

VANCOUVER
SHORT
FILM FESTIVAL

#KEEPISSHORT

JANUARY 24-26

VSFF2020

VSFF.COM

CHAIR'S LETTER

Anniversaries are a time to reflect and in 2020, on the 10th anniversary of the Vancouver Short Film Festival, there is a lot to look back on and celebrate. Founded in 2005 as the Vancouver Student Short Film Festival and rebranded in 2009 as the Vancouver Short Film Festival, VSFF has now screened more than 300 short films, given away close to \$100,000 worth of prizes, and has a lasting legacy of uniting filmmakers and film lovers alike.

I have often described the festival as a love letter to our BC filmmakers, audience, and community of supporters. In an age where so much content is available to us instantly from a myriad of devices it is a special experience to go to the theatre and share in the magic of film together. In BC there is such a wealth of stories to tell and it is our honour and privilege to be able to provide a space to showcase and celebrate our local storytellers and content creators.

VSFF is a love letter to you from us, the VSFF board, staff and volunteers, who donate countless hours to make the festival happen. As I look back on my five years with the festival, it's the many people behind the scenes that I think of first; their passion, dedication, and enthusiasm make the festival a truly special experience.

Over these three days, we invite you to join us in celebrating our 10th anniversary with an amazing program of short films. We hope that you, like us, fall in love with the vibrant and diverse talent and community within BC.

Kristyn Stilling
Chair of the Board

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FESTIVAL DIRECTORS' LETTER

Welcome to the 2020 Vancouver Short Film Festival! We're so excited to celebrate our 10th year and can't wait for you to be swept into the wondrous worlds this year's filmmakers have created for you.

What started as an evening celebrating 12 of Vancouver's most successful post-secondary student filmmakers has now grown into a 3-day celebration of the best of BC short film. Both of us are so proud to be part of this community. Each year we are blown away by the calibre of filmmaking in our province and by the amazing people that come out to support this art form we love so much.

This year, our programmers have selected an eclectic mix of films that will take you back to the 90s with a group of skater girls, into the home of a woman with something sinister lurking in her twins' bedroom, against the ropes with a WWE hopeful and beyond!

VSFF would not be possible without the support of its volunteers. In fact, everyone on the team - staff, board members, event volunteers - donate countless hours all for the love of film. It is truly a labour of love that we are all happy to be a part of.

A special thank you to our Event Coordinator, Emily Weldon, whose support and dedication has been invaluable, and the Chair of our Board, Kristyn Stilling, for her encouragement and leadership.

A final thank you to all of our sponsors and donors. Through their generous donations, VSFF is able to award our filmmakers with over \$15,000 worth of cash and prizes, which is an incredible show of support for our local talent.

Happy watching!

Marena Dix
*Vancouver Short Film
Festival Co-Director*

Zlatina Pacheva
*Vancouver Short Film
Festival Co-Director*

CUTTING DRAKE'S VIDEOS EP 011
WITH LUCAS MCDONNELL, PAUL FARRINGTON
& KAT WEBBER



EQJUS - STORY OF THE HORSE EP 010
WITH BRIGIDA TORRINO, NATSUA MOSS
& SCOTT PARKER



THE STORY BEHIND THE EDIT EP 008
DRAMA
DARIA GLEEMAN, CCE, LARA MAZUR, CCE
& NICOLE BARTLETT, CCE



BEHIND THE CUT EP 016
WITH FION GARDNER, CCE



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<i>Festival Co-Director</i>	Zlatina Pacheva
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robin Chan
<i>Director of Marketing</i>	Kate Bouchard
<i>Outreach Director</i>	Paul Armstrong
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The CCE will present the
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which includes a **1-year Associate Membership**
in our organization
www.cceditors.ca

VSFF AT A GLANCE

Friday, January 24th

07.00 PM **Retrospective
Screening**

The Bouake Hustle (2013)
Through the Pane (2014)
The Camera Man (2017)
Cypher (2018)
Gong Ju (2019)

09.00 PM **10th Anniversary
Opening Party**

Saturday, January 25th

01.30 PM **Programme 1**

Prawn
The Music Box
Halwa
Closer Apart
Breakaway
In Loving Memory
Anastasis
Death of the Party

04.30 PM **Programme 2**

Unkept
Candy World
Saloon Doors
Coming Out
Vinny's Girl
Sound Water
Smile Mask
Last Stand to Nowhere

