

RISEING STARS ★ REVOLUTIONARY STORIES
VANCOUVER
SHORT
FILM FESTIVAL **JUNE 2ND – 11TH 2023**
PROGRAM GUIDE





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

June 2–11, 2023

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2023 Vancouver Short Film Festival (VSFF).

Now in its 13th year, VSFF is a celebration of Canadian short film, video and animation. I am certain that everyone in attendance will be entertained and engaged by the diverse selection of films being screened over the next ten days.

I would like to thank the artists presenting their work for bringing their talent and creativity to the screen. I would also like to commend the organizers for their hard work in planning this year's edition of the festival, which includes both in-person and digital programming. You can take pride in your commitment to bringing people together through the medium of film and to developing and promoting Canadian screen-based talent.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable experience.

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



Welcome to the Vancouver Short Film Festival.

This year's lineup once again showcases the best new and original short films from storytellers across Canada, including 45 films from British Columbia and 12 from film students. These stories encompass a diverse array of topics, cultures and voices, in keeping with this year's theme, Rising Stars, Revolutionary Stories.

These artists have a unique gift of expressing what it means to be Canadian. Their creativity helps us better understand our society and world. Our government knows the power the arts have in encouraging openness and inclusion, and we are proud to support this celebration.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I'd like to congratulate everyone involved with this year's edition, which returns in person for the first time in three years.

Have a great festival!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines.

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez



A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DAVID EBY

As Premier of British Columbia, I am honoured to extend my warm greetings to everyone attending the 13th edition of the Vancouver Short Film Festival (VSFF).

Since its inception in 2005, the VSFF has consistently exhibited the incredible breadth of storytelling by talented Canadian filmmakers, while also providing a crucial platform to showcase and uplift the creative minds of British Columbia. Our province takes immense pride in its thriving arts and culture sector, and we are fortunate to have events like this that allow us to delve into the rich tapestry of cinematic expression. With a diverse selection of films, accompanied by exclusive events for filmmakers, I have every confidence that this festival will prove to be a captivating blend of enrichment and entertainment for all participants.

Organizing an event of this magnitude requires an extraordinary amount of dedication, and I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the tireless efforts of the VSFF team, board members and volunteers for their unwavering commitment to making this event possible. The films curated this year span across a wide spectrum, from compelling documentaries to mesmerizing animated shorts, undoubtedly leaving an indelible impression on both fans and critics alike. I wholeheartedly congratulate everyone involved in the production of these remarkable films for their inclusion in the esteemed VSFF 2023.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable festival. Sit back, relax and enjoy the captivating shows that await you!

HONOURABLE DAVID EBY, K.C.
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Showcasing and celebrating the works of Canadian creators is at the heart of what we do at Telefilm. That is why we are proud to partner with the Vancouver Short Film Festival, to further boost our support for Canadian creatives at home and around the world.

In this ever-evolving cultural landscape, festivals continue to play an important role in the screen-based industry, growing the talent pool, as well as allowing audiences to celebrate and connect with distinctive Canadian films and the talent behind them.

We encourage you to keep supporting Canadian talent in theatres and on digital platforms!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Julie Roy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Julie Roy
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



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June 2nd -11th, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my warmest greeting to everyone attending the 2023 Vancouver Short Film Festival.

The Festival is currently in its 13th year as a non-profit festival that celebrates the tremendous talent of shorts filmmakers from the Canadian west coast and across the country. This year, the Festival will be screening 57 films in 6 programmes, across an exciting range of genres, stories, and communities. As Mayor, I am honoured to live in a city where we can provide educational and inspirational opportunities to aspiring filmmakers through various partnerships with educational institutions and industry organizations.

Thank you to Vancouver Short Film Festival, all the filmmakers, organizers and volunteers for providing us a glimpse into the talent that lives amongst us. I hope everyone has a wonderful experience during the Festival!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Sim', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Ken Sim

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Welcome to the 13th annual Vancouver Short Film Festival! It has been an exciting year for us, with a return to in-person screenings and festivities, new spring dates, and an expansion of programs and venues. The resilience of the festival, as well as our growth over the past few years, has been inspiring to witness and we are so pleased to be able to once again return to the big screen and connect as a community in our shared love of film while simultaneously offering our programming online to reach a broader audience across Canada.

This year we welcome for the first time Co-Programming Directors, Laura Arboleda and Avi Glanzer, who worked with the programming team in choosing films to entertain, inspire, and challenge you. The festival is honoured to present 57 short films from across Canada, in 6 programs, over 3 days, with the aim to shine a spotlight on the incredible talent of emerging and established filmmakers and to connect BC content creators and audiences to the greater film industry nationwide.

The festival is a love letter to the 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 the VSFF a truly special experience. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank our dedicated festival directors, Emily Weldon and Nicolas Ayerbe Barona, and all the VSFF staff and volunteers, many of whom have been with the festival for multiple years, for all their hard work. The festival would not be possible without you.

This June we invite you to join us in celebrating these 57 short films and fall in love with the vibrant and diverse talent and community within Canada!

Sincerely,
Kristyn Stilling
Chair of the Board

LETTER FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTORS

Welcome to the Vancouver Short Film Festival! Here we are at our first in-person, in-theatre festival in 3.5 years. This moment is profound and highly anticipated. We're thrilled to gather once again and celebrate the incredible talent of Canadian independent filmmakers. Our world is a different place and VSFF looks and feels a bit different too: we are now both in-person across two venues (VIFF Centre and the ANNEX) and online. Thank you for joining us!

