabia Lees, Valerie Sattazahn, USA, English  
Pluto is an uncoordinated planetoid on a quest to become a member of his favourite dance crew, The Planets.

**Fulfilament**, dir. Rhiannon Evans, United Kingdom, English  
**Canadian Premiere**

Accompany a little lost thought as it travels around the brain and eventually becomes a great idea.

**Catch It**, dirs. Paul Bar, Marion Demaret, Nadège Forner, Julien Robyn, Jordan Soler, France, No dialogue  
A group of meerkats take care of their beloved and unique fruit, until a villainous vulture swoops in and tries to spoil their day.

**SOAR**, dir. Alyce Tzue, USA, No dialogue  
**Canadian Premiere**

A precocious young girl makes a new friend when a tiny boy pilot drops out of the sky in a broken flying machine. She must race against time to return him home before it's too late.

**Novembre**, dir. Marjolaine Perreten, France, No dialogue  
Autumn has arrived, and small animals are preparing for winter by the banks of a stream.

**HEY DEER!**, dir. Örs Bárczy, Hungary, No dialogue  
**Toronto Premiere**

Oddly predictable earthquakes upset the peace and quiet of cabin life on an otherwise serene, snow-capped mountain.

**Stick Man**, dirs. Jeroen Jaspaert, Daniel Snaddon, United Kingdom, English  
**Canadian Premiere**

In this adaptation of the much-loved children's book written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler, happy-go-lucky Stick Man is picked up by a playful dog while out for his regular jog and launched on a series of adventures that take him ever further away. Seasons pass, until Stick Man meets an unlikely friend who might just be able to help him get back home.

### **LOOT BAG JUNIOR: SHORT STORIES, BIG ADVENTURES!**

Embark on action-packed adventures sure to inspire them to get out there and meet life head-on. This eclectic collection shines a light on the power of imagination, friendship, believing in oneself, and overcoming obstacles. Hang on as we solve mysteries, help a wolf find its true calling, escape wild monkeys, blast off into deep space, and join the madcap antics of lovable-but-mischievous Shaun the Sheep in his latest adventure. Recommended for ages 7 and up.

**Wolf**, dir. Julia Ocker, Germany, No dialogue  
**International Premiere**

A seemingly fearsome wolf wanders the woods at night, searching for a secluded spot to practice his secret artistic hobby.



**Clocky**, dirs. Romain Brodelle, Florian Crevel, Adrien Epiney, Tanina Matola, Sébastien Mounier, France, No dialogue  
A new alarm clock is eager to ring for the first time. Will he manage to do so punctually?

**The Casebook of Nips & Porkington**, dir. Melody Wang, Canada, English  
2015 Canada's Top Ten Film Festival

Two members of the constabulary are on a mission to return a kidnapped egg to its distraught parents.

**Taking Flight**, dir. Brandon Oldenburg, USA, English  
**Toronto Premiere**

A day with Grandpa becomes a larger-than-life adventure, complete with a narrow escape from wild monkeys and a battle against aliens to save the universe.

**Hard to Be a Sparrow** (*Trudno Vorobyu*), dir. Darya Vyatkina, Russia, No dialogue  
**Canadian Premiere**

A smart and sprightly sparrow finds a friend to help it through the harsh winter.

**Bear and Bird**, dirs. Dan Abdo, Jason Patterson, USA, No dialogue

Two best friends, a laid back brown bear, and an overly excited cardinal settle in for a long-awaited videogame session, when suddenly Bird's nose knows that Bear needs a bath.

**The Teeny-Weeny Fox** (*Le Renard minuscule*), dirs. Aline Quertain, Sylwia Szkiladz, France/Switzerland/Belgium, No dialogue  
**Toronto Premiere**

In the middle of a luxuriant garden, a tiny fox meets a daring little girl who grows giant plants!

**CMYK**, dir. Fernán Graziano, Argentina, No dialogue  
**World Premiere**

A colourful short about mixing things up.

