

PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release:



### REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF LIVE IT TO LEARN IT

Toronto – Thursday April 25, 2019: The Regent Park Film Festival announces the fourth annual *Live It To Learn It*, a paid-internship program with the dual goal of introducing culturally diverse youth to meaningful work opportunities and fostering greater diversity within the Film and Television industry in Toronto.

Live It To Learn It was launched in 2016 in partnership with Strada Films, Thunderbird Entertainment and the hit series **Kim's Convenience**. We are thrilled to present the initiative in partnership with Pathway2Industry by Goldelox Productions, Shaftesbury, Strada Films, Thunderbird Entertainment and NABET 700-M UNIFOR.

This year we renew our partnership with Pathway2Industry by Goldelox Productions, as Live It To Learn It sharpens its focus by specifically engaging Black youth.

Goldelox joins our slate of incredible industry partners, who not only share our vision for a more diverse industry and supporting young people reach new opportunities, but have also demonstrated their commitment by making critical funding and resources available towards making this initiative possible.

Participating interns are slated for a busy summer: The interns will receive set etiquette training and WHIMIS accreditation from NABET 700-M UNIFOR; a leading union for Film and Television technicians in Ontario. Followed by a month-long assignment as a Production Assistant on a series currently in production: **Kim's Convenience**, **Murdoch Mysteries** or **Frankie Drake Mysteries**.

Like many industries, familiarity and proven success are key factors in hiring. Live It To Learn It provides participating interns with an opportunity to get their foot in the door, gain professional certifications, and connect with contacts to begin carving a path to a meaningful career in the industry.

The call for applicants is now open and three successful applicants will be selected to participate for the internship beginning in June 2019.

### **Project History**

Live It To Learn It was launched in 2016 in partnership with Strada Films, Thunderbird Entertainment and the hit series **Kim's Convenience**. Since then it has been embraced by the industry, upholding the shared value of facilitating greater diversity behind-the-scenes in the Film and TV industry.

### **Regent Park Film Festival**

The Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto's longest running free community film festival. We are dedicated to showcasing local and international independent works relevant to people from all walks of life, with a focus on inviting those of us from low income and public housing communities. The films we present break stereotypes and show that no one place or person has just one story.

The Festival was founded with the goal of providing Regent Park residents access to high quality films that resonate with their experiences. 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 17th Annual Film Festival runs November 20 – 23, 2019.

### **Pathway2Industry**

Pathway2Industry (aka BlackYouth! Pathway to Industry) is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) from March 1, 2018 through March 31, 2021. Pathway2Industry is a digital media career training and job placement initiative lead by Alison Duke ( Mr Jane and Finch, Cool Black North) of Goldelox Productions, in partnership with several prominent professional media companies in the GTA such as the TIFF, Vtape, BlackWomenFilm!, Toronto Public Library, Hungry Eyes Media and Matru Media just to name a few. The initiative is focused on postsecondary educated black youth who are actively looking for gainful employment, mentorship and accessible networking opportunities in the film, television and digital media industry.

### **Shaftesbury**

Shaftesbury is an award-winning creator and producer of original content for television, film, digital, and brands. Shaftesbury's current slate includes 13 seasons of **Murdoch Mysteries** for CBC, UKTV, and ITV STUDIOS Global Entertainment, three seasons of detective drama **Frankie Drake Mysteries** for CBC, UKTV, and Kew Media, three seasons of critically acclaimed thriller series **Slasher** for Netflix, as well as a new primetime series **Hudson & Rex** for CityTV/Rogers Media, and **Departure** for

Global/Corus Entertainment. Shaftesbury's digital arm produces original digital, convergent, and branded entertainment projects including the global phenomenon and MIPTV Brand Content of the Year award winner **Carmilla**. Shaftesbury's branded entertainment division drives profitable engagement with millennials using scripted series, turning brands into executive producers. Recent brand partners include Nokia, Walmart, Interac, U by Kotex®, and RBC.

### **Thunderbird Entertainment**

Thunderbird Entertainment is a multi-platform media production, distribution and rights management company headquartered in Vancouver, Canada. Our award winning programs cover multiple genres with a significant focus on kids and family entertainment, scripted comedy, drama and factual/non-scripted content.

Thunderbird's projects include **Highway Thru Hell** for Discovery, Oscar winning **Blade Runner 2049**, CSA winning **Kim's Convenience** for CBC and Netflix, and the animated Emmy winning series **Beat Bugs** for Netflix. Additionally, Thunderbird's animation company, Atomic Cartoons is producing **Last Kids on Earth** based on the New York Times best selling book series for Netflix and is in development on **Eerie Elementary** and **Princesses Wear Pants**.

### **Strada Films**

Strada Films was founded by producer Sandra Cunningham. Sandra is known for her work with first-class directors such as Atom Egoyan, Norman Jewison, Patricia Rozema, Robert Le Page, Jeremy Podeswa and Mary Harron. Sandra's credits include the Oscar-nominated **The Sweet Hereafter**, **Moth Diaries**, **The Statement**, **Fugitive Pieces**, and **Where the Truth Lies**. The company's most recent film is Oscar-nominated director Lone Scherfig's **The Kindness of Strangers** that was selected as the opening film of the 69<sup>th</sup> Berlin International Film Festival. The film stars Zoe Kazan, Andrea Riseborough, Tahar Rahim, Caleb Landry-Jones with Jay Baruchel and Bill Nighy.

Sandra Cunningham is the Supervising Producer on the CBC/Thunderbird Entertainment series **Kim's Convenience** now heading into its fourth season. Strada Films and Thunderbird Entertainment have partnered on the upcoming drama series **Ava Lee** based on the acclaimed series of novels by Ian Hamilton.

### **NABET 700-M UNIFOR**

NABET 700-M UNIFOR is a union of film, television and new media technicians that has serviced the greater Toronto area for over 45 years and currently has over 3,000 qualified technicians in fifteen departments of the film and television industry.

### **Press Contact**

Shafia Shaikh, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Regent Park Film Festival Phone: 416.599.7733 | Email: [marketing@regentparkfilmfestival.com](mailto:marketing@regentparkfilmfestival.com)