

VICTORIA
FILM —
FESTIVAL

February 3 - 12 / 2023

Bringing Film to Life



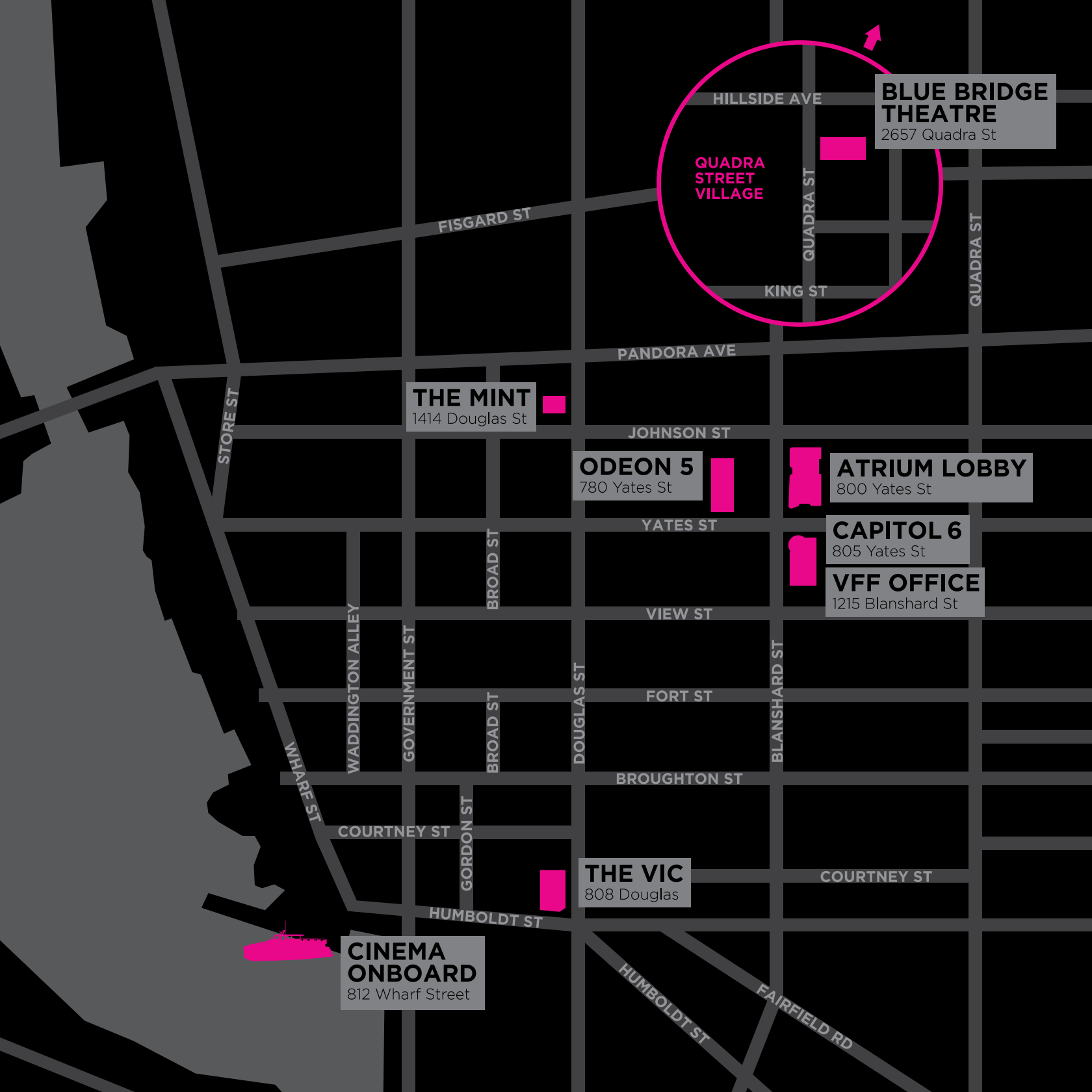






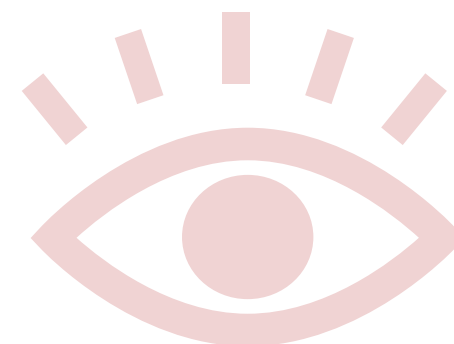


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FEATURE FILM BY COUNTRY

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AUSTRIA

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CHINA

82 Hidden Letters

DENMARK

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FRANCE

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GERMANY

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INDIA

39 All That Breathes

ISRAEL

73 Razzouk Tattoo

ITALY

20 L'immensita
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UKRAINE

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UNITED STATES

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- a boreal love story
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30 When you Finish Saving the World

	FRIDAY — FEB 3	SATURDAY — FEB 4	SUNDAY — FEB 5	MONDAY — FEB 6	TUESDAY — FEB 7	
THE VIC	12:15 PM The Great Silence			12:15 PM Schächten	12:15 PM Ranger	THE VIC
	2:45 PM Godland	2:45 PM When you Finish Saving the World	2:45 PM I Like Movies	2:45 PM Metronom	2:45 PM Garçonnières	
	Opening Gala: Emily 6:30 PM	In Conversation With... 5:30 PM Paul Schrader	5:30 PM North of Normal	5:30 PM A Cedar is Life	5:30 PM L'Immensita	
		Master Gardener 7:45 PM	Bones of Crows 7:45 PM	Paris Memories 7:45 PM	Brother 7:45 PM	
CAPITOL 6		1:00 PM The Colour of Ink	1:00 PM The Eight Mountains	1:00 PM Waiting for Raif	1:00 PM Stellar	CAPITOL 6
		4:00 PM Sam Now	4:00 PM The Killing of a Journalist	4:00 PM Framing Agnes	4:00 PM Minsk	
	Geographies of Solitude 6:30 PM	6:30 PM The Banality	6:30 PM CineVic Screening	6:30 PM We Are Still Here	6:30 PM The Civil Dead	
	Stellar 9:00 PM	Influencer 9:00 PM	The Inhuman 9:00 PM	The Damned Don't Cry 9:00 PM	The Colour of Ink 9:00 PM	
ODEON 5		12:30 PM My Small Land	12:30 PM Cesária Évora			ODEON 5
		3:00 PM One Fine Morning	3:00 PM Viking	3:00 PM Handshake	3:00 PM Daughter of Rage	
	Until Branches Bend 6:00 PM	6:00 PM Confessions	6:00 PM The Empress of Vancouver	6:00 PM Happy Pills	A Life on the Farm 6:00 PM	
	Riceboy Sleeps 8:30 PM	Klondike 8:30 PM	The End of Sex 8:30 PM	Relax, I'm from the Future 8:30 PM	Before I Change My Mind 8:30 PM	
BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE					6:15 PM Savage Waters	BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
					JACIR 9:00 PM	
CINEMA ONBOARD						CINEMA ONBOARD

	WEDNESDAY — FEB 8	THURSDAY — FEB 9	FRIDAY — FEB 10	SATURDAY — FEB 11	SUNDAY — FEB 12	
THE VIC	12:15 PM Of Medicine And Miracles	12:15 PM Driving Madeline	12:15 PM Sexual Healing	12:15 PM The Golden Years	11:30 AM Jammies & Toons: Poupelle of Chimney Town!	THE VIC
	2:45 PM Calendar Girls	2:45 PM She is Love	2:45 PM When Morning Comes	2:45 PM L'Immensita	2:45 PM Golden Delicious	
	5:30 PM The Innocent	5:30 PM I Like Movies	5:30 PM Rodeo	When you Finish Saving the World 5:30 PM	5:30 PM All That Breathes	
	Enys Men 7:45 PM	Emily 7:45 PM	The Ordinaries 7:45 PM	Pacifiction 7:45 PM	Godland 7:45 PM	
CAPITOL 6	1:00 PM Batata	1:00 PM The Eight Mountains				CAPITOL 6
	4:00 PM Fashion Reimagined	4:00 PM Hidden Letters				
	6:30 PM OKAY! ASD Band Film	6:30 PM The Year of the Dog				
	Razzouk Tattoo 9:00 PM	Geographies of Solitude 9:00 PM				
ODEON 5						ODEON 5
	3:00 PM The End of Sex	3:00 PM Penelope, My Love				
	Until Branches Bend 6:00 PM	6:00 PM One Fine Morning				
	Moja Vesna 8:30 PM	Unicorn Wars 8:30 PM				
BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE	Rematriation 6:15 PM	To Kill a Tiger 6:15 PM	Part of the Pack 6:15 PM	The Ballad of a great Disordered Heart 6:15 PM	The Issue with Tissue - a boreal love story 6:15 PM	BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
	Into the Ice 9:00 PM	No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics 9:00 PM	Robin Bank 9:00 PM	Family Mottoes 9:00 PM	Con Los Años Que Me Quedan 9:00 PM	
CINEMA ONBOARD	Strange Worlds 7:30 PM	Things Fall Apart 7:30 PM	Indigenous Voices 7:30 PM	Love & Happiness 7:30		CINEMA ONBOARD

THANK YOU VFF DONORS

The Victoria Film Festival is ecstatic to celebrate its 29th year as a not-for-profit charitable arts organization! Without the support of our donor's, we would never have the opportunity to showcase all the talented and unique independent filmmakers at the various venues in the heart of downtown Victoria. Our donors have enabled us to bring important and engaging cinema to Vancouver Island, and for that we express our deepest gratitude.

A very special thanks to the donors below.

GOLD

Maureen P Murphy

SILVER

Anne Macnab

BENEFACTOR

Charles Isherwood

Gwen Isaacs

Lyndsay Green

Susanna Crofton

Wendy Moreton

Kathy Kay

AMBASSADOR

Annie Doobie

Audrey McClellan

Donna de Haan

Doug Darwish

F Kodar

Lois Klingbeil

Patricia Page

Sheryl Taylor-Munro

CONTRIBUTOR

Brenda Canitz

Doreen McConachie

Herb Girard

Jonathan Gould

Sophie Burns

Suzanne Christensen

Robyn McMorris

WELCOME

Ahhhhh, visions of pink carpets are dancing in my head. Here we are at the 29th Victoria Film Festival running like we did back in 2020. So, get ready to wander down the rabbit hole, expect the unexpected, learn about the world, our region and the rest of the country. Be informed, amused, engaged and discover you belong. These are the experiences that Victoria Film Festival users have known and expected from our activities because on offer is something beyond unrealistic mainstream depictions.

The Victoria Film Festival breaks down boundaries. Young and old go to the same films ultimately experiencing the wider community and immersed in the bigger picture. To see through someone else's eyes, discover their message, and be able to identify honesty from subterfuge.

To make this year special, you might notice as you attend that we are bringing more playful elements. Little treats, here and there. I've always loved creating context for films, whether it's a cricket lesson or a piece of focaccia from Fol Epi. It adds to understanding community. Speaking of community, you will find more filmmakers attending their films and sharing their experiences. What a treat you have in store!

I can't sign off without a big shout out to Gerald Hartwig, our donors, volunteers, Board of Directors, staff and all our partners. Thank you for being the great community supporters that you are.

See you in the dark.

Kathy Kay



HEY HAPPY

**AGRIS
FOL EPI**



THE TEAM

Behind the Scenes

Festival Team

Festival Director: Kathy Kay
Program Manager: Bryan Skinner
Operations Manager: P. "Arcade" Pallot
Development & Volunteer Coordinator: Charlie Gudgeon
Community Engagement: Alejandro Lema
Industry & Event Manager: Guillermo Rossi
Vic Theatre Manager: Kiana Karimkhani
Tech Meister: Mark Hoyne
Graphic Designer: Pauline Gallinat
Communication Coordinator: Alberto Machado

Board of Directors

President: Dan McDonagh
Vice President: Ruby Della Siega
Treasurer & Secretary: Joel Cave

Directors at Large:
Rain Li
David Simmonds
David Parfit

Programmers

Films selected by Festival Director, Program Manager and ...



Joanna Duncombe is based between the UK and France; Jo manages new talent and film programmes in the MENA region at British Council. She is passionate about championing underrepresented voices in world cinema. Jo was creative producer at Birds' Eye View, championing women's cinema, and launched their Reclaim the Frame programme.

She has previously worked in curatorial roles with the Independent Cinema Office and London Short Film Festival. Jo is the UK programmer for Victoria Film Festival in Canada and curates films for CASA Festival of Latin American Arts. She has worked as an impact strategist on documentaries including *A Syrian Love Story*.

Bracken Hanuse Corlett is an interdisciplinary artist hailing from the Wuikinuxv and Klahoose Nations. He began working in theatre and



performance in 2000 and eventually transitioned towards his current practice that fuses sculpture, painting and drawing with digital-media, audio-visual performance, animation and narrative. He is a graduate of the En'owkin Centre of Indigenous Art and went to Emily Carr University of Art and Design for Visual Arts. He is the Co-founder of the Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival and recently sat on the VIFF Canadian Features Jury. He has studied Northwest Coast art, carving and design from acclaimed Heiltsuk artists Bradley Hunt and his sons Shawn Hunt and Dean Hunt. He was a recipient of the 2014 BC Creative Achievement Award for Aboriginal Art and has recently received public art commissions from the Cities of Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria. He is currently the 2020-21 Artist in Residence at Raycam Cooperative Centre as part of the Artists in Communities Program.

Jane Julian's love of movies began as a small child at the drive-in where the family saw *Ben Hur* (and later, *Goldfinger*, which made a big impression!) Jane has been the programming director for the Port Townsend Film Festival for the past 8 years after getting her start as a founder of the the



Durango Film Fest (Colorado) in 2000. Jane has been recruited as a “programmer-at-large” for festivals focused on documentary films across North America and says she “absolutely loves it!”



Ammar Keshodia is a filmmaker and curator based in Toronto, Canada. He has worked on the programming teams for festivals such as TIFF, SXSW, and Overlook.

Ammar has written for publications like Bright Wall/Dark Room, NANG Magazine, and Peephole Journal. He is also the co-host of the Three Course Cinema Club, a podcast dedicated to constructing unorthodox triple bills of famous films and hidden gems. Ammar graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in Political Science & Cinema Studies and his work has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Alex Rogalski is the senior Canadian programmer for Hot Docs. Past programming work includes the Toronto International Film Festival, Calgary International Film Festival, Gimme Some Truth, and the Human Rights Watch



Film Festival. He is the former Executive Director of PAVED Arts and New Media, and currently a Program Consult with SK Arts in Saskatoon.



Dan Russek is a Professor in the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies at the University of Victoria. His fields of research are Latin American literature, film, visual arts, and aesthetics. He is the President of the Hispanic Film Society of Victoria and he coordinates the Annual Latin American and Spanish Film Week at Cinecenta, which will turn thirteen in 2023.

Kimber Sider is a documentary filmmaker and the Artistic Director/Lead Programmer for the Guelph Film Festival, one of the oldest documentary film festivals in the world. She holds a PhD in Theatre and Performance from the University of Guelph and is a lecturer in Communication Arts at the University of Waterloo.



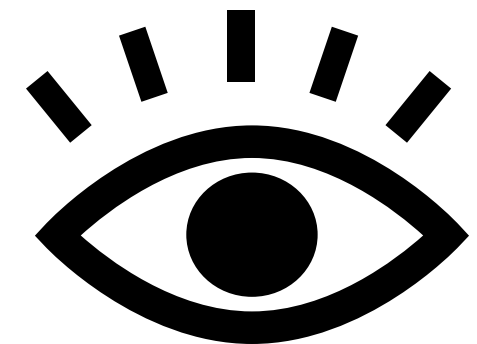
Pre-Screening Committee

Tony Ruffolo, Maria Nunn, Sheena Macdonald, VFF team

Advisory Committee

Richie Mehta – Canadian filmmaker known for *Amal*, *Siddharth*, *India in a Day*

Larry Weinstein – Canadian filmmaker known for *Mozartballs*, *Hannah’s Suitcase*, *Beethoven’s Hair*



GREETING MESSAGES

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DAVID EBY

As Premier of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 29th Victoria Film Festival (VFF).

For nearly three decades, VFF has showcased a diverse range of films and enhanced Vancouver Island's vibrant arts and culture scene. The medium of film brings us together and serves as a springboard for important dialogue. I have no doubt that everyone participating will find this festival a wonderful opportunity for enrichment and entertainment.

I would like to thank everyone at VFF along with the partners, donors and volunteers who have worked hard to make this year's festival possible. Congratulations to the filmmakers and all those involved in the productions for their inclusion.

Enjoy the shows!

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DAVID EBY

En tant que premier ministre de la Colombie-Britannique, j'ai le plaisir d'accueillir chacun et chacune de vous au 29e Festival du film de Victoria (VFF).

Depuis près de trois décennies, le VFF présente un éventail diversifié de films et renforce la dynamique scène culturelle et artistique de l'Île de Vancouver. Le film nous rassemble, et sert de tremplin à d'importants dialogues. Je suis convaincu que tous ceux et celles qui y participeront seront d'avis que ce festival constitue une excellente source d'enrichissement et de divertissement.

Je tiens à remercier toutes les personnes qui œuvrent au VFF, ainsi que tous les partenaires, donateurs et bénévoles qui ont travaillé d'arrache-pied à la tenue du festival de cette année. J'adresse mes félicitations aux cinéastes et à toutes les personnes impliquées dans les productions sélectionnées.

Bon cinéma!

HONOURABLE DAVID EBY, K.C., PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA / L'HONORABLE DAVID EBY, K.C. PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE



A MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE / L'HONORABLE PABLO RODRIGUEZ MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

Welcome to the 2023 Victoria Film Festival.

This year, the festival will once again showcase the unique vision of a wide array of filmmakers from Canada and from abroad. By sharing these diverse stories and experiences, this gathering is bringing communities together in Victoria and throughout Vancouver Island.

Our artists bring us together, captivate us and help us to better understand ourselves as a society. Our government is proud to support this engaging event.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I'd like to thank the organizers, volunteers and artists who worked hard to bring this year's filmfest to life.

Bienvenue au Victoria Film Festival de 2023.

Cette année, le festival nous présente une fois de plus la vision unique de cinéastes en tous genres venant d'ici et d'ailleurs. En mettant en valeur toutes sortes de récits et d'expériences, ce rendez-vous rassemble les communautés de Victoria et de toute l'île de Vancouver.

Nos artistes nous rassemblent, nous divertissent et nous permettent de nous comprendre comme société. Notre gouvernement est fier d'appuyer cette rencontre stimulante.

À titre de ministre du Patrimoine canadien, je remercie les organisateurs, les bénévoles et les artistes qui ont travaillé avec ardeur pour mettre sur pied le festival de cette année.



**MESSAGE FROM THE HON. LANA POPHAM
MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORT**

On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, welcome to the 2023 Victoria Film Festival.



As the largest film festival on Vancouver Island, the Province is pleased to provide funding through Creative BC. British Columbia's motion picture community is recognized throughout the world for excellence and the Victoria Film Festival is an important contributor to its success. With a commitment to showcasing the work of underrepresented groups and emerging artists, this event is a celebration of diversity and inclusion. Thank you to the organizers for their strong leadership on advancing these important objectives, and to the festival's audience for supporting their work.

The festival would not be possible without all the dedicated donors and volunteers who share their talent, resources, time, and energy to make this event a success. Their support enables independent filmmakers to share great stories and to reach a wider audience under the festival's spotlight; and we thank them for their generosity and engagement.

Lastly, congratulations to everyone involved in creating and producing the pieces featured this year. Thank you for sharing your incredible talent with all of us. British Columbia is proud of you, and we cannot wait to see what you do next.

Sincerely,

HON. LANA POPHAM,
MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORT

A MESSAGE FROM MARIANNE ALTO

Greetings from Mayor Marianne Alto

On behalf of the City of Victoria, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 29th Victoria Film Festival.



Its unique line up of screenings and events continues to showcase the best in Canadian and International films, providing a platform for local, emerging, and often underrepresented communities.

This year's **Springboard Seminars** features question and answer sessions with industry experts. The screening of local documentary ***A Cedar is Life*** is one of many films that will offer Victorians diverse and innovative perspectives.

Congratulations and a big thank you to festival organizers and volunteers, enjoy the shows!

Sincerely,

MARIANNE ALTO
VICTORIA MAYOR

FESTIVALINFO

The VFF is gearing up for normal! All screenings are in-person. Yee haw and away we go with fingers crossed and a few hail Bobs. There will be no in-person sales at the office, and we are not able to take phone orders. Tickets are sold at the door 30 minutes before showtime, but FilmFest pros know how quickly films sell out so purchase in advance at www.victoriafilmfestival.com.

Advance tickets on sale midnight January 5 – February 11.

*Tickets & passes are subject to GST – #883954026RT0001.
No exchanges. No refunds. Program subject to change. Visa, Mastercard accepted.*

TICKETS 2023

VFF Membership	\$ 2.00
Film Tickets	\$ 13.33
Gold Pass	\$325.00

(guaranteed seating at regular film screenings)

5 Film Vouchers	\$ 64.00
10 Film Vouchers	\$120.00
Student Rush Ticket	\$ 6.00

*(ages 19–30 with student ID
On sale 10 minutes prior to screening)*

Opening Gala Film & Dinner	\$ 82.00
Opening Gala Film Only	\$ 25.00

(limited tickets)

In Conversation With....	\$ 39.00
Sips ‘n’ Cinema	\$ 30.00
Jammies and Toons	\$ 9.00
Art Exhibit	Free


The VFF goes anti-inflation – no increase in the film ticket price this year! You’re welcome!

