

News Release

For Immediate Release

Seven new National Film Board of Canada short films celebrate Governor General's Performing Arts Awards recipients

NFB brings together acclaimed laureates and filmmakers to create a lasting cinematic tribute to Canadian performing arts excellence

April 9, 2015 – Montreal, Quebec – National Film Board of Canada

As the country prepares to honour excellence in Canadian performing arts on May 30 at the [National Arts Centre](#) with the 2015 [Governor General's Performing Arts Awards](#) (GGPAA), [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) directors and producers are completing a series of seven short films that will serve as innovative and lasting tributes to the lives and careers of each distinguished laureate.

A partner of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards since 2008, the NFB has produced 63 such films to date, works that have become an integral part of the GGPAA Gala and are available to all Canadians free of charge at the [NFB's Online Screening Room](#), through its [apps](#) for smartphones, tablets and connected TV, as well as in [The Performing Arts in Canada: A Celebration](#), the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards e-book.

The rich creative world of Lifetime Artistic Achievement laureate **Sarah McLachlan** is explored through her own words and drawings in a short film by Vancouver filmmaker **Julia Kwan**, recently named Best New Talent from Quebec/Canada at the Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal festival for her NFB feature documentary [Everything Will Be](#).

Toronto-based filmmaker **Daniel Cockburn** is crafting an innovative tribute to Lifetime Artistic Achievement laureate **Atom Egoyan**, placing this multi-award-winning director within a spatial montage of his works inspired by Egoyan's own adaptation of Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*. From Montreal, **Aisling Chin-Yee**, producer, director and partner at Prospector Films, honours the career of celebrated Canadian actor, director, producer, and arts advocate **R.H. Thomson**, a Lifetime Artistic Achievement laureate.

Mary Lewis, a Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council Artist of the Year and Genie Award-winning filmmaker, is directing films about two distinguished artists: a tribute to Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism recipient **Michael Koerner**, as well as a multi-media portrait of actress and artistic director **Diana Leblanc**, in which Lewis weaves archival footage, photographs and animation to create an intimate reflection on this Lifetime Artistic Achievement recipient.

Director of the acclaimed 2014 documentary *Fermières*, Quebec filmmaker **Annie St-Pierre** explores the cinema of **Jean-Marc Vallée**, recipient of the National Arts Centre Award recognizing extraordinary work in the past performance year. Recipient of the 2014 National Media Arts Prize, Winnipeg filmmaker **Matthew Rankin** is crafting a micro-epic short film as an inspired tribute to visionary avant-garde composer **Walter Boudreau**, capturing the life, work, mischief and boundless artistic curiosity of this Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award-winning musical pioneer.

Production on these shorts is led by NFB Executive Producer for Special Projects **René Chénier**, a veteran producer of acclaimed films combining documentary, animation and the arts, as well as pioneering stereoscopic productions and innovative works, who's worked to find just the right pairing of filmmaker and laureate in this year's films.

Quick Facts

Key credits

Laureate: Walter Boudreau (Lifetime Artistic Achievement)
Film directed by Matthew Rankin and produced by René Chénier

Laureate: Atom Egoyan (Lifetime Artistic Achievement)
Film directed by Daniel Cockburn and produced by Justine Pimlott

Laureate: Michael Koerner (Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism)
Film directed by Mary Lewis and produced by René Chénier

Laureate: Diana Leblanc (Lifetime Artistic Achievement)
Film directed by Mary Lewis and produced by René Chénier

Laureate: Sarah McLachlan (Lifetime Artistic Achievement)
Film directed by Julia Kwan and produced by Shirley Vercruysse

Laureate: R.H. Thomson (Lifetime Artistic Achievement)
Film directed by Aisling Chin-Yee and produced by Michael Fukushima

Laureate: Jean-Marc Vallée (National Arts Centre Award)
Film directed by Annie St-Pierre and produced by René Chénier

Quotes

“The National Film Board of Canada is honoured to be working with the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards once again this year. For the NFB, this partnership is a rare opportunity to pursue some of our great passions: our love of Canadian arts and our commitment to showcasing this country’s achievements. To create these signature films, we’ve worked with accomplished directors, who in turn draw inspiration from our laureates to create unique audiovisual works. I believe this is the best tribute we can offer these distinguished individuals—to celebrate them and their achievements in lasting works of cinematic art. I hope everyone enjoys watching these films as much as we enjoyed making them.”

Claude Joli-Coeur,
Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada

“There is no better way to celebrate and honour creative achievement than with creative achievement. Each year, the National Film Board produces unique and memorable short films to honour the creative spirit of our Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards laureates. And each year the NFB’s films are the highlight of the Gala celebration at the National Arts Centre.”

Douglas Knight,
Chair, Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Foundation

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About the NFB

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) creates groundbreaking [interactive works](#), social-issue documentaries and auteur animation. The NFB has produced over 13,000 productions and won over 5,000 awards, including 14 Canadian Screen Awards, 8 Webbys, 12 Oscars and more than 90 Genies. To access acclaimed NFB content, visit NFB.ca or download its [apps](#) for smartphones, tablets and connected TV.