VANCOUVER SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Watching Together, Staying Apart

Chair Letter_

Letter from the Chair of the Board

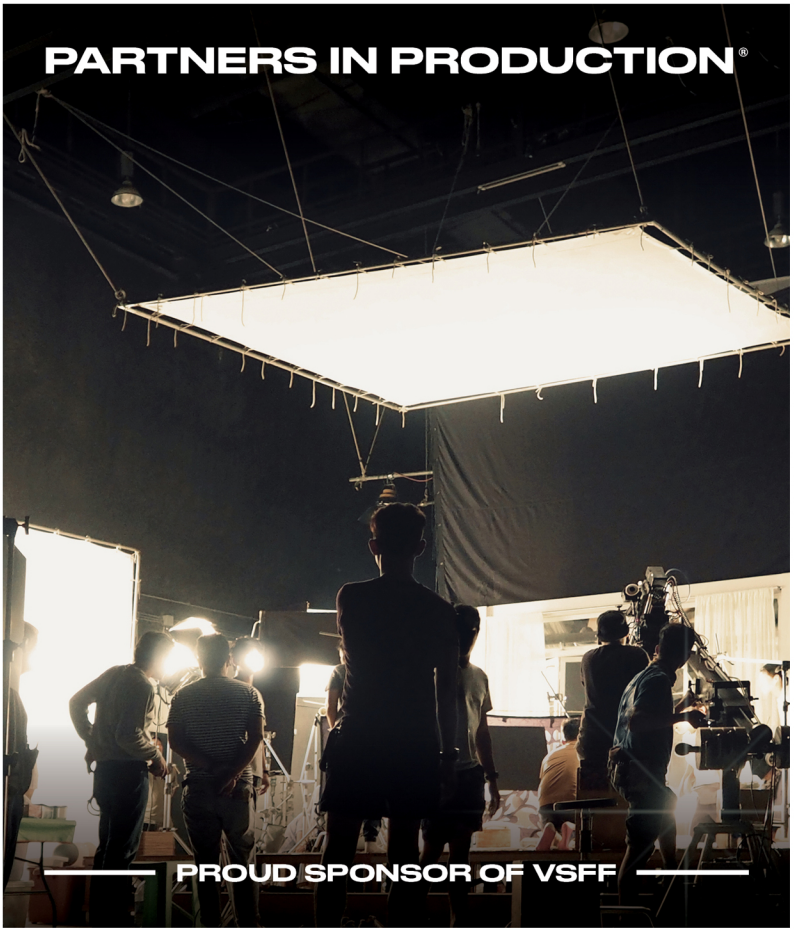
What a difference a year makes! It's hard to believe that it was only 12 months ago that we were gathered at the Vancity Theater celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Vancouver Short Film Festival with packed screenings, hugs and handshakes, celebration and merriment, and even a DJ and dancing! Like most industries since COVID the entire film festival world has been turned on its head and been challenged to find new ways to keep the spirit of independent film alive and the community of film lovers united by moving their festivals online. It's a whole new world when it comes to events but one thing has not changed: in difficult times people turn to the power of storytelling and the magic of filmmaking for comfort and inspiration.

It is for that reason that I am so proud of the Vancouver Short Film Festival team for remaining committed to providing a space to showcase and celebrate our local content creators. This year the festival is thrilled to be presenting the biggest offering in our history with 61 short films, 7 programmes, and 3 days of special events. It is our honour and privilege to shine a spotlight on the incredible talent from BC's emerging and established filmmakers.

The festival is a love letter to the BC film community from the entire VSFF team, who donate countless hours to make it happen. It is the many people behind the scenes and their passion and dedication that makes VSFF a truly special experience. We are pleased to welcome some new additions in 2021, most notably Festivals Directors, Emily Weldon and Nicolas Ayerbe Barona, and Director of Programming, Sasha Duncan, who have taken on the challenge of executing an online festival with grace and enthusiasm.

This year we invite you to join us from home to celebrate these 61 short films and fall in love with the vibrant and diverse talent and community within BC.

Kristyn Stilling
Chair of the Board, Vancouver Short Film Festival



CAMERA
LIGHTING & GRIP
LOCATION EQUIPMENT SUPPLY
SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT
STUDIOS

Festival Directors Letter_

While every film can be a journey, it is a short film which possesses the unique power to focus time on a single, succinct experience on screen.

With that in mind, we'll use this moment now to welcome you to the 11th edition of the Vancouver Short Film Festival!

Thank you to this community. The film community of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Canada-wide, who persist and carry on despite this past year. Each of you make this festival a truly special celebration of the best of BC Film. We are inspired by you. This event is for you. We recognize what is lost by not being able to share in person.

We hope that in watching together while staying apart, we can deliver the same joy we've always had the pleasure and privilege of sharing with you.

Thank you to the filmmakers. The bravery and skill you possess to see through the creation of 61 heart-pounding projects, and showcase these stories to the world in an entirely new paradigm, drives us everyday to pour our hearts into creating the brightest possible festival experience for you.

Thank you to the wickedly talented and unstoppable VSFF staff and volunteers who in our most challenging year to date, have worked (from home) to execute an event in an entirely new way, and not just meet our "pre-pandemic" expectations, but to blow them out of the water with creativity and a smile. Thank you, thank you, thank you- and we so look forward to our next Zoom hang-out very soon.

We would like to especially acknowledge the incredible work of VSFF's new Director of Programming, Sasha Duncan, for joining our team and assembling an outstanding lineup for audiences across the country to enjoy.

Thank you to the Board of the Vancouver Short Film Festival Society for your council and your faith as we proudly take this festival into a new decade.

We're excited for the journey and, most importantly, forever moved by this single moment in which we launch VSFF 2021 onto the internet and into your homes.

Keep It Short!

Sincerely,
Emily Weldon & Nicolas Ayerbe Barona
Festival Co-Directors, Vancouver Short Film Festival

Global News Hour at 6

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Short Film Festival

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PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

January 22–24, 2021

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2021 Vancouver Short Film Festival (VSFF).

