**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***CBC Gem original LIDO TV by artist Lido Pimienta to make its world premiere at TIFF on September 11th***

*New variety show available to stream on CBC Gem beginning September 23*

*To celebrate the TIFF launch, a free live performance with Pimienta and special guests will take place on Festival Street following the TIFF premiere*

**TORONTO – August 26, 2022 –** LIDO TV (6x20) is set to debut this fall with a [world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival](https://tiff.net/events/lido-tv) (TIFF) on September 11th, followed closely by [its debut on CBC Gem](https://www.cbc.ca/mediacentre/press-release/cbc-announces-fall-2022-premiere-dates-for-new-and-returning-series) on September 23rd. Created, written, produced, and hosted by Grammy Award-nominated, Polaris Prize-winning powerhouse [Lido Pimienta](https://www.instagram.com/lidopimienta/), LIDO TV delivers a fresh and fabulous take on the variety show format while tackling topical social issues like colonialism, feminism, and privilege with humour and heart. Pimienta is a daughter of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora and Indigenous Wayuu woman, from the territories comprising the Guajira peninsula in Northern Colombia and Venezuela.

“What started as an artistic project during the pandemic has grown into something so much more,” said Pimienta, creator of LIDO TV. “This is a love letter to a little girl sitting on the branch of a mango tree in Colombia, singing at the top of her lungs while other kids made fun of her for being weird. I’m so grateful to our cast and crew for bringing their talent to every scene, sketch and performance, and I can’t wait for the world to see what we’ve created.”

LIDO TV is a surrealist feast for the senses. The show combines playful puppetry, sketch comedy, soulful performances, candid interviews, and intimate documentaries and is shot on location in Colombia. There are also special appearances by celebrity guests including Nelly Furtado, Bear Witness (from The Halluci Nation), Kittie, and Shad. Each episode of LIDO TV tackles a single issue, from colonialism and privilege, to feminism and hate.

“Lido Pimienta is the definition of a visionary, and it’s been a thrill to work by her side to bring her ideas to the screen with the help of so many talented people,” said Sean O’Neill, founder of the production company Visitor Media and co-showrunner and executive producer of LIDO TV. “There couldn’t be a better project to launch our company with, and I’ll be grateful to Lido for the opportunity to collaborate on this wild and sincere project, for eternity.”

LIDO TV was also supported by a strong creative team including creative producer Gustavo Cerquera Benjumea, associate producer Andres Landau, and Maya Annik Bedward and Alicia K. Harris as directors of the show. Pimienta was the show’s head writer, working alongside writers Tim Fontaine, the founder of *Walking Eagle News*, and writer and podcaster Sarah Hagi.

Following the TIFF screening on September 11th, Pimienta will also be joined by special guests, including Bear Witness, for a special live performance at [TIFF’s Festival Street](https://www.tiff.net/events/lido-pimienta-and-friends-featuring-bear-witness-and-special-guests).

**About CBC Gem**

CBC Gem is Canada’s streaming service, offering more than 6500 hours of live and on-demand Canadian programming and a curated selection of acclaimed, best-in-class content from around the world, including more than 800 documentaries, 400 hours of ad-free content for kids and tweens, and a collection of over 150 Canadian feature films. CBC Gem is available free as an app for iOS and Android devices and online at [CBCGem.ca](https://gem.cbc.ca/), and on TV screens via Apple TV, Google Chromecast, Amazon Fire TV and Android TV.

**About CBC/Radio-Canada**

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada’s national public broadcaster. Through our mandate to inform, enlighten and entertain, we play a central role in strengthening Canadian culture. As Canada’s trusted news source, we offer a uniquely Canadian perspective on news, current affairs and world affairs. Our distinctively homegrown entertainment programming draws audiences from across the country. Deeply rooted in communities, CBC/Radio-Canada offers diverse content in English, French and eight Indigenous languages. We also deliver content in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Punjabi and Tagalog, as well as both official languages, through Radio Canada International (RCI). We are leading the transformation to meet the needs of Canadians in a digital world.

**About Visitor Media**

[Visitor Media](https://visitor-media.com/) is a production company dedicated to developing and producing artist-driven projects across film, television, and digital media. Founded by Sean O’Neill, co-creator and host of the award-winning CBC arts documentary series *In the Making*, Visitor Media is currently in production on projects created by and in collaboration with Lido Pimienta, Beverly Glenn-Copeland, Crystal Pite and Chelsea McMullan.

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