07.30 PM **Programme 3**

A Typical Fairytale
Deep Take
Laura
Tampon
Vancouver Tess
The Emergency Brake
Especially Joy
Synopsis

10.00 PM **After Dark**

B'Y
Duérmete Niño
Killing for Spark
Finding Uranus
Live Feed
Wordflay
Blow Out
The Chaddening

Sunday, January 26th

03.00 PM Programme 4

Late Night
All in Madonna
Light Therapy | Vancouver
B-Side
Sweet Release
Poplife
The Blue Bed

06.00 PM Programme 5

Grandma's 80th Surprise
Hatch
The Evening Thread
Inner Space
Deady Freddy
The Seahorse Trainer
Who Am I

08.30 PM Awards Ceremony

09.30 PM VSFF Closing Party





MASTER OF CEREMONIES

*Retrospective
Screening,
Programme 4 & 5*

DAVID C. JONES

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.audienceengagementacademy.com

— RETROSPECTIVE —

January 24, 2020 | 07.00 PM

'The Bouake Hustle' is a story of everyday life as seen through the eyes of a local hustler in West Africa. The film is set in Bouake, a bustling West African city of over a million people. Bouake has no prisons, no police and no

courts; it is a law less anarchy that has been smashed by civil war and poverty.



THE BOUAKE HUSTLE (2013)

Dir. Misha Kleider | 14 minutes

THROUGH THE PANE (2014)

Dir. Pauline Egan | 15 minutes

Annabelle and Lewis meet each other's gaze one morning through their neighboring apartment windows. Then begins a playful conversation through



hand written notes, and a potential blossoming romance. But will either of them have the courage to face their fears of imperfections and meet in person? Or will they keep this connection at window's length? This film explores the fears of real human connection in a time when disconnectedness is all too common, encouraging one to open the window of their heart to possibility.



THE CAMERA MAN (2017)

Dir. Connor Gaston | 16 minutes

Francis must reconcile his relationship with his abusive father who suffers from Huntington's Disease. Francis's younger brother, Ed--the cameraman--records their dysfunctional lives with his Super 8 camera.

CYPHER (2018)

Dir. Lawrence Le Lam | 20 minutes

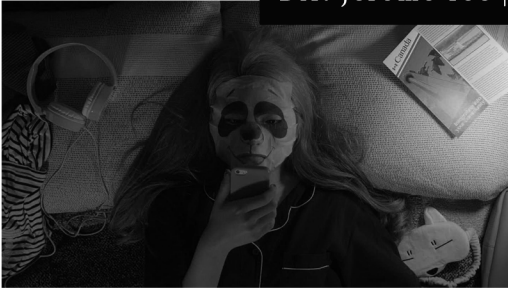
Tensions still linger in 1997 LA between the Korean-American and the Black communities after the 92' Riots. After an incident in



his father's restaurant, Jay, a Korean-American high school student finds himself pulled into LA's underground hip hop scene where he discovers a platform to confront his painful past.

GONG JU (2019)

Dir. Jerome Yoo | 11 minutes



After a violent incident goes viral, Korean high school bully Gong Ju is sent abroad to attend school in Canada, in hopes she changes her violent ways. Instead, she becomes a victim of bullying, but is determined to sit back on her rightful throne.



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10TH ANNIVERSARY — OPENING PARTY



Friday, January 24th | 09.00 PM
Vancity Theatre Atrium

Celebrate a decade of BC's best shorts! Join us for our 10th Anniversary Opening Party after our 10 Year Retrospective Screening. Enjoy wine and delicious snacks while we welcome in the 2020 Vancouver Short Film Festival.

Featuring: DEVOURS



Devours is the underground synth pop project of Vancouver-based queer musician Jeff Cancade. The electronic artist has received coverage from Vice, the Globe and Mail, CBC Radio, and the Georgia Straight, and his energetic performances have taken him across western and eastern Canada, and to a number of festivals, such as SXSW, Treefort Music Fest, Khatsahlano, and Vancouver Pride.

Catering provided by:



Desserts provided by:



Admittance: By any Festival screening ticket or Festival Pass. Show ticket/pass at Door for Entry.

OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY:



DONNELLAN'S IRISH PUB

Friday, January 24th | 11:00 PM
1082 Granville St.

*Keep the party going at our Official Friday night
Afterparty!*

Admittance: By any Festival screening ticket or Festival
Pass. Show ticket/pass at door for entry.