The VSFF is committed to celebrating the works of short film, video and digital media artists in British Columbia. I am certain that everyone in attendance will be entertained and engaged by the films being showcased this year.

I would like to thank the filmmakers for bringing their stories and creativity to the screen. It continues to be a challenging time for planning and hosting events. That is why I would also like to commend the organizers for making the 2021 VSFF virtual so that it could still take place. You can take pride in your commitment to promoting and supporting the talent of local filmmakers.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable experience.

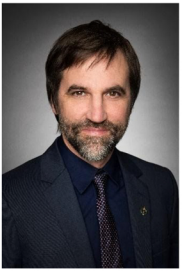
Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Minister
of Canadian Heritage

Ministre
du Patrimoine canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5



As the pandemic continues to transform our everyday lives, arts and culture have taken on added significance. They inspire, entertain and comfort us in these challenging times. Canadians need to come together—even virtually—to celebrate the richness and diversity of their culture.

The 2021 Vancouver Short Film Festival is once again providing an unparalleled showcase for film, video and animation artists in British Columbia, while promising fans many exceptional discoveries. This year's festival has moved online, which will allow it to keep offering the diverse and original programming for which it is known. Although the format is different this year, the VSFF has once again put together a bold and captivating collection of short films that are sure to delight audiences at home.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I would like to thank the dedicated organizers, the hard-working volunteers and the talented filmmakers who brought the reinvented 2021 Vancouver Short Film Festival to life. Enjoy the films!

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault

Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA

A MESSAGE FROM

PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I would like to welcome everyone to the 11th Annual Vancouver Short Film Festival.

The Vancouver Short Film Festival is a vibrant celebration of BC's talented short film, video and animation artists that showcases a diverse array of stories and voices. The yearly program features a comprehensive and unique selection of entertaining and powerful films as well as special events and an awards presentation. This past year has brought many unexpected challenges to our province, and it is wonderful to see how the festival has adapted and innovated during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide a dynamic virtual program for attendees.

My congratulations to the talented filmmakers and all those involved in the productions on their artistic achievements. I would also like to acknowledge the VSFF directors, staff, volunteers and sponsors whose hard work and dedication to film make this annual event such a success. While the festival may look a little different this year, I have no doubt that it will be an impressive celebration of cinematic excellence and an important opportunity for emerging short filmmakers to share their talents with a broad audience.

Please accept my best wishes for another memorable festival!

John J. Horgan

HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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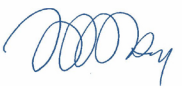
THE HON. HEDY FRY, P.C., M.P.
VANCOUVER CENTRE

I would like to extend my warm wishes to Vancouver Short Film Festival as they host their 11th annual, and first virtual, celebration this year.

The Vancouver Short Film Festival is an opportunity for local short filmmakers to share their films with the public and for the community to come together in support of British Columbia film, video, and animation artists.

Thank you to the organizers and creators of Vancouver Short Film Festival for supporting the tremendous talent of British Columbia filmmakers. I am thrilled we get to celebrate all that this vibrant community have achieved and contributed to our local film industry.

Sincerely,



Honourable Hedy Fry, P.C.
Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre

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FRIDAY JANUARY 22, 2021

03.00 PM **PROGRAMME 1**

Ndagukunda déjà
ALIVE
Plantonic
L'Arpège
A New Leash On Life
Ben's Room
The Weight
The Quieting

Available online until Jan 29

05.00 PM **PARTNER EVENT:**
Scripting Aloud! Online Edition Reading

06.30 PM **PARTNER EVENT:**
VSFF Presents - InFocus Student Film Showcase

07.00 PM **PROGRAMME 2**

Hum and Do No Harm
El Color Negro
Toward You
Found Me
Devoted
The Gift
Asal
After That

Available online until Jan 29

VSFF at a Glance.

SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 2021

11.00 AM **VSFF + DGC BC PANEL:**
The Director's Craft in Short Form Filmmaking

01.00 PM **VSFF KEEP IT SHORT**
Speed Meetings (VSFF Filmmaker Only)

03.00 PM **PROGRAMME 3**

Everything's Great!
The Tailor
SPEAK UP!
Try to Fly
The PhD
A Sketchy Truth
This is a Period Piece

Available online until Jan 30

06.00 PM **PROGRAMME 4**

Curse
The Day the Rocket Left
Hayashi Studio
Watershed
What About Our Future?
Plugged In
Bleed With Me
FREYA

Available online until Jan 30

VSFF at a Glance.

SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 2021

09.00 PM **AFTER DARK DOUBLE BLOCK**

Mr James is Dead
Crown Juul
An Evening of Cocktails and Calamity
Clout
BUG
Logan Lee & the Rise of the Purple Dawn
Fruit

Half-time Intermission show featuring TODDY

Glow Dorris
Odd Girl
Too Late
Itsy Bitsy Spider
What We Found Out There
Murphy's Law
The Purgamentum
The Freeze

Available online until Jan 30

VSFF at a Glance.

SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2021

11.00 AM **VSFF FILMMAKER COFFEE HOUR**
VSFF Filmmaker-Only Event

01.00 PM **PROGRAMME 5**

Deeper I Go
Looking Back
She Made Me
Nene
This Ink Runs Deep
Yarlung
ʔiiḥtuup (Whale)

Available online until Jan 31

04.00 PM **PROGRAMME 6**

Ginger Beef
The Sunday Cycle
There & Then
33' Lot
A-YI
No More Parties
Breaking the Silence
Idols Never Die

Available online until Jan 31

07.00 PM **VSFF AWARDS PRESENTATION**

LIVE via Facebook Live or
Eventive Virtual

VSFF at a Glance.

