

## CATS, KIDS AND CLASSIC FILMS, OH MY!

Highlights include the return of the Just for Cats Internet Cat Video Festival, in-person appearances by Jay Baruchel, Richard Linklater and Alain Badiou, and award-winning new releases including *Chevalier*, *Francofonia* and *The Measure of a Man*

**TORONTO** — TIFF invites audiences to leap into Spring by discovering the riches of cinema past, sharing love for LOLcats, gaining insights from special guests and catching compelling new releases.

The Spring edition of **TIFF Cinematheque Special Screenings**, our recurring series devoted to classics, favourites, and rarities, highlights the late Chantal Akerman, one of the most fearless, innovative and inspirational filmmakers of the modern era. **Restored!** continues to showcase TIFF's commitment to the protection, preservation and celebration of film heritage by spotlighting recent restorations of key films by master filmmakers, while this season's edition of our experimental cinema showcase **The Free Screen** celebrates the body of work of British artist Peter Gidal.

**Just for Cats: Internet Cat Video Festival** returns to TIFF Bell Lightbox with an all-new third edition, devoted to the best in cat-themed internet videos. Other highlights this season include the free exhibition **Ransom Notes from the Lavender Underground** (co-curated and opening at the **Drake Hotel** as part of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival), featuring collage works by Guy Maddin that cast a new light on the filmmaker's artistic process; a free behind-the-scenes tour of the Film Reference Library during **Doors Open Toronto**; the best music videos of the year when TIFF's ongoing **Short Cuts** series presents the **Prism Prize**; a spotlight on Canada's historic McMaster Film Board — including early shorts from Ivan Reitman, Eugene Levy and the late John Hofsess — in **Canadian Open Vault**; and family-focused activities such as **TIFF Kids Good Friday & Easter Monday**, the 19<sup>th</sup> **TIFF Kids International Film Festival™**, and the return of the ever-popular **digiPlaySpace™**.

New releases this season include Spike Lee's *Chi-raq* (2015), which takes ancient Greek drama to the streets of modern-day Chicago; Canadian auteur Denis Côté's *Boris sans Béatrice* (2015), which recently had its premiere at the 65th annual Berlin International Film Festival; Chilean master Patricio Guzmán's chronicle of the indigenous peoples of Chilean Patagonia, *The Pearl Button* (2015); master filmmaker Alexander Sokurov's meditation on art, culture and power, *Francofonia* (2015); *The Measure of a Man* (2015), which won star Vincent Lindon the Best Actor prize in Cannes; Mark Sawers' wry mockumentary *No Men Beyond This Point* (2015); the delirious comedy *Men & Chicken* (2015), starring Mads Mikkelsen; New Greek Cinema star Athina Rachel Tsangari's *Chevalier* (2015); and *High-Rise* (2015), Ben Wheatley's adaptation of the dystopian sci-fi novel by J.G. Ballard.

Special guests this season include actor, writer and director **Jay Baruchel** for an onstage conversation to discuss his love of film, television and hockey, renowned French philosopher **Alain Badiou** on cinema, and Academy Award nominee **Richard Linklater** (*Boyhood*) presents his new film *Everybody Wants Some* in a special preview presentation. TIFF's subscription series **Books on Film** and **Food on Film** continue return with a slate of fascinating guests and films, including author **Cheryl Strayed** discussing Jean-Marc Vallée's adaptation of her novel *Wild* (2014) for **Books on Film**, and *Lucky Peach* editor-in-chief **Chris Ying** presenting Barry Levinson's *Diner* (1982) for **Food on Film**. Subscriptions for **Books on Film** are on sale until March 7. Single tickets for **Books on Film** and **Food on Film** are currently on sale.

Tickets for the spring season go on sale **today at 10 a.m.** for TIFF Members and **March 9 at 10 a.m.** for the public. More information on the benefits of TIFF membership can be found at [tiff.net/join](http://tiff.net/join).

See below for complete schedule.

