

## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2015 TIFF RISING STARS: Deragh Campbell, Stephan James, Aliocha Schneider and Karelle Tremblay

**Toronto** — The Toronto International Film Festival® today revealed the four actors selected to participate in the 2015 TIFF Rising Stars programme: **Deragh Campbell, Stephan James, Aliocha Schneider, and Karelle Tremblay**. Now in its fifth year, the intensive professional development programme immerses participants in a series of public events and industry meetings during the Festival.

“TIFF is dedicated to shining a spotlight on Canadian talent, and we’re thrilled to offer Deragh, Stephan, Aliocha, and Karelle — the 2015 TIFF Rising Stars — a global stage during the Festival,” said Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival.

The four Rising Stars will take part in a series of specialized programming organized by the TIFF Industry Office that includes seminars with international casting directors, media training, one-on-one meetings with filmmakers, as well as a series of unique networking opportunities.

### **Deragh Campbell**

Though a relative newcomer, Deragh Campbell has already made a name for herself as an accomplished actor and writer. The Toronto-based artist established herself as a promising new talent with her starring role as a teenage runaway in Matthew Potterfield’s *I Used to Be Darker*, which premiered at Sundance and made *The New Yorker*’s list of Top 25 Films of 2013. Deragh went on to star in Dustin Guy Defa’s acclaimed short film *Person to Person*, which won the DAAD Short Film Prize at the 2014 Berlinale. She took on the largely improvised role of Lucy in Nathan Silver’s 2015 black comedy *Stinking Heaven*, for which she shares a writing credit. A versatile talent, Deragh has recently been awarded a prestigious MacDowell Fellowship to create her first feature with co-writer Alexandra Napier. She next stars in Alexander Carson’s directorial debut, *O Brazen Age*, Sofia Bohdanowicz’s *Never Eat Alone* and Julian Radlmaier’s *The Pursuit of Happiness*, and has a supporting role opposite Tatiana Maslany in Joey Klein’s *The Other Half*.

### **Stephan James**

Just 21 years old, Stephan James has already landed significant supporting roles in Ava DuVernay’s Oscar winner *Selma* and the CBC miniseries *The Book of Negroes*, as well as a starring role in the forthcoming Universal/Focus Features biopic *Race*, playing Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens. Born and raised in Toronto, Stephan began his professional career in the Emmy-nominated series *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, playing the role of Julian for three seasons. He later guest-starred in the series *The Listener*, *The L.A. Complex*, and *Cracked*. His major break came in 2012 with a leading role in the Toronto International Film Festival selection *Home Again*: Stephen received tremendous critical acclaim and a Canadian Screen Award nomination for his performance as Everton St. Clair, a British teenager deported to Jamaica for drug possession. He followed this with a supporting role in the Miramax sports drama *When the Game Stands Tall*. Stephan’s impressive resume has not gone unnoticed; *The Globe and Mail* profiled the rising actor as one to watch for in 2015. It’s no wonder that shortly after moving to Los Angeles this year, he was cast as a series regular in NBC’s upcoming drama, *Unveiled*, produced by Mark Burnett and Roma Downey, as well as a leading role in Director X’s *Undone*.

### **Aliocha Schneider**

Born in Paris and raised in Quebec, Aliocha Schneider spent his adolescence training to be a performer. A gifted actor and singer, he began his career on the stage at Montreal’s Théâtre du Rideau Vert, where he played the role of Momo in the stage adaptation of *La Vie devant soi*. Television proved a natural fit for the versatile young actor. From 2009 to 2013, he starred as Carl Bresson in the Télé-Québec dramatic series *Tactik*, and has since made appearances on Vrak’s *Horrorarium*, TVA’s *Les Jeunes loups* and *Yamaska*, and Radio-Canada’s *Belle-Baie* and *Les Parent*, starring Anne Dorval. He made his big-screen debut in Erik Canuel’s box-office hit *Bon*

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*Cop, Bad Cop* before playing opposite some of the biggest names in Quebec cinema in Lea Pool's *Ma mère est chez le coiffeur* and *La dernière fugue*, Christian Laurence's *Le journal d'Aurélie Laflamme* and Robert Morin's *Les 4 soldats*. Fluent in both English and French, Aliocha made his English-language debut in the 2013 comedy *Three Night Stand*, playing the "ultrasmooth and boyishly handsome art-house movie actor Anatolii" (*Toronto Star*). Other recent credits include a supporting role in Elodie Namar's chess-drama *The Tournament*. Watch for him this year in the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival features *Closet Monster*, which stars Rising Stars alumnus Connor Jessup and Isabella Rossellini, and Guy Édoin's *Ville-Marie*, opposite Monica Bellucci.

### **Karelle Tremblay**

Montreal-born Karelle Tremblay has been acting since she was 12, when she was cast as a series regular in Radio-Canada's *Le Club des doigts croisés*. Since then, she has developed an impressive and fast-growing roster of television credits, guest starring in TVA's *Toute la vérité* and *Yamaska*, and Radio-Canada's hit Montreal police drama *19-2*. In 2015, she was nominated for a Prix Gémeaux for Best Actress in a Web Series for her starring role as Elizabeth in Vrak's *Les Stagiaires*. Karelle transitioned to film with supporting roles in Stephan Miljevic's *Amsterdam* and Podz's *Miraculum*, starring Xavier Dolan. Her first major film break came when she was cast as the radical young activist Julie in Mathieu Denis' FLQ drama *Corbo*, an Official Selection of the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival and Canada's Top Ten Film Festival. She can next be seen in Podz's urban crime drama *King Dave* and in the titular role in Vrak's *Jérémie*, premiering this fall. Watch for her at this year's Festival in *Les êtres chers*, from acclaimed director Anne Émond (*Nuit #1*).

Rising Stars alumni include household names like Sarah Gadon (*Maps to the Stars*, *Belle* and the upcoming *The 9th Life of Louis Drax*), Tatiana Maslany (two-time Critic's Choice Award-winner for Best Actress in a Drama Series for *Orphan Black*), Cara Gee (*Strange Empire*), Julia Sarah Stone (*Every Thing Will Be Fine*), and Shannon Kook (*Dark Places*).

The 2015 jury who helped select the 2015 Rising Stars include filmmakers Ingrid Veninger and Clement Virgo; filmmaker, journalist and author Peter Knegt; casting director Deirdre Bowen; and Larissa Giroux, Executive in Charge of Acting & Music Programs, CFC ACTORS & MUSIC.

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