

SEPTEMBER 14–21, 2023

**CINEPLEX CINEMAS PARK LANE
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA**



**ATLANTIC
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
PROGRAM GUIDE**

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BOX OFFICE

SCREENINGS

	Regular	Student/ Senior
General Screening Ticket	\$15	\$12.75
Gala Screening	\$25	
Opening Night Gala (includes party)	\$35	
4 Ticket Package (Galas not included)	\$55	\$50
6 Ticket Package (Galas not included)	\$80	\$75
12 Ticket Package (Galas not included)	\$150	\$140
Festival Pass*	\$185	\$155
AIFF Online Ticket	\$10	
AIFF Online Gala Ticket	\$15	
AIFF Online Shorts Pass	\$20	

*Includes access to AIFF Online, all Parties and Celebrations, and all Encore Screenings. Does not include Opening Night Gala Film.

EVENTS

Opening Night Gala Celebration only	\$10
Atlantic Gala Party	FREE
Love Film Party	FREE
Closing Night Gala Party	FREE
Industry Happy Hour	FREE
AFCOOP FILM 5 Party	FREE
NFB Open House	FREE
AIFF Panels	FREE

BOX OFFICE CONTACT & HOURS

The Online Box Office is currently open, the physical Box Office will open on Sept. 11th at 10:00 AM in Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane, 5657 Spring Garden Road.

- **Telephone:** (902) 332-1530
- **Email:** boxoffice1@finfestival.ca
- **Location:** Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane, 5657 Spring Garden Road (from Sept 11th onward)
- **Dates and Hours:** Sept. 11th - 13th 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sept. 14th - 21st 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Should you need to contact the Box Office team before Sept. 11th, you can reach us via email or phone during our regular office hours, which are 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Please note that the 2023 AIFF program and schedule is subject to change. Visit atlanticfilmfestival.ca for updates.

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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

September 14–21, 2023



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2023 Atlantic International Film Festival.

Now in its 43rd year, this event provides a platform for local, national and international filmmakers to showcase their talent and share their perspectives and stories. I am certain that audiences will be entertained and engaged by the diverse selection of works being screened over the next eight days, including the three Atlantic Canadian feature length films making their World Premieres, while filmmakers and industry professionals will benefit greatly from the festival's many professional development and networking opportunities.

I would like to commend the organizers for their hard work and dedication in planning this year's edition of the festival. You can take pride in your commitment to bringing the community together through the medium of film. I would also like to thank the many volunteers for ensuring the smooth operation of this event as well as the residents of Halifax for their warm hospitality.

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



Premier of Nova Scotia

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, welcome to the 43rd Atlantic International Film Festival. The eight-day celebration recognizes the work of some of the best in the film industry - locally, nationally, and internationally. Film continues to grow and contribute to our provincial economy. Our government is proud to support the AIFF and our local filmmakers who offer energizing film experiences. The hard work and dedication of local creators and film producers helps ensure Nova Scotia's creative sector is recognized on the world stage. Thank you to all donors, sponsors and partners who play a key role in bringing this festival to life. And congratulations to the organizers, filmmakers, and many volunteers who put on this signature event to recognize the creativity, innovation, and originality by our creative sectors. Best wishes for a productive and successful event.

Yours truly,

Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia



Mayor of Halifax

As Mayor of Halifax and on behalf of Regional Council, I'm excited to welcome you to the 2023 Atlantic International Film Festival; a celebration of film and media from around the globe. We are located on the ancestral and unceded grounds of the Mi'kmaq people in the district of Mi'kma'ki. We acknowledge the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognize we are all Treaty People. Our region has a rich and vibrant arts and culture community and the Atlantic International Film Festival makes an invaluable contribution to our cultural development by playing a strategic role as the leading forum for film and video here in Atlantic Canada. A celebration of achievements, the 43rd Atlantic International Film Festival brings us together by showcasing excellence in film and media, locally, from across the country and around the world via in-theatre screenings and curated regional content throughout Atlantic Canada. I want to acknowledge, with gratitude, the Board of Directors, staff, dedicated volunteers, and partners who help make this amazing experience a great success.

Have a great time as you take in this unforgettable film experience.

Kindest regards,

Mike Savage
Mayor



Telefilm

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 Atlantic International Film Festival to further boost our support for Canadian creatives at home and around the world. At Telefilm, we are uniquely positioned to finance and support every stage of a film's career, from development and production, all the way to film festivals. In this ever-evolving audiovisual landscape, we are thankful to partner with engaging festivals such as the Atlantic International Film Festival to bring audiences compelling stories made and told by Canadians. The diversity of our storytelling is one that puts Canada in the forefront of a global stage and is what sets us apart. Festivals continue to play an important role in the film industry, growing the talent pool as well as promoting a communal experience for 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!

Julie Roy
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



Chair of the Board

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to the 2023 Atlantic International Film Festival. All of us at AIFF are involved with the organization because we love film. We all have distinct experiences with it, and have different reasons for loving it, but it is a shared love just the same. Whether you are a veteran of many festivals, or are visiting us for the first time, we hope that you will walk away with your love of film refreshed and reinvigorated. Thank you to all of our partners in our community that also share this love and that provide their films, sponsorship, support, teamwork and time to make this festival possible. Thank you also to our Executive Director, Martha Cooley, and the rest of the AIFF team, who have worked tirelessly over the past year to present a program that shines a light on some of best films to emerge this year from Atlantic Canada and the world. So, whether or not you enjoy film as high-art, or if you prefer to movies as a way to eat popcorn and escape into the big screen, AIFF has something to remind you of why you fell in love with it in the first place. We hope you enjoy the show!

Marc Reardon
Chair of the Board, Atlantic International Film Festival



Executive Director

Welcome to the 43rd Atlantic International Film Festival! Our theme this year is something we all have in common: the love of film. From the filmmakers who dedicate their lives writing, directing and producing, to the cast and crew who bring those ideas to life, to the festival staff and volunteers who organize events like these, and the audience who fill the theatres - we are all powered by the love of film. You'll notice we have a new logo for this year's festival, returning to our roots and our legacy name, Atlantic International Film Festival and the initials AIFF. We also have some new faces in the programming team who I can't wait for you to meet. Festivals are the intersection between art and audiences, between the creators, their creation and the world. We are honored to be that meeting place for Atlantic Canadians and to nurture the love of film for over 40 years. We hope that you find a film (or three or four) to love at this year's Atlantic International Film Festival.

Martha Cooley
Executive Director, Atlantic International Film Festival



Director of Programming

The Programming Team is thrilled to invite audiences to celebrate outstanding filmmaking talent and the opportunity to watch amazing cinema together on the big screen. Our Festival Programmers, passionate film-experts from the Atlantic community, considered hundreds of feature and short films in order to curate a thoughtful and focused line-up. The 2023 Atlantic International Film Festival will showcase international festival award-winners and standout Canadian films. This program can be discovered through newly defined distinctive categories. We are excited to offer some of the most highly anticipated films of the year, and we are particularly proud to provide a platform to celebrate incredible films and talent from the Atlantic region. This year's program will showcase 115 films across close to 90 public screenings. There is much to discover. From documentary, to thrillers, to comedy, the program spotlights exciting perspectives and engaging storytelling by emerging talents and film auteurs from around the world. We hope that audiences find much to love about the selection, and look forward to welcoming you in-cinema.

Lisa Haller
Director of Programming, Atlantic International Film Festival

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KATIE KELLY

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Halif**ACT** Acting on
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Community update

August 2023 | Issue 3

The HalifACT community update is an overview of the many projects that are happening in the municipality as part of our once-in-a-generation HalifACT Climate Action Plan.

Each issue provides an update on the new work underway by the municipality and its partners to mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change.



Read the latest issue at
halifax.ca/halifactupdate

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Helping artists bridge the gap from emerging to established

Together with organizations like **Atlantic International Film Festival**, we support a diverse range of Canadian talent in local communities and across the country through **RBC Emerging Artists**.

rbc.com/emergingartists





We all have stories worth telling

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The Queen of My Dreams



Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:00 PM — Theatre 8 | Saturday, Sept. 16, 2:30 PM — Theatre 7



From debut feature director Fawzia Mirza, and an Atlantic producing team, comes a wildly ambitious film that spans multiple time periods, moving seamlessly between the craggy rocks of small-town Cape Breton and the bustling streets of Pakistan. Propelled by magnetic performances from the film's lead cast, the film tells a mother-daughter story of two generations of women, their overlapping aspirations and the hurdles they must overcome to reach them. Part romance, part musical, part a story of loss, *The Queen of My Dreams* is nothing short of a marvel.

Director: Fawzia Mirza
Country: Canada, Pakistan
Runtime: 97
Writer: Fawzia Mirza
Producer: Andria Wilson Mirza, Jason Levangie, Marc Tetreault
Cast: Amrit Kaur, Nimra Bucha, Hamza Haq, Ayana Manji
Cinematographer: Matt Irwin
Editor: Simone Smith
Language: English, Urdu



Opening Night Gala Celebration

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
1675 Lower Water Street

Thursday, Sept. 14th, 2023. 9:00 PM - Late

Open to: Pass holders, Opening Night Gala Screening ticket holders and tickets available for purchase.

Following AIFF's Opening Night Gala Screening, we invite filmmakers, industry folk and audience members buzzing with first-day-of-festival excitement to continue the festivities at our Opening Night Gala Celebration! Steps away from the Halifax Waterfront, this year's event will take place at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Come help us kick off the first night of the festival! Open to Festival Pass holders and Opening Night Gala Screening ticket holders. Tickets are also available to purchase online.



PARTNERS IN PRODUCTION

Sweetland

Friday, Sept. 15, 7:00 PM – Theatre 8



This visually stunning film from Atlantic Canadian talent Christian Sparkes (*Cast No Shadow*), based on a book by acclaimed writer Michael Crummey, tells a story of outport Newfoundland and a man who loves the land of his birth so much he's willing to remain there after others have left. The film takes a haunting turn, leaving the audience questioning what is real as we watch his beloved landscape descend into a land of shadows.

Country: Canada

Province: Newfoundland and Labrador

Runtime: 105

Writer: Christian Sparkes

Producer: Allison White

Cast: Mark Lewis Jones, Sara Canning, Mary Walsh, Cail Turner

Cinematographer: Jordan Kennington

Editor: Jorge Weisz

Language: English



TELEFILM CANADA PARTNER OF CHOICE



Atlantic Gala Party

The Garden Halifax
1446 Queen Street

Friday, Sept. 15th, 2023. 9:00 PM - Late **FREE**.

