

CSFF CANADIAN
SPORT
FILM
FESTIVAL

JUNE 6-8 2019

TIFF Bell Lightbox, Toronto

Provoking dialogue on
the power of sport to
inspire social change

CANADIAN SPORT FILM FESTIVAL



8 films, 5 Canadian premieres
Tickets and info: sportfilmfestival.ca

Image courtesy of Spirit Games



Message from the Executive Director

As the Canadian Sport Film Festival enters its second decade, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 11th annual CSFF. Since 2008, we have screened nearly 250 films from approximately 40 countries, all of which explore the important ways in which sport, physical activity, recreation, and play shed a light on significant social justice issues.

Our mission to provoke dialogue on the power of sport to inspire social change remains more relevant than ever. Barely a month ago, the draconian regulations of international track-and-field that target South African middle-distance runner Caster Semenya were upheld while female hockey players, with little financial security, protested the ways in which their sport is organized. As beneficial as many of us believe sport to be to personal development, it remains an arena where much work remains to be done, even while offering a platform to highlight such issues.

At CSFF, we take seriously the responsibility that comes with entering into such discussions and are proud of the role that film can play in launching such conversations. Our event would not be possible without the help of the numerous people listed on this page, to whom I am personally indebted, but these conversations would not take place without you, the audience. So, thank you for coming to the cinema, immersing yourself in stories, taking their messages to heart, and continuing to raise your voice.



Executive Director



The CSFF Team

Executive Director

Russell Field

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Genevieve Citron
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Reza Samen
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Krystal McHugh
Lindsay Neiser
Teresa Therrien
Edwin Wilkinson
Ryan Williams



Festival Schedule

Thursday, June 6th

7:00pm (Opening Night; Cinema 3)

Wrestle
Screening with The Match

Friday, June 7th

7:00pm (Cinema 4)

Freedom Fields
Screening with Little Miss Sumo

Saturday, June 8th

4:00pm (Cinema 4)

Long Time Coming
Screening with Build Ramps Not Walls

7:00pm (Closing Night; Cinema 4)

Spirit Game: Pride of a Nation
Screening with Fast Horse



Location:

TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St. W.

Tickets:

TIFF Bell Lightbox box office
1 888 599 8433
sportfilmfestival.ca

sportfilmfestival.ca



"I am delighted that the CSFF is providing audiences the opportunity to explore the world of sport through the medium of film, while also providing a forum for filmmakers to share their sport stories. I hope these movies will inspire Canadians to get active."

« Je suis ravie que ce festival donne la chance au public d'explorer le milieu du sport par l'entremise du film, tout en offrant un forum où les cinéastes peuvent raconter leurs histoires sportives. J'espère que ces films inciteront les Canadiens à être actifs. »

◀ The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport
L'honorable Kirsty Duncan, ministre des Sciences et des Sports

2019 Canadian Sport Film Festival

Sport is a fascinating theme for our artists and creators to explore. For over a decade, the Canadian Sport Film Festival has allowed spectators to enjoy presentations of amazing works—from across Canada and around the globe—that delve into the world of sport.

Over the coming days, the Canadian Sport Film Festival will screen features, documentaries and shorts that focus on the powerful stories behind sport. Featuring the work of a diverse mix of talented film makers from across the country and around the world, it promises to educate, challenge and entertain audiences.

As Minister of Science and Sport, I would like to thank the hardworking organizers, talented filmmakers and dedicated volunteers who helped bring this year's festival to life. Enjoy the films!

Canada.ca/Sport
[Facebook.com/SportCanadaEN](https://www.facebook.com/SportCanadaEN)
[@SportCanada_EN](https://www.instagram.com/SportCanada_EN)

Canadian Sport Film Festival de 2019

Le sport est un thème fascinant à explorer pour nos artistes et nos créateurs. Depuis plus d'une décennie, le Canadian Sport Film Festival présente des œuvres exceptionnelles – provenant des quatre coins du pays et du monde – qui font une incursion dans le monde du sport.

Au cours des prochains jours, le Festival proposera des longs métrages, des documentaires et des courts métrages mettant l'accent sur des histoires marquantes du sport. Les films projetés, réalisés par de talentueux cinéastes d'ici et d'ailleurs, promettent d'informer, de stimuler et de divertir les spectateurs.

À titre de ministre des Sciences et des Sports, je tiens à remercier les organisateurs, les cinéastes et les bénévoles dévoués qui donnent vie au festival de cette année. Bon cinéma!

Canada.ca/Sports
[Facebook.com/SportCanadaFR](https://www.facebook.com/SportCanadaFR)
[@SportCanada_FR](https://www.instagram.com/SportCanada_FR)

Canada



JUNE 6–8, 2019

*Greetings from the Honourable Michael Tibollo
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport*

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend greetings to everyone attending the 11th annual Canadian Sport Film Festival.

