

Inside Out

INSIDE OUT TORONTO LGBT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2019 FINANCE FORUM PROJECT AND EXEC PARTICIPANTS

Executives for the LGBTQ forum will include Academy Award nominated producer Howard Gertler (ADAM, HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE), along with reps from Killer Films, Bankside Films, Elevation Pictures, The Forest Road Company, The Film Collaborative, Bell Media and GLAAD

TORONTO, ON (April 29, 2019) - Inside Out, Canada's largest LGBTQ film festival and single largest promoter and distributor of LGBTQ content in Canada, has announced ten feature film projects and eight industry mentors that will participate in the festival's third annual Finance Forum during its 29th year. The announcement was made today by Inside Out's Executive Director Andria Wilson.

Inside Out's LGBTQ Finance Forum, taking place on May 30 - 31, 2019, provides LGBTQ-identified producers and/or producers creating LGBTQ content an opportunity to pitch their projects directly to top decision makers. All participating executives will be taking one-on-one meetings with each of the creative teams. Being home to the first LGBTQ finance forum of its kind in the world, Inside Out's goal is to ultimately shorten the time it takes for LGBTQ projects to move from development to production, and create a dedicated space for filmmakers to receive the connection and support they need.

From the Finance Forum's past project participants, a number of films are now in various stages of development and production. *BREAKING FAST*, a romantic comedy selection from 2017, began production earlier this year with director Mike Mosallam and lead actors Haaz Sleiman ("Jack Ryan") and Michael Cassidy (*BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE*). Another project selection from that year, *JUMP, DARLING*, from director Philip Connell, is set to go into production later this year, and will be announcing its lead cast soon. The film is a family drama about a rookie drag queen, reeling from a breakup, who escapes to wine country where he finds his waspy grandmother in steep decline.

The forum is being produced once again by Jan Nathanson. Nathanson produced the OMDC's International Financing Forum (IFF) for the past 12 years and now works with them as a

consultant. The IFF takes place annually during the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

The executive mentors participating in the 2019 Finance Forum include:

- Adrian Love - SVP, Marketing & Acquisitions at Elevation Pictures (CAN)
- Ben Kuller - Executive, Production & Development at Killer Films (US)
- David Averbach - Creative Director and Director of Digital Distribution Initiatives at The Film Collaborative (US)
- Gosia Kamela - Production Executive, Original Programming, Drama Series & Feature Film at Bell Media (CAN)
- Howard Gertler - President - Features (ADAM, HOW TO TALK TO GIRLS AT PARTIES, HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE, SHORTBUS), Documentary & TV Development & Production at Little Punk (UK)
- Nick Adams - Director, Transgender Media and Representation at GLAAD (US)
- Stephen Kelliher - Director, Head of Sales & Marketing for Bankside Films (UK)
- Zachary Tarica - CEO at The Forest Road Company (US)

Highlights from the selection of international projects include two projects from the UK - director Georgia Oakley's **BLUE JEAN**, who is a recent Berlinale Talent participant (2018), and is currently being mentored by director Desiree Akhavan through the BFI Flare and BAFTA talent development program, as well as writer/director/actor Jake Graf's drama **LAVENDER**, whose last six films have won fifty-seven awards combined. The film is being produced by Andee Ryder, who also produced the lauded Alexander McQueen doc MCQUEEN.

The selections also include two projects from the US - director Sam Feder's **DISCLOSURE**, a look at the depiction of transgender people and experiences throughout the history of film and television, executive-produced by Emmy nominated trans actress Laverne Cox, as well as an upcoming documentary project by US director and cinematographer Rita Baghdadi, who is well known for directing the Emmy winning doc series CITY RISING.

The six Canadian project selections include Ashim Ahluwalia's Canadian-Indian co-production **BOYFRIEND** (whose first film MISS LOVELY, world premiered at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival), Julianna Notten's feature debut coming-of-age drama **ERIN'S GUIDE TO KISSING GIRLS** (whose award-winning queer short film EARTH TO AVERY premiered at a number of festivals including TIFF Kids and The National Screen Institute), Joseph Amenta's **TRIBE**, produced by Alexandra Roberts (previous work has aired globally on VICE/VICELAND, Al Jazeera, A&E and CGTN), Canadian Screen Award Nominee D.W. Waterson's **WHAT I CALL HER**, produced by fellow Canadian Screen Award nominee Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs, director Jason Karman's young adult drama **GOLDEN DELICIOUS**, produced by Kristyn Stilling, as well as **BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND** from writer/director Trevor Anderson (whose award-winning short films have world premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW Film Festival and Berlinale International Film Festival).

The Finance Forum will take place May 30 - 31, 2019. The Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival runs from May 23 - June 2, 2019.