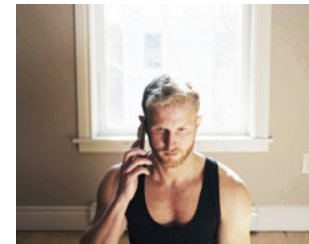
Local filmmaking is the cornerstone of the Atlantic International Film Festival; we love showcasing and championing the diverse storytellers of our region. After our Atlantic Gala feature this year, we are thrilled to invite you to take part in celebrating local filmmaking at our Atlantic Gala Party! This year's festivities will be taking place at The Garden on the colourful and historic Queen St. Free and open to all.



Reel East Coast Shorts Gala

Sunday, Sept. 17, 7:00 PM – Theatre 8

These seven short films offer a spotlight on talent from the Atlantic region, from AIFF alumni, to award-winning films, to impressive debuts.



Slay

Faced with the impending departure of his BFF, Glen makes an effort to rekindle old friendships, to varying degrees of success – from the comedic stylings of Kevin Hartford (*Lemon Squeezy*).

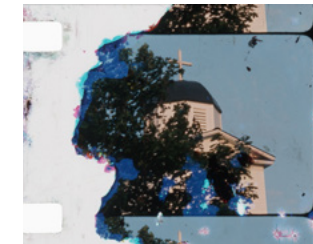
Director: Kevin Hartford
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 10
Language: English



Evelyn

The world of 94-year-old Evelyn Christopher seems to belong to another time, in this newest work of beauty from celebrated documentarian Millefiore Clarkes.

Director: Millefiore Clarkes
Province: Prince Edward Island
Runtime: 16
Language: English



Father Archie

The filmmaker's grandfather narrates a tale of old Father Archie, set to decomposing 16mm of the local parish, in this archaeological work from the experimental postmemory of Todd Fraser.

Director: Todd Fraser
Province: New Brunswick
Runtime: 6
Language: English, Scottish Gaelic



Hebron Relocation

Filmmaker Holly Andersen of Makkovik, Nunatsiavut, explores what makes a place a home as she speaks with the next generations impacted by the forced displacement of northern Labrador Inuit.

Director: Holly Andersen
Province: Newfoundland and Labrador
Runtime: 15
Language: English



Mother's Skin

A neglected six-year-old struggles to cope with her mother's depression and her father's rage. But when she discovers a secret hidden within their home, her dysfunctional world takes on a strange new meaning.

Director: Leah Johnston
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 20
Language: English



The Healing Jar

The Healing Jar is a short meditative documentary which uses ASMR techniques and poetic imagery designed to relax the audience. It creates a space for the audience to reflect on their own healing.

Director: Andrea Cass
Province: Newfoundland and Labrador
Runtime: 7
Language: English



Escape the Usual

Escape the Usual follows a day in the life of three teenage boys during the spring of 2002 in a small fishing village along the South Shore of Nova Scotia.

Director: Colby Conrad
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 14
Language: English

22 MINUTES

SHORT FILM FACE OFF



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Flora and Son

Thursday, Sept. 21, 7:00 PM — Theatre 8



From the director of *Once* and *Sing Street*, and coming from its hit premiere at Sundance and TIFF, *Flora and Son* has John Carney's signature melodic style and features Joseph Gordon-Levitt as well as an incredible lead performance from Eve Hewson as young mother, Flora, trying to connect with her teenage son through a shared love of music. A charming, uplifting, and musically dazzling way to close the festival.

Director: John Carney

Country: USA, Ireland

Runtime: 94

Writer: John Carney

Producer: Anthony Bregman, John Carney, Peter Cron, Rebecca O'Flanagan, Robert Walpole

Cast: Eve Hewson, Jack Reynor, Orén Kinlan, Joseph Gordon-Levitt

Cinematographer: John Conroy

Editor: Stephen O'Connell

Language: English

Closing Night Party

Pacifico Nightclub
5171 George Street

Thursday, Sept. 21st, 2023. 9:00 PM - Late **FREE**.

As the closing credits of the 2023 edition of AIFF begin to roll, we intend on going out in style. Come celebrate our Closing Night Gala film and raise a glass to AIFF 2023 at our Closing Night Party. This year, festival staff and members of the film community will be gathering at the Pacifico Nightclub in the heart of downtown Halifax for Closing Night festivities. Join us as we revel in this year's festival merriment one last time! Free and open to all.



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About Dry Grasses (Kuru otlar Üstüne)

Saturday, Sept. 16, 11:30 AM — Theatre 6 | Monday, Sept. 18, 5:30 PM — Theatre 7

In *About Dry Grasses*, the latest from master Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan (*Winter Sleep*, *Once Upon a Time in Anatolia*), an art teacher dreams of returning home to Istanbul after mandatory service in a remote village. When he becomes the subject of a school-wide investigation, his chances of ever leaving the village risk fading away for good. With a scene-stealing and Best Actress-winning performance by Merve Dizdar (Cannes 2023), Ceylan's latest is a courageously thorny study of our most unconscionable impulses—and yet another major work in his keenly observed oeuvre.

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan
Country: Turkey, France, Germany
Runtime: 197
Writer: Akin Aksu, Ebru Ceylan, Nuri Bilge Ceylan
Producer: Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Cast: Deniz Celloğlu, Merve Dizdar, Musab Ekici
Cinematographer: Cevahir Sahin, Kürsat Üresin
Editor: Oguz Atabas, Nuri Bilge Ceylan
Language: Turkish



Anatomy of a Fall

Friday, Sept. 15, 8:30 PM — Theatre 7 | Tuesday, Sept. 19, 5:15 PM — Theatre 4

This riveting Palme d'Or winner makes its Atlantic Canadian debut, featuring an astonishing, Oscar-worthy performance by international star Sandra Hüller. Sandra Voyter (Hüller) becomes the prime suspect in the death of her husband when he mysteriously falls out of their home's second-story window. Contradictory testimony and the reliance upon their visually impaired son as the central witness complicates the trial, which is presented in captivating detail in Justine Triet's masterful, multi-layered drama. *Presented by Alliance Française.*

Director: Justine Triet
Country: France
Runtime: 151
Writer: Justine Triet, Arthur Harari
Producer: Marie-Ange Luciani, David Thion

Cast: Sandra Hüller, Swann Arlaud, Milo Machado Graner, Antoine Reinartz
Cinematographer: Simon Beaufills
Editor: Laurent Sénéchal
Language: French

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The Boy in the Woods

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:45 PM — Theatre 5

Adapted from the best-selling memoir by Maxwell Smart, *The Boy in the Woods* follows the extraordinary story of Max (Jett Klyne), a Jewish boy escaping Nazi persecution in Eastern Europe. After he is separated from his family, Max finds refuge with a Christian peasant Jasko (Richard Armitage) who hides him in plain sight until a tense stand-off with Nazi police. Afraid for his own family's life, Jasko sends Max to live in the woods where he learns to survive alone.

Director: Rebecca Snow
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 96
Writer: Rebecca Snow, Maxwell Smart
Producer: Robert Budreau, Jonathan Bronfman, Andrew Bronfman

Cast: Jett Klyne, David Kohlsmith, Richard Armitage, Christopher Heyerdahl
Cinematographer: Adam Madrzyk
Editor: Robert Swartz
Language: English



Butterfly Tale

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2:45 PM — Theatre 3

An animated adventure for the whole family! Set along the backdrop of the great Monarch butterfly migration, the film is a heartwarming tale of a loveable one-winged butterfly named Patrick who stows away in a milkweed trailer for a journey of a lifetime. With his best friend, a goofy caterpillar named Marty, and Jennifer, a butterfly who is afraid of heights, Patrick will face his fears, embrace his uniqueness, and triumph over adversity - all while battling the elements. *Presented by The Canada Media Fund.*

Director: Sophie Roy
Country: Canada, Germany
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 82
Writer: Heidi Foss, Lienne Sawatsky
Producer: Marie-Claude Beauchamp, Emely

Christians
Cast: Tatiana Maslany, Mena Massoud
Cinematographer: Robert Yates, Johann Bel
Language: English





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“Storytelling matters! It has the ability to take us outside of ourselves and empathize with another person’s experience. Through the power of storytelling, we can spread a Canadian culture of kindness, courage, and inclusion.”

Taylor Olson (Nova Scotia)
Award-winning director & writer
BONE CAGE



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Scan this QR code to make a donation to the Talent Fund or visit: [THETALENTFUND.CA](http://thetalentfund.ca)



La Chimera

Sunday, Sept. 17, 12:30 PM — Theatre 4 | Monday, Sept. 18, 8:45 PM — Theatre 4

In 1980s Italy, a British archaeologist’s uncanny ability to connect with the earth gets him embroiled with *tomboroli*—tomb raiders digging up Etruscan artifacts for sale on the black market. *La Chimera* is the enchanting fourth feature from Oscar-nominated filmmaker Alice Rohrwacher (*Le Pupille, Happy as Lazzaro*), featuring beguiling performances from Josh O’Connor (*Emma, Peaky Blinders*) and screen legend Isabella Rossellini. After an acclaimed Cannes premiere, it’s poised to elevate Rohrwacher from indie darling to celebrated international auteur.

Director: Alice Rohrwacher
Country: Italy, France, Switzerland
Runtime: 130
Writer: Alice Rohrwacher
Producer: Carlo Cresto-Dina

Cast: Josh O’Connor, Isabella Rossellini, Alba Rohrwacher, Carol Duarte, Vincenzo Nemolato
Cinematographer: Hélène Louvart
Editor: Nelly Quettier
Language: Italian



Close to You

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 9:00 PM — Theatre 4 | Thursday, Sept. 21, 6:45 PM — Theatre 3

This intimate drama starring the magnificent Elliot Page captures the nerves, awkwardness, tensions, and joys of returning home for a family event after coming out. Sam (Page) is living in Toronto when he decides to return to his small-town roots in Coburg for his dad’s birthday. Faced with varying degrees of microaggressions, overt aggressions, and encouraging support, Sam rethinks his relationship to family while sparking a renewed connection with an old friend.

