

News Release
 For Immediate Release

Seven new National Film Board of Canada short films celebrate Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards laureates
NFB’s GGPAAs film portraits now total 70 inspired works—discover them at NFB.ca!

April 14, 2016 – Montreal – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) is bringing together acclaimed Canadian filmmakers to celebrate the achievements of Canadian performing arts legends on film, as the 2016 Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards (GGPAA) prepares to honour seven new laureates at its annual gala, taking place July 11, 2016, at the National Arts Centre.

“Each year the National Film Board’s brilliant directors rise to the challenge of capturing and celebrating 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 at the National Arts Centre,” said Douglas Knight, Chair of the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Foundation.

The NFB’s GGPAAs film collection is produced by the NFB in co-operation with the National Arts Centre and the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Foundation. The NFB has been a partner of the GGPAAs since 2008.

Unique film portraits of Canadian performing arts excellence

Lifetime Artistic Achievement laureates:

Nyla Innuksuk weaves together stories of artistry and family in her film portrait of singer-songwriter and humanitarian **Susan Aglukark**, produced by David Christensen and Jon Montes. The co-founder of Pinnguaq Productions, Nyla produced the short drama ***Kajutaijuq*** (2014), which premiered at TIFF and was selected as one of Canada’s Top Ten short films.

Filmmaker and media artist **Oana Suteu Khintirian** explores the sources of inspiration for artist, choreographer, writer and teacher **Marie Chouinard**, in a film produced by Denis McCready. Oana is currently at work on the NFB-co-produced ***Adieu papier!***, a highly personal feature documentary on the disappearance of paper and its impact on our collective memory.

TIFF award winner **Randall Okita** (*The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer*) takes us inside the architectural and sonic spaces inhabited by the remarkable voice of dramatic tenor and radio host **Ben Heppner**, one of our country’s pre-eminent musical ambassadors, in a work produced by David Oppenheim.

Jill Sharpe, whose NFB documentary *Bone Wind Fire* was named Best Canadian Film at Montreal’s International Festival of Films on Art, is directing a collage-like celebration that playfully explores the motivations behind film and television producer **Robert Lantos**’s legendary career. This short portrait is produced by Shirley Vercauteren.

Emerging Val-d’Or-born filmmaker **Sophie Dupuis** (***L’hiver et la violence***) explores the passion of children’s playwright and artistic director **Suzanne Lebeau** to create works that speak truthfully to

children, in a dramatic dialogue between actor Isabelle Miquelon and young performer Milya Corbeil-Gauvreau. Produced by Marc Bertrand.

Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts:

Genie Award-winning Newfoundland filmmaker **Mary Lewis** (*When Ponds Freeze Over*) is directing a tribute to Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism recipient **John D McKellar**, who has worked tirelessly as a volunteer, generous donor and pro bono legal advisor in the arts. Produced by René Chénier.

National Arts Centre Award:

Janice Zolf is celebrating singer and entertainer **Michael Bubl **, in a work produced by Kat Baulu. Janice just completed her documentary *Revealing Marie Saint Pierre*, a film about the Canadian fashion and furniture designer that had its world premiere in March at the International Festival of Films on Art.

Quick Facts

- The NFB has produced 70 films to date that serve as unique portraits of great Canadians—and inspired works of cinema in their own right.
- These films are a key part of the GGPAA Gala and are available to everyone, on the NFB’s online Screening Room NFB.ca and via its family of apps, so that all can share in this celebration of Canadian performing arts excellence.

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Electronic Press Kit: [*The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer*](#)

Associated Links

[2016 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards](#)
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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 15 Canadian Screen Awards, 11 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.