



NEW FILMS FROM CANADA

CURZON SOHO 3-6 MAY 2018
NATIONWIDE TOUR FROM 1 JULY

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CANADA NOW

CURZON SOHO 3-6 MAY 2018

NATIONWIDE TOUR FROM 1 JULY

Canada Now 2018 is a showcase of New Canadian Cinema in the UK, beginning with a weekend of screenings and events from the 3rd - 6th May at the Curzon Soho, featuring eight outstanding new pieces of filmmaking alongside a brand new digital restoration of a repertory classic over one invigorating weekend in the heart of London's West End.

From Sunday July 1st 2018, in celebration of Canada Day, the films will begin a nationwide tour of cinemas and venues across the UK and will become available to stream on Curzon Home Cinema.

With a truly eclectic selection of films that cover topics as far-reaching as the Indigenous origins of Rock 'n' Roll in the Sundance Award-Winning *Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked The World* to Cory Bowles' explosive depiction of race relations and police brutality in *Black Cop*, from the deliriously hallucinogenic visuals and telepathic octopi of *All You Can Eat Buddha* to the global scientific quest to create an artificial Sun in *Let There Be Light*, this year's programme promises to bring striking independent filmmaking across the Atlantic in a timely and urgent fashion.

Crucially, we are very proud to announce that half of the films presented in the showcase are directed by women - bringing bold female filmmaking to the forefront of our agenda with arresting pieces of cinema such as Molly McGlynn's outstanding debut *Mary Goes Round* and veteran Asian-Canadian writer/director Mina Shum's heart-warming Golden Years drama *Meditation Park*, with an all-star cast featuring Sandra Oh, Pei-Pei Cheng and *Canada Now*-favourite Don McKellar.

We are pleased to be showing a preview of Oscar Nominated animation *The Breadwinner*, a coproduction between Canada and Ireland. *Canada Now 2018* will also revisit Patricia Rozema's seminal 1987 comedy *I've Heard The Mermaids Singing* in a brand new digital restoration, with a breakout performance from Sheila McCarthy who also stars in the devastating new drama *Cardinals* which plays in the main programme.



ALL YOU CAN EAT BUDDHA

2017, 84 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: IAN LAGARDE

A mysterious man at an all-inclusive resort begins performing miracles, leading curious onlookers to believe that he is somehow connected to a higher power, in Ian Lagarde's hypnotic, delirious cinematic debut. Bringing a splendidly unusual approach to the exploration of human complexity, deities, and the surreal, Lagarde grounds the wild nature of his film with a controlled pace that incrementally derails its sense of reality. This stunning debut feature is one of both formal and narrative wonder.



BLACK COP

2017, 91 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: CORY BOWLES

A Black police officer (Ronnie Rowe Jr.) seeks revenge after being racially profiled and assaulted by his colleagues, in this searing political satire by actor-director Cory Bowles of *Trailer Park Boys* fame and notoriety. Bowles pursues his film's simple but staggering reversal to its logical conclusion. By visualizing a stark shift in power, *Black Cop* asks why some Canadians continue to be treated with suspicion, fear, and violence by the very authorities who have sworn to serve and protect them.



CARDINALS

2017, 84 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: GRAYSON MOORE, AIDAN SHIPLEY

When Valerie (Sheila McCarthy) returns home from prison years after killing her neighbour in an apparent drunk driving accident, she wants nothing more than to move on – until the deceased's son shows up at her door and it becomes clear that the past is not so easily forgotten. McCarthy delivers a towering performance as her character navigates the palpable malaise her return has triggered whilst testing the old axiom of “what goes around always comes around”.