Director: Dominic Savage
Country: Canada, United Kingdom
Runtime: 100
Writer: Dominic Savage
Producer: Krishnendu Majumdar, Richard Yee, Daniel Bekerman, Chris

Yurkovich, Dominic Savage, Elliot Page
Cast: Elliot Page, Hillary Baack
Cinematographer: Catherine Lutes
Editor: David Charap
Language: English



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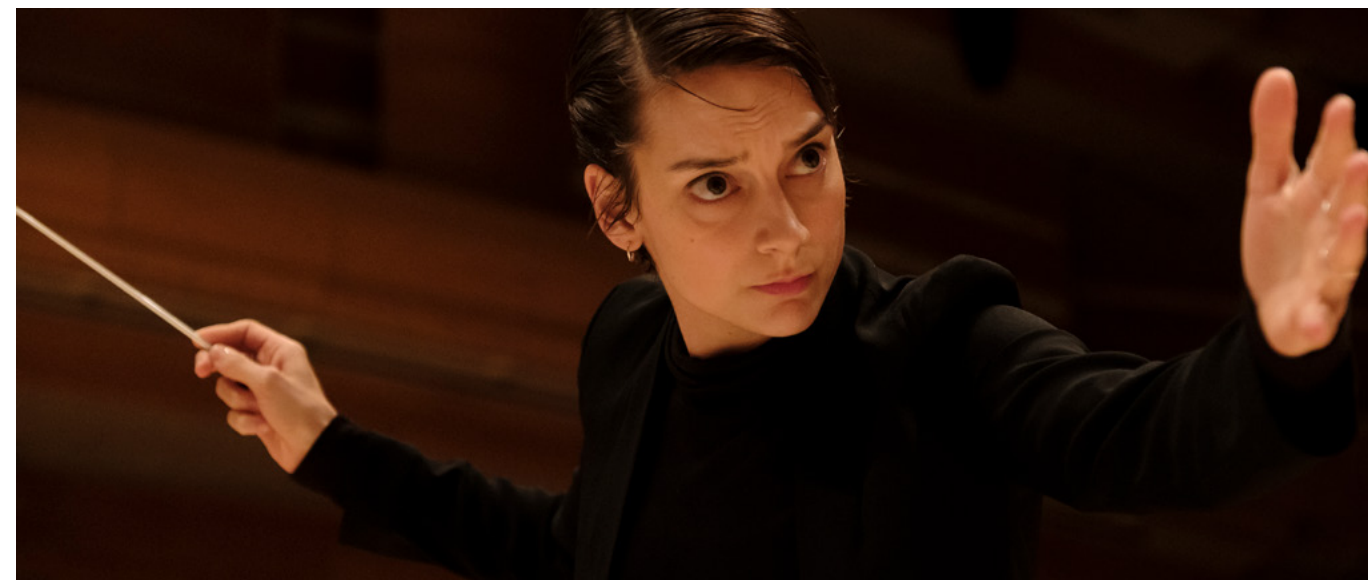


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MASTERCLASSES



DISCOVER
EVENTS

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Days of Happiness (Les jours heureux)

Sunday, Sept. 17, 8:00 PM — Theatre 3 | Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:00 PM — Theatre 7



Chloé Robichaud's latest film explores the trials and tribulations of creative labour and the toll of the arts industry on one's personal relationships. Sophie Desmarais delivers a captivating performance as Emma, an up-and-coming conductor vying for a coveted position with the orchestra. The pressure builds between her manager father as well as with her romantic relationship with Naëlle (Nour Belkhiria), culminating in immersive sequences of raw intensity. An enthralling work from a top Canadian filmmaking talent.

Director: Chloé Robichaud
Country: Canada
Province: Québec
Runtime: 118
Writer: Chloé Robichaud
Producer: Pierre Even
Cast: Sophie Desmarais

Cinematographer: Ariel Méthot
Editor: Yvann Thibaudeau
Language: French



The Delinquents (Los delincuentes)

Thursday, Sept. 21, 6:30 PM — Theatre 5

In *The Delinquents*, a Buenos Aires bank employee raids a safe with a plan to hand off the cash to a co-worker, turn himself in, and split the earnings after he gets out on good behaviour—but the money has other plans for them. After an acclaimed Cannes debut, Rodrigo Moreno's surreal, slow-burn heist comedy took home the top prize at Poland's New Horizons. In Guardian critic Peter Bradshaw's five-star review, he called the film a "beguiling and fantastical" adventure with all the makings of a future cult classic.

Director: Rodrigo Moreno
Country: Argentina
Runtime: 180
Writer: Rodrigo Moreno
Producer: Ezequiel Borovinsky
Cast: Daniel Elías, Esteban Bigliardi, Margarita Molino,

Germán de Silva
Cinematographer: Alejo Maglio
Editor: Karen Akerman, Manuel Ferrari
Language: Spanish

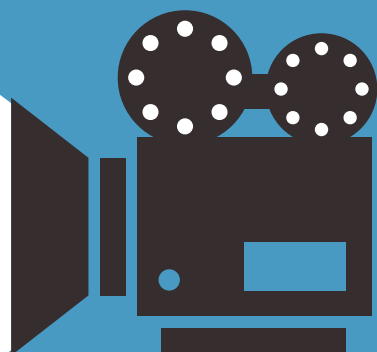
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43rd Annual Atlantic International Film Festival.

September 14 - 21, 2023



EVENTS NOVA SCOTIA
Inspiring times



Fallen Leaves (Kuolleet Lehdet)

Sunday, Sept. 17, 4:45 PM — Theatre 4 | Thursday, Sept. 21, 8:30 PM — Theatre 4

The latest idiosyncratic work from Aki Kaurismäki (*Le Havre*, *The Match Factory Girl*) contains the deadpan humour, absurdist charm, and existential angst that audiences have come to expect from the acclaimed Finnish filmmaker. A working-class couple repeatedly tries to initiate a romantic connection within a modern Helsinki utterly hostile to the formation of genuine human relationships. The minimalist yet visually captivating tragicomedy screened in Competition at Cannes, where it won the prestigious Jury Prize.

Director: Aki Kaurismäki
Country: Finland, Germany
Runtime: 81
Writer: Aki Kaurismäki
Producer: Aki Kaurismäki, Misha Jaari, Mark Lwoff, Reinhard Brundig

Cast: Alma Pöysti, Jussi Vatanen, Janne Hyytiäinen, Nuppu Koivu
Cinematographer: Timo Salminen
Editor: Samu Heikkilä
Language: Finnish



Fitting In

Saturday, Sept. 16, 5:30 PM — Theatre 7 | Tuesday, Sept. 19, 5:45 PM — Theatre 7

When teenage Lindy unexpectedly discovers that she has a rare reproductive condition, MRKH syndrome, the diagnosis upends her life, relationships, and her plans to have sex. Molly McGlynn's semi-autobiographical sophomore feature is a fresh, smart, coming-of-age drama, and the film's poignant and funny exploration of identity and sex demonstrates the complexity and beauty of human gender and sexuality beyond the binary. Featuring standout performances by Emily Hampshire, Djouliet Amara, D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, Ki Griffin, and a dazzling Maddie Ziegler as the lead, *Fitting In* delivers both the laughs and the feels.

Director: Molly McGlynn
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 105
Writer: Molly McGlynn
Producer: Jennifer Weiss, Liane Cunje

Cast: Maddie Ziegler, Emily Hampshire, Djouliet Amara, D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, Ki Griffin
Cinematographer: Nina Djacic
Editor: Maureen Grant
Language: English



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The King Tide

Sunday, Sept. 17, 4:30 PM – Theatre 3

When a child with mysterious powers is discovered awash on their shores, a once peaceful community has to resist an insurgence, and the child's adoptive parents are faced with an impossible decision. Set in a small East Coast island fishing village, Newfoundland-based alumni director Christian Sparkes brings this moody, magic realist drama to life.

Director: Christian Sparkes
Country: Canada
Province: Newfoundland
Runtime: 100
Writer: Will Woods, Albert Shin
Producer: Allison White, Will Woods
Cast: Alix West Lefler, Clayne Crawford, Frances

Fisher, Aden Young, Lara Jean Chorostecki, Michael Greyeyes, Ryan McDonald, Ben Stranahan, Amelia Manuel, Cameron Nicoll, Kathryn Greenwood
Cinematographer: Mike McLaughlin
Editor: Justin Oakey
Language: English



Monster (Kaibutsu)

Friday, Sept. 15, 6:30 PM – Theatre 4 | Saturday, Sept. 16, 9:30 PM – Theatre 5

Winner of the Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Screenplay, *Monster* is set in a tranquil suburban enclave, nestled by a vast lake, wherein a single mother's love clings to her son like a lifeline, while a schoolteacher finds solace in the whispers of their cherished students. In the latest from beloved Japanese director Kore-eda Hirokazu (*Broker*, *Shoplifters*), society and spectacle collide in the wake of a conflict that erupts on the schoolyard. Hard truths evince mistrust, guilt, and gnawing despair that eclipse and overshadow the children who vanish into the unknown.

Director: Kore-eda Hirokazu
Country: Japan
Runtime: 126
Writer: Sakamoto Yūji
Producer: Kawamura Genki, Yamada Kenji

Cast: Ando Sakura, Nagayama Eita, Kurokawa Soya, Hiiragi Hinata, Tanaka Yūko
Cinematographer: Kondō Ryūto
Editor: Kore-eda Hirokazu
Language: Japanese

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The Old Oak

Sunday, Sept. 17, 11:30 AM — Theatre 3

In what may be his last film, master filmmaker Ken Loach delivers a touching work that examines racial animus within a rural English town. The town's eponymous lone pub struggles to survive amidst the economic downturn that has driven away residents. The arrival of Syrian refugees into the area pits the compassionate pub-owner TJ (Dave Turner) against a contingent of angry locals. What unfolds is a deeply moving drama about loss, fear and the difficulty of finding hope.

Director: Ken Loach
Country: United Kingdom, France, Belgium
Runtime: 113
Writer: Paul Laverty
Producer: Rebecca O'Brien
Cast: Dave Turner, Ebla Mari

Cinematographer: Robbie Ryan
Editor: Jonathan Morris
Language: English



Perfect Days

Sunday, Sept. 17, 7:30 PM — Theatre 4

In this meditation on the beauty of ordinary life by virtuoso filmmaker Wim Wenders, co-written by Takuma Takasaki, we accompany the main character through a series of banal yet poignant days in his life as a cleaner of public toilets in Tokyo. The film's central theme, voiced in a resplendent performance by actor Koji Yakusho, is a rich and resonant statement about what it feels like to be alive: "The world is made of many worlds. Some are connected, and some are not."

