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## ANIMATION, EH? - OIAF ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL SELECTION

Canadian films push boundaries in the Ottawa International Animation Festival's 43rd year

OTTAWA (July 23, 2019) - The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF), North America's leading animation film festival, is pleased to announce its Official Selection for **OIAF 2019**. This year's submission pool provided a wealth of Canadian entries, from a VR film that puts you in the gymnasium of an abandoned school (*Gymnasia*) to a first time animator's shot at illustrating the tragic true story of a little girl's death, told through the eyes of her neighbour (*Girl in the Hallway*).

"The diversity, range and levels of innovation and experimentation of this year's Canadian competition films is impressive, yet not at all surprising," says Chris Robinson, Artistic Director of the OIAF.

"Like Norman McLaren and many of the pioneering NFB animation artists, Canadian animators continue to push the boundaries of concept and technique whether they are making an experimental work, VR film, TV series, commercial or music video. It's little wonder that Canada remains a role model for animators around the world."

This year, the Ottawa International Animation Festival received over 2,424 entries, which includes 12 Canadian entries in competition. This year's roster has everything from experimental shorts to commissioned commercials, music videos to narrative features, and even TV episodes.

The OIAF is proud to have the world premiere of Theodore Ushev's newest NFB production, *Physique de la Tristesse (The Physics of Sorrow)*. Ushev is an Oscar nominee and multi-winner of the Canadian Film Institute Award for Best Canadian film. The artist behind this year's OIAF poster, Steve Angel, also has a commissioned entry (*Troll Farm*) in the mix.

The Festival also boasts a selection of kid-friendly family content that's proudly Canadian. In the animation for Young Audiences category, Inuit-owned Taqqut studio's production *What's My Superpower?* is a heartfelt story

about believing in oneself. Toronto-based Guru Studios has an episode from their Netflix series *True and The Rainbow Kingdom* that deals with rising sea levels.

2019 also marks a strong year for Canadian Panorama and the Canadian Student Competition, with 38 films selected from animators across the country- and fresh talent from top animation schools from coast to coast. One film that will surely leave a mark on audiences (if not being seared into their eyeballs for life) is *Finding Uranus*, by Ivan Li of Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver. *Finding Uranus* has also achieved a rare feat of being selected for both the Canadian Student Competition and the main International Short Competition.

All Canadian films in Canadian Panorama and the main Competition are eligible for the CFI Best Canadian Animation Award, and Canadian students will duke it out to win the Best Canadian Student Animation Award. Winners will be announced on September 29, 2019 at the OIAF Awards Ceremony.

The Ottawa International Animation Festival runs from September 25 - 29 and screens at various venues in Ottawa. Admission starts at \$14 for the general public, or \$10 for children, seniors, and members of the Canadian Film Institute. Tickets and Festival Passes are available online at [animationfestival.ca](http://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 34,000 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](http://www.animationfestival.ca).

For more information, interviews, press materials, photos, please contact Madeline Lines, Media Coordinator for OIAF, by e-mail ([media@animationfestival.ca](mailto:media@animationfestival.ca)).