

October
1-11

45th Vancouver International Film Festival

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Welcome to the Festival



Greetings from the Musqueam Indian Band

ʔa: si:yém nə siyéyə

Friends and relatives,

ʔəni ce:p kʷətxʷiləm ʔi ʔə tə ɬa šxʷməθkʷəy̓əmaʔ t əməxʷ, tə šxʷʔaməts tə shəŋqəmiəŋəŋqən

Welcome to the ancestral territory of the həŋqəmiəŋəŋ-speaking Musqueam people.

ʔi? ɬəw tə šxʷʔaləqʷa? ct tə sqʷxʷaməx ʔi? tə səliw ətaʔ məsteyəxʷ

Along with our relatives Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh.

For countless generations, stories have connected Musqueam people to one another, to our ancestors, and to these lands and waters. They carry our knowledge, our history, our values, and our responsibility to future generations. Today, film continues that tradition in powerful new ways, creating opportunities for Indigenous voices to be heard, celebrated, and shared with audiences around the world.

The Vancouver International Film Festival provides an important space for these stories to be experienced. By showcasing Indigenous filmmakers and perspectives alongside films from across the globe, VIFF helps foster understanding, encourages meaningful dialogue, and celebrates the richness and diversity of storytelling.

We appreciate VIFF's ongoing commitment to working in partnership with the Host Nations and to creating opportunities for Indigenous artists, filmmakers, and storytellers to share their work. Together, we can continue building relationships through stories that inspire, educate, and connect us.

On behalf of the Musqueam Indian Band, I welcome you to the 2026 Vancouver International Film Festival. I hope you enjoy the festival and take time to reflect on the stories that bring us together.

yəxʷyaxʷələq Chief Wayne Sparrow



Greetings from the Squamish Nation

Ta newyáp Siiyám Ta newyáp siiyay

To all our Friends, to all our Respected Leaders.

St'i7 chet wa kw'enmantúmiyap kwis na t'i'ik I tti naʔ ta temíxwcht

We want to thank you all and welcome you all to our land.

Niɬ ta s7ulh temíxw tta Skwxwú7meshulh Úxwmixw iy tta Xwmets'kwiýemulh Úxwmixw iy tta Selilwetulh Úxwmixw

This is the land of our Squamish People, and the Musqueam People, and Tsleil-Waututh People.

For many generations, Squamish People have created a culture of oral literature to teach our history, values, and advice to the next generation. Our storytelling traditions are how we inspire ourselves and our children to be a good person, to treat family, land, and water with respect, and work together as a people. We celebrate all storytelling traditions, including new ways of telling stories through film and cinema.

Squamish Nation recognizes the Vancouver International Film Festival's work to bring diverse local, national, and international stories to our beautiful territory, while also featuring Indigenous films during the festival and all year round.

Congratulations, VIFF, on your 45th festival!

Syexwáliya, Ann Whonnock
Spokesperson & Councilor



Greetings from the səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

ʔa: si:y éŋ nə siyéy ə

Friends and Relatives,

Welcome to the shared territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əŋ (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples. We have lived, gathered, and stewarded lands and waters since time immemorial. As People of the Inlet, Tsleil-Waututh Members are proud of our rich history, həŋ q əmiŋ əm language, and cultural heritage. We have a profound obligation to both our Ancestors and future generations to protect and care for our territory, which centers around səlilwətaʔ (Burrard Inlet).

Storytelling is an important tradition in our səlilwətaʔ community, and film is a powerful platform to convey stories that are meaningful to us, weaving together our history, aspirations, and the enduring connections we have to our lands and waters.

I raise my hands in gratitude towards the Vancouver International Film Festival for their ongoing commitment to bringing Indigenous stories to life on the big screen, as they were long marginalized. We look forward to continuing to walk together in our collaboration and to the Festival inspiring our young filmmakers to reach for their dreams.

The diversity of films screened at the festival help remind us that beneath our differences, we share similar goals, challenges, and experiences: we are all one.

Congratulations on your 45th season!

hay ce:p q ə

Thank you all,

kwitsém, Chief Justin Sky George



LEONARDO DICAPRIO



REACH FOR THE CROWN



THE LAND-DWELLER



VIFF thanks the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwəta4 (Tsleil-Waututh) nations for their continued stewardship of the unceded and occupied land on which our work takes place. As an organization founded and predominantly directed by settlers and immigrants, we understand our responsibility to seek out and build authentic relationships with Indigenous communities, and to allow this ongoing dialogue to influence our practices. As part of this process, we remain committed to supporting and collaborating with Indigenous artists, filmmakers, curators, and audiences.

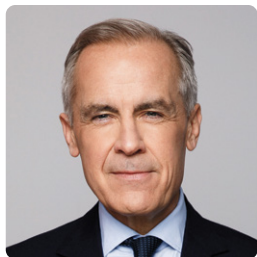
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Welcome to the Festival



A message from the Prime Minister of Canada

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2026 Vancouver International Film Festival.

This annual event offers a wonderful opportunity for audiences to experience some of the best cinema from around the world. I am certain that everyone in

attendance will enjoy the wide variety of exceptional films being screened this year.

I would like to thank the organizers and volunteers for making this an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. You can take pride in your commitment to promoting and supporting the Canadian film industry.

I wish you all an enjoyable festival.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



A message from the Mayor of Vancouver

On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 45th annual Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF).

VIFF has been a foundational pillar of Vancouver's arts community and the cultural fabric of our city

for decades. In celebrating and showcasing the best of filmmaking in our city, VIFF shares the power of filmmaking with audiences from Vancouver and beyond, in stories that transcend borders, cultures, and languages. We are proud to see that once again, this year's program features an incredible selection of local and international films that are exceptional, daring, and resonant.

VIFF celebrates Vancouver as one of the great filmmaking cities in the world and highlights the richness of our local filmmaking industry. It is a privilege to be able to recognize the amazing contributions that VIFF makes to our community through its annual festival, and year-round.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the filmmakers, artists, organizers, and volunteers whose talent and dedication make VIFF a success year after year.

Enjoy the Festival!

Mayor Ken Sim



A message from the Premier of British Columbia

As Premier of British Columbia, I am pleased to offer warm greetings to everyone attending the 2026 Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF).

Film has the power to broaden our perspectives, uplift diverse voices and deepen our understanding of the people and cultures that shape our communities.

Now in its 45th year, this festival plays an important role in showcasing the extraordinary talent of Canadian filmmakers while welcoming outstanding works from around the globe. Each year, VIFF brings together filmmakers, artists, industry professionals and audiences to share stories that inform and inspire. On top of the amazing line-up, VIFF offers a range of conferences, talks and other unique events that explore and celebrate film and film culture.

I would like to recognize the team at VIFF as well as the volunteers, sponsors and everyone else who help make this festival possible. VIFF not only enriches our cultural landscape but also contributes to a vibrant creative economy, supporting artists, innovation and collaboration. Congratulations to the visionary filmmakers and everyone involved in the productions—thank you for sharing your stories.

Wishing you all a memorable festival experience!

The Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia



A message from the Board Chair and Executive Director of VIFF

Welcome to the 45th Annual Vancouver International Film Festival!

We are beyond excited for this year's edition of VIFF. At a time when the tensions of the world continue to rise, contemporary cinema has a profoundly influential role to play in helping us collectively make sense of the world around us. As a festival, we are deeply committed to supporting directors, writers, artists and industry professionals to realize their visions and to present films in the way that they're meant to be seen. Above all, VIFF distinguishes itself by being a cinema lovers film festival. Without your ongoing support, we would lose our reason to exist.



VIFF is part of the fabric of this city, province, and country and has always had an international perspective. With that comes the responsibility to show work that is boundary-pushing, provocative, infuriating, beautiful and artistically adventurous. We stand on the side of the artists who make this work. At a time of artistic censorship and the rise of authoritarian populism around the world, VIFF will carry on with our mission to showcase contemporary cinema and the stories they are trying to creatively share through the medium of film.

Please share VIFF's program with all your friends and above all else, enjoy the Festival—we look forward to hosting you!

Am Johal, Chair
Kyle Fostner, Executive Director



A message from the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture

Welcome to the 2026 Vancouver International Film Festival!

Each year, this Festival brings people together through the shared experience of cinema. As one of North America's largest film festivals, VIFF celebrates the richness of Canadian, Indigenous and international storytelling by showcasing a diverse selection of feature films, documentaries and short films from Canada and around the world.

In addition to showcasing local filmmakers, artists, and films, the Festival highlights some of the best cinema from around the world, helping establish Vancouver as a vibrant destination that celebrates film and film culture.

I extend my sincere thanks to the organizers, filmmakers, artists, staff and community partners whose talent, dedication and creativity bring this festival to life year after year and help create more opportunities for filmmakers and creators from around the world to connect and collaborate.

I wish you all memorable films and conversations that stay with you long after the credits roll.

The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and
Minister responsible for Official Languages



A message from the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, I am honoured to welcome you to the 45th annual Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF).

Over the years, VIFF has continued to grow and innovate, expanding beyond the festival screen to create opportunities for learning, collaboration and creative exchange. By bringing together voices from film, digital media, music and related creative fields, VIFF helps strengthen B.C.'s broader cultural sector while creating unique experiences for audiences and artists alike.

British Columbia is proud to be home to a dynamic motion picture industry that supports thousands of jobs and plays an important role in our creative economy. I want to thank the writers, directors, producers, performers, crews and industry professionals whose talent and dedication help make B.C. a world-class centre for film and television production.

Our government is committed to supporting this industry, including through the film and television tax credit programs and through programming and services delivered by Creative BC. We are also proud to support events like VIFF with funding from Creative BC, the BC Arts Council, and the Destination Events Program to help make sure this vibrant sector remains strong.

Congratulations to all the filmmakers and artists featured at this year's festival, and thank you to the organizers, volunteers and supporters who make it possible. I wish everyone an inspiring and memorable festival.

The Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



A message from the Executive Director and CEO of Telefilm

Festivals like the Vancouver International Film Festival play a vital role in connecting Canadian cinema with audiences at home and abroad. They showcase our stories, our artists and our creativity, while strengthening the bond between filmmakers and audiences around the world. Canadian cinema plays a key role in shaping and promoting our cultural identity. As audiences seek out stories that resonate with them, festivals bring us together.

At Telefilm Canada, our core mission is to invest in and highlight the importance of film. We support productions every step of the way, from development to distribution, so that Canadian stories are seen and celebrated. By working with our industry partners, we contribute to a strong and vibrant film ecosystem.

Beyond their screenings, festivals are places of dialogue, collaboration and exchange. They bring together professionals, emerging and established talent, as well as film lovers and audiences of all kinds. In pursuing our mission to support Canadian cinema, we recognize that festivals are essential to the vitality of our industry.

We're proud to partner with the Vancouver International Film Festival to celebrate the unifying power of cinema. Enjoy the festival!

Julie Roy
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



A message from the Vice President of Creative BC

On behalf of all of us at Creative BC, congratulations to the Vancouver International Film Festival on another exciting year!

For more than four decades, VIFF has been woven into the fabric of British Columbia's film industry and cultural landscape. As one of the province's flagship film events, it continues to bring filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences together from B.C. and beyond to experience outstanding local and international work, exchange ideas, and celebrate the power of storytelling.

What makes VIFF so special is its ability to capture the moment before it becomes a movement. With each edition, the festival shines a light on emerging filmmakers, fresh perspectives, and daring work that often goes on to shape larger industry conversations. Through its programming and industry initiatives, VIFF serves as both a launchpad for new talent and a gathering place for creators, industry leaders, and film lovers eager to discover what's next.

Our sincere thanks to the staff, volunteers, filmmakers, partners, and supporters whose talent, dedication, and hard work make VIFF possible. We wish the entire VIFF team a successful 45th edition and look forward to another season of unforgettable cinema.

Robert Wong
Vice President, Creative BC

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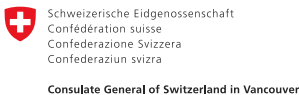
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Claude Xu
Michelle Yung

*In Memory of
Nik Radosevic*

Accessibility

Wheelchair Accessible

Every Cinema offers dedicated wheelchair spaces and companion seating, and we highly recommend reaching out in advance to reserve these spots. To review venue-specific accessibility features or to discuss your particular mobility and seating needs, please visit our website or contact us before your arrival. Once on-site, our dedicated staff and volunteers are always available to provide any assistance you may need.

Hearing Assistance

All cinemas are outfitted with a hearing assistance system. A signal is fed directly from our audio system into supplied headsets. The device user can adjust the volume to suit their needs. Please check in with venue staff or volunteers to obtain a headset.

Closed Captions

Closed caption devices are available for a limited number of screenings. For venues with devices, these fit into a cupholder and can be adjusted for the user's comfort. Please check in with venue staff or volunteers to obtain a device. Please check the website for screenings with closed captions.

Open Captions

Open captions are similar to subtitles and display dialogue and sound descriptions onscreen in text throughout the film. Please check the website for screenings with open captions.

Descriptive Video

Descriptive Video headsets are available for a limited number of screenings. For venues with devices, the headsets enable the user to adjust the volume of the video description audio as well as have a separate volume control for the film audio itself. Please check the website for screenings with Descriptive Video.

Relaxed Screenings

Relaxed Screenings are open to anyone who could benefit from a more casual, supportive and laid-back experience. This includes Autistic people, people with learning disabilities or sensory sensitivities, and parents with small children. Reduced sound levels and fewer patrons also make this a good introductory experience for first-time cinemagoers. Please check the website for films with Relaxed Screenings.

Lobby Pass

If you are a ticketholder or passholder with an access need that limits your ability to stand in lineups:

As a passholder: You may request an advance Lobby Pass for yourself and a companion when purchasing your Festival Pass online or in person. Your Lobby Pass can be kept and used throughout the festival.

As a ticketholder: You can request a Lobby Pass at any Cinema Box Office.

A lobby pass, when shown along with a screening ticket, provides access to a seated waiting area inside the lobby prior to doors opening. A companion may also accompany the ticketholder as long as they also have a screening ticket. No documentation or disclosure of personal information is required to receive a Lobby Pass. Space is limited and varies by venue; please follow the direction of our Front of House staff upon arrival.

Courtesy Chairs

There are courtesy chairs available to anyone who would prefer one at each of our venues during line ups. You can ask any of the volunteers to provide one at any time.

Ticketing

Infoline

For accessibility information and ticketing, you can reach us at:

PHONE 604-683-3456 (12pm-6pm)

EMAIL accessibility@viff.org

Accessible Tickets

We offer a limited number of discounted tickets to each film for people who face financial barriers and may not be able otherwise to attend a film. Discounted tickets are available on our website or at the Box Office while quantities last.

Support Companions

Support persons who accompany patrons with disabilities are eligible to receive a complimentary ticket. Contact the infoline to book ahead or book in-person at the Box Office.

Service Animals

Service dogs are welcome. Contact the Infoline to book an accessible seat.



← Scan here for detailed venue accessibility.

Screenings can be filtered by access needs including captioning, descriptive video, and relaxed screenings.

In Partnership with

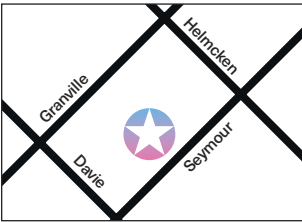


DSO

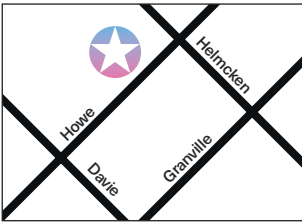
Disability Screen Office

Venue Information

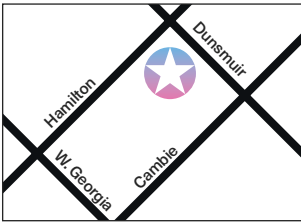
Downtown



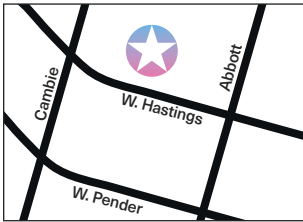
The VIFF Centre
1181 Seymour
VIFF Cinema (VC)
Lochmaddy Studio Theatre (LOC)
PARKING: Metered street
ENTRANCE: Street level
WHEELCHAIR: 4 spaces (VC),
3 spaces (LOC)
WASHROOMS: Accessible universal &
gender-neutral washroom
♿ ♻️ CC OC D) RP ♿



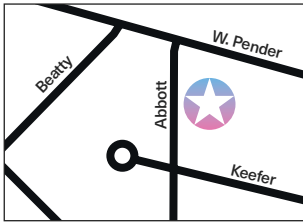
The Cinematheque (CINE)
1131 Howe
PARKING: Metered street
ENTRANCE: Ramp at street level
WHEELCHAIR: 4 spaces in theatre
WASHROOMS: Accessible gender-
neutral washroom on ground floor
♿ ♻️ CC OC ♿



Vancouver Playhouse (PLAY)
600 Hamilton
PARKING: Metered street and
underground paid parking
ENTRANCE: Street level
WHEELCHAIR: 4-5 spaces in theatre
WASHROOMS: Gendered washrooms
available downstairs (stairs only) and
upstairs (elevator). Fully accessible
universal washroom available on the
first floor
♿ ♻️ CC OC ♿

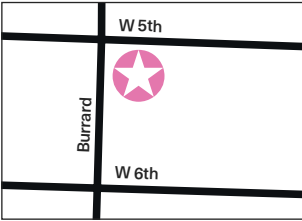


**SFU's Goldcorp Centre
for the Arts (SFU)**
149 W Hastings
Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema
(3200)
Fei and Milton Wong
Experimental Theatre (B2290)
PARKING: Metered street and paid lots
ENTRANCE: Ramp from courtyard,
street level from Hastings, elevator to
2nd and 3rd floor
WHEELCHAIR: 4 spaces in theatre 3200,
3 spaces in theatre B2290
WASHROOMS: Accessible gendered
washrooms on level B2, 2, 3, and 4.
Accessible gender-neutral washroom
available on level B2 and 3
♿ ♻️ CC OC ♿



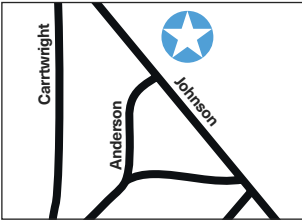
International Village (IV)
88 W Pender
Cinema 8 (IV8)
Cinema 9 (IV9)
Cinema 10 (IV10)
PARKING: Underground parking pass
available through concierge
ENTRANCE: Street level, elevator to 2nd
and 3rd floor
WHEELCHAIR: 4 per theatre
WASHROOMS: Accessible gendered
washrooms at theatre level
♿ ♻️ CC OC D) ♿

Kitsilano



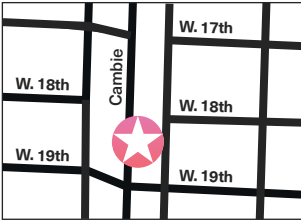
Fifth Avenue Cinemas (5TH)
2110 Burrard
Cinema 3 (19+ only)
PARKING: Metered street parking, paid
underground lot
ENTRANCE: Street level on 5th. Stairs
or elevator to concessions and
theatre level
WHEELCHAIR: 3-4 spaces
WASHROOMS: Accessible gendered
washroom stalls on 2nd level
♿ ♻️ CC OC D) ♿

Granville Island



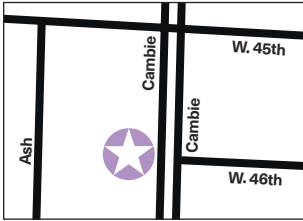
**Lindsay Family Stage at
Granville Island (GIS)**
1585 Johnston
PARKING: Paid lots
ENTRANCE: Street level
WHEELCHAIR: 8-10 spaces in theatre
WASHROOMS: Accessible gendered
washrooms at ground level
♿ ♻️ CC OC ♿

Cambie Village



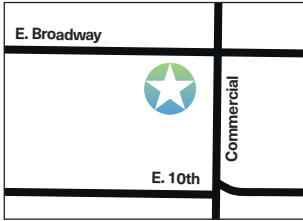
The Park Theatre (PAR)
3440 Cambie
PARKING: Metered paid parking
ENTRANCE: Street level, accessible
back entrance
WHEELCHAIR: 4-6 spaces in theatre
WASHROOMS: Limited accessibility,
gendered washrooms—no access
for mobility devices like wheelchairs
or scooters; staff assistance required
♿ ♻️ CC OC ♿

Oakridge



Alliance Française (AFT)
6161 Cambie
PARKING: Metered street, paid
underground lot
ENTRANCE: Street level
WHEELCHAIR: 4 spaces in theatre
WASHROOMS: Accessible gendered
washrooms on floor 3 and floor 2
(with elevator access). Accessible
universal washroom available on
first floor
♿ ♻️ CC OC ♿

East Vancouver



Rio Theatre (RIO)
1660 E Broadway
PARKING: Metered street and paid lots
ENTRANCE: Street level
WHEELCHAIR: 4-6 spaces in theatre
WASHROOMS: Accessible universal
washroom in the Cafe/Bar and
limited accessibility, gendered
washrooms—no access for mobility
devices like wheelchairs or scooters
♿ ♻️ CC OC ♿



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JANE SCHOENBRUN



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Festival Tickets and Information

Cinema Tickets

\$22	Adult
\$20	Senior
\$19	Student
	Youth
\$17	Accessible
\$19	VIFF+
\$17	VIFF+ Premium/Patron/U25
\$22	Standby (No discounts apply)
Some events will have an additional facility fee	

Box Office

- We recommend that you purchase tickets online (viff.org) in advance when possible.
- From Thursday, October 1 – Sunday, October 11, 2026, all our theatres serve as box offices, where you can buy tickets for any film in the festival.
- Box offices open 30 minutes prior to the first screening of the day at that theatre (Vancouver Playhouse will open 45 minutes prior), and close after the theatre's last screening of the day has started.
- The VIFF Centre is the only venue that accepts cash; all other VIFF venues are cashless.

Age Restrictions & Membership

The majority of our films have not been classified by Consumer Protection BC. By law, anyone wishing to watch these films at the festival must be 18+ and a member of the VIFF society. Your VIFF Society Membership is included in the cost of your ticket.

Due to liquor licensing, you must be 19+ to attend screenings at Fifth Avenue and unclassified screenings at The Rio Theatre and The Park Theatre. Photo ID will be required to enter these venues.

Check out the Rated for Youth titles or learn about our high school program by visiting viff.org.

Indigenous Tickets

VIFF offers a limited number of complimentary tickets per screening to anyone who self-identifies as Indigenous. Please contact the Infoline via phone or email or visit our box office to book.

Infoline

We're here to help! Our Festival Infoline is staffed 7 days a week from 12pm-6pm.

PHONE 604-683-3456

EMAIL feedback@viff.org

Ticket Packs

6-Ticket Pack

\$126	Regular
\$113	VIFF+
\$101	VIFF+ Premium/Patron
\$116	Senior
\$110	Student

10-Ticket Pack

\$200	Regular
\$180	VIFF+
\$160	VIFF+ Premium/Patron
\$185	Senior
\$176	Student

How Do Ticket Packs Work?

Planning on seeing multiple films during VIFF? Want to take all your friends to see a film? Ticket packs are your chance to save and watch more!

- Ticket packs work like credits on your viff.org account.
- There are no restrictions on the number of tickets from your pack that can be used per screening. For example: if you buy a 6-ticket pack, you can use all 6 tickets for a single screening or individual tickets across multiple screenings.
- Ticket packs are valid only for Regular and Special Presentation screenings during VIFF 2026. Ticket packs are not valid for Gala screenings, VIFF Talks, VIFF Live, or Artist & Industry events.
- Ticket packs or unused credits from ticket packs do not carry over to year-round screenings at the VIFF Centre.

What is a Standby line?

If a screening has sold out of advance tickets, tickets may become available at the door just before the screening starts.

If you're in the Standby line when a show is being admitted, our front-of-house team will do their best to find a seat for you. To be fair to everyone in line, stand-by tickets are one per person. Festival passes and ticket packs may be used in the standby line.

Passes

Festival Pass

\$495	Regular
\$455	Senior
\$445	VIFF+
\$396	VIFF+ Premium/Patron

How Do Festival Passes Work?

- The Festival Pass offers you the freedom to see a wide range of films during the festival.
- A generous allotment of seats is held for passholders at every VIFF screening up to 20 minutes before showtime, or until this passholder allotment is filled. Should you arrive after this 20-minute mark and/or the passholder allotment has been filled, you will be asked to join the end of the Standby line.
- If a screening has reached capacity, we may not be able to admit you. Latecomer seating is always at the discretion of theatre management.

Platinum Pass

\$1300	Regular
\$1170	VIFF+
\$1040	VIFF+ Premium/Patron

How Do Platinum Passes Work?

- Platinum passholders have preferred access to screenings!
- Platinum Passholders will get access to two VIFF Live presentations of their choice that they must pre-book in advance.
- A generous allotment of seats is held at each screening for Platinum passholders. These reserved seats are held until 5 minutes before showtime.
- Should you arrive after this 5-minute mark, our team will ask that you join the end of the Standby line while they confirm additional seating for you.

Important Information for All Passes

- VIFF passholders must be age 18+.
- This pass is yours! It cannot be transferred to or used by anyone else.

For information about Artist & Industry Passes, go to page 89.

Want discounts?

Join **VIFF+**

viff.org/plus

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing black-rimmed glasses and large headphones, is looking down at a script she is holding. She is on a film set, with a camera and other equipment visible in the background. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light source creating a soft glow.

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storytellers, creators,
and ideas shaping what's next.

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**NATIONAL
BANK**
Build something.



It's with tremendous excitement that we present our official selections for the 45th edition of our Vancouver International Film Festival.

Drawing from almost 80 nations, these films are exemplars of the culturally engaged, progressively minded, and emotionally resonant cinema that VIFF champions. And while they undoubtedly reflect the tumultuous times we're living in, our selections also extol the virtues of love and care, and the value of community in the face of adversity.

As you assemble in our theatres, you'll experience just how transcendent and transformative great cinema can be. Rather than fleeting escapism, these films offer enlightenment that endures long after the end credits have rolled.

Curtis Woloschuk
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

Films



The Debut

Presented by

NATIONAL
BANK

JESSE EISENBERG, USA, 2026, 150 MIN. (includes opening ceremony)

When she uncharacteristically auditions for a local musical production on a whim, Mona (Julianne Moore), a meek, middle-aged housewife with zero stage experience, is taken under the wing of Jerry (Paul Giamatti), the “biggest name in New Jersey community theatre.” As he works to shake her out of her self-conscious shell, questions arise about where vision ends—and sadism begins. Meanwhile, as Mona comes to fully inhabit her character, she grows increasingly untethered from reality.

In turns emotionally honest and utterly outlandish, the latest directorial effort from Jesse Eisenberg (who also supplied the tunes for the musical-within-the-movie) manages to both send up the self-importance that flourishes at the lower rungs of the theatre world, while genuinely celebrating the self-actualization that can occur under the spotlight’s glow. One of the year’s most biting satires, *The Debut* nevertheless boasts endless affection for its cast of misfits.

THU OCT 1

5:45 PM

PLAY

Cast Julianne Moore, Paul Giamatti, Halle Bailey, Jesse Eisenberg, Cara Buono, Craig Bierko **Exec** Michael Bloom, Ian Stratford, Ryan Heller, Jasmine Daghighian, Jennifer Booth, Kevin Kelly **Prod** Emma Stone, Dave McCary, Ali Herting, Jesse Eisenberg **Scr** Jesse Eisenberg **Cam** Drew Daniels **Ed** Robert Nassau **Prod Des** Anne Ross **Mus** Emile Mosseri **Prod Co** A24, Fruit Tree, Topic Studios **Print** Elevation Pictures

Additional public screening 105 MIN.

FRI OCT 2

9:15 PM

PAR

Please note that the Oct 1 screening is a private, by-invitation event. Tickets may be made available to the public at a later date.



Wild Horse Nine

MARTIN MCDONAGH, UK/USA/CHILE, 2026, 118 MIN.

SAT OCT 10

6:15 PM

PLAY

Shortly before the 1973 Chilean coup, CIA agents Chris (John Malkovich) and Lee (Sam Rockwell) are dispatched from Santiago to Easter Island by their bureau chief, MJ (Steve Buscemi). Amongst the Island's iconic statues, and as the longtime partners wrestle with their dark pasts and present conspiracies, Chris's newfound bond with a pair of rebellious students (Mariana di Girolamo and Ailín Salas) threatens to send everyone's trip to this remote paradise sideways.

Cast John Malkovich, Sam Rockwell, Steve Buscemi, Mariana Di Girolamo, Tom Waits, Parker Posey **Exec** Diarmuid McKeown, Ben Knight, Farhana Bhula, Ollie Madden, Peter Kohn, Juan de Dios Larrain, Pablo Larrain **Prod** Graham Broadbent, Pete Czernin, Martin McDonagh, Anita Overland **Scr** Martin McDonagh **Cam** Ben Davis **Ed** Mikkel E.G. Nielsen **Prod Des** Denis Schnegg **Mus** Carter Burwell **Prod Co** Blueprint Pictures **Print** Searchlight Pictures

Special Presentations

Representing the year's most acclaimed and accomplished cinema, our Special Presentations offer a dizzying array of experiences. Beyond Cristian Mungiu's riveting Palme D'Or winner, this year's Cannes imports are highlighted by the precision of Paweł Pawlikowski, the poetry of Ryūsuke Hamaguchi, and two stirring wartime romances. Lee Chang-dong makes his long-awaited return with a characteristically complex investigation of Korean society, while Mike Leigh cements his legacy as one of the greatest humanist filmmakers with what is likely his swansong. Enthralling performances abound throughout the selection, highlighted by the incomparable Sandra Hüller demonstrating her prowess with two stunning performances.



