



www.RegentParkFilmFestival.com/2020

**THE 18TH ANNUAL REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL ONLINE
ANNOUNCES ITS 2020 LINEUP**

FESTIVAL RUNS NOVEMBER 26TH - 29TH 2020

CANADA WIDE - November 17, 2020 — Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF), Toronto's longest running FREE community film festival, continues to foster conversations surrounding equity, access and representation of BIPOC stories as it takes place online for the first time.

RPFF has been hit with many challenges through the pandemic, including navigating the sense of disconnection affecting our communities: people who are low-income, people who live in social housing, BIPOC communities and residents of Regent Park. The films we present break stereotypes and show that no one place or person has just one story. The Festival celebrates 18 years of storytelling with the announcement of its 2020 Festival lineup, and asks us to engage in meaningful individual and collective dialogues on the theme of: "DIS-PLACE."

"We confront the meaning and effects of displacement and how we as individuals and communities navigate that. We take the exploration of the theme one step further and focus on our relationship to 'dis place'. This is a nod to all the BIPOC and immigrant families especially in Regent Park who watch their neighbourhood change in real time due to gentrification, compounded with many systemic factors and come to terms with their relationship to this place." — Faduma Gure, Programmer

Once again, the Festival presents an engaging mix of feature and short films, industry panels, artist talkbacks, and the Emerging Directors' Spotlight & Pitch Competition which gives filmmakers the chance to win a development deal with CBC and a \$1000 award from RBC. Viewer's can also vote for their favourite films as part of the annual Audience Choice Award.

The 2020 Festival takes place online using the streaming platform Cinesend. Instead of tickets to individual screenings, you subscribe for FREE access to the entire catalogue of programming. **Explore the [RPFF 2020 Digital Program Guide](#), Watch the [2020 Festival Trailer](#), Check out the full lineup and Subscribe for free access at RegentParkFilmFestival.com/2020.**

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#): @RegentParkFilm | #RPFF2020

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About RPFF

RPFF has been making films accessible to communities across Toronto since 2003. We are a non-profit cultural and educational media arts organization and the sole community film festival in Canada's largest and oldest public housing neighbourhood. RPFF is a staple in the community. In addition to our annual festival in November, we offer year-round screenings, our annual School Program, workshops and community events at no cost.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Night Presentation: Being Black in Toronto + Talkback Panel Thursday, November 26 at 6pm

We open the 2020 Festival with short films that highlight the complexities of the Black experience. How do we encompass the Black experience as a whole into a single programming block? We don't. What we hope to do is honour these stories and position ourselves in relation to these realities. These stories serve as reference points and prompts to bigger questions and discussions centering Being Black In Toronto. Following the short films, we are pleased to present a talkback with the filmmakers, moderated by Ismaila Alfa, host of *Metro Morning*.

Opening night sponsored by: RBC | Copresented by: CBC Toronto | In partnership with: OYA Media

Featured Films

The Onyx Butterfly | Dir. Yasmin Evering-Kerr
YYZ | Dir. Omolola Ajao
Mr. Jane and Finch | Dir. Ngardy Conteh George
Black Sun | Dir. Adrian Wallace
Tallahawah Abroad | Dir. Sharine Taylor

FamJam

FamJam is RPFF's dedicated family-friendly programming. Not only does FamJam bring you two feature films, perfect for crucial and relevant discussions, but we also present Block x Block: Regent Park Trivia, an online game in partnership with the Toronto Ward Museum.

Featured Films

Farewell Regent | Dir. Christene Browne
What happens when the largest redevelopment in North America dismantles the place where social housing began? Will the community and its residents ever be the same?

The Kings of Mulberry Street | Dir. Judy Naidoo
When timid Baboo moves into the Sugarhill District neighbourhood where feisty Ticky lives, they are soon drawn together by a shared threat. Side-by-side the two boys embark on an epic adventure to become the Kings of Mulberry Street!



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Let's Doc and Talk

This program explores and unpacks two incisive feature-length documentaries, followed by talkbacks with its creators and subjects.

Featured Films

Kelet + Talkback | Dir. Susani Mahadura

Kelet is a documentary film about Black trans beauty, courage and the importance of role models. The story follows the exceptional life of 20-year-old Kelet, a Finnish Somali trans woman living in Helsinki who dreams of becoming a model in Vogue magazine. Following the film, join moderator Lali Mohamed in conversation with Kelet, Lola and Kim Ninkuru.

Coded Bias + Talkback | Dir. Shalini Kantayya

An exploration of the fallout of MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini's startling discovery of racial bias in facial recognition algorithms. Afterwards, RPF Programmer Faduma Gure unpacks the film with director Shalini Kantayya.

CTV's Transplant: How it Started and What's Next

A panel discussion featuring the team behind the hit show "Transplant", as BIPOC actors, writers and producers discuss the process of bringing complex stories and characters from concept to screen with thoughtfulness. Topics include centring the experiences of refugees and Muslim communities in Canada, diversity in the writers' room, telling difficult and authentic stories, and supporting emerging and established BIPOC artists.

Presented by: CTV & HireBIPOC

Panel Moderator

Adnan Khan | Novelist, Essayist, Screenwriter

Panelists

Hamza Haq | Actor, star of the CTV medical drama TRANSPLANT

Sami Khan | Oscar-nominated writer/director and producer

Anar Ali | Writer, Novelist Screenwriter

TaraWoodbury | Executive Producer

Closing Night: Emerging Directors' Spotlight & Pitch Competition

Sunday, November 29 at 6pm

This exciting platform highlights the best of Canada's emerging talent, who pitch their next project to a jury of industry experts from CBC Programming. This year, there will be two categories of pitches, SCRIPTED and UNSCRIPTED projects. One winner in each category will receive a development deal from CBC and \$1000 from RBC! Watch the spotlighted short films from the finalists at any point throughout the Festival and tune in at 6pm on Sunday November 29th for the broadcast of the pitch competition, hosted by Jason D'Souza of CBC's *Fresh Air*, and the exciting announcement of winners!



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Presented by: CBC and RBC

Spotlighted Films and Directors Making a Pitch

Teen Dream | Dir. Christian Anderson | *Scripted*

BOLLYSINGH | Dir. Prajj Rajawat | *Scripted*

PYOTR495 | Dir. Blake Mawson | *Scripted*

By The Train | Dir. Niya Abdullahi | *Unscripted*

Lonely Boy Party | Dir. Mirusha Yogarajah | *Unscripted*

Burn | Dir. Shubhi Sahni | *Unscripted*

RPF gratefully acknowledges the support of RBC as its 2020 Festival Premier Sponsor and CBC Toronto as its media sponsor.