

TIFF KIDS FESTIVAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE WELCOMES LEADERS IN CHILDREN'S FILM, TELEVISION AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Master Class with Bonnie Arnold from DreamWorks Animation to headline the conference

Toronto – The TIFF Kids Festival Industry Conference returns in 2016 with a jammed-packed, three-day programme running during the **TIFF Kids International Film Festival™ (April 8–24)**. The conference provides an opportunity for filmmakers, researchers, game designers, and television and interactive producers to converge and discuss the latest creative and business trends in the children's film and entertainment industry. This year's edition will focus on casting and acting, the future of feature animation, and issues of diversity and equality in the industry. **The conference takes place from April 18 to 20.**

Highlights confirmed to date include an onstage conversation with **Bonnie Arnold**, co-president of feature animation at **DreamWorks Animation**; a presentation by **Constance Steinkuehler**, co-director of the **Education + Games + Learning Society** at the Wisconsin Institute of Discovery on cognition and learning in commercial entertainment games and games designed for impact; and a panel on "Game Changers: Leveling the Playing Field for Women in Film, Gaming and Tech".

"We're delighted to present a lineup of outstanding speakers and innovators who are at the forefront of children's screen content, here and internationally," said Kathleen Drumm, Director, TIFF Industry. "The Conference will provide an incomparable professional development opportunity for delegates at all levels of experience."

Registered delegates will have access to keynote sessions, panels, roundtables and workshops featuring over 30 leading artists and business executives in the children's entertainment and education industries. In addition, delegates will have plenty of networking opportunities and will have a guided tour of our award-winning exhibition digiPlaySpace.

In celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, TIFF and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra are commissioning a new work that will premiere as part of the TSO's Young People's Concert and Student Concert series in February 2017. This joint commission will partner an emerging Canadian filmmaker and a Canadian composer (selected by the TSO) together to create a new film with original music. This innovative project will provide young people with an exciting and interactive experience, with the intent to replicate the event nationwide with other orchestra partners, ensuring a lasting legacy for the work. Finalists in this pitch competition will present in a closed session to representatives from TIFF and the TSO on **April 20th**, with the winner announced at the **TIFF Kids Film Festival Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 24th**. To learn more visit, tiff.net/industry.

Industry registration for the TIFF Kids International Film Festival is now open and delegates can find more information at tiff.net/industry. TIFF Industry is offering two pass options this year: the **TIFF Kids Industry Pass** and the **TIFF Kids Conference Pass**. Both pass types include access to the Industry Conference (available on a first-come, first-served basis), the award-winning digiPlaySpace, and the Industry Lounge (located in the Bell Blue Room), in addition to exclusive online resources, including the Delegates Guide, and an invitation to the Industry Cocktail. The TIFF Kids Industry Pass also includes five advance regular film screening tickets (one per screening, subject to availability), three day-of screening tickets per day, and access to the Industry Screening Library. College and university students are eligible for discounted rates. To find out more about these rates, contact us at tiffkidsindustry@tiff.net. TIFF prefers Visa.

Questions about the Conference programme can be directed to industryprogramming@tiff.net.
Questions about the registration process can be directed to tiffkidsindustry@tiff.net.

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

TIFF KIDS FESTIVAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE – PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Master Class with Bonnie Arnold

An opportunity to look at the creative vision and processes that form storytelling and character development in DreamWorks Animation's hugely successful family films. What does the future of feature animation look like and what are the key challenges of the present day market?

Guest Speaker:

- Bonnie Arnold – Co-President, Feature Animation, **DreamWorks Animation**; producer, *How To Train Your Dragon* and *Toy Story*
- MODERATOR: Justin Johnson, BFI

Casting Kids and Diversity

Despite searching for the "it factor", there are growing demands for diversity and creating a star system in Canada. Experts in the field of casting, coaching and showrunning provide an in-depth look at the state of casting for children's content.

