

FALL 2018 RELEASES

SPECIAL EVENT

THE NFB OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC

Details to come — UNDER EMBARGO until September 12

For the first time in 30 years, the NFB will be opening the doors of its Montreal studios to the public. During the last week of September, visitors will have one last chance to visit the NFB's legendary headquarters at 3155 Côte-de-Liesse Road before it moves downtown in the fall of 2019. On the agenda for the day: a range of fun, family-oriented activities designed to shine a light on the NFB's creative projects—from documentary to animation and interactive works to VR—in addition to offering glimpses of the mixing console, the foley studio and the archives.

DOCUMENTARY

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

Expected release: 2018 Toronto International Film Festival

Director: Astra Taylor

Producer: Lea Marin (NFB)

Language/versions: English version



Synopsis: Featuring a diverse cast—including celebrated philosophers, trauma surgeons, factory workers, refugees, and politicians—*What Is Democracy?* connects past and present, emotion and the intellect, the personal and the political, to provoke and inspire. If we want to live in democracy, we must first ask what the word even means.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/what-is-democracy/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/266692157>

NFB Publicist: Jennifer Mair, 416-436-0105, j.mair@nfb.ca

TRUE NORTH

Expected release: Already launched (May 8, 2018)

Director: Ryan Sidhoo

Producer: Shirley Vercruysse (NFB), partnership with Red Bull Media House

Language/versions: English version



Synopsis: *True North* provides an intimate look at the rise of the Toronto hoop dream through the stories of five young athletes, inspired by the wave of NBA talent coming from their city. In this nine-part docu-series, director Ryan Sidhoo captures the raw emotion of navigating today's youth basketball machine through the eyes of the city's players, coaches and families at the centre of it. The series follows contemporary coming-of-age stories as they unfold in an evolving city, sharing a unique Canadian experience that's rooted in generational immigration. At its heart, *True North* is about ambition, the pursuit of full-ride scholarships, and the intersection of luck and opportunity.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/true-north/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/267851158>

NFB Publicist: Jennifer Mair, 416-436-0105, j.mair@nfb.ca

THE SONG AND THE SORROW

Expected release: World premiere at the 2018 Atlantic Film Festival

Director: Millefiore Clarke

Producer: Rohan Fernando (NFB)

Language/versions: English version



Synopsis: Musician Catherine MacLellan—the daughter of Canadian singer/songwriting legend Gene MacLellan—grew up surrounded by her father’s music. He committed suicide when she was 14. Two decades after his loss, Catherine is finally ready to confront the hurtful mystery of her absent parent and embrace his musical legacy.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/the-song-and-the-sorrow/>

NFB Publicist: Pat Dillon-Moore, 514-206-1750, p.dillon@nfb.ca

SNOW WARRIOR

Expected release: 2018 Edmonton International Film Festival

Director: Frederick Kroetsch, Kurt Spenrath

Producers: Bonnie Thompson (NFB), Frederick Kroetsch (Open Sky Pictures)

Language/versions: English version



Synopsis: A love letter to the aesthetics of winter, this short documentary captures the beauty of a northern city interwoven with the first-person experience of a bike courier in Edmonton.

NFB Publicist: Katja De Bock, 778-628-4890, k.debock@nfb.ca

PAULINE JULIEN, INTIMATE AND POLITICAL

Expected release: September 21, 2018

Director: Pascale Ferland

Producer: Johanne Bergeron (NFB)

Language/versions: French version; French version with English subtitles



Synopsis: Pauline Julien would have been 90 years old in 2018. Twenty years after her death, the latest documentary by Pascale Ferland captures the essence of the iconic Quebec singer—a passionately committed and eternally free spirit. Composed of a meticulous selection of interviews, performances and photos drawn from a vast and rich archival collection, *Pauline Julien, Intimate and Political* follows Julien on a journey from the 1950s to the 1990s. Uncompromising and at times vulnerable, the artist tells her story through personal anecdotes, songs and excerpts from her diary. As the filmmaker sketches the arc of Julien’s extraordinary life, including her relationship with poet Gérald Godin, she offers a memorable lesson in Quebec history, painting a portrait of an inspiring woman whose sovereigntist and feminist ideals continue to resonate today.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/pauline-julien/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/273519967>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

