

TIFF Kids International Film Fest Unveils Slate



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Event opens with first ever Canadian 3D animated pic

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TORONTO — Canada's first 3D animated feature, "The Legend of Sarila," will open the 16th annual TIFF Kids International Film Festival, the Toronto festival announced Tuesday.

Produced by Quebec animation production company 10th Avenue and Carpe Diem Film & TV, and loosely based on Inuit legend, pic follows three youngsters on a journey through the glaciers to save their community from starvation.

"Legend" is directed by 10th Avenue founder Nancy Florence Savard, with screenplay by Pierre Trembley and Roger Harvey, and animation by Modus FX. Christopher Plummer and Northern-born thespians Dustin Milligan, Natar Ungalaaq and Elisappe Issac deliver the English voice parts.

TIFF Kids' 117-pic slate, 29 of which are features, includes the world premiere of U.K. helmer David Scheinmann's "Believe," inspired by the true events and telling the story of legendary Manchester United soccer manager Matt Busby's discovery of a young gifted footballer. Pic stars Brian Cox.

The fest's recently expanded industry program will present four days (April 16-19) of case studies, roundtables, panels and guest speakers exploring the latest trends in children's entertainment, and includes the participation of Sesame Workshop and top players in Canada's robust and trail-blazing kids' screen industry community.

TIFF Kids International Film Festival runs April 9-21 in Toronto.