Director: Wim Wenders
Country: Japan
Runtime: 123
Writer: Wim Wenders, Takuma Takasaki
Producer: Koji Yanai, Wim Wenders, Takuma Takasaki

Cast: Kôji Yakusho, Min Tanaka, Tokio Emoto, Aoi Yamada, Sayuri Ishikawa, Arisa Nakano, Yumi Aso, Tomokazu Miura
Cinematographer: Franz Lustig
Editor: Toni Froschhammer
Language: Japanese, English



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The Promised Land

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6:30 PM — Theatre 8

Academy Award-nominated director Nikolaj Arcel (*A Royal Affair*) reunites with Mads Mikkelsen in this highly anticipated and gripping drama about a famed 18th-century Danish explorer's pursuit of wealth and honour.

Director: Nikolaj Arcel

Country: Denmark, Sweden

Runtime: 127

Writer: Nikolaj Arcel, Anders Thomas Jensen

Producer: Louise Vesth

Cast: Mads Mikkelsen, Amanda Collin, Gustav Lindh

Cinematographer: Rasmus Videbæk

Editor: Olivier Bugge Coutté

Language: Danish



Red, White and Brass

Friday, Sept. 15, 7:30 PM — Theatre 3

In this heartwarming comedy inspired by a true story, rugby superfans miss out on a moment that defines their lives, getting World Cup tickets. Determined to make it there, they rally a group of misfits to form a traditional Tongan marching band despite their lack of experience. Armed with makeshift instruments, they stumble through practices, fearing they might embarrass their community. But what begins as a ploy transforms into a heartfelt journey of self-discovery. *Presented by the New Zealand Film Commission.*

Director: Damon Fepulea'i

Country: New Zealand

Runtime: 85

Writer: Damon Fepulea'i, Halaifonua Finau

Producer: Georgina Conder, Halaifonua Finau, Morgan Waru

Cast: Damon Fepulea'i, Paul Maxwell, Ben Powdrell

Cinematographer: Andrew McGeorge

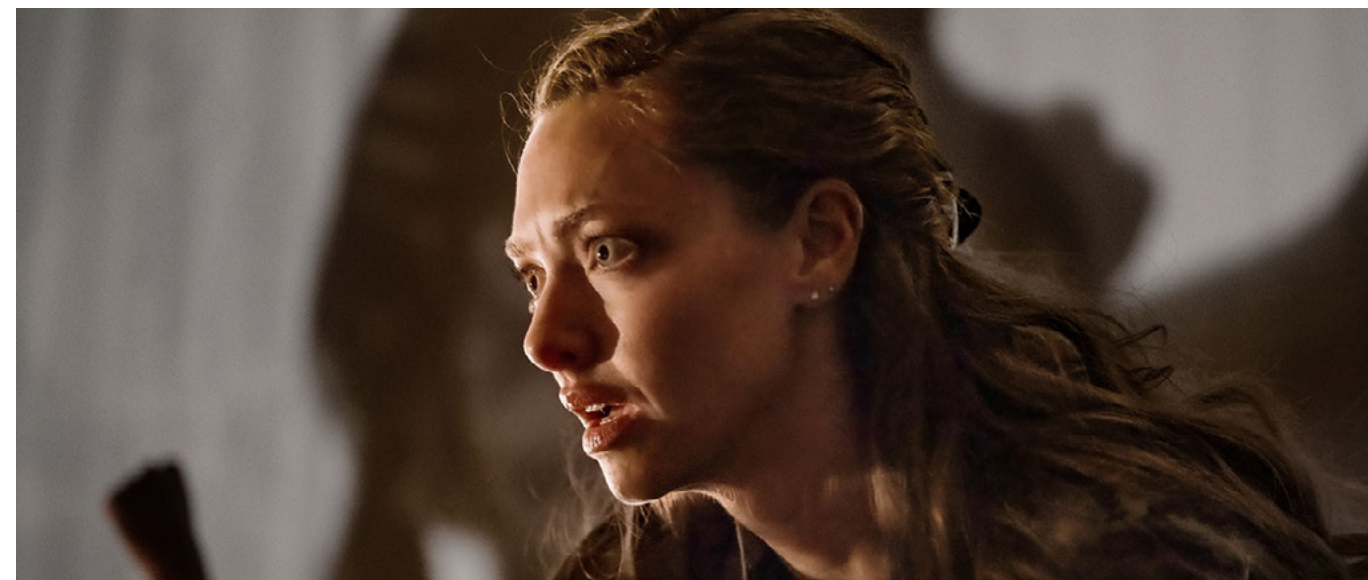
Editor: Damon Fepulea'i, Paul Maxwell, Ben Powdrell

Language: Tongan, English



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Seven Veils

Sunday, Sept. 17, 9:15 PM — Theatre 7 | Monday, Sept. 18, 9:00 PM — Theatre 3

In celebrated Canadian director Atom Egoyan's latest, a theatre director (Oscar-nominee Amanda Seyfried, *Mank*) returns to the opera world after years away to re-stage her former mentor's most successful work. Inspired by Egoyan's real-life experience revisiting Richard Strauss' *Salome* for the Canadian Opera Company, the film is an incisive psychodrama that examines art's ability to uncover the most buried and torturous elements of our past — and yet another powerful statement from one of this country's true cinematic masters.

Director: Atom Egoyan
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 107
Writer: Atom Egoyan
Producer: Fraser Ash, Atom Egoyan, Niv Fichman, Kevin Krikst, Simone Urdl

Cast: Amanda Seyfried, Rebecca Liddiard, Douglas Smith, Mark O'Brien, Vinessa Antoine
Cinematographer: Paul Sarossy
Editor: David Wharnsby
Language: English



Suze

Saturday, Sept. 16, 6:00 PM — Theatre 3 | Monday, Sept. 18, 5:45 PM — Theatre 5

Michaela Watkins delivers a career-best performance in this heartfelt comedy from co-directors Dane Clark and Linsey Stewart. When her daughter Brooke (Sara Waisglass) moves away for university, Suze (Watkins) tries to adjust to a new life without her only child. Suze's plans derail when Brooke's obnoxious boyfriend Gage (the scene-stealing Charlie Gillespie) moves into her home after an injury. Celebrating its World Premiere at AIFF, *Suze* is a delightful and charming coming-of-age tale with an unlikely pairing at its centre.

Director: Linsey Stewart, Dane Clark
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 93
Writer: Linsey Stewart, Dane Clark
Producer: Matt Code, Kristy Neville

Cast: Michaela Watkins, Aaron Ashmore, Sara Waisglass, Charlie Gillespie
Cinematographer: Jordan Kennington
Editor: Hugh Elchuk
Language: English



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Tautuktavuk (What We See)

Saturday, Sept. 16, 4:30 PM — Theatre 6



In *Tautuktavuk (What We See)*, the boundaries between storytelling and reality intertwine. Uyarak and her elder sister Saqipnak set forth on an arduous, intimate odyssey of healing after a life-altering incident. This compelling narrative delves into the essence of community, culture, and familial ties, revealing profound insights into the power of resilience and the human spirit. A captivating cinematic gem that showcases the power of film to evoke empathy, introspection, and a profound appreciation for the strength it takes to go onward.

Director: Lucy Tulugarjuk, Carol Kunnuk
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec, Nunavut
Runtime: 82
Writer: Lucy Tulugarjuk, Carol Kunnuk, Gillian Robinson, Samuel Cohn-Cousineau, Norman Cohn

Producer: Lucy Tulugarjuk, Jonathan Frantz
Cast: Carol Kunnuk, Mark Taqqaugaq, Lucy Tulugarjuk, Benjamin Kunuk
Cinematographer: Jonathan Frantz
Editor: Jeremiah Hayes
Language: Inuktitut



Totem

Sunday, Sept. 17, 3:00 PM — Theatre 6

Winner of the Berlinale Jury Prize, *Totem* portrays the family of young girl Sol (Naïma Senties) as they prepare a surprise birthday for her father, who's struggling with terminal cancer. Throughout the day, tensions mount and conflicts arise among Sol's aunts, grandparents, and cousins, lending a frenetic energy to the film's intimate, and beautifully shot, domestic spaces. The film offers a life-affirming expression of compassion and care that binds family together.

Director: Lila Avilés
Country: Mexico, Denmark, France
Runtime: 95
Writer: Lila Avilés
Producer: Lila Avilés, Tatiana Graullera, Louise Riouse

Cast: Naïma Senties, Montserrat Marañón's, Marisol Gasé
Cinematographer: Diego Tenorio
Editor: Omar Guzmán
Language: Spanish

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Who's Yer Father?

Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30 — Theatre 8

In the PEI-set crime-comedy caper, a down-on-his-luck private investigator (Chris Locke) is hired by a rich businessman in the seafood industry (Matt Wells) to investigate suspicious black-market lobster sales in Sandbar Cove. When he meets Rhonda (Susan Kent, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*), the two discover a secret about the businessman's wife and hatch a plan to blackmail her and escape in pursuit of a new life together—but that plan quickly goes hysterically awry. Full of regional accents and Maritime charm, director Jeremy Larter's *Who's Yer Father?* is must-see viewing for anyone seeking a raucous night of laughs.

Director: Jeremy Larter
Country: Canada
Province: PEI
Runtime: 110
Writer: Jeremy Larter
Producer: Jason Arseneault, Jenna MacMillan

Cast: Chris Locke, Susan Kent, Kaniehtio Horn, Steve Lund, Jess Salgueiro, Matt Wells
Cinematographer: Kevin A. Fraser
Editor: Patricia Brown, Jeremy Larter
Language: English



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Against the Tide

Sunday, Sept. 17, 6:30 PM — Theatre 5

Set in India, Sarvnik Kaur's absorbing, vérité-style documentary explores themes of tradition, environmentalism, and class through the lives of Rakesh and Ganesh, friends and Indigenous fisherman both struggling to provide for their families despite contrasting approaches and circumstances. A Special Jury Award winner at Sundance, *Against The Tide* captures the tension growing between the men—one uses ancestral methods as the other takes a more technologically advanced approach—while carrying a larger undercurrent of poetic urgency.

Director: Sarvnik Kaur
Country: India, France
Runtime: 97
Producer: Koval Bhatia, Sarvnik Kaur
Cinematographer: Ashok Meena

Editor: Atanas Georgiev, Blagoja Nedelkovski
Language: Koli, Marathi, Hindi



Analogue Revolution: How Feminist Media Changed the World

Friday, Sept. 15, 5:15 PM — Theatre 5

Featuring rare archival footage and interviews with pioneering feminists, including African Nova Scotian filmmaker Sylvia D. Hamilton, *Analogue Revolution* expertly traces the rise and fall of analogue feminist communications that preceded the MeToo era. From Halifax to Vancouver, feminist storytellers of the 1970s to '90s took hold of cutting-edge media technology to document everything from violence towards women to how to insert a diaphragm.

