

OTTAWA  
INTERNATIONAL  
ANIMATION  
FESTIVAL

SEPT  
26-30



THE  
ANIMATION  
CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Provocative and Diverse Films Lead The Way

## **Ottawa International Animation Festival Competition Announces Selections**

OTTAWA (July 18, 2018) – The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF), North America’s largest and oldest animation film festival, is excited to announce the selections for the Official Competition at this September’s event. There were 100 films selected from a record-setting 2469 entries from more than 20 countries including Latvia, Ecuador, Iran, Japan, Estonia, Brazil and Croatia.

“The films this year are remarkably diverse, mature and provocative,” says Chris Robinson, OIAF Artistic Director. “It really speaks to the many social and cultural challenges facing us today.”

### **Highlights:**

The OIAF is known for showcasing independent as well as more commercial work. In Competition this year is the worldwide cult hit *Rick and Morty* with the episode *Exquisite Corpse*, directed by Matt Taylor; also, the Emmy Award-winning animator and director JJ Sedelmaier, known for his work on SNL and The Colbert Report is in Competition with *Geico: He-Man :30*.

In 2017, John Morena made one film a week for a year as part of his *Area 52* project. Morena’s work is a tongue-in-cheek commentary on the things that connect us as a species. Four of these films will be in Competition at the Festival.

This year’s animated features include the Cannes-screened, *The Magnificent Cake*, by Emma De Swaef and Marc James Roels and *Seder-Masochism* by Nina Paley (*Sita Sings the Blues*) -- possibly the only Passover movie to feature singing pharaohs and Egyptians and Jews dancing to Led Zeppelin and Gloria Gaynor.

The OIAF runs from September 26-30 at various venues in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. For a full listing of films in Competition visit us [here](#).

## **ABOUT 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 30,000 artists, producers, students and animation fans from around the world. This year's OIAF runs from September 26-30, 2018. Visit the OIAF website at [www.animationfestival.ca](http://www.animationfestival.ca)

For more information and interviews with filmmakers with Canadian and international filmmakers, press materials and photos, please contact:

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## **CONFIRMED FILMMAKER MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

(Other filmmakers can be made available by request)

### **MATT TAYLOR**

*Exquisite Corpse*

#### **Biography**

Matt Taylor is a Director, Artist and Animator living in Los Angeles. He's worked at notable Animation Studios such as Titmouse Inc, and Bento Box.

#### **Film Synopsis**

Take a trip through the Rick and Morty multiverse!

### **AMANDA STRONG**

*Biidaaban (The Dawn Comes)*

#### **Biography**

Amanda Strong is a practicing filmmaker and artist working between Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Her work comes from a highly personal space exploring ideas of memory, tragedy, and salvation. Amanda's work has been exhibited and screened worldwide, and has received grants from Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the NFB, most notably receiving the 2013 K.M. Hunter media arts award.

#### **Film Synopsis**

Biidaaban, is a young Anishinaabe gender non-binary person that can see through multiple dimensions while existing and moving in their present time and space. Biidaaban is sometimes accompanied by their shape-shifter friend Sabe (Sasquatch). Ghost Caribou, Ghost Wolf and ancestors are also imbedded within the story, but only Biidaaban can see them. They act as reminders of what exists in this space and provide lessons about honesty, humility and working for the people.