



17 REELWORLD

FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 11-15, 2017

PLAY IT
FORWARD
PROJETÉE
VERS L'AVENIR

50

A PASSION THAT'S BEEN GROWING SINCE 1967
UNE PASSION QUI GRANDIT DEPUIS 1967

TELEFILM 50
CANADA

WELCOME LETTER



How we position a story in media can bring together or divide a community. We've seen that played out time and time again over the past years, and we've seen the destructive and healing effect it can have. As filmmakers it's important that we present all sides to our stories and not use the camera as a tool to advance our own agendas and points of views (no matter how right we think we are). Let's not be afraid to have a conversation with those who have opposing views – the purpose is not to convince others of our way of thinking, it's to broaden those views (including our own) and still respect what others wish to believe. Our intolerance of others seems to grow and not diminish which begs to question 'what are we doing wrong?'. Understanding why others think differently is more productive than changing others to think as we do.

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL AND REELWORLD FOUNDATION

Tonya Williams

Tonya Williams is an actress and filmmaker. She founded Reelworld in 2001 to give racially diverse filmmakers a platform to tell their stories for the advancement of social change.



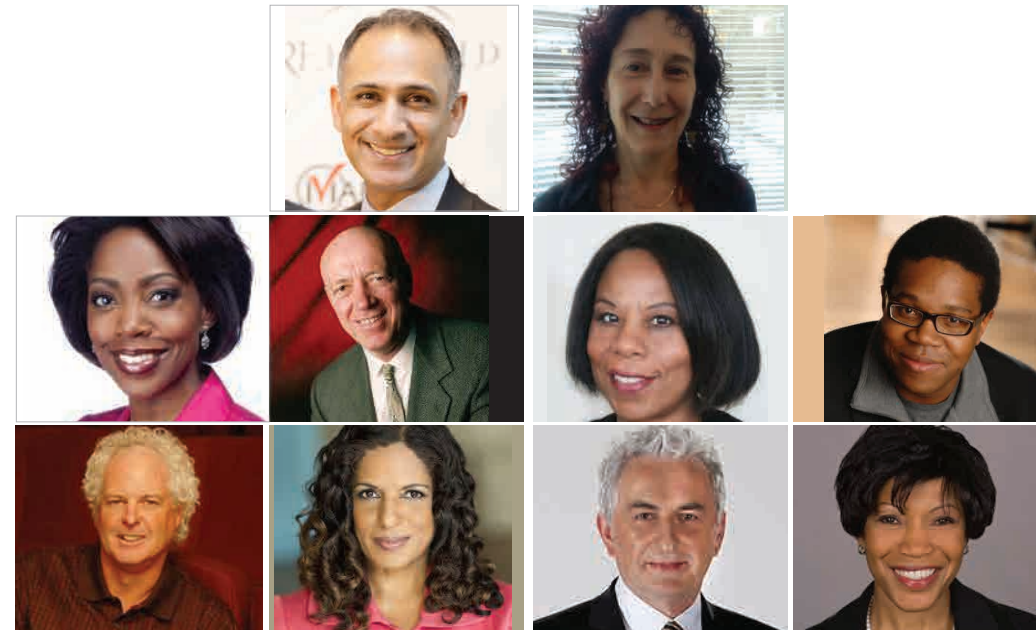
On behalf of the Reelworld Film Festival and the board of directors, I want to thank you for attending the 17th annual festival and supporting all of the filmmakers from Canada and around the world who are sharing their incredible stories with us. This year's slate of films delivers viewpoints from around the world and also showcases our incredible homegrown talent. In addition to a great lineup of films, Reelworld is pleased to offer industry panels, mentorship sessions, and networking events to ensure that our local emerging artists have the tools and connections to succeed in the industry.

All of this happens thanks to the support of our corporate sponsors, government funders, community organizations, staff, and volunteers. Thank you for joining with us once again and I look forward to seeing you at the festival.

BOARD CHAIR

Moe Jiwan, CEO, Live Concert World

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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WELCOME TWEETS

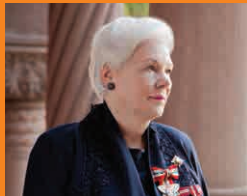


MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE
AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The Honourable Shelly Glover

Congratulations to all who have contributed to the 17th Annual Reelworld Film Festival. Wishing everyone a wonderful event, full of discoveries and exciting discussions!

Félicitations à tous ceux et celles qui ont contribué au 17^e Reelworld Film Festival. Je vous souhaite un merveilleux festival, rempli de découvertes et de discussions passionnantes.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell

Congratulations on the 17th annual @reelworldfilm fest – visual conversation and storytelling on what matters to Ontarians and the world.



PREMIER OF ONTARIO

Kathleen Wynne

Enjoy films showcasing underrepresented voices in film at the 17th Reelworld Film Festival! Be part of the conversation about social change.



MAYOR, CITY OF TORONTO

Mayor John Tory

Wishing @ReelWorldFilm Festival a successful & memorable 17th year! Thank you for using the power of film and storytelling for social good.