Club Kid

VIFF



All of a Sudden

RYŪSUKÉ HAMAGUCHI, FRANCE/JAPAN/GERMANY/BELGIUM, 2026, 196 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	8:15 PM	PLAY
SAT OCT 10	1:45 PM	PLAY

In Ryūsuke Hamaguchi's French-language debut, an eldercare manager (Virginie Efira) strives to introduce a compassionate care framework into her workplace. Her idealism meets resistance from an exhausted nursing staff, but her understanding of care deepens after a chance encounter with an enigmatic Japanese playwright (Tao Okamoto) living with terminal cancer. Anchored by luminous, Cannes-winning performances, *All of a Sudden* is a deeply humane meditation on mortality, care, and connection.

Best Performance for an Actress, Cannes 2026



Behemoth!

TONY GILROY, USA, 2026, 127 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	9:00 PM	PAR
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Canadian Premiere. In this soul-searching character piece from veteran writer-director Tony Gilroy (*Michael Clayton*; *Andor*), Pedro Pascal plays Alex, a cellist weighing his life choices as he returns to Los Angeles to escape an ill-advised love affair. But home comes with its own emotional pitfalls. Gilroy grounds it all in the act of musical performance and creation, crafting an alternately grandiose and introspective film about inheritance and connection, stamped with Pascal's characteristic charm.



The Beloved

El ser querido
RODRIGO SOROGOYEN, SPAIN, 2026, 135 MIN.

THU OCT 1	6:00 PM	RIO
MON OCT 5	6:00 PM	PAR
SAT OCT 10	9:30 PM	PLAY

The Beloved tells the story of Esteban Martínez, a notorious director known as much for his violent tendencies as his acclaimed films. Embarking on a new project about Spain's colonial exploitation of the Western Sahara, Esteban invites his estranged daughter Emilia to star, setting the stage for a familial reconnection. But as tensions flare, questions about Martínez's deeper intentions rise to the surface. No sentimental ode to filmmaking, this is a a discomfiting look at the costs of creative control.

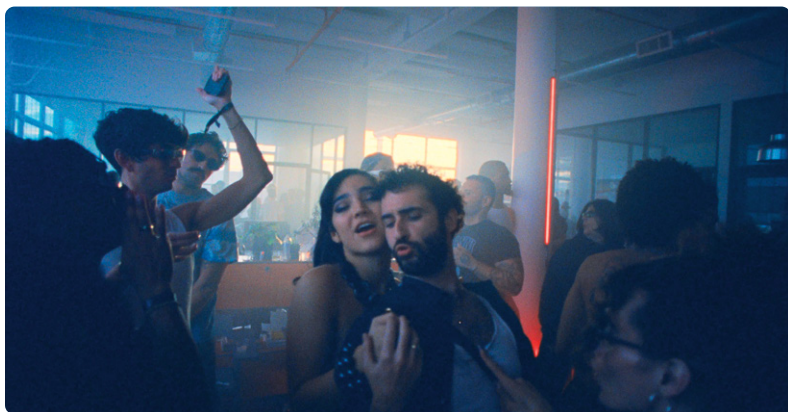


Bitter Christmas

Amarga Navidad
PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 2026, 112 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	9:30 PM	PAR
WED OCT 7	5:45 PM	PLAY
THU OCT 8	6:00 PM	RIO

Christmas comes early this year, in the form of Pedro Almodóvar's latest confection, a sly, bifurcated comedy about the perils of autofiction. A creatively blocked writer-director (Barbara Lennie) borrows liberally from the turmoil in the lives of friends and assistants, without pausing to consider the consequences... It's a mischievously meta mea culpa, rich in the delights we have come to expect from this master of melodrama.



Club Kid

JORDAN FIRSTMAN, USA, 2026, 122 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	9:00 PM	PLAY
MON OCT 5	9:15 PM	PAR

Peter's hedonistic life in New York's queer club scene is upended by the surprise arrival of Arlo, his 10-year-old son that he never knew existed. Jordan Firstman's bouncy, exuberant debut feature is a charming odd-couple comedy about unexpected parenthood, quiet redemption, and the bonds that can take surprising forms. A wondrous triumph at Cannes, *Club Kid* is difficult not to love.



Coward

LUKAS DHONT, BELGIUM/FRANCE/NETHERLANDS, 2026, 125 MIN.

MON OCT 5	5:45 PM	PLAY
FRI OCT 9	6:15 PM	PAR
SUN OCT 11	6:00 PM	PAR

With the First World War raging, Pierre (Emmanuel Macchia) meets Francis (Valentin Campagne), a magnetic figure who stages theatre productions that offer their brothers-in-arms a measure of escape. Feeling a kinship with the troupe, Pierre also develops an explosive chemistry with Francis. Set amidst the brutal toll of combat, Lukas Dhont's *Coward* is a poignant reminder that transformative moments of tenderness can occur even under the darkest circumstances.

Best Performance for an Actor, Cannes 2026



Fatherland

PAWEŁ PAWLIKOWSKI, ITALY/POLAND/GERMANY/France, 2026, 82 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	6:30 PM	PLAY
TUE OCT 6	6:30 PM	PAR
THU OCT 8	9:30 PM	PLAY

In 1949, Nobel laureate Thomas Mann makes his uneasy return to a shattered Germany after 16 years in exile, escorted by his fiercely loyal daughter Erika (Sandra Hüller). Serving as driver, gatekeeper, and conscience, Erika manages Thomas's brittle ego as the journey reopens old wounds. Winner of the Best Director Prize at Cannes, Paweł Pawlikowski's drama follows past triumphs *Ida* and *Cold War* with a sharp study of complicity, vanity, and the complicated dynamic between a father and daughter.

Best Director Prize (ex-æquo), Cannes 2026



Fjord

CRISTIAN MUNGIU, ROMANIA/France/NORWAY/SWEDEN/DENMARK, 2026, 146 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	5:15 PM	PLAY
WED OCT 7	9:00 PM	PLAY

In *Fjord*, a conservative Evangelical couple (Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve) face public scrutiny and state intervention over their parenting in a progressive Norwegian town. Palme d'Or winner Cristian Mungiu delivers an icy, unsettling examination of tolerance, parenting, and the limits of social conformity, anchored by restrained performances from Stan and Reinsve. Refusing easy answers, the film asks whether a tolerant society can remain so when confronted with beliefs it finds deeply troubling.

Palme d'Or, Cannes 2026



I Play Rocky

PETER FARRELLY, USA, 2026, 127 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	9:30 PM	PAR
SUN OCT 11	6:15 PM	RIO

In 1975, a broke, unknown actor named Sylvester Stallone refused to sell his screen-play unless he could play its titular protagonist: Rocky Balboa. Half a century later, Stallone's gamble is one of Hollywood's greatest underdog success stories. Buoyed by Anthony Ippolito's charismatic turn as a young Stallone, *I Play Rocky* is an affectionate crowd-pleaser that celebrates the creative risk, perseverance, and grit that turned a long shot into a cinematic legend.



La Bola Negra

JAVIER AMBROSSI, JAVIER CALVO, SPAIN/France, 2026, 160 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	9:00 PM	PLAY
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A big, old-school historical melodrama gets a thrillingly modern, queer makeover in this second feature from writer-director duo Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi. Juggling three timelines and three gay protagonists across 1937, 1932, and 2017, this supremely confident and richly crafted triptych is much more than the sum of its parts—though working out quite how they interlock is a key pleasure. A bold and exhilarating piece, this dark horse raced away with the Best Director Prize at Cannes.

Best Director Prize (ex-æquo), Cannes 2026



ANDREW HAIGH, CANADA/UK, 2026, 117 MIN.

KORE-EDA HIROKAZU, JAPAN, 2026. 100 MIN.

Based on a short story by Colm Toibin, the latest from *All of Us Strangers* director Andrew Haigh is a Colorado Rockies-set drama in the 1950s (and shot in stunning Alberta locations). Mike (Fred Hechinger), lives in a cabin far above town with his mother (Caitríona Mary Balfe, *Outlander*) and father (Ebon Moss-Bachrach, *The Bear*) and a younger brother itching to see the world. Mike likes things fine just as they are—but over the course of a tragic few months, he'll learn some hard home truths...

The latest from master Kore-eda Hirokazu explores friendship, artistic creation, and the dreamy yearnings of youth. Schoolgirls Fujina and Kyomoto are best friends and collaborators, creating mangas together to great success—until one day, just before graduation, Kyomoto breaks the partnership... Taking us from triumph through tragedy and out the other side, *Look Back* is a work as sensually delectable as it is moving. It has all the grace and tenderness that's made Kore-eda's work so beloved by audiences.

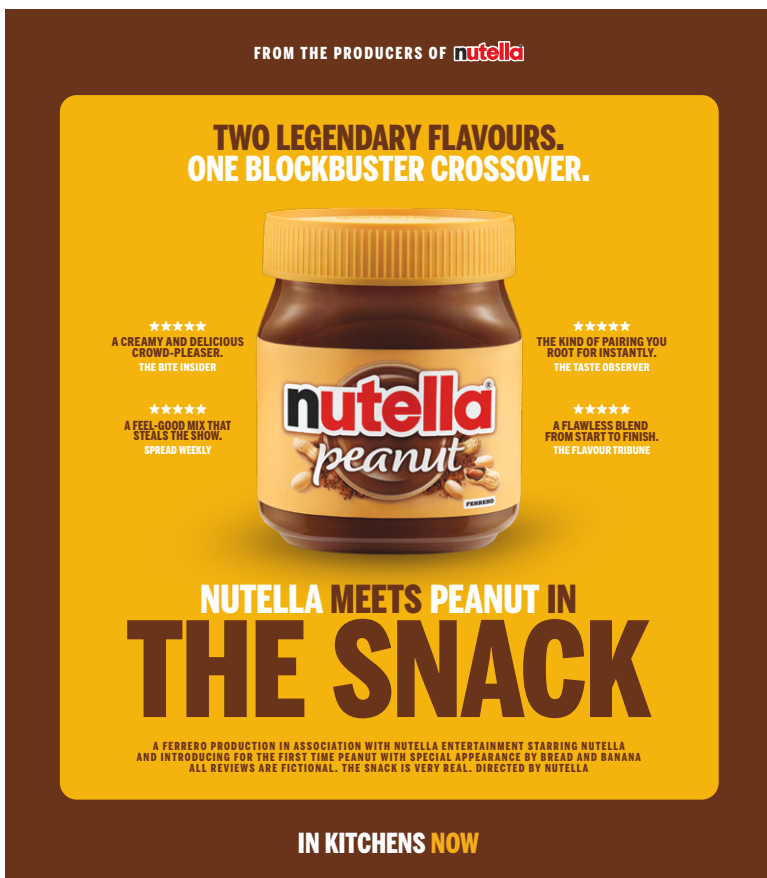


ANDREY ZVYAGINTSEV, FRANCE/GERMANY/LATVIA, 2026, 141 MIN.

NOAH SEGAN. USA. 2026. 88 MIN.

Russia, 2022. Gleb, a corporate executive, is contending with the fallout of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Amid mounting corporate and political pressures, he tries to insulate his home life, but when he discovers that his wife has been having an affair, things start to implode. A bold reimagining of Claude Chabrol's *The Unfaithful Wife*, Andrey Zvyagintsev's latest is at once an icy domestic thriller and a searing indictment of political violence and corruption.

A hustler with a particular set of skills and especially sticky fingers, Harry Lehman (John Turturro) is staring down 70 and struggling to provide for his disabled wife. His circumstances grow even more desperate when he fences a valuable USB stick stolen from a vengeful crime family. As Harry races against the clock in a bid to recover the USB stick, Turturro delivers an exquisite performance as a wisecracker who is typically one step ahead of everyone but now finds himself behind the eight ball.



Special Presentations



Paper Tiger

JAMES GRAY, USA, 2026, 115 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	5:00 PM	PLAY
THU OCT 8	9:00 PM	PAR

In 1986 Queens, engineer Irwin Pearl (Miles Teller) and his charismatic brother Gary (Adam Driver) find themselves in over their heads when they partner with a Russian mob syndicate along the Gowanus Canal. When a misstep triggers deadly paranoia, their family (including Scarlett Johansson as Irwin's wife) are pushed to the brink. Returning to the crime territory of *Little Odessa*, James Gray's *Paper Tiger* is a tense, atmospheric drama about family, loyalty and the dangerous allure of getting ahead.



Possible Love

Ga-neung-han sa-rang

LEE CHANG-DONG, SOUTH KOREA, 2026, 164 MIN.

MON OCT 5	9:00 PM	PLAY
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Lee Chang-dong's first film since *Burning* (2018) is a sardonic, slow-burning satire about two couples. Married to a wealthy businessman, Ye-ji (*Parasite*'s Cho Yeo-jeong) has decided to make a documentary about factory workers recently laid off after a bitter strike. She finds an ally in Mi-ok (Jeon Do-yeon), whose angry, taciturn husband is struggling to recover and refuses to be interviewed. The two women become friends, but as a superbly orchestrated third act makes clear, empathy has its limits...



Rose

MARKUS SCHLEINZER, AUSTRIA/GERMANY, 2026, 94 MIN.

MON OCT 5	6:00 PM	GIS
WED OCT 7	6:30 PM	PAR
FRI OCT 9	3:00 PM	RIO

Canadian Premiere. Following the Thirty Years' War, a disfigured soldier dubiously claims to be the rightful heir to an expanse of German farmland. Undeterred by the villagers' suspicions, the soldier sets about cultivating the land and taking a callow wife, all while concealing that they were born a woman. With Dreyer-indebted compositions and droll humour, director Markus Schleinzner and Sandra Hüller craft a paean to all those who forsake societal conventions in pursuit of self-actualization.

Silver Bear for Best Lead Performance, Berlinale 2026



Tender Loving Care

MIKE LEIGH, UK, 2026, 107 MIN.

THU OCT 1	6:30 PM	PAR
SUN OCT 4	11:00 AM	PLAY
SUN OCT 11	6:00 PM	PLAY

Mike Leigh returns with a compassionate, tragicomic work. Best friends and fellow social workers Amy (Kate O'Flynn) and Rosie (Alice Bailey Johnson) work on the front-lines, caring for the dispossessed with all the strength they have. Leigh portrays the struggles of the two, while also depicting the quiet, resigned lives of Amy's parents Birdie (Marion Bailey) and Geoff (Paul Jesson). This is a film graced with a lifetime's worth of wisdom, and as is typical from Leigh, every performance is superb.

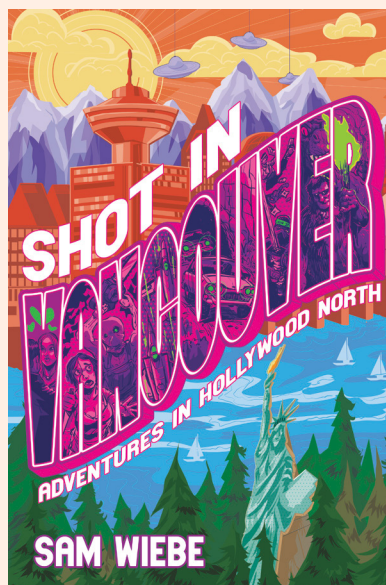


Popcorn & Drink on Novus

For screenings at the VIFF Centre only



*Complimentary popcorn and fountain drink available to attendees with valid ticket or pass access to a VIFF 2026 screening at the VIFF Centre, October 1-11, 2026. Limit one popcorn and one fountain drink to the first 60 attendees, per screening. No refills. While supplies last. No cash value.



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Whatcha Want

MINA SHUM, CANADA, 2026, 90 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:30 PM	PAR
WED OCT 7	9:00 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 11	3:30 PM	RIO

Transplanted from Hong Kong to Vancouver on a temporary visa, Yin (Isabella Wei), a restless trophy wife, rises above her wealthy absentee husband's infidelity by rekindling her passion for dance. But when he forbids her from pursuing a dance education, Yin is forced to choose between material comfort and freedom. A dazzling, hip-hop-infused tribute to the joys of self-expression, this earnest drama from acclaimed writer-director Mina Shum (*Meditation Park*, VIFF 2017) will have your heart doing backflips.



Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother

BASSAM TARIQ, USA, 2026, 112 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	9:15 PM	PLAY
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When his wife passes suddenly, Latif (Mahershala Ali), a devout contract killer, is thrust into single parenthood. A search for breastmilk for his infant daughter unwittingly sets him on a collision course with a far-right faith leader (John Cho) who's amassed a militia and a manifesto. Ali and writer-director Bassam Tariq (*Mogul Mowgli*) deliver a dizzyingly choreographed, deeply soulful action thriller punctuated by accomplished set pieces and distinguished by themes of faith, grief, and responsibility.

**Donations
Matched
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until the end
of the festival**



Did you know that VIFF is a charitable non-profit organization?

Thanks to the Bennett Family Foundation, all donations made until October 12 will be matched up to \$110,000. Your gift allows us to showcase exciting, bold cinema from across the globe here in Vancouver.



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Showcase

Once again, Showcase serves as the platform for the Canadian premieres of major new works by leading filmmakers such as Hong Sangsoo, Clio Barnard, and Ali Asgari, as well as rising talents like Mads Mengel, Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson. An element of adventurousness manifests in many forms, be it Ari and Chuko Esiri adapting *Mrs. Dalloway* in contemporary Nigeria, or Matthew Rankin reassembling tens of thousands of clips to retrace Brian Mulroney's rise to power. Particularly noteworthy is the strong presence of documentaries, including portraits of two iconic British Columbians and the notable premieres of two landmark nonfiction series.



Queen at Sea



The History of Concrete

JOHN WILSON, USA, 2026, 101 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:00 PM	RIO
WED OCT 7	9:00 PM	RIO
SUN OCT 11	8:45 PM	SFU

How does a filmmaker get the greenlight for their dream documentary project amid an ongoing industry contraction? If you're the idiosyncratic mastermind behind HBO's *How To with John Wilson*, you attend a workshop on pitching saccharine Hallmark movies then apply all the same best practices to your own film: an in-depth investigation of concrete. This seemingly straightforward concept serves as a jumping off point for Wilson's absurd and endlessly entertaining detours, asides, and digressions.

Prod John Wilson, Clark Filio, Shirel Kozak, Allie Viti



Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney

Mesdames et Messieurs, Brian Mulroney
MATTHEW RANKIN, CANADA, 2026, 105 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	6:15 PM	RIO
TUE OCT 6	9:15 PM	GIS
SUN OCT 11	8:30 PM	AFT

With era-appropriate visuals, ironically deployed music, and copious archival footage, Matthew Rankin tells the story of Brian Mulroney's rise to power in the late seventies and early eighties. Taking us from Mulroney's humble beginnings to his triumph in 1984, the film portrays our former Prime Minister as a master of calculation and depicts his ascension in wildly satirical terms. This is Canadian history as you've never seen it before—amusing and dismaying in equal measure.

Feat Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, John Diefenbaker, René Lévesque, Lucien Bouchard **Prod** Pierre-Mathieu Fortin



Tangles

LEAH NELSON, CANADA/USA, 2026, 102 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	5:45 PM	PLAY
SUN OCT 11	3:00 PM	PAR

Featuring the voices of Abbi Jacobson and Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Leah Nelson's animated film follows an artist from one coast to another as she comes to terms with her mom's early-onset Alzheimer's diagnosis. A moving adaptation of Vancouver cartoonist Sarah Leavitt's graphic memoir, *Tangles* is full of offbeat humour, a charming sapphic romantic subplot, and surreal, visually inventive flourishes that exemplify the expressive emotional power of 2D animation. Nominated for the Caméra d'Or at Cannes 2026.

Cast Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Abbi Jacobson, Bryan Cranston, Beanie Feldstein, Seth Rogen, Samira Wiley **Prod** Vicky Patel, Steve Barnett, Alan Powell, Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, James Weaver, Alex McAtee, Lauren Miller Rogen, Jennifer W. Ray, Jay Grandin, Teresa Toews, Leah Nelson, Ross Murray, Julia Louis-Dreyfus



All the Lovers in the Night

Subete Mayonaka no Koibitotachi
YUKIKO SODE, JAPAN, 2026, 139 MIN.

THU OCT 1	5:30 PM	GIS
FRI OCT 2	3:00 PM	IV9
MON OCT 5	12:00 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. A solitary thirtysomething proofreader's carefully ordered life begins to shift after an unexpected friendship with a gentle physics teacher opens her world to light, intimacy, and the possibility of connection. Based on Mieko Kawakami's acclaimed novel, *All the Lovers in the Night* is a tender portrait of urban loneliness, quiet self-discovery, and the courage it takes to let yourself be seen.

Cast Yukino Kishii, Tadanobu Asano **Prod** Toshikazu Nishigaya, Kana Matsuda



A Bit of Light

Kami nour
ALI ASGARI, IRAN/SWITZERLAND/ITALY/CANADA/
TURKEY, 2026, 87 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	8:45 PM	GIS
THU OCT 8	4:00 PM	PAR
SUN OCT 11	8:30 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. In contemporary Iran, a doctor is arrested for secretly treating injured protesters. With his faith in the future shattered, he decides to take his own life, and visits his siblings and mother, intending to say goodbye. But encountering affection, concern, and companionship in the presence of his family, the certainty of his decision slowly begins to crumble.

Cast Misagh Zareh, Sadaf Asgari, Forouzan Jamshidinejad, Ramtin Daghigh, Mina Rahimzadeh **Prod** Milad Khosravi, Afshin Salami, Lorenzo Cioffi, Giorgio Giampà, Sholeh Alemi Fabbri, Sara Nasrabadi, Francesco Melzi d'Eril, Gabriele Moratti, Avantika Singh Desbouvries



Ceremony

BANCHI HANUSE, CANADA, 2026, 84 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	5:45 PM	SFU
TUE OCT 6	1:00 PM	IV10
SAT OCT 10	12:00 PM	GIS

Powerful and evocative, *Ceremony* examines the disappearance of the ooligan in Bella Coola, revealing a story that reaches far beyond the river itself. As director Banchi Hanuse follows her community's search for answers, the mystery of the vanishing fish becomes an exploration of cultural survival, environmental stewardship, and the enduring relationship between people and place.

Feat Ts'xwiixw Megan F. Moody, Qwaxw Siwallace, Snuxyaltwa "Dj Y" Snow, Nuskmata Jacinda Mack, Q'umulha Schooner, Sunhwrna Schooner **Prod** Slt's'lni Banchi Hanuse, Kaitlyn Truong



Clarissa

ARIE ESIRI, CHUKO ESIRI, NIGERIA/USA, 2026, 134 MIN.

THU OCT 1	5:45 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 4	3:00 PM	PAR

In *Clarissa*, twin Nigerian filmmakers Arie and Chuko Esiri transpose Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* to present-day Lagos. Sophie Okonedo plays the titular character opposite David Oyelowo, Ayo Edebiri, and India Amarteifio in a star-studded Black cast. Shot on 35mm, with music by Kelsey Lu, this Cannes Directors' Fortnight premiere is an utterly gorgeous feat of style, design, and rhythm, moving fluidly between a high-society present and youthful past.

Cast Sophie Okonedo, David Oyelowo, India Amarteifio, Toheeb Jimoh, Jude Akuwudike, Ayo Edebiri **Prod** Theresa Park, Nicholas Weinstock, Arie Esiri, Chuko Esiri



Dao

ALAIN GOMIS, FRANCE/SENEGAL/GUINEA-BISSAU,
2026, 183 MIN.

THU OCT 8	8:45 PM	GIS
SAT OCT 10	2:15 PM	PAR

Canadian Premiere. Blending fiction and documentary so skillfully that the difference between them becomes almost undetectable, *Dao* depicts two contemporary ceremonies: a mourning ritual in Guinea-Bissau and a wedding in France. Director Alain Gomis's film is a tribute to Afro-French life and custom, teeming with powerful human presence and radiating joy, anger, and many places in between. Gomis displays a hunger for raw experience and a boundless generosity towards his human subjects.

Cast Katy Correa, D'johé Kouadio, Samir Guesmi, Mike Etienne, Nicolas Gomis **Prod** Sylvie Pialat, Benoît Quainon, Toufik Ayadi, Christophe Barral



The Diary of a Chambermaid

Le journal d'une femme de chambre
RADU JUDE, FRANCE/ROMANIA, 2026, 94 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	6:00 PM	AFT
TUE OCT 6	9:00 PM	5TH
WED OCT 7	3:30 PM	IV10

The prolific Radu Jude is back, this time adapting Octave Mirbeau's classic (and much-filmed) novel. Employed by a putatively progressive French couple, the chambermaid of the title finds herself oppressed in her position. Jude's twist on the material is typically self-reflexive: our heroine, prodded by her employers, winds up playing the starring role in a theatrical adaptation of... *The Diary of a Chambermaid*. Sly and subversive, Jude's film holds a mirror up to middle-class complacency.

Cast Ana Dumitraşcu, Marie Rivière, Mélanie Thierry, Vincent Macaigne **Prod** Said Ben Said



The Dreamed Adventure

Das geträumte Abenteuer
VALESKA GRISEBACH, AUSTRIA/GERMANY/France/
BULGARIA, 2026, 170 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	2:30 PM	SFU
SAT OCT 10	5:30 PM	5TH

Valeska Grisebach's long-awaited follow-up to *Western* (2017) is another exacting and absorbing tale from Bulgaria's southern borderlands. Returning to the stomping grounds of her youth, archaeologist Vesna runs afoul of some local gangsters while trying to help a friend. Not a genre movie per se, *The Dreamed Adventure* unfolds as a tense crime drama grounded in a distinct time and place.

Cast Yana Radeva, Syuleyman Letifov, Stoicho Kostadinov, Nikolay Shekerdjiev, Denislava Yordanova, Tiana Georgieva **Prod** Jonas Dornbach, Janine Jackowski, Maren Ade



The Flight

Le vol
SORAN MARDOOKHI, CANADA, 2026, 97 MIN.

THU OCT 8	8:15 PM	SFU
SUN OCT 11	3:45 PM	5TH

World Premiere. On January 8, 2020, Flight PS752 was shot down shortly after takeoff from Tehran. All 176 people on board were killed, including many Iranian Canadians, in the largest loss of Canadian lives in an aviation disaster in 35 years. *The Flight* follows three families across Canada as they move from grief into determined advocacy, seeking justice alongside lawyers and other affected families. Quietly devastating, the film illuminates a broader struggle against the Islamic Republic's impunity.

Prod Teri Snelgrove, Shirley Vercruyssen

Showcase

VIFF



Gentle Monster

MARIE KREUTZER, AUSTRIA, 2026, 114 MIN.

SUN OCT 4 9:15 PM RIO

How well do we really know our loved ones? The remarkable Léa Seydoux gives a formidable performance as a wife and mother whose world falls apart before her eyes when her husband is investigated for dealing in child pornography. As the lead detective in the case (Jella Haase) struggles with revelations of her own, director Marie Kreutzer's potent, morally challenging drama questions what we can ever truly know about the dark parts of someone's mind.

Cast Léa Seydoux, Catherine Deneuve, Laurence Rupp, Jella Haase **Prod** Alexander Glehr, Johanna Scherz, Jonas Dornbach, Janine Jackowski, Maren Ade, Jean-Christophe Reymond, Marie Kjellson



The Guest

Gæsten

MADS MENGEL, DENMARK, 2026, 100 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	9:00 PM	GIS
SUN OCT 11	1:30 PM	IV9

Canadian Premiere. This propulsive film explores the tensions that erupt between a son and his estranged, mentally ill mother when she unexpectedly shows up at his child's christening party. The film has its humorous aspects, but the desperate catharses and acute dissection of social dynamics put it firmly in the tradition of Scandinavian drama. It takes us to the point of explosion and beyond.

Cast Trine Dyrholm, Simon Bennebjerg, Josephine Park, Peter Gantzler, Petrine Agger, Mette Klakstein Wiberg **Prod** Victor Cunha



How We Stand

MARIE CLEMENTS, CANADA, 2026, 107 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	6:15 PM	GIS
SUN OCT 4	3:00 PM	RIO
SUN OCT 11	3:15 PM	GIS

In *How We Stand*, Marie Clements follows the lives of three Indigenous sisters through the long aftermath of the Native American Relocation Program. After moving from Oklahoma to Los Angeles in the 1950s, a traumatic event separates the sisters, sending each down a different path. Blending historical drama, magical realism, and satirical humour, the film explores institutional violence, resilience, and the lasting effects of family separation.

Cast Amber Midthunder, Alyssa Wapanatâhk, Isabel DeRoy-Olson, Cara Jade Myers, Darren Mann, Eric Johnson **Prod** Marie Clements, Christine Haebler, Trish Dolman, Steven Thibault



I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning

CLIO BARNARD, UK, 2026, 109 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	8:45 PM	SFU
SUN OCT 4	1:00 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. Having navigated every rite of passage together, five childhood friends now find themselves drifting apart as their thirties approach. Clio Barnard (*The Arbor*) conspires with a stellar ensemble to bring these richly detailed, fascinatingly flawed characters to life. With much to say about contemporary economic pressures, it's the electrifying character dynamics that give the film its most persuasive power.