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



## TIFF CINEMATHEQUE

### Restored! — April 9 to 26

As an extension of the TIFF Cinematheque programme during the Toronto International Film Festival — and of TIFF's commitment to the protection, preservation and celebration of film heritage — this deluxe series features recent restorations of key films by master filmmakers. Highlights this season include Otto Preminger's cult classic *Bunny Lake is Missing* (1965); the great Filipino filmmaker Lino Brocka's masterpiece *Insiang* (1976); King Hu's breathtaking *wuxia* epic *A Touch of Zen* (1971), which was a direct inspiration for Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*; E.A. Dupont's *Variety* (1925), a rarely seen classic of silent German cinema, presented with live piano accompaniment by William O'Meara; Kon Ichikawa's delirious widescreen gender-bender *An Actor's Revenge* (1963); Julien Duvivier's *Panique* (1946), a gripping adaptation of a Georges Simenon thriller starring the great Michel Simon; and John Frankenheimer's feverish conspiracy thriller *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962), starring Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey and Angela Lansbury.

**Restored!** will also include a screening of Chantal Akerman's *Jeanne Dielman, 23, quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles* (1975), the monumental modernist-cinema classic about an attractive middle-aged widow (and part-time prostitute) whose rigorously ordered life begins to come apart over the course of three days.

### The Free Screen — May 14

The Free Screen is committed to bringing experimental film and video art, hybrid documentaries, essay films and other personal expressions to a curious and engaged audience. The Free Screen is **always free**.

### Struggles with Apprehension: Films by Peter Gidal

The Visible Press' recent publication of a collection of Peter Gidal's essays, *Flare Out: Aesthetics 1966-2016* (available at the TIFF Shop), offers a welcome occasion to take another look at the British artist's body of work. The programme features *Room Film 1973* (1973), a strangely beautiful and profound questioning of the vision that we so often take for granted, composed of lumbering patterns of short shots, reprinted optically to enhance the grain and the colour. The film is paired with two of his short films that take different tacks in their questioning of the cinematic image: *Assumption* (1997), a tribute to the recently departed filmmaker Mary Pat Leece and the old London Film Makers' Cooperative; and *Key* (1968), which centres on a photograph of Nico that Gidal abstracts beyond recognition.

### Canadian Open Vault — May 17 and 24

As part of TIFF's efforts to make the country's rich cinematic heritage more accessible to audiences, the Canadian Open Vault programme presents free screenings of Canadian classics every season at TIFF Bell Lightbox.

### Hamilton Babylon — May 17

Founded as a student filmmaker society at McMaster University in 1966, the McMaster Film Board became a symbolic battleground for the future (and the soul) of the Canadian film industry. Screening in conjunction with the publication of Stephen Broomer's *Hamilton Babylon: A History of the McMaster Film Board* by the University of Toronto Press, this programme of short films spotlights a pivotal moment in our national film history. Films include Peter Rowe's *Buffalo Airport Visions* (1967), a document of Toronto bohemian life in 1967; Jim Bennett's *Walk On* (1969), about a student's desperate attempts to get laid; Ivan Reitman's first student film *Orientation* (1968), which hilariously lampoons college cliques; Eugene Levy's *Garbage* (1969), which oscillates between campus satire and countercultural critique; and the late John Hofsess's essential *Palace of Pleasure* (1967), which established the MFB's international reputation and was praised by avant-garde legends such as Jonas Mekas.

Stephen Broomer will be in attendance at the screening to discuss the history of the MFB and the films in this programme, and will sign copies of his book at the end of the screening.

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### ***The Cockroach That Ate Cincinnati* — May 24**

dir. Michael McNamara | Canada | 1996 | 95 min.

A meditation on the failed countercultural dreams of the 1960s and '70s, Michael McNamara's adaptation of writer-performer Alan Williams' trilogy of one-man stage plays is one of the great works of the Toronto New Wave. The film stars Williams as "The Captain," a poet/madman/would-be revolutionary who engages in an extended monologue cum diatribe as he surveys the wreckage of the utopian dreams of the era past and attempts to reintegrate himself into contemporary society.