VFF MEMBERSHIP

In British Columbia, the government requires that you be a member of a Society showing unclassified films and you must be over the age of 18. The Victoria Film Festival screens unclassified films. Membership is only \$2.

Once you are a member you can see the films at the Festival and The Vic Theatre until the end of July.

*Buy your \$2
Membership
here »*

*Buy your »
tickets here* 

FESTIVAL AWARDS

Several of the films that are juried and accepted into the Festival are selected to receive an award. Watch for the announcement of the winners on February 13.

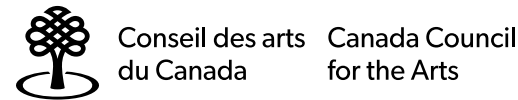
Best Feature Film
Best Canadian Feature
Best Canadian First Feature \$1000 cash prize
Best Documentary
Best Short Animation \$500 cash prize
Audience Favourite Feature
Cultural Currents Award \$1000 cash prize



DIRECTOR



GOVERNMENT



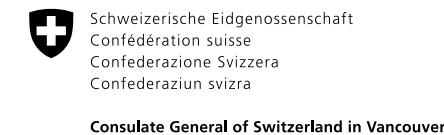
VENUE



HOSPITALITY



SUPPORTING



MEDIA



OPENING GALA

FEBRUARY 3

It was so much fun last year that we are going again - an Opening Gala film and a selection of dinners at great Victoria restaurants.

At the theatre you'll start with a complimentary cocktail from the award-winning Spinnakers! Then we turned to our favourite restaurants who will be hosting 3-course dinners for 10 with wine from Church and State. There will be a few tickets available for the movie and dinner but only a very few as the filmmakers and guests will be filling the tables with excellent repartee. So, get your game face on, it might be an unforgettable ride.

Some film-only tickets available.

Film & dinner combination available starting January 27th.

DINNERS

DINNERS AT 9:00 PM

Restaurants are supplying a set menu and no changes will be made. A vegetarian option will be available. The Festival will assign the restaurant to the ticket holder.

Restaurants:


10 Acres Common
Agrius
Aura Restaurant
Boom & Batten

Glo Restaurant + Lounge
Ithaka Greek Restaurant
L' Apéro
Milestones Inner Harbour

Q at the Fairmont Empress
Spinnakers Gastro Brewpub
The Mint



OPENING FILM

Buy your » 
ticket here

EMILY | 6:30 PM | THE VIC THEATRE

Director Frances O'Connor dives into the mysterious figure of Emily Brontë - the middle sister of the infamous Brontë Sister clan, famous for penning Wuthering Heights. When an attraction brings both inner fire and crushing pain, Emily attempts to escape into wild imaginary worlds with her siblings. But her sisters, drawn increasingly into adult conformism, are slowly leaving their sister behind.

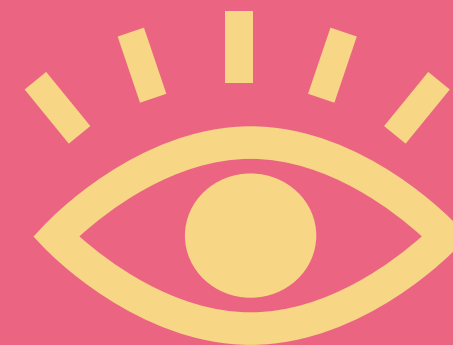


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BUZZ+

TRENDING FILMS THAT BRING ON FOMO.





THE BALLAD OF A GREAT DISORDERED HEART

AIDAN O'ROURKE, BECKY MANSON & MARK COUSINS

65 min | UK | 2022

Documentary

BUZZ+


BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 11 | 6:15 PM

Includes short Live Performance by Aidan O'Rourke and Daniel Lapp

The *Ballad of a Great Disordered Heart* is an ode to folk music, told by the people who make it. The film centres on the communities, past and present, of Edinburgh's Old Town - a corner of the city that has long housed a proud and lively Irish diaspora. During lockdown, musician Aidan O'Rourke befriends three of his octogenarian neighbours, all of whom happen to be called Margaret. Inspired by their stories, and a newfound appreciation for his own family roots, he decides to bring together a group of sensational Irish and Scottish folk musicians to investigate the meaning of home and the role of folk music in binding this community together. Featuring a stunning original soundtrack by O'Rourke and live performances by talented musicians including Liam Ó Maonlai, Brìghde Chaimbeul, Comac Begley, Róisín Chambers and Aoife Ní Bhriain, this is a foot stomping and heartwarming journey into the very soul of a musical community. - *JD*

Movie Trailer

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Lively + Folkish + Communal



CESÁRIA ÉVORA

ANA SOFIA FONSECA

94 min | Portugal | 2022

Documentary

BUZZ+

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 5 | 12:30 PM


To watch this stunning portrait of the musical force of nature, *Cesária Évora*, is to witness the transformative power of music. Known internationally for her melancholic ballads, Évora was perhaps best known for her interpretation of the immigrant song “Sodade”. A native of the former Portuguese colony Cape Verde, Cesária rose to international acclaim in the 1990s, known around the world as “the barefoot diva”.

Director Ana Sofia Fonseca has extensively mined footage and sourced great interviews to create her definitive look at the life and music of this giant of vocal performance. Her interviews with the family, celebrity friends, and with impresario, manager, and lifelong supporter José da Silva are great, but the real magical moments belong to Cesária. Her music and her unwavering commitment to her own freedom steal the show, and probably your heart in the bargain. - *BS*

Movie Trailer

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Music + Struggle + Freedom

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EMILY

FRANCES O'CONNOR

130 min | UK | 2022


THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 3 | 6:30 PM
FEB 9 | 7:45 PM

In her directorial debut from her own original screenplay, Frances O'Connor dives into the mysterious figure of Emily Brontë - the middle sister of the infamous Brontë Sister clan, world famous for penning *Wuthering Heights*. At the time of its publication, the book was shocking for its visceral, bodily portraits of love and rebellion. Here, in *Emily*, we see the traces of the rebellious soul behind the words. Emily Brontë (Emily Mackey, *Sex Education*) is a solitary misfit, plagued by shyness, and known as 'the strange one' in her local village. When an overwhelming pull of attraction brings both inner fire and crushing pain in rapid succession, she attempts to escape into wild imaginary worlds with her sisters Charlotte and Anne. But her sisters, drawn increasingly into adult conformism, are slowly leaving their sister behind. While Emily's maverick brother Branwell encourages her creativity, her father engages a French tutor to focus her free spirit. As Emily, Mackey delivers a standout performance, cementing her status as one of the UK's most promising rising stars. - *JD*

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Enigmatic + Rebellious + Tragic

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I LIKE MOVIES

CHANDLER LEVACK

99 min | Canada | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 5 | 2:45 PM
FEB 9 | 5:30 PM


Lawrence Kweller (Isaiah Lehtinen) loves movies. His encyclopedic film knowledge and *Saturday Night Live* viewing rituals are both a path to escapism and a point of pride. He's still in high school, but is unreasonably confident his fate is to emulate his indie-filmmaking heroes and attend NYU's film school. Lawrence can imagine nothing worse than remaining stuck in his suburban life, going to a local university and being deemed a 'Canadian' director. His exasperated single mother provides the unvarnished truth that American tuition is beyond their means, but Lawrence is undeterred and pursues his dream job at a video store, attempting to save his minimum wage earnings to help cover the cost. The disconnect between Lawrence's dreams and reality delivers the laughs, but also fuels the empathy that drives the film. Chandler Levack's debut feature is an unforgettable coming-of-age comedy, led by Lehtinen's pitch perfect performance and filled with throwback early 2000's pop culture references when DVDs were the peak of technology, and Netflix was an upstart company delivering them by mail. - AR

Movie Trailer

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Presented by:  **spinnakers**
BREW PUB & GUEST HOUSES

Comedy + Throwback + Adolescence

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Presented by:



BUZZ+

L'IMMENSITA

EMANUELE CRIALESE

97 min | Italy & France | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 7 | 5:30 PM

In 1970s Rome, Penélope Cruz plays Clara, radiant in the role of a Spanish woman struggling to fit in with the traditions of the bourgeois Italian family she's married into. With a short-tempered husband, she'll take any opportunity she can get to bring joy into the home for their children.


In between the domestic drama, her oldest child Andrea begins to reflect on his gender identity. Born female, he introduces himself as a boy when he meets a girl in a Romani community behind their building, marginalized by land development in the neighborhood.

Though their innocent romance burgeons over the course of the lazy summer, tensions rise at home. Through it all Andrea and Clara forge a special connection; they're always trying to hold back each other from reaching escape velocity, but secretly they find comfort as the only two people in the family who truly see one another.

L'immensita never treats its most important themes like the achingly contemporary issues they are. It approaches its characters' concerns with intimate sensitivity, all the while capturing their most important moments together with a vivid flair that paints them as your own bittersweet memories. Much like Cruz's character, it has a grand heart, protected fiercely, waiting to be revealed only when you need it most. - AK

Movie Trailer

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Dramatic + Contemporary + Charismatic



MASTER GARDENER

PAUL SCHRADER

107 min | USA | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 4 | 7:45 PM


Anyone would be jubilant presiding over Gracewood Gardens. It's a series of precisely cut hedges, well-tended gardens and sections of floral displays. A place to forget the past for some like master gardener Narvel Roth (Joel Edgerton).

In writer/director Paul Schrader's final piece of his trilogy about men coming to grips with their pasts we enter a seemingly tranquil world. In *First Reformed* the vehicle is religion, *The Card Counter* it's gambling and in *Master Gardener* we dally in the philosophy of gardening — the natural world that can bring peace.

But it's not all about gardening. The lady of the grounds, Norma Haverhill (Sigourney Weaver) is a rich domineering white woman. Her latest request of Narvel is to provide gardening instruction to her grandniece. Complex relationships ensue.

Strong acting is on display with Edgerton's low-key vibe playing well against Weaver's overbearingly entitled role as landowner. *Master Gardener* is alive with subtext and cinematic intensity that we've come to appreciate from Schrader. - KK

Movie Trailer
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Smart + Contemplative + Renewal



METRONOM

ALEXANDRU BELC

102 min | Romania & France | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 6 | 2:45 PM

Best Direction *Une Certain Regard* - Cannes Film Festival


Seventeen-year-old Ana lives in 1970's Bucharest. Current issues with her boyfriend are quickly eclipsed with the bigger problems she and her group of friends find themselves in. One night while partying together they write a letter to Metronom, a radio show hosted by an exiled Romanian rock music DJ on the US propaganda network, Radio Free Europe. This being Ceausescu's Romania, they quickly find themselves in the hands of the secret police.

This impressive debut won Alexandru Belc the directing award in the *Un Certain Regard* section at Cannes (2022), and it is easy to see why. The restraint and control shown in performance, camera, and tone are masterful. The Door's "Light my Fire" has become a classic rock radio cliché, but in the hands of Belc, and his freedom seeking Romanian teens, it is restored to its original incarnation as a paean of youthful awakening and liberation.

Once in the custody of the Securitate, Ana will be forced to make choices that will have life altering consequences. *Metronom* is a film which serves as a timely reminder about the nature of political oppression, freedom, and the potentially liberating power of music. - BS

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Youth + Freedom + Betrayal



NORTH OF NORMAL

CARLY STONE


90 min | Canada | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 5 | 5:30 PM

Growing up in a commune established by her iconoclastic grandfather, Cea's care-free childhood is an unfettered immersion into the wilds of Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon. Surrounded by transient hippies living by their own rules, the innocence of youth gives way to familial divisions. When her mother Michelle (Sarah Gadon) finally tires of her hypocritical father's criticisms, she attempts to break free and adopt a more conventional lifestyle, though their past is never far behind. Fresh beginnings provide no stability and a string of bad relationships keeps Michelle and her daughter in a codependent nomadic existence. Torn between her desire for normalcy and a troubled attachment to her mother and grandparents, Cea (River Price-Maenpaa and Amanda Fix), must chart a new path or risk repeating the patterns she's witnessed. Adapted from Cea Sunrise Person's 2014 memoir, Carly Stone's sophomore feature follow up to *The New Romantics* honours Person's biography by flowing between humour and heartbreak with characters that are doing the best they can, despite their shortcomings. - AR

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Family + Women + Memoir



ONE FINE MORNING (UN BEAU MATIN)

MIA HANSEN-LØVE

111 min | France | 2022

BUZZ+

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 4 | 3:00 PM
FEB 9 | 6:00 PM

Europa Label Award - Cannes Film Festival


French cinema star Lea Seydoux's understated performance as the enigmatic Sandra Kienzler is the foundation of this dramatic portrait of a young widow who begins an affair with her married friend Clément. Sandra is dealing with the necessary institutionalization of her elderly father who's suffering through a debilitating neurogenerative disease. She struggles to raise her daughter solo. Sandra navigates life's ever pressing stresses seemingly as confused and blind as her father. The re-entry of Clément into her world colours her grey reality. He is something she looks forward to.

As the affair progresses and she grows increasingly emotionally reliant on the stability and validation she is feeling, questions about the future begin to intrude. The reality of the emptiness of such an arrangement begins to rub against the obvious pleasure and escape she is experiencing. He has a family; a wife and a son.

For those who have admired Lea Seydoux's performances in English language films such as *The French Dispatch*, *The Lobster*, and the latest Bond films, this is the perfect introduction to one of the great performative talents on the world cinematic stage in a very French romantic drama. - BS

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Romance + Emotion + Betrayal



PACIFICTION

ALBERT SERRA

162 min | France | 2022

BUZZ+

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 11 | 7:45 PM

From the opening shots of a pink-hued tropical sunset stretching over Tahitian townscapes and nightclubs, the feeling of being in the hands of an assured storyteller is palpable. Director Albert Serra's political thriller is set on French Polynesian island of Tahiti, with the story centered on French official, the High Commissioner of the Republic, De Roller (Benoît Magimel). De Roller must present steady assurance to the Indigenous Tahitians that the French nuclear testing of the past will not be returning, despite the recent appearance of a French submarine. There are many willing to escalate confrontation with France (and thus De Roller) over their concerns for their homeland. The film is propelled as much by atmosphere and nuanced performance as by plot, with dread mixing easily with tropical beauty. Many framings are reminiscent of tourist postcards while Serra interrogates colonial structures. Wonderfully grounded by the swirling Polynesian soundtrack, we seek to understand De Roller's motivations and sympathies. - BS


~

Dès l'ouverture, un coucher de soleil rose tropical s'étend sur des scènes urbaines et des boîtes de nuit tahitiens : le sentiment de se trouver dans les mains d'un raconteur assuré est palpable. Le thriller politique du metteur en scène Albert Serra se passe sur l'île polynésienne française de Tahiti. L'histoire parle de l'officiel français, le Haut-Commissaire de la République De Roller (Benoît Magimel). De Roller doit rassurer les Indigènes tahitiens que les tests nucléaires du passé ne recommencent pas, en dépit de l'apparition récente d'un sous-marin français. Pas mal de gens sont impatients à intensifier la confrontation avec la France (et par conséquent avec De Roller) par souci de leur patrie.

Le film se caractérise tant par ambiance et la performance nuancée que par l'intrigue. La peur se mêle facilement avec la beauté tropicale. Beaucoup d'images rappellent les cartes postales touristiques, pendant que Serra interroge les structures coloniales. La bande sonore turbulente polynésienne nous émerveille tandis que nous cherchons à comprendre les motifs et sympathies de De Roller.

Movie Trailer

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Tropical + Excitant + Nucléaire



RODEO

LOLA QUIVORON

105 min | France | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 10 | 5:30 PM

Julia insists that she was born with a motorbike between her legs. That's why she has no qualms about inserting herself into a male-dominated gang of local bikers who perform stunts and tricks, always trying to one-up each other.


Impressed by her talent, they quickly accept her, but she's forced to reflect on how her gender sets her apart in this environment. As the group deals with the fallout of a dangerous accident, Julia becomes close to Ophélie, their leader's wife, who remains beholden to his control despite his imprisonment. Secretly hoping to help her, Julia pushes forward the gang's plan for a heist. Her knowledge and steel nerves become indispensable to them, but all this attention doesn't come without its enemies.

Working with non-professional actors plucked from the cross-bitume community in France, director Lola Quivoron pulls us into a subculture that breathes gasoline. *Rodeo* features a remarkable lead performance from a first-time actor that fully captures the freedom and feral energy of this world. It's a scrappier *Fast and Furious* for a new generation - one grounded in the precariousness of the real world, with a focus on characters, texture, and tone.

By the end, *Rodeo* promises only bolder visions to come from its filmmaker. Catch this one before it races out of reach. - AK

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Exhilarating + Fresh + Scrappy

Presented by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver



THE GOLDEN YEARS

BARBARA KULCSAR

92 min | Switzerland | 2022

BUZZ+

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 11 | 12:15 PM

A jeroboam of whisky and a red balloon, and with that so begins Peter's retirement. Peter is not alone on this next stage. Alice, his partner of 42 years, is hoping to reconnect in the next stage of life. Their daughter provides the means when she gifts them a cruise vacation.

Before they go the two face the unexpected death of Alice's closest friend, Magalie. The result, Peter plunges into the routines of fitness and Alice learns that her friend has had an affair in France for the past 15 years. Life is full of surprises and none bigger than when Peter invites the widower, Heinz, on their vacation.

Alice understands Peter doesn't like to travel. Peter understands Alice wants a gourmet lifestyle. Their paths are diverging and when Heinz becomes the companion of choice Alice decides to leave the ship and go in search of Magalie's lover and to see what the world has to offer.

Director Kulcsar tells a story of two people in search of happiness with heart and wit. She keeps a light touch throughout and tender moments are likely to be met with a knowing smile. One of the wonderful treats that comes out of this film is the inspiring search for an individual solution to what life offers. It's a message that's very timely. - KK

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*- an event for a discussion
about this movie!*

Comic + Sweet + Revealing



THE INNOCENT (L'INNOCENT)

LOUIS GARREL

99 min | France | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 8 | 5:30 PM


Actor and Director Louis Garrel returns to double duty in front, and behind the lens for this comic caper about a young man who becomes wrapped up in a heist that's too close to home. Not fully recovered from his own personal tragedy, Abel (Garrel) stew in grumpy suspicion when his mother begins dating Michel, a soon-to-be-released inmate at the prison she works at. Unwilling to let anyone around him be happy, Abel enlists the help of his best friend Sylvie (Noémie Merlant), to follow Michel and find out whether he's returned to crime. They quickly become wrapped up in a money-making scheme, and with his mother's innocent delight in the balance, Abel is forced to join the heist, while also confronting the reality of his feelings for Sylvie, who's always by his side. Garrel and his charismatic cast make *The Innocent* an effortless watch as it spins the mainstays of crime drama into a comedy, disarming with both a simple target, and the crew's unsophisticated method for getting to it. With a keen focus on the messy humans at the center of it all, it captures the tragic but droll irony that we're often doomed to repeat our family's mistakes. - AK

~

Le comédien et réalisateur Louis Garrel revient devant et derrière la caméra pour cette comédie d'un jeune homme qui devient obsédé par un cambriolage trop près de lui. Pas tout à fait remis d'une tragédie personnelle, Abel (Garrel) s'empote quand sa mère commence à fréquenter Michel, un détenu bientôt relâché de la prison où elle travaille. Ne voulant pas laisser les gens qui l'entourent être heureux, Abel sollicite l'aide de sa meilleur amie Sylvie (Noémie Merlant) afin de suivre Michel et savoir s'il est retourné au crime. Ils s'emballent vite dans un projet lucratif, et avec la joie innocente de sa mère à l'enjeu, Abel doit se joindre au vol, en même temps qu'il doit admettre la réalité de ses sentiments pour Sylvie, qui est toujours à ses côtés. Garrel et son casting charismatique font de *L'innocent* un film sans effort qui tisse les piliers du drame policier dans une comédie désarmante avec une cible simple et une méthode peu sophistiquée de l'équipe. Il garde une attention particulière sur les humains au centre du drame et capte l'ironie tragique, mais drôle, des fautes souvent répétées de nos familles.

Movie Trailer

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Amusant - Désarmant - Braquage



THE ORDINARIES

SOPHIE LINNENBAUM

120 min | Germany | 2022

BUZZ+

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 10 | 7:45 PM

New Talent Award Best Director, Best Producer - Filmfest München


A high concept comedy about a three-class society existing in a surreal cinematic world, *The Ordinaries* is a rare and wonderful celebration of the Golden Age of Hollywood, as well as an unsubtle condemnation of class divisions.

In Director Sophie Linnenbaum's film-based world, Paula, a young "Supporting Character", is going to school and aspires to be like her deceased father, a "Main Character". As she begins to learn more about her father's death in a past uprising involving the black and white "Out Takes," the lowest class, she finds herself at odds with her decidedly background mother, and her status as a potential protagonist is threatened.

Finding legions of fans across the European festival scene this year, this is wildly inventive stuff you will love not only for the meta references, but also the golden age costuming and sets. The cast does a wonderful job and the musical numbers are a flourish of energy when they show up. Great ideas well executed. - BS

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Surreal + Cinema + Class



WHEN YOU FINISH SAVING THE WORLD

JESSE EISENBERG

88 min | USA | 2022

BUZZ+

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 4 | 2:45 PM
FEB 11 | 5:30 PM


Actor Jesse Eisenberg wrote and directed this A24 midwestern set dramedy. Indiana Women's shelter administrator Evelyn (Julianne Moore) is established in the first few frames as an awkward killjoy as she pours cold water on a staff birthday party. She is obviously burned out, and beyond empathy for those around her. Her high school aged son Ziggy (Finn Wolfhard) is a somewhat dim but successful online musical live-streamer. Her husband is distracted by the preoccupations of wine, books, and The Atlantic magazine articles. The family's use of progressive politics to browbeat and undercut each other speaks in a bleakly humorous way to the present cultural moment.