CANADIAN COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

Simon Brault

The @CanadaCouncil is proud to support @reelworldfilm to showcase #films that inspire change & spark conversation.



GOVERNMENT FILM COMMISSIONER AND
CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

Claude Joli-Coeur

Congratulations to our friends at Reelworld in Toronto on 17 years of inspiring change with great films and discussions!



Welcome to the 2017 edition of the Reelworld Film Festival!

This year we have another incredible lineup of films, virtual reality experiences, and video games that explore some of the most current and pressing issues facing the world. We are honoured that over 30 filmmakers and storytellers from around the world have chosen to share their stories with us.

In a world of sound-bites, headlines, and tweets, it is increasingly difficult to develop a deep understanding of the many pressing issues facing our local and global communities. However, we believe that film-like no other medium--can bring people, cultures, and communities together and create a single focus point of understanding irrespective of age, gender, race, ability, and orientation. Over the next five days, we hope that each film you see will inspire you, make you think, and help you understand the world a little better.

As with all great endeavours, this Festival is only possible because of the incredible commitment and dedication of Reelworld's tireless volunteers and staff.

Thank you for joining us and for supporting the filmmakers telling the world's untold stories.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL
 Gave Lindo

FESTIVAL TEAM

PRESIDENT & FOUNDER

Tonya Williams

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gave Lindo

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 Robbie Pestrana
 Aaleya Waslat

AUDIENCE COORDINATOR

Ann Nagel

FESTIVAL INTERN

Nusayba Mustafa

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

X Height Media

SPECIAL THANKS

Adam Feigen	Kathleen Meek
Al Ramsay	Kelly Payne
Aleysa Young	Kevin Barton
Alice Klein	Lesley Birchard
Andre Lucas	Linda Fong
Andrea Bertucci	Melanie Le Phan
Andrea Nemtin	Nadeem Basaria
Barbara White	Nataline Rodrigues
Carly McGowan	Peggy Lainis
Courtney Small	Risa Veffor
Cristina Tonner	Rudayna Bahubeshi
Flore de Bayser	Samantha Wan
Greg Rubidge	Scott Strachan
Gwen Joy	Sherien Barsoum
Heather Boyce	Supinder Wraich
Heather Conway	Suzanne Lacey
Heidi Tao Yang	Tony Cianciotta
Helen Du Toit	
Helen Kugler	
Inga Diev	
Jackie Garrow	
James Finlay	
Jane Smythe	
Jay Cameron	
Jehad Aliweiwi	
Jennifer Neill-Smith	
Jill Samson	
John Dipping	
John Galway	
Jordana Ross	
Karen Shaw	
Karen Thorne-Stone	

TICKETING

ABOUT REELWORLD

Founded in 2001 by Tonya Williams, Reelworld Film Festival is dedicated to harnessing the power of film and storytelling for social good. As a platform for underrepresented voices, Reelworld showcases Canadian and International films that explore some of the most current and pressing social issues facing the world. In addition to hosting industry panels, workshops and talks, Reelworld showcases narrative features, documentaries, shorts, video games and Virtual Reality/360 films that spark conversation and inspire social change.

HOW TO FESTIVAL

Pick your film. Reelworld has an exciting lineup of films, virtual reality, gaming and events. Look through this book or check out the program on our website at www.reelworld.ca.

Purchase your tickets. You can buy single tickets or, if you're attending multiple events, we offer an All Access Festival Pass, which enables you to get tickets for every festival event. Tickets and passes can be purchased in advance online at www.reelworld.ca/tickets.

Be on time. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to a screening to pick up your ticket and/or reserve your seat. We allow latecomers a 15 minute window before we close the doors.

Get involved. Continue the conversation after the screening and connect with us on social media @reelworldfilm #reelworld2017

TICKETING

(ALL PRICES INCLUDE HST)

SINGLE TICKETS

Opening Night Screening \$20
Film Screenings \$12

PASSES

All Access Festival Pass - \$50
All Access + Guest Pass - \$90

ONLINE BOX OFFICE TICKETS

www.reelworld.ca/tickets



FESTIVAL VENUES

(BOX OFFICE HOURS)
Wednesday to Friday:
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday
12 pm to 9:00 pm

Glenn Gould Studio at CBC
250 Front St. W, Toronto, ON
Wednesday, October 11th

Famous Players Canada
Square Cinemas
2190 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON

Thursday to Sunday, October 12-15

Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON

Saturday, October 14

*** No box office at this location**



HOW TO REDEEM YOUR ADVANCE ONLINE TICKETS AND PASSES

Festival Pass

Bring your proof of purchase to the venue Box Office starting Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Single tickets

Print your tickets at home or bring proof of purchase to venue Box Office to obtain tickets.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

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MEDIA SPONSOR



REELWORLD FILMS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 -
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017



WE'RE PROUD TO KICK OFF REELWORLD'S 17TH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL WITH THE FEATURE FILM, ABU.