We are proud to showcase 57 outstanding films– filled with Rising Stars and Revolutionary Stories– that embody the creativity, passion, and authentic perspectives of Canadian independent cinema. VSFF received a record-breaking number of film submissions this year, a testament to our community's hunger for storytelling and the desire for shared experience.

None of this would be possible without the support of our incredible festival sponsors and community partners. Year after year, they have stood by our side, providing resources and guidance to nurture local filmmaking talent. Their commitment to our festival and the growth of our filmmakers is truly extraordinary, and we extend our deepest gratitude.

We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our wildly talented and dedicated volunteer staff members. Your dedication and enthusiasm are instrumental in creating an exceptional festival experience. Your collaboration, expertise, and care are invaluable as we strive to showcase local film talent and elevate new voices in media to greater heights in their own communities.

Thank you– yes, you reading this!– for joining us at VSFF 2023. Your presence here today echoes our community's dedication to supporting local talent and the power of film to unite and inspire. We are honored to have you in our audience, and we look forward to sharing this incredible experience with you.

See you in the theatre!

Sincerely,
Emily Weldon
Nicolas Ayerbe Barona
Festival Co-Directors

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Nicolas Ayerbe Barona

Emily Weldon

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Co-Director of Programming

Avi Glanzer
Co-Director of Programming

Matthew Broughton
Submissions Manager

Dani Rodriguez Chevalier
Pre-Selection

Grace Chin
Pre-Selection

Della Haddock
Pre-Selection

Michael Ioannou
Pre-Selection

Shayne Leydon
Pre-Selection

Helen Liu
Pre-Selection

Catherine Mwitta
Pre-Selection

Lucia Trevino
Pre-Selection

VSFF TEAM 2023

STAFF

Jordan Boos

Graphic Designer & Web Administrator

Duncan Carr

Director of Sponsorships

Avi Glanzer

Director of Outreach & Development

Abigail Markowitz

Tech & Event Support Operator

Daniel Oong

Technical Coordinator

Viktoriiia Tian

Marketing Coordinator

Matthew Broughton

Programming Manager

Andrea Feltrin

Event Manager

Allice Grinband

Box Office Manager

Jacob McNeil

Director of Marketing & Publicity

Dana Bettine Schleiger

Director of Community Partnerships

Lucia Trevino

Social Media Coordinator

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VSFF AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Program One: In-Person Screening

6:00–8:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

Maundy, A Mar, Sandbox, My Name is Arnold, We Went Out, Woman Meets Girl, Debutante, Immaculate Virtual, Municipal Relaxation Module

VSFF Opening Reception

9:00–11:00 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Set Protect Presents: VSFF Industry Roundtables

10:00 AM–12:00 PM @ ANNEX

VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event

VSFF Keep It Short Speed Meetings

12:30–1:30 PM @ ANNEX

VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event

Program Two: In-Person Screening

2:30–4:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

Split Ends, Blanket Song, Meeting Amy, Glass Doll, Wok Hei, Magic Trick, Patter, Things are Great, Rumination, The Mess We're In, Homewreckers

Program Three: In-Person Screening

5:30–7:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

Dandelion Green, Swallow Flying to the South, I Remember Everything, A Week to Rosh Hashanah, Corvine, Her Name is Like a Sigh, Side Walks

After Dark Double Block: In-Person Screening

8:30–11:30 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

A Short Fiction Double Feature of 13 dark, spooky, and out-of-this-world short films. ADHD - SÂYE SKYE, Mom vs. Machine, Damned Supper, Not For Us, White Lady, When Will This Story End, Omukama, Gnaw, Shallots & Garlic, Venus Revolution, Weeds are Flowers, Too, Holly, Maceration

VSFF AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

VSFF Filmmaker Luncheon

11:00 AM–1:00 PM @ ANNEX

VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event

Program Two: In-Person Screening

2:00–4:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

N'xaxaitkw, 3 Second In 6 Seconds Out, Adrift, A Flicker of Light, Routine Seasons, Printemps, Latchkey, Zeb's Spider

Program Five: In-Person Screening

5:00–7:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

I Bot, Paco, Māca, Feeling the Apocalypse, Stay, Tongue, Lay Me By the Shore, Blue Garden, Peanut Butter

VSFF Awards Presentation

8:00–9:30 PM @ ANNEX

VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event

VSFF Closing Party

9:30–11:45 PM @ ANNEX

FILM PROGRAMS AVAILABLE ONLINE ON DEMAND VIA EVENTIVE VIRTUAL JUNE 2ND–11TH

Vancouver Short Film Festival and the city of Vancouver where we operate is located on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵ'əy̱əm (Musqueam), s̱ḵw̱x̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and seḻiḻwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations. For further information on these and other Indigenous territories where we live, work, and create, we invite you to learn more at native-land.ca.

VENUE INFORMATION

FILM SCREENINGS @ VIFF CENTRE - VANCITY THEATRE

Accessibility:

VIFF Centre is a fully accessible facility. Wheelchair seating is available. Only certified guide and service dogs are permitted. Closed Captions are available for our virtual screenings via Eventive Virtual only.

VIFF Centre – Vancity Theatre Address:

1181 Seymour St, Vancouver, BC V6B 3M7

FILMMAKER-EXCLUSIVE EVENTS @ ANNEX

Accessibility:

Wheelchair seating is available on the main and gallery levels. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are on the main level. Elevator access is available through the main entrance and will access all levels. Only certified guide and service dogs are permitted.