Ziggy's romantic interest Lila's leftwing political posturing begins a process of breaking down his alienated existence, but it is unclear whether the brand of politics favoured by the local scene will create the kind of real community he needs or just spark a new kind of branding exercise. Is the connection and community he needs perhaps closer at hand? - *BS*

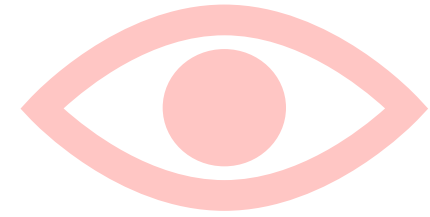
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Disconnection + Politics + Love

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COAST
PACIFIC RIM CENTRIC





GOLDEN DELICIOUS

JASON KARMAN

119 min | Canada | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 12 | 2:45 PM

Outstanding Feature Film, Best Director - Reelworld Film Festival

Caught up in his girlfriend's desire to take their relationship to the next level and his father's misguided encouragement, Jake (Cardi Wong) is stressed by the feeling that his future is being forced upon him. In the midst of this pressure, Aleks, a confident new neighbor with a love of basketball, moves in next door, and Jake experiences a newfound attraction that seems to conflict with what everyone expects from him. Navigating high school drama in an age of social media while doing his best to please everyone, Jake is forced to come to terms with who he is and what life he wants to lead, knowing those closest to him might get hurt in the process. Writer/director Jason Karman crafts a contemporary Vancouver coming-of-age story with a terrific ensemble cast driven by Wong's performance that captures the complexity of living up to cultural and familial expectations while trying to define yourself. Winner of Outstanding Feature Film and Best Director at the Reelworld Film Festival, *Golden Delicious* brings a fresh perspective to familiar territory. - AR


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Presented by:



Asian + Drama + Contemporary

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REMATRIATION

ALEXI LIOTTI

67 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary

BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 8 | 6:15 PM


Each year more than 10,000 hectares (equivalent to more than 10,000 football fields) of old growth forests are cut down on Vancouver Island. After more than a century of aggressive logging practices, less than 3% of the virgin rainforest remains. British Columbia has become a focal point for resistance to protect this vital resource that only becomes more important as climate change wreaks havoc on the planet. To those who have called these forests home for generations, their significance is obvious, yet an industry that has government backing continues to threaten its existence. As the trees continue to fall and worldviews collide, a growing movement of Canada's largest ongoing act of civil disobedience is speaking out and dedicating their lives to ensure we don't pass a point of no return. From the front lines of the Fairy Creek blockades to the tree top canopy, a wide range of activists, artists, and environmentalists share their deep love and knowledge of this place, mixed with incredible cinematography, providing an unflinching view into this unique and increasingly rare landscape. - AR

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Nature + Resistance + Local

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RICEBOY SLEEPS

ANTHONY SHIM


117 mins | Canada | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 3 | 8:30 PM

Platform Prize - Toronto International Film Festival
Best Canadian Film - Vancouver International Film Festival

Director Anthony Shim crafts a semi-autobiographical debut feature tracing the parallel journeys of So-young (Choi Seung-yoon), a single mother who leaves South Korea for Canada with her young son Dong-hyun (Dohyun Noel Hwang as a child, Ethan Hwang as a teenager), hoping they can both thrive in a new country. As they adapt to different cultural norms, they can't avoid racism at both work and school, resulting in conflict at home. Caught between two worlds, both struggle to find their place and defend themselves. Balancing perspectives of a mother doing her best to protect and provide for her son, and a young boy (then teenager) facing cruel injustices, the film travels full circle returning its protagonists back to Korea where they seek healing from the wounds they have endured. Navigating a complex web of relationships that draws from Shim's own experiences, he textures the 1990's setting with specific details that make the film and its story feel timeless. Immigration stories provide rich material for characters, as they inherently include forces of transformation, both physical and emotional. Seung-yoon and Hwang's performances are unforgettable with characters that feel so familiar in this winner of Toronto International Film Festival's prestigious Platform Prize. - AR

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Immigration + Family + Transformation



SAM NOW

REED HARKNESS

86 min | USA | 2022

Documentary


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 4 | 4:00 PM

Best International Documentary - Zurich Film Festival

Super 8, superheroes, a 2,000-mile road trip, and two brothers on a quest for answers. This is the journey that unfolds when filmmaker Reed Harkness asks his half-brother Sam to solve the mystery of Sam's mother's disappearance. Filmed over the expanse of 25 years, Sam and Reed delve unflinchingly into the trauma of Sam's mother having left him in his most formative years of life. At the heart of their adventure are foundational questions of worth: what happened? What made her leave? Where is she now? Together Sam and Reed work through this family trauma of absence, silence, and mental health to rewrite their own stories and understandings. This loss from childhood turns into a creative reclaiming of Sam's narrative in his teens, and then into a self-reflective exploration of the impacts to his self-concept and family overtime in his twenties. *Sam Now* is told through a series of home videos, Super 8 adventure films of Sam's wetsuit and mask wearing alter ego, The Blue Panther, and modern HD, as Reed asks his family to face this traumatic hole in their collective experiences in order to heal. - KS

Movie Trailer

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Complex + Family + Quirky



THE EMPRESS OF VANCOUVER

DAVE RODDEN-SHORTT

90 min | Vancouver | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 5 | 6:00 PM

With a wealth of well shot footage, archival material, and pop art animations, Vancouver director Dave Rodden-Shortt creates an affectionate portrait of an icon of Vancouver’s LGBTQ+ community, long-time drag artist and activist Oliv Howe. The film recounts how the now 69-year-old Howe made a splash in the 80s gay scene, trading a dash of punk attitude and performance art for the title of 10th Empress of Vancouver by the Dogwood Monarchist Society. While Oliv-focussed, Rodden-Shortt contextualizes Howe in time, delivering a great history of the Vancouver community and the struggles and challenges overcome.

Never content to allow the even archival black and white photos to be stilted but functional, the film is notable stylistically for its constant additions of colour and movement. Those with a passing interest in the world the film celebrates will be sure to find many points of entry and education, especially in Oliv’s “real talk” approach to life. To those with an investment in drag and queer history, this is practically required viewing. - BS


Movie Trailer

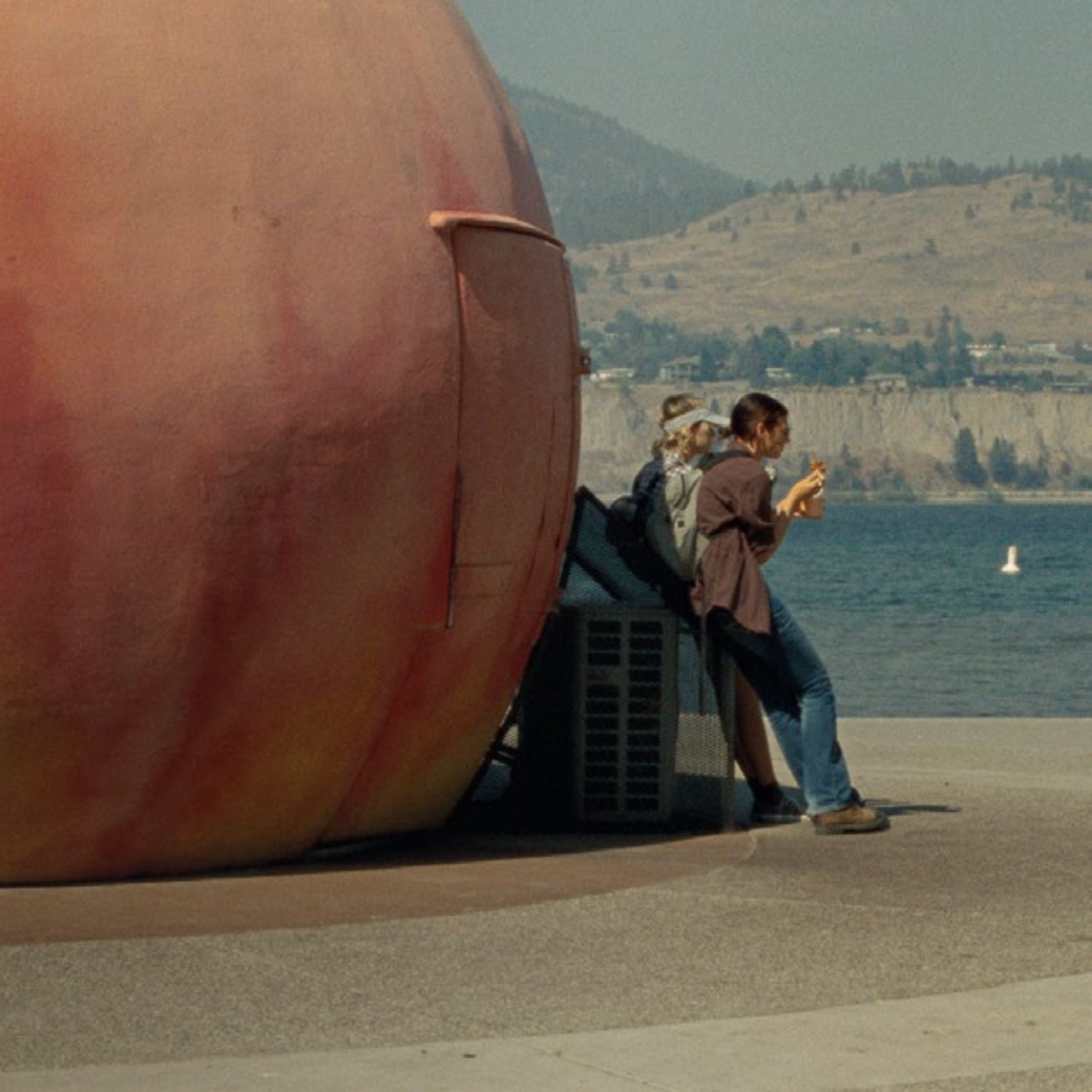
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Presented by:

History + LGBTQ+ + Drag

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UNTIL BRANCHES BEND

SOPHIE JARVIS

98 min | Canada | 2022

COAST

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 3 | 6:00 PM
FEB 8 | 6:00 PM

People's Choice Award - Toronto International Film Festival
Best British Columbia Film - Vancouver International Film Festival

During the peak of the late summer peach harvest in the inescapable heat of Okanagan valley's orchards, Robin (Grace Glowicki) makes an unsettling discovery while inspecting fruit during packaging. After reporting the find to her manager, she is casually brushed off and the potential problem is ignored. Robin can't help but feel something is amiss and pursues another avenue for her concerns, setting off a chain of events that agitates her small community and puts her at the center of a controversy she cannot control. In the midst of this turmoil, she faces an unwanted pregnancy while the world is literally falling apart around her. This riveting psychological thriller wisely borrows science fiction conventions to tell an all too plausible tale that resonates far beyond its environmental themes into corporate structures that silence whistleblowers. Glowicki's gripping performance takes inspiration from an oppressive landscape that simultaneously provides and destroys. Winner of the Best British Columbia Film Award at Vancouver International Film Fest, *Until Branches Bend* is a remarkable debut from writer/director Sophie Jarvis. - AR




Movie Trailer

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Presented by:

Riveting + Drama + Whistleblowers

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CURRENTS

SPLASH AROUND IN THE ZEITGEIST.





ALL THAT BREATHES

SHAUNAK SEN

97 min | India | 2022

Documentary

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 12 | 5:30 PM

Grand Jury Prize - Sundance Film Festival
Golden Eye Award - Cannes Film Festival

For the last twenty years, two Muslim brothers, Mohammad and Nadeem, have worked at their makeshift wildlife clinic in Delhi to rescue the bird of prey known as the Black Kite. The brothers believe that how goes the Kite goes the city.


In this first-rate environmental documentary from filmmaker Shaunak Sen, the film's detail and visual flair is remarkable as it emphasizes the crossover between the natural and manufactured worlds that the brothers believe the survival of the Kite represents. Camera work reveals the depth of life that we seldom see as images of goats give way to motorcyclists in the most moving fashion.

But one brother is thinking of abandoning his vocation and going to study abroad before it's too late for him to do anything else. - *KK*

Movie Trailer

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Kind + Haunting + Nature

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BATATA

NOURA KEVORKIAN

126 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 8 | 1:00 PM

For the past decade the plight of the Syrian people has become a familiar headline, as refugees continue to be forced from their homelands. Nearly 7 million Syrians have been displaced since 2012, each with a unique story of survival. It remains the largest human forced exodus of our time. *Batata* focuses on Maria and her fellow migrant workers who spent their lives toiling in the fields of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Their seasonal travel comes to a halt when they can no longer return to their hometown of Raqqa, Syria. Over the course of a decade, director Noura Kevorkian embedded herself in this emergent community, following the marriages, births and deaths that become pivotal markers connecting their daily routines. As the seasons pass and harvest cycles repeat, Kevorkian's sensitivity to the underlying tensions of Lebanese-Syrian politics is revealed by the relationships she formed with her subjects. Maria centers these stories as a woman of remarkable resolve. As the years pass and tragic circumstances build, her selfless, compassionate and determined character remains a constant point of hope in this profoundly touching documentary. - AR

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Inspiring + Refugees + Relationships

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CALENDAR GIRLS

MARIA LOOHUFVUD & LOVE MARTINSEN

84 min | Sweden & USA | 2022

Documentary


THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 8 | 2:45 PM

Since 2005, Calendar Girls have shimmied their way into the hearts of Southwest Florida, while raising money for charity. These Calendar Girls have a lot to give to both the community and each other as the challenge notions about retirement, beauty, sexuality, fulfillment, and a woman's place, especially as she ages. These women do it all, from impressive makeup to handmade costumes and elaborate dance routines, with unparalleled enthusiasm and shining personalities, determined to prove that age is just a number. These Calendar Girls move through the challenges and celebrations of older age with laughter and tears, supporting each other as they dance. Their relationships and identities change as new dreams are discovered. Life doesn't end past sixty, it gets more sparkly with fewer cares to what other people think, if you let it. *Calendar Girls* is a life-affirming, coming-of-golden-age, feel-good documentary that shakes up the outdated image of what it means to be an "old lady." - KS

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Dance + Quirky + Glitter

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FASHION REIMAGINED

BECKY HUTNER

100 min | UK | 2022

Documentary


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 8 | 4:00 PM

The fashion industry is renowned for being one of the fastest moving, most polluting industries in the world. In the face of rampant consumerism, it's hard to imagine how any one person could slow it down. And then we meet trailblazing fashion designer Amy Powney of cult label Mother of Pearl. Powney is a rising star in the London fashion scene, but she was also raised off-the-grid in rural England by activist parents. When she wins the coveted Vogue award for the Best Young Designer of the Year, she embarks on a mission to create a sustainable collection from field to finished garment, to transform her entire business. Over the following three years, her own personal revolution becomes the precursor of a much bigger, societal change. *Fashion Reimagined* captures the fashion industry at the point of seismic change, traversing the societal architectures of the super wealthy, and the natural habitats at the mercy of an industry in desperate need of a revolution. - JD

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Progressive + Inspirational + Determined

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FRAMING AGNES

CHASE JOYNT

76 min | Canada & USA | 2022


Documentary

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 6 | 4:00 PM

In 1958, a young trans woman named Agnes entered a study about sex disorders at UCLA to get the gender-affirming care she needed, by any means necessary. Her story was long considered to be exceptional until never-before-seen case files of other patients were found in 2017. Featuring an all-star cast of transgender artists and actors, *Framing Agnes* plays with a retro talk show format and uses re-enactment and genre-blurring storytelling techniques to breathe new life into previously unknown people who redefined gender in the mid-century. The actors reflect on their own experiences and the modern significance of bringing Agnes's, and the other study participants' stories to light, moving seamlessly between conversations, testimony, and analysis to bring this history to life. Agnes' story is one of ingenuity, challenging a system that rejects her experience, while ensuring that she receives the resources she needs. Directed by Chase Joynt (*No Ordinary Man*) and featuring Angelica Ross, Jen Richards, Zackary Drucker, Silas Howard, Max Wolf Valerio, and Stephen Ira. - KS

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Theatrical + History + Identity



GARÇONNIÈRES

CELINE PERNET

90 min | Switzerland | 2022

Documentary

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 7 | 2:45 PM

After three years, and 476 matches with men on dating apps, filmmaker and anthropologist, Céline Pernet questions her relationships, experiences with men, and dating as a millennial. Pernet sets out to understand masculinity for her generation, and to perhaps discover what's messing it all up. Responding to an advert, men aged 30 to 45 years old sit down with Pernet to answer her questions about gender and dating, in a quest as personal as it is societal. Pernet steps in as the driving force of the narrative, as she literally drives around Switzerland to meet the random men who responded to her online ad, and ask them honest and unflinching questions about sex, relationships, and gender, bringing the audience along on her playful quest for answers. *Garçonnières* casts an amused and caring eye that reflects an urgent need to discuss current models of masculinity, and the implications of gender “norms” for us all. - *KS*


Movie Trailer

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Presented by:  Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver

Dating + Gender + Millennials

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GEOGRAPHIES OF SOLITUDE

JACQUELYN MILLS

103 min | Canada | 2022


Documentary

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 3 | 6:30 PM
FEB 9 | 9:00 PM

Best Canadian Feature Documentary - Hot Docs
Best Canadian Feature Documentary - Vancouver International Film Festival

300 kilometres east of Nova Scotia is a sliver of land known as Sable Island, a remote ecological habitat best known for the wild horses that roam free amongst the drifting sands. Accessible by charter plane, only a fortunate few have set foot in this ever changing landscape shaped by Atlantic forces. The lone resident is soft-spoken environmentalist and naturalist Zoe Lucas, who has dedicated her life to measuring all facets of the island, treating it as a living organism. Her keen observation of subtle changes over 40 years is a scientific achievement as much as monastic practice. Lucas' life's work is honored and complemented by filmmaker Jacquelyn Mills' immersive cinematic exploration that transports audiences from the microcosm of a beetle's existence to the wonder of the stars that illuminate this ethereal place. Winner of numerous awards including Best Canadian Feature Documentary at both Hot Docs and Vancouver International Film Festival, *Geographies of Solitude* is an unforgettable work of art that will transport you to another world. - AR

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Biography + Beauty + Environment



KLONDIKE

MARYNA ER GORBACH

100 min | Ukraine | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 4 | 8:30 PM

World Directing Award - Sundance Film Festival
Grand Jury Prize - Seattle International Film Festival

Set in 2014, in the long-troubled region of Donetsk, *Klondike* speaks to current events despite being conceived and created prior to the Russian invasion.


A Ukrainian couple expecting their first child are impacted by the activities of the Russia-backed Donetsk separatist movement. When Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 is destroyed by a separatist missile, debris is strewn over their property, causing damage and exacerbating tensions in the area.

In her submission to the VFF, director Maryna ER Gorbach made the following statement: "As soon as the war started on the border of Russia and Ukraine I can't stop thinking about women and children there. Sure, I cannot stop it, but I can tell the story of my feelings about occupied family, trying to survive whatever. *Klondike* stands against gun machines as mostly unnatural creation of a human. And also ... it is a dream about morning."

Make time for *Klondike*, as rarely are films this timely. - BS

Movie Trailer

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Ukraine + Women + Conflict



MINSK

BORIS GUTS

78 min | Estonia | 2022


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 7 | 4:00 PM

Set amidst the August 2020 protests against the “re-election” of Belarusian strongman Lukashenko, *Minsk* is remarkable for both the style in which it was shot as for the politically charged content. The camera follows young couple Pasha and Yulia, newlyweds who are planning for their first baby in their new apartment. They head out in a friend’s car, expecting a fun night of drinking in Minsk, but they run into a police roadblock that has them running for their lives. Following the action through back alleys, shops, a jailhouse, and apartments, the couple seek to avoid incarceration and hopefully find freedom. This all unfolds in one single, uncut shot. One shot.

The aptly named Belarusian director, Boris Guts, had to shoot *Minsk* in Estonia rather than his native country. Producer Vitali Shkliarov personally lived through the depicted events and spent four months in jail. Those who are fans of the work of Paul Greengrass (*Bloody Sunday*, *Captain Phillips*) or Cuarón’s *Children of Men*, will find many similarities in this tense and courageous work. - BS

Movie Trailer

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Single-Take + Protest + Drama



MY SMALL LAND

EMMA KAWAWADA

114 min | Japan & France | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 4 | 12:30 PM

Amnesty International Jury Award - Berlin Film Festival

Seemingly straight from the headlines comes the story of a young Kurdish girl whose family is seeking asylum in Japan. Saraya (a wonderfully nuanced performance by Lina Arashi) is a young Kurdish woman whose family is applying for refugee status. The family and Saraya do everything right but when the family status is turned down the father is detained for working illegally and all responsibilities fall upon Saraya to support and protect the family.


Emerging director Kawawada does a wonderful job of balancing the film's complex view of life while striving to present social issues with a personal perspective. The film never strays into the territory of cultures clashing, but the unreasonable bureaucratic decisions make it difficult to accept the actions taken by the government. The subtlety of what happens is made even more powerful for it. - *KK*

Movie Trailer

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Presented by:  **University of Victoria** | Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives

Society + Complex + Hope

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NO STRAIGHT LINES: THE RISE OF QUEER COMICS

VIVIAN KLEIMAN

79 min | USA | 2022

Documentary

BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 9 | 9:00 PM

Ahhh, the comics. The reference primarily referred to the Sunday papers but there was a whole other world of edgy fare from Harvey Pekar to Trina Robbins. There is even a great indie film *American Splendor* with Paul Giamatti playing Harvey Pekar, notoriously curmudgeonly, truthy and FUNNY.