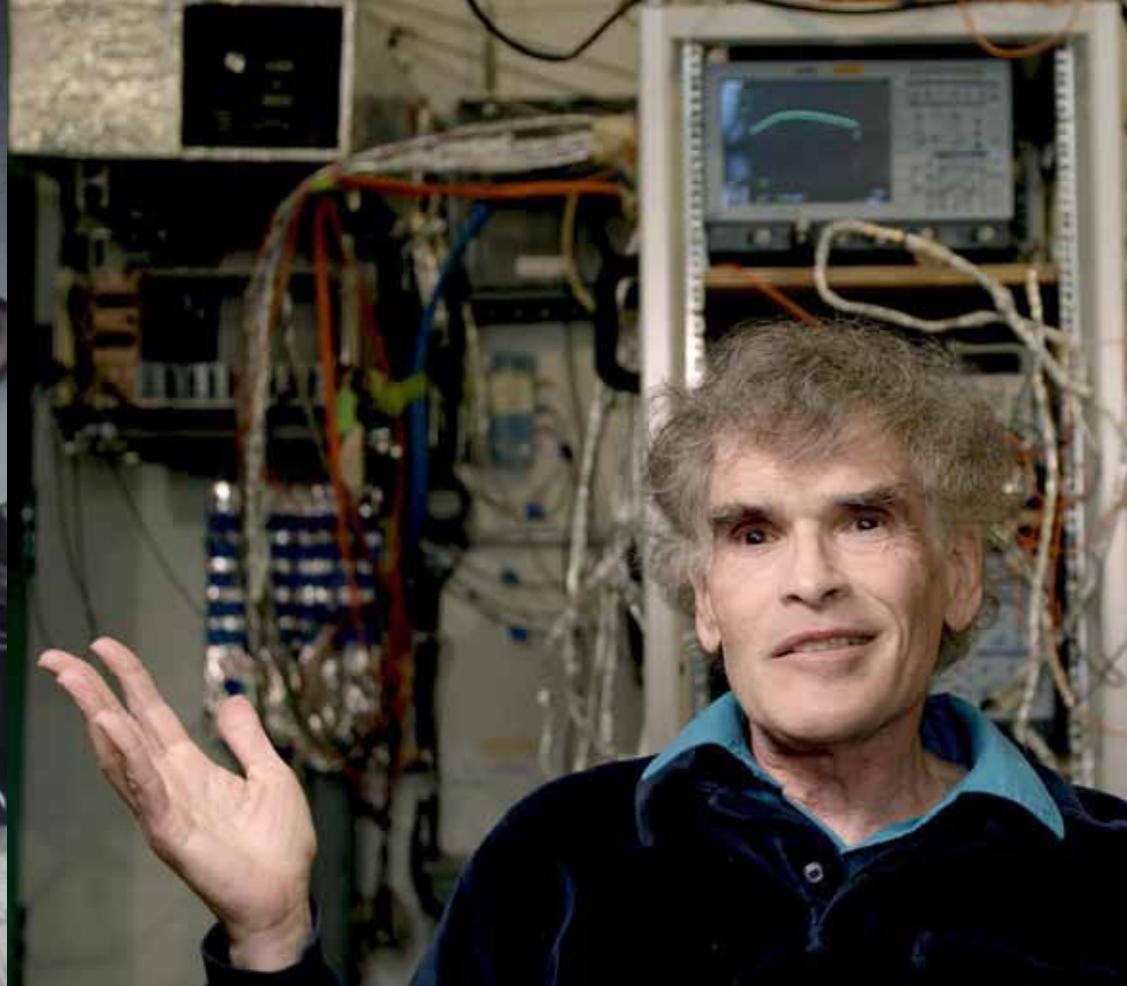
HOCHELAGA, LAND OF SOULS*

2017, 99 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: FRANÇOIS GIRARD

Mohawk archaeologist Baptiste Asigny engages in a search for his ancestors following a tragic terrain slump in the Percival Molson Stadium, in François Girard's multifaceted portrait of Montreal's rich history. One of Canada's most accomplished filmmakers, Girard has tackled histories and epic narratives before in *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*, *The Red Violin*, and *Silk*. *Hochelaga, Land of Souls* is his most ambitious project to date – a grand historical fresco that spans 750 years.

**Hochelaga, Land of Souls* will not be screened at Curzon Soho.



I'VE HEARD THE MERMAIDS SINGING* (REP)

1987, 81 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: PATRICIA ROZEMA

Scatterbrained Polly (Sheila McCarthy) gets a job as a secretary in Gabrielle's art gallery. Polly aspires to be a professional photographer, and idolizes Gabrielle for her artistic ability. When Gabrielle rekindles an old romantic relationship with a younger painter, Polly becomes jealous, and discovers Gabrielle is not quite who she claims to be. We are excited to be presenting Patricia Rozema's classic comedy in a brand new digital restoration courtesy of TIFF.