The full lineup of selected projects is included below:

BLUE JEAN (UK) / Director: Georgia Oakley, Producer: H  l  ne Sifre

Logline: *In 1988, a closeted teacher is pushed to the brink when a student threatens to expose her sexuality.*

BOYFRIEND (CANADA & INDIA) / Director: Ashim Ahluwalia, Producer: Kelly Balon, Anand Ramayya

Logline: *A middle-aged gay production manager, has his privileged world jolted when he picks up a 19-year-old lower class hustler in a popular cruising area in South Mumbai.*

DISCLOSURE (USA) / Director: Sam Feder, Producer: Laverne Cox (exec.), Amy Scholder, Sam Feder

Logline: *Disclosure is an unprecedented look at the depiction of transgender people and experiences throughout the history of film and television, revealing how Hollywood has simultaneously reflected and manufactured our deepest anxieties about gender. Over 100 years of footage, from A Florida Enchantment (1914) to Pose (2018), is woven together with the personal stories of prominent media figures like Laverne Cox, showing both the consequences of depicting marginalized communities without their participation, and the liberatory potential of the medium when their voices are centered.*

ERIN'S GUIDE TO KISSING GIRLS (CANADA) Director: Julianna Notten, Producer: Claire Allore

Logline: *In the emotional world of middle school, Erin, a spunky 12 year-old and the only out person in her grade, panics when her best and only friend, the brilliant Liz, is accepted into a private high school and instead of confronting all her big feelings about this, redirects her energy towards the mysterious new girl and instant-crush, Sydni, but in working towards her first real relationship, realizes she could be losing Liz in the process.*

GOLDEN DELICIOUS (CANADA) / Director: Jason Karman, Producer: Kristyn Stilling

Logline: *16 year old Jake Wong is a people pleaser caught between living out his father's dreams of becoming a basketball star, his girlfriend's dream of their future together, and his newly awakened feelings for the boy next door. As his life spins out of control, Jake must realize his own hopes, dreams, and sense of self, before his self-sabotage ruins his relationships with the people who love him the most.*

LAVENDER (UK) / Director: Jake Graf, Producer: Andee Ryder

Logline: *Gay. Transgender. Pregnant. All Matt needed was an elderly French catholic to show him it was the most normal thing in the world. Lavender is a character-driven drama about a trans*

man's struggle to accept the impending birth of his child, his revised role in society and most importantly himself, with only an old French spinster for support. An examination of the duality between mind and body, self identity and perceived identity.

UNTITLED DOCUMENTARY PROJECT (USA) / Director: Rita Baghdadi, Producer: Rita Baghdadi, Camilla Hall

TRIBE (CANADA) / Director: Joseph Amenta, Producer: Alexandra Roberts, Daniel Sedore
Logline: *Three adolescent boys become enraptured with life in the queer world as they experience it for the first time. It isn't until a loss of life forces them to acknowledge the reality they have chosen to leave behind.*

BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND (CANADA) / Director: Trevor Anderson, Producer: Alyson Richards, Katrina Beatty
Logline: *In 1986 Red Deer, an androgynous 12-year-old enters a clandestine relationship with the school bully, making increasingly dangerous choices to get popular.*

WHAT I CALL HER (CANADA) / Director: D.W. Waterson, Producer: Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs
Logline: *The estranged mother of 25-year old Kate is on her death-bed. Kate drafts a scathing obituary for her that reflects Kate's view that her mother was abusive.*

About Inside Out's LGBTQ Finance Forum:

The Finance Forum is an initiative that was started in May 2017 by the Inside Out Festival. The forum has been supported in the past by OMDC and CMPA and provides LGBTQ producers or producers making LGBTQ content an opportunity to pitch their feature film projects to Canadian and international executives.

About Inside Out:

Inside Out is Canada's largest LGBTQ film festival and the single largest promoter and distributor of LGBTQ content in Canada. Founded in 1991, Inside Out is committed to representing the interests of LGBTQ voices within the Canadian film industry. We are dedicated to developing, presenting, and promoting LGBTQ content that showcases and supports the broad diversity of voices and identities within our communities, and ensuring that authentic and positive representation of LGBTQ people is central in that content.

Annually, Inside Out presents the 11-day Toronto LGBT Film Festival (Toronto's third largest festival after TIFF and Hot Docs), a 4-day festival in Ottawa, a year-round screening and event series at the TIFF Bell Lightbox, and innovative professional development initiatives including the world's only LGBTQ Feature Film Financing Forum.

Inside Out is made possible through the support of corporate, government, and foundation partners, as well as a membership of more than 1,000 donors annually and audiences in excess of 35,000 attendees.

Our current high-level partners include RBC Royal Bank (Lead Sponsor), Bell Media (Premier Sponsor), Delta Airlines (Official Airline) and Gillette (Platinum Sponsor). Our key government partners include the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, the Government of Ontario, Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Arts Council. Our Industry Partners include Telefilm, Ontario Creates, CMPA, ACTRA, William F. White International, Entertainment Partners Canada, RBC and SIM International. Inside Out is a Canadian Academy qualifying festival and a partner festival of Telefilm's Talent to Watch program.

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