No Straight Lines looks at this world from an LGBTQ perspective and introduces us to Alison Bechdel, Jennifer Camper, Howard Cruse, Rupert Kinnard and Mary Wings and these artists have something to say and often in a very comical way.

The underground comic book movement with artists like Robert Crumb (*Fritz the Cat*) got their start in the 1960s. It wasn't until 1973 that the first gay themed comic book came out by a queer artist, Mary Wings. Queer comic books helped make gay lives visible and find a way towards self-acceptance.

No Straight Lines celebrates the genre in this funny and insightful telling of LGBTQ history. - KK

Movie Trailer

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Relevant + Funny + Truthy



BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 10 | 6:15 PM

PART OF THE PACK

ISABELLE GROG & MIKE MCKINLAY

88 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary


Humans with close relationships with wolves and wolfdogs is the subject documented by Vancouver directors Isabelle Grog and Mike McKinlay. We meet three different BC based wolf/human pairings, including one from Victoria. Given that many audiences might not understand the dangerous attraction of being so close to wolves, the film does a great job of allowing the subjects the opportunity to describe that fascination. One of the participants is a rural couple who keep several wolfdogs in pens for “wolf education”, another is a woman who follows and photographs a wild wolf she claims a close relationship with, and the last a young Vancouver woman who has a wolfdog with hip problems.

Ethical questions quickly arise as we meet and begin to personalize the animals. There are some questionable motives, but the filmmakers give time to knowledgeable voices, who offer perspectives that contextualize much of the wolf relationship boosterism. By the time tragedy rears its head, the early hints of the problems with domestic/wild animal hybrids are addressed. The footage of the island wolves is so beautiful and so familiar, this film is sure to have you joining the pack to learn more about these glorious creatures.

Producer Kevin Eastwood previously produced *Haida Modern*, which was the closing night film at VFF in 2020. - BS

Movie Trailer

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Wild + Wolves + Humans



RANGER

AUSTIN PECK

92 min | Kenya | 2021

Documentary


THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 7 | 12:15 PM

In the Maasai communities of rural Kenya, boys become warriors through celebratory ceremonial rites of passage, but girls are largely excluded from any equivalent celebrations of their own journeys into adult identity. In 2019 in the midst of this patriarchal context, a group of 12 women – some escaping poverty and abuse – try out to become East Africa’s first all-female, anti-poaching unit. As the recruits endure tough physical training, they undergo incredible transformations and discover new depths and strengths in themselves. However, it’s learning to tap into their trauma and channel their anger in order to cultivate courage that proves to be most transformative. Ultimately, after a six-month journey of self-discovery, the women create their own ceremonial rite of passage to become guardians of Kenya’s wildlife and go on to recruit and train the next group of women Rangers. - JJ

Movie Trailer

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Girlpower + Africa + Wildlife

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ROBIN BANK

ANNA GIRALT GRIS

80 min | Spain & Germany | 2022

Documentary

BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 10 | 9:00 PM

Is another world possible? Activist Enric Duran thought so and from 2005 - 2008 he borrowed 500,000 Euro from banks with no intention of paying it back. Instead, he gave all the money to social and political causes. As expected, the banks took him to court and when facing imprisonment he vanished.


Director Giralt Gris has always been fascinated by the line between legal and illegal and so begins her search for Duran. Through encrypted messages, reaching out to his friends and even his mother, Giralt Gris tracks him down and a meeting is set. Duran, still a rebel, when asked would he do it again, responds "I would make it bigger". Giralt Gris becomes a character in the documentary, the viewer gets to know her opinions as much as Duran's and alongside that, the questions that remain.

Can we build a democratic money system? You decide. What are you prepared to do to make a change? - *KK*

Movie Trailer

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Larcenous + Heroic + Mystery

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SEXUAL HEALING

ELSBETH FRAANJE

55 min | Netherlands | 2022

Documentary


THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 10 | 12:15 PM

Evelien, spastic from birth and with merely disappointing sexual experiences in her pocket, is taking the first steps on her quest for intimacy. After a lifetime of mostly clinical forms of touch, she sets out to claim sexual pleasure as part of her own experience. During this personal journey, Evelien discovers new parts of her body and self, as she gradually opens to the needs and desires she has been suppressing all her life, having been told sexual touch shouldn't matter due to her disability. Evelien's burgeoning curiosity and fervour clash with deep-rooted self-esteem issues and societal shaming. Still, she confronts her body, her own biases, and considers meeting with an intimate care sex worker. "Is it true that sex makes you more complete?" Evelien's journey illuminates the necessity of intimate contact for every human being and how complex sexual power can be to claim if sex is not part of the conversation. - KS

Movie Trailer

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Nuance + Empowering + Intimacy

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THE ISSUE WITH TISSUE - A BOREAL LOVE STORY

MICHAEL ZELNIKER

125 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary

BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 12 | 6:15 PM


The Issue with Tissue - A Boreal Love Story passionately advocates that elevating Indigenous stewardship is the way forward for the protection of the boreal forest. After starting with a satirical advertisement asking consumers if they prefer recycled or old growth sourced toilet paper, director Michael Zelniker builds the case as to why this is an existential question for all of us. Especially to over 600 Indigenous communities within it, with the help of beautiful footage and interviews with scientists, indigenous leaders, and ecologists. The University of Victoria professor emeritus, Nancy Turner, features.

Michael Zelniker is Cronenberg's accomplished actor who has worked on a variety of films such as Cronenberg's *Naked Lunch* and *The Terry Fox Story*, for which he won a Genie. *The Issue with Tissue* is Zelniker's documentary directorial debut and his second directorial feature film project. - BS

Movie Trailer

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Boreal + Stewardship + Ecology

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Presented by:



TO KILL A TIGER

NISHA PAHUJA

125 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary


BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 9 | 6:15 PM

Amplify Voices Award, Best Film - Toronto International Film Festival

In India, a rape is reported every 20 minutes and conviction rates are less than 30 percent. Against this backdrop is the story of a peaceful rice farmer who, against the odds, stands up with his daughter in their pursuit of justice. Living in a small village, Ranjit awakes one morning to find his 13-year-old daughter has not returned from a family wedding. When she does arrive, he learns that she had been dragged to the woods and raped by three local men. He alerts the police who arrest the suspects, but village politics intervene and the family is pressured to drop the charges and forget the crime. They even suggest she marry one of the rapists in order to preserve the family's reputation. Despite the overwhelming lack of support from their community, they find allies in the Srijan Foundation (an NGO advocating for gender rights), who provide assistance to navigate a system they must challenge every step of the way. With remarkable access and sensitivity, director Nisha Pahuja follows Ranjit and his family through more than a year of trials and threats that could cost them everything, resulting in a remarkable testament to the human spirit that remains steadfast in the face of extraordinary circumstances. - AR

Movie Trailer

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Shocking + Justice + Compassion

Presented by:

TOURNÉE
QUÉBEC CINÉMA

WAITING FOR RAIF

LUC CÔTÉ ET PATRICIO HENRIQUEZ

150 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary

CURRENTS

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 6 | 1:00 PM


Filmed over a period of eight years, *Waiting for Raif* tells the tragic tale of a family torn apart by the Saudi monarchy's intransigence, as it follows Ensaf Haidar's inspiring battle to free her husband, prisoner of conscience Raif Badawi. The documentary offers a privileged and moving look at the personal and political implications of the affair, providing an inside view of the challenges faced by a young refugee mother of three, both in her adopted home of Quebec and on the global stage.

EN ATTENDANT RAIF

Récit tragique d'une famille brisée par l'acharnement de la monarchie saoudienne, *En attendant Raif* suit pendant huit ans le combat inspirant d'Ensaf Haidar pour faire libérer son mari, le célèbre prisonnier d'opinion Raif Badawi. Posant un regard inédit et touchant sur les implications personnelles et politiques de l'affaire, le film observe de l'intérieur les épreuves traversées par cette réfugiée mère de trois enfants, tant au Québec, sa terre d'adoption, que sur la scène internationale.

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Solidarité + Famille + Liberté

FIRST

PRESENTING CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS FILMMAKING.





FIRST

A CEDAR IS LIFE

HAROLD C. JOE & LESLIE D. BLAND

90 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 6 | 5:30 PM

In the latest offering from Orca Cove Media, *A Cedar is Life* is an illuminating and reverent documentary looking at the cedar tree and its place and importance on the Northwest Coast and in the world. We hear from weavers, carvers, and food & cultural practitioners, all who speak to the significance of the cedar historically and into the present day. The cedar tree is embodied spiritually and is central to First Nations cultural practice. We see what has happened to the cedar post-contact mirrors the colonial experience of Indigenous Nations on the coast. The film celebrates the multi-faceted power and cultural use of this life force, but also takes a critical lens to how it has been treated as an extractable object. *A Cedar is Life* is a call to action for all of us to work to maintain our relationship with this rich medicine and resource for future generations. - *BHC*


Movie Trailer

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Presented by:



Ecology + Culture + Spirit

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BONES OF CROWS

MARIE CLEMENTS

124 min | Canada | 2022

FIRST

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 5 | 7:45 PM

Bones of Crows, from Writer/Director Marie Clements, is a monumental and harrowing work that crosses time and space through the eyes of Cree matriarch Aline Spears (played at different points in her life by Grace Dove, Carla-Rae and Summer Testawich.) The film is a story of triumph over the devastating ruptures caused by varied forms of Colonial violence towards a Cree family. We follow Aline from childhood surviving Residential School, to adulthood where she becomes a Cree Code talker during World War 1 and then she becomes a mother herself. She is often confronted with cruel and haunting memories of her past, while still working to heal and fight against the systems that remain in place in the present day. *Bones of Crows* does not shy away from the realities of the church/state agenda, but through the lead character and her family we are reminded of the strength and resilience Indigenous People have shown in the face of attempted systemic erasure enacted by the government and the church. - *BHC*

Colonialism + Resilience + Generations

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STELLAR

DARLENE NAPONSE

87 min | Canada | 2022

FIRST


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 3 | 9:00 PM
FEB 7 | 1:00 PM

Taking place in dive-bar seemingly at the end of the world, *Stellar*, written and directed by Darlene Naponse, is a love story that takes place in an uncertain future, but its main characters She (Elle-Maija Tailfeathers) and He (Braeden Clarke) are steadfast in the energy of the land and waters and language of home. The film veers from a lot of the tropes we see in romantic narratives and places focus on poetic communication, touch and relationships to the land all set with the backdrop of impending mass destruction caused by a falling meteorite. The film is at times pensive and calm, with curious visitors to the bar interspersed throughout that bring their own meaningful and sometimes unwanted interactions with She and He. The film's score is equally spirited and engages us in other dimensions as the world falls apart around us. *Stellar* is a love story in an apocalyptic setting yet is careful not to follow the conventions of those narratives and stands as strong singular work rooted in place and time. - *BHC*

Movie Trailer

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Future + Love + Story

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WE ARE STILL HERE

BECK COLE, DENA CURTIS, TRACEY RIGNEY, DANIELLE MACLEAN,
TIM WORRALL, RENAE MAIHI, MIKI MAGASIVA, MARIO GAOA,
RICHARD CURTIS & CHANTELE BURGOPYNE

90 min | Australia, New Zealand & Pasifika | 2022


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 6 | 6:30 PM

We are Still Here is a heart-stirring collection of 8 short films from 10 Indigenous Director's from Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the South Pacific. As a collection, the films span time over 1000 years and each story touches upon the loss and adversity faced by Indigenous People in these territories from Colonial forces and characters. Each story transcends beyond the trauma narrative and places emphasis on the power of family, community and resistance efforts to ensure a greater survival. A visually compelling element to each film is the surrounding land and water, which have been beautifully captured to show the vast desert lands of Australia and the brilliant forests and water in the Pacific. We also see what could be in store in a dystopian future if the land is not taken care of. Each film stands firmly on its own, but the stories are interwoven in a way to connect them all across the past, present and future. - *BHC*

Movie Trailer

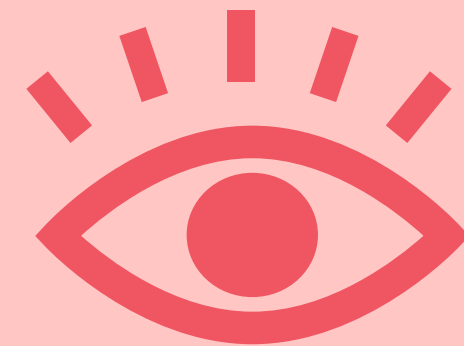
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Indigenous + DeColonize + Survival


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FRONT BURNER: DENMARK

DANISH FILMS ROCK THE VFF WORLD!





Presented by:
 **University of Victoria** | Germanic & Slavic Studies

SPOTLIGHT DENMARK

GODLAND (VANSKABTE LAND)

HLYNUR PÁLMASSON

123 min | Denmark, Iceland, France & Sweden | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 3 | 2:45 PM
FEB 12 | 7:45 PM

Best Feature, Best Cinematograph - Chicago International Film Festival


In the late 19th century, a naïve young Danish priest, Lucas (Elliott Crosset Hove) travels to a remote part of Iceland to build a church and a relationship with its people. From the cross-country journey to the parish to the life in the community, Lucas is totally unprepared, he doesn't speak the language, doesn't ride a horse and he's weighed down by a large camera which he wants to use to photograph the Icelanders.

The film dallies with an examination of language and misunderstandings in an oft times humorous way. While these are delightful diversions the real theme is the discord created by Lucas' arrogance exemplified in his relationship with Ragnar (Ingvar Sigurðsson), the guide. Lucas is dismissive of those around him while claiming to want to know the inhabitants better. Ignoring the bishop's advice of adapting to the locals and their customs, a dynamic is set that will have severe consequences.

Director Pálmason has created a film that is as gorgeous as it is perceptive.
- KK

Movie Trailer
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Dramatic + Gorgeous + Journey

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Presented by:

PRINCE
of
WHALES
Whale Watching

SPOTLIGHT DENMARK

BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 8 | 9:00 PM

INTO THE ICE

LARS OSTENFELD

86 min | Denmark | 2022

Documentary

Jaw-dropping visuals are on display in this dramatic documentary that puts the Greenland ice shield on exhibit. Director Ostfeld doesn't hold back from also revealing the danger of the shield as he follows three scientists, Alan Hubbard, Dorthe Dahl-Jensen and Jason Box, as they travel downward, farther than anyone has gone before towards the centre of the earth to try to collect data on the rate of the melting ice.


Ostfeld captures the sense of being there - the treacherous winds, icy wastelands and immense depths of the moulins, which are vast icy holes without a seeming end. After a day down the moulin, the director is happy to hand his camera over to another as the scientist goes back down.

In the end it's not just an understanding of where we are headed but also where we've been as one scientist brings back a piece of ice that's 5000 years old. It's glorious and thought-provoking filmmaking and science. - KK

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

Climate + Jaw-dropping + Immersive

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THE GREAT SILENCE (DEN STORE STILHED)

KATRINE BROCKS

95 min | Denmark | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 3 | 12:15 PM

New Directors Award - Chicago International Film Festival


Alma (Kristin Kujath Thorp), a young novice is preparing to become a nun and commit herself entirely to God. She's recently acquired a substantial inheritance from her father which Alma donated for chapel repairs. But intrigue is afoot when her brother Erik (Elliott Crosset Hove), fresh out of rehab, shows up at the convent intent on claiming his fair share.

There is a shared past between the brother and sister that takes time to reveal, and Mom doesn't help when she invites Erik to stay with her. The tension and questions will build to a fascinating conclusion.

Danish director Katrine Brocks' first feature builds the reveals as she patiently and precisely navigates the threads of her storyline and, with the help of cinematographer Mia Mai Dengsø Graabæk, creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and suspense. The two lead actors deliver remarkable performances as Thorp balances her delicacy and devotion against Howe's sympathetic but slightly menacing demeanor. - *KK*

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

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Intrigue + Family + Suspense



THE KILLING OF A JOURNALIST

MATT SARNECKI

100 min | Denmark, Czech Republic & USA | 2022
Documentary

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 5 | 4:00 PM


2018 was not a good year for state sponsored murders of journalists. But, while the killing of Jamal Khashoggi only temporarily embarrassed the Saudi theocracy, the murder of Slovakian journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée touched off protests in their homeland that rattled the country and brought down a mafia power structure at the heart of the government. Director Matt Sarnecki delivers a master class in political true crime documentary filmmaking, drawing on his extensive experience as a journalist himself.

Amidst unprecedented public pressure for justice, a source inside the state investigation leaks the secret murder case files to Kuciak's colleagues. The leaks include the full encrypted text messages of the suspected ringleader, a businessman with intimate links to Slovakia's ruling party (and subject of many of Kuciak's investigative pieces). Be prepared to pick your jaw off the floor as incredible facts about this case (and its mafia ties) are unspooled, the blueprint of how an entire state can be corrupted; from the politicians, to law enforcement, to the judiciary. Riveting. - *BS*

Movie Trailer

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Corruption + Mystery + Change

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OLIO

NOT JUST THIS AND THAT BUT ALSO THAT AND THIS.





A LIFE ON THE FARM

OSCAR HARDING

75 min | UK | 2022

Documentary

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 7 | 6:00 PM


When filmmaker Oscar Harding’s grandfather passes away deep in the countryside of rural Somerset, England, he makes a surprise discovery. His grandfather Charles Carson - a farmer - was also a surrealist, amateur filmmaker. On inheriting an extraordinary, feature length home-video, Harding unravels the surprising and rich history of his grandfather’s unconventional, creative life. Behind the daily rituals of running a working farm, Charles was a death-positive artist whose cinematic gaze variously captured the birthing of cows, lawnmower races with skeletons, and even a farmyard re-enactment of ‘Scotland the Brave’. This treasure of a film is an homage to the family archive, and a stark reminder of what could be lost if we don’t look deep down into our own family histories.

A Life on the Farm is a touching, sometimes laugh-out-loud, tribute to the linking thread of artistic expression that can connect family members, and indeed public audiences, through the generations. - *JD*

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Surprising + Surreal + Laugh-out-loud

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CON LOS AÑOS QUE NOS QUEDAN

FRANK ARIZA

105 min | Spain | 2022

OLIO


BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 12 | 9:00 PM

Best Director, Best Feature - New York International Film Awards

Little Macarena and her middle-class family move to Los Angeles from Spain but struggle to make ends meet. Paco, the father, sets up a churro, or pastry, joint (called Churriwood) and Carmen, the mother, becomes a maid and kidnaps dogs for ransom. Years pass by and Macarena ends up studying law. Troubles begin when Paco cheats on his wife with a sex worker that he impregnates. To help the family with the expenses, Macarena agrees to serve as courier (or *mula*) to deliver a mysterious package across the border with Louis, a handsome guy with a shady past whom she just met. Along the way, mayhem ensues when the man Louis was transporting in the trunk of his car is accidentally killed. Macarena and Louis find a clever way to dispose of the body, manage to cross the border and, after enduring more adventures and plot twists that include a chance encounter with Macarena's old girlfriend, she delivers the enigmatic cargo... With a light touch, Ariza makes fun of social types and stereotypes (the migrant, the gigolo, the queer, the American dream, Hispanic food, you name it) to offer a fast-paced comedy of errors that borrows from the road movie, the romantic comedy and the migrant story. - DR

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Quirky + Entertaining + Fast moving



FAMILY MOTTOES

NAGASAWA YOSHIYA

82 min | Japan | 2022

OLIO

BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 11 | 9:00 PM


The producer behind *Big Man Japan* (2007) sits in the director's chair in this dryly comic and delightful Ninja action film. *Family Mottoes* focuses on a retired ninja named Monkey. Monkey's wife Spider is established as an active and very deadly ninja, and they raise their four ninja kids in the forest. After rescuing an amnesiac old man from a sniper, the family finds they have invited trouble that they will need to confront, ninja-style!

Though *Family Mottoes* soundtrack is pulsating 70s string infused orchestral funk, and the film references the visual techniques and themes of the 60s Samurai era, it defies easy categorization, and prefers to look for the laughs in the action and violence. At its core, the film is about the strength of a supportive family working to common ends. Come expecting beautiful period costuming, sentimental music, and a family of skilled martial artists kicking ass side by side in a righteous battle. - *BS*

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Ninja + Surreal + Funky

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HANDSHAKE

ROBERT SHUPE

112 mins | USA | 2021

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 6 | 3:00 PM


Handshake is an American “true indie” film that calibrates its parameters for success very tightly, and then overdelivers in almost every way. A comic crime drama reminiscent in tone to early Coen brothers’ films. Director Robert Shupe’s film is a strange little tale that revolves around the unlikely meeting of two men on a mid-western riverbank, family man Bill Burdick and micro-level drug dealer Devin Fowler. Both men have money troubles, and they swiftly devise a sinister scheme to solve their collective financial woes. But after crimes are committed, the dim-witted Devin soon finds out that perhaps Bill had another plan all along...

