

TORONTO ARTHOUSE FILM FESTIVAL AND TORONTO FILM WEEK COMBINE FORCES

September 1st, 2016



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TORONTO– September 1st, 2016 – Toronto Arthouse Film Festival and Toronto Film Week announced the winners of its competition categories. Top awards went to *Ursa Minor*, *Figurine*, *Sick* and *Sanskriti*. The award winning films of both festivals will be screened on September 13th, 15th and 17th 2016 at the Fox Theatre in Toronto during the first annual ‘Toronto Contemporary Cinema’ event.

Selected from more than 2.000 submissions from 28 countries, the award winning films include 1 world premiere, 7 North American premieres, 5 Canadian premieres and 7 Toronto premieres.

TWO FESTIVALS, TWO VISIONS, ONE LOCATION

Two very different film festivals in their respective fields combine forces and dates while retaining their distinct and target audiences.

The move will create one distinctive audience festival with a focus on quality, diversity and dialogue.

TORONTO ARTHOUSE FILM FESTIVAL

Do you have a personal vision? Are you a true independent filmmaker? Do you hate making compromises? The Toronto Arthouse Film Festival welcomes filmmakers who explore and develop new filmmaking conventions in their quest to realise their visions effectively on a limited budget. The Toronto Arthouse Film Festival is dedicated to showcasing innovative and exciting work by risk-taking filmmakers from around the world. Aesthetically and thematically varied, these films mark the arrival of exciting new directing talents.

The Toronto Arthouse Film Festival main winners and awards:

BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM 2016 (North American premiere)

Ursa Minor (Greece) By Elissavet Chronopoulou

In a cheap by-the-hour hotel, a man is being arrested while a woman, unconscious, is being transported to the hospital. On his way to the police station, in the patrol car, the man is recalling the last few months, from the day he first met the woman until the dramatic end of their relationship, a few minutes ago. In the meantime the effort of two people to love each other.

Duration: 01:26:00 - Greek spoken, English subtitled

Screening on September 13 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM 2016 (North American premiere)

Sick (Croatia) By Hrvoje Mabic

At the age of 16 Ana was locked up in a psychiatric hospital by her parents who arranged the treatment for curing her homosexuality with the hospital director. After enduring five years of heavy traumas at the hospital, Ana is now free but on the verge of suicide and with almost no trust in people around her. Everyone she ever loved have rejected and abandoned her. Still, she longs for a girl who would accept her and wouldn't think of her as insane because of her PTSD condition. She finds all that in Martina, her new love whom she plans the wedding with. However, Martina's huge patience and devotion wanes with time as she finds Ana obsessed with her past. Her only reason for living is revenge on everyone who caused her pain and suffering, and not the relationship and life they're sharing together. Will Ana manage to overcome the hell she went through and devote herself to the life with Martina? Or will she end up abandoned and alone again? 'Sick' is a film about love, betrayal, revenge and forgiveness

Duration: 01:34:24 - Croatia spoken, English subtitled

Screening on September 13 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST NARRATIVE SHORT FILM 2016 (Toronto premiere)

Little Block Of Cement With Dishevelled Hair Containing The Sea (Spain) By Jorge Lopez Navarrete

A dog and a mare embark upon a voyage together. With every step they take, the differences between them become inevitably clearer, and yet the profound mutual knowledge they develop over time shows the potential to suddenly produce a luminous moment between the two.

Duration: 15:32 - No dialogues

Screening on September 13 at 4pm at the Fox Toronto

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM 2016

Vacant (Australia) By Elle Marsh

A car park so great it should have it's own postcode. This film explores the beauty & emptiness of Australia's largest car park. In broader terms it explores what urban sprawl & transport means for sustainable living and its implications on a city's cultural identity. Soundscape & images recorded on location at Melbourne's International Airport car park.

Duration: 4:08

Screening on September 15 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST EXPERIMENTAL DOCUMENTARY FILM 2016 (Canadian premiere)

A Noodle In The Rain (United States) By Minki Hong

In a rainy day, I just want something warm or hot. So I boil the water to eat a Korean instant

ramen.

Duration: 7:09

Screening on September 15 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM 2016 (Toronto premiere)

Imagining Time (Australia) By Jelena Sinik

Adapted from the poem 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock' by T. S. Eliot, Imagining Time is designed in a split-screen format. The animation combines notions of the disruption of the everyday; magical realism and surrealism with the themes of isolation, introversion and passivity from the poem.

Duration: 1:56 - English spoken

Screening on September 13 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM 2016 (North American premiere)

Plethora (Germany) By Annique Delphine

PLETHORA is an experimental film exploring female sensuality, beauty, and desire versus the powerlessness women can feel when faced with societal expectations of gender roles and relationships formed by patriarchal systems.

Duration: 3:22 - no dialogues

Screening on September 15 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

TORONTO NEW VISION AWARD 2016 (Toronto premiere)

Squame (Canada) By Nicolas Brault

Squame explores the body's sensitive envelope, the skin. The ephemeral animated desquamations, created with the help of sugar casts, evoke fragile landscapes in a world at the edge of abstraction. Somewhere between archeological artifacts and macroscopic observations, the friable frontiers of these human bodies elude our gaze.

Duration: 4:06

Screening on September 15 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST ART DIRECTION AWARD 2016

Kachi Kachi (United States) By Jory Lee Cordy

After Lucy returns home from rehab, she finds Charlie doing his best to save the relationship, but she's already made plans to burn it down.

Duration: 11:11 - English spoken

Screening on September 15 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS 2016 (Canadian premiere)

Uncanny Valley (Argentina) By Federico Heller

In the slums of the future, VR junkies satisfy their violent impulses in online entertainment. An expert player discovers that the line between games and reality is starting to fade away.