ANNEX Address:

823 Seymour St, Vancouver, BC V6B 3L4

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Vancouver Short Film Festival gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following organizations and programs:



Creative BC



The Province of
British Columbia



Telefilm Canada



The VCT Activating Spaces
Grant Program



SPARKY'S
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GUESTS & PANELISTS

LUNCHEON PANELISTS



HAYLEY GRAY is a Vancouver-based writer and director (DGC). She is a graduate of Dalhousie University and Vancouver Film School and has written and directed scripted, documentary and commercial work. Hayley's films have won awards at festivals around the world and aired on Telus Optik, the Knowledge Network, CBC and Air Canada. Her film *Send the Rain* premiered on CBC, won the Golden Egg at the Reykjavik International Film Festival and won the DGC Short Award.



MAYUMI YOSHIDA is an award-winning Actor, Writer and Director born in Japan, raised in three continents and based in Vancouver, BC. She's an alumna of talent programs including WarnerMedia x Canadian Academy Writers Program and TIFF Talent Accelerator. Her latest music video *Different Than Before* won Jury Award at SXSW '23 Music Video Competition and was nominated for Music Video of the Year at Juno Awards. Her first feature *Akashi* is set to shoot in Japan and Canada in 2023.



STEVE J. ADAMS & SEAN HORLOR are an established directing team working in Vancouver, British Columbia. Their documentary features and documentary series are crowd-pleasing favourites, featuring larger-than-life characters, twisty-turny plots, and beautiful cinematography. Their first feature *Someone Like Me* (National Film Board of Canada) won top honours at film festivals internationally, including the Audience Choice Award at Hot Docs 2021.

GUESTS & PANELISTS

PROGRAM HOSTS



EM COOPER (they/them) is a comedian, producer and activist who has been telling jokes in bars, barns and blanketforts since 2007. They host *Rape is Real and Everywhere*, a comedy show by survivors, that toured Canada independently pre #metoo. It won The Spirit of the Fringe Award at the 2019 Vancouver Fringe. They host workshops *Cathartic Laughs* and run a seasonal comedy show in Langley called *Farm Country Brewhaha* that connects a diversity of hilarious performers with a warm audience.



TODDY is a Canadian drag performer, comedian, singer-songwriter and winner of the first season of *Call Me Mother*. Trained as an opera singer, they often find themselves at the intersection of classical music and mainstream media. As a comedian, Toddy has been featured on CBCLOL, JFL42, JFL Northwest, and the Portland Queer Comedy festival. They are the number one shrill icon!



KRISTYN STILLING has immersed herself into the Canadian film community as an independent Producer with over 10 years of experience. Her first feature film, *Golden Delicious*, premiered at VIFF in Oct 2022 and received wide acclaim. Kristyn is also the Chair of the Vancouver Short Film Festival and has previously worked for the National Film Board of Canada, eOne, Whistler Film Festival, Crazy8s Film Society, and Kickstart Entertainment.

KAROLINA TUREK PHOTOGRAPHY

The Directors Guild of Canada, British Columbia
is a proud supporter of the 2023 Vancouver Short Film Festival

Congratulations to the talented Filmmakers
showcased in this year's festival!



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Representing key creative and logistical personnel in the film
and television industries of British Columbia and the Yukon.

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FESTIVAL JURY



JENNIFER CHIU is an award-winning writer, director and producer and a Canadian Screen Award Nominee. She co-founded self-directed studies, an independent film collective based in Vancouver. She was Executive Producer of the Leo and Canadian Screen Award nominated series *In Chinatown*. She has contributed to National Geographic, Channel 4, Discovery, History Channel, CNN, and Knowledge Network.



KATJA DE BOCK has been a publicist for the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) since 2016, developing media strategies for the NFB's world-renowned animated films, documentaries, digital media and virtual reality projects. Katja graduated from Langara College with a certificate in Journalism and worked as a freelance reporter and web editor for Reel West Magazine. She has volunteered for a variety of Vancouver film festivals including KDocsFF, VIWFF and VIFF.



JASON KARMÁN is a graduate of the University of British Columbia with a Master of Fine Arts in Film Production and Creative Writing. His award-winning shorts include *The State of Yo*, *I'm in the Mood for Love*, *Kimchi Fried Dumplings*, and *Lions in Waiting*, a Canada Not Short on Talent selection at Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival. Jason's debut feature, *Golden Delicious*, is supported by Telefilm's Talent to Watch program.

FESTIVAL JURY



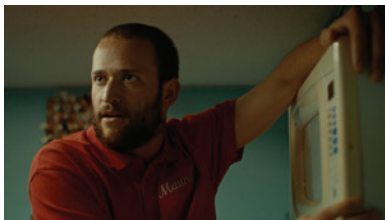
ALEXANDER LASHERAS is a Vancouver-based filmmaker known for his captivating storytelling. His debut feature *Cadence* won the Audience Award at the 2016 Vancouver International Film Festival. His latest film *The Beehive*, funded by Telefilm Canada, is a sci-fi thriller and coming-of-age survival tale. As a proud member of the Métis Nation of B.C., he is committed to creating authentic and compelling stories that delve into themes of resilience and the human experience.



JAY SURRIDGE is a Partner of Yeti Farm and former Head of Animation Development at Ehokay Entertainment, where he directed hit titles such as *Hasbro's Rescue Bots*, *PBS' Ready Jet Go* and *SheZow*. Jay was a keystone in developing the Flash animation industry in BC during the late '90s with his company Pork and Beans Productions. Jay has a background in business and years of experience as a creative in the industry at all stages of the animation production pipeline.

