

## 1<sup>st</sup> SCARBOROUGH FILM FESTIVAL COMPLETE PROGRAMMING LINEUP

### FEATURE FILMS

- Ali Blue Eyes*** Claudio Giovannesi, Italy Canadian Premiere  
Ali Blue Eyes takes a week in the life of an adolescent boy who struggles disobeying the values of his family. Precariously balanced between being Arab and Italian, Nader, who is courageous and in love, will have to endure solitude, the streets, the fear and the loss of friendship, in the attempt to regain his own identity.
- A Respectable Family*** Massoud Bakhshi, Iran Ontario Premiere  
Arash is an Iranian academic who lives in the West. He returns to Iran to teach in Shiraz, a city far from Tehran where his mother lives. Drawn into a series of domestic and financial dramas, he faces a country that is now alien to him. Following the death of his father and the discovery of what his “respectable family” has become, he is forced to make choices.
- The Repentant*** Merzak Allouche, Algeria/France Ontario Premiere  
At the Algeria region of the high flatland, Islamist groups continue to spread terror, Rashid, a young Jihadist, leaves the mountains to return to his village. In keeping with the law “of pardon and national harmony”, he has to surrender to the police and give up his weapon. He thus receives amnesty and becomes a “repenti”, but the law cannot erase his crimes. For Rashid it is the beginning of a one-way journey of violence, secrets and manipulation.
- A Lady in Paris*** Ilmar Raag, France/Estonia Ontario Premiere  
Anne leaves Estonia to come to Paris as a caretaker for Frida, an elderly Estonian lady who emigrated to France long ago. Anne soon realizes that she is not wanted. All Frida wants from life is the attention of Stéphane, her younger former lover. Stéphane, however, is desperate for Anne to stay and look after Frida, even against the old lady's will. Anne will have to find her own way in the midst of the conflicts...
- Tasher Desh*** Q, India North American Premiere  
Once upon a time, there was a storyteller. In a lonely railway station in Kolkata, where he spoke to trains. He wanted to tell a story. Inside the darkness of his mind, his story unfolds a kaleidoscope of fantasy. Once upon a time, there was a prince who was banished with his mother to a dark and distant prison palace. Here he grows up, without hope, without a future, with his mother drowning herself in alcohol. Realizing the extent of the prince's despair, a friend invokes the Oracle. A mysterious figure, the Oracle passes on a message of liberation. The prince realizes that he is indeed a prisoner of his mind. He makes a decision, to leave in search for an adventure.
- Celluloid Man*** Shivendra Dungarpur, India Canadian Premiere  
As Mr. Nair speaks, we see the history of Indian cinema unfold. What emerges is a portrait of a man so in love with cinema that even his family had to take a backseat to his obsession. Mr. Nair is not only the founder of the National Film Archive, but a living museum of cinema. Even in retirement, he chooses to stay across the road from the Archive watching over his legacy. The fact that India has a cinematic heritage at all is the singlehanded achievement of this man. There will be no one like him again.

**Welcome To Pine Hill** Keith Miller, United States Canadian Premiere  
WELCOME TO PINE HILL is an extension of Miller's earlier short film PRINCE/WILLIAM about an unexpected encounter surrounding a lost dog. Blurring the line between documentary and fiction, PINE HILL follows that short's protagonist Shannon, a reformed drug dealer who is now an insurance claims adjuster, in the days following a grim medical diagnosis. Shannon, portrayed in an extraordinarily intimate performance by first time actor Shannon Harper, sets out to make peace with those around him and in turn find his own peace beyond the cacophony of New York City.

**PANDI** Maria-Saroja Ponnambalam, Canada World Premiere  
After many years of family silence, director Maria-Saroja Ponnambalam investigates the mysteries behind her uncle Pandi's death. Pandi, an aspiring film director began experiencing symptoms of mental illness after migrating from Chennai to Toronto. Animated scenes from Pandi's last script "PONDY" reveal his shifting ideologies and his struggle with bipolar disorder.

**Placebo** Justin ho, United States Ontario Premiere  
A thoughtful look at the lives of a group of New Yorkers whose struggles bring them together in unexpected ways. The film weaves together six stories of love and heartbreak into an emotionally complex experience. Greg (Robert Pivec) lives in the shadow of his wife's death, drinking his way through his listless days at work while his oldest daughter, Natalie (Victoria Maria), plays surrogate mother for her brother, Justin (Kyle Donnery). Jason (Steve Sherman), is a directionless twenty-something who plays the sadsack foil to his more optimistic roommate, Tim (Ryan O'Callaghan) and his girlfriend, Sarah (Samantha Streilitz). When an encounter brings Natalie and Jason together, their lives begin to follow a different path.

## SHORT FILMS

**Laughing Out Loud** Daniel Clements, Canada Canadian Premiere  
A woman is thrown into a situation where she only gets one chance to send her last text message to that last person.

**Chance** Kuru Selvarajah, Scarborough, Canada Toronto Premiere  
Andre is having an existential moment, a moment in which his thoughts, dreams and destiny are at a crossroads.

**A Magic Lamp** Valia Koabelnikova, Russia World Premiere  
Two young people in the middle of the frozen Gulf of Finland, try hard to launch a Chinese lantern into the cold winter sky.

**Mermaid** Joanne Doughty, Scarborough, Canada  
One girl's surreal experience as she discovers a mermaid beneath the surface.

**Student Bodies** Geoff Anhorn, Scarborough, Canada World Premiere  
Three college students struggle to survive in a post-apocalyptic Scarborough where small decisions have major consequences.

**The Captain** Nash Edgerton, Australia/USA Canadian Premiere  
A man wakes up with a hangover, only to discover the consequences of his actions.

**Little Miss Jihad** Stephanie Law and Jessica Wu, Scarborough, Canada  
Comedy about faith, tolerance, and a young girl's imagination that run away with her.