SPONSORED BY 

As a gay man, Filmmaker Arshad Khan explores his troubled relationship with his devout, Muslim, Pakistani father Abu. Khan documents his struggles with his sexual identity as his Muslim parents attempt to fit into Canada. Using family archives, pictures and movies, *ABU* is a revealing and deeply affecting portrait of a family's tug-o-war between conservatism and liberalism.



Khan is a filmmaker, film festival director, festival strategist and film educator from Canada. Born in Pakistan, Khan believes in cinema as a catalyst for change. He hopes to make films that shed light on subjects that are ignored by the mainstream media. He is interested in realism in cinema and the new wave in South Asian cinema, yet not restricted to any one cinematic genre.

TORONTO PREMIERE

GENRE: Documentary, 2017

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 80 min

DIRECTOR: Arshad Khan

PRODUCERS: Sergio Kirby, Arshad Khan



FREELANCER ON THE FRONT LINES

Freelancer on the Front Lines highlights the importance of independent news—journalists who aren't afraid to get to the heart of a story in a media landscape that too often relies on press releases. With the thrilling pace of an action film, the documentary captures the ups and downs of a new and unconventional kind of journalism.



Santiago Bertolino is an independent director-screenwriter and web video journalist. A committed filmmaker inspired by the direct cinema of Pierre Perrault, Gilles Groulx and Michel Brault, Bertolino habitually trains his eye on social and political struggles that underline the major issues in today's world.

TORONTO PREMIERE

GENRE: Documentary, 2016

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 98 min 13 sec

DIRECTOR: Santiago Bertolino

PRODUCERS: Nathalie Cloutier (NFB), Denis McCready (NFB), Colette Loumède (Executive Producer)



THE SOLITUDE (LA SOLEDAD)

Capturing the life of real people amidst the Venezuelan crisis, *La Soledad* is the story of Jose, a young father who discovers that the dilapidated mansion he occupies will soon be demolished. Desperate to save his family from homelessness, Jose begins a search for cursed treasure that has long said to be buried in the house.



Jorge is a Venezuelan director based in Toronto and Caracas. His debut feature film *La Soledad* had its world premiere at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. His previous film *Flor De La Mar* has won awards and screened at over 20 film festivals.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, 2016

LANGUAGE: Spanish

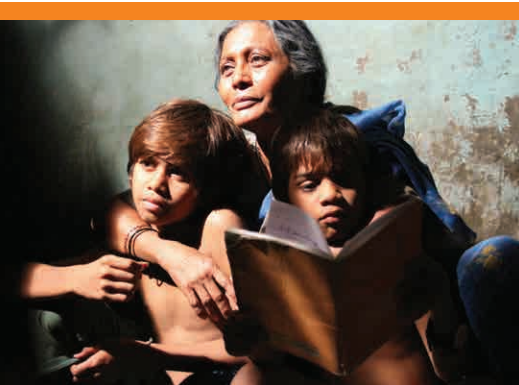
COUNTRY: Venezuela, Canada, Italy

LENGTH: 89 min

DIRECTOR: Jorge Thielen Armand

PRODUCERS: Jorge Thielen Armand

EDITOR: Felipe Guerrero



HALF TICKET

A film about desires and the yearning for the unattainable. *Half Ticket* is a story of two slum kids who are fascinated with the arrival of a new pizza shop in their locality. Expensive beyond their means, they long to try one. But, fate has a different game in store for them.



Born in Mumbai, Samit is a sought after filmmaker. He was the producer and the creative director on his first home production 'Huppa Huiyya' which won 6 awards. His directorial debut *Aayna Ka Bayna* (Delinquent Dancers) was officially selected at 18 International Film Festivals.

TORONTO PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, 2016

LANGUAGE: Marathi

COUNTRY: India

LENGTH: 100 min

DIRECTOR: Samit Kakkad

PRODUCER: Nanubhai Jaisinghani

WRITER: Dnyanesh Zoting

PRINCIPAL CAST: Priyank Bose, Shubham More, Vinayak Potdar, Usha Naik



FANTASSÚT / RAIN ON THE BORDERS

11,000 refugees have been stranded for months in the Idomeni refugee camp on the Greek/Macedonian border. This short documentary is a glimpse of their lives in a forgotten twilight zone, as they wait for the European borders to open.



Federica Foglia is an Italian award-winning writer and director. Her short films *Exit/Entrance* (15) and *Fantassút/Rain on the Borders* (16) have screened at film festivals around the world, from Poland to Brazil.

GENRE: Documentary, 2016

LANGUAGE: Arabic, Kurdish

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 15 min

DIRECTOR: Federica Foglia

PRODUCERS: Deepa Mehta, David Hamilton



LESSONS INJUSTICE

Danardo Jones sets out on a car ride with his teenage son in hopes of having a conversation that some parents dread and others are unaware of.

As a lawyer, Jones is well aware that the law can do little to protect his son against the anti-racism and discrimination that has become a part of his complicated Canadian identity.