Cast Anthony Boyle, Joe Cole, Jay Lycurgo, Daryl McCormack, Lola Petticrew **Prod** Tracy O'riordan



Man in Motion: The Rick Hansen Story

ADRIAN BUITENHUIS, CANADA, 2026, 96 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	2:45 PM	PLAY
TUE OCT 6	12:30 PM	5TH

Twenty-six months, 34 counties, 40,075 kilometres traversed in a wheelchair, and more than \$26 million generated for accessibility initiatives... Four decades later, the statistics from Rick Hansen's landmark fundraising and advocacy campaign remain staggering. In this inspiring portrait directed by Adrian Buitenhuis, the accomplishments of one of British Columbia's greatest athletes and activists receive the big screen tribute that they're due.

Details of Oct. 3's special event: Page 77.

Feat Rick Hansen, Amanda Hansen, Mike Reid, Tim Frick, Nancy Thompson, Don Alder **Prod** Derik Murray, Ryan Reynolds



Mouse

KELLY O'SULLIVAN, ALEX THOMPSON, USA, 2026, 120 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	6:00 PM	GIS
SAT OCT 10	3:30 PM	IV9

Canadian Premiere. Unmoored by a traumatic event in the summer before her senior year, Minnie (Katherine Malen Kupferer), a bashful teen, forms a complicated bond with her friend's sophisticated mom (Sophie Okonedo). With a dreamy score by Hamilton Leithauser and compelling turns from Iman Vellani and David Hyde Pierce, this intimate, grounded drama captures a girl's path to finding herself through the ebbs and flows of grief.

Cast Sophie Okonedo, Katherine Malen Kupferer, Chloe Coleman, Tara Mallen, Iman Vellani, David Hyde Pierce **Prod** Chelsea Krant, Alex Thompson, Pierce Cravens, Abigail Rose Solomon, Alex Wilson, Bonnie Comley, Ian Keiser, Steven A. Jones, Stewart F. Lane



Nagi Notes

KÔJI FUKADA, JAPAN/FRANCE/SINGAPORE/PHILIPPINES, 2026, 110 MIN.

MON OCT 5	8:45 PM	GIS
FRI OCT 9	3:15 PM	PAR

When former sisters-in-law come together after years of estrangement, a complex process begins: the two women begin to reconnect outside the familial roles imposed upon them. This is a film about exploration—of creativity, of eros, of the self. Writer-director Kôji Fukada weaves a complex backstory and uses it to examine not just character but the nature of art itself. Graceful and serene, the film carries the force of revelation but delivers it quietly.

Cast Takako Matsu, Shizuka Ishibashi, Ken'ichi Matsuyama, Waku Kawaguchi, Kiyora Fujiwara, Sawako Fujima **Prod** Atsuko Ohno, Ryo Nagai, Michiaki Tsunoda



Nowhere to Lay My Eyes

Nun Dul Dega Eomne

HONG SANGSOO, SOUTH KOREA, 2026, 72 MIN.

WED OCT 7	6:15 PM	VC
FRI OCT 9	3:30 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 11	6:30 PM	SFU

Canadian Premiere. VIFF mainstay Hong Sangsoo returns with a teasingly ambiguous family drama. A daughter visits Jeju Island as a guest of her estranged mother, in the company of her brother and the step-family she barely knows... As always, Hong's visual style is simple and unadorned—all the better to highlight the strangeness of human interaction. His gift for portraying awkward revelation is as strong as ever.

Cast Kim Minhee, Choi Myeonggil, Kwon Haehyo, Shin Seokho, Park Miso **Prod** Hong Sangsoo

Showcase



Queen at Sea

LANCE HAMMER, UK/USA, 2026, 121 MIN.

THU OCT 8	5:45 PM	GIS
SUN OCT 11	11:15 AM	PLAY

Canadian Premiere. This hard-hitting consent drama pits an academic (Juliette Binoche) against her stepfather (Tom Courtenay) in a moral crisis over the care of her elderly mother living with dementia. *Queen at Sea* is the long-awaited second feature from Lance Hammer (*Ballast*, VIFF 2008), whose cerebral script takes shape through the unsettling compositions of DOP Adolpho Veloso (*Train Dreams*, VIFF 2025).

Cast Juliette Binoche, Tom Courtenay, Anna Calder-Marshall, Florence Hunt **Prod** Tristan Goligher, Lance Hammer



Run Terry Run

SEAN MENARD, CANADA, 2025, 108 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	1:45 PM	PLAY
MON OCT 5	5:30 PM	IV9

When Terry Fox died in 1981, he left a legacy of hope that became part of Canada's heritage. Following the rediscovery of unseen footage from family archives, filmmaker Sean Menard sketches a striking, unvarnished portrait of the man behind the Marathon of Hope. Through absorbing behind-the-scenes footage, *Run Terry Run* explores Terry Fox's story not only as a beloved hero but as a flesh-and-blood person armed with a fierce determination and an unyielding vision of a better future.

Feat Terry Fox, Darrell Fox, Doug Alward, Leslie Scrivener, Darryl Sittler, Bill Vigars **Prod** Sean Menard, Molly Ye



School for Defectors

JEREMY WORKMAN, SOUTH KOREA/USA, 2026, 92 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	6:00 PM	GIS
MON OCT 5	6:15 PM	5TH
THU OCT 8	12:30 PM	5TH

School for Defectors is an intimate and quietly uplifting documentary that follows a group of 20 teenagers, children of North Korean defectors, as they adjust to life and education at Jangdaehyun School in Busan, South Korea. The film provides access to a world rarely spoken of while offering a glimpse of the generation that will shape South Korea's future. By focusing on what the next generation can become, director Jeremy Workman shifts the narrative from trauma to resilience.

Feat Songyi Baek, Yoojung Bae, Joowoong Bang, Sooyeon Choi, Yooхва Jang, Ryewon Kim **Prod** Sonja Jo, Jeremy Workman



Yellow Letters

Gelbe Briefe

ILKER ÇATAK, GERMANY/France/TURKEY, 2026, 128 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	3:30 PM	PAR
SAT OCT 3	9:30 PM	GIS
SAT OCT 10	6:15 PM	PAR

Derya and Aziz, a successful theatre couple based in Ankara, are celebrating the premiere of their latest play when they find themselves targeted by censorious state investigations that upend their lives overnight. Amid mounting pressures, the couple tries to hold on to their political convictions. *Yellow Letters* is a boldly subversive drama and a reminder that state censorship is not only a present threat, but that it can happen anywhere.

Cast Özgü Namal, Tansu Biçer, Leyla Smyrna Cabas, İpek Bilgin **Prod** Ingo Fliess



Yugo Goes to America

Yugo ide u Ameriku

FILIP GRUJIĆ, ALEKSA BORKOVIĆ, SERBIA/CROATIA, 2026, 87 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	12:00 PM	IV9
SAT OCT 10	6:00 PM	SFU

North American Premiere. A group of millennials from Belgrade drive from New York to Los Angeles in a 1990 Yugo—the ill-fated Yugoslavian car widely considered one of the worst ever made. As the car threatens to fall apart, Filip Grujić and Aleksa Borković trace its rise and fall alongside a history of Yugoslavia's own breakup. An ode to a vehicle, a culture, and the romance of the open road, *Yugo Goes to America* turns a bucket-list adventure into an exploration of a nation's history and pop culture, set to Yu-rock classics.

Feat Lazar Marković, Janko Kroček, Vanja Kroček, Tony Ciminera, Nick Bygrave, Malcolm Bricklin **Prod** Čarna Vučinić, Family Šolak



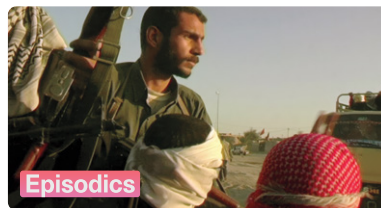
Reclaim My Skin

MARIE CLEMENTS, CANADA/USA, 2026, 165 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	2:30 PM	VC
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World Premiere. Marie Clements' *Reclaim My Skin* is an enlightening documentary series that challenges stereotypes and authority, while celebrating the resilience and resurgence of Indigenous female identity. Empowering viewers with a comprehensive look at Indigenous history, Clements uncovers how colonial forces ruthlessly enforced patriarchal systems to seize control of land. Employing an incisive Indigenous lens and soulful music, *Reclaim My Skin* weaves together stories that are wholly unique but resonate universally.

Feat Sharon Day, Marie Gaudet, Pura Fé, Renae Morriseau, Sandy Scofield, Tanya Talaga **Prod** Marie Clements, Trish Dolman



The Story of Documentary Film – The 2000s

MARK COUSINS, UK/USA, 2026, 117 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	12:00 PM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	11:30 AM	SFU

Canadian Premiere. The new millennium begins in troubled waters. In *The Story of Documentary Film – The 2000s*, Mark Cousins moves from Japan to 9/11 and the wars fought in its name. Footage becomes evidence, warning, spectacle, and wound. Through his idiosyncratic voiceover and films such as *The Cove* and *Grizzly Man*, these chapters trace the documentary medium's attempt to read a century as its promise of modernity was beginning to unravel on camera.

Prod John Archer



The Story of Documentary Film – The 2010s & 2020s

MARK COUSINS, UK/USA, 2026, 181 MIN.

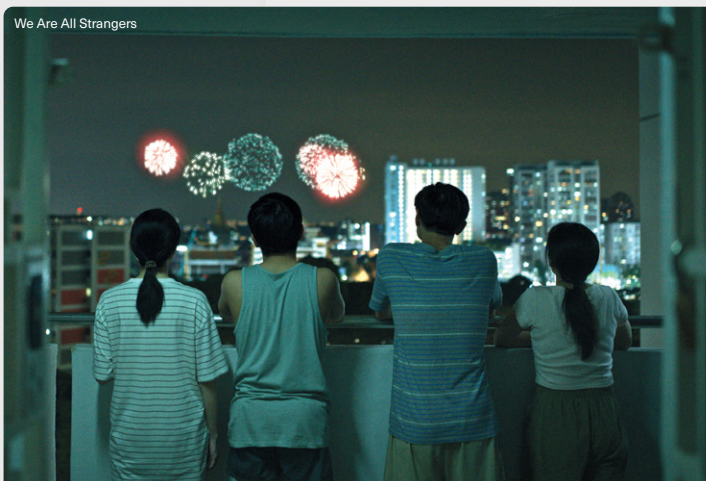
SUN OCT 4	11:00 AM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	2:30 PM	SFU

Canadian Premiere. In *The Story of Documentary Film – The 2010s & 2020s*, Mark Cousins brings his 16-hour epic into the now, where nonfiction has splintered across phone cameras, GoPros, YouTube, TikTok, live-streams, and feeds. Moving through both major films and self-produced content for online viewing, Cousins questions what truly defines a "documentary" after cinéma vérité has detached from its old frame.

Prod John Archer

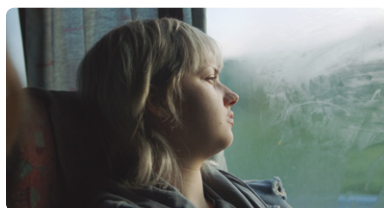
Befitting its name, Panorama once again spotlights films hailing from dozens of different nations. And while all the perennial filmmaking powerhouses are present and accounted for, there are also noteworthy entries from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Central African Republic. Running the gamut from historical recreations to social realist dramas to animated fables, each of these selections is a finely crafted, richly detailed encounter that you won't soon forget.

We Are All Strangers



Panorama

VIFF



17

KOSARA MITIĆ, NORTH MACEDONIA/SLOVENIA/SERBIA, 2026, 105 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	9:15 PM	IV10
THU OCT 8	4:00 PM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. Seventeen-year-old Sara has a big secret to hide as she embarks on a school trip. Already contending with hurtful rumours circulating among her classmates, things come to a head when Sara witnesses the sexual assault of her best friend. As her own secret becomes impossible to hide, Sara is forced to make some life-altering decisions. Rising Macedonian director Kosara Mitić shines a light on the most volatile corners of the teenage experience in this bold feature debut.

Cast Eva Kostić, Martina Danilovska, Dame Joveski, Eva Stojchevska, Petar Manic **Prod** Tomi Salkovski



9 Temples to Heaven

SOMPOT CHIDGASORNPONGSE, THAILAND/SINGAPORE/France/NORWAY/CHINA/HONG KONG/INDONESIA/QATAR, 2026, 140 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	8:45 PM	5TH
SAT OCT 10	3:00 PM	GIS

Canadian Premiere. Fearing his mother Saluay is nearing her final days, middle-aged Sakul packs his family into a minivan for an urgent mission: to travel to nine Buddhist temples and have Saluay “make merit” through offerings of money and consumer goods. Poised, congenial, and ultimately rapturous, *9 Temples to Heaven* is a family drama that strikes mystical chords.

Cast Amara Ramnarong, Surachai Ningsanond, Jirawut Chiwaruck, Yaneenan Jiraphatjittrin, Klaichan Phunman, Sompop Songkarnpol **Prod** Kissada Kamyoung, Apichatpong Weerasethakul



Afterpiece

KEANE T.K. WONG, HONG KONG, 2026, 112 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	5:45 PM	5TH
WED OCT 7	12:15 PM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	3:15 PM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. This wry theatrical farce stars Stephen Fung as Owen, a playwright, actor, and director in a creative crisis. Legally obliged to produce one last play, he writes a work based on his own romantic and professional past. His well-connected ex-lover wants the lead female role, but our hero has a new female muse, and he's got a plan to get her the part... Literate, sophisticated, and graced with some delightful plot turns, this is a fine debut from writer-director Keane T.K. Wong.

Cast Stephen Fung, Angela Yuen, Myolie Wu, Chrisie Chau, Alan Yeung, Johnny Lu **Prod** Derek Yee



Árru

ELLE SOFE SARA, NORWAY/SWEDEN/FINLAND, 2026, 95 MIN.

THU OCT 1	6:00 PM	SFU
FRI OCT 2	3:30 PM	GIS
WED OCT 7	1:00 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. Set against the striking mountains and fjords of northern Norway, *Árru* follows reindeer herder Maia as a proposed copper mine threatens the land and livelihood her Sámi community has protected for generations. Seeking help, Maia and her brother Dánel turn to their politically connected uncle Lemme, but his return brings long-buried memories to the surface. *Árru* is a powerful reflection on cultural perseverance, collective responsibility, and a new generation fighting to protect their community.

Cast Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska, Simon Issát Marainen, Ayla Gáren Nutti, Mikkel Gaup **Prod** Elisa Fennanda Pirir



Congo Boy

RAFIKI FARIALA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC/
FRANCE/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO/
ITALY, 2026, 91 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	9:15 PM	IV9
MON OCT 5	3:30 PM	GIS

A deeply affecting coming-of-age drama, *Congo Boy* tells the story of Robert, a young Congolese man displaced by war into the Central African Republic. With his parents arrested over their immigration status, Robert is left to care for his four younger siblings, often escaping the pressures of his situation through poetry and song. A celebrated singer himself, director Rafiki Fariala fills the movie with a joyful musicality while crafting a rich portrait of the refugee experience.

Cast Bradley Fiomona, Christy Djomanda Louba, Pétruche Mbomba, Rosiana Kotozia, Gloria Ambacko, Dieufera Sana **Prod** Boris Lojkine, Elvis Sabin Ngabino, Daniele Incalcaterra



The Difficult Bride

RUBAIYAT HOSSAIN, FRANCE/BANGLADESH/
GERMANY/NORWAY/PORTUGAL, 2026, 87 MIN.

THU OCT 8	3:15 PM	GIS
SAT OCT 10	9:15 PM	IV9

The Difficult Bride follows Zaineen, a young woman preparing for her marriage. Zaineen is expected to transform herself into an almost perfect bride—beautiful and desirable—and is subjected to a relentless cycle of beauty rituals, home remedies, family advice and expectations surrounding how a bride should look and behave. Rubaiyat has crafted a formally ambitious film, exploring female desire, fear, identity, and the weight of societal expectations with remarkable conviction.

Cast Zaineen Chowdhury Karim, Saberi Alam Motaher, Azmeri Haque, Reekita Nondine Shimu, Sunerah Binte Kamal **Prod** François d'Artemarre, Pedro Borges, Rubaiyat Hossain, Aadnan Imtiaz Ahmed, Ingrid Lill Hotgun, Anna Katchko



Elephants in the Fog

ABINASH BIKRAM SHAH, NEPAL/GERMANY/BRAZIL/
FRANCE/NORWAY, 2026, 108 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:00 PM	5TH
TUE OCT 6	10:30 AM	IV10
FRI OCT 9	12:30 PM	5TH

In a remote Nepalese village, Pirati is matriarch to a house of Kinnar women—a third-gender community navigating religious vows, adopted family, and social discrimination. When one of her Kinnar daughters goes missing during a nightly elephant patrol, Pirati must investigate the disappearance herself. *Elephants in the Fog* is both a densely atmospheric thriller and a moving portrait of an embattled but resilient community.

Cast Puspa Thing Lama, Sahab Din Miya, Jasmin Bishwokarma, Aliz Ghimire, Joel Gurung, Aashant Sharma **Prod** Anup Poudel, Justin Pechberty, Damien Megherbi, Michael Henrichs



Everytime

SANDRA WOLLNER, GERMANY/AUSTRIA, 2026, 123 MIN.

THU OCT 1	9:00 PM	5TH
SAT OCT 3	2:45 PM	SFU
SUN OCT 4	3:30 PM	AFT

A tragedy brings a mother closer to her youngest daughter and her late daughter's boyfriend in Sandra Wollner's exquisite feature debut that won the prestigious Un Certain Regard award at this year's Cannes. Despite some raised eyebrows, the three protagonists gravitate toward each other as they make sense of the shocking event and the myriad of emotions swirling among them. Teeming with tenderness, *Everytime* is an intricate piece of dramatic work that nevertheless feels like a warm embrace.

Cast Birgit Minichmayr, Lotte Shirin Keiling, Naomi Elia Richard, Tristan Lopez, Carla Hüttermann **Prod** Lixi Frank, Viktoria Stolpe, David Bohun



Fireflies in the Dark

Enoong Ngallamdaï
YOGESH LOHAN, INDIA, 2026, 85 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	9:30 PM	IV9
WED OCT 7	3:15 PM	IV9

World Premiere. *Fireflies in the Dark* explores survival, resilience, and the human cost of civil conflict amidst the ethnic violence that erupted in 2023 in Manipur, Northeast India. Through three interwoven but distinct stories—a pregnant woman struggling to give birth as gunfire surrounds her; a young boy searching for his mother; and a cafe owner who risks her own safety to shelter those fleeing for their lives—Yogesh Lohan offers an intimate portrait of lives caught in the strife.

Cast Bala Hijam Ningthoujam, Leishangthem Tonthoingambi Devi, Angom Pamdamba Singh, Aheibam Chiranjit, Luwang Yumlembam, Ratan Lai **Prod** Jani Viswanath



Flesh and Fuel

Du fioul dans les artères
PIERRE LE GALL, FRANCE/POLAND, 2026, 90 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	9:00 PM	AFT
SAT OCT 10	9:15 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. Étienne lives a solitary existence as a truck driver for a French company, his love life consisting mainly of anonymous sex with men in empty parking lots. But after a passionate encounter with Bartosz, a Polish truck driver, his steady routine is thrown out of gear, and as their jobs continue to keep them apart, they struggle to imagine a future together. Striking a keen balance of romanticism with realism, *Flesh and Fuel* is a surprisingly tender gay romance set in the unlikely milieu of European truckers.

Cast Alexis Manenti, Julian Świeżewski, Armando Alves De Sa, Julie Duclos, Bernard Debreyne **Prod** Nicolas Blanc



Flies

Moscas
FERNANDO EIMBCKE, MEXICO/SPAIN, 2026, 99 MIN.

THU OCT 1	6:15 PM	VC
SAT OCT 3	3:30 PM	PAR
SUN OCT 11	6:15 PM	IV10

Funny, touching, and true to life, *Flies* centers on the elderly, embittered Olga (Teresita Sánchez) and her two short-term tenants: Tulio (Hugo Ramírez) and his young son Cristian (Bastian Escobar). Director Fernando Eimbcke depicts Mexico City as a network of blocks and barriers, and he plots the warming of Olga's heart with assurance and poise. Shot by shot, slowly but surely, the film expands outward from bitterness to a beautiful poignancy.

Cast Teresita Sánchez, Bastian Escobar, Hugo Ramírez, Enrique Arreola **Prod** Eréndira Núñez Laríos, Michel Franco, Fernando Eimbcke



Frank & Louis

PETRA VOLPE, SWITZERLAND/UK, 2025, 95 MIN.

THU OCT 1	9:00 PM	GIS
SAT OCT 3	12:00 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. Having served nearly 20 years of a life sentence, Frank joins an initiative where long-term inmates care for aging prisoners suffering from dementia. But what starts out as a self-interested bid to increase his chances at parole gradually changes when he meets the elderly Louis, whose rapid deterioration and loss of autonomy are taking a toll. Eschewing the gritty naturalism of most prison narratives, *Frank & Louis* is a drama of disarming directness and one of the most affecting films of the year.

Cast Kingsley Ben-Adir, Rob Morgan, René Pérez Joglar, Indra Varna, Rosalind Eleazar **Prod** Reto Schaerli, Lukas Hobi



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Fruit Gathering

Thit-thee Khu
AUNG PHYOE, MYANMAR/CZECH REPUBLIC/France, 2026, 97 MIN.

WED OCT 7	6:00 PM	SFU
THU OCT 8	1:15 PM	IV10

North American Premiere. San Kyi works in a textile factory, enduring put-downs from co-workers and pressure from her mother to marry. When new employee Theint does San Kyi a favour, the two become fast friends—with hints of desire. But as their romance blossoms, is their love real, or does Theint have a hidden agenda? Writer-director Aung Phyoe imbues his characters with a sad dignity, and his direction is discreetly but insistently sensual.

Cast Nandar Myat Aung, Nandar Myint Lwin, Thida Soe Khant, Tin Tin Ei, Min Nyo **Prod** Thu Thu Shein, Thaidhdi



A Girl Unknown

Wu ming nǚ hai
ZOU JING, China/France, 2026, 128 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	5:45 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 4	12:00 PM	SFU
THU OCT 8	4:15 PM	IV8

When her widowed mother puts her out for adoption at age six—in part a response to China's one-child policy—Lin Juan has to start her life anew. Ten years later, Juan (now played by *Resurrection* discovery Li Gengxi) faces another dramatic turn that erodes her sense of belonging and identity. A highly accomplished first feature by Zou Jing, *A Girl Unknown* is an elliptical, naturalistic drama conveyed with a poetic eye and tender compassion. It's beautifully acted, too.

Cast Li Gengxi, Shen Jiani, Zu Feng, Cao Ruofan **Prod** Wang Yang, Didar Domehri, Cao Xi



Heyssel 85

Heysey 85
TEODORA ANA MIHAI, Belgium/Netherlands/Germany, 2026, 91 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	3:30 PM	5TH
SAT OCT 3	5:30 PM	IV9
SAT OCT 10	8:45 PM	AFT

Canadian Premiere. A stirring example of docu-disaster moviemaking, Teodora Mihai recreates a notorious moment in the history of football: the 1985 European Cup Final at Heyssel Stadium in Brussels. The tragic day spiralled out of control when rival fans clashed before a ball had even been kicked, and Mihai meshes news footage of the event with recreations of the hubris, incompetence, and politicking that compounded the escalating chaos.

Cast Violet Braeckman, Matteo Simoni, Josse De Pauw, Fabrizio Rongione, Paolo Calabresi, Bobby Schofield **Prod** Hans Everaert



Idda

IRENE DIONISIO, Italy, 2026, 89 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	6:30 PM	IV10
SAT OCT 10	1:00 PM	SFU

Adele is a young photographer and Sofia is a dance teacher. Childhood friends who have spent years apart, the two reconnect over a vow to finally climb Mount Etna—a promise they made as children. The women set out on a strenuous journey up the Sicilian mountainside, which is constantly at risk of an eruption; but with a handsome, mysterious field guide helping them along the way, the boundaries of their friendship will be tested and redefined.

Cast Tecla Insolia, Romana Maggiora Vergano, Giuseppe De Domenico **Prod** Giovanni Pompili



In Alaska

JAAP VAN HEUSDEN, Vinnie Karetak, Netherlands/Canada, 2026, 108 MIN.

MON OCT 5	9:15 PM	5TH
TUE OCT 6	3:15 PM	IV9

When the bullet from a failed suicide attempt accidentally pierces the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Woody, a 17-year-old Inuk boy, takes flight into Northern Canada. Arriving in Nunavut, Woody finds community and reconnects with the land and his Inuit roots, but FBI agent Tarheel (Noomi Rapace) is in close pursuit. *In Alaska* maps the generational effects of colonial violence onto character and landscape, allowing the land to reflect Woody's inner struggles as he learns what it means to be alive.

Cast Noomi Rapace, Leo Matthew Temela, Yin Wang, Zorga Qaunaq, Miali Buscemi, Joanassie Aupaluk **Prod** Marc Bary, Tyler Hagan, Vinnie Karetak



Iron Boy

Le Corset
LOUIS CLICHY, France/Belgium, 2026, 90 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:30 PM	AFT
SAT OCT 3	12:00 PM	GIS
SAT OCT 10	6:30 PM	GIS

1980s France. At odds with his strict father and burdened 24/7 with an iron back brace due to a spinal condition, preteen farm boy Christophe finds solace in music and in his dauntless new friend, Clara. With a Ghibli-inspired blend of realism and fantasy, this hand-painted animated film tackles grounded themes of disability, agricultural modernization, and growing up. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at Cannes 2026.

Cast Gary Clichy, Rod Paradot, Dimitri Colas, Aurélie Vassort, Brune Moulin, Alexandre Astier **Prod** Céline Vanlint, Nicolas de Rosambo, Fabrice Delville, Christophe Toulemonde, Agathe Sofer, Alexandre Astier



La Gradiva

MARINE ATLAN, France/Italy, 2026, 145 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	11:45 AM	IV9
SAT OCT 3	8:15 PM	AFT
FRI OCT 9	8:00 PM	IV9

Winner of the Grand Prize at Cannes' Critics' Week, Marine Atlan's incisive, intricately composed feature debut follows a class of French high school students on a trip to Naples, Italy. While learning about the ruins of Pompeii by day, a different kind of education takes place at the dorms, on the bus, and at group dinners, where heightened emotions, hormones, and matters of class and social hierarchy add some notable life lessons to the curriculum.

Cast Colas Quignard, Suzanne Gerin, Mitia Capellier-Audat, Antonia Buresi **Prod** Inès Daien Dasi



Lali

SARMAD SULTAN KHOOSAT, Pakistan, 2026, 116 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	9:00 PM	IV10
FRI OCT 9	2:30 PM	GIS

Lali explores the turbulent union of Zeba and Sajawal, two wounded souls bound by fate. As Sajawal's insecurities and Zeba's haunted past threaten their marriage, the film explores the fragile boundaries between love, fear, trauma, and obsession. With its evocative visual language, rich symbolism, and emotional depth, *Lali* emerges as a bold and deeply personal exploration of family, marriage, and inherited trauma. A powerful and significant work of contemporary Pakistani cinema.

Cast Mamya Shajaffar, Channan Hanif, Rasti Farooq, Farazeh Syed, Mehr Bano **Prod** Kanwal Khoosat



Light Pillar

Han ye deng zhu
XU ZAO, CHINA, 2026, 90 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	8:45 PM	IV10
MON OCT 5	12:30 PM	VC
SUN OCT 11	11:15 AM	IV9

Xu Zao's mellow, melancholy story is told in two modes—one "real" yet animated, the other virtual but filmed live-action. *Light Pillar* takes place in a decaying, largely disused film studio, where bottom-tier employee Lao Zha lives and works. One day, he's gifted a virtual-reality setup that takes him into a realm of addictive pleasure... Xu tells a grim story, but he does so with wit and whimsy, sending up showbiz and online obsession while crafting a lament for the pre-digital world.

Cast Da Peng, Qing Yi **Prod** Lu Xiaowei, Huang Yue, Shen Hancheng



Linka Linka

Yi Ge Ye Wan Yu San Ge Xia Tian
KANGDRUN, CHINA, 2025, 100 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	10:45 AM	IV8
FRI OCT 9	6:45 PM	IV8
SUN OCT 11	6:00 PM	CINE

Canadian Premiere. Kangdrun's feature debut concerns a twentysomething filmmaker working through her childhood memories and tortured conscience. Moving between past and present, *Linka Linka* depicts a shameful act of juvenile theft and its unfortunate ripple effects, with each of its main characters played by two different actors. Kangdrun demonstrates an ambitious formal strategy, but what's most impressive is her ability to balance accountability with pathos.

Cast Tsering Yangkyi, Tsekyi Metok, Tangsang Lhamo, Dechen Banzom, Norbu Tsering, Tubdain Jigme **Prod** Zhang Qianqian, Liang Ying



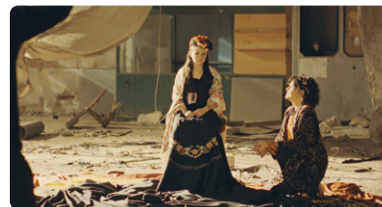
The Loneliest Man in Town

TIZZA COVI, RAINER FRIMMEL, AUSTRIA, 2026, 86 MIN.