**Shaun the Sheep – The Farmer's Llamas**, dir. Jay Grace, United Kingdom, English  
**Canadian Premiere**

When the Farmer and Bitzer go to a Country Fair, Shaun steals away with them intent on causing mischief. There Shaun spies an auction where he sees three very crafty llamas for sale. Instantly smitten by their fantastic pranks, he cleverly gets the unwitting Farmer to buy them.

### **AARDMAN 40TH ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE**

For 40 years, Aardman has entertained and charmed the world, creating much-loved characters and bringing unforgettable stories to life. The multi-award-winning productions reflect the exceptional talent of the very special people who make up the Aardman team. The studio's work is often imitated yet Aardman continues to lead the field with a unique combination of animation wizardry and humour. Recommended for ages 8 and up

**Aardman Original Cartoon**, dirs. Peter Lord, David Sproxton, United Kingdom  
A cel-animated sequence featuring the original Aardman, an inept superhero.

**Shaun the Sheep – Cones**, dir. Jay Grace, United Kingdom

The Flock hear the enticing tunes of an ice cream van approaching and quickly hatch a plan to divert it into their field. While the driver seeks help, the Flock has great fun with an endless supply of ice cream—but will they be able to cover their tracks before they're discovered?

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***Creature Comforts***, dir. Nick Park, United Kingdom

A series of interviews with the animals in an English zoo. Used to open spaces and sunnier climates, they comment on accommodation, diet, and, of course, the English weather.

***Morph – Grand Morph’s Home Movies***, dir. Peter Lord, United Kingdom

Morph is embarrassed by Grand Morph’s screening of his home movies, which include early footage of Morph as a tiny baby.

***Purple & Brown – “Whistler”***, dir. Rich Webber, United Kingdom

Purple and Brown are visited by some noisy masochistic creatures, and are desperate to join in the fun.

***Nokia – “Dot”***, dir. Sumo Science, United Kingdom

The CellScope, a Nokia device with a microscope attachment, was the inspiration for this teeny-tiny film created by Sumo Science at Aardman. It features a 9mm girl called Dot as she struggles through a microscopic world. All the minuscule detail was shot using CellScope technology and a Nokia N8, with its 12-megapixel camera and Carl Zeiss optics.

***DC Nation – Episode 1***, dir. Rich Webber, United Kingdom

With voice performances from children, Superman and the gang are re-imagined as childish playful entities inhabiting a comic book world.

***Shaun the Sheep – 3DTV***, dir. Jay Grace, United Kingdom

The Farmer is very excited by his new purchase. He calls on Bitzer to set up his new TV while he readies himself to watch life in 3D. To his surprise, it’s more 3D than he could ever have imagined!

***Fly***, dir. Alan Short, United Kingdom

The eternal battle between man and fly plays out with increasingly comedic results, as a man and his dog go to extreme measures to rid themselves of the fly.

***Morph – “Sloped World”***, dir. Merlin Crossingham, United Kingdom

Chas has a new angle on photography.

***Ray’s Big Idea***, dir. Steve Harding-Hill, United Kingdom

A plucky, pioneering pre-historic fish, has a ground-breaking plan to improve his life.

***Aardman Nathan Love***, dir. Joe Burrascano, United Kingdom

The world’s most epic logo reveal, for the world’s most epic partnership.

***So you want to be a Pirate!***, dir. Jay Grace, United Kingdom

Chaos unfolds despite The Pirate Captain’s valiant efforts to deliver handy hints on how to become a dashing yet sensitive terror of the high seas!

***The Wrong Trousers***, dir. Nick Park, United Kingdom

A villainous penguin and a pair of automated techno-trousers are the catalysts for this inventive and raucous comedy thriller as the clay heroes Wallace and Gromit are plunged into one of their wildest adventures!

## BALANCING ACT

The protagonists in this collection of short films all find ways to assert their independence while navigating their changing surroundings. Driven to persevere, they come to understand that they can achieve their goals if they rely on their family and friends, as well as a little bit of innovative thinking. Recommended for ages 9 and up.

***Fish***, dir. Andrew Ruiz, USA, English

### **Canadian Premiere**

When Armando is told that his beloved fish cannot make the trip back to Mexico, he finds a unique way to ensure that the fish makes it on the plane. However, when he is pulled over while going through customs, it is up to his dad to intervene before they miss their flight.

