



**PIERS HANDLING**  
**Director and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Toronto International Film Festival®**

Piers Handling is the Director and Chief Executive Officer of TIFF. He has held this position since 1994, and is responsible for leading both the operational and artistic growth of the organization. TIFF has a \$44-million annual operating budget and employs more than 200 full-time staff and 500 seasonal employees. For the last eight years, TIFF has been named one of the Greater Toronto Area's Top 50 employers, and was recently named one of Canada's 150 iconic brands by Interbrand Canada. In 2015, Toronto Life named him one of Toronto's 50 Most Influential People.

Under Handling's direction, the organization has grown to become an internationally renowned cultural institution. In 2010 TIFF opened its own permanent home which presents daily programming: TIFF Bell Lightbox houses five cinemas, two exhibition galleries, and educational and learning studios. He led the \$196-million fundraising campaign.

Handling has curated numerous film retrospectives and presented programmes of Canadian cinema at the Sundance Film Festival, the British Film Institute, and the Havana Film Festival, and has sat on festival juries including Cannes, Tokyo, Rotterdam, San Sebastian, Torino, Istanbul, and Los Cabos. In 2013, Handling co-curated a multi-platform celebration of iconic Canadian director David Cronenberg. The Cronenberg Project included a comprehensive film exhibition, a virtual museum, an art exhibition presented in partnership with the Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art, and two original publications celebrating the film retrospective and art exhibitions. The exhibition David Cronenberg: Evolution, the core component of The Cronenberg Project, is currently touring to cultural institutions worldwide.

Handling began his career at the Canadian Film Institute (CFI), ultimately becoming Deputy Director. After leaving the CFI, he taught Canadian cinema at Carleton University in Ottawa and Queen's University in Kingston. He has published extensively on Canadian cinema and edited numerous books. He joined the Festival of Festivals in 1982, and became Artistic Director in 1987.

Handling is an Officer of the Order of Canada and has been awarded the Order of Ontario. He was named a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, France's highest cultural insignia. In 2003, he was named CEO of the Year by the Canadian Public Relations Society (Toronto). He holds Honorary Doctorates from Queen's University, the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, York University and OCAD University; and has sat on a number of Boards and advisory councils including FAME (Festivals and Major Events), the Canadian Film Centre, Tafelmusik, Luminato, Telefilm Canada's Feature Film Advisory Committee, Ontario's Minister of Culture's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture (MACAC) and most recently, The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation. In 2012, Handling was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David Onley, and the

TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world through film.



Countess of Wessex during a ceremony at Queen's Park. He has been inducted into the Playback Hall of Fame for his significant role in building the film industry in Canada, received the Technicolor Clyde Gilmour Award, presented by the Toronto Film Critics Association, in recognition of his work enriching the understanding and appreciation of film in his native country; and most recently was named the recipient of the Peter Herrndorf Arts Leadership Award by Business for the Arts in Canada.

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