



GINNY AND GEORGIA'S SARA WAISGLASS AND NICKELODEON'S AVAN JOGIA RECEIVE RISING STAR AWARDS AT 2024 FUTURE OF FILM SHOWCASE

Toronto, May 13, 2024 - Future of Film Showcase (FOFS), Canada's most sought-after festival for emerging Canadian filmmakers announces inaugural Rising Star Award. The festival welcomes 2023 Canadian Screen Award winner **Sara Waisglass** (*Ginny and Georgia*, *Suze*) and **Avan Jogia** (*Victorious*, *Zombieland: Double Tap*) as this year's closing keynote speakers and announces official opening night short film selections.

Tickets to the four-day festival -- taking place **June 20 - 23, 2024** at Toronto's Paradise Theatre (1006c Bloor St W, Toronto, ON), Startwell Studios (230 Niagara St.), and virtually across Canada -- are on sale now at fofs.ca.

This year's FOFS 2024 Opening Night short film selection includes the World Premiere of Sundance and FOFS alumni filmmakers' Maziyar Khatam and Anya Chirkova's film **THE SWEATER**, as well as the Toronto festival premieres of **STATU QUO CHOUCOU** from Quebecois filmmaker Juliette Poitras, and Toronto filmmaker Evan Gareth Hoffman's hybrid fiction-documentary **NORTEL**, presenting ex-Nortel CEO Frank Dunn navigating the modern world after experiencing a classic case of "tech-boom-rise-and-fall."

Rounding out this year's official shorts programming includes exciting works from emerging Canadian talent, including:

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"Film's immersive experience has the power to excite, inspire, transform and transport audiences, and the conversation that follows our screenings offers a window into the motivations and processes of leading professionals," said **Eric Bizzarri, Co-Founder and CEO, Future of Film Showcase**. "We're looking forward to celebrating 10 years of the Future of Film Showcase with audiences in person and virtually across Canada, and connecting aspiring talent with industry veterans and rising stars like Lamar Johnson. This year's program is not to be missed!"

FOFS also presents seven awards to featured filmmakers: Best Film, Best Cinematography, Best Sound, Best Picture Editing, Best Director, Best Screenplay and People's Choice. Award winners are selected by the FOFS 2024 Jury: **Karrar Zahn** (Director, *In Flames*), **Joële Walinga** (Alumni, 2021 Berlinale Talent Lab), **X, X and X**.

The People's Choice Award is determined by audience vote. The award-winning films will stream free across Canada on [CBC Gem](https://www.cbc.ca/gem) beginning **June 24, 2024**.



In addition, FOFS presents industry programming that offers valuable development opportunities through workshops, panel discussions and one-on-one mentorship, directed towards fostering the future of emerging Canadian filmmakers.

Industry Programming Highlights for the FOFS' 11th Anniversary include:

Thursday, June 20

- **The Future of Equity in Film Panel, Co-Presented by Fae Pictures:** In conversation with **Christopher Yip** (Showrunner, *Streams Flow from a River*), **Yazmeen Kanji** (Founder, Films With a Cause), and **Thomas Antony Olajide** (*Learn to Swim*) and moderated by **Aashna Thakkar** (Manager of Programming, Regent Park Film Festival), the panel centers on the importance of equity within the film industry and explores initiatives that can help improve it.