PROGRAM ONE

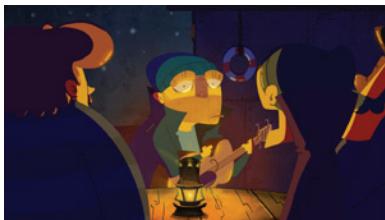
Friday, June 2 | 6:00–8:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



MAUNDY

Dir. Adriana Marchand
23:00 minutes

Battling the mundane end of summer days, a group of unexpected characters splash their way into Maundy's life, leading him to chase his wandering mind and find answers to the past that he's been searching for.



A MAR

**Dirs. Danilo Sanchez
& Juan David León**
7:00 minutes

A Mar tells the story of William McDuffie and his crew as they sail through the Caribbean singing tales of love.



SANDBOX

Dir. Riley Davis
2:36 minutes

Two young kids play in a sandbox while asking some of life's most complex questions.

PROGRAM ONE

Friday, June 2 | 6:00–8:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



MY NAME IS ARNOLD

Dir. Arnold Lim

15:59 minutes

A Korean-Canadian boy and his mother struggle with their identity while adapting to a new life in a rural Canadian community where they're the only Asians in town.



WE WENT OUT

Dir. Ian Kamau

12:00 minutes

We Went Out is a short documentary that celebrates the in-between spaces in the lives of four friends from Toronto.



WOMAN MEETS GIRL

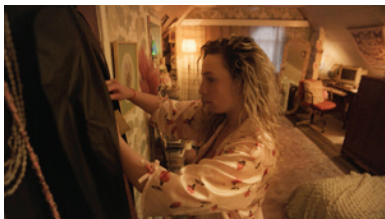
Dir. Murry Peeters

17:02 minutes

As cocktails lead to a revealing conversation, chemistry builds between Annabelle, an awkward forty-two-year old, and Tessie, an young and extroverted sex worker.

PROGRAM ONE

Friday, June 2 | 6:00–8:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

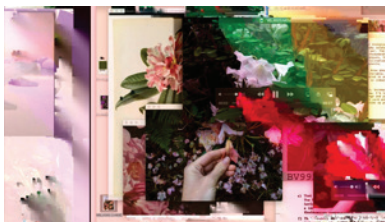


DEBUTANTE

Dir. Clara Salameh

12:09 minutes

On the day before her graduation, a seemingly perfect older sister's polished façade unravels in front of her younger sister.



IMMACULATE VIRTUAL

Dir. Ryley O'Byrne

8:41 minutes

Immaculate Virtual is a film essay contemplating the nature of reality, intimacy, and loss in the bewildering space where technology and humanity intertwine.



MUNICIPAL RELAXATION MODULE

Dir. Matthew Rankin

6:00 minutes

Ken has an idea for a bench.

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, June 2 | 9:00–11:00 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



You're Invited! Any VSFF Ticket holder for any screening (In-Person or Virtual) is invited to attend our Opening Reception! Please show your festival ticket for entry. This event is first come first serve, admittance is subject to capacity. 19+ only.

No Pre-Registration is required. Please bring your ticket on-the-day for entry.



MITRIBE
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SET PROTECT PRESENTS: VSFF INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES

Saturday, June 3 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM @ ANNEX | VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event



Sign up to meet with Industry expert guests of your choice for intimate and informative hosted group conversations. Our Industry Expert Guests will facilitate a group discussion around a focused film industry topic, offering expertise, dialogue, and answers to your burning questions. Learn something new and connect with someone new at this part-informational, part-networking style event! Attendance is limited to filmmakers with films playing in VSFF 2023.

ROUNDTABLE TOPICS AND HOSTS

Supporting your Health & Well-being in the Film & TV Industry

Hosted by Alice Ride, Founder & Director of Set Protect

Managing our health and well-being in the Entertainment Industry can be challenging, and our facilitator is here to guide us through what that looks like for our industry by highlighting the barriers we experience, as well as strategies and solutions on how we can implement better practices. Join this intimate conversation with Set Protect: a Canadian production services company that provides health and well-being services to the arts & entertainment industry, seeking to ensure that everyone has access to health and wellbeing support – because your health and well-being matters.

Sustainability in Film Production

Hosted by Smiley Khurana, Reel Green Sustainability Lead, Creative BC

In this chat, we examine all things sustainable film production and climate storytelling. Bring your big discussion topics and small questions to this timely conversation surrounding sustainable filmmaking.

SET PROTECT PRESENTS: VSFF INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES

Saturday, June 3 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM @ ANNEX | VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event

Short Film Festival Strategies

Hosted by Casey Wei, Short Film Programmer, Vancouver International Film Festival

For those looking to maximize their festival opportunities, don't miss this conversation focussed on navigating the short film festival circuit. Ask our Facilitator and fellow filmmakers all your biggest questions on the "hows" and "whys", and everything in between, of navigating festival play.

Crafting Documentary Storytelling for Social Impact

Hosted by Teri Snelgrove, Producer, National Film Board of Canada

In this session, it's all about Impact. Attendees are encouraged to bring all your questions and topics related to Social Impact Storytelling, including crafting story, pitching social-impact films, seeking production support, navigating production challenges, and finding one's audience and path to impact.

Gearing Up for your Production

Hosted by Tug Phipps, Client Services Coordinator, Emerging Filmmakers / Digital Content, William F White International Inc.

Let's get into gear! Our facilitator will offer insight and guidance on how emerging producers, technicians and creatives can work successfully with gear houses. Topics from budgeting, when to reach out to gear houses, how to choose and seek out specific gear, and all the ways that the right gear house can support one's production will be discussed.