**I've Heard the Mermaids Singing is screening at Curzon Soho only.*

LET THERE BE LIGHT

2017, 80 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: MILA AUNG-THWIN, VAN ROYKO

In a race against time, a group of dedicated scientists from 37 countries around the world have come together in the French countryside to try and solve the greatest mystery of our time: how to produce an artificial sun here on Earth. If successful, the project could literally save the world but if it fails, it will be the most expensive failure in scientific history. Meanwhile, maverick inventors in garages are also trying to unlock nuclear fusion, but for a fraction of the cost. Premiering at SXSW last year, this enlightening documentary explores how close we are to achieving the holy grail of energy.



MARY GOES ROUND

2017, 86 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: MOLLY McGLYNN

When a substance abuse counsellor gets arrested for a DUI and returns to her hometown of Niagara Falls, she learns that her estranged father is dying of cancer and wants her to form a bond with her teenage half-sister that she's never met, in this family drama from writer-director Molly McGlynn. Tooling around town on a kid's bike, Mary is a complicated emblem of resilience wobbling towards the realization that caring about others might actually be the way to escape one's own trauma.

MEDITATION PARK

2017, 94 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: MINA SHUM

Mina Shum's new film is a touching, amusing, decidedly entertaining tale of an Asian-Canadian grandmother's declaration of personal independence after discovering her longstanding husband may not be as worthy of her reverential treatment as she once believed. Meditation Park features an all-star cast – including Cheng Pei Pei, Sandra Oh, Tzi Ma and *Canada Now*-favourite Don McKellar.



RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD

2017, 102 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE, ALFONSO MAIORANA

Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked The World explores the oft-neglected history of musicians of First Nations descent whose work and ancestry has yet to be adequately acknowledged and honoured - particularly their integral influence on the birth of Rock 'n' Roll. Stretching back a century to the work of groundbreaking blues musician Charlie Patton, whose Indigenous ancestry was often glossed over in favour of other narratives, the documentary covers an extraordinary amount of ground. Along the way there are some startling revelations and some seriously kick-ass tunes. Winner of the World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Masterful Storytelling at Sundance 2017.

THE BREADWINNER*

2017 CANADA-IRELAND, 94 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: NORA TWOMEY

The Breadwinner tells the story of Parvana, an 11-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. When her father is wrongfully arrested, Parvana disguises herself as a boy in order to support her family. With dauntless perseverance, Parvana draws strength from the stories her father told her, and ultimately risks her life to discover if he is still alive. Equal parts thrilling and enchanting, *The Breadwinner* is a timely and inspiring tale about the transcendent power of stories, and their potential to unite and heal us all.

**The Breadwinner* is screening at Curzon Soho only.



VENUS*

2017, 95 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: EISHA MARJARA

New York-based actor Debargo Sanyal gives a brilliant performance as Sid, a transitioning woman from Montreal. Her East Indian parents have been putting enormous pressure on Sid to marry a nice Indian girl and raise a family. But that certainly doesn't seem to be in the cards given Sid's transition. Director Eisha Marjara's first dramatic feature manages to find just the right life-affirming tone for the subject matter of the film. With tenderness and humour, she delivers a resounding plea for casting off gender stereotypes.

*Venus will not be screened at Curzon Soho.

CANADA NOW 2018

CURZON SOHO PROGRAMME

3-6 MAY

RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD

THURS 3 MAY 6.45PM

+ Q&A with director Catherine Bainbridge and executive director Ernest Webb

MEDITATION PARK

FRI 4 MAY 6.30PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUDDHA

FRI 4 MAY 9.00PM

+ Q&A with director Ian Lagarde

THE BREADWINNER

SAT 5 MAY 3.00PM

MARY GOES ROUND

SAT 5 MAY 6.00PM

BLACK COP

SAT 5 MAY 8.30PM

+ Q&A with director Cory Bowles

I'VE HEARD THE MERMAIDS SINGING

SUN 6 MAY 1.30PM

CARDINALS

SUN 6 MAY 4.00PM

+ Q&A with directors Grayson Moore and Aidan Shipley

LET THERE BE LIGHT

SUN 6 MAY 6.30PM

+ Q&A with director Mila Aung-Thwin and protagonist Mark Henderson

DISCOVER OUTSTANDING NEW PIECES OF CANADIAN FILMMAKING FOR JUST £8, OR £6 FOR CURZON MEMBERS

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More information at
CANADANOW.CO.UK

CANADA NOW is presented by Telefilm Canada in partnership with the High Commission of Canada in the UK and with support of the Québec Government Office in London.