RBC ROYAL BANK SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON EMERGING FILMMAKERS
AT ttff/13

Celebrating Emerging Filmmakers: Darryl White, Regional Vice President, Corporate Banking, RBC Merchant Bank, (centre), and Shamila Ramcharan, Head Corporate Communications and Brand, RBC Caribbean Banking (far right) share a group shot with Bruce Paddington, founder and festival director, trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff), Maria Govan, winner of the inaugural 2011 RBC Focus: Filmmakers Immersion (2nd from left) and Abigail Hadeed, 2012 RBC Focus past participant.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, September, 16, 2103: For the 3rd consecutive year, RBC will champion the development of emerging filmmakers in the region as the sole sponsor of the RBC Focus: Filmmakers Immersion – an intensive development programme that provides 10 selected filmmakers from the Caribbean and its diaspora with the opportunity to learn from film professionals.

This year’s Immersion will be held from September 24-27, during the trinidad + tobago film festival 2013 (ttff/13).
Each year, the Immersion alternates between fiction and documentary filmmaking; this year, the focus is on fiction, and the main facilitator will be New York-based Argentinian filmmaker Julia Solomonoff.

The 10 selected participants for the Immersion are:
- Gabrielle Blackwood, Jamaica
- Shakirah Bourne, Barbados
- Ivette Davila, Puerto Rico/Cuba/USA
- Pierre de Fréro, Haiti
- Ian Harnarine, TT/Canada
- Ivan Herrera, Dominican Republic
- Ryan Khan, TT
- Maharaki, Barbados/Martinique
- Damian Marcano TT/USA
- Storm Saulter, Jamaica.

The participants enter the Immersion with a concept for a feature film. At the end the top five participants as decided by Solomonoff will be chosen. These participants will then pitch their project to a jury at a public event on September 28. The participant with the best project and pitch, as determined by the jury, will win a cash prize of TT$20,000.

Speaking at the official launch of this year’s festival, Darryl White, Regional Vice President, Corporate Banking, RBC Merchant Bank, said “Our role as the leading sponsor of the ttff is not only a privilege for us – as the only financial services sponsor – more importantly, it allows us to build on the strong tradition, set by our parent company in Canada, of supporting emerging artists and emerging filmmakers the world over.”

“Cultural preservation is part of the foundation of our commitment to sustainable development. To that end, we believe that working with emerging filmmakers and supporting the arts has given us, as a financial institution, the opportunity to do more than connect with the individuals and communities that we depend upon for success,” White added.

“The film festival is encouraged by the sheer number of applications this year and the level of the selected participating filmmakers,” said Emilie Upczak, Creative Director, ttff.

“The Immersion has become a significant offering in the development of the Caribbean film industry and we are pleased to be able to continue to support the emerging filmmakers in the region through the generous support given by RBC Royal Bank.”

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About RBC and the Arts
RBC supports a wide-range of grassroots and local initiatives that contribute to the cultural fabric of our communities. Through the RBC Emerging Artist Project, RBC provides opportunities for up-and-coming artists through programs such as the RBC Canadian Painting Competition and the RBC Emerging Filmmakers Competition. In 2012, RBC contributed more than CAD 95 million to causes worldwide, including donations and community investments of more than CAD 64 million and CAD 31 million in sponsorships.

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