

For Immediate Release

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Atlantic International Film Festival announces new Director of Programming

AIFF call for entries is open now!

(Halifax, NS) – The **Atlantic International Film Festival (AIFF)**, an eight-day celebration of film from Atlantic Canada and around the world based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is proud to announce **Lisa Haller** as the new Director of Programming.

Lisa Haller brings over a decade of experience working in film festival programming and strategy to the AIFF team. Most recently she acted as the Senior Short Film Programmer at the Whistler Film Festival and Film Programmer for Aspen Shortsfest. From 2010 to 2020, Haller worked with the Festival Programming department at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), recognized as a leader in film culture and one of the world's most prestigious international film festivals.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to build on this Festival's successful 43-year history," says Haller. "Together with the AIFF team, I look forward to highlighting a diverse lineup of films from around the world and elevating Atlantic Canadian talent and perspectives."

While at TIFF, Haller held various roles, including Festival Programming Manager, where she was responsible for program execution and expansion of the Canada's Top Ten Film Festival; Canadian and Short Film Senior Programming Associate; and International Programmer for TIFF's competitive and Oscar-qualifying short film programme, Short Cuts. Born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Haller is thrilled to return home and lead programming for the 2023 festival.

"Lisa brings a Canada-wide perspective from her work at TIFF and Whistler, combined with her Nova Scotian roots, which makes her uniquely placed to lead AIFF's programming into the coming year and beyond," shares Martha Cooley, AIFF Executive Director. "We are lucky to have her back in Atlantic Canada and look forward to what she will bring to AIFF audiences."

The **43rd annual Atlantic International Film Festival**, taking place this September 14-21, is currently calling for entries! The festival program is open to both short and feature-length film formats from all local, national, and international filmmakers. The early bird deadline to submit is Friday, April 28, 2023, and the regular deadline is Friday, June 16, 2023. For more information, visit: aiffestival.ca/aiff-call-for-entries.

The annual **FIN Kids Youth Film Competition** is also currently open and accepting submissions for short films up to five minutes long from Atlantic Canadian youth, 18 years old and younger. The competition is FREE to enter, and the deadline to submit is Friday, April 28, 2023. For more information, visit: aiffestival.ca/youth-film-competition.

About the Atlantic International Film Festival

The Atlantic International Film Festival (AIFF) is an eight-day celebration of film and media from around the world, turning Halifax into a must-visit destination for movie-lovers and filmmakers alike. Discover a variety of local, national, and international films that explore all corners of life, culture, entertainment, and the global human experience. All film selections are chosen with our audience in mind and our special events are designed to bring our community together. A not-for-profit organization, the AIFF began as a tiny, grassroots operation in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1981, relocating to Halifax the following year. Over four decades later, the Atlantic International Film Festival has evolved into one of Canada's premier film festivals and a champion of Atlantic Canadian filmmakers. Whether for unabashed film-lovers, curious onlookers, or industry folks, the Atlantic International Film Festival is the place to engage and connect through the celebration of film. The AIFF is now a year-round celebration of film, growing beyond our cornerstone event in September to include FIN Partners, FIN Kids, FIN Outdoor, and FIN Makers. The 43rd annual Atlantic International Film Festival will take place this September 14 – 21, 2023.

Follow the AIFF:

Website: finfestival.ca

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#AIFF23

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