Duration: 8:52 - English spoken

Screening on September 13 at 2pm at the Fox Toronto

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN 2016

Husky 'I'm Not Coming Back' (United Kingdom) By Wayne Mccauslin

'I'm not coming back' is a music video which focuses primarily on two characters, a man and his dog as they escape the city and drive through surreal landscapes, bumpy terrains and mystical forests. The Film was produced over the summer of 2015 in Berlin, and was hand crafted using puppets and miniature sets then finalised with compositing the 3D characters.

Duration: 3:23

Screening on September 17 at 4pm at the Fox Toronto

BEST MUSIC VIDEO 2016 (North American premiere)

Yes Sir Noceur - Voodoo (Australia) By Tom Adam

Duration: 3:49

Screening on September 13 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

TORONTO FILM WEEK

The Toronto Film Week is an annual event showcasing independent films with an edge. The VFW focuses on the unconventional, the unusual, the underground, the intuitive, the innovative, the minimalistic and the true artists of our time.

The TORONTO FILM WEEK winners and awards:

BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM (Toronto premiere)

Figurine (Canada) by Hans Olson

Karin leads a quiet life working at a truck wash and ushering part-time at the hockey arena. Her solitary routine is broken when she meets James, a truck driver seeking work closer to his children. As autumn approaches winter, Karin opens herself to the possibility of romance.

Duration: 01:19:00 - English spoken

Screening on September 17 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM (Toronto premiere)

Sanskriti (United States) by Melissa Balan

Titled from the ancient Sanskrit word for "culture", Sanskriti is a documentary filmed around the world, that captures the human experience in today's digital age. Following the lives of four young adults from China, Kenya, Finland, and the USA, the film chronicles the day-to-day experiences of Millennials coming of age in the digital era. Acting as a portrait of a generation, the film celebrates human progress, and encourages re-examination of our relationships with each other, and our iPhones.

Duration: 55:00 - English spoken

Screening on September 15 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST NARRATIVE SHORT FILM

Dryad (France) by Thomas Vernay

The wind blows, noises of armor resound. A knight escorts a young woman athwart plains. The thunder begins to scold, clouds invade the landscape. The knight, worried, stares the castle on the horizon. The end is close.

Duration: 11:26 - no dialogues

Screening on September 13 at 2pm at the Fox theatre Toronto

BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM (Canadian premiere)

Nation's Legacy Of Severance (Israel) by Zohar Melinek

Nation's Legacy of Severance (2014) is the film adaptation of the original 2010 choreography by artists Zohar Melinek and Mary St-Amand Williamson. The film addresses national and communal struggles of self-determination and displacement. The characters pass through states of dispossession and exile, isolation and madness in a politically unstable environment.

Duration: 47:15 - no dialogues

Screening on September 15 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM (North American premiere)

Sea With No Name (Finland) by Emilia Linnakoski

Desert. Sand blowing in eyes, back bent down, limbs heavy of waiting. Wallpapers reflecting the light beams from cars outside on the streets. Hands reaching warmth under the blanket or resting on thermostat. When rejection and abandoning has beaten you repeatedly they sculpt themselves in human memory, all the way through your body. Landscape in Tuula's eyes is silent, days resemble one another, then suddenly a song blossoms in this desert, like a flower waking up at night. In that song she reveals herself to us. What kind of a prison has she built with only one feel - fear of abandoning?

Duration: 36:30 - Finnish spoken, English subtitled

Screening on September 15 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM (Toronto premiere)

When The River Stops Whispering (France) by Lucas Malbrun

It depicts the life of an old man who lives isolated on an artificial island made of flesh-like material in the middle of a great river. The island is in constant metamorphosis because the river takes away but also constantly floats material to the island. The old man finds himself in some sort of loop: He repeats the same gestures mechanically always trying to maintain his refuge by protecting it and adding some material. But one day the river stops to advance, the water becomes static. As a result, the old man sees his reflection on the smooth surface of the immobile river. Due to his encounter with his reflection the old man falls into the water. Surrounded by this element the limits of his body become less and less defined to the point where he becomes completely solved into the water.

Duration: 5:48

Screening on September 15 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST UNDERGROUND FILM (North American premiere)

Men From Montreal In November (Canada) by Pascal Robitaille, Matthew Wolkow

Two men sitting still near a window. Situated halfway between photography and cinema, Men from Montreal in November is a minimalistic homage to the meditative work of filmmaker Chantal Akerman, who died in October 2015.

Duration: 6:00 - no dialogues

Screening on September 15 at 2pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST NEW FILMMAKER (Canadian premiere)

Rainbow Party (United Kingdom) by Eva Sigurdardottir

In a tale of twisted innocence, 14-year-old outcast Sofia is offered the chance to join the popular group at school, but doing so requires making serious sacrifices. Whoever said that teenage girls were pure and innocent?

Duration: 15:58 - Icelandic spoken, English subtitled

Screening on September 17 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST COMEDY FILM

Pigeons Shit Everywhere (Belgium) by Fred De Loof

Diego a rat. A rat that one have grafted pigeon wings to take off. But once in the air, he took the opportunity to drop its dung wherever he goes. Until he might not be able to fly anymore...

Duration: 24:00 - French spoken, English subtitled

Screening on September 15 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

BEST CANADIAN CINEMA NOW (World premiere)

Like The Flow Of A River by Natalie Murao

A young girl struggles to communicate with her grandmother.

Duration: 6:24 - English/Japanese spoken

Screening on September 13 at 4pm at the Fox Theatre Toronto

For more information on all of the films in the 2016 Toronto Arthouse Film Festival, please visit www.torontarthousefestival.com.

For more information on all of the films in the 2016 Toronto Film Week, please visit www.torontofilmweek.com.