

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL'S IN CONVERSATION WITH... PROGRAMME WILL FEATURE JAVIER BARDEM, GAEL GARCÍA BERNAL, ANGELINA JOLIE & HELEN MIRREN

TORONTO — The Toronto International Film Festival® presents this year's In Conversation With... lineup, featuring diverse and accomplished artists in the world of cinema. This year's guests — Javier Bardem, Gael García Bernal, Angelina Jolie and Helen Mirren — challenge the status quo, both on screen and behind the camera. Through intimate, onstage discussions, the programme provides audiences with the rare opportunity to get a glimpse into the careers of industry luminaries. The discussions are moderated by a journalist or industry expert, interspersed with clips of career highlights and followed by a brief Q&A.

"Through insightful and dynamic conversation, this programme provides a unique platform to engage with these cinematic stars," said Theresa Scandiffio, In Conversation With... Programmer and Senior Director, TIFF Learning. "All of this year's guests have made a huge mark in the world of film with epic onscreen roles — but we'll also learn more about the vital work they do behind the scenes, and the stories that brought them to where and who they are today."

The 42nd Toronto International Film Festival runs September 7 to 17, 2017.

The In Conversation With... programme includes:

In Conversation With... Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie has forged a boundary-pushing path as an actor, director, producer, and humanitarian. Jolie's roles in *Hackers*, *Gia*, and her Academy Award-winning performance in *Girl, Interrupted* were marked by a transfixing onscreen presence and a restless, mercurial energy that earned her early recognition in the film industry. Having made a deep imprint on Hollywood through lead roles in the Lara Croft franchise as well as *Salt* and *Maleficent*, and her acclaimed performances in *A Mighty Heart* and *Changeling*, Jolie has subsequently devoted herself to humanitarianism and socially conscious projects. For over 15 years she has given her time and energy as a dedicated UNHCR Ambassador and Special Envoy. As a storyteller, Jolie routinely shakes up the status quo, her passion fuelling such poignant directorial works as *In the Land of Blood and Honey* and *Unbroken*. At this year's Festival, TIFF presents Jolie's most recent projects: directing, producing and co-writing *First They Killed My Father*, and producing Nora Twomey's animated feature *The Breadwinner*.

In Conversation With... Javier Bardem

Javier Bardem is an artistically and politically minded force of nature. A household name in Hollywood, art house, and genre in both English- and Spanish-language cinema, he lives and breathes his craft. Always eager to take on diverse and challenging roles, Bardem's long list of memorable performances include *No Country for Old Men*, for which he won an Academy Award, *The Sea Inside*, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, *Biutiful* and *Skyfall*. A dedicated professional, he's worked with an impressive roster of luminary filmmakers: Julian Schnabel, the Coen brothers, Woody Allen, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Terrence Malick, Ridley Scott... the list goes on. Equal parts charisma and compassion, his work on *The Sons of the Clouds: The Last Colony* brought him to the UN to plead the case of the refugees of the Western Sahara. Hear from this truly galvanizing figure as he speaks candidly about his life, career, and the two films — *Loving Pablo* and *mother!* — that he brings to the Festival this year.

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



In Conversation With... Helen Mirren

Dame Helen Mirren is the embodiment of a living legend. A master of both theatre and cinema, she is renowned for delivering bold performances with an air of effortless precision that belies her extreme precision. On stage, she has brought to life the visions of Shakespeare, Chekhov, and Strindberg. Her depth of classical training — particularly with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the 1960s and '70s — has been translated brilliantly across a daring filmography including *The Long Good Friday*; *Cal* (for which she won Best Actress at Cannes in 1984); Peter Greenaway's astonishing *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover*; and the TV detective series *Prime Suspect*. These were star-making parts in which Mirren showed total control — and this was before her fame playing British monarchs Queen Charlotte in *The Madness of King George*; the eponymous ruler of *Elizabeth I*; and her sublime, Academy Award-winning turn as Elizabeth II in *The Queen*. Mirren's work always vividly illustrates a devotion to exploring a range of human experience. TIFF welcomes Mirren to this intimate onstage conversation to take a closer look at her newest film, the Festival Gala Presentation selection *The Leisure Seeker*.

In Conversation With... Gael García Bernal

Gael García Bernal has long been a commanding presence in world cinema. Since his breakthrough performances in Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Amores Perros* (and later *Babel*) and Alfonso Cuarón's *Y Tu Mamá También*, Bernal has collaborated with such contemporary auteurs as Pedro Almodóvar (*Bad Education*) and Pablo Larrain (*No, Neruda*). Bernal's subversive spirit continues to chart revolutionary ground, from Che Guevara (*Fidel, The Motorcycle Diaries*) to real-life Iranian-Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari (*Rosewater*) to his latest role, inspired by Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel, in *Mozart in the Jungle*. In 2005, Bernal, his long-time collaborator Diego Luna, and producer Elena Fortes launched a documentary film festival (Ambulante), screening films across Mexico (and later, the United States). Two years later, Bernal released *Déficit*, his directorial debut produced by Canana, a company he founded with Luna. Join us at TIFF to sit down with this artist and community builder as he presents his latest performance in Joan Chemla's *If You Saw His Heart* at this year's Festival.

For film synopses, cast lists, images and more information see tiff.net/icw

Festival tickets go on sale September 4 at 10am (with TIFF Member pre-sale on September 2 from 10am to 4pm). Buy tickets online at tiff.net, by phone at 416.599.TIFF or 1.888.599.8433, or in person at a box office. See box office locations and hours at tiff.net/tickets.

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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 programme 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 on the In Conversation With... programme, contact Monique Camenzuli, Senior Festival Publicist at 416.599.8433 x2691 or email mcamenzuli@tiff.net.

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.

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