WED OCT 7	6:00 PM	IV10
FRI OCT 9	4:00 PM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. Al Cook plays a fictionalized version of himself in this deadpan portrait of a bluesman at a crossroads. The sole remaining occupant of his Vienna apartment building, Al relies on his memories and a trove of old media to keep him company. But with a real estate developer's wrecking ball looming, Al must grapple with the reality that this 80-year chapter of his life is coming to an end. *The Loneliest Man in Town* is a beguiling minor-key medley of melancholy and nostalgia that draws you fully into its thrall.

Cast Alois Koch, Brigitte Meduna, Alfred Blechinger, Flurina Schneider **Prod** Tizza Covi, Rainer Frimmel



Nina Roza

GENEVIÈVE DULUDE-DE CELLES, CANADA/ITALY/
BULGARIA/BELGIUM, 2026, 103 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	8:30 PM	IV10
SUN OCT 4	2:45 PM	IV10
SAT OCT 10	6:00 PM	AFT

Mihail, an expert in contemporary art, has been living in Montreal since he left Bulgaria almost 30 years ago. When a collector gets wind of Nina, an eight-year-old Bulgarian girl poised to become the artworld's latest painting prodigy, Mihail is commissioned to visit her and authenticate the work. Though reluctant at first, he decides to take the journey. Elliptically structured and impeccably observed, *Nina Roza* is a complex, moving depiction of a specific immigrant experience.

Cast Galin Stoev, Ekaterina Stanina, Sofia Stanina, Chiara Caselli, Michelle Tzontchev, Christian Bégin **Prod** Fanny Drew, Sarah Mannering



No Good Men

SHAHRBANOO SADAT, GERMANY/FRANCE/NORWAY/
DENMARK/AFGHANISTAN, 2026, 103 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	12:00 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 11	9:00 PM	GIS

Between dealing with her deadbeat husband and patronizing colleagues, Naru, the only camerawoman in a major Kabul newsroom, is convinced that there are "no good men" left in Afghanistan. But when she starts operating the camera for the station's star reporter, her guarded outlook begins to shift. Set just before the Taliban's return to power in 2021, *No Good Men* balances the verve of a romantic comedy with the sobering realism of a political exposé.

Cast Shahrbanoo Sadat, Anwar Hashimi, Liam Husaini, Yasin Negah, Masihullah Tajzai, Torkan Omari **Prod** Katja Adomeit, Shahrbanoo Sadat, Jeppe Wowk, Marina Perales Marhuenda, Xavier Rocher, Ingvil Sæther Berger, Balthasar Busmann, Maxi Haslberger



Nobody's Violence

Violence du corps de l'autre
DENIS CÔTÉ, CANADA, 2026, 118 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	8:30 PM	CINE
MON OCT 5	8:30 PM	CINE

Death is a business in Denis Côté's eerie dystopian drama, and Mira's (Larissa Corriveau) job is to facilitate euthanasia requests. Seemingly impervious to the weight of her work, Mira begins questioning her purpose after encountering a free-spirited stranger. Blending sci-fi parable, conspiracy thriller, and surreal comedy, *Nobody's Violence* is a bold, atmospheric reflection on mortality.

Cast Larissa Corriveau, Philippe Rebbot, Xavier Bergeron, Gabrielle Lazure, Pierrette Robitaille, Eve Pressault **Prod** Guillaume Vasseur, Gabrielle Tougas-Frêchette



Paris Paris

ISABELLE TOLLENAERE, BELGIUM, 2026, 78 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	8:30 PM	AFT
WED OCT 7	5:45 PM	IV8

Canadian Premiere. In an abandoned Parisian complex, three undocumented men from different backgrounds squat in a derelict apartment. As Isabelle Tollenaere's film unfolds, her protagonists wander the streets, attend language classes, and share meals. Occasionally, they also dream of home. At once a luminous city symphony and a stirring drama of dislocation, *Paris Paris* is a gorgeously composed and often humorous film that asks what it truly means to belong somewhere.

Cast Chen Yi-En, Mahmoud Beshtawi, David Mutamba **Prod** Bo de Group, Hans Everaert



The Quiet Applause

Sanui Sonppyeok
BYUN SUNG-BIN, SOUTH KOREA, 2026, 81 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:00 PM	SFU
SAT OCT 3	3:00 PM	IV9

World Premiere. Byun Sung-bin's film stars Yang Hae-bom as San, an adorable toddler living in the countryside. Her older brother is autistic, and his outbursts of aggression create tension between the parents. San's reactions to this situation range from understandable to mysterious, and at times she seems more invested in the fate of Mimi, a lamb being raised by the family... Gentle, lyrical, and graced with an outstanding child performance, this is a family film like none other.

Cast Yang Hae-bom, Yang Jo-a, Lee Han-joo, Park Ji-ho **Prod** Lee Kyeong-min

Panorama



Roid

MEJBAUR RAHMAN SUMON, BANGLADESH, 2025, 109 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	8:15 PM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	1:30 PM	VC

Roid follows Sadhu, a solitary man in his forties. Hoping for companionship, he marries a mysterious young woman from a distant village, but his new wife's deeply eccentric behaviour soon disrupts the quiet rhythm of Sadhu's life. As her actions start affecting the people in the village, Sadhu decides to abandon his wife—only for her to reappear, again and again. Using magical realism, mythology, and rich symbolism, director Mejbaur Rahman Sumon crafts a deeply immersive cinematic experience.

Cast Mostafizur Noor Imran, Nazifa Tushi, Gazi Rakayet, Ahsabul Yamin Riad **Prod** Mushfiqur Rahman, Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, Shimul Chandra Biswas, Tanveer Hossain, Tanvir Ahmed Shovon



Shame and Money

VISAR MORINA, GERMANY/KOSOVO/SLOVENIA/ALBANIA/NORTH MACEDONIA/BELGIUM, 2026, 129 MIN.

THU OCT 1	8:30 PM	SFU
SAT OCT 3	2:30 PM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. Shaban and his wife Hatixhe make their living as dairy farmers in a rural Kosovan village, but when an act of familial betrayal upends their livelihood, they are forced to move with their three young daughters to the capital to make ends meet. As pressures mount, Shaban is pushed to the brink. Featuring fluid tracking shots and a jagged, nervy soundtrack, Sundance prizewinner *Shame and Money* depicts the harsh toll of a world where survival and money are synonymous.

Cast Astrit Kabashi, Flonja Kodheli, Kumrije Hoxha, Fiona Gllavica, Alban Ukaj **Prod** Fabian Altenried, Sophie Ahrens, Kristof Gerega, Pia Hellenthal, Visar Morina



Sweet Milk Lake

HARVEY ZIELINSKI, AUSTRALIA, 2026, 94 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	9:15 PM	GIS
MON OCT 5	3:30 PM	5TH
SAT OCT 10	1:00 PM	IV9

North American Premiere. Jake, a young trans man, travels to the countryside to visit his estranged, ailing father. When his father mistakes him for his cisgender twin brother, Jake seizes the chance to inhabit a world where he is seen as a man without question. Harvey Zielinski writes, directs and performs dual roles in *Sweet Milk Lake*, a darkly comic thriller that spins gender roles, family secrets, and mounting deception into a tense tale of dangerous wish fulfillment.

Cast Mia Morrissey, Harvey Zielinski, Hunter Page-Lochard, Kieran Darcy-Smith, Nic Cassim, Ngairé Pigram **Prod** Harvey Zielinski, Philippa Campey, Molly O'Connor



Take Me Home

LIZ SARGENT, USA, 2026, 91 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	5:45 PM	IV10
SUN OCT 4	3:15 PM	GIS
WED OCT 7	2:00 PM	GIS

Canadian Premiere. Liz Sargent's deeply personal film stars her sister Anna, who plays a woman quite like her real self: thirtysomething with a cognitive disability and vivacious. As the story begins, Anna is living with her aging parents in Florida, but soon the death of her mother throws the family into crisis. Alternately wrenching and uplifting, the film shows Sargent to be a natural director of actors with a sure hand at capturing small moments of beauty. Anna Sargent shines in the lead role, radiating desire and volatility.

Cast Anna Sargent, Victor Slezak, Ali Ahn, Marceline Hugot, Shane Harper **Prod** Apoorva Guru Charan, Minos Papas, Liz Sargent



We Are All Strangers

Wo Men Bu Shi Mo Sheng Ren
ANTHONY CHEN, SINGAPORE, 2026, 157 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	2:30 PM	GIS
MON OCT 5	8:45 PM	IV9
WED OCT 7	3:00 PM	PAR

Anthony Chen (*Ilo Ilo*, VIFF 2013) tells a soulful story of marriage and fatherhood in contemporary Singapore. Andi Lim and Koh Jia Ler play a father and son, both of whom get married only to face economic hardships and other crises. Chen's film considers the human cost of poverty, and that struggle comes through in every poignant scene. Regene Lim and Yeo Yann Yann give terrific performances as the brides, and Chen brings the city-state to life, detailing both its beauty and its darker aspects.

Cast Yeo Yann Yann, Koh Jia Ler, Andi Lim, Regene Lim **Prod** Anthony Chen



What Remains

Artakalan
YEŞİM USTAOĞLU, TURKEY/LUXEMBOURG/France/BULGARIA, 2026, 126 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	9:00 PM	VC
THU OCT 8	12:00 PM	IV9

North American Premiere. Stuck in a big city in a mind-numbing domestic routine, a young poetess finds herself at crossroads when her role as a mother and wife starts to overshadow her identity as an artist. Her partner tries to help her out of her depression, but she decides to leave him—and their young son—to embark on a journey of self-rediscovery. That quest takes her deep into the Turkish countryside and there, surrendering to a simpler way of life, she starts to feel alive again.

Cast Öykü Karayel, Metin Akdülger, Ali Kayra Kul, İlyas Salman **Prod** Yeşim Ustaoglu, Anna Maria Aslanoğlu, Behrooz Hashemian



Where the River Begins

Donde Comienza el Río
JUAN ANDRÉS ARANGO, CANADA/COLOMBIA/NORWAY, 2026, 102 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	8:45 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 4	12:45 PM	IV8

This richly immersive film follows a young, widowed Indigenous mother on a journey of return: from the slums of Bogotá to the jungle where she was raised. Joining her in this act of reclamation are her daughter and a fellow slum dweller—with an especially urgent reason to flee. From grime and concrete to the lush green of the jungle, this is a work steeped in the politics of environment. A hypnotic, transporting experience.

Cast Ana Michell Nama Dumaza, Gírlze Duave Cerezo, Juan David Junca Linares **Prod** Paola Andrea Pérez Nieto, Annick Blanc, Maria Gracia Turgeon



Yasha

NAGHI NEMATI, IRAN/GERMANY, 2026, 88 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	6:15 PM	AFT
SAT OCT 10	9:30 PM	IV10
SUN OCT 11	1:00 PM	IV10

World Premiere. *Yasha* follows Hana, a young teacher driven to desperate measures after losing her job. In need of money for her son's life-saving operation, Hana is willing to endure any hardship, humiliation, or consequence to give her child a chance to survive, and the film remains firmly focused on its protagonist's relentless struggle throughout. Never saccharine or melodramatic, Naghi Nemati offers a compelling portrait of a strong woman fighting against impossible odds.

Cast Rose (Mahshid) Izadi, Saman Saffari, Maryam Shahvali, Nima Ghasemi, Shahin Ghahari, Yousef Yazdani **Prod** Mafthoom Khodai, Abolfazl Saffary, Babak Kohi Dehkordi

VIFF

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Ana, En Passant

FERNANDA SALGADO, BRAZIL/PORTUGAL, 2026, 90 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	6:30 PM	VC
SUN OCT 11	3:30 PM	CINE

International Premiere. Fernanda Salgado makes an elegant feature debut with this lyrical animated drama about Ana, a young Black woman returning to her late grandmother's native town in Brazil. Trying to make sense of distant memories, family ties, and her own restless spirit, Ana encounters Alice, who now occupies her grandmother's apartment, and the two strike up a close friendship. As Ana and Alice grow closer, Ana discovers a version of herself longing to feel rooted. *Ana, En Passant* is a gentle ode to cultural yearning.

Cast Jéssica Pierina, Zezé Motta, Flip, Carlos Francisco, Odilon Esteves, Felipe Oládélé **Prod** Fernanda Salgado, Victor Dias, Diogo Carvalho, Nuno Beato, Emmanuel Quillet, Martine Vidalenc



Hear the Yellow

Günyüzü

BANU SIVACI, TURKEY, 2026, 104 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	6:15 PM	VC
SAT OCT 10	8:30 PM	CINE

North American Premiere. After a lengthy absence, middle-aged Suna returns to her native Anatolian village to attend her nephew's wedding, where she finds her family home severely damaged by the geological turbulence affecting the area. Cracks are also showing in her relationship with her brother, with the mystery of their sister's disappearance still looming over the small community. Determined to finally get to the bottom of things, Suna must reckon with a complicated family dynamic and the archaic attitudes she originally fled.

Cast Selva Erdener, Suleyman Kadim Kabaali, Asena Hotamış, Kerem Ozdogan, Okan Selvi, Doğukan Töngel **Prod** Yusuf Aslanyürek, Banu Sivaci, Orkun Huylu

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Forest High

Forêt Ivre

MANON COUBIA, BELGIUM/FRANCE, 2026, 106 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	9:00 PM	CINE
WED OCT 7	10:45 AM	VC

Canadian Premiere. High in the northern Alps, three women take turns caring for a mountain lodge. Divided into three sections, *Forest High* follows each caretaker in their respective seasons, tied together by a profound reflection on solitude and the timeless presence of mountains. Inspired by her own experience as a warden, Manon Coubia demonstrates a masterful command of form and tone with this captivating feature debut.

Cast Salomé Richard, Aurélia Petit, Anne Coesens, Arthur Marbaix, Yoann Zimmer, Alba Rincon Gille
Prod Jérémy van der Haegen, Nicolas Rincon Gille, Manon Coubia, Tom Durand-Bonnard, Katia Khazak, Charlotte Vincent



Hearing

Thính Giác

BẢO LÊ, VIETNAM/SINGAPORE/NORWAY/FRANCE/INDONESIA/SAUDI ARABIA/CAMBODIA/THAILAND/TAIWAN, 2026, 128 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	8:30 PM	VC
SUN OCT 4	3:00 PM	VC

North American Premiere. Bảo Lê's feature debut is a lush, meticulously composed drama that unfolds as a series of film tableaux drawing on moments in the life of a middle-aged mechanic. Following him as he installs decibel meters across public spaces, the film rides the ebb and flow of characters' daily rhythms, from village raves to tranquil forests. A meditation on presence and life's small pleasures, this is slow cinema at its finest.

Cast Tuấn Quốc Nsut Nguyễn, Tân Ngọc Nsut, Huyền Khánh, Quyền Tiểu, Hùng Minh, Uẩn Công Nguyễn
Prod Elizabeth Wijaya, Weijie Lai, Yến Huỳnh



I Plant My Hand in the Garden

BORIS HADŽIJA, HODA TAHERI, GERMANY/SERBIA/USA, 2026, 83 MIN.

THU OCT 8	8:45 PM	CINE
FRI OCT 9	4:00 PM	CINE

Canadian Premiere. On the heels of their Belgrade nuptials, Boris and Hoda, a young couple hailing from Serbia and Iran respectively, embark on a new chapter of their lives in Berlin. With the last of bureaucratic hurdles out of the way, they build a life that's unique to them. The actor-writer-director duo lean on their own experiences in this idiosyncratic docufiction that flips the script on immigrant narratives.

Cast Hoda Taheri, Boris Hadzija, Branka Hadzija, Jahandokht Taheri, Hadi Khanjanpour
Prod Maximilian Feldkamp, Hoda Taheri, Boris Hadzija, Čarna Vučinić, Ena Bajraktarević



Lady

OLIVE NWOSU, UK/NIGERIA, 2025, 93 MIN.

MON OCT 5	8:15 PM	VC
TUE OCT 6	3:30 PM	VC

Canadian Premiere. Amidst a change in Nigeria's sociopolitical tides, Lady, a young taxi driver reluctantly takes a side job chauffeuring a group of sex workers to their nocturnal visits across Lagos—one of whom is her childhood best friend that she hasn't seen in years. As she gets to know the women and their stories, Lady must confront some of her own painful memories and attitudes. Olive Nwosu's dazzling feature debut is a vibrant, textured drama brimming with feminine zest and cultural pride.

Cast Jessica Gabriel's Ujah, Amanda Oruh, Tinuade Jemisey, Seun Kuti, Bucci Franklin
Prod Alex Polunin, John Giwa-Amu, Stella Nwimo



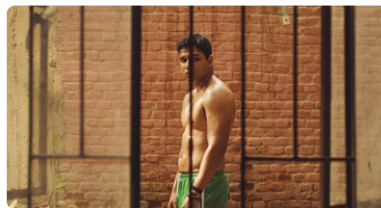
Lust

RALITZA PETROVA, BULGARIA/DENMARK/SWEDEN, 2026, 77 MIN.

WED OCT 7	8:30 PM	VC
THU OCT 8	6:30 PM	CINE

North American Premiere. A middle-aged prison psychologist's carefully managed routine and sex addiction unravel when she must travel to Bulgaria to settle her late, estranged father's affairs. While trying to make sense of the man she never really knew, her own sense of self slowly implodes as new aspects of her family history come to light. A decade after winning Locarno's Golden Leopard for her feature debut *Godless*, Ralitz Petrova returns with an emotionally textured sophomore drama.

Cast Snejanka Mihaylova, Nikola Mutafov, Mihail Milchev, Alexis Atmadjov
Prod Nikolay Todorov, Poli Angelova, Ralitz Petrova



That Shadow Fading

Aquella Sombra Desvanecía

SAMUEL URBINA, PERU, 2025, 76 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	8:15 PM	VC
SAT OCT 3	11:00 AM	VC

North American Premiere. Samuel Urbina's feature debut is a quiet, deeply affecting mother and son drama following Sol, a single mother whose son Junior is preparing to move to Lima upon graduating college. Working as a keyboard player in the small Peruvian town of Piura, Sol spends much of her time on the road between gigs, using the commute to process the impending change. While Junior is eager to spread his wings and explore the world outside their remote desert town, he too is feeling separation anxiety as he faces the unknown.

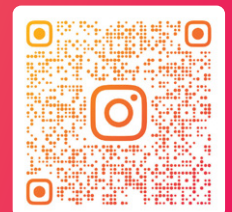
Cast Sylvia Majo, Santiago Torres Rojas, Antonio Miranda
Prod Jorge G. Castañeda

Hey VIFFers,

VIFF Social here, coming to you analogue style. Why don't you scan that cheeky little QR code and come join the conversation? Our page is stacked with content from festival news to upcoming film screenings and maybe the odd silly video to get you through the day. And if that's not enough to tempt you, we have been known to host contests for movie tickets and even festival passes...

*Come on, give us a follow.
We know you want to!*

XOXO
VIFF Social



VIFF



Boasting five world premieres along with the Vancouver bows for celebrated films that have already turned heads on the festival circuit, Northern Lights presents a collection of films that prove every bit as distinct as they are accomplished. Often deeply personal and uniformly singular in terms of their filmmaking approaches and sensibilities, these features prove both candid and captivating. Even when employing the tropes of the survival thriller or underdog sports movie, they subvert expectations and surprise at every turn.



Strong Son

Northern

VIFF

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Seventeen

JUSTIN DUCHARME, CANADA, 2026, 88 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	8:45 PM	RIO
SUN OCT 4	3:45 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 11	9:00 PM	IV8

Justin Ducharme's gritty but warm-hearted film takes us into Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, where three Indigenous sex workers are up against the odds. Poverty, bureaucracy, and colonialism are the causes; grief, a lost wallet, and a lost passport are the symptoms. Taking place over the course of one decisive day, *Seventeen* is a work about solidarity in the face of oppression. Like its characters, it's as tough as life demands and as tender as it allows.

Cast Aalayna, Nizhonniya Austin, Taio Gelinias, Shannon Baker, Kaniehtiio Horn, Renae Morriveau **Prod** Justin Ducharme, Tyler Hagan, Olivia Marie Golosky



Pocket Mirror

ADRIAN MURRAY, CANADA, 2025, 88 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:15 PM	IV8
MON OCT 5	12:15 PM	IV9

World Premiere. Maisie is feeling a little funny lately. A strange man might be stalking her, her boyfriend Nima is distant, and she's haunted by the possibility her beloved cat Shimmer has been replaced with a replica. Lonely, isolated, and frustrated by the odd inconsistencies piling up around her, Maisie's closest confidant is an AI chatbot. With a sharply sparse style and a knack for awkward tension, Adrian Murray's *Pocket Mirror* blends wry humour with suspense in this striking distillation of modern alienation.

Cast Sofia Banzhaf, Maziyar Khatam, Dylan Roberts, Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks, Karen Kwong-Chip, Ucal Shillingford **Prod** Priscilla Galvez, Sennah Yee



SUN OCT 4	6:15 PM	VC
MON OCT 5	4:00 PM	IV8

The Gymnasts of Fisherman Colony

FRI OCT 9	5:30 PM	GIS
SAT OCT 10	12:00 PM	VC
SUN OCT 11	6:00 PM	AFT

The Bryce Lee Story

MON OCT 5	7:00 PM	IV10
TUE OCT 6	3:45 PM	IV10

Clubfoot

SUN OCT 4	6:00 PM	CINE
MON OCT 5	2:45 PM	VO

First Comes Love: Nakabingwit

SAT OCT 3	5:45 PM	SFU
WED OCT 7	1:30 PM	IV10
SAT OCT 10	3:45 PM	AF1

Lifeline

THU OCT 8	7:00 PM	IV10
SAT OCT 10	4:30 PM	IV8

Relax, Open Your Eyes

FRI OCT 2	6:00 PM	GIS
TUE OCT 6	3:15 PM	GIS

Feat Carrie Radomski, Witek Radomski, Lauren Fosco, Joan Runkel, Jordan Sparks **Prod** Michael Tanko Grand



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A Safe Distance

GLORIA MERCER, CANADA, 2025, 86 MIN.

MON OCT 5	8:45 PM	RIO
WED OCT 7	1:30 PM	VC

Abandoned in the woods by her long-term boyfriend during a camping trip gone awry, unfulfilled 35-year-old Alex (Bethany Brown) is rescued by Kianna and Matt, a free-spirited couple living off the grid. As Alex warms to the couple, she finds herself being drawn deeper into their psychosexual affairs. Jealousies simmer, loyalties shift, and temptations bloom to a bloody climax in Gloria Mercer's red-hot feature debut.

Cast Bethany Brown, Tandia Mercedes, Cody Kearsley, Chris McNally **Prod** Gloria Mercer, Aidan West, Nic Altobelli



Send the Rain

HAYLEY GRAY, KAAYLA WHACHELL, CANADA, 2026, 94 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:00 PM	IV10
THU OCT 8	3:15 PM	5TH

World Premiere. When wildfires close in on BC's rural interior, a young Okinawan-Canadian woman returns home to convince her stubborn grandmother to evacuate. Written and directed by Hayley Gray and Kaayla Whachell, *Send the Rain* is a tender, quietly funny portrait of a family negotiating history, responsibility, and the pull of home. Grounded in unhurried moments, it finds its drama in knowing when to let go and when to stay.

Cast Erika Prevost, Sachiko Tsujimoto, Dylan Playfair, Hiromoto Ida **Prod** Mike Johnston



Smudge the Blades

CODY LIGHTNING, CANADA, 2026, 96 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	6:15 PM	RIO
MON OCT 5	3:00 PM	IV9

Cody Lightning's rousing hockey drama centres on the Treaty 6 Blades, a team of Indigenous youth. Headed by Zamboni-driver-turned-coach Willie Gladue (Lightning himself), the team faces down all manner of challenges, both on and off the rink, on their way to a chance at redemption. Blessed with a terrific cast, this is a crowd-pleaser in which victory is about much more than winning the game, and in which heroism is shared among a community.

Cast Cody Lightning, Jana Schmieding, Ed Helms, Paulina Alexis, Treyce Wuttunee, Isalah Kakepetum **Prod** Joshua Jackson, Kyle Thomas, Sara Corry, Hayley Morin, Dylan Morin, Cody Lightning



Still Night, Burning House

CAROL NGUYEN, CANADA, 2026, 76 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	6:30 PM	IV8
WED OCT 7	4:00 PM	VC

More than a decade after her uncle's mysterious death, Vietnamese-Canadian filmmaker Carol Nguyen travels with her family to Vietnam. In *Still Night, Burning House*, unsealed medical records, rituals, old questions, and Nguyen's father's guilt awaken a grief the family has never been able to fully confront. A world premiere at TIFF Docs, Nguyen's feature debut expands the terrain of *No Crying at the Dinner Table* (2019) into a film about silence, mourning, and return.

Feat Ngoc Nguyen, Jennifer Nguyen, Phan Huê Tang, Jenny Tang, Hoàng Nguyen, Thao Nguyen-Dương **Prod** Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre, Rob Vroom, Ariel Nasr



Strong Son

IAN BAWA, CANADA, 2026, 88 MIN.

MON OCT 5	6:45 PM	IV8
TUE OCT 6	12:45 PM	IV9

Harvey (Mandeep Sodhi), a bodybuilder with an impressive, hardened exterior, returns home to care for his ailing father. Raised to believe in his strength above all, Harvey hides his emotional struggles until the demands of caregiving push him to a breaking point. Ian Bawa's feature is a moving exploration of masculinity, filial duty, and the emotional distance between first-generation immigrant parents and their children, reminding us that real strength sometimes means asking for help.

Cast Mandeep Sodhi, Amir Parbhakar, Michaela Kurimsky, Yuvraj (Raj) Singh Dhesi, Quinn Greene, Erik Athavale **Prod** Fritz Adelman, Ian Bawa, Markus Henkel



Turtle Island Rap

ALEXANDRA LAZAROWICH, CANADA, 2026, 97 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	6:30 PM	IV9
THU OCT 8	3:00 PM	IV9

Taking us into the world of Indigenous hip-hop, this soulful doc profiles three up-and-comers in the genre. A\$h da Hunter is a female MC from Arizona, Wiidaaseh is a rapper and producer in Toronto, and Travis Thompson is a Seattle-based artist in the process of going independent. Exploring its subjects' personal lives as well as their career moves, the film is a work of layered, complex portraiture. Last but not least, there's the terrific music itself; it's a pleasure to watch each artist shake the room.

Cast A\$h Da Hunter, Travis Thompson, Wiidaaseh **Prod** Jessica Ford, Ehren "Bear Witness" Thomas, Tim "Zoolman" Hill

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Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun, *New Age Indian* (detail), 1988.
Audain Art Museum Collection. Photo: Oisín McHugh.



My VIFF 2026 Watchlist

Use this page to pick out your festival highlights!

My Must-See Films

-
-
-

Q&As

-
-
-

Top Docs

-
-
-

Homegrown Talent

-
-
-

Plan Your Schedule With My VIFF

Get ready to VIFF and plan your festival with our What's On Calendar at viff.org/whats-on-calendar. Browse screenings and events by day and save your favourites to your personalized My VIFF tool. Just click 'My VIFF' in the top right corner of the website and sign in with your VIFF account (the same one you use to buy tickets!).

To keep track of the films you're excited about add them to your Watchlist by clicking the heart icon on any event in our What's On List. You can view your watchlist at viff.org/watchlist.

Then create a schedule of screenings you want to attend, add them to your Schedule by clicking the plus icon on any screening in our What's On List or Calendar. View your schedule at viff.org/my-schedule.

Audience Awards

VIFF's Audience Awards allow you to take your festival experience to the next level, championing your favourite films. At the end of the festival, we'll announce Audience Award winners for every one of our series. So be sure to vote after every screening.