Handshake moves along at an enjoyably breezy pace. Shupe displays an abundance of talent with his script and the performances he directs (including himself in the role of hapless criminal Devin). Shupe’s Devin is the constant throughout and given what he seems to be capable of as a writer, director, and actor, we can expect to see much more from him in the future. - BS

Movie Trailer

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Fate + Crime + Punishment

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HAPPY PILLS

ARNAUD ROBERT, PAOLO WOODS

94 min | Switzerland | 2021

Documentary

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 6 | 6:00 PM


Happy Pills is a film about the surge in the use of pharmaceutical drugs worldwide. The film truly approaches the issue with a global mindset, from young fruit-seller in Niger taking Tramadol (a powerful street painkiller), to an American teen turning to Adderall and Ritalin to treat his attention deficit disorder. We are introduced to a young gay man from Tel Aviv, who takes pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) pills as a way to skirt condom use, a swiss man fighting a depression battle chemically, and a young woman from the Peruvian Amazon who injects herself with contraceptives to give herself and her 4 children a better chance. *Happy Pills* wraps with a French intellectual suffering from pancreatic cancer, who is considering Pentobarbital to consciously end his life. All these stories are relatable, humanized, and well considered.

In a space potentially rife with controversies and pitfalls, directors Robert and Woods have decided to take a traditional, non-judgemental documentary approach and allow those whose lives are impacted by “Happy Pills” in different ways to speak for themselves. While there is intention here, this is formally a rejection of the kind of catastrophizing documentary style that dominates many streaming sites. It sounds heavy, but in practice the film is endlessly fascinating, and the great camera work and editing is a helpful “spoonful of sugar”. I am sure those watching it will find themselves reflecting on this film for some time.

- BS

Movie Trailer

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Consumerism + Drugs + Global



RAZZOUK TATTOO

ORIT OFIR RONELL

68 min | Israel | 2021

Documentary

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 8 | 9:00 PM

The oldest tattoo parlor in the world is in Jerusalem. For 27 generations the Razzouk family have been tattooing thousands of people and specializing in tattooing pilgrims who want to commemorate their journey.

The Razzouk Tattoo parlor, located in a small store near the Jaffa Gate, (marked with a wooden sign that reads, Tattoo with heritage since 1300), is run today by Wassim Razzouk, who is from the younger generation.


Wassim, the sole heir of Coptic Christian tattoo artists from Jerusalem, sets out to complete his collection of ancient wooden stencils before they are lost forever. Noble venture perhaps but it turns out that they are in the hands of his feuding family members.

Director Ronell's third movie deals with similar themes of the first two, family. Here we are introduced to quite the collection of characters, a reluctant aunt, a less skillful uncle and the flamboyant cousin. While the story might raise the eyebrows it evolves into a story of tolerance and forgiveness. - *KK*

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Authentic + Revelatory + Heritage

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THE CIVIL DEAD

CLAY TATUM
94 min | USA | 2022


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 7 | 6:30 PM

Lovable if annoying artistic dreamer Clay's significant other Whitney has left him alone in Los Angeles. He has given himself a "sort of" mod haircut, has beer, and is prepared to waste all that time, all by himself.

While out taking pictures for a very theoretical future photography show, he happens upon an old hometown friend, a self-conscious clinger named Whit. As it turns out, Whit is a ghost and Clay is the only person on earth who can see him. Clay and Whit's exploitations of the possibilities for shenanigans of this situation start amusingly, but as some of Whit's ghost powers assert themselves in sinister ways, questions emerge about whether Whit is a "friendly ghost". Actor Robert Longstreet's appearance as a coked-out gambler/movie producer adds a great burst of energy mid-film, and many of the supporting cast really bring it on the day.

Both being Stone Quacker alumni, much of the charm here comes from the tone set by the two leads long developed comedic banter. This is the kind of film you watch with a detached ironic grin on your face until the well-executed moments of emotional poignancy come out of nowhere and some of the hard questions glossed over by the LA slacker talk are suddenly foregrounded. - *BS*

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Slackers + Spooky + Laughs

Presented by:



THE COLOUR OF INK

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

105 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary

OLIO


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 4 | 1:00 PM
FEB 7 | 9:00 PM

Anyone who puts pigments on paper or who loves bold colourful visuals will not want to miss this latest work by *AI Purdy Was Here* director Brian D. Johnson. This NFB produced work documents the inventive work of Toronto ink maker Jason Logan. Logan's inks are custom made and he sources all the ingredients himself. Logan sketches out the history of humanity's creation and use of ink, and how his practice is just another step in a long chain of unlocking the secrets of capturing colour. Watching his alchemical wizardry, combining rare materials to create vibrant colours, true blacks, and even white inks, is somehow extremely satisfying.

Some of the most visually striking scenes involve Logan's clients putting his ink to use. A particularly memorable scene involves the Japanese artist Koji Kakinuma using his black inks to make giant calligraphy. Margret Atwood appears to discuss her use of traditional quill and ink and her feelings about the relationship of tactile writing to memory. Brian D. Johnson and cinematographer Nicholas de Pencier have made a lush visual work that may inspire a resurgence of interest in the analogue and chemical practice of organic ink making. - *BS*

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Colour + Art + Tradition



UNICORN WARS

ALBERTO VÁZQUEZ

80 min | Spain & France | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 9 | 8:30 PM


I would have loved to be a fly on the wall at the meeting when Alberto Vázquez pitched his idea for a society of cute teddy bears organizing themselves into a fascistic military force to attack their enemies – the unicorns! “There will be a great deal of skewing religious fanaticism, a lot of teddy bear and unicorn casualties (like, a lot), and many laughs...”

This film is what would happen if the animation team behind the *Care Bears* made *All Quiet on the Western Front* as a psychedelic comedy. But beneath its mix of brightly coloured bears launching deadly fusillades of heart tipped arrows is an emotionally grounded story of two brothers, the over-confident Bluey and his fearful sibling Tubby, and how their relationship to their mother will impact not only themselves but be a hinge-point in the unicorn wars. This film is deliciously horrifying and hilarious. Come having steeled yourself for no holds barred teddy bear battles! - BS

Movie Trailer

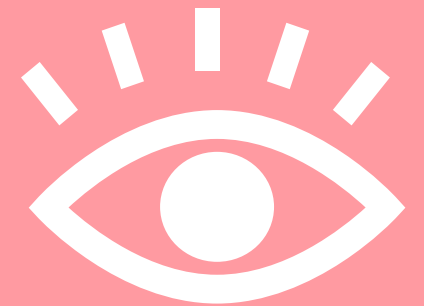
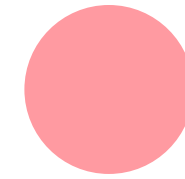
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Animation + Satire + Anti-war

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PULSE

THE VISCERAL BEAT THAT MAKES US... ? HUMAN.





BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND

TREVOR ANDERSON


89 min | Canada | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 7 | 8:30 PM

Robin moves to a rural Alberta town and immediately faces identity questions, including “Are you a boy or a girl?” Director Trevor Anderson navigates gender roles in his debut feature, staging a coming-of-age drama that relishes in its 1987 setting, complete with neon colors and big hair. Robin gets involved with the school bully, and together they provoke each other through middle school drama including band trips to Edmonton, school dances and playground antics. Robin’s single father (Matthew Rankin) is sensitive to his child’s situation, but also faces his own personal and professional dilemmas. Anderson has often played a role in his semi-biographical short films that blend fantasy with reality, and he doesn’t disappoint in his role as a passionate theatre director tasked with the school play. Balancing the complexity of adolescent years with an ensemble cast of adults who appear comfortable in their own skin but are no less socially awkward, *Before I Change My Mind* is a fun and enlightening exploration of familiar characters that doesn’t end with pronouns. - AR

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Drama + 1980’s + Friendship

BROTHER

CLEMENT VIRGO

120 min | Canada | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 7 | 7:45 PM


Clement Virgo's highly anticipated adaptation of the award-winning novel by David Chariandy has been doing the rounds at all the major Canadian festivals since debuting at TIFF, and audiences are talking about the power of this storytelling.

Shifting between the mid-nineties and ten years earlier, the title's brothers Michael (Lamar Johstone) and Francis (Aaron Pierre) are raised by their strict Jamaican born mother in a small apartment, and these time shifts allow Virgo to contextualize the boys later decisions. Their Scarborough housing project world is permeated by violence, with many of older brother Francis's friends involved in gang enforcement. After dropping out of high school, the more popular Francis finds escape and community in the developing hip hop and DJ scene, while the more studious and strait-laced Michael peruses the affections of "the smartest girl in the school" Aisha.

Throughout the film is the two brothers climb a hydro tower to see the Toronto skyline, which serves as an excellent visual metaphor. They keep climbing, but try as they might, will the brothers reach the top and climb out of the poverty, violence, and oppressive policing? Killer soundtrack, great performances, and an assured director delivering a powerful story. This is just solid drama. - *BS*

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Drama + Identity + Family



DAUGHTER OF RAGE

LAURA BAUMEISTER

91 min | Nicaragua | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 7 | 3:00 PM


Maria lives with her mother Lilibeth at the edge of a garbage dump. To make ends meet, the mother plans to sell a litter of puppies, but the deal falls through. Desperate, she drops Maria off at a recycling center where she must stay and work.

Maria fends for herself and tries to make the best out of a bad situation, showing outstanding grit and courage. At the recycling centre, she befriends Tadeo, a sweet boy who makes her stay more bearable. *Daughter of Rage* is the first narrative film by Nicaraguan Laura Baumeister, who shows a glimpse of a troubling side of her country. She also provides an emotional and uncompromising take on topical issues that affect the developing world, such as extreme poverty, child neglect and abuse, and a lack of solidarity and government services. - DR

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Dramatic + Socially Conscious + Gripping

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DRIVING MADELEINE

CHRISTIAN CARION

91 min | France | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 9 | 12:15 PM


Frustrated and stretched thin, Charles is a Paris cab driver who honks with impatience when he arrives at Madeleine's home to pick her up. At 92, she's moving out of her house and into a nursing home all the way across the city. This might be the last time she gets to make a trip like this so Charles reluctantly agrees to stop at some of her favourite spots along the way.

It quickly becomes an engrossing journey as Madeleine slowly reveals her surprisingly dark life story and why each of these places was important to her. Through her honesty and wisdom, she helps Charles find his own footing as he reflects on his home life and a marriage on the brink of divorce.

Famous French singer, Line Renaud, as the bright Madeleine, serves a beautiful foil to Charles, played by comedian Dany Boon, who breaks new ground with a layered performance that develops to a moving climax. Their real-life rapport translates into an unforgettable friendship on-screen in a story about the resilience that hides behind every woman that's grown up through these changing times. - AK

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Gentle + Charming+ Unexpected



HIDDEN LETTERS

VIOLET DU FENG

89 min | China | 2022

Documentary


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 9 | 4:00 PM

Hidden Letters tells the story of two Chinese women trying to balance their lives as independent women in modern China while confronting the traditional identity that defines but also oppresses them. Connected through their love for Nushu – a centuries-old secret text shared amongst women – each of them transforms through a pivotal period of their lives and takes a step closer to becoming the individuals they know they can be. *Hidden Letters* is a film of subtle, but gradually gripping intensity, sneaking up on viewers as they become immersed in the story of women claiming their own dreams and power. - JJ

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Empowerment + Dreams + Secrecy

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JACIR

WAHEED ALQAWASMI

104 min | USA | 2021

BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 7 | 9:00 PM


Jacir is a young refugee of the Syrian war, resettled by the government in Memphis TN, and working in a Middle Eastern restaurant. His co-worker Jerome, a struggling hip hop artist, is discriminated against by the boss, a middle eastern immigrant himself whose daughter Nadia seems to take an interest in helping Jacir adapt to his new environment.

Jacir's neighbourhood is in a depressed part of town, and his neighbour Meryl, portrayed by the *Soprano's* Lorraine Bracco in a standout role, is a Fox News brain-poisoned opioid addict who hurls racist slurs casually his way. Seeking to understand this new American world, Jacir begins to create unlikely relationships while trying to stay out of the grip of Simmons, an ICE agent who suspects Jacir should be deported.

It is impossible to discuss the film without mentioning the heroic performance by Malek Rahbani, who with every look and winning smile has the audience falling deeper in love with his Jacir. Director Waheed AlQawasmi, himself an immigrant from Jordan, gets a lot right with his approach to his characters. No one is written off as a "deplorable" beyond hope. People are complicated, and ethical issues can be nuanced. His use of socially charged hip hop gives this winning drama a gritty charge. - *BS*

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Immigration + Beginnings + Music



MOJA VESNA

SARA KERN

80 min | Australia & Slovenia | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 8 | 8:30 PM


Child actor Loti Kovačič is absolutely electrifying to watch in her portrayal of 10-year-old Moja in Sara Kern's beautifully realized family drama debut.

As the youngest in an immigrant Slovenian family, Moja is witness to her father and sister's deep grief following their move to Australia. Heavily pregnant teen Vesna struggles to deal with imminent motherhood following the death of her and Moja's mother. Father Milo is emotionally absent and in no position to rally his fracturing family. The task falls to little Moja, who tries to fill the missing maternal role. She is surprisingly competent, but the results are mixed, and to see the heroic effort of such a young child are both heartache-inducing and a joy.

A real chemistry is apparent between these sisters, and to see the traumatized slam-poet Vesna being cared for by Moja, who is concerned about things like maternal nutrition in ways Vesna cannot be, is deeply touching. The director's use of improv and repetition with her young actor Loti pays off with one of the best child performances I have seen on-screen. - *BS*

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Family + Grief + Parenting



OF MEDICINE AND MIRACLES

ROSS KAUFFMAN

97 min | USA | 2022

Documentary

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 8 | 12:15 PM

Best Documentary, Best Composer - DOC LA Film Festival


Emily Whitehead is newly diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at age 6. Thrust into the nightmare of the American healthcare system, her parents quickly learn of the difficulty and hardship of being seriously ill in the United States. Academy Award winner Ross Kaufman (*Born into Brothels*), assembles a detailed documentary that focuses on the life of Emily Whitehead, her parents along with their medical team of caregivers.

Oncologist Dr. Carl June, who lost a close family member to cancer, now devotes his life to cancer research. The miracle is his discovery and Emily's journey as their stories converge. All of Dr. June's research and work are on the line when Emily becomes the first child to enroll in his clinical trial.

Kaufman puts together an emotionally compelling narrative, intimate structure, and exquisite cinematic touches that take viewers on a pulse-pounding journey to save a life. Every frame of his film is filled with heart — both in front of and behind the lens. - JJ

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Science + Courage + Fate



OKAY! THE ASD BAND FILM

MARK BONE

75 min | Canada | 2022

Documentary


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 8 | 6:30 PM

Lead guitarist and singer Jackson D. Begley, describes the ASD band as “a group of musicians who are all on the autism spectrum: we’re all autistic and we’re all in a band”. His straightforward explanation understates the magic that this fabulous foursome elicits when they come together. In addition to Jackson, there’s lead singer Rawan who uses make-up and vocal range to express herself; Spenser, their high energy drummer with a love of punk; and finally, piano prodigy Ron who also possesses an impressive talent for knowing the correct day of the week for any date in history. As eclectic as their individual tastes are, it’s their love of music that brought them together to jam. After working out some impressive covers, they decide to take the plunge to write and record original tracks. Guided by their musical director Maury, the band reveals how their personal experiences have shaped their writing, but the looming anticipation of a live show to launch their EP brings another level of stress to a group that has already exceeded so many expectations. - AR

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Inspiring + Rocking + Inclusive

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PARIS MEMORIES

ALICE WINOCOUR

105 min | France | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 6 | 7:45 PM


When Mia dips into an unsuspecting restaurant to avoid the rain, she's caught in a shocking terrorist attack that leaves her conscience shattered. Months later, she's still unable to remember exactly what happened that night and struggles to put the pieces back together.

A support group of survivors meets again at the restaurant every week, and there, she forges a connection with Thomas, recognizing a shared glance from moments before the attack, as he helps her make sense of her place in the events of that night. With its stirring score and tender edit, *Paris Memories* emulates the pensive process of recollection, as Mia recalls sounds, smells, and images that make up fragments of a larger whole. Following the delicate trail of these echoes, she begins a poignant journey around the city – a pilgrimage of sorts – to try and find the man that helped her survive.

While the events of this story ring like a fresh wound for France, director Alice Winocour makes an important point of centering the experience of the victims and their search for solace. It recognizes that community can be borne even out of death and tragedy. A shared traumatic experience bonds the victims together in ways even Mia's closest friends and family can't understand. She's unable to complete the puzzle on her own, and it's the collective memory of the survivors that help her find what she needs. - AK

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Pensive + Supportive + Moving



PENELOPE, MY LOVE

CLAIRE DOYON

88 min | France | 2021

Documentary

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 9 | 3:00 PM


Georges de Beauregard Prize, Renaud Victor Prize - Marseille International Film Festival

Claire Doyon has created an extraordinary portrait of her family ordeals since her daughter Pénélope's autism diagnosis at age three and a half. Unlike many films of this type, Doyon did not have an autism diagnosis and decide to learn filmmaking to become an advocate. Her journey in motherhood started as an already fully realized award winning filmmaker, with feature films which had screened at Cannes, Locarno, Venice, and Clermont-Ferrand... The film making is as strong as the passion behind the creation.

In this affecting film, Doyon uses a mix of DV, stills, Super 8, and HD footage to trace the stages of her and Pénélope's relationship, and their responses to autism over a period of eighteen years. The fact that she moves from diagnosis, to denial, to acceptance and beyond while crafting an honest, nonmanipulative film is really special. Narrating the film herself, Doyon's self-examination of her decisions with appropriate hindsight are illuminating and touching. - *BS*

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Autism + Motherhood + Spiritual



SAVAGE WATERS

MIKEY CORKER

93 min | France | 2022

Documentary


BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE
FEB 7 | 6:15 PM

How far would you go searching for something that may not exist? A 19th century treasure-hunter's journal inspires a captivating journey to seek out and surf a mythical, never-ridden wave in some of the most remote and dangerous waters of the Atlantic Ocean. For renowned skipper Matt Knight, sailing to unpredictable and uncharted regions is impossible to resist. As a lifelong thrill-seeker, he is constantly testing the limits of what's possible, something world-class big wave surfer Andrew Cotton has also built his career on. Along with their equally adventurous family and friends, Matt and Andrew board the beautiful catamaran Hecate and follow clues to this possibly mythical "perfect wave." But not everything goes to plan, with serious injury and life-threatening challenges testing the crew's resilience and attitudes towards risk.

Savage Waters, narrated by the legendary Charles Dance, boasts jaw-dropping cinematography, and follows a remarkable group of adventurers and one extraordinary family of adventurers for whom living life to the full often means putting themselves in harm's way and exhilarating in the thrill together. - JJ

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Adventure + Surfing + Family



SCHÄCHTEN

THOMAS ROTH

93 min | Austria | 2022

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 6 | 12:15 PM

How can life return to normal when you know that the man who sent your family to die in a concentration camp is living a respectable life without consequences in your home country?


It's Vienna 1960s and a trial to prosecute the accused Nazi, Gogl, fails. The political and legal system is still virtually run by former Nazis with large parts of society caught up in the past. Victor, a young Jewish businessman after losing the trial also loses his heartsick father. Victor's faith in the system is broken but so is his belief that attitudes have evolved and so he chooses to find his own moral ground.

Throughout the film the music and cinematography work as a piece and drive the atmosphere which creates a wholeness that grabs your attention to the very end. As Victor closes in on Gogl we are spellbound in a profoundly woven psychological drama set in the stunningly beautiful snow-covered Austrian countryside. - *KK*

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Thriller + Post-War + Justice

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SHE IS LOVE

JAMIE ADAMS

82 min | UK | 2022


THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 9 | 2:45 PM

Patricia (Hayley Bennett) hasn't seen her ex-husband for over a decade. In their time apart, her brash and somewhat self-absorbed character has flourished, untempered. One night, she arrives at a country hotel in Cornwall, only to discover it is run by the girlfriend (Marisa Abela) of her former husband, Idris (Sam Riley). Things are immediately, and unsurprisingly, awkward. Patricia's abrasive character quickly disrupts the gentler ambiance of Idris' new life, as the pain of past memories and traumas are re-earthed. When the hedonism of Idris's former musician's lifestyle threatens to re-surface, tensions between the reluctant trio begin to mount over a long, messy evening. Adams' direction and work with actors is unconventional, fostering an organic approach to plot development in collaboration with his cast. The result is a romantic drama that unfolds with a spirit of aliveness and natural rhythm, exploring the possibility of new beginnings when confronted with the past. - *JD*

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Natural + Dramatic + Involving

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THE DAMNED DON'T CRY

FYZAL BOULIFA

110 min | Morocco, Belgium & France | 2022


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 6 | 9:00 PM

Fyzal Boulifa, a British director of Moroccan descent, has created a unique film about sexuality and queerness in an Islamic majority country. The story of a precarious former Moroccan sex worker Fatima-Zahra and her son Selim are given a lot of context by the director, being filtered through a class-conscious, post-colonial lens. Seeking to out-run her past and give them both a new beginning, Fatima-Zahra moves with Selim to Tangiers, looking for opportunity. Their mother-son relationship is volatile, and each new stress they encounter puts their strained and transactional relationship in jeopardy.

When a local criminal offers Selim a way to make money by being “friendly” with a wealthy Frenchman whose eye Selim has caught, Selim must make choices not unlike like those his mother once made. For those caught in precarious situations, are they even choices? Fatima-Zahra meanwhile makes a play for respectability by trying to become the second wife of a bus driver she has met. A fascinating film, and an adept and entertaining character study. The interactions between the wealthy western gay homeowner and Selim are particularly interesting in their interrogations of colonial legacy, and what the personal costs of homosexual relationships are to each of them in Moroccan society. - *BS*

Movie Trailer

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Precarious + Family + Class



Presented by:



Consolato Generale d'Italia in Vancouver

PULSE

THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS

FELIX VAN GROENINGEN, CHARLOTTE VANDERMEERSCH

147 min | Italy, Belgium & France | 2022

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 5 | 1:00 PM
FEB 9 | 1:00 PM

Jury Prize - Cannes Film Festival


In the summer of 1984, Pietro's family rents a house high up in the mountains for a vacation. There, by a twist of fate, he meets Bruno, the only other child in the village, and the two become fast friends.

