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FIN Outdoor presents "Summer of Henson" returning to the Halifax Public Gardens this summer

Free for all ages!

(Halifax, NS) - Produced by **FIN Atlantic International Film Festival (FIN AIFF)**, the 19th annual **FIN Outdoor** summer movie series is excited to be presenting four iconic Jim Henson Studios films at the historic Halifax Public Gardens; June 29, July 6, July 13 and July 20. Although a theme as beloved amongst both children and adults as **"Summer of Henson"** needs no other justification, it is 60 years ago this year that Jim and Jane Henson founded Muppets, Inc.

"Each year we try to come up with a program that will transcend age and taste and we really feel this year we have come up with a quintessential choice in celebrating the work of the Jim Henson Studios," says Wayne Carter, Executive Director at FIN. "We are so proud to be announcing our "Summer Of Henson" screenings during *Tourism Week In Canada* as Halifax is a prime tourist destination for all Canadians and these free screenings in our incredible Public Gardens make for an unforgettable experience for all ages."

In addition to the screenings at the Halifax Public Gardens, FIN Outdoor is thrilled to be taking outdoor summer movies on the road for the first time in its history, beginning with Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. For one late summer weekend, FIN Outdoor will put up its 30-foot inflatable screen showing movies on both Friday, August 10 and Saturday, August 11. The program will feature Atlantic Canadian award-winner and local favourite, *Maudie*, followed by a taste of the "Summer of Henson" with the original, *The Muppet Movie*.

The full list of 2018 FIN Outdoor screenings include:

Friday, June 29: *The Muppet Movie*, 1979, 95min (Rated G) at the Halifax Public Gardens

Friday, July 6: *The Dark Crystal*, 1982, 93min (Rated PG) at the Halifax Public Gardens

Friday, July 13: The Muppets, 2011, 103min (Rated PG) at the Halifax Public Gardens

Friday, July 20: *Labyrinth*, 1986, 101min (Rated PG) at the Halifax Public Gardens

Friday, August 10: *Maudie*, 2016, 116min (Rated PG) at Frost Park, Yarmouth

Saturday, August 11: The Muppet Movie, 1979, 95min (Rated G) in Yarmouth (location TBD)

Those attending FIN Outdoor are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs for comfort. Concessions will be available on site.

All films start at dusk and gates will open one-hour prior to each screening. Please check for weather updates and cancellations by tuning into **Virgin Radio 101.3** and by visiting: <u>finoutdoor.ca</u> There are no rain dates.

FIN Outdoor is pleased to offer FREE screenings, thanks to the support of the following partners and suppliers: GO! Store, Wilsons, Esso, Bell Media, CTV, StarMetro Halifax, Halifax Public Gardens, Virgin Radio 101.3, Current Studios, Discount Car and Truck Rentals, Dimensions Entertainment, The Workshop Creative Studios, Phillips Public Relations Ltd., Chris Geworsky Photography, Bay Ferries, Town of Yarmouth, the Halifax Regional Municipality, and the Province of Nova Scotia (Dept of NSCCH).

About FIN Outdoor

Who can resist a night under the stars with a classic movie and the smell of popcorn wafting through the air? Whether young or old, local or visiting, FIN Outdoor fits the bill for good times.

It's outdoors. It's movies. It's an unforgettable experience!

Throughout the summers for the past 18 years, from June to August, FIN Atlantic International Film Festival has delivered an entertaining outdoor film experience throughout Halifax – a larger-than-life inflatable screen showing classic movies under the open sky. With as many as 2000+ movie-goers coming together for each screening – all toting their lawn chairs, blankets, picnics and favourite company – this open-air cinema has a unique festival atmosphere that must be experienced first-hand.

While the program theme changes from one year to the next, the objective remains: to bring the community together; to enjoy the film viewing experience in unique outdoor settings; and to set the stage for the upcoming Atlantic International Film Festival.

For more information on FIN Outdoor, visit: finoutdoor.ca.

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About FIN Atlantic International Film Festival

FIN Atlantic International Film Festival (AFF) is an eight-day celebration of film, media and music from around the world. It's a festival that turns Halifax – a charming and historic coastal city – into an international mecca for the arts, abuzz with filmmakers, industry types and film lovers. This year's event celebrates 38 years of the Festival and takes place from September 13-20.

Offering a first look at the best international films of the festival season, FIN AIFF is a champion of local filmmakers, committed to bridging the gap. We attract some of the biggest players in film, media and music from around the world. All of our film selections are chosen with our community in mind and our special events are designed to bring us all together. A not-for-profit organization, FIN AIFF depends heavily upon its strong ties to the surrounding and thriving arts community.

The Atlantic International Film Festival began as a tiny, grassroots operation in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1981, relocating to Halifax the following year. Just three decades later, the Atlantic International Film Festival has blossomed into one of Canada's premier film festivals. Whether for industry folk, unabashed film lovers or curious onlookers, the Festival offers a slew of opportunities to engage through film. Today's FIN Atlantic International Film Festival is now a year-round celebration, growing beyond our eight-day cornerstone event in September to include: FIN Kids Film Competition and Festival Tour, FIN Outdoor, and FIN Partners.

Receive the most up-to-date information about FIN Atlantic International Film Festival and its events, including sneak peeks and festival highlights on our website: <u>finfestival.ca</u>, our Facebook page: <u>facebook.com/atlanticinternationalfilmfestival</u>, our Twitter account: <u>@thefilmfest</u>, our Instagram account: <u>@finfilmfest</u>, our Youtube channel: <u>youtube.com/user/atlanticfilmdotcom</u>, and our LinkedIn company page: <u>linkedin.com/company/atlantic-film-festival</u>/.

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