Galas & Special
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Vanguard
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Northern Lights
Audience Award

Portraits
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Audience Award

Insights
Audience Award

Altered States
Audience Award

VIFF

45th Festival

October 1–11, 2026

5TH	Fifth Avenue Cinemas – Cinema 3 2110 Burrard
AFT	Alliance Française 6161 Cambie
ANNEX	Annex 823 Seymour
CINE	The Cinematheque 1131 Howe
GIS	Lindsay Family Stage at Granville Island 1585 Johnston
IV08	International Village 8 88 W Pender
IV09	International Village 9 88 W Pender
IV10	International Village 10 88 W Pender
PAR	The Park Theatre 3440 Cambie
PEARL	The Pearl 881 Granville Street
PLAY	Vancouver Playhouse 600 Hamilton
RIO	Rio Theatre 1660 E Broadway
SFU/ WONG	SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts 149 W Hastings
VC	The VIFF Centre – VIFF Cinema 1181 Seymour

Films Talks VIFF Live

Thursday, October 1	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM	12:00AM
Cinematheque										MODES 1 6:15 PM 107min p71		Into the Jaws of ... 9:00 PM 67min p61			
Fifth Avenue 3									Clarissa 9:45 PM 124min p27			Everytime 9:00 PM 123min p31			
Granville Island									All the Lovers in the Night 9:30 PM 135min p47			Frank & Louis 9:00 PM 93min p31			
Park										Tender Loving Care 8:30 PM 107min p43		Jim Queen 9:15 PM 95min p65			
Playhouse										Opening Gala: Debut 9:45 PM 125min p16		Only Living... 9:30 PM 80min p21			
Rio										Beloved 6:00 PM 135min p19		Species 8:15 PM 103min p65			
SFU-GCA										Arru 6:00 PM 95min p30		Shame and Money 8:30 PM 129min p35			
VIFF Cinema										Flies 6:15 PM 99min p31		Jaripao 6:30 PM 70min p61			

VIFF

45th

Vancouver

October
1-11, 2026

Tickets
at viff.org

Sunday, October 4															
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM	12:00AM
Alliance Francaise Theatre							Everytime 3:30 PM 123min p31		Nous.... 6:15 PM 90min p62			Paris Paris 8:30 PM 78min p34			
Cinematheque					Close-Up 1:00 PM 98min p54		Ballad From... 3:30 PM 78min p55		Clubfoot 6:00 PM 70min p39			Nobody's Violence 8:30 PM 118min p34			
Fifth Avenue 3					I See Buildings Fall... 1:00 PM 109min p28		Seventeen 3:45 PM 88min p38		I Understand... 6:30 PM 93min p55			Family Fears... 9:15 PM 94min p35			
Granville Island					Concrete Land 12:15 PM 101min p56		Take Me Home 3:15 PM 91min p35		ReFrame: School for Defectors 6:00 PM 137min p29			Sweet Milk Lake 9:15 PM 94min p35			
International Village 8					Short Forum 2 10:30 AM 77min p46		Where the River Be... 12:45 PM 102min p35		Fire There 6:30 PM 95min p57			Short Forum 4 9:00 PM 111min p67			
International Village 9					Story of Doc 2010s / 2020s 11:00 AM 181min p29		In the Heart of... 3:00 PM 95min p39		RADIOHEART 6:00 PM 83min p63			Rold 8:15 PM 109min p35			
International Village 10					Incomplete... 12:15 PM 77min p60		Nina Roza 2:45 PM 103min p34		Our Mr. Matsura 5:45 PM 97min p62			Light Pillar 8:45 PM 90min p34			
Park							Clarissa 3:00 PM 134min p27		Freaks Part II 6:15 PM 114min p65			Bitter Christmas 9:30 PM 112min p19			
Playhouse					Tender Loving Care 11:00 AM 107min p23		Run Terry Run 1:45 PM 108min p29		Paper Tiger 5:00 PM 115min p23			All of a Sudden 8:15 PM 196min p18			
Rio							How We Stand 3:00 PM 107min p28		Ladies and... 6:15 PM 105min p26			Gentle Monster 9:15 PM 114min p28			
SFU-GCA					Girl Unknown 12:00 PM 128min p33		TBA 2:45 PM 120min p		Ceremony 5:45 PM 84min p27			Last Movies 8:30 PM 88min p61			
SFU Wong Theatre												Live: Moran 8:00 PM 120min p81			
VIFF Cinema					Talks: Johnson 12:30 PM 90min p		Hearing 3:00 PM 128min p37		Ba's Book 6:15 PM 102min p39			What Remains 9:00 PM 126min p35			

Monday, October 5															
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM	12:00AM
ANNEX									Talks: Toller & Hyland 6:30 PM 90min p77						
Cinematheque									Le Bonheur 6:00 PM 80min p54			Nobody's Violence 8:30 PM 118min p34			
Fifth Avenue 3					All the Lovers in the Night 12:00 PM 138min p27			Sweet Milk Lake 3:30 PM 94min p35		School for... 6:15 PM 92min p29		In Alaska 9:15 PM 108min p33			
Granville Island								Congo Boy 3:30 PM 91min p31		Rose 6:00 PM 94min p23		Nagi Notes 8:45 PM 110min p28			
International Village 8					Short Forum 4 1:00 PM 111min p67			Ba's Book 4:00 PM 102min p39		Strong Son 6:45 PM 88min p41		Short Forum 5 9:00 PM 108min p67			
International Village 9					Pocket Mirror 12:15 PM 88min p38		Snudge the Blades 3:00 PM 96min p41		Run Terry Run 5:30 PM 108min p29			We Are All Strangers 8:45 PM 157min p35			
International Village 10					Fire There 1:15 PM 95min p57		Family Fears... 4:15 PM 83min p65		Bryce Lee Story 7:00 PM 84min p39			Heat 9:30 PM 85min p57			
Park									Beloved 6:00 PM 135min p19			Club Kid 9:15 PM 122min p19			
The Pearl												Live: Thuthanaka 8:30 PM 90min p81			
Playhouse									Coward 5:45 PM 125min p19			Possible Love 9:00 PM 164min p23			
Rio									TBA 6:00 PM 90min p			Safe Distance 8:45 PM 86min p41			
VIFF Cinema					Light Pillar 12:30 PM 90min p34		Clubfoot 2:45 PM 70min p39		Live: Tapia de Veer 5:30 PM 90min p80			Lady 6:15 PM 94min p37			

Tuesday, October 6															
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM	12:00AM
Cinematheque													Forest High 9:00 PM 106min p37		
Fifth Avenue 3				Man in Motion 12:30 PM 96min p28			Birds of War 3:15 PM 85min p56		Afterpiece 5:45 PM 112min p30				Diary of a... 9:00 PM 94min p27		
Granville Island							Relax, Open... 3:15 PM 87min p39		Mouse 6:00 PM 120min p28				Ladies and... 9:15 PM 105min p28		
International Village 8				Nous, L'orchestre... 11:15 AM 90min p62		Short Forum 5 1:30 PM 108min p67		Last Movies 4:15 PM 85min p61					Short Forum 6 8:45 PM 107min p67		
International Village 9				RADIOHEART 10:45 AM 83min p63		Strong Son 12:45 PM 88min p41		In Alaska 3:15 PM 108min p33			Turtle Island Rap 6:30 PM 97min p41		Fireflies in the... 9:30 PM 85min p31		
International Village 10				Elephants in the Fog 10:30 AM 108min p31		Ceremony 1:00 PM 84min p27		Bryce Lee Story 3:45 PM 84min p39		James McNeill... 6:15 PM 90min p63			17 9:15 PM 105min p30		
Park										Fatherland 6:30 PM 82min p20			Behemoth! 9:00 PM 127min p18		
Playhouse										Look Back 6:00 PM 100min p21			Long Winter 9:00 PM 117min p21		
Rio										Only Living... 5:45 PM 88min p21			Live: Xiu Xiu 8:30 PM 90min p81		
VIFF Cinema					TBA 1:00 PM 120min p		Lady 3:30 PM 99min p37			TBA 6:15 PM 90min p			Tree of Life 9:00 PM 139min p54		

Wednesday, October 7															
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM	12:00AM
Cinematheque													Prosecution 8:30 PM 113min p65		
Fifth Avenue 3					Áru 1:00 PM 95min p30		Dear Future... 3:30 PM 79min p55		Agridulce 6:00 PM 98min p63				Whatcha Want 9:00 PM 90min p25		
Granville Island						Take Me Home 2:00 PM 91min p35						Live: Gee 8:00 PM 90min p81			
International Village 8		Jarico 10:45 AM 80min p61		Short Forum 6 12:30 PM 107min p67			Place of Absence 3:30 PM 86min p57		Paris Paris 5:45 PM 78min p34			Short Forum 7 8:00 PM 108min p67			
International Village 9				Afterpiece 12:15 PM 112min p30			Fireflies in the... 3:15 PM 85min p31		Rebecca Horn 5:30 PM 90min p63			Crocodile 8:15 PM 101min p60			
International Village 10		James McNeill... 10:30 AM 90min p63			First Comes... 1:30 PM 85min p39		Diary of a... 3:30 PM 94min p27		Loneliest Man in... 6:00 PM 86min p34				Distant Call 8:30 PM 99min p56		
Park							We Are All Strangers 3:00 PM 157min p35		Rose 6:30 PM 94min p23				Long Winter 9:15 PM 117min p21		
Playhouse									Bitter Christmas 5:45 PM 112min p19				Fiord 9:00 PM 146min p20		
Rio									Talks: Mothersbaugh 6:15 PM 90min p77				History of Concrete 9:00 PM 101min p26		
SFU-GCA									Fruit Gathering 6:00 PM 97min p33				Whispers in May 9:00 PM 95min p59		
VIFF Cinema		Forest High 10:45 AM 106min p37				Safe Distance 1:30 PM 86min p41		Still Night... 4:00 PM 76min p41		Nowhere to... 6:15 PM 72min p28			Lust 8:30 PM 77min p37		

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JURY



Rhia Aden

Based in Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton) on Treaty 6 territory, Rhia Aden is a filmmaker, programmer, and screen sector leader committed to amplifying underrepresented voices in film. As Executive Director of the Mosquers Film Festival, she is committed to platforming Muslim/BIPOC storytelling, cultivating meaningful spaces for Muslim creatives, and driving narrative change.

JURY



Arjun Ayillath

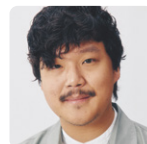
Arjun Ayillath is a film programmer, producer, festival strategist, trained actor, and arts and festival management professional who has programmed for the Regina International Film Festival and Awards, the International Film Festival of India, and the International Film Festival of Kerala. He is also a founding partner of Amor Film House.

JURY



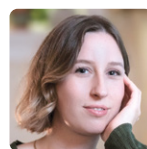
Selwyn Jacob

Selwyn Jacob spent 23 at the NFB, during which time he directed the award-winning films *Carol's Mirror* (1991) and *The Road Taken* (1996) and produced documentaries including Charles Officer's Leo- and Emmy-award-winning *Mighty Jerome* (2010) and Mina Shum's feature documentary *Ninth Floor* (2015). He currently works as an executive producer and story consultant.



Nach Dudsdeemaytha

Nach Dudsdeemaytha is an award-winning producer and a co-founder of Musubi Arts, based in Vancouver. His recent credits include *Mongrels* (2024, dir. Jerome Yoo) and *Akashi* (2025, dir. Mayumi Yoshida), and he is an alumnus of the NSI/EAVE Access Producers Program. He was named one of *Playback's* 10 to Watch in 2025.



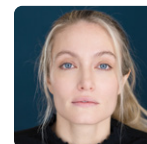
Madeleine Davis

Madeleine Davis is a Canadian producer with over a decade of experience in narrative film production. In 2019, she founded Common Knowledge, a production company focused on elevated genre feature films. She is an alumna of the International Film Festival Rotterdam Talent Lab and the producer of *With Love and a Major Organ* (2023).



Lyana Patrick

Lyana Patrick is a director, writer, and researcher based in Vancouver, BC. She is an Acadian-Scottish member of the Stelat'en First Nation who brings a collaborative approach to her community-based work, centering Indigenous experiences. Her first feature-length documentary *Nechako: It Will Be a Big River Again* premiered at DOXA Documentary Film Festival in 2025.



Caitlyn Sponheimer

Caitlyn Sponheimer is a Canadian writer, director, actor, and producer. She is a Directors Guild of Canada nominee, an ACTRA nominee, a 2026 DGC Cannes Delegation member, an alumna of the Reykjavik Talent Lab and VIFF Composer Filmmaker Accelerator, and director of the film *Wild Goat Surf* (2023).



Michael Mann

Michael Mann is Marketing Manager at The Polygon Gallery and the programmer for its outdoor film series, Deckchair Cinema. A born and raised Vancouverite, he has worked across publishing and the arts. His formative cinematic experience was seeing *RoboCop* in a theatre at age seven.



Jeff Petry

Jeff Lee Petry is a Canadian-born producer, director, and cinematographer. He is a co-founder of Salazar Film, a documentary production company whose works have filmed on five continents, earned Grammy and Juno nominations, been honoured in the UK Parliament, and had multiple films included in the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Archives.

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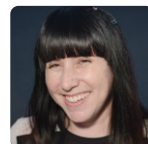


JURY



Josephine Anderson

Josephine Anderson is a documentary filmmaker whose intimate, imaginative films address themes like time, irreverence, and yearning. Her debut feature *Curl Power* (2024) was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at Hot Docs, and her VR documentary *Texada* (2023) earned a Canadian Screen Award nomination for Best Immersive Experience.



Brenda Lieberman

Brenda Lieberman has been a driving force in Calgary's film festival scene since 1999. She founded the Calgary Underground Film Festival in 2004 and continues as its Festival Director and Lead Programmer. From 2007 to 2026, she also programmed for the Calgary International Film Festival, serving as Programming Manager and Lead Programmer.



David Taylor

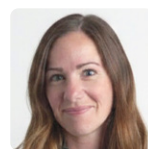
David Taylor is the Festival Director of the Vancouver Horror Show Film Festival, where he leads programming, partnerships, and industry development for one of Western Canada's largest genre film festivals. He is also the founder of Vancouver Horror Studios, a film production company with a focus on supporting stories that elevate the horror genre.

JURY



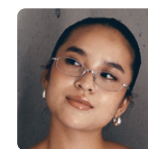
Tanvi Bhatia

Tanvi Bhatia is a screenwriter whose background spans multiple genres and industries. Since being awarded a residency with the Pacific Screenwriting Program's Scripted Series Lab, she has worked as a writer-producer on *Allegiance* (CBC/NBCU) and *Heartland* (CBC). Prior to entering the television industry, Tanvi was an editor at *PRISM international* and *Geist* magazine.



Ariel Bond

Ariel Bond (she/her) is a Vancouver-based filmmaker and alumna of talent programs with Stowe Story Labs, GEMS, Filmmable, and Creative BC. She's currently participating in the VIFF Creative Business Cohort as well as the upcoming TIFF Creators Lab. She is a co-founder of Petite Mafia, with recent credits that include *How Brief* (2026).



Thanh Lieu

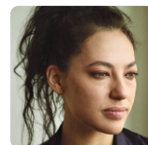
Thanh Lieu is a Vietnamese journalist, film critic, and piano instructor. She founded *The Produced*, a digital magazine featuring conversations with filmmakers, artists, and cultural workers. In 2025, she was selected for the Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival's critics program. She is currently developing an editorial unit at *The Produced* dedicated to documenting independent cinema.

JURY



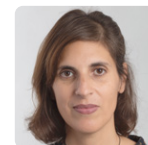
Joaquin Cardoner

Joaquin Cardoner is an independent producer working across Canada and Europe. His work has received prestigious accolades, including the Grand Jury Prize at SXSW 2025 for *One Day This Kid* and an Honourable Mention for Best Canadian Discovery at TIFF 2025 for his Tibetan feature film *100 Sunset*.



Caroline Monnet

Caroline Monnet is an acclaimed filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist of Algonquin Anishinaabe and French ancestry from Outaouais, Québec. Her films have been presented at major international festivals including TIFF, Sundance, the Berlinale, Göteborg, and Rotterdam, and she is a previous winner of the Emerging Canadian Director Award at VIFF.



Sarah Shamash

Sarah Shamash is a practicing media artist, scholar, educator, and curator who currently holds a position as an Assistant Professor of Critical and Cultural Studies at Emily Carr University. Her research centers on film and media from the Global South, with a focus on Brazilian cinema and feminist media histories.



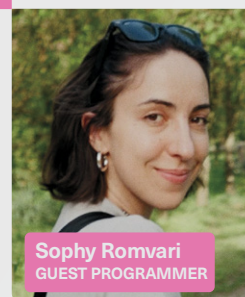
VIFF

Leading Lights

“Inspiration that travels from one film into another can sometimes be difficult to synthesize into words. The four films I have chosen, although very different in form and content, feel deeply spiritually linked to my own film, *Blue Heron*. Each brings a deep emotional ache right to the surface of its characters; an undeniable vulnerability that is something I strive to articulate in my own work through the marriage of form and content. In different ways, each film gave me a certain permission to apply to my own work, which I will try my best to articulate in the presentation of this program.”

Media Partner

VANCOUVER



Sophy Romvari
GUEST PROGRAMMER



Close-Up

ABBAS KHIAROSTAMI, IRAN, 1990, 98 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	1:00 PM	CINE
SAT OCT 10	3:45 PM	CINE

One cannot talk about the subtle integration of documentary and fiction without being indebted to Abbas Kiarostami and, in particular, *Close-Up*. The film follows Hossein Sabzian, a cinephile who impersonates a famous director and convinces a family he is preparing to make a film in which they will appear. When his deception is discovered, he is put on trial for fraud. Kiarostami asks what it means for something to be “real” on screen, while simultaneously producing an undeniable feeling of realism.

Cast Hossein Sabzian, Abolfazi Ahankhah, Mahrokh Ahankhah, Mehrdad Ahankhah, Houshang Shamai, Mohsen Makhmalbaf



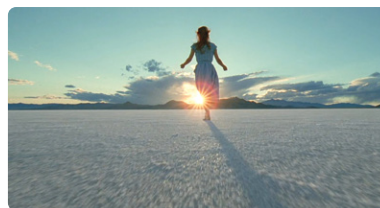
Le Bonheur

AGNÈS VARDA, FRANCE, 1965, 80 MIN.

MON OCT 5	6:00 PM	CINE
SUN OCT 11	1:00 PM	CINE

Often described as the most beautiful horror film, *Le Bonheur* uses the stark juxtaposition of stunning floral French summertime with emotional devastation brewing just under the surface. Following a seemingly idyllic family, it lulls you into a false sense of security as it slowly unravels an insidious betrayal between two lovers. The brutal heartbreak of its final act seems at once inevitable and shocking, marking *Le Bonheur* as a revelation of cinematic feminist commentary.

Cast Jean-Claude Drouot, Claire Drouot, Marie-France Boyer, Sandrine Drouot, Olivier Drouot, Paul Vecchiali **Prod** Mag Bodard



The Tree of Life

TERRENCE MALICK, USA, 2011, 139 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	9:00 PM	VC
SUN OCT 11	10:30 AM	VC

To try and summarize *The Tree of Life* feels a bit like a fool’s errand. Its central story is, on the surface, fairly simple: a middle-class family in 1950s Texas, told largely through the perspective of their eldest son, Jack, as he looks back on his childhood and the death of his younger brother. It’s deeply spiritual, full of palpable grief and the signature Malickian poetry (with a floating, omniscient camera), and also there are dinosaurs in it. As mentioned, it’s hard to describe.

Cast Brad Pitt, Sean Penn, Jessica Chastain, Fiona Shaw, Irene Bedard, Hunter McCracken **Prod** Sarah Green, Bill Pohlad, Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner, Grant Hill



Vengeance Is Mine

MICHAEL ROEMER, USA, 1984, 118 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	1:00 PM	CINE
SAT OCT 10	1:00 PM	CINE

Michael Roemer’s *Vengeance Is Mine* follows Jo, a troubled young woman who returns to her Rhode Island hometown to confront childhood wounds. Jo is ostensibly there to reconnect with her dying adoptive mother, but instead finds herself drawn into the life of her neighbour. What begins as an attempt to confront one family’s past gradually becomes entangled with another family’s dysfunction.

Cast Brooke Adams, Trish Van Devere, Jon DeVries, Ari Meyers, Mark Arnott, Audrey Matson **Prod** Stanley Plotnick

VIFF

Focus on New German Cinema: Extreme Tension

Supported by
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Trial of Hein

With Focus on New German Cinema: Extreme Tension, VIFF is excited to platform notable premieres for six debut features from rising German filmmakers who are bringing thrilling new perspectives to a national cinema that's defined by its psychologically complex, visually striking, and socially engaged work.



I Understand Your Displeasure

Ich verstehe Ihren Unmut

KILIAN ARMANDO FRIEDRICH, GERMANY, 2026, 93 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	3:45 PM	CINE
SUN OCT 4	6:30 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. Heike (Sabine Thalau) is the manager of a cleaning crew. In addition to supervising workers and fending off angry clients, she mops, wipes, and hauls along with her staff. Faced with threats from above, Heike makes an ethical compromise that turns out to be very costly... Thalau portrays the strain of labour so well that every exhausted breath, every arduous lift registers its cost on her soul. This is a film of intense realism, and it imbues its characters with a special dignity.

Cast Sabine Thalau, Nada Kosturin, Werner Posselt, Sadibou Diabang, Nigyar Velagic **Prod** Ben Ulrich, Simon Bogocz, Felix Mann



Prosecution

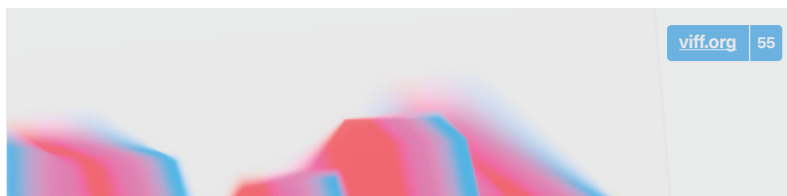
Staatsschutz

FARAZ SHARIAT, GERMANY, 2026, 113 MIN.

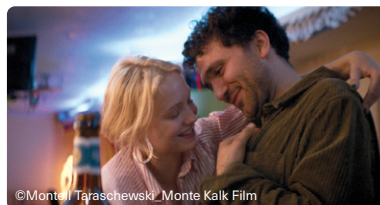
WED OCT 7	8:30 PM	CINE
THU OCT 8	10:30 AM	IV8

Canadian Premiere. Faraz Shariat's thriller stars Chen Emilie Yan as Seyo Kim, a young German prosecutor of Korean origin. When Seyo is the victim of a racist attack, she suspects a wide net of complicity and pursues the truth in defiance of her superiors. Shariat has a natural affinity for mystery and suspense, and he uses them to the hilt, creating a propulsive narrative saturated with a thick atmosphere of menace. *Prosecution* is a thriller for our moment that tackles the rise of the far-right head-on.

Cast Chen Emilie Yan, Julia Jentsch, Alev Irmak, Arnd Klavitter, Sebastian Urzendowsky **Prod** Paulina Lorenz, Jorgo Narjes, Faraz Shariat



viff.org 55



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The Ballad From Wednesday to Thursday

Die Ballade von Mittwoch auf Donnerstag

CHRISTOPH OTTO, GERMANY, 2026, 79 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	6:30 PM	CINE
SUN OCT 4	3:30 PM	CINE

North American Premiere. As evening approaches, residents of Cologne gather in bars, cafes, and clubs. No topic of conversation is out of bounds—immigration, war in the Middle East, ageism, feminism, and racial profiling. As the alcohol flows, conversations get louder and opinions looser. A raucous, ribald ensemble comedy, *The Ballad From Wednesday to Thursday* is a riotously funny but keenly observed look at a cross-section of contemporary German society.

Cast Magdalena Laubisch, Ulrike Prager, Johannes Benecke, Sergen Meral, Jean-Luc Bubert **Prod** Christoph Otto



Dear Future Self

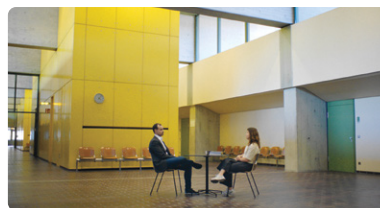
Erzähl mir dein Morgen

ELLA CIESLINSKI, NINA WESEMANN, GERMANY, 2026, 79 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	6:30 PM	CINE
WED OCT 7	3:30 PM	5TH

International Premiere. Nico returns to her hometown to lead a workshop with her childhood friend Lori, who gave up her acting dreams to become a teacher. Prompting their students to write a letter to their future selves, the two friends find themselves questioning the intertwined trajectory of their own lives. Capturing its characters' slow awareness of the sudden calcification of inconsequential choices accumulated over the years, *Dear Future Self* is a sharply tender story about friendship, dreams, and the desire for agency.

Cast Marlene-Sophie Haagen, Ricarda Seifried, Tamer Tahan, Hans Löw, Eva Löbau, Şafak Şengül **Prod** Ella Cielinski, Nina Wesemann



Sometimes, I Imagine Them All at a Party

Was an Empfindsamkeit bleibt

DANIELA MAGNANI HÜLLER, GERMANY, 2026, 91 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	6:30 PM	CINE
SUN OCT 11	10:45 AM	IV8

North American Premiere. Fourteen years ago, Daniela Magnani Hüller survived an attempted femicide by a schoolmate. Now a filmmaker, she conducts a kind of autobiographical investigation, revisiting the events surrounding that fateful incident. A dazzling collage of documentary footage, interviews, personal recollections, and archival material, *Sometimes, I Imagine Them All at a Party* is both a deeply personal look into the past and an examination of systemic violence against women.

Feat Jean Voltaire, Malik Hall, Wiltavious McKelton, Tavion Jamal Dent, Helen Contento **Prod** Birgit Schulz



Trial of Hein

Der Heimatlose

KAI STÄNICKE, GERMANY, 2026, 122 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:00 PM	CINE
SAT OCT 3	2:30 PM	5TH

Canadian Premiere. After 14 years on the mainland, Hein returns to the cloistered fishing village where he grew up. But upon his arrival, he goes unrecognized by his ailing mother, as well as his childhood friend Friedemann. Amid mounting suspicion and growing hostility, the community holds a three-day village court to verify the returnee's identity. Recalling Lars von Trier's Brechtian masterpiece *Dogville*, Kai Stänicke's *Trial of Hein* is a film about the identities we keep hidden and the lies we tell in order to survive.

Cast Paul Boche, Philip Froissant, Emilia Schüle, Stephanie Amarell, Aaron Hilmer, Irene Kleinschmidt **Prod** Andrea Schütte, Dirk Decker, Dario Suter



Insights

Media Partner

THE TYEE

VIFF

There's power in coming together, and documentaries know how to capture it. Insights gathers international nonfiction where filmmakers mold and morph identity into metaphors for worlds in transition.

Young people in China, France, and Georgia come of age. From Kenya to Colombia to North America, communities resist extraction and organize for change. Across SWANA, personal archives and revolutionary images bring past struggles into the present. Together, these stories reveal love not as retreat, but as the force that creates collective change.



Birds of War

JANAY BOULOS, ABD ALKADER HABAK, UK/SYRIA/LEBANON, 2026, 85 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	6:30 PM	IV9
SAT OCT 3	3:45 PM	AFT
TUE OCT 6	3:15 PM	5TH

Told through phone videos, voice notes, texts, and news footage, *Birds of War* documents the relationship between London-based Lebanese journalist Janay Boulos and Syrian activist Abd Alkader Habak, a cameraman filming from the frontlines in Aleppo. Directed by Boulos and Habak themselves, this award-winning documentary follows a love story formed through war, waiting, and the fear of silence as the urgency of their communications intensifies.

Feat The Boulos family, The Habak family, Waad Al Katheab, Hamza Al Khateab, Al-Quds Hospital, The White Helmets **Prod** Sonja Henrici, Janay Boulos, Abd Alkader Habak



Closure

Bez końca
MICHAŁ MARCZAK, POLAND/France, 2026, 106 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	9:00 PM	IV10
SAT OCT 10	1:15 PM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. After 16-year-old Krzysztof Dymiński disappears from Warsaw's Gdański Bridge, his father Daniel returns day after day to search the Vistula River for answers. Michał Marczak's *Closure* follows the boat, cameras, drones, tips, mud, and long hours that come to define Daniel's hunt, but his labours provide little healing. Resisting true-crime spectacle, this is a film that questions whether hope can sometimes be the thing that keeps you trapped. Winner of the Golden Alexander at Thessaloniki.

Prod Monika Braid, Rémi Grellety, Katarzyna Szczereba, Karolina Marczak



Concrete Land

ASMAHAN BKERAT, JORDAN/PALESTINE, 2026, 101 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	8:00 PM	SFU
SUN OCT 4	12:15 PM	GIS

North American Premiere. On the outer edge of Amman, luxury villas close in on the Najjar family's grazing space. Filmed over eight years, *Concrete Land* follows three generations of one of Jordan's last Afro-Palestinian-Bedouin families through songs, work, arguments, and care for Badrya, the family sheep. Jordan-born Palestinian filmmaker Asmahan Bkerat knew the family before embarking on the project, and her Locarno Critics' Week premiere is an act of preservation in the face of erasure.

Feat Abedel Wahad Al- Najjar, Awad Al Najjar, Eman Al-Najjar, Samira A-Murray, Hakima Obeid, Aminah Al-Najjar **Prod** Ban Maraqa, Asmahan Bkerat



A Distant Call

ANDREA SUWITO, FRANCE/INDONESIA/UK, 2026, 99 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	1:15 PM	IV8
WED OCT 7	8:30 PM	IV10

In Indonesia's South Sulawesi province, the ancient Bugis recognize five genders: men, women, transgender men, transgender women, and *bissu*. Eka, one of the few remaining bissu, struggles to reconcile their identity with community expectations and their own devout Muslim faith as they prepare for their Hajj pilgrimage. Steeped in the minutiae of daily life, *A Distant Call* is at once deeply personal and culturally expansive, rooted in the fluid search for meaning and selfhood in a shifting world.

Feat Bissu/Haji Eka, Bissu Nisa, Bissu Matang, Puang Matoa Nani, Puang Matoa Ancu, Puang Matoa Ecce **Prod** Finbar Somers, Mandy Marahimin, Xavier Rocher



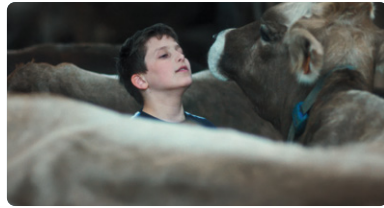
A Fire There

Un Feu Au Lion
MARLENE EDOYAN, CANADA, 2026, 95 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	6:30 PM	IV8
MON OCT 5	1:15 PM	IV10

In the Armenian village of Gandzani in southern Georgia, three teenage friends stand at the threshold of adulthood. Marlene Edoyan's *A Fire There* follows Henrikh, Karlen, and Hakob as their futures pull toward Tbilisi, Russia, daily labour, fading love, and family duty. Winner of the Special Jury Award at Visions du Réel, this is a nontraditional coming-of-age film about young people learning that the future is never only theirs to choose.