My personal interest in the martial arts has taught me much about the dedication and hard work required of athletes and coaches to be the best in their sport. I have also seen the changes in the lives of young people as a result of their participation in sports.

Film is a powerful medium to communicate the excitement, physical action, and drama of sports to an audience. This festival's focus on sports as a force for social change sends a strong message about the value of being involved in a community with shared goals.

I commend the festival organizers, sponsors and volunteers for their dedication, and wish audiences an inspirational and enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Tibollo".

Michael Tibollo
Minister



Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 11th annual Canadian Sport Film Festival.

Best wishes to all attendees as you view feature-length and short films from around the world that focus on the power of sport in inspiring social change and on human interest stories that are both engaging and informative.

As an international centre for film production, Toronto promotes the development of quality cinema by the creative and innovative works of filmmakers whose talent and creativity have enhanced and enriched our entertainment industry.

Arts and culture can be incredible forces for the development of an individual, group or community, and the promotion of intercultural connections that include tolerance, understanding, friendship and social cohesion.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I wish everyone an enjoyable and memorable event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

Thursday, June 6th, 7:00 pm

Wrestle

Canadian premiere

2018, documentary, US, 96 min, dir: Suzannah Herbert, co-dir: Lauren Belfer Manuel Tera

J.O. Johnson High School in Huntsville, Alabama, has long been on the state's list of failing schools. The school's wrestling team is one bright spot. Yet, while four young wrestlers pursue their dreams of a state championship, splintered family lives, drug use, teenage pregnancy, mental health struggles, and run-ins with the law all threaten to derail their success on the mat in a deeply affecting depiction of growing up disadvantaged in the American South.

Print contact: cameron@oscilloscope.net



Screening with:

Canadian premiere

The Match

2018, fiction, Finland, 15 min,
dir: Pia Andell

Two women on a tennis court. One wants to win, the other is afraid of competing. Will breathing exercises help?

Print contact: pia.andell@gmail.com

Screening sponsor

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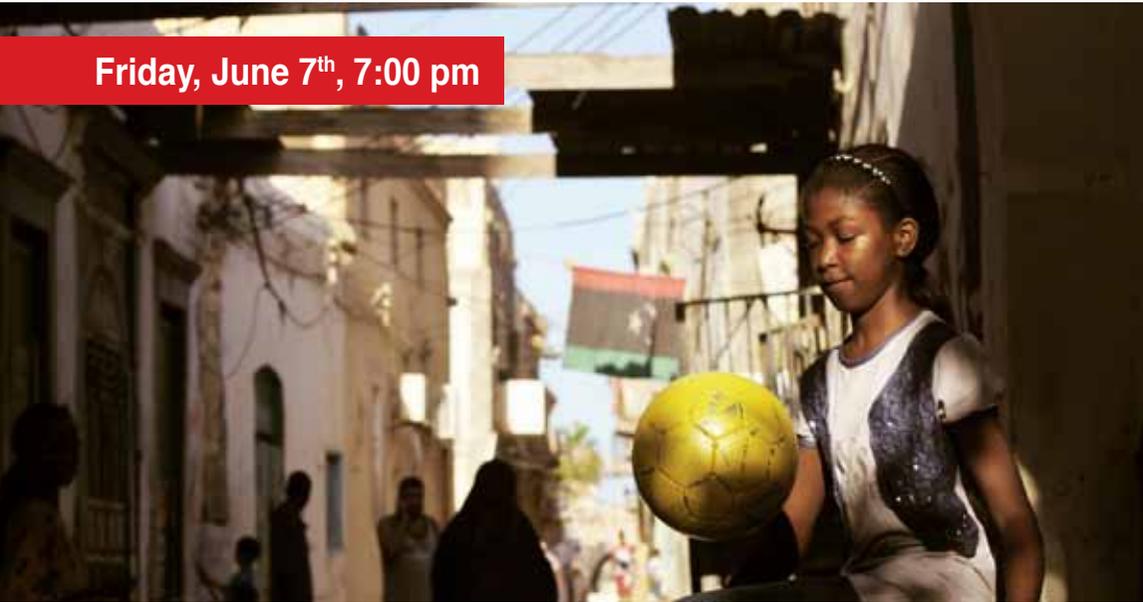
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ARTS


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Friday, June 7th, 7:00 pm



Freedom Fields

2018, documentary, Libya/UK/Netherlands/US/Qatar, 97 min, dir: Naziha Arebi

As Libya descends into civil war and the utopian hopes of the Arab Spring begin to fade, a group of young women pursue their own dream: playing international soccer and representing their country. More accidental activists than rabble rousers, these women fight for access to equipment and playing space, while facing a backlash from powerful interests who believe that they should not be playing sport at all.

Print contact: ma@widemanagement.com



Screening with:

Canadian premiere

Little Miss Sumo

2018, documentary, UK, 18 min,
dir: Matt Kay

Female sumo wrestling champion Hiyori confronts obstacles both inside and outside the ring in her attempt to change Japan's national sport.