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Art direction, film graphics, logos and more. CORGI-CREATIVE.COM

SET PROTECT PRESENTS: VSFF INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES

Friday, June 2 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM @ ANNEX | VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event

Navigating Post-Production as an Independent Filmmaker

Hosted by Julia Niendorf, Post Production Manager

Join this session for expert guidance on preparing for a successful post-production process for your independent film. Bring your questions on recruiting personnel, establishing successful workflows, building working relationships with technicians, and forging a career in post-production.

Independent Production: Building a Happy Crew

Hosted by Phil Planta, Independent film producer

On an independent low-budget film production, nothing is more important than keeping your cast and crew happy, and ensuring that their support is as appreciated and reciprocal as possible. Join this chat with veteran independent film producer Phil Planta on how to cultivate successful and long standing relationships with your most important resource: People!



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VSFF KEEP IT SHORT SPEED MEETINGS

Saturday, June 3 | 12:30-1:30 PM @ ANNEX | VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event



Put a face to that name! In this in-person rendition of our classic virtual event, attendees with films in VSFF 2023 have the opportunity to network one-on-one with fellow filmmakers during the festival weekend in this structured, fast-paced meet & greet event.

Attendance is limited to filmmakers with films playing in VSFF 2023.

A promotional graphic for FilmLocal. It features two men in a dark setting, one pointing at a laptop screen. The text 'FilmLocal' is at the top, followed by 'Cast. Crew. Clients. Community.' Below that is 'Become A Key Member' in large white and green letters. A list of benefits is on the left and right, and a code 'VSFF21' is at the bottom.

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PROGRAM TWO

Saturday, June 3 | 2:30-4:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

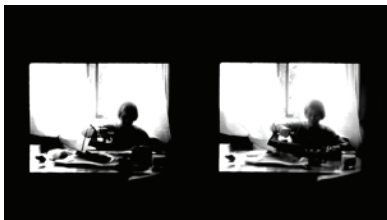


SPLIT ENDS

Dir. Alireza Kazemipour

14:15 minutes

A bald woman and a man with long hair try to get out of paying fines when traffic cameras catch them for not wearing a hijab.



BLANKET SONG

Dir. Long Xi Vlessing

4:46 minutes

A tactile and gentle documentary of a grandmother weaving her fragmented stories into blankets and quilts.



MEETING AMY

Dir. Richard Chen

14:28 minutes

A young man meets his half-sister for the first time, asking for guidance and searching for truth about their elusive father.

PROGRAM TWO

Saturday, June 3 | 2:30-4:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



GLASS DOLL

Dir. Omorose Osagie

5:00 minutes

Glass Doll is a post-apocalyptic film about a broken porcelain doll who repairs other broken toys, but must decide between giving up her closest friend and fixing herself.



WOK HEI

Dir. Joel Salaysay

10:23 minutes

An Asian-Canadian mother of two restores a rusty family wok, and in-so-doing, reconnects with her cultural roots.



MAGIC TRICK

Dir. Christopher Lennox-Aasen

5:01 minutes

A magical meet-cute about encountering a beautiful stranger in the wilds of a coffee shop.

PROGRAM TWO

Saturday, June 3 | 2:30-4:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



PATTER

Dir. Anthony Zwartouw
16:00 minutes

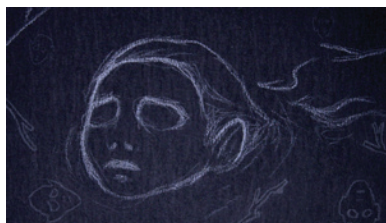
Sleazy street magician Gabe Nash can't catch a break. No matter how hard he hustles and screws people over, the world continues to reject him. Sometimes, life just isn't fair!



THINGS ARE GREAT

Dir. Matthew van Ginkel
4:00 minutes

A man's façade of a "perfect" life comes crashing down.



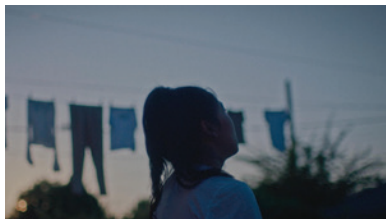
RUMINATION

Dir. Ashleigh Vaillancourt
3:21 minutes

At night, a woman's mind wanders as she chops firewood.

PROGRAM TWO

Saturday, June 3 | 2:30-4:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



THE MESS WE'RE IN

Dir. Jamie Lam

10:30 minutes

Still living in the hoarder's house she grew up in, young adult Dara contemplates moving forward in life.



HOMEWRECKERS

Dir. Eva Everett Irving

13:13 minutes

A dispassionate young couple inherit an exquisite Bavarian chalet. When mysterious letters appear at the house, a grander scheme is revealed.

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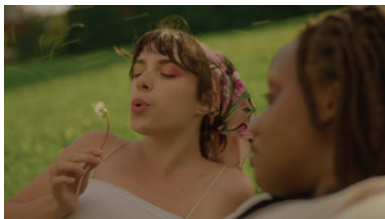
www.setprotect.ca

June 2nd – 11th, 2023



PROGRAM THREE

Saturday, June 3 | 5:30-7:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



DANDELION GREEN

Dir. Kathleen Burgess

25:41 minutes

Weeks before ageing out of the foster care system, 17-year old Kay falls into an electric friendship with Olivia, transforming the way they see themselves, and their future.



SWALLOW FLYING TO THE SOUTH

Dir. Mochi Lin

17:38 minutes

Spring 1976, 5-year-old Swallow is abandoned at a public boarding preschool in central Beijing. When the persimmons are ripe, Swallow masters how to cry, but doesn't forget how to fly.



