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N.S. takes centre stage at TIFF

Nova Scotia filmmakers will be in the spotlight at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival.

Director Cory Bowles and producer Preston Hudson will premiere their short film, Heart of Rhyme, at the star-studded festival in September.

The movie tells the story of Saxton Mahoney, an elderly man who receives a heart transplant. After the surgery, when he finds himself with the power to see rhythms and an unexplained skill for rapping, he decides he must seek out the origin of his donor.

The short film won the CBC/Film Nova Scotia Bridge Award in 2010. The prize included \$20,000 in equity funding from Film Nova Scotia and an equal amount, in licences and services, from CBC. Heart of Rhyme is the first Bridge Award winner to be officially selected for TIFF.

As well, Film Nova Scotia will partner with TIFF organizers to host a Spotlight on Nova Scotia emerging filmmakers on Monday, Sept. 12, at the BELL Lightbox.

The screening includes: Afghan, directed / produced by Pardis Parker; Discrimination of the Dead, directed / produced by Angus Swantee; Like Father, directed by Jesse Harley and produced by Chris Turner; Pawnshop, directed by Andrew Bush and produced by Angus Swantee; Rhonda's Party, directed by Ashley McKenzie and produced by Nelson MacDonald; Super Science, directed by Joel MacKenzie and produced by Mark Purdy; Treevenge, directed by Jason Eisener and produced by Rob Cotterill; and The Wake of Calum MacLeod, directed by Marc Almon and produced by Nona MacDermid.

As announced Aug. 9, Afghan Luke from Halifax director Mike Clattenburg (Trailer Park Boys) will have its North American premiere at TIFF. Produced by Clattenburg, Barrie Dunn and Michael Volpe, the film follows a reporter who returns to Afghanistan after his story is buried.

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