### **TIFF Cinematheque Special Screenings — April 12 to May 24**

The Spring edition of this seasonal series devoted to classics, favourites, rarities and recent restorations pays tribute to the late Chantal Akerman, one of the most fearless, innovative and inspirational filmmakers of the modern era, with a screening of Akerman's final film ***No Home Movie*** (2015) — a moving portrait of Akerman's relationship with her mother, an Auschwitz survivor whose harrowing past and chronic anxiety has greatly shaped her daughter's art — and Marianne Lambert's new documentary ***I Don't Belong Anywhere: The Cinema of Chantal Akerman*** (2015), an intimate portrait-homage that reflects on Akerman's aesthetics, politics, and her unique reformulations of film language. Other highlights include new digital restorations of Jacques Rivette's legendary epic ***Out 1: Noli me Tangere*** (1971) and Kelly Reichardt's rarely seen debut feature ***River of Grass*** (1994), which was preserved with funding provided by Oscilloscope Laboratories, Sundance Institute, TIFF, and a number of very generous Kickstarter backers; David Cronenberg's horror masterpiece ***The Fly*** (1986); Terry Zwigoff's ***Crumb*** (1995), a portrait of the legendary underground cartoonist Robert Crumb that was hailed as one of the greatest documentaries of the 1990s; the Coen brothers' cracked, snow-capped noir ***Fargo*** (1996); and an archival 35mm print of Melvin Van Peebles' ***Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*** (1971), a landmark of African American independent cinema that follows a street hustler who goes on the run after fighting back against racist cops.

## **FILM SERIES**

### **Short Cuts — May 15**

Bringing the best of Canadian and international short films to Toronto all year round.

### **Prism Prize — May 15**

Based on the votes of more than 120 music and media professionals, the annual Prism Prize recognizes outstanding artistry in Canadian music videos. The Top Ten contenders for the 2016 Prism Prize will be shown on the big screen and includes presentations of the winners in several awards categories, including the grand prize for Best Canadian Music Video of the Year.

### **Human Rights Watch – March 30 to April 7**

Running from **March 30 to April 7** at TIFF Bell Lightbox, the festival kicks off with an opening night fundraising reception followed by the Canadian premiere of ***I Am Sun Mu*** (2015)— a documentary about a former North Korean propaganda artist turned outspoken artistic dissident — and closes with the Terrence Malick-produced ***Almost Holy*** (2015), which chronicles the work of a controversial Ukrainian pastor committed to helping children. Additional highlights include the Palme d'Or-winning immigrant drama ***Dheepan*** (2015) from celebrated director Jacques Audiard, and Patricio Guzmán's Silver Bear winner ***The Pearl Button*** (2015), a lyrical yet devastating meditation on the decimation of Chile's indigenous peoples.

### **Subscription Series — on now until June 24**

TIFF's popular subscription series **Books on Film** and **Food on Film** return to TIFF Bell Lightbox with a number of special guests to explore cinema's intersections with the literary and culinary worlds. Each series consists of six events that include a screening followed by a fascinating and lively discussion.

**Books on Film:** Now in its sixth season, this series brings together book and film lovers to examine great cinema that began as outstanding literature. Host **Eleanor Wachtel** of CBC's *Writers & Company* welcomes filmmakers, authors and experts to discuss the art of adaptation and the sometimes challenging passage from page to screen. Single tickets and subscriptions for **Books on Film** are currently on sale.

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Upcoming events:

- March 7: Sturla Gunnarsson on *Such a Long Journey* (1998)
- March 28: Rachael Horovitz on *Moneyball* (2010)
- April 18: Clement Virgo on *In the Heat of the Night* (1967)
- May 9: Cheryl Strayed on *Wild* (2014)
- June 6: Julie Taymor on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2014)
- June 27: Helen Macdonald on *Kes* (1969)

**Food on Film:** Chefs, food experts and film lovers come together for a fifth season to enjoy the best of culinary cinema and conversation. Hosted by the winner of the James Beard Award, culinary anthropologist and photographer Naomi Duguid welcomes celebrated guests from the food world, fusing culinary themes and hot topics with cinema and culture. Single tickets and for **Food on Film** are currently on sale.