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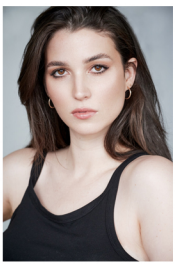
VSFF HOSTS

David C. Jones

Programme 1 & Awards Show

David is an activist, actor, director, writer, filmmaker, event producer, and a teacher. A graduate of Studio 58 and a teacher at The Vancouver Film School who has acted in plays by Mamet, Coward, Shakespeare and Stoppard. His short film Same Boat won the People's Choice Award in 2015. He was awarded a City Of Vancouver Award of Excellence, a recipient of a Legacy Award in The Arts and was Sainted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. He was the Entertainment Manager of the 2010 Winter Olympics. He mostly now works as a trainer and a keynote speaker with the www.audienceengagementacadaemy.com and www.dcjproductions.ca



Dana Bettine

Programme 2 & 6

Dana Bettine is an Australian born actor and writer with a passion for connecting with people and their stories. She has studied acting in Sydney, Melbourne, Los Angeles and Vancouver. Her work spans numerous shorts, television series, commercials and feature films. She has co-written short films featured in festival runs in North America. Her work as a freelance journalist includes a series for Virtue Worldwide. She currently is completing her Bachelor of Psychological Science while weathering the pandemic in beautiful British Columbia.

Nhi Do

Programme 3 & 5

Nhi Do grew up in Victoria, BC, the second of three daughters to Vietnamese immigrants. A triple-threat performer, Nhi has worked on numerous projects such as: WB's Watchmen; the Canadian Screen Award-nominated webseries, NarcoLeap; and as the title lead in Shaftesbury's Upstairs Amy. On stage, Nhi performed as a lead in the Jessie Richardson-nominated Canadian premiere of Heathers: The Musical. In 2020, Nhi was nominated for Best Actress for her role in Hope and Grace in the Asian Film Festival, Los Angeles Hollywood. Recent projects include: FREYA, NarcoLeap S2 and Querencia. Nhi is a graduate of the Summer Training Congress at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

Gabriel Carter

Programme 3 & 5

Gabriel Carter is an actor, writer and director from San Francisco, California where he graduated from the American Conservatory Theater masters program. On stage, Gabriel's highlights include a lead role alongside Warren Keith in the world premiere of Darwin's Finches by Claire Chafee and the role of Fick in Balm in Gilead at the Magic Theater. Upon his move to NYC, he was a voice over director for Don Buchwald and Associates where he coached such luminaries as Ally Sheedy, Mary Stuart Masterson, Billy Crudup and Lisa Bonet, amongst others. Returning to the west coast, Gabriel moved to Vancouver where he transitioned to film and television. Some of his credits include: Supernatural, The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1, La Quinceañera, Arrow, Man in the High Castle and many award-winning independent projects.

India Shaw-Smith

Programme 4

India is a British actress who moved to Vancouver in November 2018. In the UK she classically trained at the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA), graduating in 2017. Since then she has performed a principal role in a new production with the National Theatre of Scotland (2018) as well as working on TV shows Vanity Fair (ITV UK), Supernatural (CW) and The Magicians (Syfy). India also played the role of Kayleen in Gruesome Playground Injuries at The Cultch Theatre (2019) and recently Sam in the musical short The Mad Ones by Kerrigan & Lowdermilk (2020), both Untold Wants productions directed by Jessica Aquila-Cymerman.

Thank you India for volunteering to host with us!

Toddy

After Dark Double Block

Toddy (Emily Bilton) is a comic and drag performer known for their high energy stage persona and off stage shrill personality. Trained as an opera singer, Toddy is known as the "Opera Twink", and often finds them self at the intersect of mainstream media and classic music. They are always finding new ways to mix music, comedy and drag! Toddy co-hosts and produces Off Tune; an all live singing drag show. They've been featured at JFL Northwest, JFL42, The Portland Queer Comedy Festival, and CBCLOL. Toddy is known for their iconic impersonations of divas like Julie Andrews and Vladimir Putin.

Programme 1

Friday January 22, 2021 // 03:00 PM

NDAGUKUNDA DÉJÀ

Dir. Sébastien Desrosiers, David Findlay // 21 min

After meeting his Rwandan father in Montreal for the first time at 28 years old, Québécois journalist Sébastien Desrosiers sets off, in this 25th year anniversary of the genocide, on an existential quest to his ancestral land in search of answers.

ALIVE

Dir. Wai Sun Cheng // 2 min

A poetic and visual expression exploring the beauty of being alive.

PLANTONIC

Dir. Krit Komkrichwarakool // 15 min

A unique relationship flourishes between an aspiring artist and a plant man growing in his garden.

L'ARPÈGE

Dir. Joshua Maheu // 16 min

After shutting herself off from the outside world a deaf pianist begins to perceive the sounds around her as rays of colour. Yet, this gift is not as radiant as it seems. Through connection and love, she navigates the treacherous waters of confidence and happiness.

A NEW LEASH ON LIFE

Dir. Daniel Jeffery // 12 min

After one too many rage-filled outbursts, a magical talking dog named Basketball must talk his owner, Frank, out of having him put down.

BEN'S ROOM

Dir. Conor Madill // 9 min

A toy navigates a long-forgotten crawlspace in search of his missing arm. A story of loss, wonder and childhood, told through the eyes of LEGO minifigure.

THE WEIGHT

Dir. Andrew Gillingham // 11 min

In the throes of a deep depressive episode, a woman develops her own gravitational forcefield.

THE QUIETING

Dir. Ali Liebert // 15 min

On the eve of life changing event, a newly queer woman in the throes of self-doubt and fear is confronted by an unexpected guest.

PARTNER EVENT

Scripting Aloud!

Online Edition Reading

Friday January 22nd, 5:00pm - 7:00pm (Show @ 5:30pm)

Co-Presented by Scripting Aloud, join us for an exciting virtual cold reading of select short film scripts to be announced. Cross-cultural s cripts and writers — for our cross-cultural community, and a borderless audience. If this is your reality (or you want it to be), this event is for you! Learn more at www.scriptingaloud.ca

About Scripting Aloud:
Have a script you want to hear read aloud? Want to work your performance skills through reading scripts cold? Interested in experiencing a creative vibe that's welcoming and cross-cultural? Scripting Aloud is for you. We're a not-for-profit public cold-read script development platform and live staged reading event that helps develop original short- and long-form scripts for multiple channels and platforms — focusing on cross-cultural content, writers, and performers.

