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Defiance Dominates at OIAF 17

Ottawa International Animation Festival Competition Selections Announced

OTTAWA (July 13, 2017) - The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF), North America's leading animation film festival, is pleased to announce the Official Competition for 2017. There were 92 films selected from 1992 entries featuring a diverse collection of films, ranging from experimental abstract shorts to more commercial offerings. The selected films come from 20 countries including Sweden, Turkey, India, China, Norway, Australia and Mexico.

"What an extraordinary group of films we have this year," says Chris Robinson, OIAF Artistic Director. "There is a definite air of defiance, not just in terms of content, but also through stylistic choices and a rejection of conventional narrative storytelling. All in all, a refreshing, timely and much needed blast of fresh air from the international animation community."

Current attitudes about the political and social environments of 2017 are very much reflected in this year's OIAF selections. Leading the punk pack is *The Story of O.J.*, a beautifully animated and brutally honest music video about race relations in America co-directed by Mark Romanek and JAY-Z. It was designed and animated by The Mill and Titmouse. Clyde Petersen's feature *Torrey Pines* is a queer, raw coming of age story. Sexual diversity is further examined in *Fish Curry* (dir. Abhishek Verma, India) and *Manivald* (dir. Chintis Lundgren, Canada), political violence in *Riot* (dir. Frank Ternier, France) and *Nos Faltan* (dir. Emilio Ramos, Mexico), domestic abuse in *My Father's Room* (dir. Nari Jang, South Korea), the fragility of economic systems in *Cloacinae* (dir. Serge Onnen and Sverre Fredriksen, Netherlands & China), the critical notion of home in *Hedgehog's Home* (dir. Eva Cvijanović, Canada) and societal apathy in *Life Cycles* (dir. Ross Hogg, UK). The National Film Board of Canada also delves into social commentary with *Naked Island*, a series of short protest films from several animators who examine the dark side of their cities.

This year, there are two features in the Official Competition by the same director. This unprecedented feat was achieved by Japanese filmmaker Masaaki Yuasa, the well-known director of many anime films included the widely acclaimed *Mind Game* (2004). He currently has a new series in development for Netflix.

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.

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