***Kid from Gamboa (Menino da Gamboa)***, dirs. Pedro Perazzo, Rodrigo Luna, Brazil, Portuguese with English subtitles

### **North American Premiere**

Each day, Gum watches as his older brother works as a baggage carrier for tourists to Gamboa Island. Wanting to be like his older brother and get in on the action, Gum gets creative with an abandoned box and wooden truck to create his own luggage cart.

***Ms. Liliane (Mme Liliane)***, dir. Junna Chif, Canada, French with English subtitles

*2015 Canada's Top Ten Film Festival*

Mme. Liliane's class is causing more of a ruckus than usual, but when the teacher receives an important call that leaves her distressed, her students change their behaviour in the hopes of improving her day.

***Abandon Ship***, dir. Katherine McRae, New Zealand, English

### **Canadian Premiere**

After a disastrous trip to the supermarket followed by a noisy trip home with her two young boys, a woman's car nearly spins out of control. Looking out to the horizon, she spots a shipwreck and decides to lead her boys down to the beach on a mission of discovery.

***Gaurav and the Kites (Gaurav und die Drachen)***, dir. André Hörmann, Germany, German, Hindi with English subtitles

### **International Premiere**

Flying kites is the favourite pastime of the village of Ghapayi in the Indian Punjab, but for 12-year-old Gaurav, kites are much more: he works after school as a kite assistant to support his family, but knows that he will have to be more than an assistant if he wants to make kites his whole life. Creating his own innovative kite design, he seeks out a master constructor to make his dream kite a reality and fly it at the upcoming kite festival.

***The Best Sound in The World (O Melhor Som do Mundo)***, dir. Pedro Paulo De Andrade, Brazil, Portuguese with English subtitles

### **North American Premiere**

While some people collect cars or stamps, Vinicius collects sounds. On a quest to find "the best sound in the world," Vinicius seeks high and low with his tape recorder in tow — but how will he know the best sound when he finally finds it?

## HOME

A sense of home provides peace, comfort, and security in one's life. In this collection of shorts, young people find their own understanding of home beyond the literal construction of four walls and through the support of those around them. Recommended for ages 9 and up.

***Home***, dir. Saschka Unseld, USA, No dialogue

### **International Premiere**

Leaving your childhood home can be difficult, but your memories will always travel with you.



***Pien, Queen of the Bees*** (*Pien de bijenkoningin*), dir. Ellen Vloet, Netherlands, Dutch with English subtitles

**International Premiere**

Ten-year-old Pien is on a mission: to save bees from extinction. While she tends to her own bees in her backyard by ensuring their hive conditions are optimal for reproduction, she is also fighting another battle; Pien has bone cancer and even though medical treatment has prevented her from taking her bees on a trip to the nectar fields, she is determined not to give up either fight.

***Full of Dreams*** (*Hoofd vol dromen*), dir. Marinka de Jongh, Netherlands, Dutch with English subtitles

**North American Premiere**

Anne Fee lives with her parents and brother in a house with eight other individuals with exceptionalities, called a 'Thomashuis'. This large family spends their days tending to chores, playing games, and dreaming of becoming a famous band.

***Albert moves to the USA*** (*Albert flytter til USA*), dirs. Lærke Vindahl, Sine Skibsholt, Denmark, Danish and English with English subtitles

**International Premiere**

Upon his recent move from Denmark to the United States, Albert is hesitant to start his first day of school. He is unsure of his English skills and if he will get along with the other kids, but Albert soon begins to embrace his new home when he realizes there are things about the United States that aren't so bad.

***Home Sweet Home***, dir. Katrine Philp, Denmark/Malaysia, Danish and Malay with English subtitles

**North American Premiere**

Ten-year-old Salimah has experienced a fair bit of geographic relocation in her life. A refugee from Myanmar who has been living in Malaysia since she was a baby, she must now prepare for her next big move to Denmark to live with her father and older sister, both of whom she has not seen for nine years. Adjusting to her new surroundings, Salimah works to find her place at home and school.