Karen is an award-winning filmmaker and recent fellow of the Hot Docs' documentary Channel Doc Accelerator program. Her short documentaries have screened at dozens of film festivals internationally and she has recently won the Audience Choice Award at the WIFT-T Showcase.

GENRE: Documentary, 2017

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 8 min 45 sec

PRODUCER: Dan Montgomery, Karen Chapman

EDITOR: Tiffany Beaudin



ROJ MEANS SUN

Rojin, a Kurdish-Canadian girl battles both her mother and her mother tongue, as she grieves the recent death of her father, killed in a battle in the Shingal Mountains, Iraqi Kurdistan.



Mahsa Razavi is an Iranian born writer and filmmaker with credits such as *My Best Friend* (2009), *The Proposition* (2012) and *The Lost Image* (2013). *Roj Means Sun* (2016) is Mahsa's latest short film which is produced in Toronto, Canada.

GENRE: Drama, 2016

LANGUAGE: Kurdish

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 18 min 12 sec

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR: Mahsa Razavi



SORRY I DROWNED

The world has catastrophically failed millions of people fleeing war, persecution and despair. Calculating politics won out over moral and legal obligations to offer protection and assistance to those in need. Like a contagious disease, walls, fences and restrictive border measures rampantly spread causing countless thousands of people to die on land or at sea.



Hussein Nakhal (L) is an actor, director, and visual performer and co-founder of the Waraq collective. After graduating in 2010 from the Lebanese University, the artist participated in various plays and short movies namely, *All That Mime* with Faek Homaissi, *Return To Haifa* directed by Lina Abyad, and the short movie, *Der Fotograf*, directed by Fuad Halwani.

David Habchy (R) was born and raised in Lebanon. He works as a freelancer animator & illustrator in Lebanon.

GENRE: Animation, 2016
LANGUAGE: Arabic
COUNTRY: Lebanon
LENGTH: 6 min 35 sec
DIRECTOR: Hussein Nakhal, David Habchy



STATELESS

In a case that may set a global precedent, *Stateless* illustrates the life of Canadian-born Deepan Budlakoti as he faces deportation to India – a country he has never set foot in. *Stateless* is an examination of citizenship, identity, and belonging – if being born and bred in one place for an entire lifetime is not enough, then what is?



With his debut feature *The Secret Trial 5* (2014), Amar Wala established himself as a daring new voice in Canadian cinema. *The Secret Trial 5* received awards at RIDM and Hot Docs in 2014.

GENRE: Documentary, 2016
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 16 min 30 sec
DIRECTOR: Amar Wala
PRODUCER: Allyson Luchak
EDITOR: Mahi Rahgozar



THE CONSTANT REFUGEE

From the escape of the Armenian Genocide by Saifan's Grandfather, to Saifan's own displacement due to the Iraq War and the Syrian Civil War, to his harrowing experience with Turkey's current refugee crisis, it would seem that Saifan's family legacy is that of discrimination, war, and flight.



PC Barfoot is an instructor and documentarian and is Creative Director of Babel Collective, an experimental film collective.



Leila Almawy is a community producer and activist from London, ON. Her parents fled to Canada from a war-torn Lebanon in 1976.

GENRE: Documentary, 2016
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 6 min 35 sec
DIRECTORS: Patrick Barfoot, Leila Almawy
PRODUCERS: Patrick Barfoot, Derrick O'Toole, Ben J Abbey, Leila Almawy



NEWTON

As India, the world's largest democracy, braces itself for another general election-with 9 million polling booths, more than 800 million voters, and costing nearly \$5 billion- Newton Kumar, a rookie government clerk finds himself entrusted with a task that appears deceptively simple: conducting elections in a remote village in the jungles of central India.



Mumbai-based Amit V Masurkar has written for sketch comedy shows and Bollywood films. His directorial debut, the uber low-budget comedy, *Sulemani Keeda* (89 min, 2014, India-USA) was an indie sleeper hit. *Newton* is his second film.

TORONTO PREMIERE

GENRE: Black Comedy, 2017
LANGUAGE: Hindi
COUNTRY: India
LENGTH: 104 min
DIRECTOR: Amit Masurkar
PRODUCER: Manish Mundra
EDITOR: Shweta Venkat
PRINCIPAL CAST: Rajkummar Rao, Anjali Patil, Pankaj Tripathi, Raghubir Yadav

AT REELWORLD, WE WANT YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF STORY IN EVERY FORM. IN OUR DIGITAL STORYTELLING ZONE, YOU'LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO DIVE DEEP INTO NEW WORLDS THROUGH IMMERSIVE VR FILMS.



A TRIBE CALLED RED: INDIAN CITY 360°

Remix a Tribe Called Red track using only your eyes! Filmed at Toronto's Fort York, this interactive video from the acclaimed Indigenous DJ collective uses gradient audio to mix traditional and contemporary sounds, and features a throwdown between hip hop and pow wow dancers.

