



INSIDE OUT TAKES ITS 25th BOW AND ANNOUNCES AWARD RECIPIENTS

(June 1, 2015 – Toronto) The rainbow curtain closes on this year's successful Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival. The 25th anniversary of the Festival wrapped its 11-day run at TIFF Bell Lightbox yesterday and celebrated with an Awards Brunch at the TIFF Lounge to recognize this year's award recipients. Highlights of films honoured include audience favourite and winner of **Best Narrative Feature, FOURTH MAN OUT (USA)**; winner of the **Best Canadian Feature, WHAT WE HAVE**; and **HOW TO WIN AT CHECKERS (EVERY TIME)** (Thailand) selected by the international jury as the winner of the **Bill Sherwood Award for Best First Feature**.

Inside Out presents three award categories including the Audience Awards, Canadian Juried Awards and International Juried Awards. RBC Royal Bank returned this year as the Festival's Presenting Sponsor and CTV was welcomed as the new Premier Sponsor. Screenings for the 2015 Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival took place at TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King Street West). For more information, please visit www.insideout.ca.

Audience Awards:

Best Narrative Feature Award: FOURTH MAN OUT (USA), directed by Andrew Nackman

Sponsored by Suzy Zucker, this generous \$2,500 cash award is presented to the audience's favourite feature-length film.

Best Documentary Film Awards: GAME FACE (Belgium/USA), directed by Michiel Thomas

This \$500 prize is named in recognition of the contribution of Elle Flanders, Inside Out Executive Director from 1996 to 1999.

Best Short Film Award: IN THE HOLLOW (USA), directed by Austin Lee Bunn
Sponsored by Michael Leshner and Michael Stark (in honour of Mikey/Schmikey), this \$1,500 cash award is presented to a short film under 50 minutes in length.

Canadian Juried Awards: This year's jury members are Janine Fung (award-winning producer, director and writer), Courtney McFarlane (active in community organizations such as the Black Coalition for Aids Prevention, AYA, Inside Out's '97 programming committee and Blackness Yes), and Kathleen Mullen (Festival Director for the Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival and international programmer for Hot

Docs).

Best Canadian Feature Award: WHAT WE HAVE, directed by Maxime Desmons
Sponsored by EP Canada/Canada Film Capital, this \$2,000 cash award is presented to an established Canadian artist for their short or feature-length narrative or documentary film.

Emerging Canadian Artist Award: Tricia Hagoriles, director of BEAT
Sponsored by RBC Royal Bank, this \$2,500 cash award funded by the presenting sponsor is awarded to an emerging Canadian filmmaker who is in the early stages of his or her career. The recipient must have directed no more than two fiction narrative short films, or no more than one fiction narrative feature-length film.

Best Canadian Short: HOLE, directed by Martin Edralin
Sponsored by HARDtv, this \$750 cash award is presented to a Canadian film or video that addresses, in a unique fashion, LGBT sexuality and/or erotica.

International Juried Awards: This year's jury consists of Cheryl Dunye (director WATERMELON WOMAN), Jack Plotnick (best known for his role as "Evie Harris" in *Girls Will Be Girls*) and Philippe Tasca-Roochvarg (Co-Programmer, Marais Film Festival).

Bill Sherwood Award for Best First Feature: HOW TO WIN AT CHECKERS (EVERY TIME), directed by Josh Kim
Named in honour of the gay American film director, who stepped boldly onto the international film stage in 1986 with his first feature, *Parting Glances*, this \$2,500 cash award is an international prize presented to a first time feature director.

A Special Jury mention is given to Ursina Lardi for her role in the Swedish drama WHAT'S BETWEEN US directed by Claudia Lorenz.

About Inside Out

Inside Out presents the annual Toronto LGBT Film Festival, with financial support from Presenting Sponsor, RBC Royal Bank and Premier Sponsor, CTV. It is the largest event of its kind in Canada, showcasing the best and most diverse films by, for and of interest to LGBT communities. For 11 days, the Festival draws crowds of more than 32,500 to screenings, artist talks, panel discussions, installations and parties that showcase more than 175 films from Canada and around the world.

In addition, Inside Out is committed to challenging attitudes and changing lives year-round through the exhibition, production and promotion of LGBT film with initiatives that include the Ottawa LGBT Film Festival, development programs featuring the newly launched New Visions Project (formerly Queer Video Mentorship Project) and the Harold Greenberg Fund Short to Feature Award, as well as the Four-Play Screening Series.

Inside Out celebrates a quarter century of showcasing the best in Canadian and international cinema with the 25th Anniversary Toronto LGBT Film Festival that runs from May 21 to 31, 2015.

About RBC and the Arts

RBC sponsors a wide-range of grassroots and local initiatives that contribute to the cultural fabric of our communities. Proud to support events and passions that resonate with our clients, RBC provides opportunities for up-and-coming artists through programs such as the RBC Canadian Painting Competition and the RBC Emerging Filmmakers Competition, part of our commitment to the world's top public film festival – the Toronto International Film Festival®. As one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies and among the largest banks in the world, as measured by market capitalization, RBC employs approximately 79,000 full- and part-time employees who serve more than 16 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients through offices in Canada, the U.S. and 42 other countries. For more information, please visit rbc.com.

About CTV

CTV is Canada's #1 private broadcaster. Featuring a wide range of quality news, sports, information, and entertainment programming, CTV has been Canada's most-watched television network for the past 13 years in a row. CTV is a division of Bell Media, Canada's premier multimedia company with leading assets in television, radio, digital, and Out-of-Home. Bell Media is owned by BCE Inc. (TSX, NYSE: BCE), Canada's largest communications company. More information about CTV can be found on the network's website at CTV.ca.

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For more media inquiries, please contact:

Alma Parvzian

[\(416\) 593-0777 x202](tel:(416)593-0777x202)

alma@touchwoodpr.com

Jennifer Rashwan

[\(416\) 593-0777 x204](tel:(416)593-0777x204)

jennifer@touchwoodpr.com

Susan Smythe-Bishop

[\(416\) 593-0777 x203](tel:(416)593-0777x203)

susan@touchwoodpr.com