### **DISCOVERING ME**

Whether dealing with a parent or a friend, it can sometimes be easier to be who other people want you to be. However, there comes a time when the only way to stay true to yourself is to stand up for who you really are and follow your own path.

Recommended for ages 10 and up.

***Spill***, dir. Aaron Lester Ellis, Australia, English

**International Premiere**

It's 1999, and everyone at West Meadows Primary School is caught up in the marble craze. As a result of some clever play, Maxy has acquired a sizable marble collection. Plugga, the school bully, feels threatened by Maxy's rising position as marble leader, and decides to dump Maxy's collection in the schoolyard. Following this spill, Maxy only has one move left, but he will have to be crafty in order to win back all of those marbles.

***Heer***, dir. Honey B Singh, Canada/India/Singapore/USA, Punjabi, English with English subtitles

**Toronto Premiere**

After the sudden death of her mother, Heer takes comfort in a baby goat after her grieving father withdraws and becomes distant towards her. Walking the goat to and from school, Heer is often bullied by her classmates. Heer soon discovers that even though the goat has become a source of comfort, she must allow it to return to its family and rebuild her own.

***Tehila***, dir. Eilat Ben Eliyahu, Israel, Hebrew with English subtitles

**Toronto Premiere**

Tehila is far from the most popular girl in school, but when she overhears the other girls talking about a party, she decides to attend. Showing up uninvited, Tehila does her best to blend in, until a game of spin-the-bottle pairs her with the object of her bully's affection. Already losing popularity points, will Tehila lie in order to placate the bully, or stand up for herself?



**King's Day** (*Koningsdag*), dir. Steven Wouterlood, Netherlands, Dutch with English subtitles

**International Premiere**

The local King's Day celebration is underway, but Younes has to remain at his family's street market selling his father's car parts. Set up across from his stall is a young folk singer, Kelvin, whose father is ruthlessly focused on his son's success. Despite their differences, Younes and Kelvin may be each other's only hope at altering the futures their fathers want for them.

**RICEBALLS**, dir. Shingo Usami, Australia, Japanese with English subtitles

**World Premiere**

After losing his mother, Josh and his father Kenji have a difficult time communicating. When Kenji swaps Josh's vegemite sandwiches for traditional Japanese riceballs, Josh is initially resistant, but this change could be the key to re-establishing their bond.

**LOOT BAG SENIOR: SIGHTS AND SOUNDS**

These vibrant animations deal with self-discovery, the creative process, risk-taking, making new friends, and ecological responsibility. Their imaginative worlds will inspire viewers to climb to new heights featuring destinations as diverse as the Canadian Arctic or a coffee shop in Iran. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

**The Short Story of a Fox and a Mouse**, dirs. Camille Chaix, Hugo Jean, Juliette Jourdan, Marie Pillier, Kevin Roger, France, No dialogue

A fox hunts a mouse in a cold and windswept wood, but the animals' relationship evolves as owls interfere with the hunt.

**Mr. Violet**, dirs. Abbas Jalali Yekta, Mohammad Hossein Azam Pour, Iran, No dialogue

**Canadian Premiere**

Life on the side of a coffee mug can feel lonely, even in a busy café, but Mr. Violet's dull routine gets stirred up when life takes a turn for the romantic.

**The Moustache** (*Viikset*), dir. Anni Oja, Finland, No dialogue

**Toronto Premiere**

This town is not big enough for the two of them. Nor their moustaches.

**Stems**, dir. Ainslie Henderson, United Kingdom, English

**Canadian Premiere**

A touching meditation on the creative process of puppet making, and the uniquely poignant beauty of stop-motion animation.

**Burnt**, dir. Devin Bell, USA, No dialogue

**Canadian Premiere**

In a scorched desert forest, three plant-like creatures encounter something green for the first time in memory.

**Junction**, dir. Nathan Jurevicius, Australia/Canada/Lithuania, English

**North American Premiere**

For generations, the Face Changers have made the clay tokens that change the faces of their kin. Now the youngest is tasked with taking the 10,000 footsteps to the top of the mountain and bringing about the winds of change.

