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NEWS RELEASE

TIFF ANNOUNCES 16 PARTICIPANTS FOR *STUDIO*, YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMME FOR ONTARIO-BASED CONTENT PRODUCERS

Toronto – TIFF announced today that sixteen participants have been selected for *STUDIO*, TIFF Industry's first year-round programme for Ontario-based content producers.

Successful candidates include: **Daniel Bekerman, Sidney Chiu, Paula Devonshire, Hugh Gibson, Mateo Guez, Lauren Grant, Cher Hawrysh, Tanya Kelen, Michelle Latimer, Joel McConvey, Laura Milliken, Jennifer Podemski, Paul Scherzer, Sarah Timmins, Ingrid Veninger and James Wilkes.**

"We received over 200 applicants for this programme and the competition was strong," said Cameron Bailey, Artistic Director, Toronto International Film Festival. "The 16 successful candidates are a diverse group of producers, writers and directors who work to create film, television, interactive and transmedia content. The *STUDIO* programme will allow participants to network with Canadian and international contacts which will help build new partnerships and business opportunities."

STUDIO offers a unique opportunity for the selected candidates to sharpen their creative and business skills and transfer those skills to the projects they currently have in development. *STUDIO* will consist of interactive sessions offering expert insights into the business of film production. From September 2012 to August 2013, sessions will provide in-depth views on relevant topics ranging from screenwriting to film financing to the new age of movie marketing. There will also be opportunities for industry professionals, who are not participants of the programme, to access some of the *STUDIO* programming throughout the year.

More information on the successful candidates follows:

Daniel Bekerman

Daniel Bekerman's projects include the Jay Scott Award winner *You Are Here*, the youth/environment themed *An Inconvenient Youth* and *ReMemory* a psychological thriller starring Peter Dinklage. Daniel focuses on stories that will stand apart in the market by daring to say something new.

Sidney Chiu

Sidney Chiu has worked in features for the past decade focusing on films with international appeal. Now based in Toronto, he has produced films with marquee cast from North America and Asia. His first feature, *A Night for Dying Tigers*, premiered at TIFF in 2010 and has sold to countries worldwide.

Paula Devonshire

Torontonian Paula Devonshire attended the CFC Producer's Lab and went on to produce *Ginger Snaps 2 and 3*, *Real Time* and the legendary George Romero's last two features. Paula has also produced four television projects including NBC's *The Firm*. Paula is currently developing several features and a TV series.

Hugh Gibson

Hugh Gibson is a writer, producer, director of short films and documentaries, as well as an author of award-winning play *Obedience* (2000). His short film, *Hogtown Blues*, was presented at 20 festivals worldwide, including TIFF. Nominated for Lindalee Tracey Award at Hot Docs (2007), he also recently produced a highly acclaimed documentary, *A Place Called Los Pereyra*, which premiered at IDFA and screened theatrically across Canada.

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Mateo Guez

Throughout his 14-year career in the film industry, Mateo Guez produced, directed and wrote short and feature films which won prizes in Cannes, Berlin and Canada. Guez was one of the three contributing directors to the unique interactive feature, *Late Fragment* (TIFF Official Selection, 2007). His film *Off World* won Best Canadian Feature Film at the 10th ReelWorld film festival, was theatrically released and aired on Super Channel. Mateo is currently developing a feature and a television series.

Lauren Grant

The principal of Clique Pictures, Lauren Grant has produced several acclaimed short films and focuses now on developing feature film and documentary productions. In 2011, she won the best short drama Genie Award for the residential school musical *Savage*. Lauren recently produced the feature film *Picture Day* which will premiere at TIFF 2012, and the futuristic short film *Frost*.

Cher Hawrysh

Cher Hawrysh is an award-winning producer with strong creative & business acumen. She produced Velcrow Ripper's *Fierce Light* and *Scared Sacred* (Special Jury Prize, TIFF 2005), and short films *Empty Room* and *Labour Laws*. She is a co-producer on *The Colony* starring Laurence Fishburne and Bill Paxton.

Tanya Kelen

Tanya Kelen is founder, CEO and Executive Producer of kelencontent, a boutique production, interactive and distribution company that represents leading third-party content creators, original producers and co-producers across North America and internationally, with global broadcasters and other delivery platforms to finance high impact transmedia programming. Before founding kelencontent, Tanya was head of distribution and co-production for Breakthrough Entertainment.

Michelle Latimer

Michelle Latimer is an actor, producer and director. She participated in TIFF's Talent Lab 2011. She directed and produced the short animated film *Choke*, which was nominated for a Genie for Best Animated Short Film. *Choke* premiered at Sundance where it received the Special Jury Honorable Mention for Best International Short Film, and was named one of Canada's Top Ten (2011). Latimer also produced the Gemini-nominated documentary *Jackpot*.

Joel McConvey

Joel McConvey is an award-winning producer of cross-platform media. He is a creator of *The National Parks Project* (NPP), an exploration of the links between nature and creativity, featuring 52 Canadian artists. He is currently developing projects with his company, First Canyon Media.

Laura Milliken

Laura is a mid-career producer of Aboriginal heritage with a 14-year-old company based in Toronto. She has created and produced dramatic and animated series, numerous short films, one-offs, interstitials, commercials and dozens of music videos. She handles the majority of the development of the projects she produces and currently has three feature films in development.

Jennifer Podemski

Jennifer Podemski is a multi award-winning actor and producer with over 25 years experience in the film and television industry. At age 26, she co-founded Big Soul Productions, a Toronto-based production company designed to fill the void of aboriginal stories and perspectives in film and television. In 2005, Jennifer founded Redcloud Studios Inc. where she continues to produce content in a variety of genres and platforms.



Paul Scherzer

Since 1998, Paul Scherzer has produced a host of award-winning dramatic features and documentaries playing festivals from Toronto to Cannes, Sundance to Pusan and selling in all markets. Six Island, Scherzer's production company, has worked with such renowned international companies as the Sundance Channel, Celluloid Dreams, Zeitgeist, Screen Institute Beirut, Mongrel Media, KinoSmith, the CBC and the Movie Central.

Sarah Timmins

Sarah Timmins is a founder of Corvid Pictures and has over 10 years experience in film, television and interactive media. From the award-winning feature film *The Tracey Fragments* to recent series *Todd and The Book of Pure Evil*, Corvid Pictures endeavours to produce provocative and engaging screen content.

Ingrid Veninger

Born in Bratislava and raised in Canada, Ingrid Veninger formed pUNK Films Inc. in 2003 with a 'nothing is impossible' manifesto. An award-winning creative producer, Veninger has directed, produced and written numerous films. Recently, Veninger co-produced Peter Mettler's feature film *The End Of Time* in association with the NFB (which will screen at TIFF 2012). She is distributing her latest feature *i am a good person/i am a bad person*.

James Wilkes

James received his formal Training at OCAD in the integrated Media Programme. He started his career in advertising, where on global brands he won dozens of awards for his creativity. Wishing to tell stories that mattered, he moved into long form where he has created, produced and directed over 120 episodes of factual, drama and family programming. Wilkes just finished a short and has a feature in development.

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 \$170 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, 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.

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