

## News / Toronto

### Toronto high schoolers host a film fest worthy of Hollywood

There's nothing elementary about this high school film festival.

**By: Colin McNeil** Metro, Published on Wed May 25 2016

A 'very political' documentary about the cultural impact of Star Wars, a horror film about psycho killer principal, an anti-romantic comedy that takes shots at '80s classic Say Anything.

Critic's picks for the next TIFF?

Not quite. You're looking at the lineup Chaminade College School's one-day student film showcase, which takes over the Yorkdale Mall Cineplex Wednesday, May 25.

But there's nothing elementary about this high school film festival.

These young filmmakers take their work seriously – enough to leave an interview with Chris Weitz, the screenwriter behind the upcoming Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, on the cutting room floor.

The Hollywood writer's interview just "didn't fit into the narrative," says grade 12 student Giuseppe Tosolini, one of the kids behind a 10-minute Star Wars documentary called The Force.

The rest of the lineup includes everything from a thriller that has a student battling mental health issues while he takes his class hostage with a gun, to a drama with a 'Birdman vibe' about a socially anxious teenager forced to interact with others on public transit.

Every short film was created by students from the all-boys Catholic school, who get the chance to see their work play out on the big screen.

"It means a ton to me," said Tosolini, who helped shoot and edit The Force. "When you make a film, it's like it's your baby. You're getting to see other people love your baby. That's what makes it feel real."

Seeing student work in theatres is "an inspiration," agrees Angelo Ventura. His film, The Prom Date, is an anti-romantic comedy where a high schooler recreates the iconic boombox scene from 1989's Say Anything, only to have his fantasies shattered and his prom proposal rejected.

"We wanted to move away from the fantasy of love films," the grade 12 writer and star explained.

Having the John Cusack stand-in get rejected is "much more interesting" than the original.

Doors at the Yorkdale Cineplex open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

### Just a few of the films being shown

#### Trigger Effect

## Trigger Effect



A student battling mental health issues and a mother who's ashamed of his condition takes his class hostage with a gun. The only person who can reach him is a boy in his class who's also coping with mental illness.

## The Force

A "very political" documentary about the time, place and politics that birthed the biggest film franchise of all time.

## The Force: Why The Galaxy Far Far Away Matters



## The Prom Date

It's boy meets girl, boy never even has a shot, in this anti-romantic comedy that pokes fun at 1980s romcom classic Say Anything.

## The Prom Date



## Jamais Vu

In this slasher flick with a twist, high school students are being hunted down one by one by a malicious killer in a small Canadian town.

## Jamais Vu



## Don't Look Here

A socially awkward student has to reckon with his own anxiety and come to terms with himself after being forced to take public transit.

Dont Look Here