**Cats & Dogs**, dirs. Gerd Gockell, Jesús Pérez, Switzerland/Germany, No dialogue

**Toronto Premiere**

You can't force friendship, but sometimes those in need of help have a way of bringing anyone together.



***Norma's Story***, dir. Alex Hawley, Canada, English

This film tells the true story of Norma, who has experienced dramatic changes in her life over just a few decades due to the impact of climate change on the wildlife that sustains the Gwich'in First Nation and other northern communities.

***The Ballad of Holland Island House***, dir. Lynn Tomlinson, USA, English

Animated clay paintings tell the story of the last house on a sinking island in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay.

***Sugar Rush***, dir. Reno Armanet, France, French with English subtitles

**Canadian Premiere**

Two friends fearlessly put the pedal to the metal in pursuit of a stolen lollipop in this hilariously high-stakes chase across seaside Marseille.

***Clangs for the Speaking Body***, dir. Angela Stempel, USA, No dialogue

**Toronto Premiere**

An impressive range of relationships between sound and motion are explored in this experimental ode to visual music.

***Thunderstruck***, dir. Brent Dawes, South Africa, English

**World Premiere**

Life takes on electrifying new dimensions when a lightning storm starts overhead and Giraffe is the tallest thing around.

***Jonas and the Sea (Zeezucht)***, dir. Marlies van der Wel, Netherlands, No dialogue

**North American Premiere**

Jonas has dreamed of living in the sea all his life, which is impossible—or is it?

***Clap! Clap! – 'Playfulness'***, dir. Loup Blaster, France/United Kingdom, No dialogue

**North American Premiere**

You'll want to jump up and clap along to the rhythm as handpainted figures call each other onto the playground dance floor in this dazzling music video.

***Cinema Dehors***, dirs. Tatiana Poliektova, Filippo Rivetti, Russia/Australia, English

**North American Premiere**

Living our lives surrounded by computer screens can make it easy to forget that the real beauty of this world exists right in front of our eyes.

***Taking The Plunge***, dirs. Elizabeth Ku-Herrero, Marie Raoult, Nicholas Manfredi, Thaddaeus Andreades, USA, No dialogue

**Canadian Premiere**

When a young man's ideal wedding proposal is put in jeopardy, he is forced to dive into unknown waters to salvage his plans.

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### SPEAK UP

It takes courage to stand up and be true to yourself. Taking a risk may mean exploring your feelings, standing up for what's right or admitting when you're wrong, no matter the consequences. In this collection of short films, the protagonists' inner strength allows them to take risks and be themselves. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

***Kingdom of Garbage***, dir. Yasser Kareem, United Kingdom/Iraq, Arabic with English subtitles

#### **Toronto Premiere**

After losing their parents in a terrorist attack, siblings Zahraa and Hassan must rely on each other. The siblings spend their days scouring a landfill site, collecting anything of value while dreaming of playing soccer and going to school. When Zahraa has the opportunity to trade the self-proclaimed "King of Garbage" a discarded army boot in exchange for a school uniform, she jumps at the opportunity, despite Hassan's disapproval. The siblings' bond is soon put to the test when the trade doesn't go as expected.

***Take Your Partners***, dir. Siri Rodnes, United Kingdom, English

#### **North American Premiere**

Unsure of where she fits in, Ollie challenges traditional gender expectations when she is instructed to make an Easter bonnet. As she becomes more aware of herself, she realizes she may not be alone.

***Rich (Rijk)***, dir. Camiel Schouwenaar, Netherlands, Dutch with English subtitles

#### **International Premiere**

When best friends Vedat and Niels find 600 euros on the street, they think they've struck it rich! They head to the amusement park immediately and spend the day hopping on and off all of the rides. After several rounds of skeeball, they draw the attention of an older group of boys led by Ilijah, who offers to show Vedat how to ride his new skateboard. When Niels becomes suspicious of Ilijah's intentions, he risks his friendship by confronting Vedat.

***Earth to Avery***, dir. Julianna Notten, Canada, English

#### **Toronto Premiere**

Living with new foster parents can be a challenging adjustment, especially when you're convinced that you're from another planet. Nine-year-old Avery is determined to let the inhabitants of her planet know where to find her, despite her foster father's objections.

