

**LIFT PRESENTS THE 2019 SEASONAL SCREENING SERIES:
NARRATIVE**

Toronto, September 24, 2019—Member screenings have been an essential part of the **Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto's** nearly forty-year history. From screenings at the defunct experimental cinema The Funnel in the 1980s to Trash Palace and the Art Gallery of Ontario's Jackman Hall even board meetings—exhibition has been just as important as production for LIFT and our membership.

In 2018, we supported over 1,000 projects. Everything from student films to features, installations and festivals. But it is rare for us to be able to share what our members are creating. Last year was LIFT's last Round Up at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. In its place, we wanted to create an event for practicing artists and curious audiences to come together and celebrate the diversity of visions that make up our membership.

On October 15, 2019 LIFT's **Seasonal Screening Series** is set to return to Niagara Custom Lab for our third and final screening of the year. This time dedicated to narrative works from LIFT members. Having already explored documentaries and experimental works from our members, October's programme is perhaps the most eclectic yet with work that vacillates between intimate drama, hybrid forms and satire. We are going out on a high note in 2019.

Programme:

Curated by Cayley James, Justine McCloskey and Sally Walker-Hudecki.

***Jog*, Dir. Jacob Stein, 2019**

Does the dreamer remember the dream?

***Esmeralda's Castle*, Dir. Rachel Cairns and Sarah Hempinstall, 2017**

Lydia spends her days workin' for the man on the nine to five grind. But this secretary's world turns upside down, during a cheeky afternoon smoke break when she steps into the world of Esmerelda's Castle, and learns there's more to the man she's working for than meets the eye.

***Zeen?*, Dir. Calyx Passailaigue, 2019**

Produced as part of a commissioning program by Elegoa Cultural Productions and the Varley Art Gallery of Markham, supported by LIFT.

Chad is a pretentious arthouse filmmaker with a goal to reconnect with his Caribbean heritage through making a highbrow social drama called "Brothers in Babylon." To make the film, Chad recruits a cast and crew of Caribbean filmmakers...who all hate him.

***Cinnamon Tea*, Dir. Gursimran Datla, 2019**

Developed during LIFT's Newcomer Filmmentor 2017 Program

Cinnamon Tea is the story of a fraught reunion of two step-siblings—Omar and Aliya who connect in the midst of a family emergency. Aliya brings news from home and Omar is faced with a difficult decision. Does one remain angry or learn to forgive?

***The Carousel*, Dir. Shabnam Sukhdev, 2019**

Through scripted re-stagings of real conversations the filmmaker unpacks her complicated relationship with her daughter. Although deeply personal, *The Carousel*, manages to explore universal themes of mental health and the struggles of parenting.



LIFT SEASONAL SCREENING SERIES: Narrative

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Doors at 7:00pm; Screening at 7:30pm

Niagara Custom Lab

182A St. Helens Avenue

(SW of Bloor Street West and Lansdowne Avenue)

Admission:

FREE for LIFT Members

\$10.00 at the door for non-members

CASH ONLY

Many thanks to Niagara Custom Lab for making this event possible.



About Niagara Custom Lab

Niagara Custom Lab is a full-service motion picture film laboratory, one of the last of a rare breed that focuses on providing the most complete and diverse post-production services available for celluloid. Our goal is to provide these very important services to those in need, supporting anyone interested in shooting or working with motion picture film by preserving and maintaining it as an active artistic medium. <https://niagaracustomlab.com>

About the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)

The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) is Canada's foremost artist-run production and education organization dedicated to celebrating excellence in the moving image. LIFT exists to provide support and encouragement for independent filmmakers and artists through affordable access to production, post-production and exhibition equipment; professional and creative development; workshops and courses; commissioning and exhibitions; artist-residencies; and a variety of other services. LIFT is supported by its membership, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario Arts Foundation, the Government of Ontario and the Toronto Arts Council. <https://lift.ca>

-30-

Contact:

For additional information please see <http://lift.ca> or e-mail Development Coordinator Cayley James at development@lift.on.ca with subject heading: LIFT Seasonal Screening Series: Narrative