Feat Henrikh Malkhasian, Karlen Ispiryan, Hakob Harutyunyan **Prod** Dominique Dussault, Marlene Edoyan



Gabin

MAXENCE VOISEUX, FRANCE/GERMANY/
SWITZERLAND, 2026, 105 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	11:45 AM	IV10
SAT OCT 10	6:45 PM	IV10

When Maxence Voiseux first films Gabin Jourdel, he is eight years old. Over the next 10 years, *Gabin* follows his adolescence in rural France and the animals, schoolwork, chores, and imagined futures that define his youth. His father expects him to inherit the butcher shop, but Gabin is more concerned with living animals—and helping to save his mother's cattle farm. Premiering in Cannes Directors' Fortnight, this is coming-of-age as a question of inheritance and choosing one's own future.

Feat Gabin Jourdel, Patricia Jourdel, Dominique Jourdel, Lilou Duflos-Lamotte, Catherine Ranson **Prod** Cécile Lestrade, Elise Hug



Heat

JACQUELINE ZÜND, SWITZERLAND, 2026, 85 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	3:30 PM	IV10
MON OCT 5	9:30 PM	IV10

North American Premiere. The latest from director Jacqueline Zünd explores the unequal realities of a warming planet. Set in the Middle East, *Heat* documents people from different backgrounds adapting to the climate crisis, while exploring the intersection between environmental hardship and labour rights, migration, and social inequality. Rather than relying on facts and figures, Zünd's up-close, sensory filmmaking provides a necessary temperature check on the victims of global climate change.

Feat Sophy Njeri Jagnath, Essa Ramadan, Carina Bouali, Francis N. **Prod** Louis Mataré



Kikuyu Land

ANDREW H. BROWN, BEA WANGONDU, KENYA/USA,
2026, 93 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	10:30 AM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	6:30 PM	VC

In the early 1900s, the British colonial government carried out large-scale land seizures, dispossessing Kikuyu families of their homes and ancestral wealth. *Kikuyu Land* follows Mr. Mungai's struggle to reclaim family land taken during the colonial era—now controlled by multinational companies. Through personal stories, archival research, and testimonies, Andrew H. Brown and Bea Wangondeu reveal the lasting impact of colonialism, connecting past injustices to present-day struggles in Kenya's highlands.

Feat Mr. Mungai, Bea Wangondeu **Prod** Andrew H. Brown, Moses Bwayo, Bea Wangondeu, Mike Morrisroe, Joseph Njenga



Nitassinan

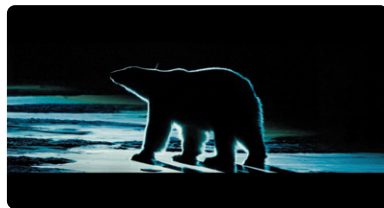
JOSÉPHINE BACON, KIM O'BOMSAWIN, CANADA, 2026,
78 MIN.

THU OCT 8	5:30 PM	SFU
FRI OCT 9	2:30 PM	IV9

For the Innu people, Nitassinan is a living entity that nourishes their language and identity. Moving across past, present, and future, directors Joséphine Bacon and Kim O'Bomsawin weave poetry, observation, and testimony into a lyrical portrait of an unbreakable bond with ancestral land. Capturing expansive landscapes with a quiet eye, *Nitassinan* is an expression of love, gratitude, and cultural memory.

Preceded by *Haboolm Ksinaalgat (Soul Catcher)*, a short film by Amanda Strong and Pamela Post (pg 69).

Prod Kim O'Bomsawin, Elodie Pollet



Nuisance Bear

GABRIELA OSIO VANDEN, JACK WEISMAN, USA/
CANADA, 2026, 90 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	6:15 PM	SFU
SAT OCT 10	2:45 PM	5TH
SUN OCT 11	3:30 PM	AFT

Churchill, Manitoba sells itself as the "Polar Bear Capital of the World," but what happens when the animal that fuels the town's tourist economy becomes a threat? In their debut feature, Gabriela Osio Vanden and Jack Weisman track a polar bear through encounters with tourists, traps, wildlife officers, hunters, and relocation. Guided and narrated by late Inuit elder Mike Tunalaaq Gibbons, this highly coveted Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner asks who is really intruding on whom.

Prod Michael Code, Will N. Miller, Teddy Leifer



Once Upon a Time in Harlem

WILLIAM GREAVES, DAVID GREAVES, USA, 2026, 100 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	11:30 AM	VC
SAT OCT 3	3:30 PM	RIO
FRI OCT 9	6:00 PM	5TH

In 1972, William Greaves gathered a group of Harlem Renaissance luminaries inside Duke Ellington's townhouse and filmed them as they laughed, argued, remembered, and reflected on a movement built from Black genius in motion. Completed more than 50 years later by his son David Greaves and David's daughter Liani, *Once Upon a Time in Harlem* turns 60,000 feet of 16mm footage into a living archive, family inheritance, and testament to Black cultural brilliance.

Feat Aaron Douglas, Richard Bruce Nugent, Ernest Crichlow, Eubie Blake, Leigh Whipper, Arna Bon-temps **Prod** Liani Greaves, Anne de Mare



A Place of Absence

El lugar de la ausencia
MARIALUISA ERNST, USA/BOLIVIA/MEXICO, 2026, 86
MIN.

WED OCT 7	3:30 PM	IV8
SUN OCT 11	6:00 PM	IV9

International Premiere. "We search for lives in the path of death." In *A Place of Absence*, Marialuisa Ernst follows the Caravan of Mothers of Missing Migrants—a group of Central American mothers searching for their children who disappeared while migrating north. Reflecting on the loss that shaped her own family as she travels, Ernst's remarkable debut combines verité, family memory, performance, and nature into a film about grief, care, and the refusal to forget.

Feat Anita Zelaya, Leticia Martinez, Yolanda Ernst **Prod** Marialuisa Ernst

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FOR CURIOUS MINDS



Revolutionaries Never Die

MOHANAD YAQUBI, PALESTINE/BELGIUM/QATAR, 2026, 81 MIN.

THU OCT 8	9:00 PM	IV9
SAT OCT 10	3:30 PM	SFU

Canadian Premiere. In 2018, Jocelyne Saab invited Palestinian filmmaker and archivist Mohanad Yaqubi to collaborate. Two months later, before receiving an answer, Saab passed away. *Revolutionaries Never Die* becomes Yaqubi's delayed reply: a tribute, a conversation, and an act of co-writing using Saab's archive of works from 1973 to 1983. Selected for its world premiere in Locarno's Concorso Cineasti del Presente, the film treats the archive as a living object and asks what the revolutionary past can tell us about our present.

Feat Pierre Gemayel, Etel Adnan, Bassim Al-Jassir, Fawwaz Traboulsi, Raymond Eddé **Prod** Sami Saeed, Mohanad Yaqubi



Whispers in May

DONGNAN CHEN, HONG KONG/NETHERLANDS/SOUTH KOREA/SWEDEN, 2026, 95 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	1:00 PM	IV10
WED OCT 7	9:00 PM	SFU

Set in China's Liangshan Mountains, *Whispers in May* follows 14-year-old Qihuo and her two closest friends as they search for the traditional skirt that marks her passage toward womanhood. Winner of the prestigious DOX:AWARD at CPH:DOX, Dongnan Chen's hybrid documentary unfolds like a half-remembered tale, blending close observation and scenes of the girls' search with animated fragments of Yi oral myth to create a hypnotic portrait of girlhood under pressure.

Feat Jjippupmop Qihuo, Mathxiemop Atnyop, Lhithxamop Itgop, Lhithxamop Itsi **Prod** Jia Zhao, Kay Xu



Who Moves America

Yael Bridge, USA, 2026, 87 MIN.

THU OCT 8	6:00 PM	5TH
FRI OCT 9	1:30 PM	IV10

International Premiere. *Who Moves America* follows 340,000 UPS teamsters across New York, Kentucky, California, and beyond as they prepare for a possible strike that could bring one of the world's largest delivery systems to a halt. Director Yael Bridge captures the meetings, rallies, votes, and everyday conversations that play out during 2023 contract negotiations. Executive produced by Steven Bognar (*American Factory*), this is a labour film about solidarity and building collective power.

Feat Justin Alo, Antoine Andrews, Angel Badu, Sean O'Brien, Antonio Rosario, Nailah Weller **Prod** Yael Bridge, Yoni Golijov, Jeremy Flood, Mars Verrone



The Wind's Thirst

La Sed del viento

ALEJANDRO VALBUENA, CANADA/COLOMBIA, 2026, 86 MIN.

THU OCT 8	8:45 PM	5TH
FRI OCT 9	1:45 PM	VC

North American Premiere. In Colombia's La Guajira desert, three Wayuu guardians fight corporate powers exploiting their ancestral land, where clean water was diverted for coal mining and wind farms desecrate sacred burial grounds. Weaving together intimate testimonies with striking landscape photography, *The Wind's Thirst* connects environmental destruction directly to cultural dispossession, offering an urgent portrait of endurance and resistance.

Prod Alejandro Valbuena

VIFF

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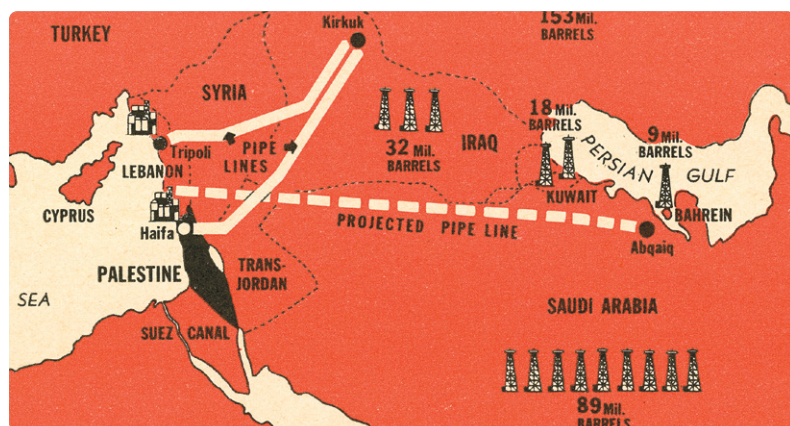


Daughters of the Forest

Nonfiction takes a wild turn in *Spectrum*, where strange forms open portals to new ways of seeing and believing. Desktop cinema, absurdism, satire, and daring anti-tributes turn the familiar inside out.

Mushrooms become guides. Indigenous communities fight to bring their ancestors home. Queer Mexican cowboys carve out space, Iranian siblings take an unlikely road trip, and young Nigerian filmmakers turn cinephilia into unruly invention. Rooted in the earth yet reaching across borders, these films conjure global solidarity from the unexpected.

Spectrum

VIFF


An Incomplete Calendar

SANAZ SOHRABI, CANADA/IRAN/TURKEY/VENEZUELA, 2026, 77 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	6:00 PM	IV8
SUN OCT 4	12:15 PM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. A forgotten vinyl record celebrating the 20th anniversary of OPEC opens a window into the history of oil, Iran, and political memory in Sanaz Sohrabi's *An Incomplete Calendar*. Winner of two prizes at Cinéma du Réel, the film is a collage of songs, stamps, letters, postcards, magazines, political writings, and television footage. From these fragments come interlocking narratives of resource sovereignty, Palestinian liberation, Pan-Arab politics, and unfinished dreams across the Global South.

Feat Jihan El-Tahri, Murtaza Vali, Laleh Khalili, Layla Maghribi, Eduardo Prato Moros, Leonardo Montaña Salas
Prod Sanaz Sohrabi, Burak Çevik



Crocodile

THE CRITICS, PIETRA BRETTKELLY, NIGERIA/NEW ZEALAND, 2026, 101 MIN.

WED OCT 7	8:15 PM	IV9
SAT OCT 10	10:45 AM	IV8

Canadian Premiere. Taking its name from Kaduna, Nigeria's Crocodile City, *Crocodile* follows The Critics—a self-taught filmmaking collective creating science fiction with one phone and handmade effects. Co-directed by New Zealand filmmaker Pietra BrettKelly and The Critics themselves, this Tribeca Viewpoints winner traces the group's path from online experiments to cinema.

Feat Raymond J. Yusuff, Godwin Josiah, Ronald Yusuff, Victor Josiah, Richard Yusuff **Prod** Pietra BrettKelly, The Critics



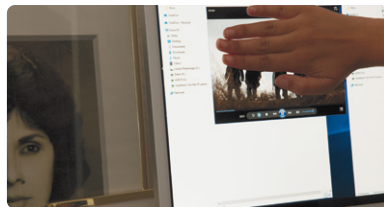
Aanikoobijigan [Ancestor/Great-Grandparent/Great-Grandchild]

ADAM KHALIL, ZACK KHALIL, USA/DENMARK, 2026, 80 MIN.

WED OCT 7	6:30 PM	CINE
FRI OCT 9	4:15 PM	VC

Ojibway filmmakers Adam and Zack Khalil follow the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) as they work to bring the remains and funerary objects of Indigenous Ancestors home. A deeply felt portrait on colonial violence, restitution, and the sacred labour of return.

Feat Alicia Kathleen Gervais, Elizabeth Bernadette Young, Jim Fletcher, Elvyn Douglas "Doug" Bissonette, Thomas Brings, Matthew Bussler **Prod** Steve Holmgren, Adam Khalil, Zack Khalil, Grace Remington, Jacque Clark, Franny Alfano



Afterlives

KEVIN B. LEE, GERMANY/FRANCE/BELGIUM, 2025, 88 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	6:15 PM	CINE
SUN OCT 11	4:00 PM	VC

Canadian Premiere. Seeking to understand our gruesome fascination with images of terror, video essayist Kevin B. Lee analyzes extremist propaganda, but can't escape the weight of violent spectacle. Lee turns to artists and activists, emerging technologies and historical research, to unearth how violence seeps into our digital environments. An immersive documentary, *Afterlives* is constantly probing and reevaluating its own framework, refusing reductive answers to questions about violence, extremism, justice, and art.

Feat Morehshin Allahyari, Nava Zarabian, Anne Speckhard, Sebastian Baden, Bernd Zywiets, Yorck Beese **Prod** Caroline Kirberg



Daughters of the Forest

Hijas del bosque

OTILIA PORTILLO PADUA, MEXICO, 2026, 95 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	9:00 PM	VC
SUN OCT 11	8:30 PM	CINE

Canadian Premiere. *Daughters of the Forest* is an immersive sci-fi documentary about humans, mushrooms, traditional knowledge, and modern science. In Mexico, Tlahuica Pjiekakjoo student Eliseete and Zapotec biologist Julieta work to preserve knowledge about fungi and the forests that sustain them. As illegal logging and deforestation threaten both, the film grounds its wonder in their relationship with the forest.

Feat Julia Dolores Raimundo, Eliseete Ramírez Carbajal, Julieta Serafina Amaya, Cristina Carbajal, Sergio Ramírez, Griselda Bautista Hernández **Prod** Paula Arroio, Elena Fortes, Otilia Portillo Padua



Into the Jaws of the Ogre

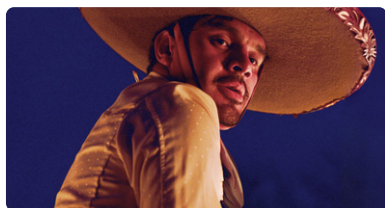
Dans la gueule de l'ogre

MAHSA KARAMPOUR, FRANCE, 2026, 87 MIN.

THU OCT 1	9:00 PM	CINE
FRI OCT 2	3:45 PM	IV8

Canadian Premiere. After leaving Iran and resettling in France, filmmaker Mahsa Karampour travels to America to reconnect with her gregarious brother, Siavash, an indie rock musician who's encountered fleeting success and considerable tragedy. Mixing the structure of a road movie with the brashness of one of Siavash's punk anthems, Karampour's disarmingly intimate documentary investigates the complexities of familial bonds, while reminding us that filmmaking can be a form of healing.

Feat Siavash Karampour **Prod** Mathilde Raczymow



Jaripeo

EFRAIN MOJICA, REBECCA ZWEIG, MEXICO/USA/FRANCE, 2026, 70 MIN.

THU OCT 1	8:30 PM	VC
WED OCT 7	10:45 AM	IV8
SAT OCT 10	9:00 PM	VC

Every Christmas in Penjamillo, Michoacán, the jaripeo—an annual rodeo of bull riding, horses, music, drinking, and dust—becomes a public performance of masculinity. Efraín Mojica and Rebecca Zweig's film looks beneath the spectacle to reveal a queer undercurrent of coded glances, secret hookups, double lives, and desire. Premiering in Sundance's NEXT section, *Jaripeo* follows a community making room for itself inside a culture that was never as straight as it pretended to be.

Prod Sarah Strunin



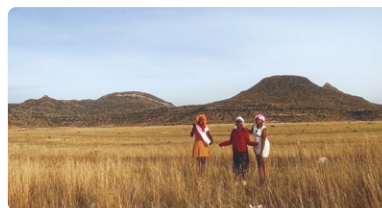
Last Movies

STANLEY SCHTINTER, UK, 2026, 86 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	8:30 PM	SFU
TUE OCT 6	4:15 PM	IV8

Canadian Premiere. What would film history look like reorganized around the final movies watched by various cultural figures before they died? Moving from Franz Kafka (*The Kid*) and John Dillinger (*Manhattan Melodrama*) to Bette Davis (*Waterloo Bridge*) and Kurt Cobain (*The Piano*), *Last Movies* embraces this simple concept to remap the entire trajectory of the medium. Narrated by Jeremy Irons, the result is a dizzyingly detailed, mordantly funny, and deliberately skewed love letter to the movies.

Prod Stanley Schtinter



Let Them Be Seen

NOLITHA REFILWE MKULISI, SOUTH AFRICA/GERMANY, 2026, 74 MIN.

THU OCT 8	7:15 PM	IV8
FRI OCT 9	11:30 AM	VC

Canadian Premiere. In *Let Them Be Seen*, Nolitha Refilwe Mkulisi returns to her home of Tapoleng, a small town in South Africa's Eastern Cape where churches once offered sanctuary under apartheid. Shot with phones, digital video, and DSLRs, the film moves through spaza shops, Rastafarian conversations, and a *Jam Alley* re-enactment staged like a dream. World premiering at IFFR before screening at BlackStar, this is a bold village portrait that refuses to explain itself away.

Feat Fresh Daabuza, Sindiswa Ngendane, Lieketseng Martins, Keneiloe Molale, Thandeka Singiselo, Margaret Ngendane **Prod** Nolitha Refilwe Mkulisi, Shveta Naidoo, Evan Wigdorowitz, Julie Nxadi, Blair Smith



Yo (Love Is a Rebellious Bird)

ANNA FITCH, BANKER WHITE, USA, 2026, 78 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	9:15 PM	SFU
SAT OCT 10	11:00 AM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. Winner of the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution at this year's Berlinale, documentarian Anna Fitch's touching tribute to her late friend Yo (co-directed with Banker White) combines vérité-style interviews with a delightful mélange of puppetry, collage art, miniature sets, and insect actors. Soaring with creativity, *Yo (Love is a Rebellious Bird)* deftly visualizes the ineffable substance of mortality and grief while reanimating the legacy of its free-spirited subject.

Feat Yolanda Shea, Anna Fitch, Banker White **Prod** Banker White, Anna Fitch, Sara Dosa, Hannah Roodman



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Portraits

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Portraits? VIFF 2026's feature docs on the arts. The precocious vivacity of a children's music school in the Dominican Republic. A delightful insider perspective on L'Orchestre de Paris. From *Farruquito: A Flamenco Dynasty* and *Fugs Film!* to the revelatory *James McNeill Whistler* and Tilda Swinton's heartfelt appreciation of pop pioneer Patrick Wolf, sensational aesthetic discoveries await. One of Cascadia's greatest-ever photographers? Japanese-Okanogan Frank Matsura. Vitally important post-WW2 female artist you don't know? German Rebecca Horn! Latest global opera phenomenon? Samoan Pene Pati!



Nous, L'Orchestre De Paris

PHILIPPE BÉZIAT, FRANCE, 2026, 90 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	6:15 PM	AFT
TUE OCT 6	11:15 AM	IV8

Canadian Premiere. Philippe Béziat's (*Gallant Indies*) latest documentary examines the Orchestre de Paris as a living, breathing organism—getting under its skin and observing it under a microscope. Using isolated sounds captured by more than 90 microphones during rehearsals and performances, *Nous, L'Orchestre de Paris* offers an unprecedented look at the ensemble's inner workings and playful social tensions. A jubilant ode to the transcendence of classical music.

Feat Klaus Mäkelä, Orchestre de Paris, Herbert Blomstedt **Prod** Philippe Martin



Our Mr. Matsura

BETH HARRINGTON, USA, 2025, 97 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	5:45 PM	IV10
MON OCT 5	10:30 AM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. In 1901, Frank Matsura was part of the first wave of Japanese immigrants to the United States. A century later, his effect on those in Okanogan County is incalculable—his photographs created a regional legacy that descendants still recognize to this day. In *Our Mr. Matsura*, director Beth Harrington opens up a unique window into the past. A far cry from the grim stoicism associated with the American West, this is a joyful celebration of life revealed through the art of photography.

Prod Beth Harrington

Portraits

VIFF



Agridulce (Bittersweet)

FRANK PAVICH, USA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 2026, 98 MIN.

WED OCT 7	6:00 PM	5TH
FRI OCT 9	10:45 AM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. In northern Dominican Republic, four aspiring young musicians find fulfilment in the study of bachata music. Frank Pavich (*Jodorowsky's Dune*) spent years with these children and their families, documenting their lives in a nonintrusive, cinéma vérité style. The result is a celebration of bachata, with its heartsick lyricism and upbeat Afro-Caribbean guitar, as well as a coming-of-age story rooted in hopefulness of a bright future through music.

Feat Edickson Garcia Disla, Frandy Direze, Orianny Bonilla, Yerian Castillo, Martires de Leon **Prod** Benjamin de Menil



Farruquito: A Flamenco Dynasty

Serás Farruquito

SANTI AGUADO, REUBEN ATLAS, SPAIN/USA, 2025, 90 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	10:30 AM	IV10
SAT OCT 3	8:00 PM	IV9
MON OCT 5	10:45 AM	IV8

From a long line of flamenco dancers and musicians—including his grandfather, the legendary Farruco—Farruquito was already the most celebrated flamenco dancer of his generation by the time he was in his twenties. But following his role in a tragic hit and run, Farruquito's life took a turn. Revelling in the artistry of Romani music and dance, *Farruquito: A Flamenco Dynasty* offers a fascinating dive into family dynamics and the pursuit of greatness.

Feat Farruquito, Farru, La Farruca, Moreno, Carpeta, Rosalia



Fugs Film!

CHUCK SMITH, USA, 2025, 84 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	1:00 PM	5TH
FRI OCT 9	9:00 PM	CINE

Canadian Premiere. Dubbed the “Rolling Stones of the Underground,” The Fugs’ combination of high-minded literariness and taboo-embracing contempt for social norms made them one of the strangest acts of the 1960s—so much so that an FBI file refers to them as “the filthiest and most vulgar thing the human mind could possibly conceive.” Unearthing archival footage of not just of the Fugs but the larger 1960s counterculture scene, *Fugs Film!* is a raucous, irreverent celebration of rebellion, poetry, and life itself.

Feat Ed Sanders, Tuli Kupferberg, Ken Weaver, Peter Stampfel **Prod** Chuck Smith



James McNeill Whistler

DAVID BICKERSTAFF, UK, 2026, 90 MIN.

TUE OCT 6	6:15 PM	IV10
WED OCT 7	10:30 AM	IV10
FRI OCT 9	10:30 AM	IV8

Canadian Premiere. One of the 19th century's greatest American artists, James McNeill Whistler was not only innovative in his painting but in his approach to life, which he fashioned as its own work of art. Tracing Whistler's steps—from shaking off his Puritan upbringing in the Bohemian streets of Paris, to perfecting his modern realist style in London—*James McNeill Whistler* looks beyond Whistler's famous portraits and self-styled “nocturnes” to dive into the true depths of his legacy.

Feat Bret Jones, Stephen Calloway, Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Susan Grace Galassi **Prod** Phil Grabsky



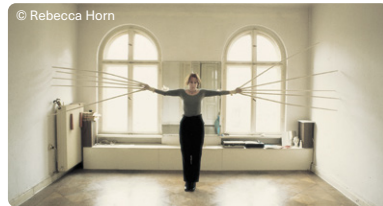
RADIOHEART: The Drive and Times of DJ Kevin Cole

PETER HILGENDORF, ANDREW FRANKS, USA, 2026, 83 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	6:00 PM	IV9
TUE OCT 6	10:45 AM	IV9

Canadian Premiere. One of the greatest radio DJs of our times, Kevin Cole went from the Minneapolis disco scene to DJing parties for Prince to Seattle's KEXP, where he's grown into a local legend. Featuring a scintillating soundtrack of tunes going back to the '70s, *RADIOHEART* is a heartwarming celebration of a simple man whose musical tastes and influence continue to reverberate across the world's soundwaves.

Feat Kevin Cole, Jessica Dobson, Kristin Hersh, Jimmy Jam, Peter Jespersen, Mary Lucia **Prod** Rebecca Staffel



Rebecca Horn - The Secret Life of Things

Rebecca Horn - Die Seele der Dinge

CLAUDIA MÜLLER, GERMANY, 2026, 90 MIN.

WED OCT 7	5:30 PM	IV9
THU OCT 8	10:45 AM	IV10

International Premiere. Influential German artist Rebecca Horn's extraordinary biography is interwoven with her wonderfully surreal oeuvre. At times unsettling, erotic, and uncanny, Rebecca Horn's work spans decades and disciplines—from live performances to sculptures, poetry, and films—always aiming to escape the daily catatonia of the mind. *Rebecca Horn - The Secret Life of Things* celebrates the unsung legacy of a pioneering visionary.

Feat Rebecca Horn, Peter Raue, Marina Abramović, Timothy Baum, Nancy Spector, John Baldessari **Prod** Martina Haubrich



Tenor: My Name Is Pati

REBECCA TANSLEY, NEW ZEALAND, 2025, 104 MIN.

THU OCT 8	6:00 PM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	10:30 AM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. Exploring the humble origins of renowned Samoan opera singer Pene Pati, *Tenor: My Name is Pati* effortlessly moves between sublime, world-class musical performances and intimate moments between Pati and his family. As we follow his ascent to stardom, Pati's infectious joy and heartfelt love for his art shines through. Director Rebecca Tansley crafts a charming underdog story about devotion to music and pursuing your dreams.

Feat Darren Pene Pati, Christian Amitai Pati, Asiata Pene Pati, Iulieta Pati, Torres Pati, Fa'anenevu Evangelina Taylor-Pati **Prod** Rebecca Tansley



WOLF

CHRISTIAN CARGILL, UK, 2026, 88 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	7:00 PM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	4:00 PM	IV8

International Premiere. After defining himself as a genre-defying pop artist, Patrick Wolf fell into a black hole of substance use and despair that left him unable to make music for over a decade. In *WOLF*, director Christian Cargill uses archival footage and beautifully animated scenes to contrast the chaotic wilderness of Wolf's early career with his current cultivation of a more contemplative life. Narrated by Tilda Swinton, this is a tender portrait of an artist rediscovering himself to prevail against the odds.

Feat Patrick Wolf, Tilda Swinton **Prod** Christian Cargill, Lucy Draper



The Peril at Pincer Point

Media Partners



Reality bends, time loops, and flesh transmogrifies as all things take a turn for the freaky in this year's outrageous Altered States selection. The adage that all relationships are complicated inspires mesmerizing cautionary tales concerning the ramifications of our dependence on technology, perils of cutthroat work environments, and pitfalls of taking a supernatural spouse. All told, these 10 oddities serve notice that Altered States truly is for lovers, be they fanciers of the grounded, gory, gastronomic, or gloriously ridiculous.

Altered

States

VIFF



Wicker

ALEX HUSTON FISCHER, ELEANOR WILSON, USA, 2026, 105 MIN.

FRI OCT 9 8:45 PM RIO

Canadian Premiere. In a seaside village where a woman's worth is determined by marriage, a reclusive fisherwoman (Olivia Colman) commissions a weaver (Peter Dinklage) to craft her a husband out of wicker. When the handsome and devoted creation (Alexander Skarsgård) arrives, delicious chaos ensues. Balancing absurd comedy with sly gender commentary, directors Alex Huston Fischer and Eleanor Wilson deliver a warm, witty, and wildly inventive fable.

Cast Olivia Colman, Alexander Skarsgård, Peter Dinklage, Elizabeth Debicki, Marli Siu, Nabhaan Rizwan **Prod** Brent Stiefel, Olivia Colman, Ryan Heller, Oliver Kassman, Ed Sinclair, Tom Carver, Tim Headington, Brad Zimmerman, Andrea Cornwell, Michael Bloom, David Michod, Lia Buman, Justin Lothrop



The Peril at Pincer Point

NOAH STRATTON-TWINE, JAKE KUHN, UK, 2026, 83 MIN.

FRI OCT 2 2:00 PM VC
THU OCT 8 9:15 PM IV10
SUN OCT 11 6:15 PM 5TH

While working on an indie creature feature about a giant crab, hapless sound recordist Jim is sent to Pincer Point to find a missing girl and capture a sound no one has heard before for the monster's climactic roar. There, tight-lipped locals whisper of a ghost ship whose captain claims souls for his crew. Boom in hand, Jim braves seafaring spectres and overgrown crabs. Lovingly handcrafted and absurdly funny, *The Peril at Pincer Point* is a crustaceous curio awash with affection for indie filmmaking.