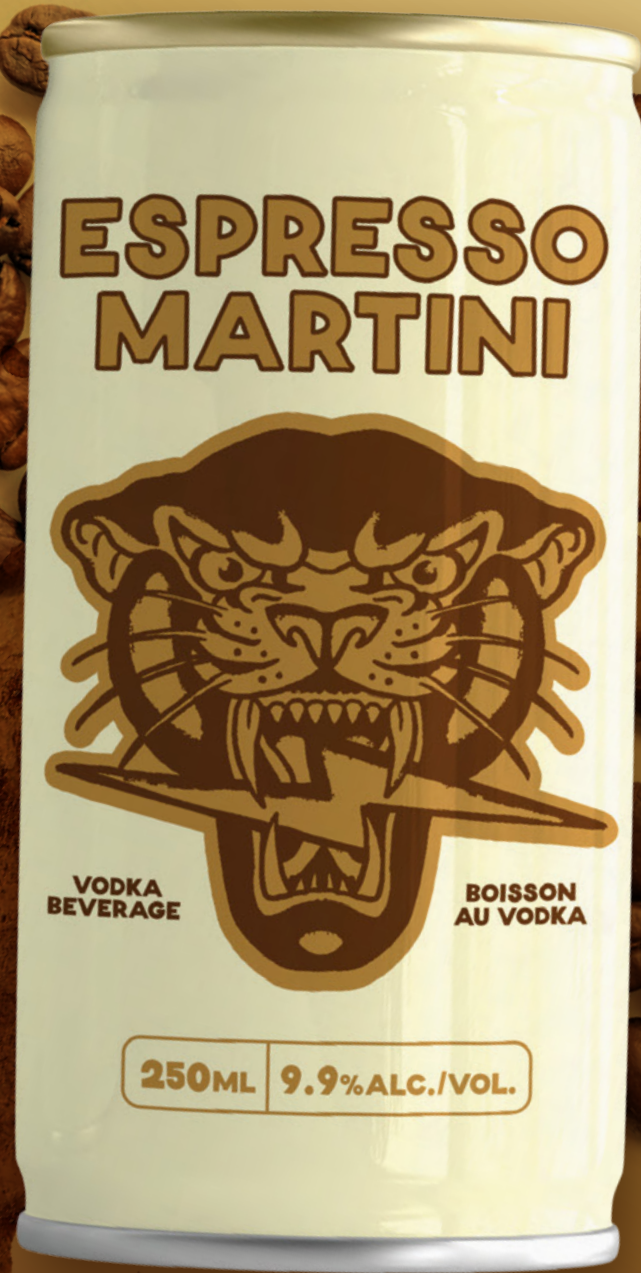
Director: Marusya Bociurkiw
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 94
Writer: Marusya Bociurkiw
Producer: Eponine Young
Cast: Sylvia D. Hamilton,

Michelle Wong, Bonnie Thompson, Grace Channer, Ariane Brunet, Judy Rebick
Cinematographer: Vanessa Abadhir
Editor: Eugene Weis
Language: English



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A Quiet Girl

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:00 PM — Theatre 3

In *A Quiet Girl*, adopted Montreal filmmaker Adrian Wills commits, on camera and in real time, to unraveling the mystery of his complex beginnings in Newfoundland. Spurred on by a meager clue in his adoption documents, Wills spends two years travelling from the spare beauty of Canada's most eastern coastline to the red heat of Arizona in search of answers. What Wills finally uncovers pierces into the meaning of family, revealing disquieting parallels between his own life and that of the birth mother he never knew.

Director: Adrian Wills
Country: Canada
Province: Newfoundland
Runtime: 86
Writer: Adrian Wills
Producer: Annette Clarke
Cinematographer: Van Royko

Editor: Heidi Haines
Language: English



Celestial Queer: The Life, Work and Wonder of James MacSwain

Monday, Sept. 18, 6:00 PM — Theatre 4

A fittingly eclectic and colourful ode to a Halifax treasure, *Celestial Queer: The Life, Work and Wonder of James MacSwain* documents the multimedia artist's journey growing up gay in the '50s and '60s in small-town Nova Scotia and finding his community and artistic practice. MacSwain's collage-based animation is featured in the film, interspersed with interviews detailing his impact on filmmaking and artist-run culture and conversations with MacSwain himself, who permeates the film with his humour and 'otherworldly' charm.

Director: Eryn Foster, Sue Johnson
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 72
Writer: Eryn Foster, Sue Johnson

Producer: Eryn Foster, Sue Johnson
Cast: James MacSwain
Cinematographer: Sue Johnson
Editor: Kaija Siirala
Language: English



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The Elephant 6 Recording Co.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 8:45 PM — Theatre 3

An in-depth look into the kaleidoscopic world of Elephant 6, the improbable lo-fi music collective that channeled a shared love of '60s psychedelia into some of the most innovative, influential work in American independent music. Featuring intimate, off-the-cuff interviews with members of Neutral Milk Hotel, of Montreal, The Apples in Stereo, The Olivia Tremor Control and more. *Presented by Side Door with an introduction by Laura Simpson, CEO.*

Director: C.B. Stockfleth
Country: USA
Runtime: 93
Producer: Lance Bangs
Cast: Bill Doss, Will Cullen Hart, Jeff Mangum, Robert Schneider

Cinematographer: C.B. Stockfleth
Editor: Greg King
Language: English



I Lost My Mom (J'ai placé ma mère)

Sunday, Sept. 17, 12:00 PM — Theatre 6

In the form of a film diary, *I Lost My Mom* offers an immersive glimpse into the filmmaker's emotional journey navigating the torturous complexities of what drove him to place his mother in a CHSLD (long-term care home), and his agonizing effort to grant her a dignified farewell. Winner of the Hot Docs 2023 Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award, Denys Desjardins' deeply intimate documentary depicts his mother with remarkable tenderness, showing her vulnerability and warm personality through a lens of tireless love and respect.

Director: Denys Desjardins
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 75
Writer: Denys Desjardins
Producer: Denys Desjardins
Cast: Madeleine Ducharme-Desjardins,

Denys Desjardins, Maryse Desjardins
Cinematographer: Denys Desjardins, Mathéo Lemay
Editor: Denys Desjardins, Michel Giroux
Language: French





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Innocence

Thursday, Sept. 21, 5:15 PM — Theatre 7

Oscar-nominated Israeli filmmaker Guy Davidi's gripping exposé tackles the issue of militarization and its impact on the lives of young Israeli people who are forced to serve, critically considering the roles of war narratives and military promotion. Based on ten years of research, *Innocence* tells the story of children who resisted to be enlisted only to die during their service. First-hand military images, home videos, and haunting diaries chronicle the stories of their inner turmoil.

Director: Guy Davidi

Country: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Israel

Runtime: 100

Writer: Guy Davidi

Producer: Sigrid Dyekjaer, Hilla Medalia

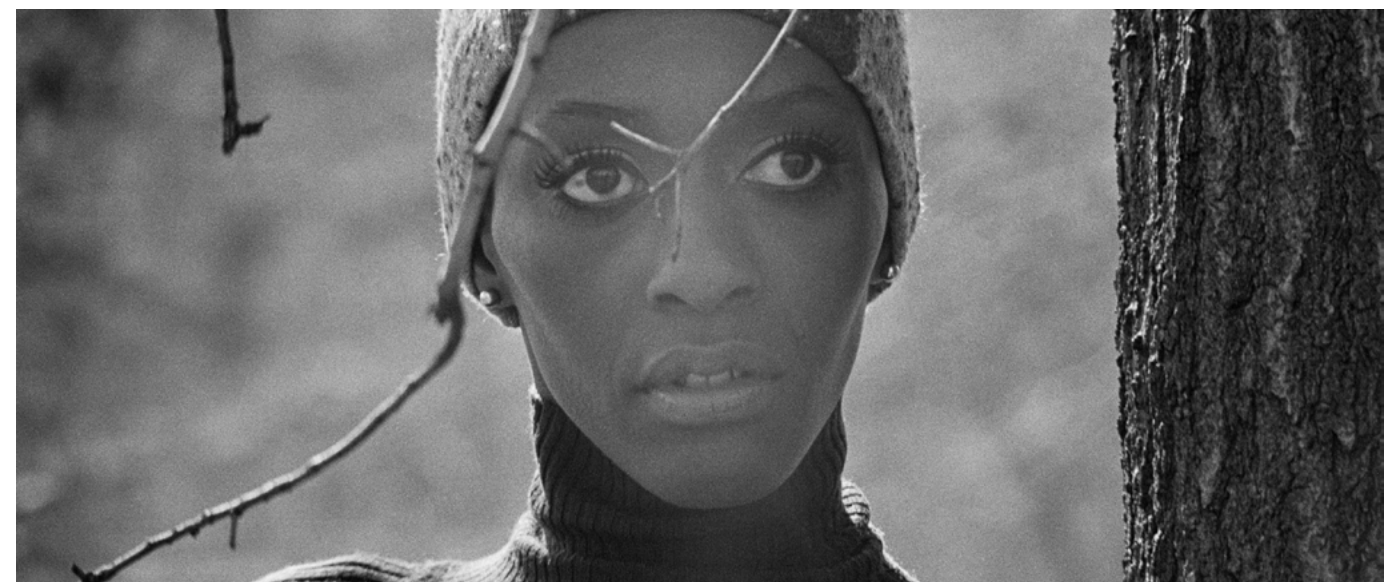
Cast: Zohar Shaked, Na'ama Shaked, Zohar Waitzman, Gilad Farjun, Yaron Assaf, Daphni Assaf,

Ella Tai, Tsuk Fiche, Yuval Eilam, Ori Shalmon, Tom Garor, Mishael Givaty Rapp, Bat-Sheva Givaty Rapp, Arlette Adler

Cinematographer: Avner Shahaf, Guy Davidi

Editor: Guy Davidi

Language: Hebrew



Invisible Beauty

Sunday, Sept. 17, 8:45 PM — Theatre 6 | Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7:45 PM — Theatre 7

A mesmerizing tribute to the indomitable spirit of fashion revolutionary Bethann Hardison. In collaboration with Frédéric Tcheng, Bethann reflects on her life journey as a pioneering Black model, modeling agent, and activist. *Invisible Beauty* speaks to the relentless struggle for racial diversity and equity within the fashion industry and the challenges she faced while shattering barriers and amplifying marginalized voices.