Upcoming events:

- March 2: Mitchell Davis on *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife & Her Lover* (1989)
- March 23: Michael and Nobuyo Stadtländer on *The Singhampton Project* (2014)
- April 27: Chris Ying on *Diner* (1982)
- May 18: Andy Ricker on *The Empire of Scents* (2014)
- June 8: Danielle Nierenberg on *Good Things Await* (2014)
- June 24: Heather Greene on *The Angels' Share* (2012)

**IN CONVERSATION WITH...**

**In Conversation With... Jay Baruchel — March 21**

Acclaimed writer, director, actor, and outspoken advocate for all things Canadian, Jay Baruchel discusses his love of film, television and hockey, as well as his own career — from his breakout performance in Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby*, to his starring roles in *Goon*, *This Is the End* and the *How to Train Your Dragon* franchise, and his upcoming directorial debut, *Goon 2*.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Higher Learning: Wendy Chun on Habitual New Media — May 11**

Theorist Wendy Chun joins post-secondary students and faculty to discuss her forthcoming book *Updating to Remain the Same: Habitual New Media* (2016), in which she argues that technologies matter most not when they are new but when they are obsolete — when their use becomes habitual. In this public lecture, Chun will explore how the slow, “creepy” accretion of habits—both conscious and unconscious—relate to distinctions between public and private, memory and storage, individual actions and social systems. This event is free and open to the public.

**Richard Linklater on Everybody Wants Some— March 24**

Academy Award nominee Richard Linklater (*Dazed and Confused*, the *Before...* trilogy, *Boyhood*) joins us for a special onstage conversation to reflect on his acclaimed career as a director and writer, and to present an advance screening of his upcoming film, *Everybody Wants Some*.

**TIFF Kids Good Friday & Easter Monday — March 25 & 28**

The whole family is invited to spend Good Friday and Easter Monday at TIFF Bell Lightbox to enjoy favourites from previous editions of the TIFF Kids International Film Festival — including *Famous Five 4* (2015) and *Paper Planes* (2014) — as well as our ever popular Reel Rascals shorts programme (2015).

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### **Just for Cats: Internet Cat Video Festival 2016**

Co-presented with the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the smash-hit festival devoted to the best in cat-themed internet videos returns to TIFF Bell Lightbox with a brand-new edition of furry frolics.

### **TIFF Next Wave Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase — May 9**

The high-school division of the popular Jump Cuts competition provides a high-profile showcase for the year's best films by Ontario students in Grades 9 to 12. A jury of film-industry professionals will select the four grand prize-winning films, which will be announced at the end of the screening. TIFF Next Wave is accepting submissions for the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase until March 18.

### **Sing-a-Long-a Grease – May 14**

It's time for some summer lovin'! The sing-along version of *Grease* (1978) returns, complete with lyrics on the screen so that the whole audience can dance and croon along with Danny, Sandy and the gang.

### **Onstage Conversation with Alain Badiou — May 16**

Renowned French philosopher Alain Badiou has helped define the major questions and contours of philosophy in the 20th and 21st centuries. In this onstage conversation moderated by Professor Ian Balfour of York University, Badiou will speak about cinema, the November 2015 Paris attacks, and the role that philosophy can play in helping us understand and act in this historic context, accompanied by film clips that will bring further dimensions to some of the discussion's central themes. This event is co-presented with York University's Department of Cinema and Media Arts as part of their inaugural 2016 Film and Philosophy symposium, with support from the French Consulate in Toronto.