Over the next 20 years, the two fade in and out of each other's lives until a tragedy reunites them as grown men. Pietro begins to realize that Bruno is deeply intertwined with not only his family, but also his aspirations. With nothing to do over the summer, Bruno suggests they rebuild a dilapidated Alpine shack that holds special significance to their past, and the two only become further entangled in each other's lives. With Pietro born a city boy and Bruno having spent his life working in the mountains, the two contend with one another, all the while helping each other through the turbulences of life.

Their story chronicles the kind of friendship we're lucky to experience once in our lives. It's a bond forged by matter so deep that we're afraid, and sometimes simply unable, to articulate it. It might seem impossible to faithfully express to someone else what a friendship like this meant to us. *The Eight Mountains* shows us how we can try. - AK

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

Buy your » 
ticket here

Stirring + Sprawling + Vistas



THE END OF SEX


SEAN GARRITY

87 min | Canada | 2022

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 5 | 8:30 PM
FEB 8 | 3:00 PM

Josh and Emma are a comfortably married couple looking to re-ignite a lost intimacy while their kids spend a week at sleepaway camp. Under the combined pressure of parenting and adulthood, their marital routine has put them in a sexual slump, so they take some provocative steps over seven days hoping to bring back that loving feeling and spice things up in the sack. With the clock ticking, they initiate some increasingly misguided encounters that are hilarious and often profoundly honest. Sharing their insecurities and seeking advice from friends and co-workers, Emma and Josh might just get to the naked truth of what they really want from their relationship. Director Sean Garrity reteams with stars Emily Hampshire (*Schitt's Creek*) and Jonas Chernick in this follow up to their 2012 hit *My Awkward Sexual Adventure*, with Hampshire and Chernick resuming their on-screen chemistry, making this rom-com a laugh out loud look at modern marriage. - AR

Sex + Comedy + Marriage

Buy your »
ticket here 



THE YEAR OF THE DOG

ANDREW MCGINN, MICHAEL PETERSON, ROBERT GRABOW

96 min | USA | 2022

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 9 | 6:30 PM

It is unusual for a film to have two directors, let alone three, but this heartfelt film about an alcoholic getting sober feels locked on target, and the result of a singular focus.


Matt (director Robert Grabow) is an alcoholic who has hit rock bottom. Given the opportunity to see his dying mother in hospice if he can maintain sobriety for 30 days, he is given a fortuitous jumpstart: being thrown in the drunk tank. With 2 days of enforced sobriety under his belt, Matt takes refuge at his AA sponsor Fred's (*Reservation Dog's* Jon Proudstar) Montana farm and finds support, wisdom, and new friend: a stray dog he names Yup'ik. This leads to Matt's discovery of dog snow pulling (a kind of competitive weightlifting for dogs) and a new hope that perhaps he can succeed where he has failed so many times before.

Anchored with fine performances, with many prolific Indigenous American actors in the cast, this is a film that pulls above its weight. Though set amidst a chilly Montana winter, this is one intended to warm the heart. - *BS*

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

Alcoholism + Recovery + Connection

Buy your » 
ticket here



WHEN MORNING COMES

KELLY FYFFE-MARSHALL

91 min | Canada | 2022


THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 10 | 2:45 PM

After being suspended from his elementary school because of a fight, Jamal cannot convince his widowed mother Neesha that it's not the beginning of more troubles to come. Despite her sadness to be separated from Jamal after losing her husband, she feels the only way to protect her rambunctious son and provide him with a better future is to send him to live with his grandmother in Canada. Not wanting to leave everything he knows and loves about his home in Jamaica behind, Jamal runs away, spending the next few days with his best friend Deshane, hanging with a girl he's got a crush on and visiting his father's grave. Bathed in warm hues of island sunshine, Jamal's adventures construct an authentic view of this Caribbean nation that's been often mythologized by outsiders. With her highly anticipated feature debut, Kelly Fyffe-Marshall composes a loving portrait beautifully rooted in place that immerses viewers in a fully realized Jamaica seen through a young boy's eyes. - AR

Movie Trailer

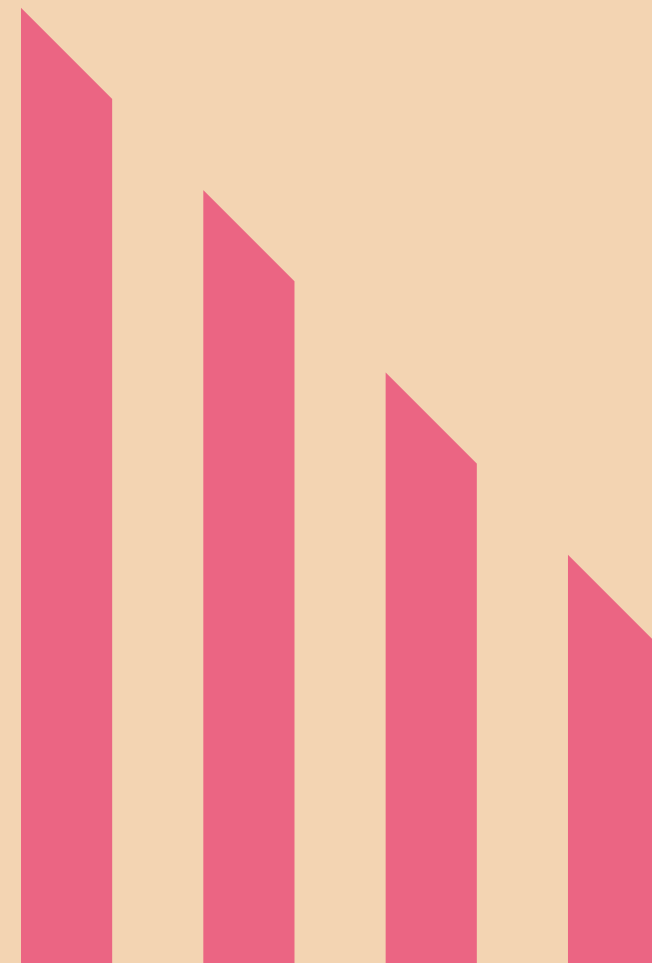
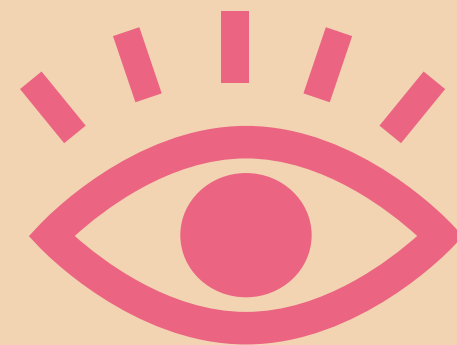
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Childhood + Community + Jamaica

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TINGLE

SOMETHING TO MAKE THE EYEBROWS GO UP.
SCI-FI, MYSTERIES & THRILLERS





Presented by:



CONFESSIONS

LUC PICARD

109 min | Canada | 2022

TINGLE

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 4 | 6:00 PM


Confessions is a thriller adapted from the documentary book *Gallant: Confessions d'un tueur à gages*. *Confessions* tells the story of one of the most prolific hitmen of our time. With twenty-eight murders and fifteen attacks, most of them on the top brass of the Hells Angels, the mafia and organized crime, Gérald Gallant astonishes and confounds. Gallant is also a police informer and does not hesitate to sell out those around him. How did this little stuttering man with poor health and a low IQ, living with his pious and generous wife in a clean house in the heart of a quiet neighborhood, manage to outwit both the most hardened criminals and the smartest police officers?

~

Confessions est un suspense adapté du livre documentaire *Gallant: confessions d'un tueur à gages*. *Confessions* raconte la vie de l'un des tueurs à gages les plus prolifiques de notre époque. Avec vingt-huit meurtres et une quinzaine d'attentats, pour la plupart des hauts gradés des Hells Angels, de la mafia et du crime organisé, Gérald Gallant étonne et dérouté. Gallant est aussi indicateur de police et n'hésite pas à vendre ceux qui l'entourent. Comment ce petit homme bègue à la santé fragile et au QI modeste, vivant avec son épouse pieuse et généreuse dans une maison propre au cœur d'un quartier tranquille, a-t-il su déjouer tant les criminels les plus endurcis que les policiers les plus futés ?

Movie Trailer

≈ [click here](#)

Buy your » 
ticket here

Tueur à gage + Enquête + Crime



ENYS MEN

MARK JENKIN

91 min | UK | 2022

TINGLE


THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 8 | 7:45 PM

Visionary British auteur Mark Jenkin returns with a second feature after his ground-breaking debut *Bait* which became a breakthrough success in 2019. Revisiting the Cornish coastline in southwest England with his distinctive craft-led approach, Jenkin continues his exploration of rural landscapes, this time in the form of a mysterious horror. In 1973, on an uninhabited island, a solitary woman (Mary Woodvine) spends her days entranced by a study of wildflowers, noting their subtle daily changes in her log book. Alongside her ritualised observations, she becomes increasingly unsettled by a mounting series of nightmarish visitations, forcing both her and viewers to question whether the landscape is not only alive, but also a sinister sentient force. Like *Bait*, *Enys Men* is shot on grainy 16mm. This eerie film conjures works of classic British folk horror (think *The Wicker Man*, *A Field in England*), but it is uniquely unnerving in its creeping strangeness. - JD

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

Scary + Disquieting + Vintage

Buy your » 
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INFLUENCER

KURTIS HARDER

92 min | USA & Canada | 2022

TINGLE


CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 4 | 9:00 PM

A tropical thriller that focusses on those who monetize the posting of their likes, their meals, and their lives, the titular “influencers”. When we meet Madison (Emily Tennant), she is presented in the way her online followers would know her: delivering “live in the moment” platitudes from the beautiful Thailand resort she is streaming from. But Madison’s life isn’t all beachfront product placement and poolside philosophizing. While pondering her boyfriend bailing on the trip, she meets CW (*Snowpiercer’s* Cassandra Naud), a fearless and enigmatic traveller who offers to show her some of the most Instagram-worthy locales. However, CW’s interest in Madison is not motivated by friendliness, but something sinister.

Influencer’s Vancouver based director, Curtis Harder, delivers a clever thriller with flourishes of horror and social commentary. Cassandra Naud is entrancing when she unleashes her inner coldblooded, manipulative sociopath, and the tight script keeps the twists coming. Thailand’s beaches, temples, and islands are given a lot of play and the camera crew certainly earned their pay with so many of the beautifully set-up shots. *Influencer* asks interesting questions about the nature of social media without losing sight of the fact it is a thriller, and in its taut 92 minutes it delivers plenty of thrills. - BS

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

Buy your »
ticket here 

Thriller + Thailand + #SocialMedia



RELAX, I'M FROM THE FUTURE

LUKE HIGGINSON


108 min | Canada | 2022

TINGLE

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 6 | 8:30 PM

Casper (Rhys Darby of *Our Flag Means Death*) is a charming time traveller from the distant future who lands in the present day with the purpose to document our current situation for future generations. What begins with a science fiction premise quickly turns into a buddy comedy when Casper meets Holly (Gabrielle Graham), a queer punk rocker who quickly realizes she could financially improve her life with Casper's knowledge of what's to come. Beyond his new found friend, Casper seeks out Percy (Julian Richings), currently employed at a diner, but his artistic talents will one day change world events. To be expected, Casper creates chaos with the 4th dimension and attracts the unwanted attention of Doris, a no nonsense future cop, who is committed to eliminating Casper and fixing the space-time continuum. Director Luke Higginson expands the premise of his short film to bring a lighthearted perspective to time travel tropes, while Darby makes the most of his improbable hero confronting the end of the world. - AR

Offbeat + Comedy + Feelgood

Buy your »
ticket here 



THE BANALITY

MICHAEL STEVANTONI, STRACK AZAR

78 min | USA | 2022

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 4 | 6:30 PM


An American supernatural thriller with a local connection. Co-writer/director Michael Stevantoni grew up in Campbell River and developed his filmmaking chops on the island before making the move to Hollywood. He returns bearing cinematic gifts in this taut film about strange goings-on in a small southern town.

Father Moss (*Stranger Things*' Sherman Augustus) is a troubled priest whose connection to his faith is on shaky ground. Following a local boy's death, he is called upon to council the parents who are part of his flock. The boy was known in town as "the Feral Boy" due to his being discovered in the woods as a child. As questions surrounding the death are investigated by Moss and other members of the community, the Father begins to make connections between his nightmarish visions and "Feral Boy's" passing. Spooky stuff incoming!

High points of this well-crafted film include great dialogue, interesting southern character portraits, great soundtrack, measured pacing, and cinematography that really showcases its delta locations. Reminiscent of John Sayles' use of a "community as character", a multitude of townspeople are involved in the gradual unfolding of the mystery. All I can say about the finale is - I did not see that coming! - BS

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

Buy your » 
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Mystery + Community + Faith



Presented by:



THE INHUMAN (L'INHUMAIN)

JASON BRENNAN

85 min | Canada | 2022

TINGLE

CAPITOL 6 | THEATRE 5
FEB 5 | 9:00 PM


Mathieu is a brilliant neurosurgeon whose perfect life is falling apart. Impending divorce, job loss, substance abuse, and a mid-life crisis are all factors that can cause him to go off the rails. In addition, the sudden death of his father forces him to return home to Anishinaabe territory, a place he has tried to avoid since his youth. Nevertheless, Mathieu agrees to go and deposit his father's ashes in the heart of their ancestral territory and wishes to find himself at the same time. The break away from the city promises to be a nice getaway until Mathieu realizes that he is now the prey of an evil creature known as the Wendigo. Mathieu's pilgrimage quickly becomes an unimaginable nightmare that will change him forever. Like it or not, our vices always catch up with us eventually.

~

Mathieu est un brillant neurochirurgien avec une vie professionnelle et personnelle en chute libre. Divorce imminent, perte d'emploi, abus de substances, la crise de la quarantaine provoque toute une dérapage. De plus, le décès soudain de son père le force à retourner chez lui en territoire Anishinabe, un lieu qu'il tente d'éviter depuis sa jeunesse. Néanmoins, Mathieu accepte d'aller déposer les cendres de son père au cœur de leur territoire ancestral et souhaite du même coup se retrouver. L'escapade loin de la ville s'annonce comme une belle pause jusqu'au moment où Mathieu réalise qu'il est maintenant la proie d'une créature maléfique connue comme étant le Wendigo. Le pèlerinage de Mathieu devient rapidement un cauchemar inimaginable, qui le changera à jamais. Qu'on le veuille ou non, nos vices finissent toujours par nous rattraper.

Movie Trailer

[≈ click here](#)

Buy your » 
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Wendigo + Origine + Deuil



Presented by:



VIKING

STÉPHANE LAFLEUR

104 min | Canada | 2022

TINGLE

ODEON | THEATRE 2
FEB 5 | 3:00 PM

The Viking Society is recruiting volunteers to collaborate on the first manned mission to Mars. The goal is to form a B-team of alter egos who will live the adventure in parallel, behind closed doors on Earth, in the hope of remotely solving the interpersonal problems encountered by the five real astronauts who will soon land on the red planet. The film tells the story of how David, a physical education teacher, seizes this opportunity to rekindle his dream of becoming an astronaut and perhaps make a difference. Somewhere between unlikely science fiction and modern allegory, *Viking* is a dramatic comedy about the gap between our aspirations and reality.


~

La Société Viking recrute des volontaires pour collaborer à la première mission habitée sur Mars. L'objectif est de former une équipe B d'alter ego qui vivra l'aventure en parallèle, en huis clos sur Terre, dans l'espoir de régler à distance les problèmes interpersonnels rencontrés par les cinq véritables astronautes qui se poseront bientôt sur la planète rouge. Le film raconte comment David, professeur d'éducation physique, saisit cette opportunité pour raviver son rêve de devenir astronaute et peut-être faire une différence. Quelque part entre la science-fiction improbable et l'allégorie moderne, *Viking* est une comédie dramatique sur les décalages qui existent entre nos aspirations et la réalité.

Movie Trailer

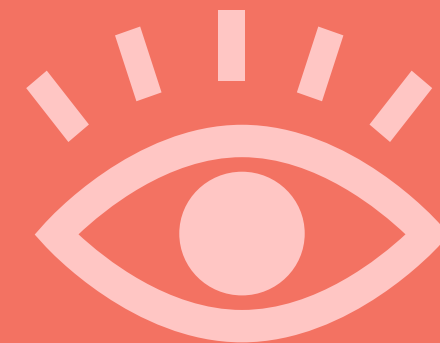
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Astronauts + Interpersonal + Aspiration

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SHORT BURSTS

ENERGETIC PROGRAMMES OF SHORT FILM AND
NEW VOICES. ON A BOAT. 'CAUSE WHY NOT.



STRANGE WORLDS

IMAGINE IF YOU WILL, A COLLECTION OF SHORT FILMS FOCUSED ON WORLDS WHERE THE BIZARRE AND UNCANNY ARE THE NORM; WHERE DISSIDENTS ARE MODIFIED TO EXHALE SMOKE, AND PEOPLE REINCARNATE AS REPTILIA ... OR DO THEY?

71 min



PRINCE OF WHALES
FEB 8 | 7:30 PM

SHORT BURSTS

The Temple | Alain Fournier | Quebec | 2022 | 18 min

The crew of a German U-boat on a mission in the North Atlantic witness strange phenomena on board. After an inexplicable explosion in the engine room, the submarine slowly sinks to the abyssal depths, while madness decimates the submariners in this animated adaptation H.P Lovecraft.

One of Those Good Lives | Joseph Carney | Vancouver | 2022 | 8 min

When Steve is hit by a truck, he awakens in a cavernous and decaying opera house. There he meets The Ticket Taker, a shape shifting bureaucrat of death who explains that Steve must be sent back to perform one influential act before enjoying a life of guaranteed privilege and luxury. Steve must decide whether or not to uphold a status quo that benefits only him.

Nafas Nakesh (Don't Breathe) | Milad Nasim Sobhan | Iran | 2022 | 15 min

To exert more tyranny and suppression, the ruling power has done something to its dissenters that they exhale smoke when they breathe, and the agents must take into custody such people wherever they find them. Unaware of the law, a man meets one of the dissenters and it changes the course of his life, until he decides to immigrate to a better land with the dissident for a better life.

Once Upon a Time | Athena Russell | BC - Canada | 2022 | 5 min


Told through the lens of a fairytale, a young girl shares the realities of living with an alcoholic parent.

Year of the Tortoise | Connor Gaston | Victoria | 2022 | 12 min

A young woman sets out to prove to her sister that their mother has reincarnated as a tortoise.

Nude | Olivier Labonté LeMoyne | Quebec | 2022 | 14 min

An ordinary young couple find an isolated place to park their car and love each other away from prying eyes. At least that's what they believe. Deep in the forest, their intimacy will be the scene of an unsettling encounter between sensuality and horror.

Buy your » 
ticket here

THINGS FALL APART

SHORT FILMS WITH THEMES OF DISFUNCTION, BREAK-DOWN,
AND TIMES WHEN “THE CENTER CANNOT HOLD”.

85 min

PRINCE OF WHALES
FEB 9 | 7:30 PM



The Vacation | Jarreau Carrillo | USA | 2022 | 10 min

In Flatbush, Brooklyn, four friends are stuck in their car after it breaks down on the way to the beach on the last day of the summer.

Empty Spaces | Lukas Hanulak | Victoria | 2022 | 17 min

Debbie returns home to console sister Aiden after the loss of their father. Wounds of a family dealing with alcoholism and the secrets it harbors are exposed.

The Red Suitcase | Cyrus Neshvad | Luxembourg | 2022 | 18 min

An Iranian teenager decides to take off her Hijab in a life changing situation.

My Name is Arnold | Arnold Lim | Victoria | 2022 | 16 min

A Korean-Canadian boy struggles adapting to his new life after moving with his single mother to a small, rural BC Community in the early 1990's.


Great Seeing You | Holly Pruner | Canada | 2022 | 12 min

As a close friendship fades, the root cause elusive, Maisie fights for the bond she shared to the point of delusion.

Hatchback | Riley Sugars | Australia | 2022 | 12 min

Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards (AACTA) Nominated - Best Short Film (2022)

Vince attempts to dispose of a dead body for the mob, but when he reluctantly enlists the help of his dim-witted brother-in-law Ted, things don't go to plan.

Buy your » 
ticket here

INDIGENOUS VOICES

A SELECTION OF SOME OF THE BEST SHORT FORM STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES FROM INDIGENOUS FILMMAKERS.

90 min

PRINCE OF WHALES
FEB 10 | 7:30 PM



SHORT BURSTS

TEMOSEN | Erynne Gilpin, KL Peruzzo | Canada | 2022 | 24 min

Charles Elliott (TEMOSEN) is a renowned Coast Salish artist from Tsartlip First Nation, whose carving practice is embedded in intergenerational knowledge, imagination and resistance. Beyond his exemplary work and mastery, Charles is also a loving father, husband and pillar of cultural strength, dignity and grace. The film explores the meaning and practice of Coast Salish artwork in relationship to inter-generational resurgence, storytelling and traditional governance practices.