Two Reads:
(15p) of THE BED (short screenplay) by Henry J. Mah
(32p) of DAY 220 (short screenplay) by Alesandria Mentari
Event includes a post-reading Q&A/talk back with the playwright.
READER PRE-CALL: 5:00 pm
READING: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm (includes 5 minute break and post-reading Q&A)
— Performers will be pre-cast from the registration/sign-up list.
— $2 Membership fee is waived for this reading.
Scripting Aloud is a registered BC non-profit, producing script development and staged reading events for 19+ attendees (same idea as film festival society membership fees)

This event is free and open to the public, streaming live at 5:00pm on Friday January 22nd.

PARTNER EVENT

VSFF Presents

InFocus Student Film Showcase

Friday January 22nd, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

A collection of quirky, fun, mind-bending and tear-jerking student films from the Vancouver industry's brightest newcomers! Presented by VSFF and InFocus Film School.

Films screening in this Special Event:
Squeaky Clean Written and Directed by Caitlin McFarlane (02:26)
Forked Written and Directed by Timothy Paul Coderre (05:57)
Brothers Directed by Jesse Benson Written by Matias Ascui (12:43)
Starved Written and Directed by Ethan Klaeboe (10:30)
I Miss You, Margaret Directed by Danny Choi
Written by Crystal Verge (06:17)
All the Time in the World Written and Directed by
Madeleine Montoya (5:30)
The Strangest Day Written and Directed by Alla Rouba (08:38)
Path.OS Directed by Zoe Hertz Written by Aldrin Palaming (12:40)
Screen Girl Written and Directed by J.D. MacNutt (11:56)

This event is free and open to the public, streaming live at 6:30pm on Friday January 22nd.

Programme 2

Friday January 22, 2021 // 07:00 PM

HUM AND DO NO HARM

Dir. Inder Nirwan // 5 min

In the time of COVID-19, where singing your truth can mean harming others, Vanessa Richards shows us how to be music.

EL COLOR NEGRO

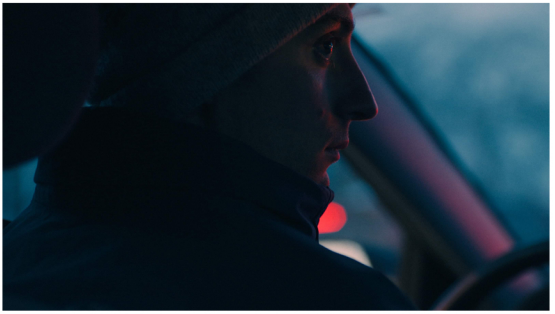
Dir. Andy Hodgson // 4 min

Color only exists in the presence of light, so all things are essentially black. But really, what is black?
This film is a creative exploration of the meaning of BLACK.

TOWARD YOU

Dir. Meysam (Sam) Motazedi // 14 min

A day in the life of a tenacious teenage girl as she pursues her dream of becoming a socially-conscious slam poet.



FOUND ME

Dir. David Findlay // 9 min

In the foggy, twilight, arctic, dead of winter of Quebec City, Mitch's life takes a turn after unwittingly stumbling upon the world of underground wrestling.

DEVOTED

Dir. Anika Yuzak // 7 min

A lonely married enrolls in a new age workshop and begins to wake-up and unravel.

THE GIFT

Dir. Pauls Dombrovskis // 10 min

A neglected boy uses his unusual talent to bring his despondent mother joy.

ASAL

Dir. Sepideh Yadegar // 12 min

A story of displacement and loneliness featuring a young Iranian dancer.

AFTER THAT

Dir. Aerlan Barrett // 17 min

Three phases of Cassie's life, two of which follow her assault, weave together, demonstrating how memories permeate the life that comes after the traumatic event, and how isolating this can be.

PUBLIC EVENT

VSFF + DGC Panel:

The Director's Craft in Short Form Filmmaking

Sponsored by the Directors Guild of Canada BC Branch, VSFF presents a live virtual discussion with four established directors in BC independent filmmaking.

Panelists:
Jason Karman
Jeremy Lutter
The Spear Sisters (Kailey Spear and Sam Spear)

Moderated by **Zach Lipovsky**

This event is free and open to the public, streaming live on 11:00am PT Saturday January 23rd. Access via Eventive by ordering a complimentary ticket, or via VSFF Facebook Live. Check back for stream access on the event date!

Sponsored by: DGC | BC

VSFF + DGC BC PANEL

Jason Karman

Panelist

Jason Karman is a Vancouver-based screenwriter-director and producer. His 17 short films have screened internationally at festivals, including Telefilm Canada's Not Short on Talent showcase at Clermont-Ferrand. A Master of Fine Arts graduate at the University of British Columbia, Jason is currently working on his first feature, Golden Delicious, a selection of Telefilm Canada's 2020 Talent to Watch program.

Jeremy Lutter

Panelist

Jeremy is a huge science fiction and murder mystery fan. With a background in music videos, Jeremy is now an accomplished dramatic director with a flair for fantasy. His filmography has brought to life a robot best friend, a vicious changeling, a magic traveling house, and a monster brother to name a few. He has a unique style and Jeremy considers himself a storyteller above all else.

Spear Sisters

Panelist

Kailey and Sam Spear, collectively known as the Spear Sisters, are director/writer/actors (and twin sisters) originally from Bowen Island, British Columbia. Their passion lies in character-based genre film, particularly world building in fantasy and sci-fi.

