

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



15TH ANNUAL REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2017 LINE-UP

TORONTO, ON - October 12, 2017 - The Regent Park Film Festival, Toronto's only free community film festival, celebrates 15 years of storytelling with the announcement of the 2017 film lineup during its annual Fundraiser and Program Launch. Held in the heart of the Regent Park community at the Daniels Spectrum, Festival Programmer soJin Chun unveiled an exciting line-up of thought provoking films, interactive workshops, panels and virtual reality projects that showcase culturally diverse stories from communities across the world. The line-up includes works from twenty-six Toronto-based filmmakers and four filmmakers from Regent Park. Running November 15-18 at the Daniels Spectrum (585 Dundas Street East), the festival is completely free of charge to the public, including complimentary childcare.

"The festival has been a joyful place for art and community for 15 years," said Ananya Ohri, Executive Director of the Festival. "This is no simple feat, and a testament to the strength of Regent Park and the universality of the stories a community like this inspire."

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Hosted by the multi-talented Nicole Stamp, the Regent Park Festival kicks off once again with the **Emerging Directors' Spotlight & Pitch Event** on November 15th at 7:30 pm. The evening will begin with a conversation with Anita Lee (Producer), Alison Duke (Producer) and Tiffany Hsiung (Director). This esteemed panel will discuss getting their starts in the film industry, followed by a presentation of some of the best emerging Canadian talent. Seven female directors, aged 26 and under, will screen their short films and pitch their future projects to the panel and compete for a \$1000 cash prize.

View films in competition: <https://goo.gl/DDnwm6>

The Closing Night film is Jennifer Reeder's **Signature Move**, which will screen on Saturday, November 18th at 8:00 PM.

Signature Move

Jennifer Reeder

Comedy | USA | 2017 | 80 min

A new romance with Alma, a confident Mexican-American woman, forces Zaynab, a Pakistani, Muslim lawyer, to confront her relationship with her recently widowed mother. In this coming-of-age story, Zaynab copes by taking up Lucha-style wrestling. This is a comedic and heartfelt look at modern families and the complexities of love in its many forms.

FEATURE FILMS

Whose Streets?

Sabaah Folleyan, Damon David
Documentary | USA | 2017 | 90 min

A powerful and timely documentary on the events leading up to the Ferguson protests in 2014.
Thursday, November 16 | 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Talkback moderated by Toronto journalist Desmond Cole.

Werewolf

Ashley McKenzie
Drama | Canada | 2016 | 80 min

A young couple navigates survival and growth amidst the draws of love and addiction.
Thursday, November 16 | 8:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Talkback moderated by Now Toronto's Norm Wilner with filmmaker Ashley McKenzie.

Unarmed Verses

Charles Officer
Documentary | Canada | 2017 | 89 min

Francine Valentine, an astute and luminous 12-year old, is a resident of Villaways, a community in Toronto that faces imposed relocation. Her poignant observations about life, the soul, and the power of art give voice to those rarely heard in society. Unarmed Verses is a cinematic rendering of our universal need for self-expression, belonging and home.
Friday, November 17 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Talkback with director Charles Officer and producer Lea Marin.

Breakfast & A Movie - Window Horses

Ann Marie Fleming
Animation | Canada | 2016 | 85 min

A young Canadian poet with Chinese and Persian parents travels to Iran to perform at a poetry festival. In the process, she discovers her own path to love, family and forgiveness. *A complimentary breakfast will be served courtesy of Bombay Streets Foods.*
Saturday, November 18 | 9:00 am - 11:30 am

My Piece of the City

Moze Mossanen
Documentary | Canada | 2017 | 60 min

Meet some incredibly talented young people as they reflect on the revitalization and navigate the challenges of performing in the musical showcase called 'The Journey'. Screening with The Regent Park Project, a Kick Start Arts' production.
Saturday, November 18 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Q&A with filmmaker Moze Mossanen in attendance.

SHORTS PROGRAM

EmancipAction: Music & Politics + Mixer

A music video showcase featuring Indigenous, Queer, Muslim and Black artists, expect a night of powerful images that demonstrate the exciting new aesthetic of emancipation in contemporary music. Stay for our mixer to get a chance to mingle with Toronto's established and emerging musicians and filmmakers. Grab a drink, connect and build community!

Friday, November 18 | 8:30 pm - 11:59 pm

Prioritizing Play: Chasing the Kidocratic Tendency

Festival founder Chandra Siddan joins us for our 15th anniversary and takes us through this new concept and a series of films that embody Kidocratic agency. The films offer examples of imaginative, authentic, subversive and experimental approaches to contemporary life.

Friday, November 17 | 8:00 pm - 11:59 pm

Interruptions

What is our relationship to our neighborhood, community and land? Hidden personal histories from New Orleans to strong voices in Regent Park reach deep inside shaking up the way we are taught to accept the world around us. Featuring a special presentation of Dwayne Sybbliss' *Last Ride Through Regent Park*, with a critical discussion to follow.

Saturday, November 18 | 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

View all the short films screening at the festival here: <https://goo.gl/DfXHPf>

WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

How to Keep Making Films *with Doc Institute*

In the gig economy, making a career as a filmmaker is no easy feat. Learn how early-career, working directors/producers are getting their films made and funded. Join us for a panel discussion on the realities of the industry today. We'll discuss the role of executive producers, how to build up a film network, and how these filmmakers first got their start. Spaces are limited!

Thursday, November 16 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

What Funders Want *with Doc Institute*

Find out if your film has funding potential. In this panel discussion, industry decision-makers will discuss what they look for in film projects. Topics will include: what types of projects they're interested in, how to pitch them, and how they support emerging filmmakers. Spaces are limited!

Friday, November 17 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Introduction to Virtual Reality *with Trinity Square Video*

Be introduced to the history and basics of VR technology.

Friday, November 17 | 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Digital Activism Panel

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 ideas of reconciliation, resistance and decolonization in Canada today.

Saturday, November 18 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Live Script Lab with ACTRA Toronto

In collaboration with ACTRA Toronto, we present a live table read of pilot episodes from our writing the web series intensive.

Saturday, November 18 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Homemade Visible: Regent Park

A Regent Park Film Festival initiative. Collecting home video footage from Regent Park residents. Oral storytelling and shared home movie video footage clips.

Saturday, November 18 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Virtual Space

A collection of VR and video projects, this exhibition plays with the idea of possible or unseen worlds as a critique of our contemporary consumerist society.

Everyday during the festival from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Website: www.regentparkfilmfestival.com

Instagram: @RegentParkFilm

Twitter: @RegentParkFilm

Facebook: @regentparkfilmfestival

Festival Hashtag: #RPFF17

About the Regent Park Film Festival

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 since 2003. Through the efforts of a determined group of Regent Park community residents and volunteers, the festival has grown to be a 4-day event and offers year-round film screenings, school programs and workshops at no cost.

Today as Regent Park undergoes a fifteen-year re-development, the festival also works to bring together the many diverse communities that exist in the neighbourhood to enjoy and engage with film as a means of artistic expression and a catalyst for change. The Regent Park Film Festival is a 2017 recipient of the *Canada Council Next Chapters Grant*.