***The Trophy Thief***, dir. Dave Edwardz, Australia, English

#### **Canadian Premiere**

Ben's mother is so upset about her recent breakup that she's unable to attend his soccer games. Ben believes he can solve his family's problems by winning his team's MVP trophy, but when he's passed over due to team politics he decides to take matters into his own hands.

### WITH ALL I HAVE

This collection of short films addresses love, loss and our ability to cope with the more difficult side of life. The protagonists in these films invoke various coping skills as they begin to adjust to their new realities and muster the courage they need to move forward in the face of adversity. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

***Sand Castle***, dir. Rob Feld, USA, English

#### **International Premiere**

Frustrated that she is unable to recreate a particular sand castle, a young girl is on the verge of giving up, until she receives assistance from an unexpected source. But the tide is rising, and she soon realizes that despite her best efforts, it may be time to let it go.



**15/LOVE**, dir. Mariana Serapicos, United Kingdom, English

**North American Premiere**

This offbeat film tells the story of Adam and his wavering relationship with the game of tennis since his father's passing — that is, until one day he is hit in the head by a tennis ball. Adam begins to see his father's ghost who convinces him to sign up for a tournament. With his father on his side, will Adam fair well on the big day?

**Before The Bomb**, dir. Tannaz Hazemi, USA, English

**Canadian Premiere**

When 10-year-old Elsa overhears a voicemail from Child Services, she knows that she will have to take charge if she and her brother are to remain together. With their mother unable to care for them, how long will Elsa be able to keep up the façade?

**We Are Not Here to Be Living Dead** (*On n'est pas ici pour être mort-vivant*), dir. Régine Boichat, Switzerland, French with English subtitles

**North American Premiere**

Determined for things to stay the same, Clara conducts countless exercise classes for her imaginary clients while her mother watches from afar. As long as Clara is teaching, she can avoid acknowledging that her mother is extremely ill and that soon, things will never be the same again.

**UPENDO**, dir. Jeremy Ian Thomas, USA, English

**International Premiere**

Ishmael has been struggling since his father's passing. He recalls the impenetrable relationship that the two shared, catching fireflies and talking about everlasting love. Now, he must summon that love in order to move forward.

**Winter**, dir. Lina Roessler, Canada, English

**Canadian Premiere**

Farzin and Gita have recently moved to Canada with their father in the wake of the Iranian Revolution of the late 1970s. As they come to terms with their new surroundings and the passing of their mother, the two find a way to reconnect — with a little help from the snow.

**LEARNING FROM YOU**

Young people and adults can often feel misunderstood by one another. Kids may feel dismissed or aspire to act more mature, while their older counterparts are sometimes labelled as out of touch and uncool. This programme explores what can happen when people of different generations overcome barriers using courage, communication and mutual respect. Recommended for ages 11 and up.

**Welcoming Arms**, dir. Rosanne Ma, USA, English

**Canadian Premiere**

On a 30-year mission to spread happiness, one man stands on the corner blowing kisses at passersby – six hours a day, five days a week.

**Ba (Bá)**, dir. Leandro Tadashi, Brazil, Portuguese with English subtitles

**Canadian Premiere**

Displaced from his room when his grandma comes to live with his family, Bruno tries his best to retain his personal space, and finds an ally in an unlikely source.

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**Sing** (*Mindenki*), dir. Kristof Deak, Hungary, Hungarian with English subtitles

**North American Premiere**

Zsofi has found it challenging to fit in at her new school, but her outlook begins to change when she is admitted to the school's famous choir. That is, until she learns that the choir director may not be the inspirational teacher she is touted to be. It will take Zsofi and her new friend Liza to reveal the truth.

**I am Yup'ik**, dirs. Daniele Anastasion, Nathan Golon, USA, English

**International Premiere**

Determined to lead his village to the basketball championship, 16-year-old Bryon Nicholai travels across frozen tundra to compete in an all-Yup'ik basketball tournament.

