

# TFCA

TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION



**BEST PICTURE 2021**

**THE 25TH ANNUAL TFCA AWARDS  
TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION**



**MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I never thought I'd miss going to the movies so much.

The COVID-19 pandemic has torn apart so many important things; it can feel small to focus on cinema-going. But I became an entertainment writer because I believe in the power of experiencing art communally. Something happens in a cinema that doesn't happen anywhere else. We strap in among friends and total strangers and go on an art ride together. We feel each moment in real time, individually, and as one. We share it.

This year, I watched many of our nominees and winners at home, and I admired them as fiercely as ever. I sank into the meditative spell of our most lauded film, *Drive My Car*. I felt the joy in *Summer of Soul*, the ache in *The Power of the Dog*, the energy in *Flee*. I'm proud of the films we've honoured. I'm delighted that our three nominees for Rogers Best Canadian Film – *Beans*, *Night Raiders*, and *Scarborough* – are perhaps the strongest trio we've ever had. But there isn't a single one I wouldn't rather have experienced in a theatre.

Years after seeing *Borat*, I can still feel how the laughter rolled up and then back down the stadium seats. I still remember being startled by how desperately I cried in *A.I.*, and how desperately people around me were crying. The giddy thrill of that *Star Wars* score. The colour of the sand in *The English Patient*, beyond anything I could have conjured for myself. The look in *Thelma's* eyes when she kisses Louise goodbye. These moments entered my brain, my body, differently, because I witnessed them with you.

I'm so glad we're here tonight. We filmmakers, marketers, distributors and exhibitors; we critics, who act as a conduit; we movie lovers – we're a collective, too, one that doesn't often have an opportunity to meet. So let's take a minute to look around, acknowledge what we've been through, and savour what we managed to make and love, despite it all. Let's do this together.

Johanna Schneller  
President, Toronto Film Critics Association



# 2021 TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

## **Johanna Schneller**

*President  
The Globe and Mail*

## **Patrick Mullen**

*Vice-President  
POV,  
ThatShelf*

## **Marc Glassman**

*Treasurer  
Classical96.3 FM,  
POV*

## **Kelsey Adams**

*Freelance*

## **Nathalie Atkinson**

*The Globe and Mail,  
Noir City, Zoomer*

## **Linda Barnard**

*Freelance,  
The Toronto Star*

## **Sarah-Tai Black**

*The Globe and Mail,  
LA Times*

## **Kelly Boutsalis**

*Freelance*

## **Liz Braun**

*Sun Media/Toronto Sun*

## **Anne Brodie**

*What She Said Talk Radio,  
Monsters and Critics*

## **Bill Chambers**

*Film Freak Central*

## **Susan G. Cole**

*NOW Magazine*

## **Bruce De Mara**

*The Toronto Star*

## **Thom Ernst**

*Freelance*

## **Alicia Fletcher**

*Cinema Scope,  
A Year in Film  
(Hollywood Suite)*

## **Eli Glasner**

*CBC News*

## **Jason Gorber**

*ThatShelf, ET Canada,  
POV Magazine, DTK Magazine,  
RogerEbert.com, CBC Radio*

## **Karen Gordon**

*CBC Radio, Original-Cin*

## **Sarah Hagi**

*Freelance*

## **Barry Hertz**

*The Globe and Mail*

## **Peter Howell**

*The Toronto Star,  
Night Vision*

## **Kim Hughes**

*Original-Cin*

## **Brian D. Johnson**

*Maclean's Magazine,  
The Walrus, Zoomer*

## **Chris Knight**

*The National Post,  
Postmedia Network*

## **Liam Lacey**

*Original-Cin,  
POV Magazine,  
The Globe & Mail*

## **Angelo Muredda**

*Cinema Scope,  
The National Post,  
Film Freak Central*

## **Adam Nayman**

*The Ringer, Cinema Scope*

## **Andrew Parker**

*The Gate*

## **Jennie Punter**

*Variety*

## **Kevin Ritchie**

*Freelance*

## **Gilbert Seah**

*AfroToronto,  
Toronto-Franco,  
Festivalreviews*

## **Alice Shih Fairchild**

*Media Group, CineAction*

## **Radheyana Simonpillai**

*CTV's Your Morning,  
NOW Magazine,  
CTV News Channel*

## **Jim Slotek**

*Original-Cin*

## **Courtney Small**

*ThatShelf, Cinema Axis,  
Frameline, POV*

## **Victor Stiff**

*ThatShelf*

## **Glenn Sumi**

*NOW Magazine*

## **Kate Taylor**

*The Globe and Mail*

## **Jose Teodoro**

*Cinema Scope,  
Film Comment*

## **Norm Wilner**

*NOW Magazine,  
Someone Else's Movie  
(Frequency)*

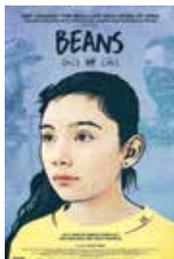
**EMERITUS** Jason Anderson Tina Hassanina Bruce Kirkland



# 2021 ROGERS BEST CANADIAN FILM AWARD NOMINEES



## BEANS

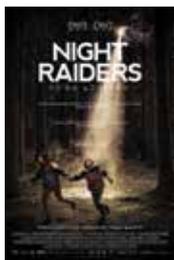


### Tracey Deer

Director and co-writer Tracey Deer plumbs her own history in *Beans*, an exceptional film that reframes the so-called Oka Crisis of 1990 through the eyes of its fictional protagonist, a 12-year-old Mohawk girl (played by Kiawentiio) known as Beans. She's already struggling with typical pre-teen angst, but her life is irrevocably changed when she's thrust into the Kanésatake Resistance, as her entire community comes together to defend the land, and confronts anti-Indigenous racism head on.