MY WAR

Expected release: Quebec premiere in November 2018

Director: Julien Fréchette

Producer: Colette Loumède (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: While much is written about the young Westerners who join ISIS as jihadis, less is reported about the recruitment of combatants by the opposing camp. In recent years, the ranks of the Kurdish forces in Iraq and Syria have swelled unexpectedly with the arrival of some 100 volunteers from North America, Europe and Australia, all of them legal recruits. Who are these volunteers who risk their lives to combat ISIS: selfless heroes, or just adrenaline junkies? Or are they on a quest for recognition or identity? An intimate portrait of four Western volunteers, Julien Fréchette's *My War* sets out to uncover their motives, which are often quite complex. Filming them in action and as close as possible to the front, steadfastly refusing to judge or champion, Fréchette brings their troubling stories to life. A compelling inquiry into what causes individuals of differing ages and backgrounds to forsake their comfortable existence for combat in a far-off war.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/my-war/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/260296618>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

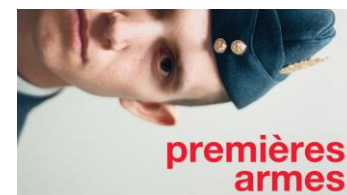
FIRST STRIPES

Expected release: Quebec premiere in November 2018

Director: Jean-François Caissy

Producer: Johanne Bergeron (NFB)

Language/versions: French version; French version with English subtitles



Synopsis: As they undergo 12 weeks of intensive training, young civilians are gradually moulded into Canadian Armed Forces soldiers. This disparate cohort of men and women with little experience in the ways of military life must adapt to a world governed by its own rules and values. In an austere environment where discipline reigns supreme, the recruits submit to learning the ropes with mixed feelings of apprehension and enthusiasm. They understand that, from now on, the group takes precedence over the individual, and country comes before self. For this third opus in a series that candidly explores the different stages of life, Jean-François Caissy provides a fascinating glimpse into this career choice and the beginning of adulthood.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/first-stripes/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/251350005>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

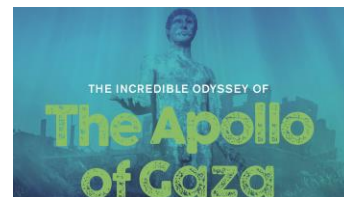
THE APOLLO OF GAZA

Expected release: Quebec premiere in November 2018

Director: Nicolas Wadimoff

Producer: Philippe Coeytaux (AKKA Films) and Colette Loumède (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: In 2013, a statue of Apollo was found in the waters off Gaza—before disappearing under mysterious circumstances. Soon, rumours were swirling around this treasure coveted by all. This documentary investigation takes us into daily life in Gaza, a misunderstood and battered place that suddenly finds some dignity through a reminder of its glorious history.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/apollogaza/>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

THE GIRLS OF MERU

Expected release: World premiere at the 2018 Atlantic Film Festival

Director: Andrea Dorfman

Producer: Annette Clarke (NFB)

Language/versions: English version



Synopsis: Over five years, acclaimed filmmaker Andrea Dorfman follows the heartbreaking yet uplifting story of the girls of Meru and their brave steps toward meaningful equality for girls worldwide. In Kenya, one in three girls will experience sexual violence before age 18, yet police investigations are the exception. In *The Girls of Meru*, a multinational team led by Canadian lawyer Fiona Sampson and Tumaini Shelter head Mercy Chidi Baidoo builds the case of 11 girls to pursue an unheard of legal tactic. Together they create legal history.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/the-girls-of-meru/>

NFB Publicist: Pat Dillon-Moore, 514-206-1750, p.dillon@nfb.ca

ANIMATION

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Expected release: Canadian premiere in September 2018 at TIFF

Director: Alison Snowden and David Fine

Producer: Michael Fukushima (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: Dealing with what comes naturally isn't easy, especially for animals.