**The Supermarket**, dir. Stuart O'Rourke, Australia, English

**World Premiere**

Hoping to earn enough money to buy new gym equipment and impress a girl he likes, 13-year-old Matty convinces a convenience-store owner to hire him to stock shelves. After the shopkeeper suspects he was deceived because Matty exaggerated his strength, Matty must make a brave decision to win back his boss' trust and the affections of his crush.

**STATE OF BEING**

As young people grow up, they are often faced with questions of identity — not only about who they are as individuals, but also about what they stand for and how their values may differ from those of their parents and peers. The protagonists in these shorts address these issues head on as they search for answers, in the midst of conflicting perspectives. Recommended for ages 12 and up.

**Thrive**, dir. Paul Szynol, USA, English

**Canadian Premiere**

Twelve-year-old Matt Whitaker has been visually impaired since birth, but that hasn't stopped him from quickly becoming an accomplished piano player. With several performances at the famed Apollo Theater to his name, including Stevie Wonder's Legends Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Matt now turns to his next challenge auditioning for a spot at a performing arts high school. Whether playing piano for large audiences or rock climbing with friends, Matt's good attitude and high spirits remain unflappable.

**PickUp** (*BeekAb*), dir. Saleh Nass, Bahrain, Arabic with English subtitles

**Canadian Premiere**

Embarrassed when she is picked up at school in her father's dusty old pickup truck, a young girl does all she can to not be spotted by her classmates. Unfazed by her reaction, her father decides that they should take a detour on their way home.

**King**, dir. Anders Ølholm, Denmark, Danish with English subtitles

**International Premiere**

After their latest run-in with a bully, two boys are determined to get revenge. But when they come face to face with their tormentor, delivering his comeuppance isn't as easy as they originally imagined, and their perspective begins to shift.

**Ari**, dir. Alex Murawski, Australia, English

**International Premiere**

Ari is uncomfortable in his own skin. Spurred by a crush on his classmate, he decides to make some changes, including exercising and being more outspoken. But when his plan backfires, he finds his greatest success in simply being himself.

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**Hilma**, dir. Hanna Sköld, Sweden, Swedish Sign Language and Swedish with English subtitles

**North American Premiere**

Struggling to find her identity, a young girl with a hearing impairment seeks a way to break out of her shell. Upon discovering an old tape recorder in her attic, she begins to record sounds so that she can experience them through vibration. Taking her recorder and skateboard out onto the street, she meets a boy who may understand her more than she thinks.

**Nasser**, dir. Melissa Martens, Netherlands, Dutch and Arabic with English subtitles

**North American Premiere**

Nasser knows that she is different from other girls her age, but thus far her parents have been supportive. However, when Nasser gets her period for the first time, her mother decides that it's time she start acting "like a girl." Unsure of how to react to her mother's pressure, Nasser is nevertheless determined to be herself, no matter the consequences.

**60th ANNIVERSARY SCREENING: THE RED BALLOON | FREE**

Originally released in October of 1956, the classic French short *The Red Balloon* continues to delight audiences six decades on. To honour this milestone, families can relive the magic of Albert Lamorisse's Academy Award-winning masterpiece with this special screening of the classic film on the big screen. Recommended for ages 7 and up.

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 are available to the general public beginning March 9. 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.

Tickets for digiPlaySpace are on sale March 2 for educators and TIFF Members, and March 4 to the general public. Entry to digiPlaySpace™ is \$10, TIFF Members see it free and have access to a preview day on Friday, March 4. Tickets to digiPlaySpace can also be purchased in a combo package with a ticket for a TIFF Kids International Film Festival, DreamWorks or Good Friday screening for \$15 for children, \$20 for adults. For more information on screenings and activities, or to purchase tickets, please visit [tiff.net/kids](http://tiff.net/kids) call 416-599-TIFF (8433) or 1-800-599-TIFF, or visit the Steve and Rashmi Gupta Box Office at TIFF Bell Lightbox.

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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 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](http://tiff.net).

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**The TIFF Kids International Film Festival is supported by The City of Toronto and the Ontario Arts Council.**

**Gap Kids is Official Sponsor of TIFF Kids International Film Festival Opening Night Party.**

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

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