GENRE: Virtual Reality, 2017
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 7 min
DIRECTOR: Jon Riera
PRODUCER: Connor Illsley



BORN INTO EXILE

Our VR film *Born into Exile* tells the harrowing yet hopeful story of two pregnant Syrian refugee women in the week leading up to the births of their babies.

GENRE: Documentary, 2016
COUNTRY: United Kingdom
LENGTH: 15 min
DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER: Charlotte Windle Mikkelsen



DISTRIBUTED: A BEGINNING

Douglas Rushkoff narrates this immersive 360 degree computer animated video short which plunges us into the world of the corporate imperative to grow, to extract value, and to dominate markets. Produced by the CFC Media Lab and directed by award-winning animator and filmmaker Justin Stephenson, *Distributed: A Beginning* is a visceral, graphic visualization in virtual reality of the world through the lens of the contemporary corporation and offers a glimmer of a way forward towards a more distributed, networked economy in which power, capital, and resources are available to everyone.

GENRE: Virtual Reality, 2017
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 4 min
DIRECTOR: Justin Stephenson
PRODUCERS: Ana Serrano (Executive Producer), Ian Tuason



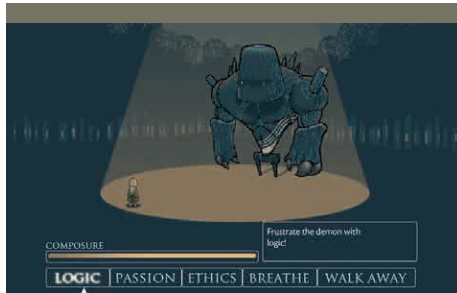
THE PROTECTORS: WALK IN THE RANGER'S SHOES

National Geographic's *The Protectors: Walk in the Ranger's Shoes* is a documentary short, shot in Virtual Reality that chronicles a day in the life of a ranger in Garamba National Park, managed by African Parks, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These rangers are often the last line of defense in a race against extinction as poachers continue to slaughter elephants for their ivory tusks. The rangers face constant danger and even death at the service of these sentient, noble creatures and can therefore truly be called the unsung heroes in this race against time.

GENRE: Documentary, 2017
COUNTRY: USA
LENGTH: 8 min
DIRECTORS: Kathryn Bigelow, Imraan Ismail

DISCOVER THE NEWEST WAYS THAT STORYTELLERS ARE HELPING US UNDERSTAND THE WORLD.

ENGAGING AUDIENCES, ADDRESSING THE ISSUES AND



A CLOSED WORLD

YEAR: 2011
COUNTRY: Singapore
DEVELOPER: Singapore-MIT GAMBIT Game Lab

Like most game prototypes created by the students at the GAMBIT Game Lab, A Closed World was designed to explore and research different aspects of games, in this case, the lack of compelling video game content for LGBTQ youth (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer).

A Closed World takes the gameplay aesthetics and mechanics of “JRPGs” (Japanese role playing games) and puts you in control of a character of ambiguous gender that begins exploring a forest on the edge of town. Disregarding rumors of “demons” that exist in the forest who have the ability to “destroy” your village, your character must overcome the hardships of a forbidden relationship by exploring what lies inside the forest. Through this journey, players battle the forest’s “demons” and the ideals they are trying to force upon them. The players’ only defense is their logic, passion, ethics, and the ability to remain calm during conflict. As “demons” attack with their beliefs, they must fight back and defy their ideas of what’s “normal” and what love is supposed to look like.



PAPERS, PLEASE

YEAR: 2013
COUNTRY: USA
DEVELOPER: Lucas Pope

Papers, Please is a single-player “Dystopian Document Thriller” in which the player steps into the role of an immigration inspector in the fictional country of Arstotzka in the year 1982. As the player stands on the threshold between two different countries, a unique perspective of immigration and border security springs out of the mundane task of inspecting papers. On a second layer, the player must simultaneously provide for his/her family using the salary earned from the job, which pays based on how many people have been processed through in a day. Balancing border security with the needs of the family is uniquely human, creating a juxtaposition that is new and interesting.



SWEATSHOP

YEAR: 2011
COUNTRY: UK
DEVELOPER: Littlcloud

Through a series of thirty challenging levels players must balance the unreasonable demands of Boss, the temperamental factory owner and Boy, a gentle, hard-working child labourer. Together, the team must work to make the factory a roaring success supplying clothes to their ever-demanding retail clients.

The game presents a series of moral dilemmas to the player, who must juggle the needs of clients with the welfare of workers. Should you hire a fire officer to prevent the risk of workers dying horribly in an industrial blaze or pack them in to get the job done? Should you train workers to make them more efficient and satisfied or fire them when they lose a limb in an industrial accident?

As the player journeys through the game, the story of the characters evolve and the sweatshop grows, moving into ever new larger premises with all the complications of management this entails. Ultimately, the player will be managing multiple ranges of clothing across huge labyrinthine conveyor belts, while trying to meet the ever-increasing demands of the disposable, fast-fashion industry.

