

For Immediate Release

Reel Opportunities in Ottawa: A Training Program for Under-represented Youth



Ottawa, ON - February 17, 2023

From February 21 - 24, 2023, REEL CANADA, in partnership with Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival, IATSE 634, hosted at the Digital Arts Resource Centre (DARC) and supported by the Ottawa Film Office, will present one in a series of "Pop-Up Film Schools" that are taking place across the country this spring as part of the **Reel Opportunities program**.

The workshop series will consist of four days of hands-on training aimed at under-represented (i.e. people identifying as Black, Indigenous, Women, LGBTQ2S, or Persons with Disabilities) youth aged 18 - 30. The training, provided entirely by members of IATSE 634, will consist of overviews of grip, lighting, sound and special effects, as well as a general orientation and film set etiquette.

Reel Opportunities is a workforce development program presented by REEL CANADA aimed at creating new pathways into the Canadian film industry. For the past two years this has involved delivering remote informational workshops to high school students and community groups across the country. So far, more than 15,000 students have been reached through almost 600 such workshops. In 2023, Pop-up Film Schools will be presented in Vancouver, Calgary, Sault Ste Marie, North Bay, Ottawa and Montreal.

Funded in part by the federal government's Youth Employment Skills Strategy (YESS), the program serves youth aged 18 - 30 years.

Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival

Digi60 is a grassroots filmmakers' festival for filmmakers, by filmmakers. Created in 2004, Digi60 facilitates opportunities for new and emerging filmmakers to screen their work in a supportive, constructive peer environment while also allowing for professional development and support for independent filmmakers in Ottawa.

<http://www.digi60.org/>

REEL CANADA

REEL CANADA is a non-profit organization that celebrates Canada through film. Canadian films are the stories we tell about ourselves — they open the door to so many conversations about place, nation, identity, and what it means to be Canadian. REEL CANADA promotes the power and diversity of Canadian film and encourages this ongoing conversation through three core programmes: Our Films in Our Schools, Welcome to Canada, and National Canadian Film Day. Through these programs, REEL CANADA increases audiences for our films, encourages dialogue and, most

crucially, provides an opportunity to enjoy our great nation through the wonderful stories we tell. By celebrating Canadian cinematic storytelling we can build a stronger and prouder Canada.

<https://reelcanada.ca/>

IATSE

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees or IATSE (full name: International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories and Canada), is a labor union representing over 168,000 technicians, artisans and craftspersons in the entertainment industry, including live events, motion picture and television production, broadcast, and trade shows in the United States and Canada.

<https://iatse.net/>

Ottawa Film Office

The Ottawa Film Office is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help stimulate Ottawa's economy by attracting film and television production to the region, fostering the growth and development of the local film and television industry, and promoting the region as a preferred industry destination. Its services include location support, production attraction and development, and industry and government liaison and advocacy.

<https://ottawa.film/>