



After the success of the inaugural Vaughan Film Festival in 2013, folks in this city can't help but find themselves talking film and about the VFF at home, by the water cooler and around the community. The 2014 Vaughan Film Festival is set to dazzle audiences while rolling out the red carpet from April 2nd to 4th. Last year's festival showcased incredible talent, including Oscar-Winning short *Curfew* and its tremendously talented lead actress Fatima Ptacek (with a return appearance this year), as well as a host of others who used their work to show viewers that the short film is an incredible medium for telling captivating stories and producing groundbreaking cinema. The VFF Committee wasted no time after the 2013 film festival. Rather than bask in the obvious success of the event, each member accumulated feedback from all parties to come up with ways to improve this year. As explained by Co-Event Director Antonio Ienco,

"Directly after last year's festival we had a meeting with our committee to assess the feedback given to each person. From this meeting we gathered positive and negative feedback and built on it. We tried to enhance both spectrums as best as we could."

The most notable change is that the two-day festival of 2013 is now a three day extravaganza. The extra day was added in part out of necessity and to help the VFF move boldly towards the vision of its founders and current Event Directors Antonio Ienco & Mark Pagliaroli. "We added an extra day of film screenings simply because we want to show more films! There were so many great submissions received this year and we're trying to give as many filmmakers as possible an opportunity," said Pagliaroli. With almost 100 submissions pared down to only 25, festival goers can expect a strong line-up within each of the four blocks of screenings on April 2nd and 3rd at Colossus Theatres. While change is inevitable in any growth process, the committee also looked to

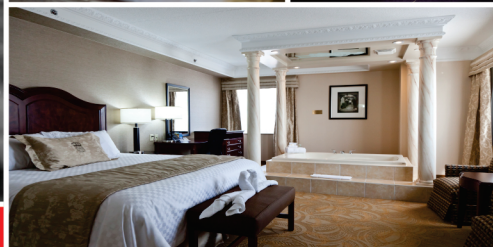
what made last year feel magical and some familiar faces and features are returning this year. Rick Campanelli, host of ET Canada, is reprising his role as host of the VFF Award Show once again this year. Four of the five judges from the inaugural event are also back this year, although a few new additions are set to bolster the cache of the awards. The additions, including Paul Lewis (President of Discovery Channel Canada), Thom Ernst (film critic and former host of Saturday Night at the Movies), and Annette Mangaard (Canadian Filmmaker & Gemini Award Nominee), will bring years of experience and knowledge of cinema to increase the event's visibility and credibility with the film industry. The VFF's scholarship award program, one that saw two high school students receive a head start and the opportunity to chase their dreams and a career in the arts, will also be available to another two recipients in 2014. "This is something we were keen on doing from the beginning because the festival is all about opportunity, and we want to do what we can to create that opportunity for up and coming artists," said Pagliaroli. Ienco added, "We were both Vaughan high school students pursuing the arts, which really inspired us to get us where we are today but we felt the support wasn't entirely there. A scholarship opportunity is something we would have loved to have been offered when we were at that age." In addition, students in art programs from local high schools competed in creating giant film reels. The most creative piece, which this year was submitted by Father Bressani, netted the winning school \$2,000 to be used within the school's art program. While the vision is to have this event attract stars from Hollywood and the very best filmmakers from around the world, and possibly see both shorts and feature length films screened over an entire week, it's easy to see that the event will always remain true to its roots. With a dedicated committee as the driving force behind the vision of its founders, the Vaughan Film Festival is sure to grow in prestige. That being said, when it comes to the Vaughan Film Festival, more than just the word "Vaughan" comes first. The host city, whether over two days, three days or five days of film screenings, stands to benefit most - showcasing its ability to become a world-class city, featuring its own world-class talent, in an event put together by world-class, homegrown individuals.



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