

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:



## **REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION OF LIVE IT TO LEARN IT**

Toronto – Monday May 15, 2017: The Regent Park Film Festival in partnership with Thunderbird Entertainment, Strada Films, PS Production Services, SIM Digital, Shaftesbury and NABET announces the second annual *Live It To Learn It*, a paid-internship program geared towards fostering greater cultural diversity within the Film and T.V. industry.

“Lack of diversity in the industry is a growing concern – especially as we move towards shaping, not just an inclusive, but relevant future media landscape in the city,” says Teresa Ho, filmmaker, producer and a member of the Regent Park Film Festival’s Board of Directors. “We are lucky to find industry partners who share our vision of diversity and are committed to making this program possible.”

Participating interns are slated for a busy summer: The first internship stream will take an intern to shadow all aspects of production and post-production on the set of the hit T.V. show *Kim’s Convenience*. The second Stream will invite interns to spend the first month with PS Production Services and SIM Digital learning about the often-missed, but incredibly important role supply houses play in the industry, receiving set etiquette training and WHIMIS accreditation from NABET, a leading union for Film and T.V. technicians in Ontario; and culminating in a month long assignment as a Production Assistant on one of Shaftesbury’s series currently in production, *Murdoch Mysteries* or *Frankie Drake*.

Live It To Learn It 2016, was a pilot program launched in partnership with the hit series *Kim’s Convenience*, and made possible by the vision and coordination of the Supervising Producers of the show, Robin Cass and Sandra Cunningham.

“From the writing room to the editing suite, the crew of *Kim’s Convenience* was delighted to have talented interns from Regent Park Film Festival, on set,” said *Robin Cass, Supervising Producer on Kim’s Convenience*. “With Live it. Learn it we, in the industry, have the opportunity to break down barriers faced by indigenous and visible minority youth and we are so excited about the possibility.”

With *Live It to Learn It*, the Regent Park Film Festival expands its focus on supporting culturally diverse filmmakers, to also making room for diversity in the many areas of work that compose our vast Film and T.V. industry. Like many industries, familiarity and proven success are key factors in hiring. With this program, RPFV provides participating interns with an opportunity to get their foot in the door.

“We’re involved in this project because it’s about creating jobs, jobs that our sector needs, and well-paying jobs for young people who have already had to face many barriers in their lives. And accessing new talent is about the success and future of our industry,” says *Wendy Moss, Director, Business Development, PS Production Services*.

The call for applicants is now open and two successful applicants will be selected to participate for the internship beginning in July 2017.

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### **Regent Park Film Festival**

Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto’s only free community film festival. In addition to the Annual Film Festival and Under the Stars: Movies in the Park, we host year-round film screenings, school programs and workshops at no cost.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival runs November 15 – 18, 2017.

### **Thunderbird Entertainment**

Thunderbird Entertainment is a rapidly growing Vancouver-based multi-platform entertainment company with offices in Los Angeles, Toronto and London.

### **Strada Films**

The producing team of Sandra Cunningham and Robin Cass represent a stamp of commitment to character-driven story telling and strong working relations with the best of talent.

Upcoming are adaptations of Ian Hamilton’s hit crime series featuring high-end international debt collector AVA LEE as well as Gil Adamson’s international best-selling novel THE OUTLANDER.

### **PS Production Services**

Leading provider of motion picture and television production equipment rentals in Canada.

## **SIM Digital**

SIM Digital provides digital imaging expertise and customized video equipment rental services to enable motion picture and television professionals to achieve their creative vision from pre-production through post.

## **Shaftesbury**

**Shaftesbury** is an award-winning creator and producer of original content for television and digital platforms. Shaftesbury's current slate includes 11 seasons of *Murdoch Mysteries* for CBC, UKTV, and ITV STUDIOS Global Entertainment, detective drama *Frankie Drake* for CBC, and two seasons of critically acclaimed thriller series *Slasher*. Shaftesbury's digital arm, **Smokebomb Entertainment**, produces original digital, convergent, and branded entertainment projects including the hit YouTube series *Carmilla*, funded by U by Kotex®, mystery series *V Morgan Is Dead*, brought to life by RBC, supernatural drama *Inhuman Condition*, and the *Slasher VR* app for iOS, Android, and Oculus Rift. In June 2014, Shaftesbury partnered with Youth Culture to launch **shift2**, a branded entertainment agency that drives profitable engagement with millennials using scripted series, turning brands into executive producers.

## **NABET**

NABET 700-M UNIFOR represents over 1000 Film, Television and New Media Technicians in the province of Ontario.

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