VANCOUVER **WEEKLY**
VANCOUVER'S WEEKLY NEWS SOURCE



MASTER OF
CEREMONIES

*Programme
1, 2, 3
After Dark*

NHI DO

A triple-threat performer, Nhi Do crossed over from the stage to film and television and 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**. Recent projects include: **Unspeakable** (CBC), **Limetown** (Facebook Watch), **Hospital Show** (YouTube), **Sisters of Sorrow** (Storyhive), and **FREYA** (Harold Greenberg Fund winner).

— **PROGRAMME 1** —
January 25, 2020 | 01.30 PM



An overzealous waiter is emotionally triggered when he sees prawns burning alive for the dinner special.

PRAWN

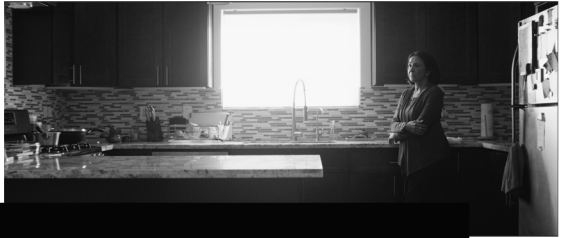
Dir. Andrew Gillingham | 10 minutes



THE MUSIC BOX

Dir. Joe Chang | 15 minutes

This animated short film is based on a real story and sets in China during the Cultural Revolution in 1967. It is about a young boy Liang Liang, whose family is suddenly taken to the countryside by Red Guards. He is able to grab the only thing he treasures: a western style music box, and is careful not to expose it to the red guards that it was linked to western culture.



HALWA

Dir. Gayatri Bajpai, Nirav Bhakta | 15 minutes

On the eve of her wedding anniversary, empty-nester Sujata Chopra attempts to find some joy in her broken marriage, until she learns about the passing of her childhood companion's spouse on Facebook. Having been disconnected from this woman for over 30 years over a misunderstanding, Sujata finds the courage to reach out to send her condolences. They reconnect, sparking friction when Sujata's controlling husband, Dr. Chopra, finds out.

CLOSER APART

Dir. Sebastian Hill-Esbrand | 15 minutes



'Closer Apart' is an unapologetically intimate documentary that follows the narratives of three couples as they battle

against cross-continental loneliness. In this poetic reflection of love and youth, we discover 'how we grow together, whilst growing apart - in a long distance relationship'.

BREAKAWAY

Dir. Jenny Lee-Gilmore | 9 minutes



Sammy, 11, a Chinese Canadian girl has the dream of one day playing ice hockey but her responsibilities at home and bullying brother get in the way.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dir. Mayumi Yoshida, Diana Bang | 15 minutes



An apathetic young woman attends her dad's wake, 20 years after he abandoned her family.

ANASTASIS

Dir. Kevin Ang | 4 minutes

In a race against time, a man must rid himself of a corrupted corpse that never dies.



DEATH OF THE PARTY

Dir. Melanie M Jones | 10 minutes



After a night of onesies, tequila, and poker, a sister unexpectedly finds her brother's dead body... as well as his ghost.

— **PROGRAMME 2** —
January 25, 2020 | 04.30 PM

UNKEPT

Dir. Michael Vidler | 16 minutes



A young boy makes a life-changing decision despite his mother's expectations.

CANDY WORLD

Dir. Alec Boehm | 10 minutes

Forests of licorice, mountains of gumdrops...trapped in a world of candy. Will movie star Rob Everfield be able to escape? As Rob



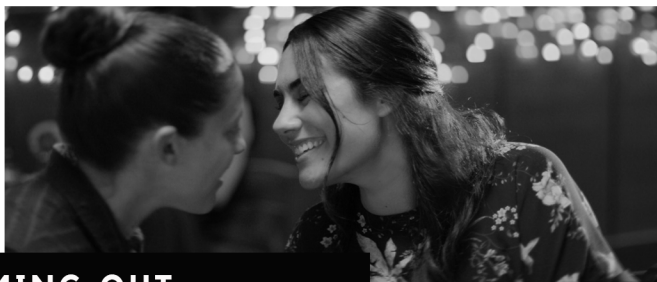
Everfield struggles to complete the perfect take, his bullying of an extra evolves into a deeper meditation of his life, his choices, and the person he may not be anymore.

SALOON DOORS

Dir. Santiago Araujo Henderson | 10 minutes



People are dream machines running around trying not to lose each other. On the opening day of Grace's art show, Hank gets a feeling that she is leaving him and sets off to find out where that feeling came from.



