



**17TH ANNUAL REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2019 LINEUP
FESTIVAL RUNS NOVEMBER 20-23, 2019**

TORONTO, ON - October 15, 2019 — The Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF), Toronto's longest running free community film festival, celebrates 17 years of storytelling with the announcement of its 2019 program and Festival lineup. Continuing the Festival's mission of generating critical dialogue on social issues relevant to the Regent Park community and beyond, this year's program features a mix of 23 Canadian and 13 International feature films, shorts and documentaries.

"This year the festival presents you with a collage of stories that examine the multi-faceted process of healing. By confronting painful realities through film, we will undertake the transformative journey of facing adversity." — Camille Johnson, Festival Programmer

Taking place in Regent Park's Daniels Spectrum, RPFF remains committed to creating an inclusive film festival experience by offering **FREE admission and FREE childcare** on-site throughout the entire festival. Kicking off with its hallmark **SCHOOL PROGRAM** (Nov. 19-21) with an expected attendance of 1800+ local students, this year's Festival will feature screenings, panels, virtual reality projects, workshops and the chance to win a development deal with CBC.

RPFF has been making films accessible to communities across Toronto since 2003. The festival offers year-round screenings, paid internships, school programs and workshops at no cost. Its programming prioritizes Black, Indigenous and People of Colour communities, people who live in social housing, people who are low-income and residents of Regent Park. The films we present break stereotypes and show that no one place or person has just one story.

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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING NIGHT: EMERGING DIRECTORS' SPOTLIGHT & PITCH CONTEST

Wednesday, November 20 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Hosted by actor, filmmaker, and YouTuber **Kiran Rai aka KayRay**, our Opening Night features the best of Canada's emerging talent. Beginning with a screening of previous works from four selected filmmakers, followed by a live pitch competition, this exciting opportunity gives filmmakers a platform to have their ideas heard in front of a jury of industry experts and live audience, for the chance to **win a development deal with the CBC** and a **\$1000 cash reward**, courtesy of RBC! .

CLOSING NIGHT FILM: ATLANTICS (dir. Mati Diop, France, Senegal, Belgium)

Saturday, November 23 | 8:30 PM - 10:45 PM

Regent Park Film Festival proudly comes to a close with Mati Diop's debut feature film *Atlantics*. The drama captures two lovers as they sneak private moments with the urgency of youthful desire. Through loss and tragedy, Diop's film weaves together a beautiful love-ghost-story, set against the backdrop of Senegal's bustling capital, Dakar.

THE FAREWELL (dir. Lulu Wang, USA) + TALKBACK WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

Saturday, November 23 | 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

This critically acclaimed independent film tells the story of family, obligation and home through the eyes of Billi, a Chinese-born, U.S.-raised girl, as she returns to Changchun, China. Billi quickly learns that their beloved family matriarch, Nai-Nai, has been given mere weeks to live, but everyone has decided not to tell Nai Nai herself.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION (dir. Rubaiyat Hossain, Bangladesh) + TALKBACK WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

Saturday, November 23 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Under Construction tells the powerful story of Muslim theater actress, Roya, as she decides to reconstruct a famous and politically-minded play for modern times, reclaiming her identity, her freedom and her sexuality in the process. Through this empowering drama, Hossain navigates the nuances and intricacies of culture, patriarchy, and passion.

OUR DANCE OF REVOLUTION (dir. Phillip Pike, Canada) with HAUS (dir. Joseph Amenta, CANADA)

Friday, November 22 | 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Our Dance of Revolution tells the story of how Black queer folks in Toronto faced every adversity, from invisibility to police brutality, and over a four-decade span rose up to become a vibrant, triple-snap-fierce community. This feature is paired with *Haus*, a Canadian short tackling homelessness and belonging.

VIRTUAL SPACE Open throughout the Festival

—**THE SMILING ROOM (Alejandra Higuera, Naty Tremblay)** “The Smiling Room” is a highly anticipated interactive and immersive community-engaged media art installation. The project explores the interplay and politics of Queer happiness, resistance and struggle within the intersections of Toronto’s dynamic LGBTQ2SIA communities.

—**THEY SHOULD BE FLOWERS (Karen Chapman)** A VR experience like no other, “They Should Be Flowers” tells the story of a six-year-old Black girl, who was handcuffed by police in Ontario. Set in a childlike world of play and wonder, this multi-layered experience uses the latest VR technology to examine Canada’s long standing history of policing Black bodies told through the eyes of a child.

TV WRITING WITH INS CHOI

Facilitated by actor and writer Ins Choi

Friday, November 22 | 10:00 PM - 4:00 PM

What does it take to write a hit TV show? Eight writers of colour will have the chance to find out with writer and creator of *Kim's Convenience*, **Ins Choi**! This six hour workshop aims to demystify the process of writing a TV script and will inspire them to create their own.