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Media Release

**Reelworld Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary,  
in Partnership with Hollywood Suite, with a Retrospective  
that Includes Securing Licensing Agreements for Reelworld filmmakers**

**Toronto, ON – 27 Oct 2020:**

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, Reelworld partnered with Hollywood Suite to present the **Reelworld 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective**, a showcase of seven award-winning films from past Reelworld festivals and eleven additional films directed by or starring Reelworld alumni. Reelworld was able to help seven of those filmmakers secure licensing agreements for their films.

“Creating access for Canadian Black, Indigenous, People of Colour media artists is the topmost priority for Reelworld. We want Canadian audiences to appreciate the great talent we have right here at home,” says Tonya Williams, Founder and Executive Director of Reelworld.

The films will air on Hollywood Suite November 18th and 19th starting at 9pm ET and will be available On Demand from November 1–30. All of the films selected exemplify Reelworld’s goal of empowering and spotlighting diverse Canadian creative voices over the past two decades, while further amplifying these voices.

“We are proud to work together with Reelworld to curate a true cross-section of films that amplify the voice and showcases the breadth of diverse Canadian talent,” says David Kines, President of Hollywood Suite.

As a perk, fans will also be treated to a recipe from director Lalita Krishna (*Tiger!* [2005]), to celebrate the inclusion of her film. Her simple and delicious tomato cilantro chutney offers “a peek at Krishna’s upbringing and highlights the importance of food and family, and how they are inextricably tied together in the South Asian diaspora.”

“Reelworld Film Festival has provided a platform for my documentaries since 2001. I attend the film festival every year either as a filmmaker or as an audience member to see great films which tell stories about the rich diversity of Canada.” Lalita Krishna, filmmaker.

The retrospective comes hot off the heels of Reelworld’s 20th anniversary film festival and a series of recently launched initiatives including Reelworld Producers Program in partnership with Bell Media, Reelworld Meridian Artists Agency Apprenticeship Program, and AccessReelworld.ca – North America’s largest hiring and networking database for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour creatives.

The **Reelworld 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective** on Hollywood Suite will feature these outstanding films:

***Hue: A Matter of Colour* (2014)**



**Director:** Vic Sarin

**Synopsis:** *“This feature documentary by renowned director and cinematographer Vic Sarin is a personal yet global investigation into the history and current state of colourism: the discrimination within one ethnicity based on differences in skin tone. Sarin travels the globe to discuss this complex cross-cultural social issue with individuals whose lives it affects, including a Filipina entrepreneur whose business has flourished within the billion-dollar skin-whitening industry. Hue leads viewers on a thoughtful and surprising journey to the heart of a painful and pervasive social issue that not only polices appearance, but also class, gender, and geography.”*

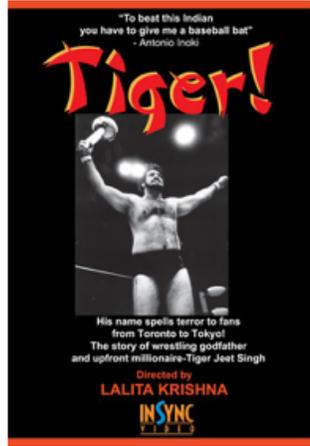
***Farewell Regent* (2019) – Special Jury Prize**



**Director:** Christene Browne

**Synopsis:** *“In a documentary that charts the complex canvas of Regent Park, Christene Browne puts a human face on the unique tensions and fellowships of the country’s most infamous social housing project. Farewell Regent eschews the storied violence of the community to focus on the activism and resilience that has always been in the DNA of its people.”*

**Tiger! (2005) – Award for Outstanding Canadian Documentary**



**Director:** Lalita Krishna

**Synopsis:** *"He landed in Canada to get an education. But unlike most other Indians who knuckled down to a life of nine-to-five, this strapping young man decided to spend his life beating the #@&\* out of people. His name: Tiger Jeet Singh. Three words which spelled terror and mayhem for men as big and burly as him. Yet whispered with tremulous adulation by thousands of fans from Toronto to Tokyo.*