COMING OUT

Dir. Stephen Jones | 8 minutes

"So, when did you come out?"

'Coming Out' is a Comedy short film that examines how the assumption of heterosexuality in our society requires LGBTQ+ folks to continuously come out, and not come out, and everything inbetween.



VINNY'S GIRL

Dir. Harrison Houde | 9 minutes

In an alternate era, Vinny, an awkward dreamer, falls deeply in love with the voice behind a particular album. Now he must go to extreme lengths to rid himself from reality and continue collecting his dream girl.

SOUND WATER

Dir. Jonathan Chiang | 13 minutes

The inspiration for this film started with a simple question, 'Where does the water come from?' Which in turn, led to a more complex series of questions, 'What does our connection to water mean? What about our connection to nature?'



We found our way along the Squamish River to the Squamish Estuary and into Howe Sound to Bowen Island.

SMILE MASK

Dir. Dean Disanjh | 19 mins



An exhausted birthday clown is confronted with an absurd home invasion after a depressing night at work.



LAST STAND TO NOWHERE

Dir. Michelle Muldoon | 15 minutes

The Clantons; horse thieves, cattle rustlers, sisters who believe that the town's fortunes are theirs for the taking. The Earps are the strong arm of justice; sisters raised by a hard-nosed father to unflinchingly right the wrongs of a cruel world. Last Stand to Nowhere is an all-female re-imagining of the most famous gunfight in the history of the West; the ultimate family feud that finds its resolution at the end of a gun barrel one sun-drenched morning at the OK Corral.

— **PROGRAMME 3** —
January 25, 2020 | 07.30 PM



A TYPICAL FAIRYTALE

Dir. Annette Reilly | 11 minutes

A young couple have a romance fit for a storybook-told entirely in rhyme. They live happily ever after until their child diverges from the classic narrative. Will they find the bravery to write a new story?



DEEP TAKE

Dir. Norman Li | 10 minutes

When an actress discovers the sinister reason behind her portrayal of a suicidal politician, she gets more than she bargained for.

LAURA

Dir. Kaayla Whachell | 12 minutes

Laura, a young half Indigenous woman undergoes a conversation with her lawyer Mr. Wilson to determine how to present her case before the court. Mr. Wilson attempts to keep the process positive, but his ignorance begins to make Laura question her identity and her place in society.



TAMPON

Dir. Erica Orofino | 5 minutes

Katie's about to have a romantic night with her guy when her period keeps getting in the way.

After a night of heavy partying, twenty-something Tess wakes up in a strangers bed and faces the lonely reality of her life -- banal solitary days followed by routine parties with so-called friends. Vancouver Tess is a solemn portrait of Vancouver circa 2010 and a meditation on early millennial culture and the misconstrual of connection for community.

VANCOUVER TESS

Dir. Ryley O'Byrne | 17 minutes



An animated short film by the 2019 class of the Powell River Digital Film School. A collaboration between students who are passionate about the state of their world and our future. Animated to the powerful words of Greta Thunberg.

THE EMERGENCY BRAKE

Dir. Macy How | 4 minutes





ESPECIALLY JOY

Dir. Sila Goral | 7 minutes

Daniel, a love-struck 8-year-old, wants to be with his classmate crush, Joy, only to find out that she has fallen in love with an ice cream scooper. He must figure out the best way to show Joy how special she is to him.

SYNOPSIS

Dir. Mike Johnston | 11 minutes

Synopsis is the story of Aidan “Synn” Pringle, a second generation professional wrestler from Calgary, Alberta who trained to be the best. But when he was sabotaged in a WWE tryout match, he quit the business. This isn't the story of failure. This is the story of losing in the ring, but winning in life.



— AFTER DARK —

January 25, 2020 | 10.00 PM

Newfoundland: 1840.

In a house, perched on the edge of the world, a destitute but hopeful young man cares tirelessly for his bedridden mother. As her condition worsens, the boy is plagued with feverish visions as he is forced to confront the dark presence that has descended on the house.



B'Y

Dir. John Hollands | 8 minutes

DUÉRMETE NIÑO

Dir. Freddy Chavez Olmos | 9 minutes



On an unsettling night in the 1940s, Alma, a religious mother of newborn twins, is constantly awakened by the disturbing sound of her crying babies. Using a new radio monitor to check on them from her bedroom, Alma encounters a series of unsettling events that might jeopardize even her own beliefs.