Director: Bethann Hardison and Frederic Tcheng

Country: USA

Runtime: 114

Writer: Bethann Hardison, Frederic Tcheng, Chris McNabb

Producer: Lisa Cortes

Cast: Bethann Hardison,

Kadeem Hardison, Iman, Fran Lebowitz, Zendaya, Whoopi Goldberg

Cinematographer: Mia Cloffi Henry, Frederic Tcheng

Editor: Chris McNabb, Frederic Tcheng

Language: English

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Mr. Dressup: The Magic of Make-Believe

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2:00 PM — Theatre 4 | Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:00 PM — Theatre 4

Mr. Dressup: The Magic of Make-Believe will likely unearth a "Tickle Trunk" full of memories for many, but through home videos and never-before-seen archival footage, Robert McCallum's documentary goes beyond a typical paean to TV nostalgia. In this tender tribute to Ernie Coombs, prominent Canadians, puppeteers, and his own relatives delve into the beloved icon's life and legacy, touching on his quiet progressiveness as well as his friendship with Mister Rogers.

Director: Robert McCallum
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 90
Writer: Robert McCallum, Jordan Christopher Morris
Producer: Aeschylus Poulos, Mark J.W. Bishop, Matthew Hornburg

Cast: Judith Lawrence, Chris Coombs, Cathie LeFort, Nina Keogh, Susan Marcus, Jim Parker, Stu Gilchrist
Cinematographer: John M. Tran
Editor: Nathan Shields, David New
Language: English



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Orlando, My Political Biography (Orlando, ma biographie politique)

Saturday, Sept. 16, 7:30 PM — Theatre 6

Conceived by one of the world's leading thinkers in gender studies and biopolitics, *Orlando: My Political Biography* is every bit as incisive as Paul B. Preciado's groundbreaking writings in the wake of *Testo Junkie*. Part free-form adaptation of Virginia Woolf's iconic novel *Orlando* (where a man wakes up in his middle age transformed into a woman), part personal testimony of trans people living today, Preciado constructs a film that goes beyond documentary to dialogue with Woolf herself.

Director: Paul B. Preciado
Country: France
Runtime: 98
Writer: Paul B. Preciado
Producer: Yaël Fogiel
Cast: Arthur, Emma Avena, Amir Bayly, Jenny Bel'Air, La Bourette, Nathan Callot

Cinematographer: Victor Zébo
Editor: Yotam Ben-David
Language: French



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Smoke Sauna Sisterhood

Friday, Sept. 15, 8:45 PM — Theatre 5

In this layered, intimate documentary, we enter the traditional ritual of smoke sauna in Southern Estonia and meet a powerful sisterhood of women. The film moves through seasons and years in meditative repetition, framed by careful cinematography. Director Anna Hints documents deeply personal stories with great sensitivity, as the women sweat and cry and bathe themselves in a healing sanctuary of heat.

Director: Anna Hints
Country: Estonia
Runtime: 89
Writer: Anna Hints
Producer: Marianne Ostrat
Cinematographer: Ants Tammik

Editor: Hendrik Mägar, Tushar Prakash
Language: Estonian, Seto, Võro

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Someone Lives Here

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 5:00 PM — Theatre 5

During the winter of the COVID-19 pandemic, skilled carpenter Khaleel Seiwright was a hero who built lifesaving small shelters for the unhoused community in Toronto. While his ingenuity and humanity drew global acclaim, they also sparked fierce resistance from city officials. His resolve symbolizes hope and sheds light on the plight of those marginalized positionalities who live on the fringes of society. This documentary covers the complexities of compassion in the context of bureaucracy, ultimately questioning the true essence of home and the transformative power in acts of kindness.

Director: Zack Russell
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 76
Producer: Andrew Ferguson
Cast: Khaleel Seiwright
Cinematographer: Chet Tilokani

Editor: Marianna Khoury
Language: English



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Stolen Time

Monday, Sept. 18, 8:30 PM — Theatre 5

In *Stolen Time*, a riveting feature documentary from Canadian filmmaker Helene Klodawsky, charismatic elder-rights lawyer Melissa Miller and hundreds of aggrieved families take on the corporate for-profit nursing-home industry—an industry notorious for its lack of transparency and accountability.

Director: Helene Klodawsky
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 85
Writer: Helene Klodawsky
Producer: Ina Fichman,
Ariel Nasr

Cinematographer: Claire Sanford
Editor: Dominique Sicotte
Language: English



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Swan Song

Saturday, Sept. 16, 5:00 PM — Theatre 4 | Thursday, Sept. 21, 4:00 PM — Theatre 3

Swan Song offers a backstage look into a historic, re-imagined staging of *Swan Lake*, directed by Karen Kain on the eve of her retirement from the National Ballet of Canada. Through the production's various dancers, documentarian Chelsea McMullan intimately depicts the passion, creativity, and physical demands required by this artform. And though the beauty of ballet is mesmerizing, McMullan pointedly touches on darker aspects of its culture, including narrow ideals of race, class, and body standards.
Presented by The Canada Media Fund.

Director: Chelsea McMullan
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 99
Writer: Chelsea McMullan,
Sean O'Neill

Producer: Sean O'Neill
Cast: Karen Kain
Cinematographer: Tess Girard, Shady Hanna
Editor: Brendan Mills
Language: English



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Unsyncable

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2:00 PM – Theatre 3

Fresh off a Hot Docs world premiere, *Unsyncable* dives into the lives of six elderly artistic swimmers as they prepare for a national championship. The seniors are first drawn to the sport (once known as synchronized swimming) at different stages of life and for different reasons—to be active, to process grief, to simply find community—but the decision to swim ignites something in all of them, affirming that passion has no age limit. *Presented by the TELUS Fund.*

Director: Megan Wennberg
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 75
Writer: Megan Wennberg
Producer: Erin Oakes, Edward Peill
Cast: Sue Baross Nesbitt,

Joyce Clarke, Luther Gales, Monica Hale, Cris Meier-Windes, Ellen Scott
Cinematographer: Paul McCurdy
Editor: Warren Jefferies
Language: English



In the Quiet and the Dark

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:30 PM – Theatre 3

In the Quiet and the Dark follows one woman's mission to save our remaining Eastern Hemlocks from an invasive, tree-killing insect (brought to North America by humans, of course). Captivating through its footage of lush, old-growth forests—a reminder of what's at stake—this documentary from director Nance Ackerman offers a considered model for scientists working alongside Indigenous communities to prevent ecological catastrophe. It also prudently differentiates between the interference and involvement of humans in nature's healing. *Presented by Ecojustice.*

Director: Nance Ackerman
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 50
Writer: Nance Ackerman
Producer: Teresa MacInnes
Cinematographer: Nance Ackerman
Editor: Nance Ackerman
Language: English



Songs of Unama'ki

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:30 PM – Theatre 3

Songs of Unama'ki ventures into the "land of the fog" – Cape Breton – where traditional music of the Mi'kmaq shines despite the passage of time. Directed by Mi'kmaq filmmaker Dawn Wells and Jeff Miller, this transportive documentary melds archival material with footage of gifted artists of today who prove this music is rich and perennial.

Director: Dawn Wells, Jeff Miller
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 22
Writer: Dawn Wells, Donna Davies
Producer: Donna Davies, Ann Bernier, Victoria Germain
Cast: Michael R. Denny, Sons of Membertou, Morgan Toney, Mary Beth Carty, Eskasoni Women's Drum Group
Cinematographer: Charlie Benoit
Editor: Dennis Bradley
Language: English

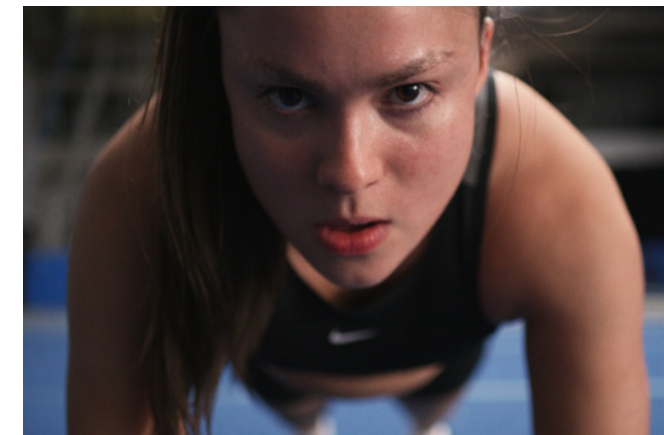
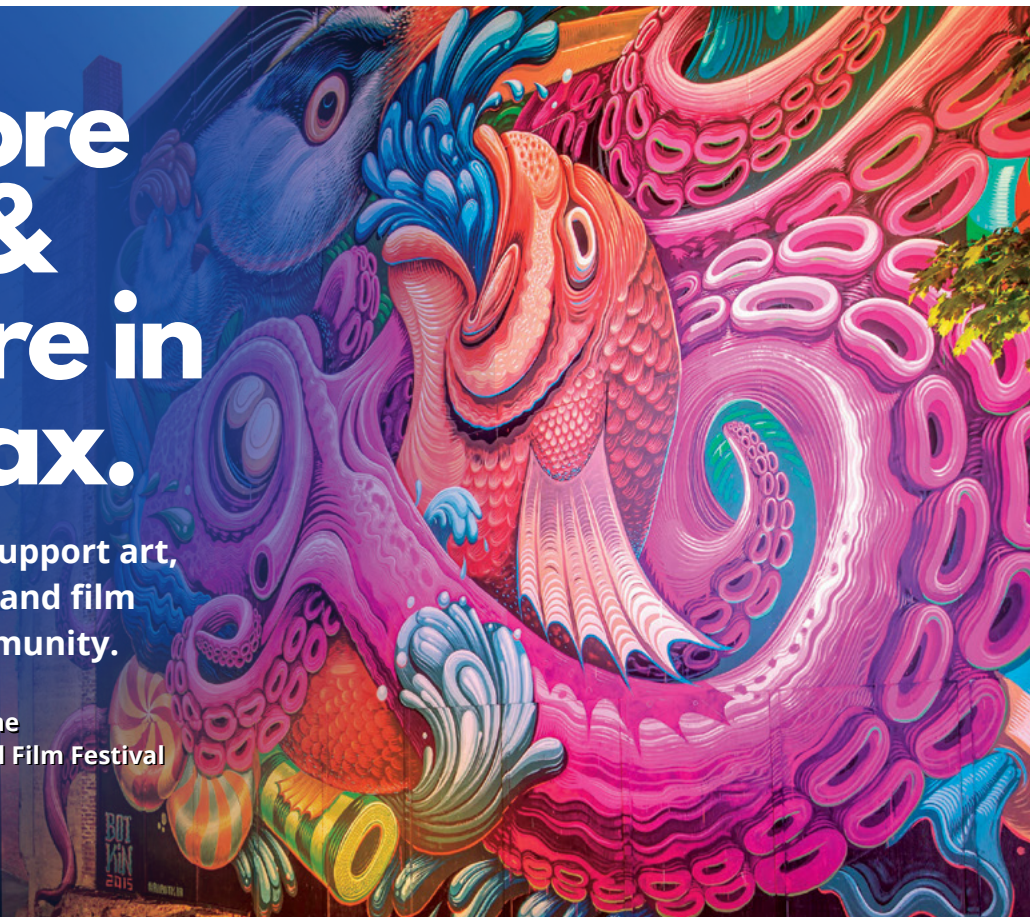


