



THE ANNUAL REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHES ITS 14th PROGRAM

(Toronto, ON) October 19, 2016 – The **REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL**, Toronto's only free community film festival, celebrates 14 years with the announcement of the 2016 film line-up during its annual Fundraiser and Program Launch, in the heart of the Regent Park Community, at Daniels Spectrum (585 Dundas Street East). Festival Programmer, Diana Cadavid, introduced Films, Workshops, Panels and Virtual Reality Installations that will showcase stories from and about inner city communities across the world, including 34 from Toronto-based filmmakers and 8 filmmakers from the Regent Park Community. The Festival will open with the well-established and anticipated **EMERGING DIRECTORS' SPOTLIGHT** and close with **JEAN OF THE JONESES**, written and directed by Toronto's own Stella Meghie. The Festival runs from November 23rd to November 26th, 2016. The full programming is free of charge to the public, including complimentary daycare, all taking place at Daniels Spectrum.

REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL's Executive Director, Ananya Ohri said: "As Toronto's only free film festival we to bring access to incredible films and media experiences to people from all walks of life. We are proud to host the most diverse film-going audiences in the city. Join us in celebrating the magic that happens at the intersection of art and community, and examine its potential to inspire human connection and change."

Festival Highlights include:

FILMS:

EMERGING DIRECTORS' SPOTLIGHT

Opening Night features the best of Canada's emerging talent with a celebrity jury to be part of the conversation. Eight directors under 26 years of age screen their outstanding short films. After a short Q&A, three of the emerging filmmakers will pitch a project idea to a celebrity jury to compete for an RBC cash award of \$1000.

Host: Wilbur Sargunaraj (YouTube Sensation)

Celebrity Jury: Director Hubert Davis (**HARDWOOD** 2006, **ARUBA** 2006, **THE NATIONAL PARKS PROJECT** 2011 **THE PORTRAIT** 2012), Actor Ali Momen (**INCORPORATED**, **BEEDA BOYS**, **THE STRAIN**, **THE LA COMPLEX**, **COMBAT HOSPITAL**), Actor Melinda Shankar (**DARKER THAN NIGHT**, **FILTH CITY**, **DEGRASSI: THE NEXT GENERATION**, **HOW TO BE INDIE**) and Producer Lea Marin (**MY UNARMED VERSES** 2016, **THE FAITH PROJECT** 2015, **PRAIRE HOME** 2013, **PROSECUTOR** 2010)

Films in competition: **BOUND** – Director: Alejandra Higuera, **NO SAY** – Director: Sarah Aminuddin, **LOVE STINKS** – Director: Alicia Harris, **FAILING LUNGS** – Director: Cinzia Kajeguhakwa, **SOUR EYE CANDY** – Directors: Craig Commanda & Christopher Grégoire Gabriel, **WATCHING TV WITH THE MIND OFF** – Director: Sampreeth Rao, and **STATIC** – Directors: Christian Anderson & Martin Czachor

Wednesday, November 23rd – 7:30PM to 10:00PM

FEATURE FILMS:

THE STAIRS 2016

Director: Hugh Gibson

Country: Canada

98 minutes

A compassionate documentary that brings us to the heart of the Regent Park Community Health Centre's social work unit.

Official Selection: TIFF 2016

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2c-CVAjlfU>

Thursday, November 24th 6:00PM

DRIVING WITH SELVI 2015

Director: Elisa Paloschi

Country: Canada

78 minutes

A former child bride and victim of abuse, this is the story of Selvi, South India's first female taxi driver.

Official Selection: Raindance Film Festival (2015), Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival (2015), Edmonton International Film Festival (2015), Reel Asian International Film Festival (2015), Atlanta Film Festival (2016), Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival (2016),

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/dsvod>

Saturday, November 26th 5:30 PM

JEAN OF THE JONESES 2016

Director: Stella Meghie

Country: Canada

80 minutes

Jean is in the middle of an existential crisis when her estranged grandfather dies at the doorsteps of the matriarch's house.

Official Selections: SXSW (2016) and TIFF (2016)

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euFtgr0IJ9U>

Saturday, November 26th 8:00PM

EASTERN 2016

Director: Luke Galati

Country: Canada

43 Minutes

A story of the moments leading up to Eastern Commerce's last basketball championship before the high school's closure in 2015.

Official Selection: Toronto Short Film Festival (2016), Canadian Sport Film Festival (2016),

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8g3gxvrG28>

Saturday, November 26th 12:00PM

SHORT FILMS:

HANDSOME AND MAJESTIC 2016

Directors: Nathan Drillot and Jeff Petry

Country: Canada

12 Minutes

The story of transgender teen, Milan, and his quest for acceptance in his rural community.

Official Selection: Hot Docs (2016), Christie Pits Film Festival (2016), Inside Out LGBT Film Festival, Vancouver Queer Film Festival (2016)

Thursday, November 24th 8:30PM

STAR 2015

Director: Emilie Mannering

Country: Canada

15 Minutes

Romanced by social media's potential for recognition and fame, two brothers begin replicating this violence with unsettling consequences.

Official Selection: Vancouver International Film Festival (2015), Festival du Nouveau Cinéma (2015), Rendez Vous du Cinéma Québécois (2016), Paris Urban Film Festival (2016), Breakthroughs Film Festival (2016), Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival (2016), Provincetown Film Festival (2016)

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/136774489>

Thursday, November 24th 8:30PM

BREAKFAST AND A MOVIE

Join us for the launch of Saturday's family program. Free breakfast provided before a screening of Academy-Award nominated *Boy and the World*, a film great for all ages! Breakfast generously provided by CRC Regent Park Community Food Centre.

