

## TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2015 TALENT LAB AND TELEFILM CANADA PITCH THIS! PARTICIPANTS

### Wim Wenders and Jim Stark to act as Governors for 12<sup>th</sup> annual Talent Lab

**Toronto** — The Toronto International Film Festival® today announced the participants for the 2015 editions of **Talent Lab™** and **Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS!** Produced by TIFF's Industry Office, these essential development programmes provide valuable opportunity and exposure for emerging filmmakers at a crucial point in their careers.

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the Talent Lab is a comprehensive five-day artistic development programme led by esteemed governors who will guide 20 emerging filmmakers in group discussions that focus on creativity, the artistic process and independent voices. The programme provides emerging talent with an unparalleled education experience and an introduction to the global community of filmmaking. This year's governors include **Wim Wenders** (*The Salt of the Earth, Pina*) and **Jim Stark** (*Coffee and Cigarettes*). Additional guests will be announced in the coming weeks. Open to both Canadian and international filmmakers, Talent Lab is designed to connect homegrown filmmakers with emerging talent from other countries at a time when the film industry is becoming increasingly international. Talent Lab runs from September 8 to 12, 2015.

Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS! provides six teams with six minutes each to pitch their dramatic or documentary feature film idea to a jury of experts in front of a live audience of over 250 industry professionals, in the hopes of winning a coveted \$15,000 development award for their project.

### TALENT LAB TORONTO

The 2015 Talent Lab participants:

<b>Canadian Participants</b>	<b>International Participants</b>
Anna Fahr	María Alché (Argentina)
Joshua Huculiak	Amin Dora (Lebanon)
Ali Jaberansari	Derya Durmaz (Turkey)
Marie-Ève Juste	Hiwot Admasu Getaneh (Ethiopia)
Joey Klein	Carolina Markowicz (Brazil)
Dusty Mancinelli	Tommy Oliver (USA)
Stéphane Moukarzel	Marina Person (Brazil)
Celeste Parr	Ricky Rijneke (Holland)
Madeleine Sims-Fewer	Eva Riley (United Kingdom)
Timothy Yeung	Alexis van Stratum (Belgium)

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The 2015 Talent Lab Governors:

### **Wim Wenders**

Wim Wenders came to international prominence as one of the pioneers of the New German Cinema in the 1970s and is one of the most important figures in contemporary German film. In addition to his many prize-winning feature films, his work as a scriptwriter, director, producer, photographer and author also encompasses an abundance of innovative documentary films, international photo exhibitions and numerous monographs, film books and prose collections. He lives and works in Berlin, together with his wife Donata Wenders.

### **Jim Stark**

Jim Stark is an independent American producer who has been involved in writing, developing, financing, producing, selling, distributing and marketing low budget fiction feature films since 1983. His films have won numerous prizes and have been selected to premiere in major festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Sundance and Toronto, and have been exhibited theatrically and broadcast on television in countries around the world.

Congratulations to Talent Lab participant Marie-Ève Juste (*A New Year*) on the selection of her film in the 2015 Short Cuts programme and to the following Talent Lab alumni with films in the Festival's 2015 selection:

Feature Films:

- Stephen Dunn, Director, *Closet Monster*
- Kazik Radwanski, Director, *How Heavy This Hammer*
- Jamie M. Dagg, Director, *River*
- Andrew Cividino, Director, *Sleeping Giant*
- Igor Drljaca, Director, *The Waiting Room*

Short Cuts Canada:

- Ashley McKenzie, Director, *4 Quarters*
- Sol Friedman, Director, *Bacon & God's Wrath*
- Mark Slutsky, Director, *Never Happened*
- Vivieno Caldinelli, Director, *Portal to Hell!!!*
- Chelsea McMullan, Director, *World Famous Gopher Hole Museum*

### **TELEFILM CANADA PITCH THIS!**

Telefilm Canada's PITCH THIS! challenge takes place on Sunday, September 13 at 4:30 p.m. and is open to all Festival Industry and Press delegates.

The 2015 Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS! finalists are:

#### ***Brown Girl In The Ring: The Prequel*** Sharon Lewis and Jenn Paul

It's 2048 in the Burn. Toronto has been abandoned by the wealthy, and the poor have been walled in and left to fend for themselves. This coming-of-age story focuses on young Ti-Jeanne who rebels against her grandmother's Caribbean mystical teachings to run off with Tony. When a tragedy strikes Ti-Jeanne's guardian spirit demands she obey or someone will die.

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**Claire, from the Bus** Andrew Nicholas McCann Smith, Kjartan Hewitt and Jordan Canning

Ralph's 31st birthday has turned into 24 hours of devilishly orchestrated sexual blackmail that calls into question his grasp of morality, fidelity and the actual age of his coquettish aggressor.

**Demonolatry** Laura Perlmutter and Daniel Perlmutter

A couple go on a prescribed weekend getaway to figure out their relationship but instead they are forced to face off against demons and each other when they discover a woman frozen in the woods.

**E.V.E.** A.J. Bond

While attempting to cure his infertility, a rogue scientist discovers a new facet of procreation, the ability to encode his memories into the DNA of his offspring, causing a kind of pseudo-reincarnation. He succeeds in conceiving a female child who has his memories and consciousness, creating the most unusual father/daughter relationship in history.

**Mohammed VI** Matthew Hannam and Kaveh Nabatian

A neurotic celebrity chef disappears while filming a cooking show in Morocco. When presented with the opportunity to take over the shoot and advance their own careers, his embattled crew struggles to continue the search for their acerbic host.

**Passover** Daniel Schachter and Constance Malpel

A family reunion goes haywire over the course of a long, wine-soaked night, as dark secrets from the past come bubbling to the surface.

Purchase Festival ticket packages online 24 hours a day at [tiff.net/festival](http://tiff.net/festival), by phone from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET daily at **416.599.TIFF** or **1.888.599.8433**, or visit the Gupta Box Office at TIFF Bell Lightbox in person from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET daily at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King Street West, until August 26 while quantities last.

TIFF prefers Visa.

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**About TIFF**

TIFF is a charitable cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world through film. An international leader in film culture, TIFF projects include the annual Toronto International Film Festival in September; TIFF Bell Lightbox, which features five cinemas, major exhibitions, and learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$189 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, the City of Toronto, the Reitman family (Ivan Reitman, Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels), The Daniels Corporation and RBC. For more information, visit [tiff.net](http://tiff.net).

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**Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS! is generously supported by presenting partner Telefilm Canada.**

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**Talent Lab is supported by presenting sponsor RBC.**

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**Special Thanks to The Slaight Family Foundation.**

**The Short Cuts programme is made possible through the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council.**

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For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email [proffice@tiff.net](mailto:proffice@tiff.net).

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