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A psychedelic doomscore through the mind of a master Canadian politician by the trailblazing Winnipeg director

World premiere for Matthew Rankin's NFB feature documentary *Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney* at TIFF's Midnight Madness



(Image provided by the NFB)

August 6, 2026 – Toronto – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

Matthew Rankin's maximalist new [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) feature documentary [Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney](#) will have its **world premiere** as part of **Midnight Madness** at the 2026 [Toronto International Film Festival](#), September 10 to 20, 2026.

In a **genre-bending collage of Canadiana**, Rankin remixes a wealth of archival material into a **fever dream of politics, propaganda and pop culture** as he charts the ascent of Canada's 18th prime minister, **Brian Mulroney**, the "Boy from Baie-Comeau."

TIFF's showcase of some of the most bizarre and boundary-pushing works in contemporary cinema, Midnight Madness is a fitting home for the Montreal filmmaker from Winnipeg, whose **visionary works**—including the features *The Twentieth Century* and *Universal Language*—have won acclaim from **audiences and critics around the world**.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney is one of **three NFB world premieres** at TIFF. The festival is also presenting Carol Nguyen's feature documentary [Still Night, Burning House](#) ([Metafilms](#)/NFB/[Portage Films](#)), as well as the **September 16 launch** of the NFB/TIFF short documentary initiative [REDEFINED](#), featuring works by **five next-generation filmmakers** from across the country.

About Matthew Rankin's *Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney* (105 min)

Producer: Pierre-Mathieu Fortin | Executive producer: Nathalie Cloutier

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/ladies-and-gentlemen-brian-mulroney

Haunted by visions of the future. Vilified by the political establishment. **Charming beyond belief**. Behold the **dazzling ascent of Brian Mulroney**, the "Boy from Baie-Comeau" who built a **brand-new Canada**.

In 1976, Brian Mulroney launched a **charm offensive** the likes of which **Canada had never seen**, dismantling the political establishment **one dad joke at a time**.

In this **psychedelic doomsroll** through the mind of a **master politician**, filmmaker Matthew Rankin charts the **flamboyant rise** of Canada's 18th prime minister. From the backwoods of Baie-Comeau to the backrooms of power, Mulroney plots his ascent, **trouncing his enemies with a smile** and preparing Canada for the unlimited prosperity and permanent unity we live in today.

In this **genre-bending collage of VHS-ravaged Canadiana**, Rankin remixes and reimagines **80,000 pieces of archive**, chronicling Mulroney's **crash course with destiny** as he clobbers Joe Clark and ushers in a **new kind of conservatism** for the 1980s.

About the filmmaker

Matthew Rankin was born in Winnipeg and studied Quebec history at McGill University and Université Laval. His work has been presented at TIFF, Sundance, SXSW, Annecy, the Berlinale, Cannes Critics' Week and the Directors' Fortnight, as well as on the Criterion Channel. His first feature, *The Twentieth Century*, won the FIPRESCI Prize at the 2020 Berlin Film Festival and his second feature, *Universal Language*, was awarded the 2024 Chantal Akerman audience award at Cannes and the 2024 Best Canadian Discovery Award at TIFF. His previous NFB work includes the multi-award-winning 2017 experimental animated short [*The Tesla World Light*](#).

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Media Relations

Jennifer Mair
NFB Publicist
C.: 416-436-0105
j.mair@nfb.ca | [@NFB_Jennifer](#)

Magalie Boutin
Director, Communications, Public and Cultural Relations, NFB
C.: 514-233-8646
m.boutin@onf.ca | [@NFB_Magalie](#)

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