In 2012, they completed the four year film program at Simon Fraser University. They have since directed both in both theatre and film. Their 2014 stage version of ***HAMLET*** *featured the first female Hamlet in Canada. In 2015, their short film* ***THE MARY ALICE BRANDON FILE*** *(a TWILIGHT prequel), was the winner of the "New Voices of the Twilight Saga" competition hosted by Lionsgate, Facebook, and Women in Film LA. For their work on that film, the twins were recognized by Women in Film LA at the Crystal & Lucy Awards, and then by Women in Film & TV Vancouver with a Spotlight Award. In 2018, their short film* ***CC*** *was a Crazy8s winner. After completion, it played in numerous festivals worldwide and won many awards before ultimately finding a home on CBC Gem (and DUST internationally). Their most recent short film,* ***ALIEN: ORE*** *was made with 20th Century Fox and Tongal in celebration of the 40th anniversary of ALIEN (1979). The sisters just directed their first episode of TV on CW's* ***TWO SENTENCE HORROR STORIES****.*

VSFF + DGC BC PANEL

Zach Lipovsky

Moderator

An Emmy-nominated director, Zach Lipovsky started his career on Spielberg's filmmaking competition, ON THE LOT, where he placed 5th out of 12,000 directors. Zach has gone on to direct and produce films and TV shows for Lionsgate, Legendary, and Disney. His latest theatrical feature FREAKS premiered at TIFF '18 and stars Emile Hirsch and Bruce Dern. Zach currently has projects set up with Disney+, Mandeville, Kennedy/Marshall, and Monecito.

VSFF FILMMAKER-ONLY EVENT

VSFF Keep It Short Speed Meetings

Put a face to that name! In the VSFF Keep It Short Speed Meetings, filmmakers with films in VSFF 2021 have the opportunity to network online in small group settings during the festival weekend in this structured, fast-paced meet & greet event.

This event is scheduled to take place online on Saturday, January 23rd, 2021 at 1:00pm PT. Attendance is limited to filmmakers with films playing in VSFF 2021. Filmmakers will receive further instructions via email.

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Programme 3

Saturday January 23, 2021 // 03:00 PM

EVERYTHING'S GREAT!

Dir. Linnea Ritland // 15 min

Everything's Great! is about an awkward, hapless lesbian who bounces between a messy not-relationship relationship and her alcoholic-dad-soaked home life, trying to find stability in others—and eventually finding it in herself.

THE TAILOR

Dir. Nathalie Therriault // 16 min

A gender non-conforming person struggling to assert their identity unexpectedly finds courage in an aging master tailor.

SPEAK UP!

Dir. Denzel Brooks // 4 min

A man struggles with the plight of is generation. A common choice! Whether to conform to societies racist agenda or SPEAK UP!

TRY TO FLY

Dir. The Affolter Brothers // 8 min

When a baby owl is pushed from the nest by her mother, her anxiety and self-doubt triggers an existential crisis as her hypothetical future life flashes before her eyes -- all in the time it takes to travel from her branch to the forest floor.

THE PHD

Dir. Maxime S Girard // 20 min

A romantic dinner turns into a ludicrous disaster when Bruno, an anxious psychology student, lies to his control-freak boyfriend about what really happened during his PhD's entrance interview earlier that day.

A SKETCHY TRUTH

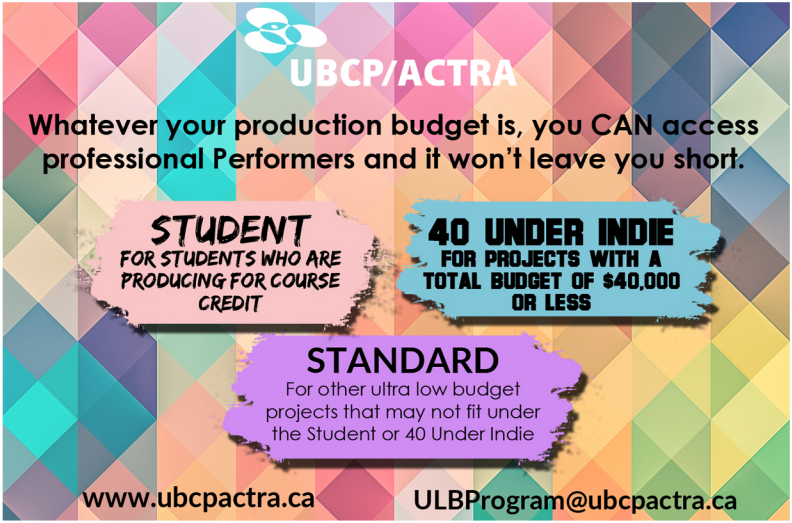
Dir. Derek Langer // 8 min

A young reporter interviews an artist with a unique style but gets more than he bargained for when she offers him the chance to be one of her models.

THIS IS A PERIOD PIECE

Dir. Bruna Arbex // 14 min

A 13-year-old tomboy must confront her fears when she gets her first period and "becomes a woman."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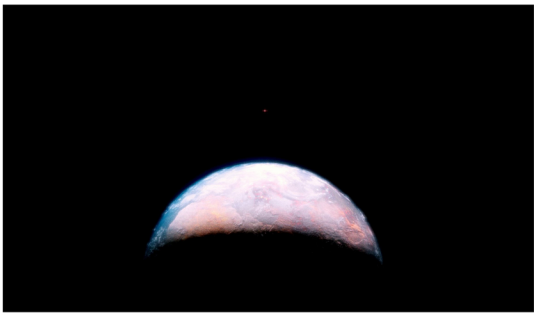
Programme 4

Saturday January 23, 2021 // 06:00 PM

CURSE

Dir. Reginald Bernandino // 10 min

A young man navigates a path amidst toxic masculinity and the desire for female companionship.



THE DAY THE ROCKET LEFT

Dir. Benjamin McGregor // 3 min

As time on earth grows shorter and shorter, a rocket is made to travel to a distant planet to colonize. When the rocket leaves, a young woman finds out an astronaut on the ship is tied to her past. To reconcile their past differences, she records a message for them, knowing it will be viewed well after her time has past.

