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Canadian Animators Shine Again at the OIAF

Ottawa International Animation Festival Competition Selections Announced

Ottawa (July 13th, 2017) - The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF), North America's leading animation film festival, is pleased to announce the Official Competition for 2017. Once again Canadian artists are well represented. Out of the 94 films selected for Competition, 14 are Canadian. Several films are standouts with highly creative technique and strong storytelling.

"Each year, the OIAF seeks to unearth a diverse array of animated films that challenge and expand the borders of the animation medium," says Chris Robinson, Artistic Director at OIAF. "Canada, led by the National Film Board of Canada, and assorted independent producers and schools, continues to break new ground with inspiring and eclectic works that are the envy of the international animation community."

The National Film Board of Canada, employing various filmmaking techniques, has a number of shorts vying for a jury prize. These films subtly make bold social statements that resonate with a variety of audiences. Some highlights include:

Matthew Rankin (*Mynarski Death Plummet*) returning with *Tesla World Light*, a bold and intriguing, experimental reimagining of the famous inventor.

Chintis Lundgren's *Manivald* serving up a light comic portrait of an overbearing mother and her feckless adult son.

Oscar nominees Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski (*Madame Tutli Putli*) returning to Ottawa with a trio of short, sharp societal jabs as part of the NFB's provocative *Naked Island* series.

Eva Cvijanović's *Hedgehog's Home*, a sumptuous and delicately choreographed stop-motion fable—made entirely of needled felt—revives the timeless notion of cultivating our own place of safety and comfort.

Other Canadian animation highlights include:

Amanda Strong's bold stop-motion film *Four Faces of the Moon* fuses Canada's colonial past with Strong's own family story.

Vladimir Kanic's *Only Lovers Leave to Die* and OIAF 17 poster designer Elise Simard's *Beautiful Like Elsewhere*, create mesmerizing non-linear experiences that are hauntingly poetic, and achingly beautiful.

OIAF favourite Steven Woloshen returns with *Casino*, an abstract, cameraless musical about his father and gambling.

End of Recording, the first ever Concordia University film to be selected for OIAF competition, is a hilarious mindbender about an LSD-inspired existence.

For a full list of the films in Competition:

https://www.animationfestival.ca/index.php?option=com_oiaf&task=showselections

The Ottawa International Animation Festival runs from September 20-24 and screens at various venues in Ottawa, Ontario. Festival passes are available online at animationfestival.ca.

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ABOUT THE OIAF

The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) is one of the world's leading animation events providing screenings, exhibits, workshops and entertainment since 1976. OIAF is an annual five-day event bringing art and industry together in a vibrant hub and attracting more than 28,000 artists, producers, students and animation fans from around the world. This year's OIAF runs September 20 – 24, 2017. Visit the OIAF website at: www.animationfestival.ca.

For more information, interviews, press materials, photos, please contact the OIAF media team by e-mail (media@animationfestival.ca) or call 613 232-8769