

ANIMATION EXPOSÉ

BRINGING FRESH VOICES TO NEW AUDIENCES

OTTAWA, ON (August 8, 2019) – The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) is pleased to announce the line-up for the highly-anticipated Animation Exposé. On Saturday, September 28, audiences will be taken on a journey through the best new and innovative animation with a day full of high-profile talks at the National Arts Centre.

“This year’s Exposé line-up will definitely leave audiences inspired,” says OIAF Director of Industry Programming, Azarin Sohrabkhani. “We are excited to showcase fresh voices who are changing the face of the animation industry.”

Headlining this year’s event is Rebecca Sugar, creator of the upcoming musical-filled adventure *Steven Universe The Movie* premiering Monday, Sept. 2 (6pm ET/PM) on Cartoon Network. In his first television movie scheduled for this fall, Steven thinks his time defending the Earth is over, but when a new threat comes to Beach City, Steven faces his biggest challenge yet.

The critically acclaimed TV series *Steven Universe* won its first Peabody and GLAAD award earlier this year. Sugar will be a key speaker at Animation Exposé and will introduce a special screening of the TV movie the day before.

Filmmaker Matthew A. Cherry will be speaking about his passion project *Hair Love*, a short film about an African American father attempting to do his daughter’s hair for the first time. Cherry, who was an executive producer for *BlackKkKlansman*, raised funds for the film with a record-breaking Kickstarter campaign, before collaborating with Sony Pictures Animation on the release of the short. Cherry is joined by fellow director Bruce Smith (creator, *The Proud Family*, animator, *The Princess and the Frog*) to present the making of the heartfelt short.

Canadian natives Trent Correy (Supervising Animator, *Frozen 2*, Animator *Moana*, *Zootopia*) and Mitch Counsell (Character Technical Director, *Moana*, *Zootopia*, *Big Hero 6*) return home for the exclusive world premieres of their films, *Drop* and *Fetch*, which are part of Disney Animation’s Short Circuit program.

Canada’s talent continues to shine with *True and the Rainbow Kingdom* from Guru Studio, a Netflix original which was executive produced by Pharrell

Williams. Brandon James Scott (Creative Director) and the team of art directors and designers at Guru Studio will present an in-depth exploration of how they brought the aesthetic and spirit of art collective FriendsWithYou's colourful and immersive artwork to the screen.

Warner Bros. Animation presents the next chapter in the iconic story of the Looney Tunes with *Looney Tunes Cartoons* – a series of new short form cartoons starring Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig and the many other beloved Looney Tunes characters. Executive producer and director Pete Browngardt (creator, *Uncle Grandpa*) presents a behind-the-scenes look inside the production process of one of the studio's most ambitious Looney Tunes projects to date. Both *True and the Rainbow Kingdom* and *Looney Tunes Cartoons* can be caught on the big screen as part of the OIAF Official Competition.

In the spirit of career and talent development, the day kicks off with an all-star recruiter panel and features key Career Tidbits by the team at Walt Disney Animation Studios at the beginning of each talk. Participants can also channel their inspiration into getting their dream jobs at the Exposé Fair, where over 20 companies and schools will be looking for new talent and eagerly waiting to connect.

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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. The OIAF is an annual five-day event that brings art and industry together in a vibrant hub and attracts more than 28,000 artists, producers, students, and animation fans from around the world. This year's OIAF runs September 25-29, 2019. Visit the OIAF website at: www.animationfestival.ca.

For more information, please contact:

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