I REMEMBER EVERYTHING

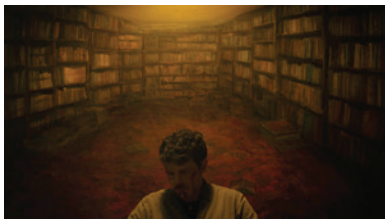
Dir. Gabriel Souza Nunes

4:29 minutes

A queer Brazilian immigrant reflects on their own journey through old family VHS tapes and cellphone videos of the last time they went home.

PROGRAM THREE

Saturday, June 3 | 5:30-7:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



A WEEK TO ROSH HASHANAH

Dir. Anastasia Itkina

14:02 minutes

During a period of self-reflection leading up to the New Year, David develops an unusual disorder and becomes determined to put an end to it.



CORVINE

Dir. Sean McCarron

10:30 minutes

An eccentric boy has trouble fitting in at school due to his obsession with crows.



HER NAME IS LIKE A SIGH

Dir. Solara Thanh-Binh Dang

16:25 minutes

An exploration of the sacrifices of Han, a Vietnamese immigrant woman trying to navigate love, trauma, clashing values, and the potential to heal.

PROGRAM THREE

Saturday, June 3 | 5:30-7:45 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



SIDE WALKS

Dir. Brian Daniel Johnson

17:07 minutes

Side Walks follows two unconnected twenty-somethings who struggle to maintain their personal relationships in the city.



Stay curious.

FEEL
THE LOSS OF TIME IN A
DARK THEATRE.



FEEL AGAIN AT A
THEATRE NEAR YOU.

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AFTER DARK DOUBLE BLOCK

Saturday, June 3 | 8:30–11:30 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

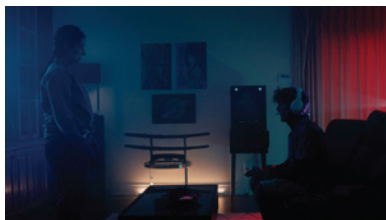


ADHD - SÄYE SKYE

Dir. Sina Dolati

4:41 minutes

The official music video for the song “ADHD” by Iranian-Canadian artist SÄYE SKYE, a chaotic experience that simulates what it’s like to live with ADHD through a lens of science fiction and comedy.



MOM VS. MACHINE

Dir. Tesh Guttikonda

15:10 minutes

When Kamal’s adult son introduces a 3D food-printing appliance into their home, it shatters her maternal identity and forces her to go on a journey to heal old wounds, rediscover herself, and literally battle the machine.



DAMNED SUPPER

Dir. Ariel Hansen

8:14 minutes

On Halloween a group of wannabe witches wishing to learn of their future romantic prospects conjure up more than they bargained for during their dumb supper ritual.

AFTER DARK DOUBLE BLOCK

Saturday, June 3 | 8:30–11:30 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



NOT FOR US

Dir. Praneet Akilla

13:00 minutes

Three Somali sisters embark on their first camping trip against their parent's wishes. Unprepared and ill-equipped, they have no idea what awaits them deep in the forest.



WHITE LADY

Dir. Marc Yungco

6:30 minutes

White Lady follows a young man, who is haunted by the ghost of their fiancé, in their place of employment.



WHEN WILL THIS STORY END

Dir. Jack Bailey

11:38 minutes

Jacob, a horror loving teenager, is tasked with telling his little sisters a bedtime story despite their constant interruptions and narrative alterations.

AFTER DARK DOUBLE BLOCK

Saturday, June 3 | 8:30–11:30 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



OMUKAMA

Dir. Zane Klassen

10:24 minutes

Milkman Daryl Ismet navigates loneliness on a surreal stage.



GNAW

Dir. Rosalee Yagihara

7:12 minutes

A pesky hangnail sends Cote into an obsessive state while creating a disconnect in her relationship with her girlfriend resulting in an unsettling terror.



SHALLOTS & GARLIC

Dir. Andrea Nirmala Widjanto

17:25 minutes

Tensions rise as Karina blames Nur for her allergic reaction to garlic.

AFTER DARK DOUBLE BLOCK

Saturday, June 3 | 8:30–11:30 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

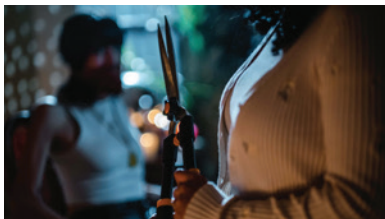


VENUS REVOLUTION

Dir. Daria Mikhaylyuk

4:03 minutes

By abstracting and absurdizing historical paintings, we free them from time constraints, expanding their role of being a comment, description or a call to immediate action to hope for the universally green future that can be shared, shifted and changed over time.

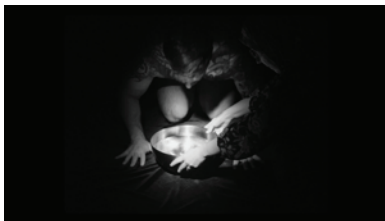


WEEDS ARE FLOWERS, TOO

Dir. Kay Shioma Metchie

15:14 minutes

How far will this newly wed young woman go to satiate her jealousy and desires to have the best garden on the block?



HOLLY

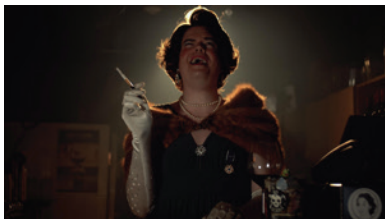
Dir. Sean Patrick Brennan

11:18 minutes

Olga is a recent immigrant to Canada. Her life is turned upside down when her beloved dog, Holly, passes away. Thankfully her new age therapist seems to have a solution.