KILLING FOR SPARK

Dir. Michael Sangalang | 11 minutes



Two thirty-somethings find themselves in a rut. Work. Groceries. Laundry. Rinse. Repeat. Another mundane day. Another trip home from the grocery store. Another meaningless fight in the car and an accident impacts their lives forever. Reigniting their passion for life and one another in bloody love. First comes loathe, then comes murder.



A Coming of Age
Sci-Fi Film about
Lost and Found.

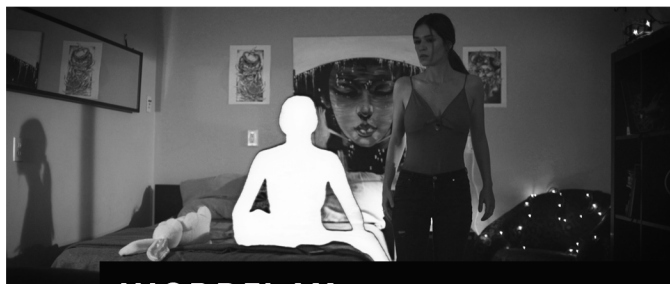
FINDING URANUS

Dir. Ivan Li | 7 minutes

Chani has been streaming her party all night, enticing reluctant friend Keara to come. When their app starts glitching and an unexpected guest arrives, technology's dark effect on our lives and our minds comes into a horrifying new light. Based on real technology found in our everyday lives, Livefeed is a playful cautionary nightmare giving new meaning to the work 'cyberattack'.

LIVE FEED

Dir. Stephanie Izsak | 5 minutes



WORDFLAY

Dir. Duncan Carr, Tyler Gilbert | 7 minutes

A novice horror screenwriter is confronted by his own genre.

BLOW OUT

Dir. Daniel David Stewart | 7 minutes

A comedy-horror about a woman finds a seemingly innocent balloon outside her front door. She brings it inside. Things get weird.



THE CHADDENING

Dir. Lee Shorten, Katrina Salisbury | 5 minutes

A young man moves into a college sharehouse only to find his roommates aren't quite what he expected.

OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY:



DONNELLAN'S IRISH PUB

Saturday, January 25th | 11:00 PM
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Keep the party going at our Official Saturday night Afterparty!

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Welcome To Salishan Catering

Salishan Catering is a tribute to the teachings of my grandmother and mother who taught me the ways of our ancestors. They taught me how to gather and prepare the foods of our people, and care for the gifts of the lands and oceans... the way we've been doing since the beginning of time.

Many of the plants and berries used by my ancestors are still important to my people today. The plants and berries continue to provide food, clothing and shelter, while teaching our history to our young people and sharing with guests.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our culture through our foods.

Denise Sparrow - Owner, Salishan Catering, Musqueam First Nation citizen



— PROGRAMME 4 —

January 26, 2020 | 03.00 PM

LATE NIGHT

Dir. Nick Drummond-Hay | 9 minutes

An aging Celebrity, Roy Russell has believed he is untouchable for years but during his final radio show, a mystery

caller will expose who he truly is. Roy tries desperately to cut her off but she will not be silenced anymore.



Maddie, a 17-year-old teenager attending public school for the first time learns dark secrets about her father and must reconcile herself with the father she thought she knew, and the man he may actually be.



ALL IN MADONNA

Dir. Arnold Lim | 13 minutes

LIGHT THERAPY | VANCOUVER

Dir. Sebastian Hill-Esbrand | 10 minutes



Light Therapy is a short documentary that showcases a musician trio, a VR Multidisciplinary artist and a fashion designer who bypasses

city's lack of infrastructure, social isolation and very real impacts of seasonal affective disorder. In the film, we follow their creative process and uncover how they foster community to make Vancouver work for them.

The Directors Guild of Canada, British Columbia is a proud supporter of the 2020 Vancouver Short Film Festival

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



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B-SIDE

Dir. Alayna Silverberg | 13 minutes

B-Side is the Coming of Age story of 17-year old Mal, who when invited into a group of female skateboarders, is challenged to face her longtime, repressed fear of getting back on the board. She ends up falling for Britt, a skater, who tries to help her overcome her affliction. Forced to confront the grief of the loss of her father, a once legendary Pro Skateboarder, Mal must decide if she is ready to move on from her mourning or remain stuck in her heartache.