Despite its light-hearted tone, Sweatshop offers an accurate picture of the lives of those who work in the system, from the lowly child workers who stitch together the clothes, all the way up to the Western client who places the orders, responding to the trends set by an image-obsessed celebrity culture. The game is littered with real facts about the fast fashion industry and aims to provoke teenagers into thinking about their fashion choices more carefully.



THE GARBAGE DREAMS GAME

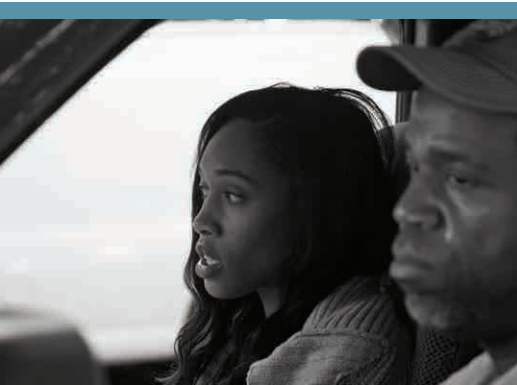
YEAR: 2010
COUNTRY: USA
DEVELOPER: Duane Dunfield

On the outskirts of Cairo lies the world’s largest garbage village. A labyrinth of narrow roadways camouflaged by trash, the village is home to 60,000 Zaballeen — Arabic for “garbage people.” The Zaballeen have survived for centuries by recycling Cairo’s waste. Members of Egypt’s minority Coptic Christian community, these entrepreneurial garbage workers recycle nearly all the trash they collect, maintaining what could be the world’s most efficient waste disposal system.

Take on the Role of the Zaballeen. Start with one neighborhood, one factory, and one hungry goat. You have 8 months to build your recycling empire and get Cairo’s total recycling as high as you can.

SINCE 2011, REELWORLD HAS PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMERGING FILM MAKERS IN TORONTO WITH OUR ACTRA SHORTS MEMBERS OF ACTRA'S YOUNG EMERGING ACTORS ASSEMBLY IN THE AGES OF 17-30. JOIN US SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND WITNESS THESE DIRECTORIAL AND ACTING DEBUTS AND SUPPORT THE CITY'S NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT!

NG FILM MAKERS IN TORONTO WITH OUR ACTRA SHORTS MEMBERS OF ACTRA'S YOUNG EMERGING ACTORS ASSEMBLY IN THE AGES OF 17-30. JOIN US SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND WITNESS THESE DIRECTORIAL AND ACTING DEBUTS AND SUPPORT THE CITY'S NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT!



ACCIDENTALS

An estranged father and daughter come to terms with their frayed relationship during a tense road trip as they each limp towards the realization that neither of them is doing okay on their own.



Natalie Novak is co-director of the web series *Easy V*, and writer/director of the darkly comedic short film, *Happy First Birthday Lucretia*. She is currently producing the web series *Beattie & Mae* and has produced numerous short films, most recently *Synthesize* and *Bully*.

GENRE: Narrative, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 10 min
DIRECTOR: Natalie Novak
PRODUCER: Elizabeth Fraser
EDITOR: Ben Allan
PRINCIPAL CAST: Aisha Evelyn, Kevin Hanchard



ESMERELDA'S CASTLE

Set in the 1970's, Lydia's days are mostly the same. She spends her afternoons at the office workin' for the man. But this afternoon's smoke break takes a turn for the mysterious when this secretary and her shoe shining companion enter the alternative world of Esmerelda's Castle, a dingy dive for Queen's that Drag and Dream.



Rachel Cairns (L) and Sarah Hempinstall (R) are the dream team behind Life's A Trip Productions and are thrilled to be embarking upon their first short, *Esmerelda's Castle*. They are diva's on a dime and the proud creators of their web series *BUDZ*.

GENRE: Narrative, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 10 min
DIRECTORS: Rachel Cairns & Sarah Hempinstall
PRODUCERS: Rachel Cairns, Sarah Hempinstall, Tony Baldwin
EDITOR: Austin Ball
PRINCIPAL CAST: Rachel Cairns, John Bourgeois, Leighton Alexander Williams, Sarah Hempinstall, Hamza Ha



FOWL PLAY

After a successful tour, the members of world-renowned boy band, 4Play, hit the studio to begin work on their new album. But before they jump into the recording booth, the boys realize they have bigger fish (or chicken) to fry. Snare, Dubbz and Phil have to confront fellow member Riff about his dangerous addiction to chicken, before it tears the group apart.



Rachel Cairns is the co-director of two short films this year,

Esmerelda's Castle and *Fowl Play*. Best known for his TV appearances, actor, Brendan Jeffers (*Degrassi*) has also garnered attention for his writing/producing. *Clive Houston, We Have a Problem* won Best Foreign Film at The Nevada Film Festival, and *Gnawed of Approval*, became a viral hit. *Fowl Play* continues the trend of integrating music, comedy and social issues.

