



Celebrate National Canadian Film Day With a Free Online Screening of the 1979 Classic Film, MEATBALLS

The Oakville Festival of Film and Arts is proud to partner with REEL CANADA for the 8th annual National Canadian Film Day, on April 21, 2021.

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 - Toronto, ON - The Oakville Festival of Film and Arts (OFFA) and Sheridan College will be partnering with REEL CANADA and National Canadian Film Day (NCFD) to present one of Canada's most beloved classic movies, by one of our most celebrated Directors, Ivan Reitman.

This year a very special FREE screening of the Canadian-made, coming-of-age classic, *MEATBALLS*, will be presented virtually with more than 1000 live community screenings, in hundreds of communities from coast to coast, participating in one of the largest virtual screenings in the country.

The film will be available for 48 hours beginning on April 21st at 9 am, with a live Q&A with Director Ivan Reitman, Casting Director and Actor Jack Blum (who portrayed Spaz, who is also the founder of REEL CANADA), and actor Kate Lynch (who portrayed Roxanne) to follow at 9:00pm EDT. The Q&A will be hosted by OFFA co-founder Wendy Donnan, and the Q&A will be moderated by Canadian media icon, Jennifer Valentyne, a 25-year veteran of Breakfast Television, Global News Morning, and the host of *The Bachelor*, and *The Bachelorette*.

MEATBALLS is still one of Canada's highest grossing movies, and featured breakout star, Bill Murray. Screenwriters include Harold Ramis, Len Blum, Daniel Goldberg, and Janis Allen.

On why the *MEATBALLS* is such a perfect selection for this year's event, REEL CANADA Director, Jack Blum explains: "In a year when we all need to feel good, *MEATBALLS* is the ultimate Canadian feel-good movie. It's theme song 'Are you Ready for the Summer?' pretty well summarizes how we're all feeling right now, doesn't it?"

On this year's partnership with REEL Canada, OFFA Executive Director, Wendy Donnan says, "OFFA has been proud to be a very active partner and supporter of NCFD and the team at REEL CANADA for many years, and continues to support Canadian film and our industry at our June festival and at all of our events. It's really exciting to be bringing Ivan Reitman back home, even virtually, for National Canadian Film Day!"

"OFFA has been one of our best partners for several years" says Blum, "Dozens of film festivals across the country participate but OFFA always goes the extra mile and creates something very special for their audience."

Now in its eighth year, National Canadian Film Day has taken root as our largest annual celebration of Canadian culture. It is about giving Canadians an opportunity to gather together (in person or virtually) and celebrate the incredible achievements of our nation's filmmakers. Every year hundreds of screenings take place on every conceivable platform and, in normal times, in every conceivable venue.

40+ film festivals from across the country are hosting national screenings and Q&As with filmmakers and stars. An additional 150 community watch parties are being planned, and 25+ international events in countries around the world. More than a dozen major broadcast and streaming partners will run special programming, making great Canadian films available to anyone with a tv, computer, or wireless device.

To get your FREE pass to this event, please visit [our virtual box office](#).

For movie stills and bios please visit our [Media Gallery](#).

To speak to the organizers about this event, or to request an interview with Wendy Donnan, Jack Blum or Kate Lynch, please contact:

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ABOUT OFFA

Established in 2014, OFFA is a cultural not-for-profit that envisions a community of cultural and artistic diversity with the cinematic arts as a focal point. OFFA produces Oakville's only independent film festival which is now in its 8th year, and is now a hybrid festival, featuring live and digital events. **For more information on this year's 8th annual hybrid festival which is set to happen June 23-29th, the longest festival yet at seven days and over 70 films, please visit OFFA.ca. @oakvillefestivals #OFFAonline #OakvilleFilmFestival**

About REEL CANADA

REEL CANADA is a non-profit, charitable organization that promotes the diversity of Canadian film and its power to spark important conversations about what it means to be Canadian. Through our three core programs—Our Films in Our Schools, Welcome to Canada, and National Canadian Film Day (NCFD)—REEL CANADA has reached millions of high school students, new Canadians, and general audience members.