AFTER DARK DOUBLE BLOCK

Saturday, June 3 | 8:30–11:30 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



MACERATION

Dir. Clayton Holmes

26:07 minutes

Maceration is a winemaking process where the phenolic materials of the grape—tannins, colouring agents, and flavour compounds—are leached from the grape skin. It is also the name of a fancy bar in Vancouver that serves wine made from human skin.



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VSFF FILMMAKER LUNCHEON

Sunday, June 4 | 11:00 AM–1:00 PM @ ANNEX | VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event



The 6th annual Filmmaker Luncheon seeks to bring together VSFF filmmakers for an intimate morning of community connections and inspiring industry discourse. Along with a good meal and even better company, filmmakers have the opportunity to network, hear from established filmmakers, and celebrate their films with the festival. Guests for this event include directors Hayley Gray, Mayumi Yoshida, Steve J. Adams and Sean Horlor.

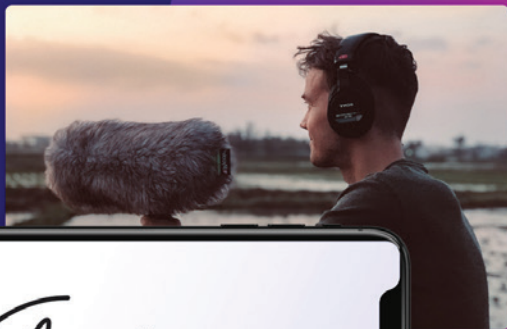
Attendance is limited to filmmakers with films playing in VSFF 2023.



SHOT LISTER

“

Circus – it's DocuSign on Superpowers.



CIRCUS

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PROGRAM FOUR

Sunday, June 4 | 2:00-4:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



N'XAXAITKW

Dir. Asia Youngman

16:37 minutes

After moving to a new town, a teenager must navigate peer pressure when her next-door neighbour convinces her to explore a nearby island in search of a legendary lake monster.



3 SECONDS IN, 6 SECONDS OUT

Dir. Christopher Beaulieu

16:59 minutes

After suffering a panic attack in public, a young woman decides to never leave her apartment again.



ADRIFT

Dir. Cathy Huynh

11:07 minutes

Two distant friends reunite after one of them returns from studying abroad.

PROGRAM FOUR

Sunday, June 4 | 2:00-4:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre

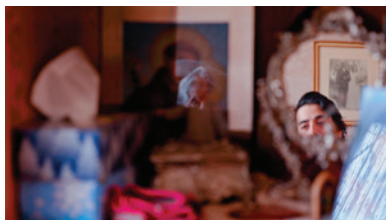


A FLICKER OF LIGHT

Dir. Lala Jiang

12:32 minutes

Ian maintains that he has successfully emerged from his two-year journey with depression. However, as he delves deeper into his inner world, he discovers that the battle against this clinical disease may be ongoing, as long as life continues to unfold.



ROUTINE SEASONS

Dir. Paul Ballerini

15:58 minutes

Note: This film will only be available at In-Person Screenings.

Routine Seasons explores how the love and sacrifice we offer others and impose onto ourselves can evolve into guilt and resentment. Distorted viewpoints, the passing of seasons, politics, and a filmmaker's obsession all converge to dissect the family's predicament.



PRINTEMPS

Dir. Sebastien Duguay

14:14 minutes

Chloe drives along deserted roads seeking to find a trace of her brother, haunted by a recurring dream.

PROGRAM FOUR

Sunday, June 4 | 2:00-4:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



LATCHKEY

Dir. Nathalie Therriault

10:53 minutes

Two seven-year-olds navigate their after school life without adult supervision which slowly chips away at their innocence.



ZEB'S SPIDER

Dirs. Alicia Eisen & Sophie Jarvis

10:00 minutes

An eight-legged force of fate invades Zeb's basement apartment, challenging her most insular existence.

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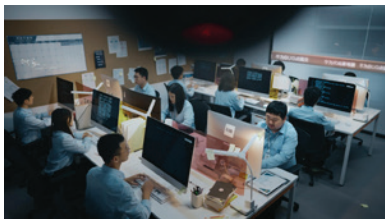


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PROGRAM FIVE

Sunday, June 4 | 5:00-7:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



I BOT

Dir. Tony He
18:10 minutes

In the near future, young generations suffer from growing heavy burden both from work and family. It is almost impossible to take care of one's parents and secure one's job at the same time. But Ai Li seems to have found his perfect solution.



PACO

Dir. Kent Donguines
15:00 minutes

While keeping a secret from his family overseas, Paco struggles to uphold his responsibilities and aspirations.



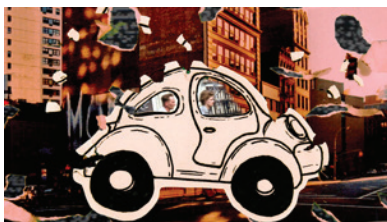
MƏCA

**Dirs. Ritchie Hemphill
& Ryan Haché**
8:18 minutes

MƏCA is a stop motion representation of the late elder Ida Smith telling her grandson the 'Nakwax'daxw legend of the Mink.

PROGRAM FIVE

Sunday, June 4 | 5:00-7:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



FEELING THE APOCALYPSE

Dir. Chen Sing Yap

7:02 minutes

A psychotherapist struggling with climate anxiety explores what it means to live in a dying world.