— Kelly Boutsalis

## NIGHT RAIDERS



### Danis Goulet

Danis Goulet's first feature takes place about a quarter-century in the future, in a Canada under military occupation from a nation identified only as "the southern state." But her story of Indigenous people pulling their shattered culture back together and working to save their children from re-education schools is entirely of the moment – and maybe even more so than it was when Goulet shot the film in 2019. Anchored by Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers' resilience as reluctant hero Niska and Brooklyn Letexier-Hart's delicacy as Waseese as the

daughter she's desperate to rescue, this was one of the year's best films, Canadian or otherwise.

— Norman Wilner

## SCARBOROUGH



### Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson

An artfully made, emotionally resonant crowdpleaser, made on a shoestring budget over a year that was interrupted by the pandemic, Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson's feature debut *Scarborough* follows three low-income families whose

children attend a morning reading program in the diverse Galloway neighbourhood. Grounded in Catherine Hernandez's powerful adaptation of her award-winning novel and the director's doc-filmmaking talents,

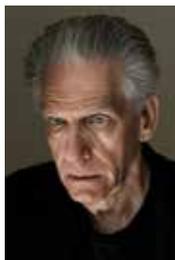
*Scarborough* gently but steadily draws the viewer deeply into the community with riveting, cinematic, conversation-starting storytelling.

— Jennie Punter



# 2021 TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

## COMPANY 3 CLYDE GILMOUR AWARD



### David Cronenberg

David Cronenberg’s capacity for colliding the cerebral, carnal and creepy is unparalleled, earning him a place as one of the world’s greatest directors. His 1996 Cannes Award for “daring and audacity” describes his entire half-century of storytelling. The Toronto-born author/filmmaker earned the Companion of the Order of Canada and France’s Légion d’honneur, among other accolades. Cronenberg also helped force Ontario’s censors to reform, invigorated local production, supported generations of young artists, and fundamentally reshaped the Canadian film landscape through his craft. This iconoclastic talent exemplifies what the TFCA Clyde Gilmour award is all about.

— Jason Gorber

## STELLA ARTOIS JAY SCOTT PRIZE FOR AN EMERGING ARTIST



### Bretten Hannam

After studying at NSCAD, the Canadian Film Centre, and the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-Op, Bretten Hannam made their feature directorial debut with the micro-budget romantic thriller North Mountain (2015). They refined their skills in the short drama Wildfire (2019) and its feature adaptation Wildhood (2021). Both draw inspiration from Hannam’s experience as a Two-Spirited L’nu filmmaker who didn’t see their life depicted onscreen. Wildhood establishes Hannam as a bright star in the Canadian scene, and proudly creates space for two-Spirited voices and stories.

— Pat Mullen

## TFCA EMERGING CRITIC AWARD



### Rachel Ho

Rachel Ho has a pretty good day gig – she’s a lawyer – but she couldn’t seem to argue herself out of her passion: the movies. She started a review blog, and soon expanded to interviewing filmmakers and covering festivals. She’s here to fight the misconception that a critic’s role is simply to declare a film good or bad; she’s all about the nuance. We’re happy to welcome her to our ranks. The pay’s not as good, but the job is a gas.

— Johanna Schneller

## HOST



### SANGITA PATEL

Engineer Sangita Patel joined ET Canada in 2006 where she travels the globe to interview today’s biggest stars. She is also host for HGTV’s Home to Win, Canadian Spokesperson for Covergirl’s Simply Ageless Collection, while being the first South Asian Ambassador for Covergirl. She is also a supporter of Pathways to Education, Children’s Wish and the ONE campaign.



## 2021 TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

**BEST PICTURE**      *Drive My Car*

Runners-up      *Licorice Pizza*

*The Power of the Dog*

**BEST ACTRESS**      **Olivia Colman, *The Lost Daughter***

Runners-up      Penelope Cruz, *Parallel Mothers*

Kristen Stewart, *Spencer*

**BEST ACTOR**      **Denzel Washington,**  
***The Tragedy of Macbeth***

Runners-up      Benedict Cumberbatch,  
*The Power of the Dog*

Andrew Garfield, *Tick Tick... Boom*

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**      **Jessie Buckley,**  
***The Lost Daughter***

Runners-up      Kirsten Dunst, *The Power of the Dog*

Ruth Negga, *Passing*

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**      **Bradley Cooper, *Licorice Pizza***

Runners-up      Ciarán Hinds, *Belfast*

Kodi Smit-McPhee,  
*The Power of the Dog*

**BEST DIRECTOR**      **Jane Campion, *The Power of the Dog***

Runners-up      Ryûsuke Hamaguchi, *Drive My Car*

Denis Villeneuve, *Dune*



## 2021 TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

### **BEST SCREENPLAY, ADAPTED OR ORIGINAL**

*Drive My Car*

Runners-up

*Licorice Pizza*

*The Power of the Dog*

### **BEST FIRST FEATURE**

*The Lost Daughter*

Runners-up

*Passing*

*Pig*

*Shiva Baby*

### **BEST ANIMATED FEATURE**

*Flee*

Runners-up

*Encanto*

*The Mitchells vs. the Machines*

### **BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM**

*Drive My Car*

Runners-up

*Petite Maman*

*The Worst Person in the World*

### **ALLAN KING DOCUMENTARY AWARD**

*Summer of Soul*

Runners-up

*Flee*

*The Velvet Underground*

# TFCA

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