

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Three feature docs and a new mobile experience showcased at IDFA**  
*NFB-produced and co-produced works debut at prestigious non-fiction forum*



(Images provided by the NFB)

November 8, 2019 – Montreal – National Film Board of Canada

**Four new works including three world premieres** by documentary creators from the [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) will be featured at the [International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam](#) (IDFA), taking place November 20 to December 1.

Two feature docs will be making their world premieres: **Ariel Nasr's** *The Forbidden Reel* ([Loaded Pictures/NFB](#)) and **Mira Burt-Wintonick's** *Wintopia* ([EyeSteelFilm/NFB](#)).

IDFA is also presenting the European premiere of **Yung Chang's** feature-length *This Is Not a Movie* (TINAM Inc./[Sutor Kolonko/NFB](#)), as well as a 30-minute Doc Talk with the director and the film's subject, Robert Fisk, following the November 27 screening.

Plus, there's the world premiere of **Bruce Alcock and Jeremy Mendes'** mobile experience *Far Away from Far Away*, written by **Michael Crummey** and inspired by conversations with the visionary social entrepreneur **Zita Cobb**. This interactive work debuts in the festival's DocLab program with [two public installations](#) in downtown Amsterdam: a tabletop touchscreen version at the main DocLab space and a pop-up multi-screen exhibition at Centraal train station.

- **The Forbidden Reel** (119 min.), Frontlight program, world premiere  
 Synopsis, biographies, images: [mediaspace.nfb.ca/the-forbidden-reel](https://mediaspace.nfb.ca/the-forbidden-reel)

Afghan-Canadian director Ariel Nasr unearths the astonishing story that unfolded within the walls of Afghan Film, Afghanistan's national film production institute. It was here, during the 1970s and '80s, that an impassioned clique of filmmakers, often working across enemy lines, gave birth to a progressive auteur cinema in conditions that would confound the most seasoned western director. And it was here, in an episode worthy of a spy thriller, that a clandestine network of cinephiles conspired to protect this precious legacy from the iconoclastic fanatics who destroyed the great Buddhas of Bamiyan.

Producer of the Academy Award-nominated independent short drama *Buzkashi Boys* (2012), Nasr previously directed two NFB docs, *Good Morning Kandahar* (2008) and the Canadian Screen Award-winning *The Boxing Girls of Kabul* (2011), and collaborated with Jeremy Mendes on the interactive *Kabul Portraits* (2015). *The Forbidden Reel* is produced by Sergio Kirby (Loaded Pictures) and Kat Baulu (NFB Quebec and Atlantic Studio), with executive producers Sergio Kirby and Annette Clarke (NFB Quebec and Atlantic Studio).

- **Wintopia** (88 min.), Luminous program, world premiere  
Synopsis, biographies, images: [mediaspace.nfb.ca/wintopia](http://mediaspace.nfb.ca/wintopia)

A box of tapes uncovered. A lifelong Utopian obsession. A daughter's attempt to complete her father's final film. **Wintopia** traces the enigmatic footsteps of renowned Montreal documentary filmmaker Peter Wintonick through the lens of his daughter, filmmaker and broadcaster Mira Burt-Wintonick, as she tries to decipher the map he has left behind. Reverberating with emotion and whimsy, the film guides us on a journey through possible worlds in pursuit of reconciliation, both between artist and family and between dreams and reality.

**Wintopia** is produced by Bob Moore (EyeSteelFilm) and Annette Clarke (NFB Quebec and Atlantic Studio), with Daniel Cross and Mila Aung-Thwin as executive producers for EyeSteelFilm.

- **This Is Not a Movie** (106 min.), Frontlight program, European premiere  
Synopsis, biographies, images: [mediaspace.nfb.ca/this-is-not-a-movie/](http://mediaspace.nfb.ca/this-is-not-a-movie/)

For more than 40 years, Robert Fisk has reported on some of the most violent and divisive conflicts in the world. Yung Chang's **This Is Not a Movie** captures Fisk in action—feet on the ground, notebook in hand, as he travels into landscapes devastated by war, ferreting out the facts and firing reports back home to reach an audience of millions. In his relentless pursuit of the facts, Fisk has attracted his share of controversy. But in an era of fake news, when journalists are dubbed “the enemies of the people,” Fisk's resolve to document reality has become an obsessive war to speak the truth.

**This Is Not a Movie** had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and will be screening at DOC NYC. Yung Chang is the multi-award-winning director of [Up the Yangtze](#) (2007), *China Heavyweight* (2012), [The Fruit Hunters](#) (2013) and *Gatekeeper* (2016). **This Is Not a Movie** is produced by Anita Lee (NFB Ontario Studio), Allyson Luchak and Nelofer Pazira (TINAM), and Ingmar Trost (Sutor Kolonko).

Presented by Telefilm Canada and the Rogers Group of Funds, through the [Theatrical Documentary Program](#), produced with the participation of [Ontario Creates](#), in co-production with [ZDF/Arte](#) and [VPRO](#), supported by Film- und Medienstiftung NRW and with the participation of [Doc Society Circle](#), [RTS Radio Télévision Suisse](#), the [Canadian Film or Video Tax Credit](#), with the assistance of the [Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund](#).

- **Far Away from Far Away** (25 min.), DocLab, world premiere  
Synopsis, biographies, images: [mediaspace.nfb.ca/faraway](http://mediaspace.nfb.ca/faraway)

**Far Away from Far Away** is a 25-minute mobile experience that blends elements of interactive storytelling and audio podcasts, offering users a contemporary interpretation of the transformation of Fogo Island. Based on the story of Zita Cobb and featuring the signature lyrical prose of Newfoundland writer Michael Crummey, this work designed exclusively for touch screens and smartphones uses simple, intuitive navigation to delve deep into rich storytelling.

**Far Away from Far Away** is the NFB's latest project with Fogo Island in a long engagement that goes back more than a half-century to the pioneering participatory film project [Challenge for Change](#). Led by creative directors Bruce Alcock and Jeremy Mendes, **Far Away from Far Away** is produced and executive produced by Annette Clarke (NFB Quebec and Atlantic Studio) and Robert McLaughlin (NFB Digital Studio).

## About the NFB

The NFB is Canada's public producer of award-winning creative documentaries, auteur animation, interactive stories and participatory experiences. NFB producers are embedded in communities across the country, from St. John's to Vancouver, working with talented creators on innovative and socially relevant projects. The NFB is a leader in gender equity in film and digital media production, and is working to strengthen Indigenous-led production, guided by the recommendations of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. NFB productions have won over 7,000 awards, including 24 Canadian Screen Awards, 21 Webbys, 12 Oscars and

more than 100 Genies. To access this award-winning content and discover the work of NFB creators, visit [NFB.ca](http://NFB.ca), download its [apps](#) for mobile devices or visit [NFB Pause](#).

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## Related Products

Electronic Press Kit | Images, trailers, synopses: [Far Away from Far Away](#) | [The Forbidden Reel](#) | [This Is Not a Movie](#) | [Wintopia](#)

## Associated Links

[International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam](#)  
[Loaded Pictures](#)  
[EyeSteelFilm](#)  
[Sutor Kolonko](#)  
[Theatrical Documentary Program](#)  
[Ontario Creates](#)  
[ZDF/Arte](#)  
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