SWEET RELEASE

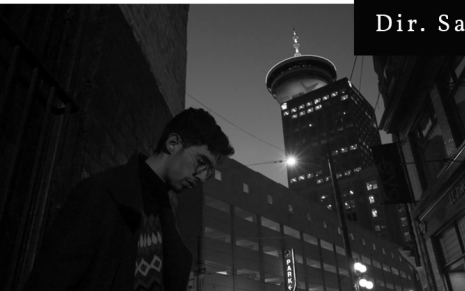
Dir. Meeshelle Neal | 11 minutes

When the love of her life falls ill, a headstrong and passionate woman learns that keeping someone alive, at any cost, might not be worth it in the end.



POPLIFE

Dir. Sam Mohseni | 17 minutes



With the backdrop of a sudden family crisis and recent political unrest in Iran, POPLIFE is a coming of age tale of a young Iranian student studying abroad and processing life's trials through music.



THE BLUE BED

Dir. Alireza Kazemipour | 15 minutes

Zahra is a middle-aged woman who visits a temporary marriage agency and signs up to have a young working girl. She picks her up to take her home but the girl (Negar) who has never had a female client before, becomes suspicious of Zahra's intent and sexual orientation.

— PROGRAMME 5 —

January 25, 2020 | 06.00 PM

Fresh in love, a respectful young man is forced to



confront his family's rigid traditions as he seeks the approval of the family matriarch, his formidable 80-year-old Grandmother.

GRANDMA'S 80TH SURPRISE

Dir. Fola Evans-Akingbola, Curtis Lum | 10 minutes

HATCH

Dir. Heather Perluzzo | 19 minutes

After Marcy Martens suffers a horrible miscarriage, she is plagued with daily reminders that keep her bound to her solitude. Though her mother makes valiant efforts to help her cope, her guilt outweighs her willingness to move on. One night, she discovers a strange alien egg buried in her backyard. She brings it inside, apprehensive at first, but begins to form a motherly bond with it. When the aliens return for the egg, it is trapped inside her home and can't get out, leaving it stranded on earth. Marcy must now decide if she's really ready to move on from her loss and take care of this bizarre little creature.



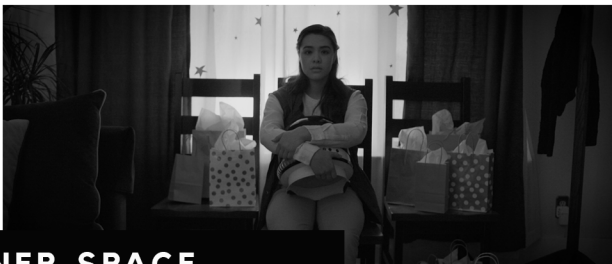
THE EVENING THREAD

Dir. Iris Moore | 10 minutes

An old woman prepares to die. Accompanied by her granddaughter, she reflects on the memories of her life,



and on the profound experience of being human, before taking the next step into the unknown.



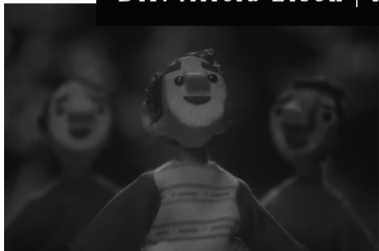
INNER SPACE

Dir. Jamie Lam | 10 minutes

Chosen to be one of the first colonizers on Mars, a young woman must face the reality of leaving her home planet for good.

DEADY FREDDY

Dir. Alicia Eisen | 10 minutes



What is the meaning of a life well lived? In this dark comedy the titular character is granted an opportunity to reflect on his own life through an unexpected vantage.



THE SEAHORSE TRAINER

Dir. Ricardo Bonisoli, Babak Bina | 13 minutes

A lonely old man with an obsession for training seahorses tries to achieve an unimaginable trick when his past comes back to haunt him.



'Who Am I' tells the story of Canadian model Adhel's quest for identity as she reconciles with her mother's past as a child soldier in South Sudan. We see how war, displacement, and trauma affected both women's lives and their relationship with each other.



WHO AM I

Dir. Adhel Arop | 21 minutes



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VSFF CLOSING

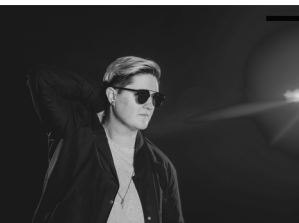
PARTY



Sunday, January 26th | 09:30 PM
Vancity Theatre Atrium

We invite ticket and pass holders to join us for our Closing Party after Programme 5. Thank you to everyone who has supported our festival this year!