Friday, June 21

- **One-on-One Virtual Coffees Sessions, Presented by the DGC Ontario:** Participants can register for a 15-minute one-on-one conversation with an industry professional in their area of interest to network and receive valuable insight, advice, and mentorship. Sessions are available for directing, producing, cinematography, art department, picture editing, sound editing and more. The meetings are not pitch sessions. A variety of diverse industry professionals will participate, including **Tom Hastings** (Paramount+ Canada), **Melanie Hadley** (Executive Director, Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada), **Carolyn Wu** (Bell Media), **Abdul Malik** (Fae Pictures), **Claire Peace McConnell** (VVS Films), **Jenn Kuzmyk** (Banff World Media Festival), **Paige Murray** (CBC) and others.
- **In The Casting Room BIPOC Workshop, Presented by ACTRA Toronto:** BIPOC actors have the opportunity to meet with and audition for leading casting directors **Millie Tom** (*Casting, Degraasi: The Next Generation*), **Larissa Mair** (*Casting, Run the Burbs, The Hardy Boys*), **Sergio Alvarado** (*The Brunch Store Casting*) and **Linds Christopher** (*Casting, Family Feud Canada*). Actors will receive feedback and critique and have the ability to foster a relationship with their assigned casting directors.
- **In The Casting Room Panel, Presented by ACTRA Toronto:** Toronto's leading casting directors will discuss how actors can create greater impact with their self-tape and auditions. Following the open panel discussion, **Janet Rose Nguyen** will moderate a Q&A session with **Millie Tom**, **Larissa Mair**, **Sergio Alvarado** and **Linds Christopher**. This panel will be ASL interpreted and a recording will be posted to FOFS' digital channels with closed captioning.

Saturday, May 20

- **How To Get Funded Panel, Presented by Canada Media Fund:** Access to funding is fundamental to a film's success. Join some of Canada's leading funding organizations for an intimate discussion about what they look for when selecting projects, including the different funding opportunities that exist within their space. Participating in the panel are **Peter Kingstone** (Toronto Arts Council), **Ayesha Husain** (Telefilm Canada), **Zachary Goldkind** (Director of Programming, FOFS), and moderator **Eman Pathan** (Chief Financial Officer, FOFS). This event will be ASL Interpreted and a recording of this panel will be posted to FOFS' digital channels with



closed captioning.

- **Art Department Panel:** New this year, FOFS presents an informative discussion featuring various departments within the art department, such as production design, set decoration, props and more. Learn about various roles, day-to-day duties and pathways to working within the art department, moderated by **Frances Santiago** (Creative Director, FOFS) and featuring **Flora Yin** (Production Designer, OLG x Raptors, Foot Locker, Little Caesars), **Chelsea Attong** (Production Designer, The Bay, McDonald's, Junos 2022), **Michelle Braham** (Property Master, *No Time to Die*) and **Dialla Kwar** (Production Designer, *Soft, Learn to Swim*)

Sunday, May 21

- **Closing Keynote Conversation with Lamar Johnson:** This in-conversation discussion will explore Johnson's journey as an actor; his body of work, and touch on how to pursue a career in the industry for young creatives hoping to follow their passions within film.
- **Web & TV Pilot Workshop, Presented by Canada Media Fund and Fae Pictures:** The workshop begins with a special screening of the pilot episodes of CTV's *Shelved*, a new workplace comedy from creator **Anthony Q Farrell** (*The Office*, *Run the Burbs*); *Fakes*, a new digital series by **David Turko**; as well as digital series *virgins!* from **Aden Abebe**. **Farrell**, **Abebe**, and **Jasmin Mozaffari** (*Firecrackers*) will lead a discussion following the screenings.

For more information, visit fofs.ca. Future of Film Showcase can be found on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook at @FutureFilmShow and #FOFS2023.

Future of Film Showcase is supported by the Government of Canada, Ontario Trillium Fund, Canada Media Fund, Telefilm Canada, DGC Ontario, Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA), Startwell and CBC Gem.

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ABOUT FUTURE OF FILM SHOWCASE

The Future of Film Showcase (FOFS) is a Canadian not-for-profit media arts organization presenting works from emerging Canadian filmmakers, while at a crucial stage in their emergence as an artist and storyteller. FOFS elevates work by women, BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and other emerging creatives from traditionally marginalized communities, and fosters the future of Canadian film by providing burgeoning artists and filmmakers with professional development opportunities, as well as a national platform through an annual film festival.

Contact:

Andrea McLoughlin
andrea.m.mcloughlin@gmail.com
416.407.4321

Adrienne Kakoullis
akakoullis@risepr.ca
416.450.6637