In *Animal Behaviour*, the latest animated short from the Oscar®-winning team of Alison Snowden and David Fine (*Bob's Birthday*), five animals meet regularly to discuss their inner angst in a group therapy session led by Dr. Clement, a canine psychotherapist.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/animal-behaviour/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/269694854>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

SHOP CLASS

Expected release: September 2018 at Calgary International Film Festival

Director: Hart Snider

Producer: Shirley Vercruysse (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: Head back to junior high with young Hart Snider as he finds himself lost amongst his peers, unable to ask out his dream girl, and forced to take shop with the dreaded Mr. P. A darkly funny look at growing up, through the filtered lens of a boy on the cusp of manhood.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/shopclass/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/250459223>

NFB Publicist: Katja De Bock, 778-628-4890, k.debock@nfb.ca

I'M OK

Expected release: Canadian premiere in September 2018 at OIAF

Director: Elizabeth Hobbs

Producers: Abigail Addison (Animate Projects), Elizabeth Hobbs, Jelena Popović (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: Following the end of a stormy love affair, Expressionist artist Oskar Kokoschka enlists in the First World War. After suffering serious injuries in battle, he experiences a series of memories and visions as medics transport him through the forests of the Russian front. Playful and imaginative, *I'm OK* explores the wounds of heartbreak and trauma.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/im-ok/>

Excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/265643316>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

CATERPILLARPLASTY

Expected release: Canadian premiere in September 2018 at OIAF

Director: David Barlow-Krelina

Producer: Jelena Popović (NFB)

Language/versions: Without words



Synopsis: A prescient, grotesque sci-fi satire that lifts plastic surgery to another level. Set in a state-of-the-art clinic, in a world where advanced technologies have given rise to new standards of beauty and prestige, *Caterpillarplasty* offers its sardonic take on a social obsession with beauty that's spiralled out of control.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/caterpillarplasty/>

Excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/266706891>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

BONE MOTHER

Expected release: World premiere in September 2018 at Festival Stop Motion Montréal

Directors: Dale Hayward and Sylvie Trouvé

Producer: Jelena Popović (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French version



Synopsis: *Who dares to disturb the devil's grandmother and enter her slumbering house of bones? Who is foolish enough to betray this immortal nature-spirit? Baba Yaga holds the answers you need, but are they the answers you seek? Tread carefully, for your ambitious schemes could come back to haunt you...*

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/bone-mother/>

Excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/283028294>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

TURBINE

Expected release: World premiere in September 2018 at OIAF

Director: Alex Boya

Producer: Jelena Popović (NFB)

Language/versions: Without words



Synopsis: A war pilot crash-lands through his apartment window. When his wife returns from work, she discovers that her husband's face has been replaced by an airplane turbine. He's also fallen in love with their kitchen ceiling fan. To save their faltering marriage, his wife decides she will no longer let her humanity get in the way of love.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/turbine/>

Clip: <https://vimeo.com/280404750>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

FREAKS OF NURTURE

Expected release: Canadian premiere in September 2018 at Festival Stop Motion Montréal

Director: Alexandra Lemay

Producer: Maral Mohammadian (NFB)



Language/versions: English and French versions

Synopsis: *Freaks of Nurture* is an animated short about a neurotic mother-daughter relationship inspired by the filmmaker's own unorthodox upbringing with her single-parent mom, who is also a foster parent and dog breeder. Self-deprecating and bursting with energy, the film reveals that no matter how grown-up we think we are, we never quite stop craving the love and support of a parent.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/freaks-of-nurture/>

Clip: <https://vimeo.com/271917996>

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

GERTIE THE DINOSAUR

Expected release: World premiere in November 2018 at Sommets de l'animation

Director: Eloi Champagne

Producer: Michael Fukushima (NFB) in co-production with Marco de Blois (Cinémathèque québécoise)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: In partnership with the Cinémathèque québécoise, Winsor McCay's seminal 1914 animated film, *Gertie the Dinosaur*, is being restored to its original stand-alone short-form version, with several seconds of missing animation added via scrupulous research by researchers from the Cinémathèque and Notre Dame and Princeton Universities.