Featuring: DJ KRISTA



Krista Mac is a queer, feminist performer who knows how to amp up a dance floor. Based on the west coast in Vancouver, she has opened for artists such as The Funk Hunters, 2018 Eurovision Winner Netta, Whitney Day, Skylar Love and TT the Artist. With a strong love for tropical and deep house, Krista draws inspiration from large-scale festival performances to keep any crowd moving. Catch her at local queer events throughout the Vancouver area, including at Downtown, her semi-annual party for women-identified and non-binary folks held at prominent nightclubs throughout the city.

Catering provided by: Brioche Catering

Admittance: By any Festival screening ticket or Festival Pass. Show ticket/pass at Door for Entry

OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY:

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JUDGES' BIOS



Kashif Pasta

Kashif Pasta is a writer, director and co-founder of Dunya Media, a production company dedicated to helping artists of colour tell stories that drive social change. He co-created and starred in the TELUS STORYHIVE series *Welcome to Surrey*, which gained over a million viewers worldwide and Leo Award nominations for Best Webseries as a show, and Best Actor in a Webseries for Kashif himself. Kashif recently co-created the *Untitled BTR Project* with Sameer Gardezi for Paul Feig's *Powderkeg*, and was a 2018 ABC Television Comedy Lab fellow for his pilot *Long Distance*.

JUDGES' BIOS



Lawrence Le Lam

Lawrence Le Lam is an award-winning filmmaker from Richmond, BC who loves telling music-centric stories that explore underground worlds in the Asian diaspora. His short thesis film from Emily Carr University about forbidden rock & roll and long-haired hippies in 1970s Taiwan, *The Blue Jet* won Best Student Production (Whistler Film Festival / Leo Awards 2016), Best Short, Best Male Actor, Best Director (Vancouver Short Film Festival 2016), and Best in Canada at the Toronto International Short Film Festival. His most recent short film about the underground hip hop scene in 1990s post-riot LA, *Cypher* screened at the 2017 edition of Whistler Film Festival and won Best Period Piece at Hollyshorts Film Festival 2018. Lawrence participated the 2017 TIFF Talent Lab. Lawrence is currently developing his first feature.

JUDGES' BIOS



Tracey Friesen

Tracey Friesen is author and founder of Story Money Impact, which produces Good Pitch Vancouver. She works as a creative strategist serving filmmakers and writers. Previous positions include director of communications at David Suzuki Foundation, director of programming at Roundhouse Radio, and nearly 12 years as producer and exec at NFB.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE NOMINEES



ZOIC

—VSFF FILMMAKER PORTRAIT SESSIONS

In recognition of the talented professional artists with films in the festival, participating directors of films screening at VSFF will sit down with a professional photographer to capture industry-ready portraits.

Photography: Karolina Turek

www.karolinturek.com

IG: @KAROLINATUREKPHOTOGRAPHY

Hair and Makeup: Makeup by Molly

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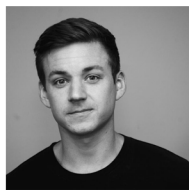
FILMMAKERS LUNCHEON

VSFF Filmmakers come together over a delicious breakfast from Salishan Catering followed by an Alumni Filmmaker panel. Filmmakers have an opportunity to network, hear from established filmmakers, and celebrate their films with the festival.

Kristyn Stilling

Moderator

Born and raised in the lower mainland Kristyn Stilling has immersed herself into the Canadian film community as an independent Producer who has produced over 16 short films in the past 5 years and been nominated for a Leo 4 times. She is currently the Senior Shorts Programmer at the Whistler Film Festival and the Chair of the Vancouver Short Film Festival and has previously worked for such prestigious organizations as the National Film Board of Canada and Crazy8s Film Society.



CONNOR GASTON

Connor Gaston is an award-winning filmmaker from Victoria, BC. His work has screened at film festivals around the world, including the Toronto International Film Festival. In 2016, Gaston completed his first feature film, THE DEVOUT, which earned him 5 Leo Awards, including Best Picture the BC Emerging Filmmaker Award at the Vancouver International Film Festival, and a Canadian Screen Award nomination for Best First Feature. He is a recent alum of Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre and one of 10 Canadian directors selected for the 2017 TIFF Talent Lab. Gaston is currently working on his second feature film through The Harold Greenberg Fund's Shorts-to-Features Program.