## **FESTIVAL**

### **TIFF Kids International Film Festival — April 8 to 24**

The TIFF Kids International Film Festival returns for its 19<sup>th</sup> year with the best films from around the world for children aged 3 to 13. This year the festival has been extended to three weekends to make room for more films, more family time and more fun. In addition to its rich selection of features and shorts featuring numerous Canadian, North American and World Premieres, the festival includes an exciting slate of special guests, family activities, and showcases for young filmmakers. The 2016 TIFF Kids Festival kicks off on Opening Night with the Toronto premiere of *Oddball*, a funny and heart-warming tale based on the true story of a colony of fairy penguins on Middle Island in Victoria, Australia. To celebrate TIFF's 40th year, TIFF is offering specialty programming including a free screening of Rob Reiner's postmodern fairy tale *The Princess Bride* (1987); a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary screening of *The Red Balloon* (1956); and a special screening of *The Boxtrolls* (2014) with LAIKA's Mark Shapiro, who will discuss the film's creation and the art of stop-motion animation. Each weekend during the TIFF Kids Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., TIFF Bell Lightbox will also host free drop-in activities. Tickets for the TIFF Kids Festival are on sale now for TIFF Members, and are available to the general public beginning March 9.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **digiPlaySpace — March 5 to April 24**

Opening just ahead of March Break due to popular demand, the award-winning digiPlaySpace exhibition runs for an extended seven weeks at TIFF Bell Lightbox. This engaging and educational digital playground invites kids and families to learn through play and stimulate their creativity with a diverse range of the latest interactive installations, including multi-player videogames, virtual reality, Olympic-sized stop-motion sports, green-screen escapades, robotic and circuit building activities in a DIY maker space, and more from acclaimed Canadian and international artists.

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Highlights include the North American premiere of Design I/O's **Elements**, co-commissioned by TIFF and Cinekid Festival Amsterdam, where children can control the four elements (earth, air, fire and water) through body movement; and the world premiere of **Marshmallow Clouds**, a unique and magical interactive light-up cloudscape that ascends the title wall of the exhibition, from Vancouver-based Tangible Interaction in partnership with the New Media program at Ryerson University's RTA School of Media and TIFF. **TIFF Members see it free, and have access to a preview day on Friday, March 4. Tickets on sale to the public on March 5.**

### **Guy Maddin: Ransom Notes from the Lavender Underground — April 27 to June 22 | FREE**

Filmmaking is frequently driven by new developments in the medium, where aesthetics evolve in step with new technologies. Guy Maddin — whose celebrated films evoke dreamscapes from the past while addressing contemporary issues of identity and memory — challenges that notion with his new collage work, which brings the viewer back to a time when images were processed by hand, with results that were often unpredictable. Writing of his process, Maddin says “I suppose the playroom of this gluey and scissory medium is where I find refuge whenever cinema’s laws feel too literal-minded, where I can secretly fashion the blueprints for the little visual collisions I hope will work on the big screen.”

Curated in partnership with The Drake Hotel, where the exhibition will run from April 27 to June 22, as part of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, **Ransom Notes from the Lavender Underground** combines original work with mural-sized reproductions that invite the viewer to revel in the subtle details of Maddin’s layered imagery. The exhibition also includes an installation of Maddin’s 11-channel film *Hauntings*, which was originally commissioned for the opening of TIFF Bell Lightbox in 2010.

### **Coming Attractions — May 1 to 31 | FREE**

The Long Weekend is a collective of Winnipeg artists, filmmakers and designers who, working under the aegis of Paul Butler’s enduring Collage Party practice, have produced collage-based movie posters that imagine an alternate history of cinema. The Long Weekend’s fanciful version of events presents a Hollywood realm long presided over by movie moguls who never quite finalized their plans for global domination, never quite mastered their formulas for churning out blockbusters, never once dreamed of rewiring and homogenizing the public’s perception of itself. Plastered “construction site-style” upon the side of TIFF Bell Lightbox to create a mural along King and Widmer Streets, **Coming Attractions** is a welter of one-sheets produced by artists working in the convivial freedom of near-Utopian collage-party environments created by Butler. Artists include Paul Butler, Galen Johnson, Julia Anne Leach, Guy Maddin, Caelum Vatnsdal, with special guests Jonah Corne, Simon Hughes, Alicia Smith. Co-presented with the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.