Guest Speakers:

- Laura Harbin – producer, Temple Street Productions, *The Next Step*
- Larissa Mair – casting director, Larissa Mair Casting and Associates
- Daniel Birnbaum – talent agent, The Talent House
- Tyler Murree – acting coach, *Adventures of Napkin Man*
- MODERATOR: Martin Markle – Senior Director, Children's Content, CBC Kids

Adapting Content for the Screen

Experienced filmmakers and writers explore the intricacies of licensing and adapting content from another source (literary, play, etc.) for film and television. What are the challenges and benefits of staying true to the source material, dealing with a built-in fan base and leveraging multi-platform marketing opportunities?

Guest Speakers:

- Adam Barken – screenwriter, *Bruno and Boots: Go Jump in the Pool*
- Barney Goodland - Magic Light Pictures, Company Manager; Producer, *Stick Man*, *Wild Target*

Additional guests to be announced soon!

Game Changers – Leveling the Playing Field for Women in Film, Gaming and Tech

A disproportionately low number of women are working behind the camera in film and television, which can also be said about the tech and gaming industries. What is being done to effect change? These innovators will discuss the pioneering efforts of organizations and initiatives designed to level the playing field and increase the number of women in key creative roles.

Guest Speakers:

- JJ Johnson – co-founder, Sinking Ship Entertainment
- Jennie Robinson Faber – co-founder, Dames Making Games
- Paisley Smith – co-founder, Virtual Reality Girls
- Rina Fraticelli, Executive Director, Woman in View

Edutainment — Game-Based Learning

Constance Steinkuehler, Associate Professor in Digital Media at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and co-director of the Games+Learning+Society (GLS) centre at the Wisconsin Institute of Discovery shares her groundbreaking research in the field of cognition and learning in commercial entertainment games and games designed for impact.

Guest Speaker:

- Constance Steinkuehler – Associate Professor, Digital Media, University of Wisconsin–Madison, co-director, Games+Learning+Society (GLS), Wisconsin Institute of Discovery

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Meet the Broadcasters and Development Executives

Representatives from Canadian production companies will discuss the development and writing process for children's television series and movies. Find out what types of content and characters production companies are looking to develop, and how to better shape your pitch.

Guest Speakers:

- Natalie Dumoulin – VP Creative Affairs, 9 Story Media
- Marie McCann – Executive Production and Development, CBC
- Drew Mullin – Executive Production and Development, CBC
- Jamie Piekarz – Director of Content, YTV, Treehouse, Nickelodeon Canada
- Sarah Haasz – Director of Programming, Family Channel

Meet the Buyers

This session allows delegates to connect directly with buyers of children's entertainment content, including Canadian distributors and online platforms that serve a wide range of audiences.

Guest Speakers:

- Jessica Labi – VP Acquisitions, Entertainment One Films U.S.
- Kate Sanagan – Head of Sales and Distribution, Sinking Ship Entertainment
- Sandrine Pechels de Saint Sardos – VP of International Distribution, Bejuba! Entertainment
- Marni Shulman – Senior Director, Head of Content and Programming, shomi

Meet the Funders

Representatives from government associations and broadcast media funds provide updates on their current funding programs, tips on the application process, and how to find money to finance your project.

Guest Speakers:

- Kelly Payne – Consultant, Industry Initiatives, Ontario Media Development Corporation
- Suzanne Lacey – Program Manager, Bell Fund

Additional guests to be announced soon!

Additional sessions and guests, as well as dates and times, for the TIFF Kids Festival Industry Conference will be available at tiff.net/industry on March 25.

TIFF Industry would like to thank the TIFF Kids Industry Advisory Committee for their support and guidance:

Jamie Piekarz – Director of Content, Corus Kids and Family

Peter Moss – Partner, PDM Entertainment

Andrew Rosen – Producer, Aircraft Pictures

Cal Brunner – Independent Filmmaker

Bob Barlen – Independent Filmmaker

The TIFF Kids International Film Festival takes place at TIFF Bell Lightbox from April 8 through April 24.

Social:

#TIFFKids

#digiPlaySpace

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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.

TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto.

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

The TIFF Kids Festival Industry Conference is supported by the Ontario Media Development Corporation; Bell Fund; Canada Media Fund and Eye on Canada.

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

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