Print contact: matt@walksoflifefilms.com

Screening sponsor



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Saturday, June 8^h, 4:00 pm



Long Time Coming

2018, documentary, US, 88 min, dir: Jon Strong

Canadian premiere

Although long-forgotten, the 1955 Florida Little League season was a remarkable moment during an era of racial segregation and growing civil rights agitation. The all-black Pensacola Jaycees and the all-white Orlando Kiwanis met for the championship, as two teams of 12-year-old boys played baseball in an act of cultural defiance. Sixty years later, team members reflect on their different experiences of racism in the US South and what this game meant to them.

Print contact: tedhaddock@eehff.org



Screening with:

Build Ramps Not Walls

2018, documentary, Mexico/US, 14 min, dir: Brian Adamkiewicz

A bi-national skate community in Mexico seeks a positive response to the negative rhetoric that followed the 2016 US presidential election.

Print contact: rebecca@journeymexico.com

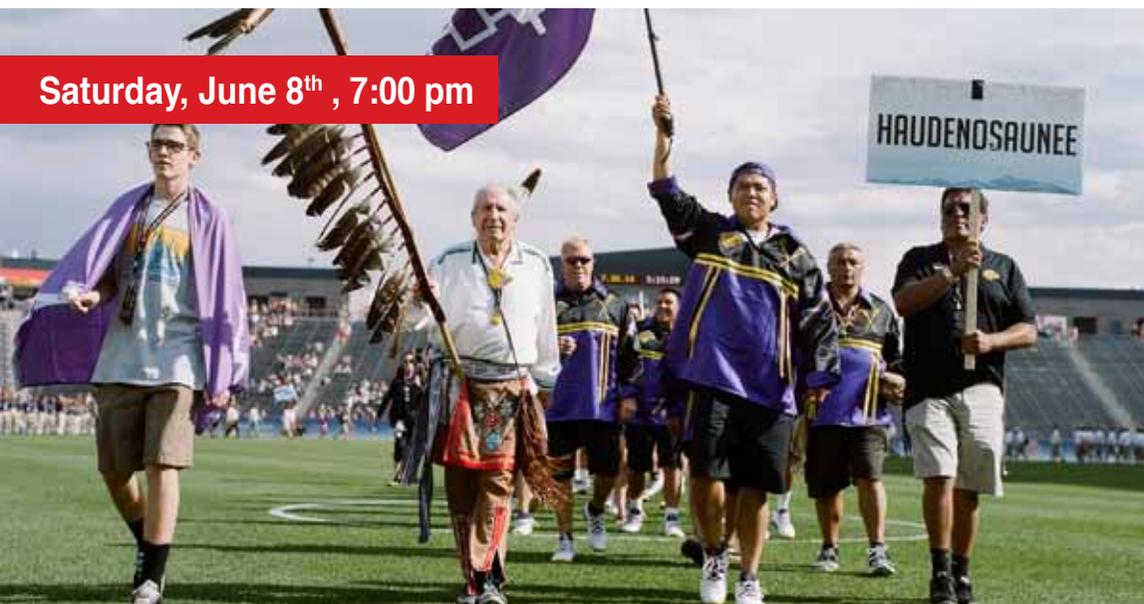
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Saturday, June 8th, 7:00 pm



Spirit Game: Pride of a Nation

Canadian premiere

2017, documentary, US/Haudenosaunee Confederacy, 102 min, dirs: Peter Spirer, Peter Baxter

For Indigenous people, lacrosse is the “Creator’s Game,” combining spiritual and physical elements. The Iroquois Nationals are a powerful symbol of Haudenosaunee sovereignty and also one of the best lacrosse teams in the world. When the 2015 world indoor lacrosse championships were hosted by the Onondaga Nation on Haudenosaunee land, the Iroquois Nationals pursuit of a championship shone a light on generations of racism and trauma, as history, politics, and culture collided on the lacrosse field.

Print contact: info@onebowlproductions.com



Screening with:

Fast Horse

2018, documentary, Canada, 14 min, dir: Alexandra Lazarowich

Blackfoot bareback horseracing is “North America’s original extreme sport.” Siksika horseman Allison RedCrow and jockey Cody BigTobacco dream of bringing a team to the Calgary Stampede.

Print contact: sandra@handfuloffilms.ca

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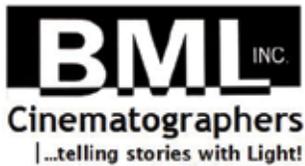


A huge thank you to our sponsors

Festival sponsor

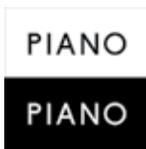
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Community screening partners



Partners



The need to
perform.
The drive to
succeed.

True to the belief that passion produces performance, Stikeman Elliott is proud to sponsor the **Canadian Sport Film Festival** and honoured to present the film, *Wrestle*.

Stikeman Elliott

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