### **Doors Open Toronto — May 28 to 29 | FREE**

As part of Doors Open Toronto, TIFF Bell Lightbox visitors can experience a free behind-the-scenes tour of the Film Reference Library and view the **In Love With the Stars** exhibition in the CIBC Canadian Film Gallery on the fourth floor. To get an advance peek at the library collections and browse past exhibitions, visit [tiff.net/collection](http://tiff.net/collection)

## **NEW RELEASES**

### ***Chi-Raq***

dir. Spike Lee | USA 2015 | 127 min.

The bold, imaginative and incendiary new film from Spike Lee relocates the ancient Greek drama *Lysistrata* to the gangland wars of modern-day Chicago.

### **Opening March 4**

#### ***Mountains May Depart***

dir. Jia Zhang-ke | China/France/Japan 2015 | 93 min.

The new film from Mainland master Jia Zhang-ke (*A Touch of Sin*) jumps from the recent past to the speculative near-future as it examines how China’s economic boom has affected the bonds of family, tradition, and love.

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### **Opening March 18**

#### ***Boris sans Béatrice***

dir. Denis Côté | Canada 2016 | 93 min.

The new film from acclaimed Quebecois auteur Côté (*Bestiaire, Vic + Flo Saw a Bear*) follows a successful entrepreneur whose wife's mysterious illness forces him to take a hard look at his achievements, his certainties, and his own intrinsic worth.

### **Opening April 8**

#### ***The Pearl Button***

dir. Patricio Guzmán | Chile/France/Spain 2015 | 82 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2015*

The great Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzmán (*The Battle of Chile, Nostalgia for the Light*) chronicles the history of the indigenous peoples of Chilean Patagonia, whose decimation by colonial conquest prefigured the brutality of the Pinochet regime.

### ***Francoфонia***

dir. Alexander Sokurov | France/Germany/Netherlands 2015 | 87 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2015*

Master filmmaker Alexander Sokurov (*Russian Ark*) transforms a portrait of the Louvre into a magisterial, centuries-spanning reflection on the relation between art, culture and power.

### **Opening April 15**

#### ***The Measure of a Man (La loi du marché)***

dirs. Stéphane Brizé | France 2015 | 97 min.

Vincent Lindon (*Bastards*) won the Best Actor prize at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival for his performance in Stéphane Brizé's timely and powerful drama about the brutal realities of our new economic order.

### **Opening April 23**

#### ***No Men Beyond This Point***

dirs. Mark Sawers | Canada 2015 | 80 min

*Toronto International Film Festival 2015*

This wry mockumentary from Vancouver director Mark Sawers envisions a world where women have become asexual and are no longer giving birth to males, and where the dwindling population of men are desperate to reclaim their place in the sun.

### **Opening May 20**

#### ***Men & Chicken (Mænd & høns)***

dir. Anders Thomas Jensen | Denmark 2015 | 104 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2015*

Mads Mikkelsen (*Hannibal*) stars in this delirious comedy from Denmark's Anders Thomas Jensen (*The Green Butchers*), about two sadsack brothers who head to a dilapidated mansion on a remote island to meet their biological father — and their three seriously eccentric siblings.

### ***High-Rise***

dir. Ben Wheatley | United Kingdom 2015 | 112 min.

*Toronto International Film Festival 2015*

Tom Hiddleston and Jeremy Irons star in the new film by cult British director Ben Wheatley (*Kill List, A Field in England*), an ambitious adaptation of the J.G. Ballard novel about a London apartment tower that becomes a battlefield in a literal class war.

### **Opening June 3**

#### ***Chevalier***

dir. Athina Rachel Tsangari | Greece 2015 | 99 min.

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Toronto International Film Festival 2015

In the remarkable new film from New Greek Cinema prodigy Athina Rachel Tsangari (*Attenberg*), six men confined to a luxurious yacht compete in an absurdist game that lays bare the roots of male antagonism and competitiveness.

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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).

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

**Canadian Open Vault is supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.**

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For images visit the media site at [tiff.net/press](http://tiff.net/press).

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