GENRE: Narrative, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 14 min
DIRECTORS: Rachel Cairns & Brendan Jeffers
PRODUCERS: Tony Baldwin & Brendan Jeffers
EDITOR: Spencer Ryerson
PRINCIPAL CAST: Brendan Jeffers, Simu Liu, Farid Yazdani, Kelsey Flower



HER STORY NO. 2: HUSH LITTLE BABY

In this unfolding of a strained father-daughter relationship, Lacey, a young mother, visits her father Richard in a maximum-security penitentiary where he's serving a sentence for luring and attempting to sexually assault a child. Lacey maintains a strong front until she finds herself with questions about her father's past.



Camille is a Trinidadian-Canadian actor, writer and director. *Her Story*, is a series told from the female perspective and marks Camille's directorial debut. She was a finalist for the Cayle Chernin Awards 2017 in Toronto and a competition winner of Live Read LA for *Hush Little Baby*.

GENRE: Narrative, 2015
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 13 min
DIRECTOR: Camille Hollett-French
PRODUCERS: Tony Baldwin, Robbin McDonnell
EDITOR: Trent Newton
PRINCIPAL CAST: Camille Hollett-French, Bill MacDonald, Natalie Charles, Heather Allin, Ellie O'Brien



HOW TO FALL

When Gia is depressed about the fantasy life everyone on social media seems to be living except for her, she decides to take a chance and meets a man off of a dating app. The film takes place over one magical dream-like night that pushes them out of their comfort zones and changes everything they believed about falling in love.



Aref Mahabadi is a Canadian film director based out of Toronto, Ontario. He has worked on multiple productions most notably his debut network pilot, *Day Players*. *How to Fall*, is Aref's first short film.

GENRE: Drama, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 15 min
DIRECTOR: Aref Mahabadi
PRODUCERS: Gabriella de la Torre, Alan Van Spran
EDITOR: Aref Mahabadi
PRINCIPAL CAST: Gabriella de la Torre, Rainbow Sun Franks, Eileen Li



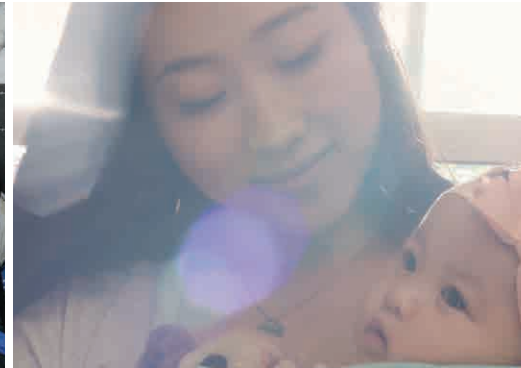
MAN EATER

A privileged young woman matches with a an eligible bachelor on a dating app thinking she's met her match but abruptly discovers that her dream guy isn't at all who she hoped he was.



Shawn is a Toronto filmmaker and an alumnus of York University's Film Production and Screenwriting program. Shawn's work as a director has focused on making films about characters confronted with challenges and crises of racial, sexual, and personal identity.

GENRE: Drama, 2015
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 12 min
DIRECTOR: Shawn Gerrard
PRODUCERS: Nicole Segal, Andrew Bonfman, Risa Stone
EDITOR: Laura Carnegie
PRINCIPAL CAST: Risa Stone, Shannon Kook, Amanda Richer, Michael Gordin Shore, Aisha Evelynna



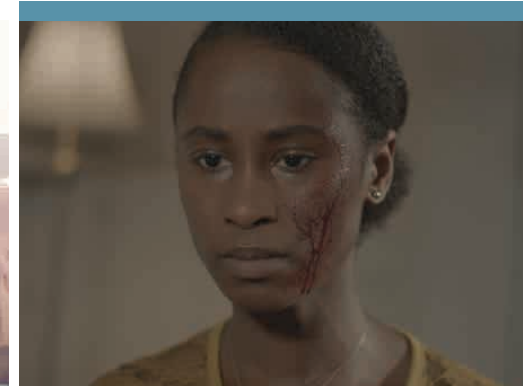
MEETING MOMMY

Zoe can only see her Mom once a year on her birthday. On the day that she turns six, Zoe has some hard questions for her father to answer..



Director of award-winning films *Silent Retreat* (Best Canadian Feature -Toronto After Dark) and *Clean Break* (Best Drama Feature - Atlanta Horror Film Festival), Tricia has just completed her third feature *Blood Hunters*.

GENRE: Drama, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 10 min
DIRECTOR: Tricia Lee
PRODUCERS: Simu Liu, Tina Jung, Jane MacRae
EDITOR: Jane MacRae
PRINCIPAL CAST: Simu Liu, Tina Jung, Rebecca Chan



RESIDUE

Residue is a film that follows a woman's journey in over-coming her PTSD, after witnessing her fiancé's murder by a police officer. This narrative acts as a "How-To guide" for people dealing with losing a loved one to police brutality. By following Valerie's life after the incident, we see the lingering issues that remain long after the hashtag has stopped trending.



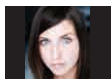
Shonna Foster is an actress, director, and producer based in Toronto. She is the producer of the short *I Lost My Mind* (2017), and has acted in a number of films. *Residue* (2017) is her directorial debut.

