

## **T.O. Webfest Announces Keynote Speaker and International Panelists**

(Toronto, August 28, 2023) Highlighting the 10th anniversary of T.O. Webfest is Keynote Speaker, Christina Jennings, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Shaftesbury. Much admired by the industry for her innovative storytelling and her many internationally successful prime time TV series (*Murdoch Mysteries*, *Hudson & Rex*, *Departure*), the multi award-winning Christina Jennings' Shaftesbury has also produced and distributed original, digital short form series, including *Carmilla*, *Slo Pitch*, *Topline*. Her Keynote launching T.O. Webfest on September 19, will give her perspectives on the web series world within the media ecosystem.

*"Christina Jennings takes risks, experiments, supports talent and provides opportunities to new creators. She has made Shaftesbury the go-to production company and streamer in the Canadian short form content world. The T.O. Webfest audience will be inspired by her insights into our industry"* stated Leah Rifkin, President, WSC.

The T.O. Festival and Conference also includes international guests participating on various panels and events. Speakers are confirmed from Australia, Brazil, Germany, and USA. They will provide their perspectives on taking short form content to longer forms, distribution strategies, monetization, alternate streaming platforms and making the most of festival participation.

Prior to the Festival, these international guests will also be participating in a by-invitation-only International Summit: *The Webseries Frontier*, to discuss the state of the short form series world, its challenges and strategies for success. Leading Canadian short-form professionals, producers, funders, trainers, platforms and policy-makers from across Canada will be participating in this discussion, with a report to be published for the international community.

T.O. Webfest will be held at Artscape Daniels Launchpad in Toronto and is open to all short form series enthusiasts.

Tickets for T.O. Webfest 2023 - screenings and conference - are available for purchase on [Eventbrite](#). Presented by WebSeries Canada, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the short form series industry in Canada, T.O. Webfest receives support from lead partners including the **Canada Media Fund, Ontario Creates, CBC Gem, Independent Production Fund, Bell Fund, Shaw Rocket Fund, TELUS Fund, and CMPA** as well as many industry supporters.

**Follow us on Instagram: [@TOWebFest](#) [@webseriescanada](#)**

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