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Backspot

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 9:00 PM — Theatre 4
Thursday, Sept. 21, 8:45 PM — Theatre 6



Riley (Devery Jacobs), a mid-level cheerleader, is given an opportunity to cheer with the All-Star team Thunderhawks. With a competition looming, Riley must navigate her crippling anxiety, her relationship with her girlfriend, and her desperate need for approval from her new coach (Evan Rachel Wood).

Director: D.W. Waterson
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 93
Writer: Joanne Sarazen
Producer: Alona Metzger, D.W. Waterson, Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs, Martin Katz
Cast: Devery Jacobs, Evan Rachel Wood, Shannyn Sossamon
Cinematographer: James Poremba
Editor: D.W. Waterson
Language: English

Banel & Adama

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 5:30 PM — Theatre 6

This year's only debut feature to compete for the Palme d'Or at Cannes, Ramata-Toulaye Sy's *Banel & Adama* is a cinematic pearl. Swirling with myth, tragedy, and romance, this magic-realist story follows two star-crossed lovers in a remote village of northern Senegal. *Banel & Adama* languidly rewards patience with a visually sumptuous theatrical experience, all while exploring themes of destiny, climate change, the place of women, and the quest for autonomy amidst community tradition.

Director: Ramata-Toulaye Sy
Country: France, Senegal, Mali
Runtime: 87
Writer: Ramata-Toulaye Sy
Producer: Eric Névé, Maud Leclair-Névé, Margaux Juvénal
Cast: Khady Mane, Mamadou Diallo
Cinematographer: Amine Berrada
Editor: Vincent Tricon
Language: Pulaar



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Boca Chica

Monday, Sept. 18, 6:30 PM — Theatre 6

Winner of the Tribeca Film Festival Nora Ephron Award for a female filmmaker with a distinctive voice, Gabriella A. Moses' rich coming-of-age drama centers on Dominican twelve-year-old Desi, who spends her days on the beaches of Boca Chica dreaming of becoming a famous singer. Although her artistic goal is threatened by the insidious looming presence of child prostitution in her town, Desi remains focused on her love of music, determined to rise above toxic and traumatic circumstances.

Director: Gabriella A. Moses
Country: Dominican Republic
Runtime: 97
Writer: Marité Ugás, Mariana Rondón
Producer: Sterlyn Ramírez
Cast: Scarlet Camilo, Jean Cruz, Lia Chapman, Xiomara Rodríguez, Richardson Díaz
Cinematographer: Micaela Cajahuaringa
Editor: Cecilia Delgado
Language: Spanish, English



Doubles

Saturday, Sept. 16, 12:00 PM — Theatre 5

Adapted from his award-winning (and exec-produced-by-Spike-Lee) short film, Ian Harnarine's debut feature is a poignant Indo-Caribbean family drama. *Doubles* explores the relationship between Dhani (Sanjiv Boodhu), a disenchanting Trinidadian street-food vendor, and his estranged father Ragbir (Errol Sitahal), who lives in Toronto. When Dhani travels to Canada to obtain a deed transfer, he's confronted with the realities of his ailing father's immigrant life and must decide whether he'll help save him.

Director: Ian Harnarine
Country: Canada, Trinidad & Tobago
Runtime: 91
Writer: Ian Harnarine
Producer: Mark Sirju, Ian Harnarine
Cast: Sanjiv Boodhu, Errol Sitahal, Rashaana Cumberbatch
Cinematographer: Bob Gundu
Editor: Baun Mah
Language: English



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Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person



Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 PM — Theatre 6
Thursday, Sept. 21, 5:45 PM — Theatre 6

Sasha is a young vampire with a serious problem: she's too sensitive to kill! Luckily, she meets Paul, a lonely teenager with suicidal tendencies who is willing to give his life to save hers. But their friendly agreement soon becomes a nocturnal quest to fulfill Paul's last wishes before day breaks. With a witty screenplay and stellar young cast, Ariane Louis-Seize brings this deadpan horror comedy to life.

Director: Ariane Louis-Seize
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 92
Writer: Ariane Louis-Seize, Christine Doyon
Producer: Jeanne-Marie Poulain
Cast: Sara Montpetit, Félix-Antoine Bénard, Steve Laplante, Sophie Cadieux, Noémie O'Farrell
Cinematographer: Shawn Pavlin
Editor: Stéphane Lafleur
Language: French



In Flames



Saturday, Sept. 16, 6:30 PM — Theatre 5

The Cannes Film Festival Directors Fortnight standout *In Flames*, is a beautifully shot psychological drama set in Karachi. When her father dies, Mariam (Ramesha Nawal) and her mother (Bakhtawar Mazhar) must contend with predatory male forces that encircle them. Pakistani-Canadian Zarrar Kahn's vivid debut feature uses the real-life nightmare of patriarchy to incorporate elements of a supernatural horror film. Kahn's surrealistic genre-blending also refreshingly allows a typically bleak narrative to channel one of female empowerment.

Director: Zarrar Kahn
Country: Canada, Pakistan
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 98
Writer: Zarrar Kahn
Producer: Anam Abbas
Cast: Ramesha Nawal, Bakhtawar Mazhar, Mohammad Ali Hashmi, Omar Javaid, Adnan Shah Tipu
Cinematographer: Aigul Nurbulatova
Editor: Craig Scorgie
Language: Urdu



I Used to Be Funny



Monday, Sept. 18, 9:15 PM — Theatre 6
Thursday, Sept. 21, 8:15 PM — Theatre 7

In writer-director Alex Pankiw's feature debut, Sam (Rachel Sennott) is a PTSD-stricken comic who joins the search for Brooke, a missing teen girl she once nannied. A SXSW selection featuring a cast of real comedians, this wry dramedy depicts how sexual assault haunts survivors in the messy, nonlinear road to recovery, while highlighting the healing powers of connection.

Director: Ally Pankiw
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 105
Writer: Ally Pankiw
Producer: James Weyman
Cast: Rachel Sennott, Olga Petsa, Caleb Hearon
Cinematographer: Nina Djacic
Editor: Curt Lobb
Language: English



It's Raining in the House (Il pleut dans la maison)

Saturday, Sept. 16, 11:45 AM — Theatre 3
Sunday, Sept. 17, 6:00 PM — Theatre 6

Adolescence is chipped away in the quietly radiant coming-of-age drama *It's Raining in the House*. Starring non-professional actors and real-life siblings Makenzy and Purdey Lombet, and earning the French Touch Jury Prize at Cannes, Paloma Sermon-Daï's first fiction feature is a triumph of slice-of-life, social-realist cinema.

Director: Paloma Sermon-Daï
Country: Belgium, France
Runtime: 82
Writer: Paloma Sermon-Daï
Producer: Sebastien Andres, Alice Lemaire
Cast: Makenzy Lombet, Purdey Lombet, Donovan Nizet
Cinematographer: Frederic Noirhomme
Editor: Thijs van Nuffel
Language: French

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Richelieu

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 8:15 PM — Theatre 6



In this arresting and powerful drama, Ariane (Ariane Castellanos) attempts to distance herself from a checkered past by taking a job as a linguistic interpreter in a Québec factory. When management begins to bend ethical boundaries, she's caught between the demands of her employer and the rights of the migrant workers under her supervision.

Presented by Alliance Française.

Director: Pier-Philippe Chevigny
Country: Canada, France
Runtime: 89
Writer: Pier-Philippe Chevigny
Producer: Geneviève Gosselin-G.
Cast: Ariane Castellanos, Marc-André Grondin, Nelson Coronado
Cinematographer: Gabriel Brault-Tardif
Editor: Amélie Labrèche
Language: French, Spanish



Seagrass

Friday, Sept. 15, 6:00 PM — Theatre 6



Desperate to find a deeper connection in her marriage, Japanese-Canadian Judith (Ally Maki) brings her family to a self-development retreat, but it becomes clear that they must face their insecurities before their family becomes permanently broken. Deftly exploring complex relationships, irrational fears, and racial identity, Meredith Hama-Brown is poised as a rising directorial talent.

Director: Meredith Hama-Brown
Country: Canada
Province: British Columbia
Runtime: 115
Writer: Meredith Hama-Brown
Producer: Tyler Hagan, Sara Blake
Cast: Ally Maki, Luke Roberts, Chris Pang
Cinematographer: Norm Li
Editor: Shun Ando, Kane Stewart
Language: English

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The Settlers (Los Colonos)

Friday, Sept. 15, 9:00 PM — Theatre 6

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 9:30 PM — Theatre 6

The Settlers is the brutal, blood-curdling debut from Felipe Gálvez—a historical thriller that points an unblinking eye at the oft-hidden atrocities of Chilean Patagonia. Segundo (Camilo Arancibia), a Chilean of mixed-race, is called in on an expedition by a Spanish magnate to massacre and steal land from the Indigenous Selk'nam people. After an acclaimed premiere at Cannes, *The Settlers* earned the FIPRESCI Prize, becoming the first Chilean production to do so.

