

OTTAWA
INTERNATIONAL
ANIMATION
FESTIVAL

SEPT
26-30



THE
ANIMATION
CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Animator Selected

Animation Festival Competition Selections Announced

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. Canadian animation has a strong presence with 16 films.

“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.”

Local and Canadian highlights:

As part of the Canadian Panorama, Ottawa-native Pixie Cram’s *Emergency Broadcast*, filmed at the Diefenbunker, is being screened at the Festival.

The visually stunning feature film *Ville Neuve* from Montreal-based filmmaker Felix Dufour-Laperriere. Set during the 1995 Quebec referendum, the film tells the story of a troubled relationship.

Celebrating emerging technology and its use in the new frontiers of animation, this year the OIAF unveils a Virtual Reality (VR) category new prize category in Virtual Reality (VR). The inaugural nomination list includes *Dream* by Philippe Lambert and *Museum of Symmetry* by Paloma Dawkins, both from Canada.

Amanda Strong, from Vancouver, the winner of the Canadian Film Institute Award for best Canadian short in 2017 returns with *Biidaaban* (The Dawn Comes) -- a stop motion examination of the often blurry line between a tradition-based world and a modern world.

Other 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 and screens at various venues in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. For a full listing of films in competition or to order festival passes online 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 at the ByTowne Cinema, the Ottawa Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada, the Arts Court, the National Arts Centre and the Chateau Laurier.. Visit the OIAF website at www.animationfestival.ca.

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

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FILMMAKER MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Pixie Cram

Emergency Broadcast

Biography

Pixie Cram is a Canadian filmmaker, media artist and animator who works with celluloid film and digital video. Her body of work covers genres of fiction, animation, documentary and art installation. Her films have screened at festivals across Canada, and internationally in the US, Russia and Montenegro.

Film Synopsis

Built at the height of the Cold War to withstand a five-megaton nuclear assault, the Diefenbunker is a massive underground, four-storey, 100,000-square-foot fortress designed and constructed entirely in secrecy in 1959. Inspired by the objects, rooms, and spaces of this Canadian Historic Site, this stop-animation film depicts the beginnings of a nuclear war.