

TIFF.24 opens with a tribute to Florin Piersic and an Irish coming-of-age film about second chances: *Christy*

Cluj-Napoca, May 7, 2025 – The 24th edition of the **Transilvania International Film Festival (Cluj-Napoca, June 13–22, 2025)** will open with ***Christy*** (dir. Brendan Canty, Ireland/UK, 2025), a hopeful coming-of-age story about resilience and the power to start over, recently awarded at the Berlinale. The screening will take place on the grand outdoor screen in **Unirii Square on Friday, June 13, at 8:45 PM**, as part of a special event preceded by a tribute to legendary actor **Florin Piersic**, who will be honored with a **Excellence Award**. It's just the beginning of the extraordinary cinematic marathon that TIFF has delivered to audiences for the past 24 years.

Tickets for the Opening Gala are available online – tiff.eventbook.ro

Christy follows a teenage boy from an Irish suburb, on the verge of turning 18—an age that means he will soon age out of the care system. He ends up in the custody of his estranged half-brother, a man trying to build the kind of family he never had. Though initially worlds apart, the two slowly begin to confront and reconcile the traumas of their past in this moving slice-of-life drama populated by vivid, life-filled characters.

The feature directorial debut of **Brendan Canty**—known for his award-winning short films and Hozier's iconic “Take Me to Church” music video—*Christy* premiered in the Generation 14plus section of the Berlin International Film Festival, where it was awarded the Grand Prix. Screen International praised it as “at its strongest and most authentic when portraying two boys who have lost everything and trust no one, not even each other.” Part of the film's team will attend the Opening Gala in Cluj.

Christy also launches TIFF's new competitive section, **Teen Spirit**, dedicated to exploring youth culture through fiction and documentary films. The section will feature nine titles, evaluated by a jury made up of local teenagers aged 16 to 20. More details will be announced soon.

The Opening Gala of TIFF.24 will also include a special tribute to one of Romania's most beloved actors – **Florin Piersic**. The Cluj-born icon of Romanian cinema and theatre will attend the event alongside family, friends, and fellow stars, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award. With his unmistakable charm, warm voice, and magnetic presence, Piersic has captivated generations of audiences over a career spanning more than six decades. He brought to life countless legendary characters and became a cultural reference for millions. In 2010, Florin Piersic was also featured in TIFF's official festival campaign, alongside his son, Florin Piersic Jr.

Festival organizers have more surprises in store for June 13. The full TIFF.24 program will be announced soon, including over 200 films, cine-concerts, and special events.

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The Transilvania International Film Festival is organized by the Romanian Film Promotion Association and the Transilvania Film Festival Association.

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