HAYASHI STUDIO

Dir. Hayley Gray // 25 min

Hayashi Studio follows the diverse lives that came to a small town on Vancouver Island in the 1900's and Senjiro Hayashi, the Japanese photographer who took their photos. Hayashi used his lens to document every race, class and gender. During internment many of his photos disappear, some hidden in family attics, others used to make a greenhouse. Almost a century later the photos were found and exhibited, showcasing a piece of Pacific Northwest History rarely seen, that of the diverse and racialized.

WATERSHED

Dir. Maxime Beauchamp // 14 min

While scavenging around an empty city after a water-borne virus has killed off most of the Earth's population, a lone survivor finds a sliver of hope when she encounters a young Mandarin girl who may be able to chemically manufacture clean water.

WHAT ABOUT OUR FUTURE?

Dir. Jaime Leigh Gianopoulos // 25 min

In 2019, the "Sustainabiliteens" from Vancouver mobilized more than 150,000 people to march against climate catastophe. The film gives insights into the teenagers' everyday life which is determined not only by school, friends and families, but also by the climate justice and activism. Taking things into their own hands gives them strength: "We are unstoppable, another world is possible."

PLUGGED IN

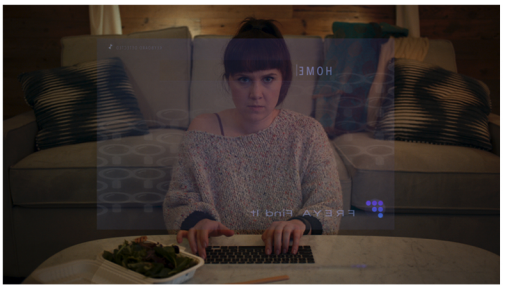
Dir. Kathryn Bons // 12 min

After receiving the latest companion android as a gift, reclusive Ashaya must choose between a flawed human relationship and a customizable machine one.

BLEED WITH ME

Dir. Varsha Gill // 6 min

Bleed With Me showcases the perspectives of sixteen people from the Greater Vancouver region of different ages, genders, ethnicities, abilities, and socioeconomic classes, on menstruation. Bleed With Me highlights that menstruation is experienced subjectively, impacts people's lives deeply, and needs to be destigmatized. This film challenges menstrual stigma by encouraging open, honest, and inclusive conversations about menstruation.



FREYA

Dir. Camille Hollett-French // 16 min

Jade considers FREYA (her Federally Regulated Enquiry and Yield Assistant) a friend. But when a one-night stand doesn't go as planned, Jade is forced to question FREYA and the system she represents. Set in the not-too-distant future, FREYA will make you second guess your relationship with technology, social media, and The State.

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After Dark Double Block

Saturday January 23, 2021 // 09:00 PM

MR JAMES IS DEAD

Dir. Josh Aries, Daniel Irving // 15 min

Tom attends his estranged father's funeral only to find out that his father had been a spy all along, and his funeral is filled with spy villains from all shapes and sizes from his past.

CROWN JUUL

Dir. Peter Faint // 7 min

In a dystopian future, JUUL CORP., a vape manufacturer, rules with fury, and it is up to the RESISTANCE, an underground group of undercover agents, to STOP them.

AN EVENING OF COCKTAILS AND CALAMITY

Dir. Rowan Landaiche // 11 min

During a conventionally bound yet otherworldly dinner party, things begin to go wrong at the arrival of an uninvited guest. Despite their efforts to regain control of their gathering, the hosts' facade of composure begins to slip as the intruder's behaviour flies in the face of their straight-edge comfort zone.

CLOUT

Dir. Ariel Hansen // 15 min

Lyra is living a pinterest-perfect life as a social media influencer until both her and her following begin to crumble. Is her downfall just the work of a new algorithm, or something out of this world?

BUG

Dir. Jacob Weldon // 6 min

DON'T GET INFECTED.

LOGAN LEE & THE RISE OF THE PURPLE DAWN

Dir. Raymond C. Lai // 9 min

A coming of age, sci-fi, hip-hop, stoner comedy about Logan Lee, a young DJ, who discovers a strain of marijuana that allows him to see that certain people are actually soul-sucking cyborgs. With the help of his intrepid aunt, Logan must gather his wits and save his best friend from the clutches of one such cyborg.

FRUIT

Dir. Ivan Li // 3 min

An in-depth technical analysis on Fruit.

GLOW DORRIS

Dir. Shelby Wilson // 15 min

A lonely young girl, gets way more than she bargained for, when a mysterious 1980's workout tape appears on her doorstep.

ODD GIRL

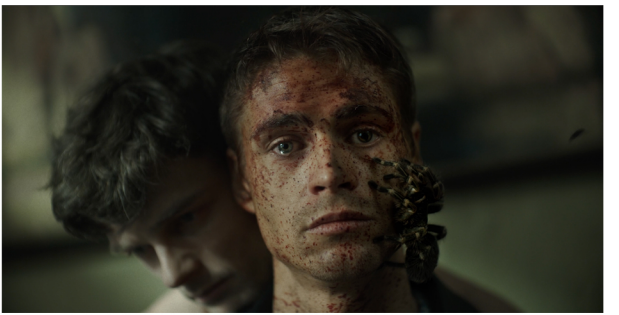
Dir. Rami Kahlon // 13 min

Set in a small suburban town, high school student Dylan becomes worried when his popular best friend starts getting followed incessantly by the odd girl out. Her admiration seems harmless and innocent to his friend, but Dylan isn't so sure...

TOO LATE

Dir. Roy Stein // 5 min

Deep into the small hours of the night, drenched in black coffee and paperwork, a lonely man's sanity starts to slip away.



ITSY BITSY SPIDER

Dir. Brodi-jo Scalise // 19 min

This psychological-horror that follows a man struggling to maintain his sanity after discovering a menacing spider in his boyfriend’s apartment.

WHAT WE FOUND OUT THERE

Dir. Karl Kimmel // 9 min

Two friends find more than they bargained for while hiking out in the wilderness.