*Tiger! is a compelling story about a wrestling legend who turned 60 in 2004. For most people, this would be seen as a good time to retire on a 100-acre property. Tiger chooses instead to take on 36-year-old Japanese Judo champion Naoya Ogawa. Tiger! is a riveting story with a nail-biting climax."*

**Echoes (2013) – Audience Choice Award**



**Director:** Sun-Kyung (Sunny) Yi

**Synopsis:** *"Echoes rests on the subject of international adoptions from China. But it is an extraordinarily intuitive film about the very essence of life, which is loss. Echoes chronicles the experiences of mothers who represent three distinct aspects of the story: A Chinese mother who abandoned her baby; a white, middle-class North American mother who adopted a Chinese girl; and a Canadian mother preparing to pick up her baby from China. Each of these mothers shares her experiences and struggles reconciling the powerful emotions and ideas that both abandonment and adoption, from an alien culture, entail."*

***Bearwalker* (2001) – Award for Outstanding Female Director**



**Director:** Shirley Cheechoo C.M.

**Synopsis:** “*Bearwalker* is the story of a supernatural force at work in a small community where prejudice, injustice, corruption, and revenge are simmering just below the surface. It is a dramatic and compelling tale of four Aboriginal sisters’ struggles with the powerful and menacing spirit of the Bearwalker, an evil force that takes possession of and tears apart several lives in the town.”

***Little Brother of War* (2003) – Audience Choice Award**



**Director:** Damon Vignale

**Synopsis:** “A young boy’s heroic journey in search of his deceased parents sets forth a series of life-affirming events, changing not only his life but also the lives of others.”

***Turbulence* (2015) – Audience Choice Award**



**Director:** Soran Mardookhi

**Synopsis:** “*Sherzad, a former electrical engineer from Iraqi Kurdistan, tries his best to lead a normal life in Canada, his adopted country. His estranged young daughter, Jina, numbs herself with drugs in order to forget her bitter past but has a hard time fitting in, even amongst the misfits. Jina and her father both have to resort to desperate measures to deal with their situation.*”

Additional films from Reelworld alumni include:

**DIRECTORS**

Zacharias Kunuk – Atanarjuat (2001)

Warren Sonoda - Textuality (2011)

Darlene Naponse - Every Emotion Costs (2010)

Nathan Morlando - Edwin Boyd (2011)

Julia Kwan - Eve and the Fire Horse (2005)

Rubba Nada - October Gale (2014)

**ACTORS**

Lisa Ray – Bollywood/Hollywood (2002), Water (2005), Cooking With Stella (2009)

Sook-Yin Lee – The Art of Woo (2001)

Mpho Koaho – Charlie Zone (2011)

**Founded in 2000 by Tonya Williams, Reelworld Film Festival and Reelworld Screen Institute** are the largest national platforms dedicated to supporting Canadian filmmakers and artists from Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern and Latin American communities. Since its inception, Reelworld has been at the forefront of creating access and inclusion for racially diverse Canadian talent.

**ABOUT HOLLYWOOD SUITE**

Hollywood Suite owns and operates four exclusive HD channels featuring the iconic movies that defined the 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s, plus essential Hollywood classics from the Golden Age, always uncut and commercial-free. With hundreds of movies every month on four HD channels and Hollywood Suite On Demand, Hollywood Suite provides an unparalleled value to consumers.

Hollywood Suite is available to over 10 million households across Canada, exclusively through Canadian television service providers and Amazon Prime video channels. Visit [hollywoodsuite.ca](http://hollywoodsuite.ca) for more information.

For more information on the Reelworld Film Festival and Reelworld Screen Institute, visit <https://www.reelworld.ca>.

**INQUIRIES**

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