

# Canadian Lineup Has 19 Exciting Titles At Film Fest

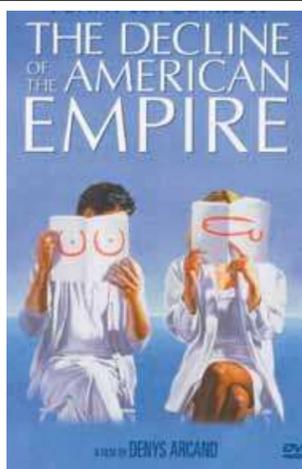
These Include 'The Decline Of The American Empire,' 'Sharkwater Extinction' & 'Anne With An E'

TORONTO: Contemporary anxieties and Indigenous issues are among the themes in the Canadian lineup for this year's Toronto International Film Festival, which includes works by directors Denys Arcand and Jennifer Baichwal.

A total of 19 Canadian titles were announced on Wednesday, including Arcand's "The Decline of the American Empire," which has screened in French in the Oscar winner's home province of Quebec. Alexandre Landry stars as a lonely man who finds two bags filled with money after witnessing a deadly armed robbery.

"I think it's one of his more pointed political films in quite some time," senior programmer Steve Gravestock said in an interview before Wednesday's press conference announcing the lineup. "In a weird way, even though it looks at all sorts of corruption, it's also quite hopeful."

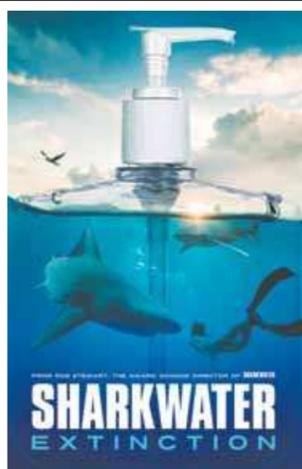
Baichwal explores environmental issues with "Anthropocene," the final title in a trilogy with producer Nicholas de Pen-



cier and photographer Edward Burtynsky after "Manufactured Landscapes" and "Watermark."

"It's quite stunning to look at but also I think, in some ways, this is quite painful to watch because it is very much about extinction, what we're doing to animals," said Gravestock, who worked on the lineup with Danis Goulet, the TIFF Canadian features programmer.

Other docs exploring a feeling



of unease include Astra Taylor's "What is Democracy?" Starting in Greece, it looks at the history of democracy and the dangers facing it.

"Sharkwater Extinction" is the final work by the late filmmaker and conservationist Rob Stewart, and Barry Avrich's "Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz" is about the United States' chief prosecutor during the Nuremberg trials.

Meanwhile, Ron Mann looks at gentrification in the documentary "Carmine Street Guitars," about a Greenwich Village shop that makes custom guitars out of material from historic sites and torn-down buildings.

The lineup also has world premieres of three films that showcase Indigenous talent, including Gwaai Edenshaw and Helen Haig-Brown's "Edge of the Knife." It's billed as the first feature-length film made in Haida, which is classified by UNESCO as an endangered language.

Meanwhile, renowned Metis actor Tantoo Cardinal stars in Darlene Naponse's "Falls Around Her." And "Anne with an E" executive producer Miranda de Pencier makes her feature directorial debut with "The Grizzlies," a creative collaboration between herself and Inuit producers Alethea Arnaq-Baril and Stacey Aglok MacDonald.

The lineup also has several fantasy stories, including "Clara" by Akash Sherman, starring Patrick J. Adams of "Suits" fame as a

depressed astronomer who gets a new outlook on life after meeting a woman.

Supernatural tales are found in "The Great Darkened Days" by Maxime Giroux, "Fausto" by Andrea Bussmann, and "The Stone Speakers" by Igor Drljaca.

Stories featuring teens and young adults include Keith Behrman's "Giant Little Ones," Thom Fitzgerald's "Splinters," "Firecrackers" by Jasmin Mozaffari, and Sebastien Pilote's "The Fireflies Are Gone."

TIFF says 40 per cent of the Canadian film slate this year is directed by women. Other features include "Giant Little Ones" as well as Kim Nguyen's "The Hummingbird Project," Patricia Rozema's "Mouthpiece," and Don McKellar's "Through Black Spruce."

"There are a lot of films that we have this year that don't shy away from difficulties that people are facing \_ and even in some cases, some tragic circumstances \_ but really look at people's resiliency," Gravestock said.

## Chrissy Teigen Insecure About Post-Baby Body

JAKARTA: Model and author Chrissy Teigen feels insecure about her post-pregnancy body, especially with social media platforms being bombarded with people showing off their "killer bodies".

Teigen posted a video on Instagram, showing her stretch marks while on a vacation in Bali with her family. She later tweeted about how insecure she feels about her body after giving birth to a child, reports people.com.

She gave her fans a close-up look at her stretch marks along her thighs and lower back, saying: "I guess these just aren't going to go away. This is my new body."