MURPHY'S LAW

Dir. Kate Green // 12 min

Set in the fever pitched days of the gold rush in British Columbia, Murphy's Law tells the story of three outlaw sisters' who's plans to flee to Dawson City go awry when one of them catches a case of the 'strange rabies'. Emotional, cinematic, quirky and rooted in character, Murphy's Law is a marriage of human drama and the supernatural all wrapped up in a blanket of absurd comedy.

THE PURGAMENTUM

Dir. Julie Bruns, Steven Kammerer, Shawn Major // 6 min

A marine biologist stationed in a remote float house on the rugged Pacific Northwest coast, is chilled when eerie sounds begin emanating through her underwater microphone system.

THE FREEZE

Dir. Trevor Mirosh // 9 min

Inside their apartment, a young girl and her roommate discover that their 1950's fridge is more than it seems.

VSFF FILMMAKER-ONLY EVENT

VSFF
Filmmaker Coffee Hour

The "**Filmmaker Coffee Hour**" online event seeks to bring together VSFF filmmakers for an intimate morning of community connections and inspiring industry discourse. Filmmakers have the opportunity to network, hear from established filmmakers, and celebrate their films with the festival.

Panelists:
Rachel Talalay
Karen Lam

Moderated by **VSFF Chair of the Board Kristyn Stilling**.

This event is scheduled to take place online on Sunday, January 24th, 2021 at 11:00am PST. Attendance is limited to filmmakers with films playing in VSFF 2021. Filmmakers will receive further instructions via email.

Rachel Talalay

Panelist

Rachel Talalay's eclectic career spans three decades of directing and producing. She recently completed a family monster film, A Babysitters Guide To Monster Hunting, which will air on Netflix in October. Over the past 5 years she has directed for seven episodes of DoctorWho, the opening film of Series IV of the acclaimed Sherlock, and episodes of American television including American Gods, Marvel's Iron Fist, DC's Doom Patrol, Riverdale, Sabrina, SuperGirl, Legends of Tomorrow, and The Flash.

In 2020 she also executive-produced and co-wrote an independent feature, An Introvert's Guide To High School, which won the Best Innovation Feature and Best Neo Style Feature at the Two Roads International Film Festival. It will be premiering in December.

In between the TV episodes, she directed the film based on StevieCameron's award-winning novel "On the Farm". Playing at more thana dozen festivals, it won Best Narrative Feature at The Seattle SocialJustice Film Festival and Best Filmmaking at LA Skins Festival. Her eclectic resume includes directing Tank Girl, Freddy's Dead(Nightmare on Elm Street 6), Ghost In The Machine, Wind in theWillows, award-winning mini-series (Terminal City, Durham Countyand Dice) and more than 75 hours of television in the US, UK and Canada from Ally McBeal to Without a Trace, Randall & Hopkirk (Deceased) to Touching Evil.

Her producing history is equally varied: from Hairspray (the original) and Cry Baby to the Nightmare on Elm Street franchise (parts 3 and 4) to The Borrowers.

Talalay is an active advocate for Diversity and Gender Equality.#DiverseVoicesMatter. She co-founded The Full Flood Foundation which supports Indigenous women and children with missing or murdered family members.

Her skin is made Teflon, a noted super- power.

Karen Lam

Panelist

Karen has worked full-time in the film and television industry since 2000.Starting her career as a producer and entertainment lawyer, Karen has since written and directed eight short films, two music videos, series directed a true-crime documentary series for Investigation Discovery (US), a web series "Mythos" (2015) created for TELUS, and three feature films -- "Stained" (2010),"Evangeline" (2013) and "The Curse of Willow Song" (2020), which premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival in September 2020. The film won Best British Columbia Feature Film and Karen received a Best Director award at the British Columbia Leo Awards for her work. Karen has also written television scripts for SYFY and Netflix on the series Van Helsing and Ghost Wars.

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talented filmmakers selected for this year's
program. We look forward to seeing
your work!

Programme 5

Sunday January 24, 2021 // 01:00 PM

DEEPER I GO

Dir. Michael P. Vidler // 15 min

The profound loss of a loved one drives a man to desperation.

LOOKING BACK

Dir. Anna Anaka // 11 min

A lonely mother and an angry daughter are forced to come to terms with their individual regrets within their relationship. Will they ever be able to forgive themselves, or each other?

SHE MADE ME

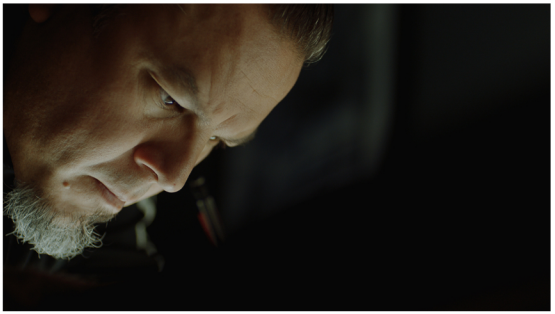
Dir. Berlin Lu // 13 min

A young Chinese-Canadian songwriter struggles to take care of his schizophrenic mother and to be a shining example for his 8 year old sister.

NENE

Dir. King Louie Palomo // 17 min

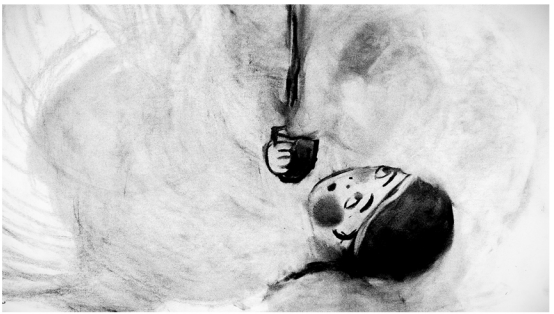
An elderly painter is visited by her daughter and grandson, not knowing it will be the last time.



THIS INK RUNS DEEP

Dir. Asia Youngman // 16 min

This Ink Runs Deep features indigenous tattoo artists from across Canada who are reviving ancestral traditions that disappeared during colonization. Through the film, we learn about the practices that were thought to be lost forever, and how their revival reflects a reawakening of indigenous identity.