SAVJ | Tank Standing Buffalo | Canada | 2022 | 7 min

In this animated short Tank, the eldest of eight siblings, grapples with the memory of the moment his family was torn apart. Foraging for survival alone in a forest, the children fear a dangerous force. But what lurks in the darkness is true evil. Narrated by Corey Feldman. Yes, that Corey Feldman.

Our Way | Laura Fontaine, Yasmine Fontaine | Canada | 2021 | 6 min

Two young Innu women take up the old roads of the past to revive the identity of their Nation; a tribute to the Elders, the territory, and the Innu people.

Last Hawaiian Sugar | Deja Cresencia Bernhardt | USA | 2021 | 23 min

Last Hawaiian Sugar is a short drama set on the final remaining sugar cane plantation camp on Maui. NUA, twelve years-old, Samoan, identifies with the world through her intensely spiritual connection she has with the land. She is the product of this immigrant camp that 'Big Sugar' brought here to work these fields. On the very day Nua learns the mill is closing she struggles to tell her mother about the abuse she suffers. When her mother isn't able to hear her cries for help Nua resolves to sabotage the final sugarcane burn as she prepares to say goodbye to the only home she's ever known.

Brother Rick | Elton Hubner | Canada | 2022 | 15 min


A documentary exploration of how a member of the Quw'utsun First Nation is bringing people of different backgrounds and generations together as brothers and sisters.

Mysterious Lines | Bryan CooCoo | Canada | 2021 | 3 min

Aski Masinikan is the first experiment to tell the story of the mysterious lines on the plateau of the former reservation site, near Wemotaci. The film asks an elder the question: What would be the origin of these mysterious lines?

Meet The Sky | KJ Edwards | Canada | 2021 | 15 min

Two sisters travel to a reservation to learn about Kanien'kehá:ka culture. Due to the progression of her illness, Andie intends to live out her days there. Mel, on the other hand, rejects both the truth about Andie's diagnosis and the importance of bringing ceremony into their lives.

Buy your » 
ticket here

LOVE & HAPPINESS

IT'S ALL LOVE... FAMILY LOVE, LOVE BETWEEN FRIENDS, ROMANTIC LOVE, AND LEARNING TO LOVE YOURSELF.

91 min

PRINCE OF WHALES
FEB 11 | 7:30 PM



Queen Of Your Heart | Patricia Pepen | Spain | 2022 | 14 min

La Mami is a Drag Queen. At the end of her show she seeks to relieve her loneliness with the boy she likes, a heterosexual delivery man whom she calls from time to time. This time she has summoned the courage to declare her love for him, even if it means losing him forever.

My AI Lover | Chouwa Liang | Australia | 2022 | 16 min

Three Chinese women develop their romantic relationships with artificially intelligent virtual partners IRL.

Tabanca | Lauren Marsden | Canada | 2022 | 12 min

Dampened by office life during a wet Vancouver winter, a genderqueer Trinidadian woman, Marlinn, misses out on the chance to celebrate Carnival season back home. Until, one night, they discover that the power of masquerade is within them no matter where they are.

Blood Buddies | Suzanne Marie Moreau | Victoria | 2021 | 13 min

A nerdy and anxious 'tween feels wonky about craft camp. Her classes are not the ones she chose, her tummy aches, and her best friend dumps her. But new friends open up possibilities that help her accept the inevitable changes in life, and to accept herself.

The Fix | Emilio Miguel Torres | USA | 2022 | 11 min


A working, single mother is forced to call her absent father for a last minute babysitting request.

A Motorcycle Saved My Life | Lori Lozinski | Canada | 2022 | 12 min

Director Lori Lozinski documents her past and learns to live with grief as she traverses the open road.

Good Times and That's Okay | Amanda Kaye | Australia | 2022 | 13min

A 70-year-old closeted woman has to confront her faith as she learns what true love is from a sex worker named Destiny.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

IN CONVERSATION WITH... PAUL SCHRADER

BRINGING FILM TO LIFE... AN ART EXHIBIT

SIPS 'N' CINEMA

JAMMIES & TOONS

CINEVIC NIGHT

FILMCAN & CINEKIDS

SPRINGBOARD — INDUSTRY EVENT

IN CONVERSATION WITH... PAUL SCHRADER

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 4 | 5:30 PM | THE VIC THEATRE

Raging Bull. Taxi Driver. American Gigolo.


How many times have you watched these masterpieces? All were written by one remarkable man.

Affliction, First Reformed and his latest *Master Gardener* show Schrader not only as writer but also director. Schrader's creativity will stand the test of time.

Join us for an evening of conversation with Paul Schrader hosted by Richard Crouse.



Screenwriter and director Paul Schrader was born on July 22, 1946, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned his B.A. from Calvin College, then his M.A. from UCLA, while working as a film critic and writing *Transcendental Style in Film*. He attended the inaugural class at AFI. He has written or directed over thirty films, including four collaborations with Martin Scorsese. The first, *Taxi Driver*, won the Palme D'Or at Cannes Film Festival. In 1978, he directed his first film, *Blue Collar*. Schrader's catalog of film includes *American Gigolo*, *Cat People*, *Mishima* and *Affliction*. In 2019, Schrader was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for *First Reformed*, which he also directed.

Buy your » 
ticket here



Interviewer: Richard Crouse

Richard Crouse is the regular film critic for the 24 hour news source CTV's News Channel and CP24. His syndicated Saturday afternoon radio show, *The Richard Crouse Show*, originates on News Talk 1010 in Toronto. He is also the author of ten books on pop culture history including *Who Wrote the Book of Love*, the bestselling *Raising Hell: Ken Russell and the Unmaking of The Devils* and *Elvis is King: Costello's My Aim is True*.

BRINGING FILM TO LIFE... AN ART EXHIBIT

ATRIUM LOBBY @ 800 YATES ST.

FEB 3 – 12

We are once again hosting an art exhibition in The Atrium during the Film Festival. This year our theme is Bringing Film to Life. The Exhibition reflects the current work of emerging artists with a distinctive and perhaps even peculiar sense of the world. In essence, 10 artists agreed to create three-dimensional works no smaller than 2' X 2'. Key materials used had to include a film poster and film strips. To select the artists, we collaborated with Haus of Owl (HOO), a co-working club for creators. Haus of Owl exists to support the creative spirit, hunger, and process of artists in the world of music, film, fashion, photography and dance.

The VFF has always been interested in the intersection of film and visual arts and has hosted an annual art exhibit since 1999. This year the brief is to create 'something else' from materials not traditionally used for the purpose while incorporating a sense of bringing film to life. Using a transdisciplinary approach, the artists selected an individually suitable form and without adhering to any form of stylistic uniformity created objects. The brief also required incorporating another sensory element: audio, scent, or tactile that represents the poster subject matter.



These are the 2023 Artists whose work will be on view at the Atrium.

Carlos Fernando Arcia

Jordan Dack

Delaney Lyngard

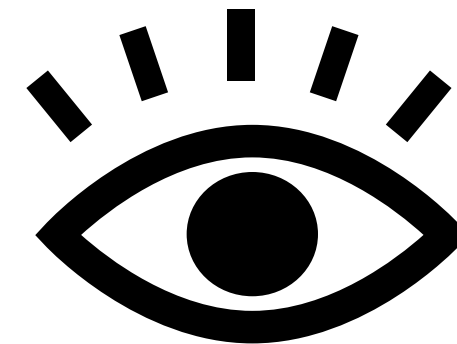
Eric Hinch

Georgia Tooke

Ross Alexander Whelan

Jacob Insley

Victoria Clements



SIPS 'N' CINEMA

FEBRUARY 11

FILM | 12:15 PM | THE VIC

SIPS | 2:15 PM | THE MINT

You know how you have an opinion about every movie you see? This is an opportunity to mellow out with a cocktail and some nosh and then speak your mind. You know you wanna!


Catch *The Golden Years* and then enjoy an opportunity for discussion with Festival Screener Tony Ruffolo at The Mint. This is a social event for those who would like to take a deeper dive into the film they just saw and share their thoughts. There will be complimentary drinks and light food to heighten the experience.

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY.

Ticket price includes film, food, drink and facilitated discussion. Must be 19 years or older to participate.

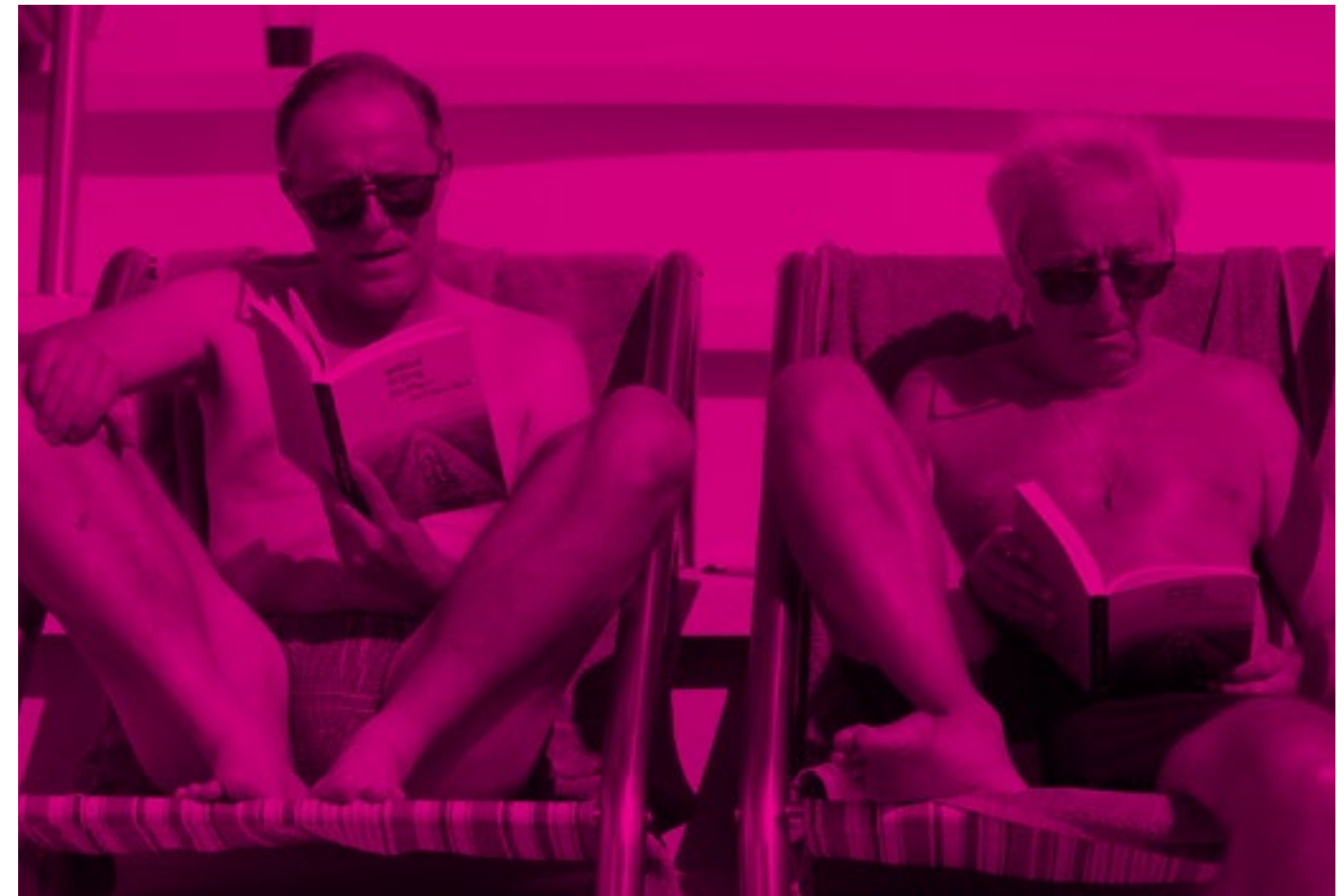


FILM

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ticket here 

THE GOLDEN YEARS | 12:15 PM | THE VIC THEATRE

A jeroboam of whisky and a red balloon, and with that so begins Peter's retirement. Peter is not alone on this next stage. Alice, his partner of 42 years, is hoping to reconnect in the next stage of life. Their daughter provides the means when she gifts them a cruise vacation.





JAMMIES & TOONS

Stay in your pajamas for a fun time at The Vic. There is cereal for the kids and coffee for the adults. Or is it the other way around?

THE VIC THEATRE
FEB 12 | 11:30 PM

POUPELLE OF CHIMNEY TOWN

YUSUKE HIROTA

101 min | Japan | 2022

In English

Feature Rated PG - VFF membership not required

Based on the popular children's book by Akihiro Nishino.

Yusuke Hirota's debut *Poupelle of Chimney Town* is the story of young Lubicchi and a man made of garbage, Poupelle. Living among the thick smoke from the chimneys of his isolated town, Lubicchi yearns to see the "stars" - to know the truth - his father always told him about. Spectacularly beautiful, *Poupelle of Chimney Town* is filled with inspiring performances, splendid music and sound effects. Produced at Tokyo's famed STUDIO4°C, this astonishing film will bring tears, laughter, and joy.


Presented by: **FERNWOOD**

COFFEE COMPANY
VICTORIA, BC, CANADA

Movie Trailer

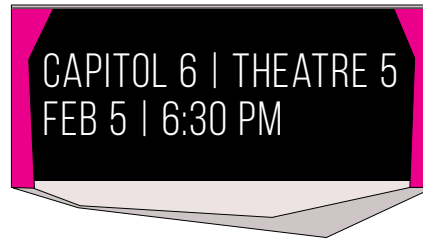
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Steampunk + Adventure + Aspiration

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CINEVIC SCREENING @ VFF 2023

Total runtime: 101 minutes



CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers is excited to return to the Victoria Film Festival with a screening that showcases the diverse work created by our amazing members over the past year. Please join us for a presentation of local short film highlights ranging from music video, to documentary, comedy, drama, behind-the-scenes, and even a few films shot on celluloid Super 8.

CineVic is an artist-run society supporting independent filmmakers and media artists with accessible programming, affordable equipment, professional development resources, and cinematic exhibition opportunities since 1991. We acknowledge and respect the long and continuing history of the Lək̓ʷəŋən-speaking people, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, as well as the WSÁNEĆ First Nation, on whose traditional and unceded territory we carry out our creative activities.

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Time is a Car | Lesley Marshall / Partner | 2022 | 4 min

Time Is A Car is a meta music video. A music video in a music video about how a band cannot possibly make a music video. It's what would have happened if Thelma and Louise escaped with all the money and drove happily ever after off into the sunset and had wonderful prosperous lives. Fueled by music video epics, pulp films, and ripe with sarcasm, Time Is A Car has the parody quality of Beastie Boys' Sabotage and the vibrancy of Megan Thee Stalions' Thot Sh*t starring Victoria's own Eddilicious.

Dear Mr. Dudley | Morgan Rhys Tams | 2022 | 13 min

At the age of thirty-one, Morgan Tams sent a letter to a complete stranger on the other side of the country. All he had was a name - and a hunch that this person was the father he never met. Dear Mr. Dudley follows a series of hand-written letters that trace the five thousand, eight hundred, and seventy-two kilometres between the filmmaker and his absentee father.

For Fox Sake | Suzanne Moreau | 2022 | 4 min

For Fox Sake is an homage to cinema's silent era, observing what happens when two adventurous hens escape their cooped-up existence. But while a wily fox is intent upon exploiting them, they find compassion for their would-be oppressor.

Big Fat Joke | Charlie Gudgeon | 2020 | 16 min

Joe is a stand up comedian in the near future, where a mysterious disease has caused a majority of the population to lose their ability to be funny. His comedic act is cringe, but what's harder to watch are his continual failures at making genuine human connections.



The Final Slip: Behind the Scenes | Sonya Chwyl, Sophie de Kergommeaux
| 2022 | 2 min

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the production of the recent short film 'Slip' had to move its final shoot date to the same weekend the filmmakers had booked a Super 8mm camera for the One Take Super 8 Event. So the filmmaker Sonya Chwyl, together with 2nd AC Sophie de Kergommeaux, decided to capture a few moments from the last day of shooting on film.

Cutline | David Heyman | 2022 | 17 min

A veteran photographer helps a cub reporter, on her first assignment and on a tight deadline, to interview the family of a girl who died the night before.

Play Smart | Sohee Hong | 2022 | 3 min

Play Smart was created for the One Take Super 8 Event by Sohee Hong and some of the students she has taught film production in Duncan, BC. Through this film, she wanted to express some decisions and struggles young children face and need to make during their social activities and relationships they encounter.

The Zissou School for Young Girls | Michael Korican | 2022 | 4 min

When she was a young girl, Ashley had a crush on her teacher.



Wishing Fall | James Weicker, Ann Marie Hak | 2022 | 16 min

When Graham takes his new step-son Emil on a camping trip, his hope is that they will finally find a way to bond through the traditions and lessons he learned from his own father. However, the scars of the recent death of Emil's father hang heavy over the pair and Emil resists Graham's attempts to get closer to him.

Better Every Day | Michael 'Oz' Osbourne | 2022 | 14 min

Newlywed musicians get a once in a lifetime chance to travel the world and play their music, until it all goes sideways, but this is only the beginning of their story. Whatever the world throws at Dre & Star, they are resolved to make life better every day.

The Observatory | Justin Lee | 2022 | 5 min

A passionate astronomer drags her jaded partner to the observatory to share her latest discovery: A constellation from a different adjoining universe that suggests the existence of ghosts, interdimensional communication, and a reckoning for their rocky relationship. Written, filmed and edited in 48 hours for Vancouver's 2022 Run N' Gun film competition.

Mycelium | Emanuel Foucault | 2022 | 3 min

With an aptitude for creating progressive melodies. Battery Poacher builds the majority of his samples from scratch. Blending elements of psychedelia, funk and hip hop, his music can be described as deep, dark and infectious. Using vocoder, synthesizers and tasty guitar shreds wrapped like bacon around meticulously sculpted beats, the intricacies of the magic mask he dons are only superseded by the music he creates. He is the robot alien who will steal you away to another dimension.



FILMCAN

What is FilmCan? I was just asking myself that. An online Video Competition for Students. Youth interested in content creation make short films and upload them to the VFF Vimeo channel.

What happens to the films?

The winning films, based on a combination of likes and juror input, will screen at the 29th Annual Victoria Film Festival in front of the feature film *Poupelle of Chimney Town* playing at Jammies & Toons.

Please visit the VFF website for the names of the filmmakers and films.

THE WINNING ENTRIES RECEIVE:

Senior Category (Grade 9-12):

GoPro HERO8 Black Bundle – courtesy of Prince of Whales Whale Watching
Adobe Creative Cloud (one year subscription) – provided by Adobe
An opportunity to go out filming on a Whale Watching trip.

Junior Category (Grade 8 and under):

MOZA Nano SE Foldable Extendable Selfie Stick Stabilizer

Entries are open every October – mid-December

PRINCE
of
WHALES
Whale Watching

www.victoriafilmfestival.com

CINEKIDS

VFF WORKING WITH YOUTH

Filmmakers Into Schools

Guests of the Victoria Film Festival, including writers, directors, composers, producers and musicians who attend the festival, visit local classrooms to talk about their art, offering advice about careers in the film industry and inspiring a new generation of filmmakers.

School Screenings

Year-round at The Vic Theatre, and during the Victoria Film Festival, the VFF offers special screenings of great independent films and documentaries for local schools, inviting filmmakers and actors involved in these films for interactive Q&As.

Let's Make a Movie

Annually, the Victoria Film Festival will introduce youth to a lively full day hands-on class. Participants will create a story and storyboard and then film and edit the work all in one day. That evening the film will screen at The Vic Theatre for our filmmakers and their friends and family.



SPRINGBOARD – INDUSTRY EVENT

FEB 3, 4, 5

A three-day industry event with a focus on taking your work to the next level.

ONE ON ONE MEETINGS – FEB 3

Opportunities to pitch to decision makers and get your project moving ahead.

Susan Alexander (Corus Entertainment), Heather Williamson (Bell Media), Georgia Shearman (Bell Media), Jackie Pardy (Super Channel), Paige Murray (CBC Drama), Jordana Ross (CBC), Jennifer Chen (Channel Zero Studios), Lauren Whitelaw (OUTtv), Danelle Granger (APTN), Patrice Ramsay (Knowledge Network), Kim Hsu Guise (Telefilm), Teri Snelgrove (NFB), Mathew Parry (Creative BC)

INDUSTRY PANELS (60 MIN EACH) – FEB 4 Moderated by Teri Snelgrove (NFB)

STATE OF THE MARKET: CANADIAN CONTENT CREATION

An in-depth conversation about the current state of work for the creators – actors, writers, directors and cinematographer. Opportunities, challenges and policies.

ART IN MOTION

Cinematographers colluding with the director to create a visual powerhouse.

WHAT THE WORDS TELL

Writers build strong relationships with the director. Learn to create a strong voice that you can hold on to when it comes to shooting time.

THE POWER OF MUSIC

Explore the value of the best music for the right scene. Examples of past works with the evolution of the music will be shown.


MASTERCLASS (90 MIN) – FEB 5

PRODUCING THE WOW LOW BUDGET FILM

This masterclass will teach Participants how to make the WOW film with limited resources, from development through to distribution. You have a budget, now what? Our instructors will teach students where to start, what to shoot, and how to finish a cost-effective film. The class will have participants explore the challenges and creative solutions that arise when producing a low budget feature, short, or episodic.