Cast Jack Redmayne, Alyth Ross, Os Leanse, Jason Hogan, Heidi Parsons **Prod** Noah Stratton-Twine, Jake Kuhn

Altered States

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Death Has No Master

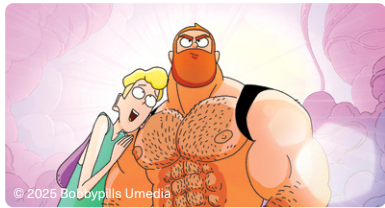
La muerte no tiene dueño

JORGE THIELEN ARMAND, VENEZUELA/CANADA/ITALY/LUXEMBOURG, 2026, 106 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	6:00 PM	RIO
SAT OCT 10	4:00 PM	IV10

Canadian Premiere. When her father dies, Caro returns to her childhood home in Venezuela to sell his cacao plantation—only to find the family mansion occupied by its former staff, who have no intention of leaving. After legal action proves ineffectual, Caro decides to dispense justice herself, unearthing histories of violence in the process. *Death Has No Master* is both a hallucinatory revenge thriller and an unsparing meditation on neocolonial violence.

Cast Asia Argento, Dogreika Tovar, Jorge Thiele Hederrich, Yermain Sequera, Arturo Rodríguez, Jericó Montilla **Prod** Jorge Thielen Armand, Stefano Centini, Arantza Maldonado



Jim Queen

MARCO NGUYEN, NICOLAS ATHANÉ, FRANCE, 2026, 85 MIN.

THU OCT 1	9:15 PM	PAR
FRI OCT 9	8:30 PM	AFT
SAT OCT 10	9:00 PM	RIO

Handsome, shallow, and ultra-muscular, Jim Queen is a gay influencer content to live off his looks. But when he's infected with Heterosis—a drug manufactured by far-right activists that causes straightness—Jim must join forces with a closeted follower to seek a cure and combat his oppressors. From the opening musical number to the spoof of conversion therapy and beyond, *Jim Queen* is a raucous satire—a film unafraid to skewer gay “body fascism” and bigoted conservatism with the same spear.

Cast Jérémy Gillet, Alex Ramirès, Shirley Souagnon, François Sagat, Philippe Katherine, Elisabeth Wiener **Prod** David Alric, Arthur Delabays



Family Fears Another Night of Terror

Familia teme enfrentar una nueva noche de terror
CRISTIAN PONCE, ARGENTINA, 2026, 83 MIN.

SUN OCT 4	9:15 PM	5TH
MON OCT 5	4:15 PM	IV10

North American Premiere. Night after night, a family of four is tormented by an unseen presence inside their home—or so it seems. As the parents struggle to connect with their increasingly withdrawn son, they await the return of their eldest daughter from university. Director Cristian Ponce transforms the aesthetics of a late-night television special into an analogue nightmare, where cavernous negative space makes every shadow a possible threat.

Cast Nadia Lozano, Diego Velázquez, Max Federico Aleman, Mora Magnarelli, Jeanette Bulzgis **Prod** Juan Protto Blanc



Midnight Momo

TENZIN YESHI, USA, 2026, 83 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	5:30 PM	IV9
SUN OCT 11	3:45 PM	IV9

North American Premiere. Kunga's having a hell of a night. Between customers, his girlfriend, and immigration officials, things are just heating up at the Queens momo shop where he works. Then, all of a sudden, the clock strikes midnight and Kunga is right back where he started—trapped in a 15-minute time loop. Tenzin Yeshi writes, directs, and stars in *Midnight Momo*, a frenetic, distinctly Tibetan American indie comedy that puts a working-class spin on the Buddhist cycle of suffering and rebirth.

Cast Tenzin Yeshi, Rinzin Ngodup, David Montalvo, Stephanie Jeane, Johnny Olmez, Giovanni Sandoval **Prod** Tenzin Yeshi



Freaks Part II

ZACH LIPOVSKY, ADAM STEIN, CANADA, 2026, 114 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	9:15 PM	RIO
SUN OCT 4	6:15 PM	PAR

In this sequel to Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein's original sci-fi horror, Mary and her daughter Chloe flee the Abnormal Defence Force (ADF), a government agency intent on killing people with extraordinary powers. As the citizens around them are detained and inspected, Mary and her daughter hide in plain sight, seeking revenge on the ADF agent who murdered Mary's firstborn. Lipovsky and Stein deliver a tense, emotionally grounded second chapter with timely themes of fear, surveillance, and persecution.

Cast Reznor Allen, Amanda Crew, Audianna Lico, Lorelei Olivia Mote, Lili Taylor, Stephen Tobolowsky **Prod** Zach Lipovsky, Adam Stein



Species

Sanguine

MARION LE CORROLLER, FRANCE/BELGIUM, 2026, 103 MIN.

THU OCT 1	9:15 PM	RIO
FRI OCT 9	9:15 PM	PAR

Canadian Premiere. Margot is a young doctor interning at a notoriously demanding French emergency room when she begins suffering bizarre symptoms that worsen with stress. As lesions spread across her body and the pressures of the job mount, *Species* transforms workplace burnout into visceral body horror. Marion Le Corroller takes aim at a culture that pushes young people to the breaking point. Burnout becomes mutation and, in the grand tradition of Cronenberg's *New Flesh*, the body rebels.

Cast Mara Taquin, Karin Viard, Kim Higelin, Sami Outalbi, Stefan Crepon, Sonia Faïdi **Prod** Carole Lambert



Gasmask

HARRY CEPKA, CANADA/USA, 2026, 61 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	1:00 PM	IV8
THU OCT 8	9:15 PM	VC

World Premiere. Part post-apocalyptic fable, part film essay, Harry Cepka's *Gasmask* is an enigmatic and humorous meditation on memory, ritual, and art. Set in a world without electricity, abandoned smartphones become relics of a fallen civilization when a solar-powered generator opens up new frontiers for discovery. Evoking Chris Marker's *La Jetée*, the film asks what remains of cinema after the world that created it has disappeared.

Preceded by *Twin Snakes*, a short film by Lev Kalman and Whitney Horn (pg 69).

Cast Grace Glowicki, Casey MQ, Ken Castaneda, Akosua T. Adasi, Thuto Durkac-Somo, Rosa Gilmore **Prod** Harry Cepka, Inés Gowland



Ugly Cry

EMILY ROBINSON, USA, 2026, 94 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	3:30 PM	RIO
SUN OCT 11	8:15 PM	IV9

Canadian Premiere. When aspiring actor Delaney (writer-director Emily Robinson) lands the audition of her dreams, a problem emerges: the producers say she has an *Ugly Cry*. Determined to contort herself into the pretty mask of misery that Hollywood demands, Delaney spirals into a botox-fueled quest for perfection and begins to lose her perfectly manicured grip on reality. A cheeky shot of dark humour and delirium, this genre-bending psychological thriller takes a clever jab at internet-age beauty standards and gender norms.

Cast Emily Robinson, Ryan Simpkins, Aaron Dominguez, Robin Tunney **Prod** Sophia Sabella, Pablo Feldman, Jolene Mendes, Rhianon Jones, Tristan Scott-Behrends, Emily Robinson

Existence is exhausting; narrative is tired. Thankfully, the Short Forum is back par excellence, reaching new heights of hybridity, invention, and raw experience. As the Anthropocene rages on and technology continues to coil around us, humanity as a concept is thrown into question. Films that dare to reinterpret the past and envision a better future are foregrounded as we continually reflect on what stories need to be told, what lessons still need learning, and what actions must be taken.



Object of Riddle

1: The Scarier One

TOTAL RUNTIME: 93 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	8:45 PM	IV8
SAT OCT 3	10:30 AM	IV8

Udders!

MICHAEL SPENCER, USA, 2026

Naked in a cornfield, a man runs for his life.

Pre-Parenting

YU YU, TAIWAN, 2026

Shu-Han uses augmented reality glasses to get a head start on parenthood. When a car crash claims her unborn daughter and embeds a lens fragment in her brain, she begins to see the child everywhere.

Who Killed Narin G**** ?

AYÇE KARTAL, FRANCE, 2025

An animated exploration of human darkness based on the real-life murder of eight-year-old Narin Güran.

Jabber

AUBERT SÉNÉCHAL, CANADA, 2025

It's the day before the big move. Alice is packed and ready. Jab is not.

Bagman

CONNOR GASTON, VAUGHN GASTON, CANADA, 2026

A researcher monitoring wildlife cameras notices a mysterious garbage bag in a forest clearing. Her supervisor goes to investigate, and opens the bag to find...

Object of Riddle

CHIARA CATERINA, BELGIUM/ITALY, 2026

Objects are 3D scanned and transferred onto 16mm film to provide clues to a familiar but irresolvable mystery.

The Animal Remains

IVANA VOGRINC HOVORKA VIDALI, SLOVENIA/CZECH REPUBLIC, 2025

Mira and her dog Baxus live a peaceful and isolated life in the countryside until, one day, they intervene in a sexual assault in the woods.



The End

2: Anthropomaxx

TOTAL RUNTIME: 112 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	3:15 PM	IV8
SUN OCT 4	10:30 AM	IV8

Piluk

ELISAPIE ISAAC, MARC SÉGUIN, CANADA, 2026

Young Piluk walks through the wounded world, healing animals and passersby in need.

Sitting Bird

ATHENA HAN, CANADA, 2025

Stay-at-home dad Ming struggles with a growing sense of inadequacy.

The Dream Is a Snail

ÂN THIÊN NGUYỄN, VIETNAM, 2026

Huy lands an odd job as a human race-track for snails at a senior rejuvenation workshop.

The Great Disgust

ALEJANDRO SAMANDJIAN, ARGENTINA, 2026

When insects around the house grow increasingly aggressive, a young man's controlling father releases a small frog to solve the problem.

First Breath On Mars

MALIC AMALYA, USA, 2025

A quest to change honorific bird names in light of their colonial namesakes leads to further inquiry into the projected colonization of the red planet.

The Kalgan Horse

ZICHEN ZHAO, CHINA/USA, 2026

In the borderlands of Northern China, 10-year old Amu is determined to save his beloved horse from castration.

The End

NIKI LINDROTH VON BAHR, SWEDEN/FRANCE/DENMARK, 2026

The voice talents of Alexander Skarsgård, Noomi Rapace, and Denis Lavant are featured in this stop-motion tale of death and existence set in a large international airport.



The Lion Does Not Concern Himself

3: Workers of the World

TOTAL RUNTIME: 111 MIN

SAT OCT 3	8:15 PM	IV8
SUN OCT 4	3:30 PM	IV8

Pique-Nique

JÉRÉMY GAGNON, CANADA, 2025

Two welders experience an astral phenomenon together on their lunch break.

The Lion Does Not Concern Himself

ZARRAR KAHN, CANADA, 2026

Danny, a newbie personal trainer and aspiring fitness podcaster, meets Jen, the hesitant recipient of a gym gift card.

Faux Bijoux

JESSY MOUSSALLEM, FRANCE/LEBANON, 2026

Mireille drags her son Johnny to an audition with promises of the big screen. Little does he know that the audition is not for him.

Half a Decade of Projecting

JANA RANKOV, CANADA, 2025

A behind-the-scenes look at going to the movies, from the projection booth.

L'inconvénient

JULIEN G. MARCOTTE, CANADA, 2026

In a Quebec cotton mill at the turn of the 20th century, a teenage girl tries to keep her injured sister from being fired.

Sweet Captive

PAUL CHOTEL, ARIANE FALARDEAU ST-AMOUR, CANADA, 2025

As evening approaches, Stevie begins his shift as the night watchman of a cryptocurrency mine.

Shoot the Messenger

PRANAY NOEL, CANADA, 2026

Lucky, a bike courier caught in an immigration scam, is presented with a sudden opportunity to pull a grift of his own.

Cul-De-Sac !

CLYDE GATES, GABRIEL SANSON, BELGIUM/FRANCE, 2026

Working-class angels are tasked with powering Earth's machines with one simple rule: if it breaks, you are exiled from Paradise. What happens when they revolt?



SUN OCT 4	9:00 PM	IV8
MON OCT 5	1:00 PM	IV8



MON OCT 5	9:00 PM	IV8
TUE OCT 6	1:30 PM	IV8



TUE OCT 6	8:45 PM	IV8
WED OCT 7	12:30 PM	IV8



WED OCT 7	8:00 PM	IV8
THU OCT 8	1:30 PM	IV8

Palestinian journalist Owda documents the daily life of fishermen on the besieged shores of the Gaza Strip.



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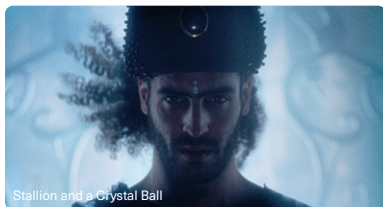


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ARTS & CULTURE | VANCOUVER

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8: Queer Magic

TOTAL RUNTIME: 115 MIN.

THU OCT 8	9:30 PM	IV8
FRI OCT 9	3:45 PM	IV8

The Man in the Showers

HAKIM ATOUI, FRANCE, 2025

11-year old Skander experiences a sexual awakening at the local pool.

Buddies

FRASER WOLFE, CANADA, 2026

Boundaries shift as two teenage friends spend a ski weekend together.

O

FRANCISCA ALARCÃO, PORTUGAL/SPAIN, 2026

Alarcão attempts to overcome her inexplicable aversion to belly buttons.

Stallion and a Crystal Ball

CHRISTIAN AVILÉS, SPAIN, 2026

Consumed by longing for a mysterious sorcerer, a secluded teenager performs a spell to break free.

Going Nowhere Fast

DYLAN PAFFE, CANADA/USA, 2025

Three adults living with disabilities navigate the intricacies of a love triangle.

Dance of the Sun On the Water

MING WONG, UK, 2026

The queer story of St. Sebastian is made even queerer, as seven performers re-stage his life inside the National Gallery.

Already Happened

HAO ZHOU, CHINA/USA, 2026

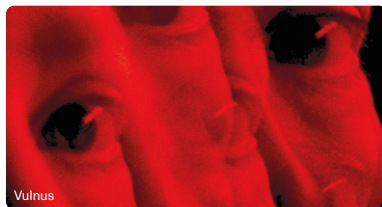
Zhou revisits previously abandoned footage to queer the boundaries between personal archive, fantasy, and exorcism.

Shorts Preceding Features

Haboolm Ksinaalgat (Soul Catcher)

AMANDA STRONG, PAMELA POST, CANADA, 2026, 15 MIN.

A teenager and ancient shaman traverse space and time to confront and heal the colonial history still haunting their ancestors. (Feature: Page 57)



9: Big Time Sensuality

TOTAL RUNTIME: 116 MIN.

FRI OCT 9	9:30 PM	IV8
SAT OCT 10	1:30 PM	IV8

Two Hander

NORAH SADAVA, CANADA, 2025

A woman arrives at a parking lot to retrieve a car.

Husband's Legs

KIMI YAWATA, JAPAN, 2026

Ran and Kei's marriage is on the rocks, until Kei's secret fetish is revealed.

Man Eating Pussy

EMILY LAWSON, CANADA/USA, 2025

A dying man seeks the ultimate release.

Praying Mantis

JOE HSIEH, TAIWAN/HONG KONG, 2025

Half woman, half mantis—Ali seduces and kills men to feed her son.

Vulnus

DIANDRA ARRIAGA, MEXICO, 2026

After shaking off a fall, a skater with an injured arm passes by a figure whose gaze penetrates the wound.

A Lonely Night

CAMILLE BEAUBI, CANADA, 2026

After a long day at work, Samantha bumps into her neighbour, who confesses that he spies on her at night.

Taxi Moto

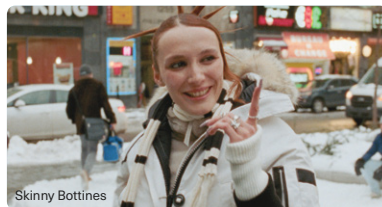
GÂEL KAMILINDI, FRANCE/SWITZERLAND, 2026

In response to censorship from his home country, a director is forced to relocate his film, prompting a new approach with a new lead actor.

Twin Snakes

LEV KALMAN, WHITNEY HORN, USA, 2026, 15 MIN.

Time wriggles through two timelines as two sets of protagonists search for meaning and answers in an anachronistic sea of signifiers. (Feature: Page 65)



10: Are the Kids Alright?

TOTAL RUNTIME: 106 MIN.

SAT OCT 10	9:00 PM	IV8
SUN OCT 11	1:15 PM	IV8

Pacific Spirit

ANTOINE BOURGES, CANADA, 2026

Two university students walk through a forest to complete a photography assignment.

I Think You Should Be Here

ANNA-MARIJA ADOMAITYTĖ, ÉLIE GRAPPE, FRANCE/SWITZERLAND, 2026

Seven teenage girls are filmed in their rooms performing TikTok dances committed to memory.

A Breath of Fresh Air

ALEXANDRE PELLETIER, CANADA, 2026

Trapped in a room without air conditioning, four judges must agree on the winning act in a teen talent competition.

Concrete Kids

SAULIUS BARADINSKAS, LITHUANIA, 2026

Rokas, a lonely teen targeted by a local gang, sings in the school choir while desperately waiting to emigrate to the US.

Pankaja

ANOOYA SWAMY, INDIA/USA, 2026

When her husband goes missing, Pankaja and her daughter Lalli embark on a search.

The Comet

JULIE CHARETTE, CANADA, 2026

An unspeakable act of cruelty interrupts the idyllic summer of siblings Émile and Françoise.

Skinny Bottines

ROMAIN F. DUBOIS, CANADA, 2026

A nimble-fingered pickpocket, is accompanied by his cousin for 24 hours.

VIFF+

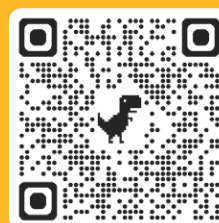
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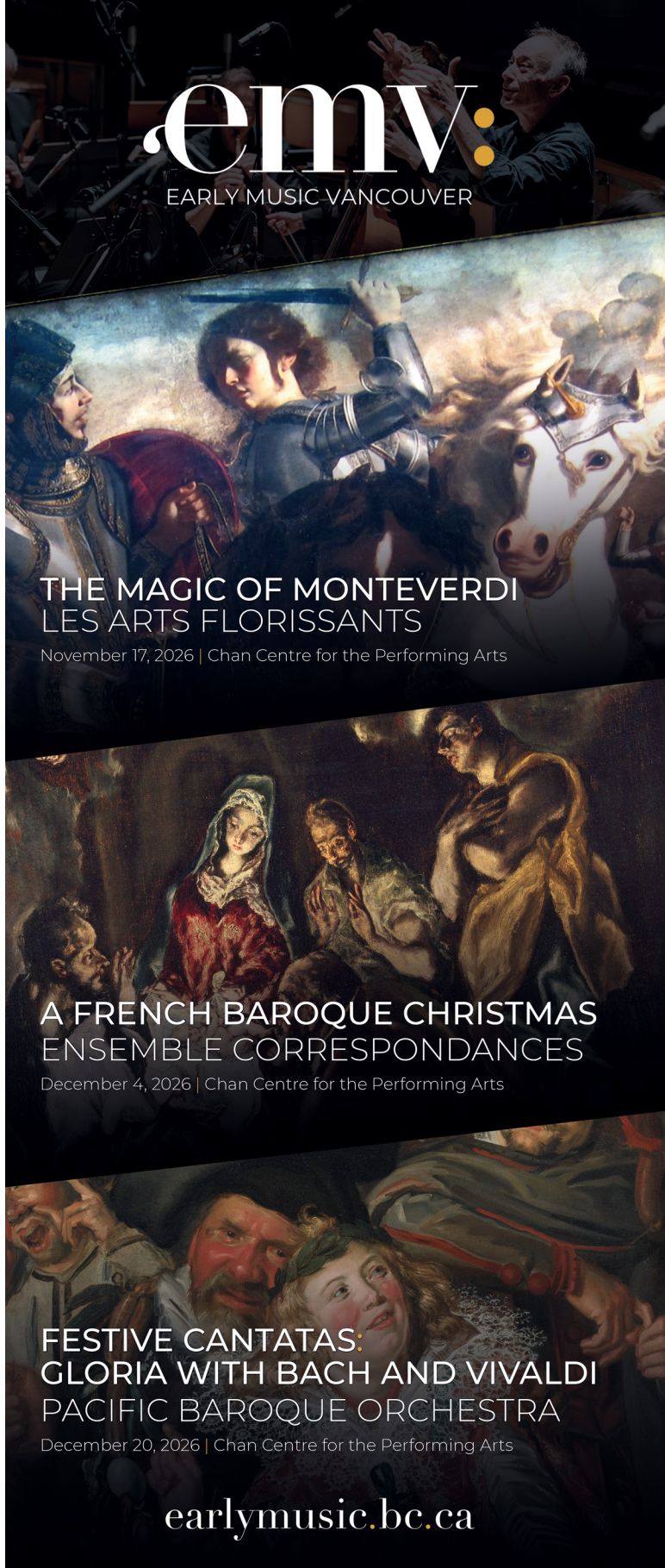


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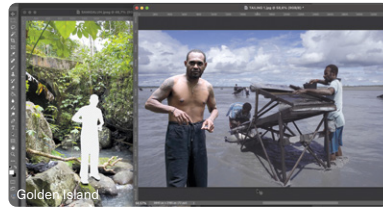
earlymusic.bc.ca

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Celebrating 10 years of MODES, this is your invitation to once again submit to the artist. Exploring how far the form of cinema is capable of bending, this series foregrounds bold international and Canadian works of avant-garde film, video art, and screen experimentation. Expanding the frame on art, politics, perception, and human experience, this year MODES seeks to shift the colonial centrifuge, reckon with the accelerating pace of contemporary life, and illuminate our responsibility to one another, while making space for intuitive, embodied, esoteric, and often-unseen feminine knowledge.



MODES 1

TOTAL RUNTIME: 107 MIN.

THU OCT 1	6:15 PM	CINE
FRI OCT 9	1:15 PM	IV8

Archive and the land reveal other ways of seeing, ensuring that what is meant to survive cannot be erased. Truth lives in memory, inquiry, and the faces of the young, where the hubris and shame of colonizers and oppressive regimes are quietly, unmistakably inscribed.

A Dream Pointing to Aadchit

GHINWA YASSINE, CANADA/LEBANON, 2026

Haunted by a recurring dream, director Ghinwa Yassine returns home to find her memories changed by war.

Between Us and the World

WALLACE MINCHONG LI, UK, 2026

Young friends revisit the site of archival colonial footage, the place where they live and dream in Western Sahara.

Together

NEOZOON, GERMANY, 2026

Early visions of togetherness are contrasted with the rise of individualism, questioning the urge to possess and protect.

Golden Island

ARIEF BUDIMAN, INDONESIA/SINGAPORE, 2026

Arief and Edi exchange photoshopped memories of Papua, constructing utopian illusions of the land.

Ghazal-E Sorkh

MARYAM TAFKORY, IRAN/UK/France, 2026

A personal recollection of betrayal built on fragmented films, commissioned by the Shah.

The Recce

DANIEL MANN, UK/GERMANY, 2026

Exploring cinema's ties to land and its entanglement with colonial imaginaries, Mann binds the fiction of filmmaking to the fiction of state-building.



MODES 2

TOTAL RUNTIME: 108 MIN.

FRI OCT 2	9:15 PM	CINE
SAT OCT 10	6:30 PM	IV8

At the intersection of culture, technology, and capital, a yearning for human connection and the possibility of release endures.

Opera Kitsch

C. RICARDO, LOBO MAURO, BRAZIL, 2026

In a world of digital and political slop-proliferation, do we still know the grotesque when we see it?

Like Moths to Light

GALA HERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ, SPAIN/ITALY/France, 2026

Investigating the sacred space of dreams, a tech startup poses a provocative yet plausible future of neurocapitalism.

Display Nature

NICOLAS GEBBE, GERMANY, 2026

Reflecting on commodification, self-perception, and the absurd, an urgent tension between nature and tech evolves.

Oh Be a Fine Girl Kiss Me

ALICE DOS REIS, PORTUGAL, 2026

A 19th century nun recounts her celestial work as a human computer, mapping the sky and reincarnating as a 1990s coder.

Typhoon Mambo

DOMENICO SINGHA PEDROLI, THAILAND/SWITZERLAND/France, 2026

Continuing to interact with her departed husband via a chatbot, Rusmee clings tight to her memories.

The Blessing

CAROLINE POGGI, JONATHAN VINEL, France/SWITZERLAND, 2026

Barricaded in an after-hours pub, the music must never stop, otherwise something terrible could happen.



MODES 3

TOTAL RUNTIME: 89 MIN.

SAT OCT 3	9:00 PM	CINE
SUN OCT 11	6:30 PM	IV8

Interior worlds reveal wisdom, intuitive connections, the esoteric, and death. Or is it liberation? A bid to commune with the feminine, other realms, and ghosts.

Soft Transmission

SARA WYLIE, CANADA, 2026

Partly eco-processed 8mm celluloid and tarot become a visual fascia, binding family through shared illness and mystic healing.

Cartografía

MARINTHIA GUTIÉRREZ VELAZCO, MEXICO, 2026

Nostalgia constructs a bridge between past and present, evoking an astrological conjunction of love, art, and beauty.

Kontrewers

ZUZA BANASIŃSKA, POLAND/NETHERLANDS, 2026

Tethered to Polish folklore about the mysterious Kontrewers Stone, the ghost of a possessed girl and the filmmaker's 102-year-old grandmother play out an imagined encounter.

This is An Autopsy

LUCIA SELVA, SPAIN, 2026

A clinical gaze inspects a liminal place beyond space and time, where unidentified bodies coexist.

The Wind, One Brilliant Day

BEN RIVERS, CHINA/UK, 2026

A woman roams an ancient garden and speaks to the wind.

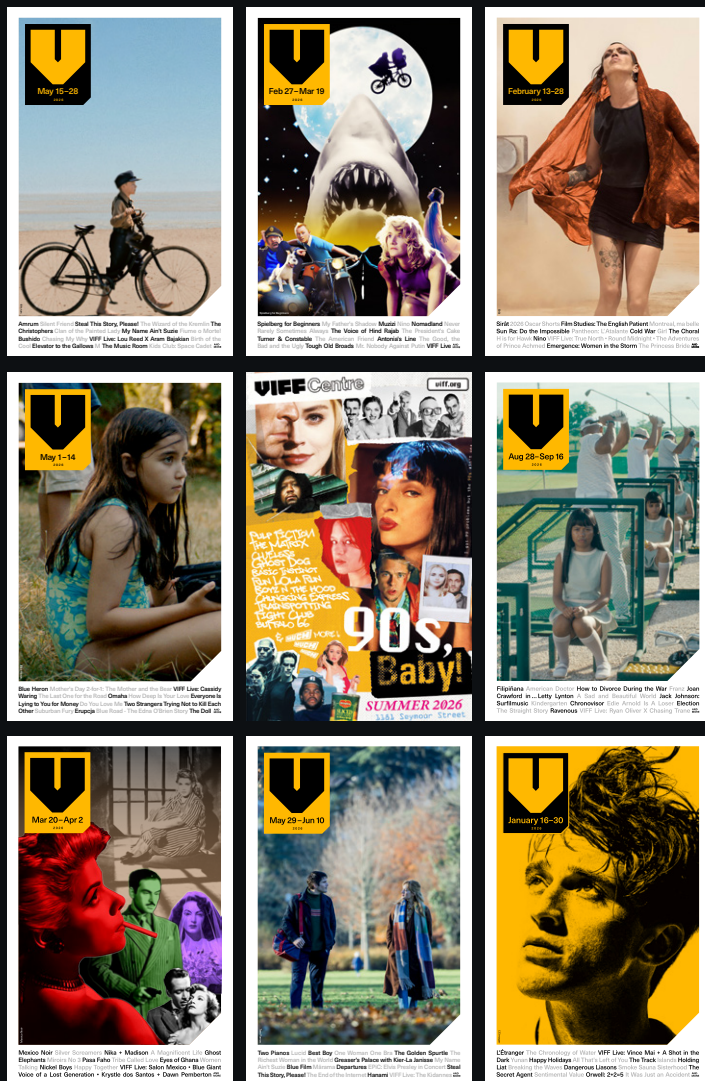
Occupation of the Inner Life

ROSALIND NASHASHIBI, IRELAND/PALESTINE, 2026

Mysticism and femininity circle a young woman's desire to reclaim her history.