YARLUNG

Dir. Kunsang Kyirong // 5 min

Three children in the Tibetan village of Tezu, India interact with the Yarlung Tsangpo (river) in different ways in response to a death in the family.

ʔIIḥTUUP (WHALE)

Dir. Tanner Zurkoski // 19 min

A young man must rise to become what his community needs following the death of his father and return to the now estranged village of his birth.

“

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Programme 6

Sunday January 24, 2021 // 04:00 PM

GINGER BEEF

Dir. Eunice Hau // 10 min

When her best friend ditches her on the first day of high school, shy and awkward Daisy must do everything she can to win her back.

THE SUNDAY CYCLE

Dir. Jane Bau // 11 min

THE SUNDAY CYCLE follows the seeming monotony of a laundromat and its customers. Told through the eyes of a narrator, who speculates on these people all the time, but never interacts with them. He makes up their lives in his head based on the little fragments that he observes. Then, the unexpected death of the laundromat's owner forces these people together, and the laundromat closes soon after. This story is an ode to urban impermanence, the comfort of strangers, and the humanity in unexpected connection.

THERE & THEN

Dir. Stefan Feldmann // 9 min

A love story to the track bike and a community that has formed around it.

33′ LOT

Dir. Sarah Genge // 13 min

Over 300 letters were sent to the residents of Vancouver Specials. 10 people responded. Do they share anything but the frames of their homes?

A-YI

Dir. Martyna Czaplak // 17 min

An elderly Chinese woman and a group of millennial roomies make for one unlikely friendship.

NO MORE PARTIES

Dir. Natalie Murao // 15 min

Accurately awkward, Rose attends a karaoke party and hears a voice louder than her own in this subtly nuanced take on navigating adulthood and finding independence.

BREAKING THE SILENCE

Dir. Jackson Tse // 5 min

A child of the fifties, Paul Wong grew up surrounded by racism and dominant expectations. Radical, queer, out and proud, Paul's art busts these stereotypes. BREAKING THE SILENCE is a 5-minute documentary exploring the point-of-view of a legendary multimedia artist.

IDOLS NEVER DIE

Dir. Jerome Yoo // 17 min

When Korean pop idol "N.D." tragically dies, a dysfunctional group of high school fan girls discover a hidden message in his music, which leads them on a quest to fulfill his final wish -- to spread his ashes over the tallest tree in their hometown forest.

Canadian Cinema Editors | Les Monteurs et Monteuses de cinéma canadien

PUBLIC EVENT

VSFF Awards Presentation

Streaming Live, join us for our Awards Presentation as we award cash and prizes in 14 juried categories to VSFF filmmakers.

This event is free and open to the public, streaming live at 7:00pm PT Sunday January 24th. Access via Eventive by ordering a complimentary ticket, or via VSFF Facebook Live. Check back for stream access on the event date!

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COREY MALONE CREATIVE

VSFF 2021 JURY

Doreen Manuel

Doreen Manuel (Secwepemc/Ktunaxa), MFA, is the sixth child of Grand Chief George Manuel and Spiritual Leader Marceline Manuel. She is the Director of the Bosa Centre for Film and Animation; serves on the Board of Directors of Knowledge Network; is a partner with the Talent to Watch Telefilm Fund and serves on the Telefilm Indigenous Working Group; is a Matriarch with the IM4 virtual and augmented reality training program; serves as an Indigenous advisor on the TELUS Storyhive program- Indigenous envelope; serves on the board of directors of Moving Images Distribution; is a founder and instructor for the Women in Film and Television: Tricksters and Writers feature film screenwriting program; and serves on the Motion Picture Production Association of BC Equity and Inclusion. Committee; and is a member of the Equity and Inclusion Women in Film and Television Lobby Group; She is an award-winning filmmaker with an extensive background as a leader working in First Nations education and community development in both rural and urban centers. Doreen is also the owner of Running Wolf Productions.

Arnold Lim

Arnold Lim has directed and/or produced more than a dozen shorts, most recently winning Telefilm's Talent to Watch twice, winning a $125,000 national feature film grant to direct his first feature All-in Madonna (2020) and to produce web series Best Friend Me (2022). Lim was also awarded a BravoFACT grant, a B.C. Arts Council Grant, a Harold Greenberg Fund's Shorts-to-Features grant and selected to the National Screen Institute's Features First program.

Kathleen Mullen

Kathleen Mullen born in Edmonton, Alberta, grew up in both Canada and the San Francisco Bay Area. She has contributed to the planning and execution of film and art festivals nationally and internationally and is an independent filmmaker, film programmer, and consultant (Letter K Media). Mullen has programmed for and worked with film festivals and media arts organizations including Toronto International Film Festival, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, and Whistler Film Festival among others.

Since 2014 Kathleen has been part of Three Dollar Bill Cinema (TDBC) as Festival Director of Seattle Queer Film Festival. In 2020, she organized TDBC's two online festivals, Seattle Queer Film Festival and Translations: Seattle Transgender Film Festival. Presently she is based in Vancouver, British Columbia teaching film festival management at Universities in both the US and Canada as well as curating and continuing to consult on rough cuts and programming.

William F. White International Inc. Award for
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The Gearbase Award for **BEST STUDENT SHORT FILM**

Director's Guild of Canada Award for **BEST DIRECTOR**

WIFTV Award for **BEST DIRECTION BY A WOMAN**

Scripting Aloud! Award for **BEST SCREENPLAY**

KESLOW Camera Award for **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY**

UBCP/ACTRA Award for **BEST PERFORMANCE BY A WOMAN**

Chilliwack Independent Film Festival Award for
BEST PERFORMANCE BY A MAN

Zoic VFX Award for **BEST VISUAL EFFECTS**

Big World Sound Award for **BEST SOUND DESIGN**

Canadian Cinema Editors Award for **BEST EDITING**

SparkCG Award for **BEST ANIMATION**

Documentary Organization of Canada Award for
BEST DOCUMENTARY

Vancouver Badass Film Festival Award for
BEST AFTER DARK FILM

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