STAY

Dir. King Louie Palomo

22:01 minutes

On their last night in town, drag artist Ivy Diamonds meets Ryan; the few hours they spend together that night bring about an unexpected sense of clarity.



TONGUE

Dir. Kaho Yoshida

2:02 minutes

Tired of being talked at by men, a woman takes a sensual trip with unusual friends.

PROGRAM FIVE

Sunday, June 4 | 5:00-7:15 PM @ VIFF Centre: Vancity Theatre



LAY ME BY THE SHORE

Dir. David Findlay

18:30 minutes

Lay Me by the Shore follows a week in the life of Noah, a high school senior in his final days of school as he comes to terms with his best friend's passing.



BLUE GARDEN

Dir. Natalie Murao

5:25 minutes

A filmmaker asks her mother, "Why have I never liked tomatoes?"



PEANUT BUTTER

Dir. Maxime Divier

9:42 minutes

Dan is fed up. Fed up with his misfortunes, fed up with his bad luck and fed up with his life. He decides to end it by eating his last ban: peanuts.



VSFF AWARDS PRESENTATION

Sunday, June 4 | 8:00–9:30 PM @ ANNEX | VSFF Filmmaker-Exclusive Event



Join us for our Awards Presentation as we award over \$50,000 in cash and prizes in 15 juried categories to VSFF filmmakers. Attendance is limited to filmmakers with films playing in VSFF 2023 and invited guests.



2023 AWARD NOMINEES

Vancouver Post Alliance Award for BEST SOUND DESIGN

Lucas Prokaziuk, **3 Seconds In, 6 Seconds Out**
Benjamin Chen, **I Bot**
Rob Phaneuf, **Mom vs. Machine**
Sacha Ratcliffe, **Municipal Relaxation Module**
Mochi Lin, **Swallow Flying to the South**

Vancouver Short Film Festival Award for BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

Noah Van Buhren, **Damned Supper**
Zhichao Wang, Xiaowei Liu, Borong Wang, Tianxing Qu, Ray Tan, **I Bot**
Clayton Holmes, **Maceration**
Riley Gray, **Mom vs. Machine**
Chris Downs, **N'xaxaitkw**

Vancouver Post Alliance Award for BEST EDITING

Alexander Farah, **Lay Me by the Shore**
Josh Aries, **Mom vs. Machine**
Daniel Martin, Arnold Lim, **My Name is Arnold**
Josh Aries, **Paco**
Mel Corrigan, **The Mess We're In**

2023 AWARD NOMINEES

UBCP/ACTRA Awards for BEST PERFORMANCE

Nimet Kanji, **Mom vs. Machine**
Praneet Akilla, **Mom vs. Machine**
Ju Hwan Kim, **My Name is Arnold**
River Codack, **My Name is Arnold**
Hadi Eftekhazadeh, **Split Ends**
Marjan Alizadeh, **Split Ends**
Mehran Mirmiri, **Split Ends**
Ashley Kobayashi, **The Mess We're In**
Euka Okuma, **Woman Meets Girl**
Chelsea Russell, **Woman Meets Girl**

Scripting Aloud! Award for BEST SCREENPLAY

Maria Barr, **Dandelion Green**
Tesh Guttikonda, **Mom vs. Machine**
Maxime Divier, **Peanut Butter**
Alireza Kazemipour, *Solmaz Mortezaevand*, **Split Ends**
Jack Bailey, **When Will This Story End**

Keslow Camera Award for BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Leonardo Harim, **Latchkey**
Evan Prosofky, **Lay Me by the Shore**
Jaryl Lim, **Mom vs. Machine**
Alfonso Chin, **N'xaxaitkw**
Alexandre Nour Desjardins, **Printemps**

2023 AWARD NOMINEES

Forward in Film OUTLIER AWARD

Maundy
Split Ends
Zeb's Spider

Shallots & Garlic
Tongue

Vancouver Short Film Festival IMPACT AWARD

A Flicker of Light
Feeling the Apocalypse
Split Ends

Blue Garden
My Name is Arnold

Sparky's Rentals Award for BEST AFTER DARK FILM

Mom vs. Machine
Omukama
When Will This Story End

Not For Us
Shallots & Garlic

Documentary Organization of Canada BC + YK + NWT Award for BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM

A Flicker of Light
We Went Out

Blue Garden

Vancouver Short Film Festival Award for BEST ANIMATION

Mæca
Swallow Flying to the South
Zeb's Spider

Rumination
Tongue

2023 AWARD NOMINEES

Langara College Film Arts Award for BEST STUDENT SHORT FILM

A Flicker of Light
Omukama
When Will This Story End

Dandelion Green
Swallow Flying to the South

Gearbase Camera Rentals Award for BEST BC SHORT FILM

Lay Me by the Shore
Split Ends
Tongue

Mom vs. Machine
The Mess We're In

Vancouver Short Film Festival Award for BEST CANADIAN SHORT FILM

Dandelion Green
Peanut Butter
Woman Meets Girl

Municipal Relaxation Module
Printemps

William F. White International Inc. Award for BEST SHORT FILM

Lay Me by the Shore
Printemps
Tongue

Mom vs. Machine
Split Ends

MiTribe Media AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

...TO BE ANNOUNCED JUNE 12!

VSFF CLOSING PARTY

Sunday, June 4 | 9:30-11:45 PM @ ANNEX



You're Invited! Any VSFF Ticket holder for any screening (In-Person or Virtual) is invited to attend our Closing Party! Please show your festival ticket for entry. This event is first come first serve; admittance is subject to capacity. 19+ only.

No Pre-Registration is required. Please bring your ticket on-the-day for entry.



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