

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
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NEWS RELEASE #23

CANADA FIRST! RETURNS, INTRODUCING THE WORLD TO EMERGING HOMEGROWN TALENT

Toronto – The complete line-up for **Canada First!** includes the North American premiere of Louise Archambault's **FAMILIA** as the Opening Night Film. **Canada First!** is a dynamic platform for Canadians making their feature debut or presenting a feature at the **Toronto International Film Festival** for the first time. Now in its second year, this programme showcases talented artists who embody the future of the Canadian film industry. The ten **Canada First!** titles announced today, seven of which are world premieres, offer filmgoers a sampling of emerging homegrown talent and introduce innovative Canadian cinema to an international audience.

CANADA FIRST! FEATURES

THE CABIN MOVIE Dylan Akio Smith, BC

World Premiere

A darkly comic look at the nature of desire, the value of monogamy, and the definition of sexuality, this film follows three couples who decide to spice up their lives and challenge their middle-class morals by going on a swinging weekend retreat and filming the events that unfold. In the end, all of their relationships are called into question and pushed to the breaking point.

EVE & THE FIREHORSE Julia Kwan, BC

World Premiere

After a series of misfortunes strike the Eng family, May Lin (Vivian Wu) and her daughters, Eve and Karena (Phoebe Kut, Hollie Lo), turn to Buddhism, Catholicism, and ancient-Chinese superstitions. The girls decide they must achieve sainthood to save their family from future threats and they embark on a path that will change their lives forever.

FETCHING CODY David Ray, BC

World Premiere

This bittersweet fantasy-comedy tells the story of a street kid named Art (Jay Baruchel) who travels back in time so he can save the life of his girlfriend, Cody (Sarah Lind). After eliminating all of the variables, it dawns on the young man that the biggest problem in her life might be him.

SAINTS-MARTYRS-DES-DAMNÉS Robin Aubert, QC

World Premiere

In this visually striking mystery, people in the small Quebec village of Saint-Martyrs-des-Damnés are disappearing. A tabloid journalist, Flavien Juste (François Chénier), and his photographer friend, Armand Despas (Patrice Robitaille), are sent to Saint-Martyrs to investigate the phenomenon. When Armand disappears, Flavien decides he will do anything he can to find his friend.

Toronto International Film Festival Group is a charitable, cultural and educational organization devoted to celebrating excellence in film and the moving image.



A SIMPLE CURVE Aubrey Nealon, BC

World Premiere

Caleb (Kris Lemche) loves his father, Jim (Michael Hogan), but thinks that all of Jim's business decisions lead to failure. When Matthew (Matt Craven) arrives to launch a high-end fishing lodge, Caleb sees fortune looming, provided he can keep his father distracted long enough. But a small deception leads to colossal betrayal, and soon Caleb is forced to confront his father.

SIX FIGURES David Christensen, AB

World Premiere

Warner Lutz's (JR Bourne) latest job has landed him and his family in a boom-town where everyone else seems to have more than he has – and more is what Warner wants. When his wife, Claire (Caroline Cave), is viciously attacked, Warner emerges as the prime suspect. The film tells a powerful and disturbing story of a family caught in complex and ambiguous turmoil.

THESE GIRLS John Hazlett, NB/QC

World Premiere

When Keira (Caroline Dhavernas) and Lisa (Holly Lewis) discover that their best friend, Glory (Amanda Walsh), is sleeping with Keith (David Boreanaz), they both go about seducing him as well. The three girls decide to make a pact and share him, despite Keith's resistance. On a fateful night, a desperate and sexually exhausted Keith sets in motion his escape plan and everything comes crashing down. Based on the humourous and edgy play by Vivienne Laxdal, **THESE GIRLS** is a provocative coming-of-age story about innocence, jealousy, and friendship.

FAMILIA Louise Archambault, QC

North American Premiere

Archambault's taut, fast-paced, and visually inventive film tackles the complexities that arise from familial bonds with humour, sympathy, and a pervasive air of bittersweet desperation. Michèle (Sylvie Moreau), a gambling addict, and her 14-year-old daughter Marguerite (Mylène Saint-Sauveur), leave their home and move in with Michèle's childhood friend Janine (Macha Grenon), an interior designer with a teenage daughter of her own. Their conflicting traits and values begin to bubble over as both women try to refine their mothering skills. Archambault's **FAMILIA** is all at once intense, consuming, funny, and heart-breaking. The cast includes Vincent Graton, Emily Holmes, and Micheline Lanctôt.

THE LIFE AND HARD TIMES OF GUY TERRIFICO

Canadian Premiere

Michael Mabbott, ON

Thirty years after fictional singer Guy Terrifico's (Matt Murphy) supposed death, a new album of his music is released, raising questions as to whether or not the legend is still alive. A journey through his strange and debatably short life takes the audience from the wilds of Canada to the wild times of Nashville and London. Not so fondly remembered by contemporaries such as Kris Kristofferson, Ronnie Hawkins, Levon Helm, and Merle Haggard (all playing themselves), Guy's life story is told through a combination of modern-day interviews with his old cohorts and archival footage.

LES ÉTATS NORDIQUES Denis Côté, QC

This feature debut beautifully mixes documentary and fiction techniques in telling the meditative and compassionate story of a Montreal man (Christian LeBlanc) who mercifully ends the life of his terminally-ill mother. He then takes a car north to Radisson, home of the massive hydro electric facility at James Bay, and attempts to establish a new life for himself.

Canada First! is generously sponsored by **CHUM Television**.