ASSINI 2015

Country: Canada

Director: Gail Maurice

12 Minutes

Assini, a young Indigenous girl, comes to terms with what it means to be an "Indian."

Official Selection: ImagineNative Film and Media Arts Festival (2015), Yorkton Film Festival (2016)

BOY AND THE WORLD 2013 (2016 ACADEMY AWARD® nomination: Best Animated Feature)

Director: Alê Abreu

Country: Brazil

80 Minutes

Kyuta stumbles into an alternate dimension where he trains for battle under the bearlike warrior, Kumatetsu.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqdrwu0NvY8>

Saturday, November 26th, please arrive at 9:00AM sharp for breakfast.

WORKSHOPS/PANELS:

KIM'S CONVENIENCE FROM STAGE TO SCREEN

Kim's Convenience is a story based in Regent Park. It began as a fringe play, was then produced by Toronto's celebrated theatre company Soulpepper, now hits our screens at home as a CBC television series. Following a screening of an episode Kim's Convenience, a panel featuring the creators and actors will discuss how a new play captures the hearts of theatre-goers and television audiences alike.

A screening and panel on CBC's new show Kim's Convenience, featuring the makers and actors discussing how a new play captures the hearts of audiences.

Panel featuring: Albert Schultz (Artistic Director, Soulpepper Theatre Company), Ins Choi (Creator, Writer), Jean Yoon (Umma), Paul Sun-Hyung Lee (Appa) and Simu Liu (Jung)

Friday, November 25th 6:30PM to 8:00PM

*Location: Paintbox Bistro (555 Dundas Street East – Just west of Daniels Spectrum)

DIGITAL ACTIVISM PANEL ON BLACK LIVES MATTER

Digital activism can take shape in many forms. This panel is a dialogue about the multiple ways that aesthetics, audiovisual, digital technologies, and social media inform the Black Lives Matter movement and vice versa. Issues that will be explored are: How can representational and digital mediums be effective political tools for community mobilization? What are the implications of social media and digital technologies on resistance and police accountability? What role do digital mediums have in shaping how we view contemporary civil rights movements?

Moderator: Syrus Marcus Ware (visual artist, community activist, researcher, youth-advocate and educator. He is the Coordinator of the Art Gallery of Ontario Youth Program and a facilitator/designer for the Cultural Leaders Lab (Toronto Arts Council & The Banff Centre)

Panel: Esery Mondesir (Filmmaker), Lu Asfaha (Picture Editor/Writer), Paul Nguyen (filmmaker, social activist journalist, founder of Jane-Finch.com), Amir George (motion picture artist and film programmer, co-curator of Black Radical Imagination).

Saturday, November 26th 3:00PM to 5:00PM

INTRODUCTION TO VIRTUAL REALITY MASTER CLASS

An introductory Master Class where there will be a discussion on the current state of VR technology, while reflecting on its social, cultural, and educational impact. Participants will be introduced to the tools needed for creating Virtual Reality projects, game engines for interactive VR environments and given a hands-on demonstration on how to animate a 360° video using the open source software, Blender.

Facilitator: Jonathan Carroll (VR Developer)

Saturday, November 26th 11:00AM to 1:00PM

VIRTUAL SPACE:

An ongoing interactive space featuring web-based projects, virtual reality (VR) and digital installations. Open to the public from 11:00 AM to 8:00PM all festival long. Featured projects include:

BLACK LIVES MATTER MPLS

A series of 360 degree videos of Black Lives Matter peaceful protests in Minneapolis surrounding the death of Philando Castile. Philando was fatally shot by police on July 6, 2016.

GROWING UP GIRL

10-year-old Monica wakes up early in her rural Kenyan village, walks miles to collect water for her family, then walks miles more to go to school every day.

TOXIC TOUR

'Toxic Tour' traces oil's devastating legacy in northern Ecuador to map out what could happen to the rest of the country's Amazonian reserves if oil companies begin drilling there.

THE TASTES OF THE NAME

Viewers are suspended in a virtual world of sky and water, captive to a catalogue of descriptions of 'blue' — a paint colour, an aquarium, a shadow — and an impossible attempt to define them all

POETRY FOR EXCITABLE (MOBLILE) MEDIA

Poetry for Excitable [Mobile] Media is a series of poems written and designed to be read on touch devices, from large-scale exhibition surfaces to mobile screens.

The full 14th REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL Program is available at:

<http://regentparkfilmfestival.com/2016-schedule/>

The **REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL** is Toronto's only free-of-charge community film festival that has been making powerful films accessible to low income communities across Toronto for over 14 years. It offers high quality international programming, presented at world-class film festivals, that resonates directly with the changing pulse of our city. REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL is the 2016 recipient of the *Toronto Arts Foundation's Neighbourhood Arts Network TD Arts Diversity Award*.

The REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL was started by a student teacher Chandra Siddan and other educators in the community. They wanted to bring people of Regent Park, especially students, access to stories that resonate with the residents. In 2003, the REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL was a small event at Nelson Mandela Public School and over the years it grew to be a 4-day event, with its programming (screenings and workshops) happening year-round. The REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL's work is based on the idea that everyone deserves safe affordable housing, healthcare, healthy food and access to stories that open up possibilities.

Find the REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL:

Website: www.regentparkfilmfestival.com

<http://regentparkfilmfestival.com/>

Instagram: @RegentParkFilm

<https://www.instagram.com/regentparkfilm/>

Twitter: @RegentParkFilm

<https://twitter.com/RegentParkFilm>

Facebook: @regentparkfilmfestival

<https://www.facebook.com/regentparkfilmfestival>

Festival Hashtag: #RPFF2016

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For Interview Requests and/or Media Inquiries for the REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL please contact:

Winnie Wong

Publicist

416-456-0990

wonder_wong@rogers.com