Watch Incredible Films All Year Round at the VIFF Centre

From classic cinema to festival encores to new releases, the VIFF Centre is the home of Cinema in Vancouver

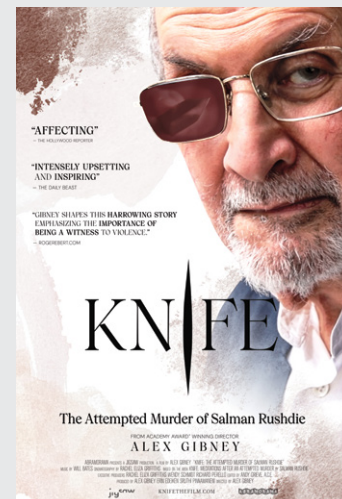


Coming Soon

Tickets on Sale Now



Sat Oct 17



From Oct 16



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From Oct 16



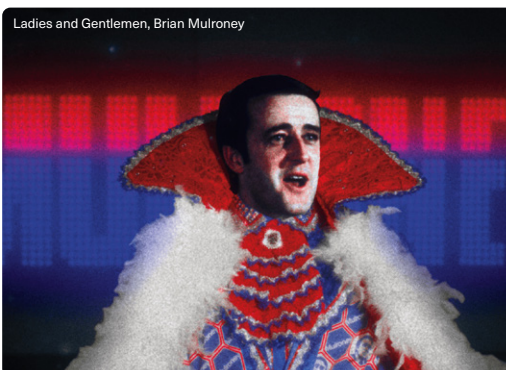
From Oct 16



Sat Oct 24

Ignite High School Program

Each year, VIFF welcomes high school students to experience stories that challenge, connect, and transform how they see the world around them—and their place within it. Spanning diverse places, perspectives, and lived experiences, these films invite young audiences to engage with complex ideas and question assumptions. On the big screen, image and sound bring these stories to life with an immediacy that creates a safe space for reflection, conversation, and discovery.



In Dialogue with Filmmakers & Subject Experts

This year introduces new opportunities for students to engage in meaningful dialogue with filmmakers, subject experts, and community members through an extended program featuring a film screening, panel discussion, and hands-on workshop. Students will leave with the tools and context to engage thoughtfully with the film's themes, and issues shaping the world around them.

Education Resources

Ahead of the Festival, teachers will receive educational film guides featuring curriculum connections, key themes, discussion topics, and additional resources designed to support classroom learning and conversation both before and after each screening.

How to Book

For our booking form, full film details, and resource materials, visit viff.org/ignite.

For questions or help with booking, please email us at education@viff.org.

Relaxed

Screenings

Check out
viff.org/relaxed-screenings
for more information



DSO
Disability Screen Office

Relaxed Screenings are open to anyone who could benefit from a more casual, supportive, and laid-back experience.

This includes Autistic people, people with learning disabilities or sensory sensitivities, and parents with small children. Reduced sound levels and fewer patrons also make this a good introductory experience for first-time cinemagoers. Please check the website for films with Relaxed Screenings.

We don't want the cost of tickets to hinder your ability to attend. Pay what you can, from \$0 to \$20. We look forward to welcoming you to the festival!

What to Expect:

- Fewer people and more seats to choose from
- No trailers or ads
- House lights are left dimmed or on low instead of being completely turned off
- Lower sound levels and sound reduction headphones available
- Audience are free to talk, move around, express themselves
- Flexible entry and exit
- Extra staff and volunteers on hand to answer questions and assist
- A dedicated sensory sensitive space outside the theatre

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Crystal Pite
Medhi Walerski
William Forsythe
Imre & Marne van Opstal
Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber
Margaret Grenier & Starr Muranko
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Every year, VIFF celebrates artists and their craft through a lineup of unique live events that extend far beyond the screen. At a time when culture is too often consumed on demand, VIFF champions cinema in the moment through highly curated events, performances, and conversations that can only be experienced in person—live and unedited. Through immersive audiovisual electronic music performances, thought-provoking talks with bold storytellers, and stirring orchestral performances of works by visionary composers, these events extend the boundaries of contemporary film culture.

Events



THE STORIES WE TELL SHAPE WHO WE ARE

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THUR NOV 5 / 7:30PM
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2026/2027 Season

OCT 10 Kelsey Lu

OCT 15 Zadie Smith

OCT 24 Ghibli Jazz Orchestra



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Talks & Special Events



Art of the Cut: Matthew Hannam

SAT OCT 3 2:00 PM VC

Matthew Hannam has built a career as a longtime collaborator with some of the most exciting filmmakers working today. Whether it's Sean Durkin's *The Iron Claw*, Halina Reijn's *Babygirl*, and Noah Baumbach's *White Noise*, Hannam is on a run of ambitious, striking films that has cemented him with a reputation as an editor with a singular talent for rhythm, tension, and tone. He returns to VIFF to discuss his body of work, revisiting his process and collaborative approach on his most iconic films.



Man in Motion: Celebrating Rick Hansen

SAT OCT 3 2:45 PM PLAY

Join Rick Hansen for the hometown premiere of *Man in Motion: The Rick Hansen Story* featuring an extended Q&A with the legend himself after the screening. 26 months, 34 countries, 40,075kms traversed in a wheelchair, and more than \$26 million generated for accessibility initiatives. *Man in Motion: The Rick Hansen Story*, is an inspiring portrait directed by Adrian Buitenhuys celebrating one of B.C.'s greatest athletes and activists.



ReFrame: School for Defectors

SUN OCT 4 6:00 PM GIS

Screening and extended Q&A. A quietly uplifting documentary, *School for Defectors* sheds light on the lives of people from North Korea who made the difficult and courageous decision to escape. The film provides access to a world rarely spoken of, while offering a glimpse into the next generation that will shape South Korea. Extended Q&A after the screening with director Jeremy Workman and producer Daniel Dae Kim, exploring the development of the project, and the impact they hope to achieve.

Supported by



A Wish Come True: The Making of *Obsession* with Producer Haley Johnson

SUN OCT 4 12:30 PM VC

Made independently on a shoestring budget, *Obsession* has defied expectation, surging past half a billion dollars at the global box office and emerged as a cultural flash-point that is reshaping the conversation in Hollywood. Nearly a year after its premiere at TIFF ignited a frenzied studio bidding war, Johnson reflects on the whirlwind journey. She takes us behind the making of *Obsession* with a scrappy independent crew and the meteoric rise to become one of the most successful films of 2026.

Supported by **infocus**
FILM SCHOOL



Worlds Within Worlds: Brandon Toller & Matt Hyland, Production Designers, *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma*

MON OCT 5 6:30 PM ANNEX

Brandon Toller and Matt Hyland are frequent collaborators, bringing bold, immersive worlds to life in celebrated projects like *Reservation Dogs*, *I Saw the TV Glow*, and their latest collaboration with Jane Schoenbrun, *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma*. For their VIFF Talk, the creative duo pulls back the curtain on their process. They'll dive into their approach to collaboration and how they work with directors like Schoenbrun to build worlds within worlds.



Stories Behind the Music: Mark Mothersbaugh, Composer & Musician

WED OCT 7 6:15 PM RIO

From DEVO to *Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Thor: Ragnarok* and *A Minecraft Movie*, Mark Mothersbaugh has forged one of music and film's most distinctive careers. Join the legendary musician and composer in conversation with award-winning songwriter, composer, and former studio executive Robert Kraft for an intimate look at Mothersbaugh's creative process, collaborations, and stories behind the music.

VIFF | Live

October 2026

45th Vancouver International Film Festival

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This year, VIFF Live explores reworlding—visions and sounds of a world in which many worlds fit, of worlds that have already been, that are yet to come, and those that can perhaps be glimpsed and experienced only briefly.

From avant electronica and Indigenous psychedelia to next-gen digital tastemakers and genre-defying film score music, VIFF Live offers a wide-ranging series of unique events and experiences, including several notable Canadian and North American Premieres for music fans and cinephiles alike.



I hope you'll join me in celebrating these singular voices and experiments in image and sound.

ekosi maka,
Jarrett Martineau, Live Curator

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INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

Celebrating Composers

This year's Live program celebrates two of the most acclaimed voices in music and contemporary cinema: Quebec-based musician Cristóbal Tapia de Veer and DEVO founder Mark Mothersbaugh, both renowned for their work in film composition. Experience the visionary innovation and formal experimentalism of Tapia de Veer in an intimate conversation and hands-on masterclass; then, join VIFF for a one-night-only concert of Mothersbaugh's music for film and TV featuring a live band.



\$35

An Evening with Cristóbal Tapia de Veer

MON OCT 5

5:30 PM

VC

Join multiple Emmy and BAFTA-winning composer Cristóbal Tapia de Veer (*Black Mirror*, *The White Lotus*, *Smile*) for a rare masterclass and Q&A. During this intimate presentation, the multi-instrumentalist offers a behind-the-scenes look into his creative process and the genre-defying scores that have earned him iconic status among a new generation of composers.

Supported by **SOCAN**



\$60 • All Ages

An Evening with Mark Mothersbaugh

THU OCT 8

6:00 PM

PLAY

Experience a one-night-only live performance with legendary composer and DEVO founder Mark Mothersbaugh, joined by an 11-piece ensemble and special guest artists. Celebrating a career that spans more than 150 films, television series, and video games, the evening features music from *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Rushmore*, *The Life Aquatic*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Hoppers*, *The LEGO Movie*, *A Minecraft Movie*, and more, brought to life in an intimate concert experience.

Presented by

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The Last Angel of History with Speaker Music (Live) + The Otolith Group in Conversation

FRI OCT 2

5:00 PM

VC

A special 30th anniversary screening, co-presented with the Vancouver Art Gallery, of the Black Audio Collective's *The Last Angel of History*, which traces the musical legacy of Afrofuturism from its rhythmic origins during the Transatlantic Slave Trade through imaginary digital 'future' worlds conjured in techno and jungle music. Preceded by a live performance from Speaker Music and followed by a conversation between DeForrest Brown Jr. and Otolith Group founders Kodwo Eshun & Anjalika Sagar.

Co-Presented
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MUTEK x VIFF Live with Dopplereffekt / Honeydrip / MIIIA + guests

FRI OCT 2

9:30 PM

WONG

Montreal's renowned digital arts festival MUTEK joins forces with VIFF for an unforgettable evening of live audiovisual performance and electronic music featuring legendary Detroit electro duo Dopplereffekt; Montreal-based DJ, producer, and soundsystem-builder Honeydrip; and Vancouver future mythologist MIIIA, in collaboration with visual artist MELT.

Co-Presented
with

MUTEK



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CHAPLAIN
SOUND
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CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY



The KLF: 23 Seconds to Eternity with CHXMERAS (Live AV)

SAT OCT 3

5:00 PM

VC

North American Premiere. Trip into the psychedelic world of one of the most enigmatic and iconoclastic electronic bands of the 90s. The KLF became the world's top-selling singles act with a string of subversive international acid house anthems. VIFF is honoured to present, for the first time, the complete collection of The KLF's films and music videos, brought together in a single programme. Preceded by a live AV performance from Vancouver electronic duo CHXMERAS.



TAKKUUK with Tarrak + Silla

SAT OCT 3

8:30 PM

WONG

Canadian Premiere. Arctic Indigenous artists reckon with culture, colonialism, and a rapidly changing world in this visually explosive film, featuring a hypnotic Bicep score. With live performances from Inuit throat-singing duo Silla and Greenlandic rapper Tarrak.

This film contains strobing sequences.

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By Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen

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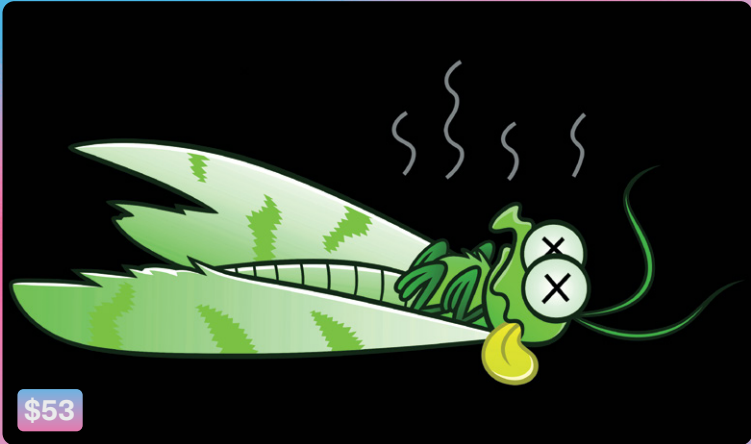
SEASON SPONSORS:     **VANCOUVER SIN**



Kelly Moran with Bahar Khazei

SUN OCT 4 8:00 PM WONG

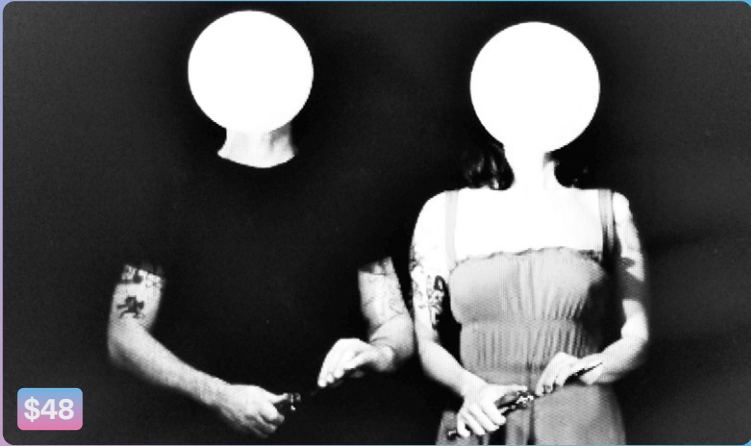
Experience a rare live AV performance by acclaimed pianist, producer, and composer Kelly Moran. Known for conjuring hypnotic textures and charting unconventional sonic pathways through classical, avant-garde, and electronic sound, Moran will perform material from her celebrated 2025 album *Don't Trust Mirrors*. Vancouver-based electronic musician and composer Bahar Khazei opens the show with a live AV set.



Los Thuthanaka

MON OCT 5 8:30 PM PEARL

Canadian Premiere. Los Thuthanaka, the acclaimed American-Bolivian experimental music duo formed by siblings Chuquimamani Condori and Joshu Chuquimia Crampton. Known for bridging the past, present, and future of their Aymara and Pakajaqi heritage, the duo's spiraling rhythms, ceremonial textures, and psychedelic sounds combine into a transcendent live AV experience.



ERASERHEAD XIU XIU

TUE OCT 6 8:30 PM RIO

Canadian Premiere. American experimental rock band Xiu Xiu offers a live exploration of the sonic and visual universe of David Lynch's iconic cult film, *Eraserhead*. Combining field recordings, homemade instruments, organ, modular synths, vocals, pocket torches, electrical static, and musique concrète, the group offers a personal, hallucinatory take on Lynch's most singular of midnight masterpieces.



Derrick Gee's Radio Hour

WED OCT 7 8:00 PM GIS

North American Premiere. Fresh from sold-out tours across Europe and Australia, Derrick Gee brings his eclectic *Radio Hour* show to Vancouver. *Radio Hour* is a one-of-a-kind show that invites audiences into Gee's on-stage living room for a program filled with special guests, community conversations, and audience interactions. A nod to classic radio hours of the past, Gee's newest stage show reimagines music entertainment for a new generation.

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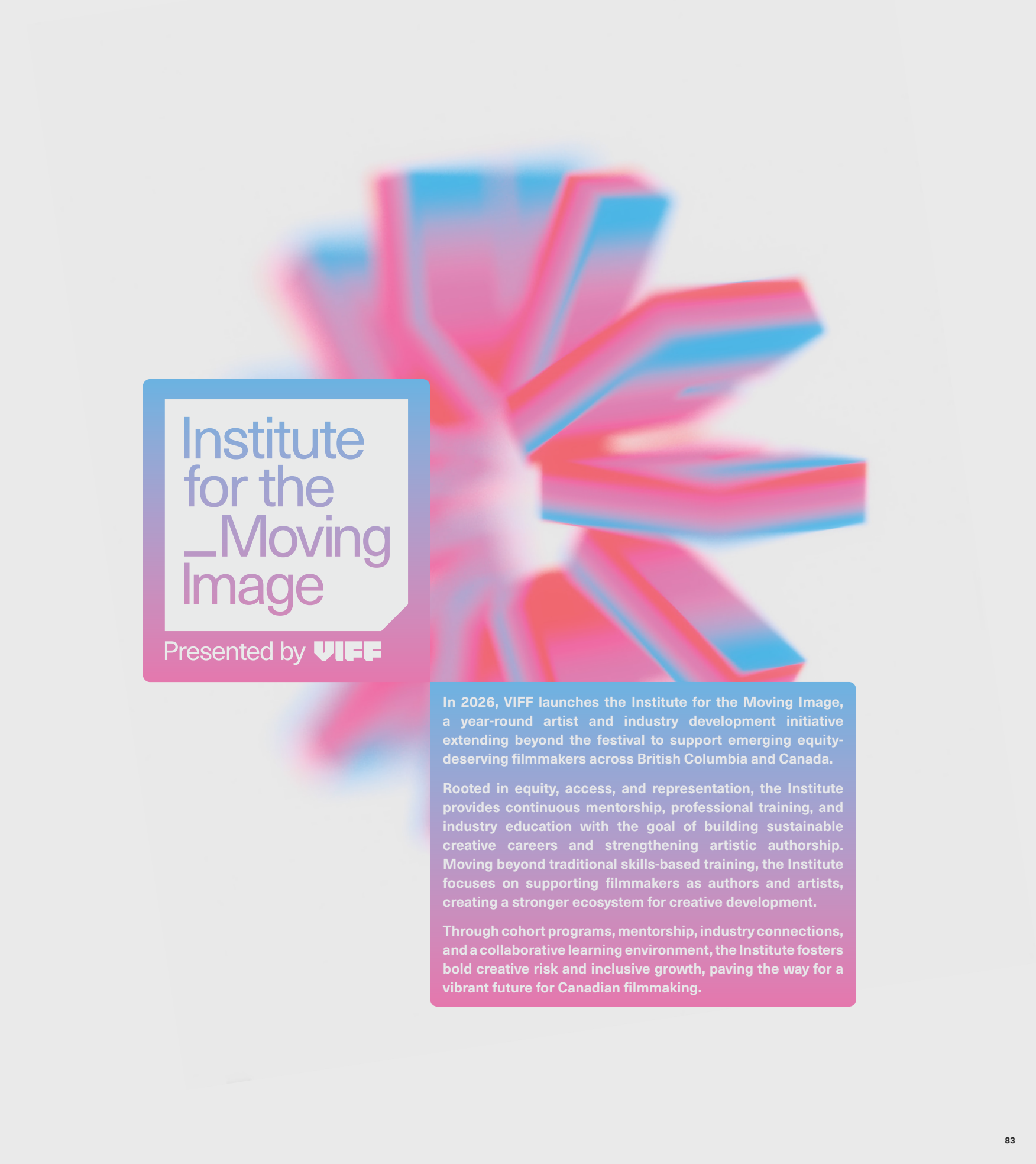
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Institute for the _Moving Image

Presented by **VIFF**

In 2026, VIFF launches the Institute for the Moving Image, a year-round artist and industry development initiative extending beyond the festival to support emerging equity-deserving filmmakers across British Columbia and Canada.

Rooted in equity, access, and representation, the Institute provides continuous mentorship, professional training, and industry education with the goal of building sustainable creative careers and strengthening artistic authorship. Moving beyond traditional skills-based training, the Institute focuses on supporting filmmakers as authors and artists, creating a stronger ecosystem for creative development.

Through cohort programs, mentorship, industry connections, and a collaborative learning environment, the Institute fosters bold creative risk and inclusive growth, paving the way for a vibrant future for Canadian filmmaking.

Artist Programs



Sarah Race Photography

Animation, Creative Business, Documentary

Animation, Documentary, and Creative Business are three new cohort-based programs from the Institute for the Moving Image, supporting 45 storytellers annually through mentorship, masterclasses, industry engagement, and peer learning. Designed to advance projects, strengthen professional skills, and deepen creative voices, these programs help participants take the next step in their careers while building lasting industry connections.

“In a world that increasingly feels uncertain, VIFF reminds us that it is through connection, exchange, and collective imagination that stories take shape and resonate within communities. For some, cinema is a refuge. But for us, cinema is a living, evolving picture, built from fragments of visions and voices, where creators come together to explore what's possible and give form to what has yet to be seen.”



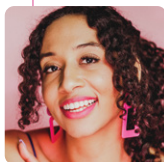
ANA BELÉN ASFURA
DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE
FOR THE MOVING IMAGE



Catalyst

Catalyst is VIFF's cohort-based development program for emerging filmmakers in British Columbia. Bringing together 15 directors each year, the program fosters mentorship, creative exchange, and lasting connections, helping participants strengthen their practice and grow their place within the local film community.

“I love to dream up the programming for Catalyst. This year's filmmakers hold an exciting range in their craft from Gothic cinema to rap videos. For their sessions, I strive to curate a kaleidoscope of festival experiences where each guest speaker brings a new colour, perspective, and shape to the room that lights up our shared passion for cinema.”



MARIAM BARRY
CATALYST PROGRAM CURATOR



Sarah Race Photography

Composer Filmmaker Accelerator

Composer Filmmaker Accelerator (CFA) is an immersive professional development program for 12 composers working in film, television, and digital media. Curated by acclaimed composer Miriam Cutler, it offers hands-on collaboration with filmmakers, industry mentorship, and invaluable experience to help participants advance their careers in screen-based storytelling.

“The best way to unleash the power of music in film is through a successful creative collaboration between the filmmakers and the composer. Together, you set out to discover the sound and emotional tone of the world of the film and the characters that inhabit it.”



MIRIAM CUTLER
CFA FOUNDER AND
PROGRAM CURATOR

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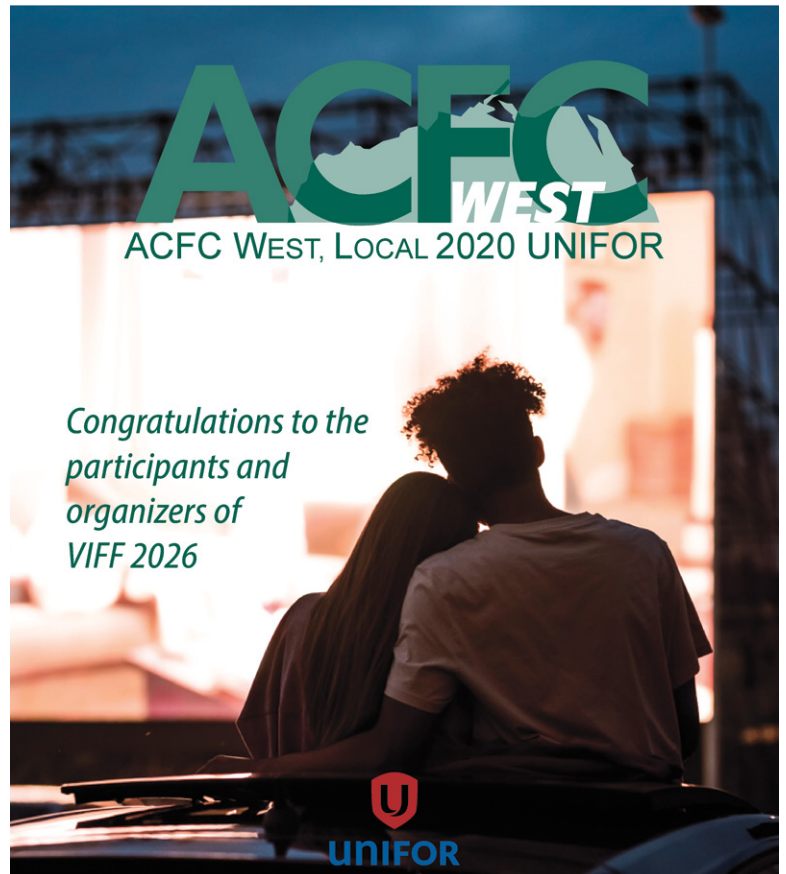
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VIFF Industry

October 3–8

This year, Industry Days embraces the theme ‘Uncertainty as a Creative Force’.

Panel Highlights

Hilary Hart and Ruun Nuur



Curating Cinema in a Shifting Landscape

As the boundaries of storytelling, distribution, and audience engagement continue to evolve, curators play a pivotal role in determining whose voices are elevated and how films connect across contexts. Pamela Biénzobas (Locarno Film Festival) shares insights into film curation as a creative and critical act that shapes how cinema is seen, valued, and understood, and examines the role festivals play in championing emerging voices and connecting films with audiences around the world.

Land Acknowledgment and Location Practice

This panel examines the meaning and responsibility behind filming on Indigenous territories. It moves beyond symbolic acknowledgments to explore consent, permissions, and accountability in practice.

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VIFF Industry is the hub for connection, collaboration, and career development within the screen sector. Designed for filmmakers and storytellers at every stage, the program offers access to industry experts, curated networking opportunities, market insights, and professional advancement initiatives. By connecting local talent with national and international communities, VIFF Industry helps creators turn ideas into opportunities and strengthen their careers on a global stage.

Masterclass Highlights

Editing as Discovery: Narrative, Instinct, and the Unpredictable

Berlin-based film editor Evelyn Rack (*Sound of Falling*) invites artists and industry professionals into her editorial practice across fiction and documentary, where editing becomes a space for discovery rather than resolution.

Exploring the Art and Strategy of International Co-Productions

Acclaimed producer Giancarlo Nasi (*The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo*) shares his expansive approach to international co-productions, drawing on his experience working across more than 17 countries and a slate of award-winning films that have premiered at Cannes, Venice, and Berlin.

The Journey of Flow: From Script to Screen

Academy Award-winning co-writer and producer Matiss Kaža unpacks the creative and collaborative journey behind *Flow* (2024), the first independent animated feature to win both a Golden Globe and an Oscar.

VIFF Business Hub

The VIFF Business Hub supports filmmakers and industry professionals at every stage while connecting talent with global decision makers.

Co-Production Forum

The Co-Production Forum brings together producers, financiers, and partners to develop and finance feature films through curated meetings and discussions.

Works-in-Progress

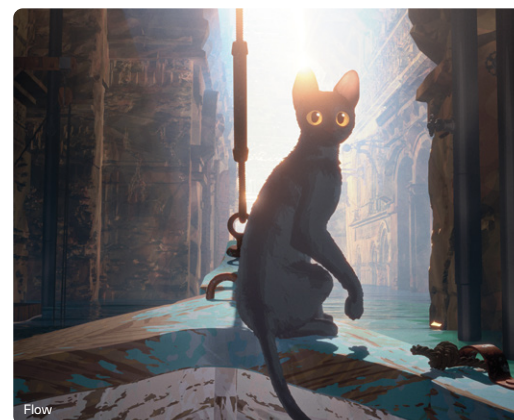
Select Canadian and International projects currently in post-production are showcased, helping filmmakers gain feedback and secure partners for completion and circulation.

VIFF Slate

Creators connect directly with sales agents, distributors, and festival programmers, creating meaningful opportunities for projects to reach audiences worldwide.



The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo



Flow



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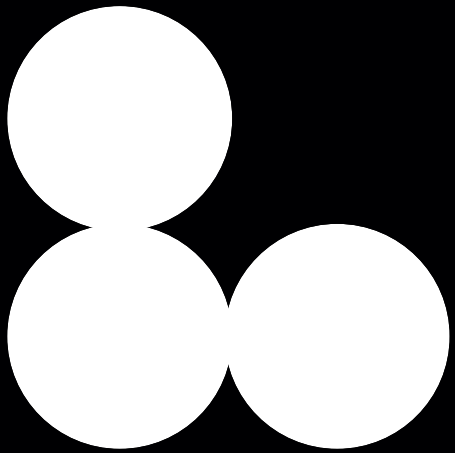
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VIFF Amp

October 3–8

Nurturing Careers in Music for Media

VIFF Amp's Music in Media Summit continues to nurture, educate, and champion emerging and established music professionals including composers, songwriters, and music entrepreneurs, with a strong emphasis on supporting those from marginalized or underrepresented communities.

The summit offers creative insights, mentorship, and unique career development opportunities in the form of feature panels, workshops, 1:1 dialogues, interactive sessions, and more from international experts in the Music Media space.

This Year's Highlights

Art of Composition – The Soundtrack Edition

Go behind the music of North of North with composers Caleb and Brian Chan, co-showrunner Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, and music supervisor Michael Perlmutter as they explore how pop, Inuit music, Inuktitut recordings, and score shape the series' humour, heart, and sense of place.

Stages-to-Screen

In this edition of Stages-to-Screens, hear from Meg Remy (U.S. Girls, *Dead Lover*), Peter Peter (*Heated Rivalry*), and Matthew Rogers (The Harpoonist & The Axe Murderer, *Blood*) as they share their journeys from acclaimed music artists to film and TV composers, exploring creative challenges, breakthrough opportunities, and what it takes to make the leap from stage to screen.

Music BC's SOUNDOFF

SOUNDOFF, presented by Music BC, brings live performance together with real-world sync opportunities. Watch selected artists perform for leading Canadian and international music supervisors, gaining insight into what makes a song stand out in film and television.

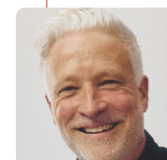
Featured music supervisors: Danny Exum, Michelle Johnson, Héctor Vásquez, Natasha Duprey, Cody Partridge.

Creative Intelligence: Technology, AI & the Future of Storytelling

Michael Tippet, Valerie Biggin (The Song Rep Music Supervision Inc.), Tony Scudellari (Sony Pictures Entertainment), and Wilson Tang (YumeBau Inc.) bring perspectives from filmmaking, music, technology, and the studio world to explore how AI is reshaping storytelling. Together, they will examine authorship, ethics, rights, collaboration, and creative value—while asking where technology can enhance the process and where human artistry remains irreplaceable.

“

VIFF Amp brings together the creative minds shaping the future of music and visual media. Through conversations, workshops, live performances, and networking, this year's program connects filmmakers, composers, music supervisors, publishers, and game creators to spark collaboration, share ideas, and inspire the next generation of storytelling.



**ROB CALDER AND
TONY SCUDELLARI**
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”

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