PRICES:

2 day Pass (Feb 3+4) <i>(includes one on one meetings + panels + industry lounge Feb 4 & 5)</i>	\$139.00
All four panels	\$99.00
Individual panels	\$29.00
Individual Masterclass	\$49.00
Full SpringBoard Pass <i>(Choice of 2 panels, Masterclass, Industry Lounge access Feb 4 & 5, Three one-on-one meetings, Opening Gala Film & Dinner, 5 regular film tickets.)</i>	\$299.00
Student 1 day Panel Pass Feb 4 <i>(ages 19 - 30 with student ID)</i>	\$20.00

Buy your »
ticket here 

ONE ON ONE MEETINGS — FEB 3

BEGINNING 9:00AM PACIFIC

Susan Alexander, Production Executive, Original Content, Scripted, Corus Entertainment

Heather Williamson, Production Executive, Original Programming, Factual & Reality, Bell Media

Georgia Shearman, Manager, Digital Development, Original Programming, Bell Media

Jackie Pardy, Chief Content Officer, Super Channel

Paige Murray, Executive in Charge of Development, CBC Drama

Jordana Ross, Production Executive, Documentary Channel, CBC

Jennifer Chen, Head of Studios, VP of Content, Channel Zero Studios.

Lauren Whitelaw, Head of Programming, OUTtv

Danelle Granger, Executive in Charge of Development and Scripted, APTN

Patrice Ramsay, Producer, Independent Productions, Knowledge Network

Kim Hsu Guise, Regional Feature Film Executive - Western Region - Telefilm Canada

Teri Snelgrove, Producer, BC & Yukon Studios, National Film Board of Canada

Mathew Parry, Interim Manager Creative Industry Programs, Creative BC



Susan Alexander | Production Executive,
Original Content, Scripted
CORUS ENTERTAINMENT

As a Production Executive with Corus Entertainment for over ten years, Susan has overseen the development and production of numerous dramatic series for Corus Entertainment including *The Love Club*, *Family Law*, *Mary Kills People* and *Private Eyes*.

Prior to becoming a broadcaster Susan worked on the production side of the industry, as a Producer and Development Executive, and has strong relationships with the Canadian independent production community.

Equally important to her is the work she has done nurturing emerging talent through her role as a Mentor at the Canadian Film Centre, of which she is a proud alumni, and through many industry sponsored programs.

Susan is a member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, and WIFT-T, where she served 4 years on their Board of Directors.



Georgia Shearman | Manager, Digital Development,
Original Programming,
BELL MEDIA

Georgia Shearman is a Development Executive for Bell Media's Original Programming department in Toronto, Canada. Georgia works with industry writers and partners on the development of new scripted projects for Bell Media's Original Programming slate. She is also responsible for digital and social-world initiatives with a focus on developing talent and IP into new scripted and unscripted series.

Prior to joining Bell Media, Georgia worked in the TV and film industry in a variety of roles, including as the lead development and production executive for the award-winning production company, Circle Blue Entertainment. She has also done freelance contract work on television, films and commercials, including credits as an associate producer and development consultant.



**Heather
Williamson**
BELL MEDIA

Production Executive,
Original Programming,
Factual & Reality,

Bio and photo is coming! Stay connected



**Jackie
Pardy** | Chief Content Officer
SUPER CHANNEL

As Super Channel's Chief Content Officer, Jackie leads the company's domestic and foreign program acquisitions for the network's four channels (Fuse, Heart & Home, Vault and Ginx) and oversees the pre-licensing of Super Channel's Canadian productions.

Super Channel is a national premium pay television network, offering subscribers exceptional entertainment value with four diverse channels – Super Channel Fuse, Super Channel Heart & Home, Super Channel Vault and GINX Esports TV Canada – plus, access to Super Channel On Demand where available by service provider.



**Paige
Murray**
CBC DRAMA

Executive in Charge
of Development

Paige Murray has worked at the CBC for over eleven years within the television content areas. She is currently Executive in Charge of Development, Drama on the Scripted Content team. In this role, Paige oversees the development of one-hour drama series and actively looks for creators and stories that reflect the spectrum of the Canadian experience to entertain and enlighten CBC audiences. Additionally, Paige currently sits on the board of Breakthroughs Film Festival and the advisory board of The Future of Film Showcase.

We are interested in hearing about ongoing, procedural dramas to air in our prime time schedule. We are also interested in developing relationships with Canadian creators and learning more about the work they are doing.



**Jordana
Ross** | Production Executive,
Documentary Channel,
CBC

Bio and photo is coming! Stay connected



**Jennifer
Chen**

Head of Studios,
VP of Content,

CHANNEL ZERO STUDIOS

Jennifer Chen is the Head of Studios, VP of Content managing development and content investment for Channel Zero Studios. She was formerly the VP of Programming for the suite of Channel Zero broadcasting services including acquisitions and original programming for CHCH, Silver Screen Classics and Rewind. She began her Channel Zero career as the General Manager of Ouat Media, managing one of the largest distribution companies specializing in the acquisition, distribution and sales of short form content internationally.



**Lauren
Whitelaw**
OUTTV

Head of
Programming

Lauren is the Head of Programming for OUTtv, currently with services in Canada, USA, UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. With servicing multiple territories, she has successfully negotiated contracts with companies worldwide. Lauren is part of the development team at the network and continues to work closely with Producers globally to find the best LGBTQ+ programming.

OUTtv is an LGBTQ2+ network and streamer. We look for content of all genres as long as it is strongly based in LGBTQ2+ storylines and characters.



**Danelle
Granger**

Executive in Charge
of Development and Scripted

APTN

Based out of Treaty 1 territory, Danelle Granger is proud to be reclaiming and reconnecting to her Métis roots. She began her career in the broadcasting industry upon graduating from the Creative Communications program at Red River College in Winnipeg, Man. There, she majored in journalism while focusing on developing her production skills. Danelle was inspired to pursue journalism and production after seeing the documentary Food, Inc. She continues to be motivated by the passion of those involved in the industry and their commitment to telling the stories that need to be heard. She brings this motivation with her to all of her work. Danelle worked as an editor and assistant editor on Passage à l'âge adulte and seasons 2-4 of Comment devenir adulte. She also combined her editing and directing skills on a short documentary about the history of the Rainbow Resource Centre, a centre in Winnipeg that offers support to the 2SLGBTQ+ community. The documentary premiered at Reel Pride Film Festival. Danelle joined APTN in 2020 as the programming coordinator for the Central Region. In 2022, she took on the title of executive in charge of development and scripted production. Danelle is excited to continue working with emerging and established producers to bring Indigenous content to screens across Turtle Island.



**Kim
Hsu Guise**

Regional Feature
Film Executive
Western Region

TELEFILM CANADA

Kim Hsu Guise (she/her/elle) is the Feature Film Executive, Western Region for Telefilm Canada. Kim has over 20 years of experience in the film and television industry as a lawyer, business affairs advisor and production executive. She has a full spectrum of experience including negotiating production-related deal terms, assessing project pitches for financing, setting strategic direction, and building and leading a diverse team of industry experts.



Patrice Ramsay | Producer,
Independent Productions

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Patrice Ramsay is the Executive Producer of Independent Production at British Columbia's Knowledge Network. Her portfolio includes the pre-licensing of documentary productions and managing Knowledge Network's annual funding envelope from the Canada Media Fund. Recent Executive Producer credits include *Part of the Pack*, *Dancing with Mom*, *Search and Rescue North Shore*, *Dogsville*, and *Building Bastille*.



Mathew Parry | Manager – Creative
Industry Programs

CREATIVE BC

Mathew's primary responsibilities lie within the Development Team where he oversees a number of programs including the Project Development Fund, and other partnership programs with external organizations supporting film and TV development. Mathew has a Master's degree in history, and is also a graduate of the Documentary Film Production program at Langara College.



Teri Snelgrove | Producer, BC
& Yukon Studios

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

Teri Snelgrove is a producer at the BC & Yukon Studio. Most recently, she produced *Unarchived* (Hayley Gray and Elad Tzadok), *A Motorcycle Saved My Life* (Lori Lozinski) and *Into Light* (Sheona McDonald). With Shirley Vercruysse, Teri co-produced *Someone Like Me* by Steve J. Adams and Sean Horlor, and the animated projects *Two Apples* (Bahram Javahery) and *Zeb's Spider* (Alicia Eisen and Sophie Jarvis). Teri is a Newfoundlander, and a graduate of the film/video program at Emily Carr University. She holds a master's degree in Liberal Studies from Simon Fraser University.

SPRINGBOARD PANELS | 60 MIN EACH – FEB 4

9:00AM

STATE OF THE MARKET: CANADIAN CONTENT CREATION

An in-depth conversation about the current state of work for the creators – actors, writers, directors and cinematographer. Opportunities, challenges and policies.



Ari Wise

Owner and Director
of Core Music Agency

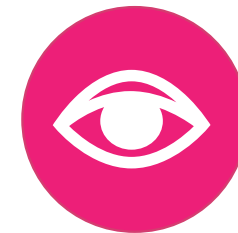
Ari Wise is the owner and director of Core Music Agency, Canada's largest talent agency focussing on film, television and games composers. Before establishing his agency, Ari Wise was himself an award-winning film composer, with over 200 features, TV Movies, live and animated episodes of television, documentaries and short films to his credit. Some highlights include: *The Conclave* starring Brian Blessed and James Faulkner, *Police Academy, the Series* and *School of Life*, starring Ryan Reynolds. A graduate of the University of British Columbia's Music Composition program, and of the University of Southern California's world famous, "Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television" Advanced Studies Program, Ari has spent the last 15 years representing a stellar and exclusive roster of talented and successful screen composers. To date, he and his fellow Core Agents have negotiated well over 1000 composer agreements.



Sara Canning

Actress-Producer
Influencer, Superhost, Z

Sara Canning's film and television career spans 15 years. Select credits include *The Vampire Diaries*, *War for the Planet of the Apes*, *Big Sky*, the Emmy nominated *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and *Remedy*, a series for which she won UBCP/ACTRA and Leo Awards. She was also nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for her work in the web series *Hospital Show*. Last spring, she played the role of Annie in *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* at the Belfry Theatre, and will soon be seen in *Sweetland*, a feature set in her home province of Newfoundland. A frequent director for the Vancouver Film School, Sara is also developing and writing her own scripts, including a feature selected for the Whistler Film Festival Screenwriting Program in 2019.



Panelist Coming

Expertise

Bio and photo is coming! Stay connected

WHAT THE WORDS TELL

10:15AM

Building strong relationships with the director – how to create a strong voice that you can hold on to when it comes to shooting time.



Sophie Jarvis

Director-Writer

Until Branches Bend

Sophie Jarvis is a Vancouver-born writer and director whose first job in film was reading fan mail for *The L Word*. Later, she studied at Simon Fraser University where she made her short film *The Worst Day Ever*, which premiered at TIFF in 2012. Since then, Sophie has gone on to direct many short films, including *Medical Drama* (Clermont Ferrand 2019) and *Zeb's Spider*, a stop motion animation co-directed with Alicia Eisen for the National Film Board. Her feature debut *Until Branches Bend* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2022 and won the award for “Best BC Film” at VIFF the same year. Sophie’s background as a production designer deeply informs her practice as a director. Sophie currently resides on unceded x̱w̱məθkʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́ilwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) territories (aka Vancouver)



Chandler Levack

Director-Writer

I Like Movies

Chandler Levack grew up in Burlington, Ontario and lives in Toronto, where she studied cinema at the University of Toronto and screenwriting at the Canadian Film Centre. She has directed numerous music videos, earning two JUNO nominations, and is a veteran journalist and a current film critic for the Globe & Mail. In 2017, her short film *We Forgot to Break Up* premiered at TIFF and went on to play SXSW. In 2022, her debut feature film *I Like Movies* premiered at TIFF and went on to play VIFF, Taipei Golden Horse and was selected for Canada’s Top Ten Film Festival.



Darlene Naponse

Director-Writer

Stellar

Darlene Naponse is an Anishinaabe writer, director and video artist from Atikameksheng Anishnawbek - Northern Ontario. Her previous films have premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, TIFF and imagineNATIVE Film Festival. Her feature *Falls Around Her* (starring Tantoo Cardinal) opened imagineNATIVE Film Festival 2018 also winning the (Audience Choice Award). *Stellar* (starring Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers and Braeden Clarke) her fourth feature film, world premiered at TIFF - Toronto International Film Festival 2022 and screened the Opening Night at the imagineNATIVE Film Festival 2022. She recently directed three episodes of *Acting Good* currently playing on CTV comedy channel and an episode of Amplify on APTN. Darlene’s work is placed within community and the Natural World. She runs Baswewe Films Inc., located in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

ART IN MOTION

11:30AM

Building strong relationships with the director – how to create a strong voice that you can hold on to when it comes to shooting time.



Kurtis Harder

Director-Producer
Influencer, Spiral

Kurtis David Harder is a prolific director and producer from Canada who's work has played across the world at such festivals as SXSW, Fantastic, Busan, Fantasia, Sitges, Rotterdam, among many others. He directed his feature film debut at the age of 18, *Cody Fitz*, which went on to play across the world at various film festivals picking up several awards. His second feature film *Incontrol* debuted internationally at FrightFest UK, to rave reviews and was released internationally. His two most recent directorial films *Spiral* and *Summerland*, were both released to critical acclaim.

As a producer he's produced 13 films. *Still/Born* was awarded *The Scariest Film* at The Overlook Film. *What Keeps You Alive*, which debuted at SXSW, was named one of the top 10 horror films of 2018 by Rolling Stone Magazine. In 2019, *Harpoon* was the second-best rated horror film on Rotten Tomatoes, gaining certified fresh at 97%. His most recent producing credits include *Superhost* and *V/H/S/94*, the latter of which was Shudder's most successful release at the time. His latest directorial film *Influencer* is now on the festival circuit and will come out in 2023.



Jeremy Cox

Cinematographer
Until branches Bend

Jeremy Cox is an award-winning cinematographer based on the unceded territory of the x̣ẉṃə̣θ̣ḳẉə̣ỵə̣m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə̣iḷḷẉə̣ṭə̣ł (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

Jeremy's cinematography is defined by an exacting awareness of detail, structure and style while remaining rooted within a tradition of realism. Working in 16mm, 35mm and digital formats across features, shorts, series and music videos, his work has screened in festivals around the world.



Alfonso Chin

Cinematographer and Visual Artist
Golden Delicious, VOIR

Alfonso Chin is a cinematographer and visual artist based in Vancouver, Canada.

His journey to Vancouver began in Mexico where he was born. His multicultural background sparked a desire to experience stories from various cultures, which he found through world cinema and painting. He would later move to Los Angeles before his passion finally led him to Vancouver where he studied film, interactive arts, and graphic design at Simon Fraser University.

Alfonso has filmed with different formats from 35mm, 16mm to the latest digital emulsions. His work captivates using harmonious visual language to stimulate profound emotion that is unique to each story. From commercials to engaging narratives and documentaries, the story and characters always come first and are always the primary motivation for his approach to lighting and camera movements. He also has a passion and understanding for non-traditional storytelling.

Alfonso has garnered nominations and awards at the Canadian Society of Cinematographers, Canadian Screen Awards, Ariel Awards (Mexican Academy Awards), and other prestigious international festivals. He's also a member of the International Cinematographers Guild 669.

Alfonso's work is best known for filming episodes for the Netflix series, *VOIR*, which is produced by David Fincher.

THE POWER OF MUSIC

12:45AM

Explore the value of the best music for the right scene. Examples of past works with the evolution of the music will be shown.



Mychael Danna

Life of Pi, Moneyball,

Mychael Danna is an Academy Award-winning film composer recognized for his evocative blending of non-western traditions with orchestral and electronic music. He composed the transculturally inspired 2013 Oscar and Golden Globe-winning score for Ang Lee's *Life of Pi*. Danna also composed scores for Ang Lee's *The Ice Storm* and *Ride With the Devil*. Other noted credits include Oscar-winning and Oscar-nominated films such as his long time collaborator Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Exotica*, *Moneyball* and *Capote* with director Bennett Miller, *Monsoon Wedding*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *(500) Days of Summer*, *Being Julia*, Deepa Mehta's *Water*, *Girl, Interrupted*, and Tom McCarthy's *Stillwater*. Often collaborating with his brother Jeff, they have scored *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* for Terry Gilliam, *The Breadwinner*, *The Addams Family 1 and 2*, and Pixar's *The Good Dinosaur*, and *Onward*. He won an Emmy Award for outstanding music composition for the mini-series *World Without End*. Other television scores include *Alias Grace* (Emmy Nomination), *Tyrant*, (3 Emmy Nominations), *Camelot*, (Emmy Nomination) and *Return to Space* (Emmy Nomination) directed by Oscar-winning directors Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin, co-scored with his friend Harry Gregson-Williams. Recent film scores are for *Where the Crawdads Sing* directed by Olivia Newman, and *My Father's Dragon* with director Nora Twomey.

Among Mychael's other awards are the Frederick Loewe Award for Film Composing (2013), the World Soundtrack Awards for Film Composer of the Year, and Best Score of the Year (both 2013), and the Hollywood Film Award for Composer of the Year (2016).

"The most gratifying filmmaking experiences are ones that take effort to unpeel the layers surrounding the heart of the story and to find the best musical expression of that heart," says Danna. "Those are always the film scores I am most proud of."



Wayne Lavallee

Composer

Bones of Crows, Broken Angel, Red Snow, The Road Forward

Wayne Lavallee is a Metis multi-disciplinary artist based in Vancouver.

By 2000 Wayne released his first studio solo album, by 2010 Wayne was a 2 time Juno nominee and multi-award winning recording artist signed with an international record label in France.

In 2014 Wayne composed his first film score *Ballads Not Bullets: Tom Jackson* a short film written and directed by Marie Clements produced by the NFB, since then Wayne has composed 4 other feature films for Marie Clements, the award winning musical documentary *The Road Forward* produced by the NFB, *RED SNOW* and the latest feature in collaboration with co-composer Jesse Zubot, produced by Screen Siren Pictures *Bones of Crows* which made its world premiere at 2022 TIFF festival... *Bones of Crows* will also be featured as a 5 part mini-series for CBC in 2023. Wayne has 3 Leo Award nominations for his scores and a 2022 Leo Award win for Best Musical Score for the lifestyle reality series *Dr.Savannah: Wild Rose Vet*.



Jesse Zubot

Composer

Bones of Crows, Monkey Beach, Indian Horse

Jesse Zubot is a multiple JUNO award-winning musician and an in-demand record producer and film composer. His album productions include Tanya Tagaq's Polaris Prize and JUNO award winning album 'Animism'. In his career he has recorded and performed with an extensive range of artists such as Steve Reich, Dan Mangan, Hawksley Workman, Saul Williams, Destroyer, Marc Ribot, Pura Fé, Stars, Darius Jones, Mother Mother and he is part of Tanya Tagaq's main touring trio. In recent years, Jesse has delved heavily into the world of film scoring. He has been nominated for multiple Canadian Screen Awards, Leo Awards and recently received a SOCAN Award for Achievement in Feature Film (*Indian Horse*). His scoring credits include the upcoming powerful feature film and 5-part CBC series *Bones of Crows*, *Ever Deadly*, *Monkey Beach*, *Indian Horse*, *Two Lovers and a Bear*, *Hector and the Search for Happiness*, *The Whale and the Raven*, and *Koneline: Our Land Beautiful*.

SPRINGBOARD MASTERCLASS | 90 MIN – FEB 5

11:00AM

PRODUCING THE WOW LOW BUDGET FILM

This masterclass will teach participants how to make the WOW film with limited resources, from development through to distribution. You have a budget, now what? Our instructors will teach students where to start, what to shoot, and how to finish a cost-effective film. The class will have participants explore the challenges and creative solutions that arise when producing a low budget feature, short, or episodic.

Luchagore Presents:



Raynor Shima

Producer

Satanic Hispanics, Bingo Hell

Raynor Shima is a Vancouver, BC based Producer and creator. He arose from commercial film to become an emerging independent producer to lookout for. He started his transition through a partnership, co-founding the award winning company, Luchagore Productions as an outlet for story driven content, specializing in the horror genre. His films have gone to screen all over the world from Sitges to LaLiff, winning multiple awards, and being recognized for a unique style of films produced, that are heavily influenced with a Latino mix. In 2017 he collaborated with Warner Brothers and Stage13 network in producing a 7 episode mini series called *La Quinceañera*, a coming of age revenge story. Raynor has worked with Blumhouse and Amazon in developing and executive producing *Bingo*, one of the final four *Welcome to the Blumhouse* anthology series, released in 2021. His most current endeavor has taken two projects to Mexico City filming a new horror anthology called *Satanic Hispanics*, with Epic Pictures and Dread Central. Along with the newly announced and final franchise series *VHS 85*, with Shudder, slated to come out in 2023.



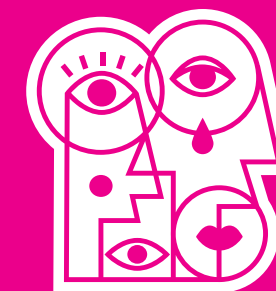
Luke Bamley

Cinematographer-Editor

Satanic Hispanics, Netmare

Born in Vancouver, BC but raised in Victoria, Luke developed a passion for horror cinema at a young age after viewing the films *The Shining* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. After a stint as a cook, he decided it was time to pursue his passion and went to film school, which opened his eyes to the world of cinematography. Upon graduation he co-founded the production company Luchagore Productions alongside director Gigi Saul Guerrero and producer Raynor Shima, and since then they've created frightening stories that have played around the globe. His credits include the short film *El Gigante*, the web/TV series *La Quinceañera*, and most recently the horror anthology *Satanic Hispanics* and the upcoming *VHS 85*. When he isn't working on movies, Luke's hobbies include film photography and watching schlock films.

Thank you!



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