JEROME YOO

Jerome Yoo is a Korean-Canadian director, and screenwriter who often explores subculture stories of youth. Always in pursuit of unconventional perspectives, he aims to blend distinct style and energy to bring his worlds to life. After his first co-written joint 'Cypher,' he made his directing debut in 2018 with his Storyhive digital short 'Gong Ju,' followed by Crazy 8s K-pop jam 'Idols Never Die.' Jerome's most recent passion project, 'Third Street,' a concept based off a cult cartoon series, was his first foray into working with formally trained actors and the commercial television style.



LAWRENCE LE LAM

Lawrence Le Lam is an award-winning filmmaker from Richmond, BC who loves telling music-centric stories that explore underground worlds in the Asian diaspora. His short thesis film from Emily Carr University about forbidden rock & roll and long-haired hippies in 1970s Taiwan, The Blue Jet won Best Student Production (Whistler Film Festival / Leo Awards 2016), Best Short, Best Male Actor, Best Director (Vancouver Short Film Festival 2016), and Best in Canada at the Toronto International Short Film Festival. His most recent short film about the underground hip hop scene in 1990s post-riot LA, Cypher screened at the 2017 edition of Whistler Film Festival and won Best Period Piece at Hollyshorts Film Festival 2018. Lawrence participated the 2017 TIFF Talent Lab. Lawrence is currently developing his first feature.



MISHA KLEIDER

My name is Misha Kleider. I first got into filmmaking because it seemed like a great way to share the fascinating things I was learning in school--I have a BA in philosophy and a masters in sustainability. The problem was that I had no experience making films. So my first documentary served as my film school. It worked out well and we were fortunate enough to sell the film to several networks. I then made an award winning short film about a hustler in a small town in Africa. My latest project is a youtube channel where I share epiphanies in philosophy, psychology and ecology.



PAULINE EGAN

Pauline Egan is an Australian Expat, who relocated to Canada in 2010 to pursue a career in front of the camera. After working steadily as an actress in Canadian and US Television and Film for a number of years, at age 27, she felt drawn to trying her hand at writing and directing. In 2013, Egan wrote, produced and directed her first film 'Through the Pane'. Winner of 4 awards at the VSFF in 2015. Egan has since continued to expand her career on both sides of the camera. She has also been moving into the documentary film genre through her dedicated work as a global humanitarian for the clean water and sanitation crisis. She is currently working on writing two sci-fi drama projects and her latest on screen appearance in 'Hearts of Winter', will air this month on Hallmark Channel.

2020 AWARDS SPONSORSHIP

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

VSFF Award for BEST STUDENT SHORT FILM

Director's Guild of Canada Award for BEST DIRECTOR

Women in Film and Television Award for BEST FEMALE DIRECTOR

Scripting Aloud! Award for BEST SCREENPLAY

VSFF Award for BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

UBCP/ACTRA Award for BEST FEMALE PERFORMER

VSFF Award for BEST MALE PERFORMER

Zoic VFX Award for BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

Big World Sound Award for BEST SOUND DESIGN

Canadian Cinema Editors Award for BEST EDITING

Raindance Vancouver Award for THE UNDERDOG FILM

**Documentary Organization of Canada Award for
BEST DOCUMENTARY**

Vancouver Badass Film Festival Award for BEST AFTER DARK FILM

Chilliwack Independent Film Festival AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

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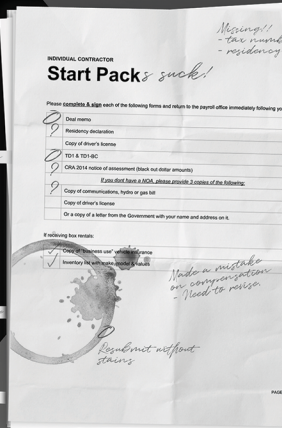
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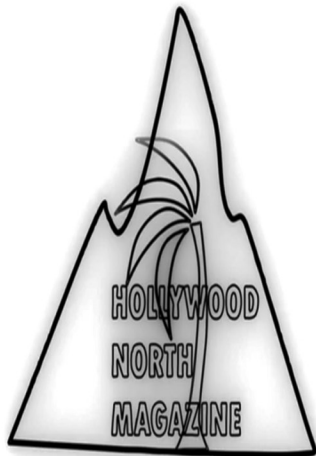
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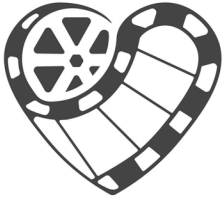
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