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

THE ZOO – REASON: RELEASE NOT CONFIRMED FOR FALL 2018

Expected release: Canadian premiere in Fall 2018

Director: Julia Kwan

Producers: Shirley Vercruysse (NFB) and Ruth Vincent (Fire Horse Productions)

Language/versions: Without words



Synopsis: *The Zoo* tells the story of a polar bear who lives in a concrete habitat at the Stanley Park Zoo and the Chinese boy who visits him until they're both in their twilight years. With great finesse, filmmaker Julia Kwan makes a statement about ethnic enclaves, gentrification, and abandonment of the elderly.

NFB Publicist: Nadine Viau, 514-458-9745, n.viau@nfb.ca

INTERACTIVE

WIND INSTRUMENT

Expected release: August 16 to October 8, 2018

Creator: Étienne Paquette

Producers: Louis-Richard Tremblay (NFB), Pascale Daigle (Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles)

Co-produced by the NFB, the Quartier des spectacles Partnership and LA SERRE – arts vivants

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: An interactive installation that borrows from sculpture and generative art, *Wind Instrument* creates soothing musical sounds from the ambient noise surrounding it. Made up of six steel ventilation tubes positioned vertically, like fanciful organ pipes, this 28-foot-high work produces compelling harmonies by reacting to variations in ambient sound and the contributions of passersby. Lighting effects emphasize the device's musical output. For the duration of the installation, *Wind Instrument* will also be keeping a record of the different sound levels it picks up. The installation will be located outside the Saint-Laurent metro station from August 16 to October 8, 2018.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/wind-instrument/>

NFB Publicist: Marie-Claude Lamoureux, 514-283-9607, m.c.lamoureux@nfb.ca

BIIDAABAN: FIRST LIGHT

Expected release: Canadian premiere on September 18, 2018

Creative Director and Story by: Lisa Jackson

3D Artist and Environment Design: Mathew Borrett

VR Designer and Developer: Jam3

Producers: Rob McLaughlin and Dana Dansereau (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: The town square is flooded. The infrastructure has merged with local flora and people commute via canoe. In this radically different future, urban life is thriving. *Biidaaban: First Light* illuminates how Indigenous languages can provide a framework for understanding our place in a reconciled version of Canada's largest urban environment.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/biidaaban/>

NFB Publicist: Jennifer Mair, 416-436-0105, j.mair@nfb.ca

HOMESTAY

Expected release: Canadian premiere in Fall 2018 at VIFF

Creator: Paisley Smith

Producers: Rob McLaughlin and Loc Dao (NFB)

Language/versions: English and French versions



Synopsis: Every year, Canada receives hundreds of thousands of students from around the world. To make the most of their Canadian experience, many opt to live with a host family. *Homestay* is one family's story of life with international students—a look at how complete immersion in another culture can create a clash of expectations and change our understanding of family, hospitality, nationality and love. This 15-minute creative non-fiction narrative was designed for an interactive room-scale VR environment.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: <https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/homestay/>

NFB Publicist: Marie-Claude Lamoureux, 514-283-9607, m.c.lamoureux@nfb.ca

ALFRED PRIME: PERSONAL SHOPPER

Expected release: World premiere in Fall 2018

Creator: Joël Ronez

Producers: Hugues Sweeney (NFB) in co-production with ARTE France

Language/versions: English, French and German versions

PHOTO NON
DISPONIBLE

Synopsis: *"Hello. My name is Alfred Prime, your personal shopper. How may I help you?"* Alfred Prime is a Messenger-based conversation on the future of e-commerce. By interacting with Alfred, a Messenger bot that mimics an AI algorithm, web users can learn more about the technical, social and human implications of our digital society's new economic order.

NFB Publicist: Marie-Claude Lamoureux, 514-283-9607, m.c.lamoureux@nfb.ca

Reflecting the voices, lives and experiences of all Canadians through creative works of the imagination, the NFB is a unique production laboratory where artists can tell different kinds of stories in different ways. We're Canada's leading hub for world-class creative feature documentary and auteur animation production, interactive stories and participatory experiences. A world leader in Indigenous cinema, in promoting gender equity as well as cultural and racial diversity in production, the NFB is introducing new initiatives to build on our commitment to diversity and inclusion, in all that we do.