GENRE: Drama, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 10 min
DIRECTOR: Shonna Foster
PRODUCER: Shonna Foster, Leighton Alexander Williams, Franck Fon, Lovell Adams-Gray, Brandon McKnight, Ryan Rosery, Adrian Walters
EDITOR: Peter Schnobb
PRINCIPAL CAST: Camille Hollett-French, Bill MacDonald, Natalie Charles, Heather Allin, Ellie O'Brien



THE LAST SUPPER

After weeks of kooky money-making schemes in the big bad city, with hopes of saving their struggling convent dwindling, two small-town nuns, Bird and Celeste have finally caught a break. However, the characters must grapple with the possible consequences of a life-altering decision.



Christine is a director and graduate of the Women in the Director's Chair program and NSI Drama Prize. Her short film, *Divorce Photographer*, has played at numerous festivals and garnered international awards winning the Jury Prize at CFF before selling to Air Canada and CBC.

GENRE: Drama, 2017

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 9 min

DIRECTOR: Christine Buijs

PRODUCERS: Patricia Ismaili and Clara Pasieka

PRINCIPAL CAST: Clara Pasieka, Patricia Ismaili, Glenda Breganza, Martha Chaves



THE WITNESS BOX

The Witness Box is a film that centres around the cross-examination of a young woman during the trial of the man who sexually assaulted her. The battle of wills between her and the defence lawyer is symbolized in a boxing match between the two of them that is intercut with the courtroom scenes.



Nic Van der Spank is a creative and energetic filmmaker. Nic loves to write in his spare time; often adapting his works into short films that he creates with his production company: Poplar Studios.

GENRE: Drama, 2017

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 15 min

DIRECTOR: Nic Van der Spank

PRODUCERS: Luke Marty, Erin Eldershaw; Co-producers: Nic Van der Spank, Mark Erwin

EDITOR: Jenny Reed

PRINCIPAL CAST: Luke Marty, Erin Eldershaw, Marilla Wex, Christopher Mott, Adam Pellerine





(PLAYING WITH IN JESUS' NAME) NO RESERVATIONS

No Reservations is a political satire inspired by the true-life events of the Dakota Access Pipeline construction. It challenges its viewer from the perspective of both First Nations and Caucasian cultures. The film presents a unique point of view in its statement, and a voice of accountability to the Indigenous people of North America.



Trevor is an Indigenous artist of Ojibway descent from Northern Ontario. His short film, *No Reservations* was a winner of the 2017 Crazy8s Film Event. His film, *The Haunted Restaurant*, won the Best Comedic Horror Short at the Tabloid Witch Awards.

GENRE: Satire, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 11 min 4 sec
DIRECTOR: Trevor Carroll
PRODUCER: Ben Mallin
PRINCIPAL CAST: Joseph Stillwater, Lorne Cardinal, Peter Whiteman, Brad Duffy, Marylin Whiteman, Denise Jones

REELWORLD REEL ACTIVIST AWARD RECIPIENT JESSE WENTE



Jesse Wente is an Ojibwe broadcaster, curator, producer and public speaker. Jesse is currently Head of TIFF Cinematheque, where he has curated retrospectives on Stanley Kubrick, Michael Mann, Ida Lupino and First Peoples Cinema.

Jesse is also a columnist for CBC Radio's Metro Morning, where he has covered film and culture for 21 years. Wente is currently co-producing his first film, a screen adaptation of Thomas King's best-selling book, *The Inconvenient Indian*.

An outspoken advocate for Indigenous rights and First Nations, Metis and Inuit art, he has spoken at the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, the Canadian Arts Summit, CMPA's Prime Time and numerous Universities and Colleges. Jesse currently serves on the board of directors for the Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council.



IN JESUS' NAME

In Jesus' Name is a poignant all-Indigenous English and Cree-English collaborative documentary film (42 mins) that breaks long-held silences imposed upon Indigenous children who were interned at the notoriously violent St. Anne's Residential School in Fort Albany First Nation, Ontario. The use of a homemade electric chair at St. Anne's and the incorporation of testimony about student-on-student abuse makes this documentary stand apart from other films about Canadian residential school experiences.



Susan G. Enberg is an independent film director, producer, editor and photographer who recently launched her own production company, Susan G. Enberg Productions. Susan has written two children's books for the non-governmental organization, Free The Children, both of which encourage children to become engaged in social activism leading toward justice. She has also worked with Habitat for Humanity Toronto as the Family Relations Coordinator. Susan helped to place families in affordable housing, facilitated home ownership workshops and publicity events, and empowered families to construct Habitat housing.

In addition to being a documentarian, Susan is a long-time photojournalist whose writings and photography are wholly focused on human rights issues. She has been awarded numerous scholarships for high academic achievement and for her social justice activities.

WORLD PREMIERE
GENRE: Documentary, 2017
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 41 min 42 sec
DIRECTOR: Susan Enberg
PRODUCERS: Susan G. Enberg, Edmund Metatawabin

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