The 32-year-old model tweeted: "Instagram is crazy. I think it's awesome people have killer bodies and are proud to show them off (I really do!!) but I know how hard it can be to forget what (for lack of a better word) regular old bodies look like when everyone looks bonkers amazing.."

In another tweet, she wrote: "Also I don't really call this 'body confidence' because I am not quite there yet. I'm still super



insecure. I am just happy that I can make anyone else out there feel better about themselves!"

She also shared a photo of herself with spouse John Legend as they shared a kiss. The "All of me" singer has also shared photos of herself breastfeeding 11-week-old son Miles Theodore while on vacation.

## '24' Prequel Series Coming

LOS ANGELES: "24" showrunner Howard Gordon and series co-creators Joel Surnow and Bob Cochran are working on a prequel series that tells the origin story of how Jack Bauer became Jack Bauer.

According to sources, the project is in the early phases of development with no word yet on when, if ever, it will make it to the air, reports variety.com.

Should the project move forward, it would mark the third time Fox has looked to relaunch the franchise. The original "24", which starred Kiefer Sutherland as Bauer, ran for eight seasons on Fox from 2002-2010. Fox then brought the show back with the limited series "24: Live Another Day" in 2014. Most recently, Corey Hawkins starred in "24: Legacy", playing an entirely new character named Eric Carter.

The show got an Indian adaptation as well with actor Anil Kapoor playing the lead role.

"24" won numerous awards over its eight seasons, including Best Drama Series at the 2004 Golden Globe Awards and Outstanding Drama Series at the 2006 Primetime Emmy Awards.

## Carrie Fisher Is 'Irreplaceable'

LOS ANGELES: Ahead of actor Mark Hamill's final performance as Luke Skywalker in "Star Wars" films, the popular voice artist became nostalgic and remembered late actress Carrie Fisher, who was popularly known for her role as Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" films.

The 66-year-old actor on Sunday took to Twitter and shared an emotional post for Fisher, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

"It's bittersweet facing my final chapter without her, she is simply irreplaceable. I'm finding solace in the fact that she won't be replaced and would love the

worldwide outpouring of affection from those who loved her when they heard the news. Carrie on forever," he said.

Hamill also shared photos of himself and the late actress in character as Luke and Leia Skywalker over the years.

Fisher died on December 27, 2016, a year before the release of her film "The Last Jedi", in which her character had a significant role. Hamill has announced he will reprise his role as Luke Skywalker one last time in "Episode IX", due out next year, alongside fellow star Billy Dee Williams and Fisher, as well.

## Billie Piper Expecting Baby

LOS ANGELES: Actress Billie Piper says that she is expecting a baby with her musician boyfriend Johnny Lloyd, whom she's been dating for two years.

Confirming the pregnancy news, a source told Mirror.com, "Billie and Johnny are delighted. They can't wait to welcome the new addition to their family."

In February, Billie said she was in a "good place" and would love to have more children, saying: "In my dream world I'd have loads."

"I was one of four and it's tax-

ing for both parents and kids. I do like the idea of chaos," she added.

The "Collateral" star has already two sons, a nine-year-old Winston and a six-year-old Eugene, with her former husband Laurence Fox, with whom she got separated in 2016.

Starting off as a singer, Piper's transition into acting began in 2004. She played Rose Tyler, companion to The Doctor from 2005 to 2006, in the BBC sci-fi series Doctor Who, reprising the role in 2008, 2010, and 2013. She is also an acclaimed stage actor.

## Beckford Says Kardashian's Body Is 'Not Real'

LOS ANGELES: Model Tyson Beckford finds nothing real about Kim Kardashian West's body.

Beckford made the comment in reference to one of Kim's photographs on social media.

The "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" star was wearing tight black pants and a black cut-out top that showed off her abs while arriving for her appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!". Beckford accused Kardashian of getting plastic surgery over her body, reports etonline.com.

"Sorry I don't care for it personally," Beckford, 47, commented on about the picture.

"She is not real, doctor f\*\*ked up on her right hip," he added with a green vomiting emoji.

Kim, 37, later responded to Beckford,



writing, "Sis we all know why you don't care for it." She added tea, frog and painting nails emojis.

## Purnell Shuns Beauty Routine

LONDON: Actress Ella Purnell says she does not have a beauty routine, but she is done with "trying to project perfection".

"You want to project an image that you are perfect and people ask, 'What are your beauty secrets?' You want to come up with these great, amazing routines, but really, I barely take my make-up off at night," Purnell said.

"I am done with trying to project perfection. it's refreshing to be like, 'I do not know, I'll let you know when I figure it out!' There's a pressure for young actors and actresses to be working all the time

and to stay relevant so when it comes to interviews you have to stand for something. Everyone's got a thing and I am still figuring out what is my thing?"

On the work front, Purnell can currently be seen portraying waitress Tess in "Sweetbitter" and has found working on the show "therapeutic" because she can identify with her character's feelings, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"It been very therapeutic and at this age, you actually don't have to reach that far to play 'lost' because I think we all have hat there somewhere inside us," she said.

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