Director: Felipe Gálvez
Country: Chile, Argentina, UK, Taiwan, France, Denmark, Sweden, Germany
Runtime: 97
Writer: Felipe Gálvez, Antonia Girardi
Producer: Giancarlo Nasi, Benjamin Domenech, Santiago Gallelli
Cast: Mark Stanley, Camilo Arancibia, Benjamin Westfall
Cinematographer: Simone D'Arcangelo
Editor: Matthieu Taponier
Language: Spanish



With Love and a Major Organ

Saturday, Sept. 17, 1:00 PM — Theatre 7



Set in a world where hearts are made of inanimate objects and people suppress emotions to escape into life-controlling technology, Kim Albright's off-beat comedy drama follows a vibrant young woman (Anna Maguire) who rips out her heart for the man she loves. Written by Julia Lederer, *With Love and a Major Organ* explores loneliness in delightfully unexpected ways, and solidifies Albright as an exciting talent to watch.

Director: Kim Albright
Country: Canada
Province: British Columbia
Runtime: 92
Writer: Julia Lederer
Producer: Madeleine Davis
Cast: Anna Maguire, Hamza Haq, Veena Sood
Cinematographer: Leo Harim
Editor: Tony Zhou
Language: English

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Deliver Us

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 10:00 PM — Theatre 3

Offering a compelling twist on the possession subgenre, *Deliver Us* is a gruesome work that follows a team of Catholic priests who are enlisted to investigate a nun who claims to have immaculately conceived twins. When prophecies foretell that one twin will be the saviour and the other the Anti-Christ, it places the priests in a precarious moral and spiritual position. Boasting evocative gothic cinematography, effective jump scares, and disturbing imagery, this film delivers the horror!

Director: Cru Ennis, Lee Roy Kunz
Country: USA
Runtime: 103
Writer: Lee Roy Kunz, Kane Kunz
Producer: Isaac Bauman, Cru Ennis, Kane Kunz, Lee Roy Kunz, Elina Litvinova
Cast: Jaune Kimmel, Thomas Kretschmann, Lee Roy Kunz, Marko Leht, Lena Barbara Luhse
Cinematographer: Isaac Bauman
Editor: David Walsh Heinz
Language: English

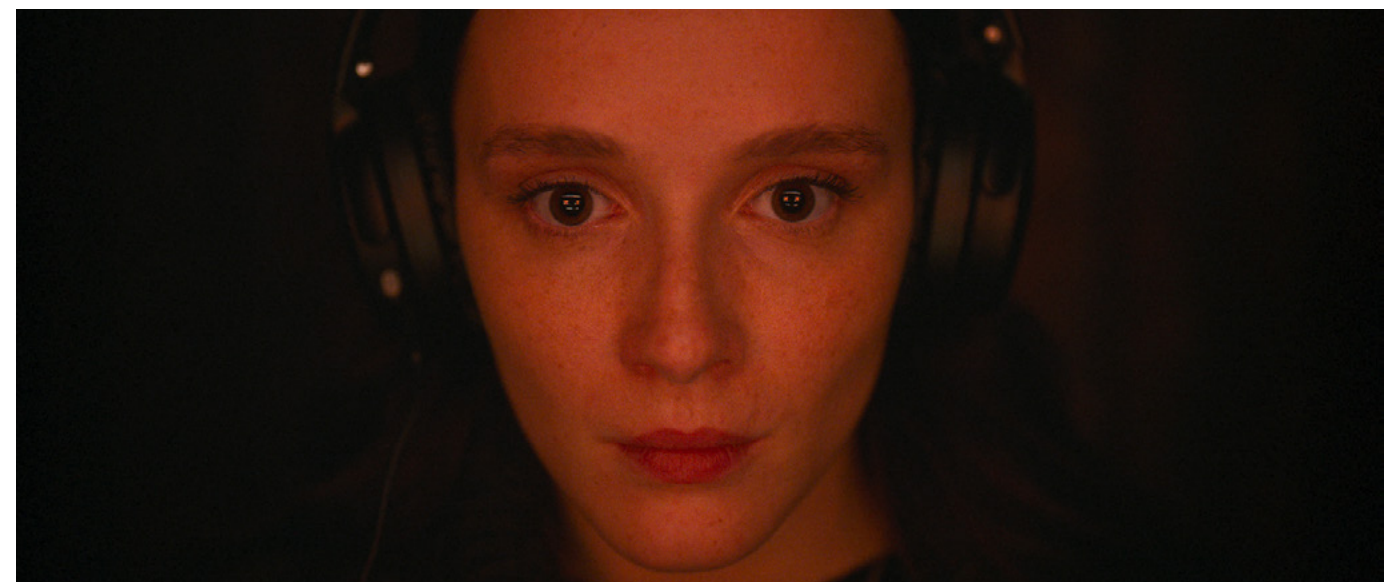


Raging Grace

Thursday, Sept. 21, 9:45 PM — Theatre 3

Winner of the Grand Jury Award at SXSW, *Raging Grace* follows undocumented immigrant Joy (a powerful performance by Max Eigenmann) as she bounces from one housekeeping job to another with her daughter. When she takes a job at a wealthy estate, she discovers that her employers have ulterior motives. Filled with twists and turns, this pulse-pounding thriller will keep audiences on the edge of their seats!

Director: Paris Zarcilla
Country: United Kingdom
Runtime: 99
Writer: Paris Zarcilla
Producer: Chi Thai
Cast: Max Eigenman, Leanne Best, David Hayman
Cinematographer: Joel Honeywell
Editor: Chris Chow
Language: English, Tagalog



Red Rooms (Les chambres rouges)

Saturday Sept. 16, 10:00 PM — Theatre 3 | Monday, Sept. 18, 9:45 PM — Theatre 7

This chilling psychological thriller follows the enigmatic Kelly-Anne (Juliette Gariépy) who becomes enthralled in the trial of a serial killer. She attends the court proceedings and meets a fellow trial-goer (Laurie Babin) who is convinced of the accused's innocence. With news of snuff videos of the murders circulating on the dark web, Kelly-Anne's motivations become increasingly suspect.

Director: Pascal Plante
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 118
Writer: Pascal Plante
Producer: Dominique Dussault

Cast: Juliette Gariépy, Laurie Babin
Cinematographer: Vincent Biron
Editor: Jonah Malak
Language: French



Shorts Programme 1

Friday, Sept. 15, 5:00 PM – Theatre 7

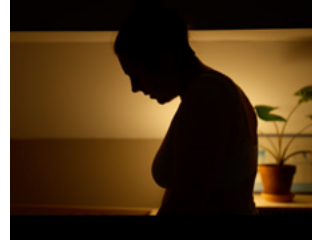
Featuring award-winning debuts, world premieres, and intense psychological dramas, these shorts unpack some of the ways we form our identity, through gestures large and small, alone and with the help of others.



Klette

The 26-year-old Morgane still lives with her mother, has not yet completed her studies, and her love life doesn't get beyond one-night stands. She evidently doesn't know how to get things done - in Brussels we call someone like that a Klette.

Director: Michael Abay
Country: Belgium
Runtime: 17
Language: Dutch, French



Wolf

A new mother weathers the ups and downs of her postpartum experience.

Director: Kathleen Dorian
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 8
Language: English



Carnaval

Once a year, misfits from across wavelengths gather in the forest to celebrate the art of circus and express themselves in ways impossible in the normal world.

Director: Justine Martin
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 12
Language: French



Aphasia (Aphasie)

Aphasia is an unsettling sensory experience that immerses us in the world of people with Alzheimer's disease who are facing the loss of their language capabilities.

Director: Marielle Dalpé
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 3
Language: English

Shorts Programme 2

Saturday, Sept. 16, 3:15 PM – Theatre 5

The bonds of family are tested, bent, and woven back together in these eclectic stories on how we relate to the ones we love. Featuring world premieres of exciting works from regional directors and AIFF alumni.



Things Unheard Of (Serpêhatiyên Neqewimî)

A little Kurdish girl tries to put a smile back on her grandmother's face after the disappearance of her television, her only window into the world.

Director: Ramazan Kilic
Country: Turkey
Runtime: 16
Language: Kurdish



Favourite Only Child (Statu Quo Chouchou)

Fanny keeps quiet; she does not want to be a bother.

Director: Juliette Poitras
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 10
Language: French



The Waves (Pado)

Waves coming and going on an empty beach. Various people, from children to the elderly, appear one by one on the beach. And, within the rhythm of the waves, each repeats their own actions.

Director: Yumi Joung
Country: South Korea
Runtime: 9



Mitata - Grandfather

Created by Elsipogtog First Nation filmmaker Desmond Simon, Mitata is a celebration of a grandfather through the voice of his son and the eyes of his grandson.

Director: Desmond Simon
Country: Canada
Province: New Brunswick
Runtime: 6
Language: English, Mi'kmaw



In the Garden of Tulips

At the height of the Iran-Iraq war, Caroline takes a car ride with her father to the Iranian countryside.

Director: Julia Elihu
Country: USA
Runtime: 13
Language: Farsi



The Gaze

Through the eyes of a South Korean artist living in Newfoundland, Ginok Song takes us on a journey through her paintings, and the wisdom gained through the female gaze.

Director: Stacy Gardner
Country: Canada
Province: Newfoundland and Labrador
Runtime: 8
Language: English, Korean



Nun or Never!

This year's Anney Audience Award winner playfully features a convent painted like an abstract storybook, where the nuns all blend together, until one sister finds the harmony of the order disrupted after encountering a strange man.

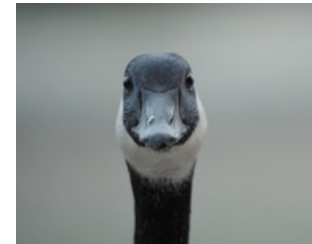
Director: Heta Jääliñoja
Country: Finland
Runtime: 13
Language: Finnish



Blueberries for Iris

While out blueberry picking in rural Newfoundland, a young woman finds herself mysteriously lost in the company of a stranger.

Director: Zoe Cleland
Country: Canada
Province: Newfoundland and Labrador
Runtime: 21
Language: English



Modern Goose

A paean to the misunderstood life of geese, this essay-like documentary explores the cunning underworld of one of Canada's most iconic and despised urban pests.

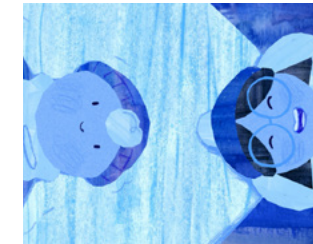
Director: Karsten Wall
Country: Canada
Province: Manitoba
Runtime: 22
Language: English



The Skates (Les patins)

In the aftermath of her parents' divorce, a girl on the cusp of adolescence pours her energy into figure skating, to the delight of her mother and indignation of her father.

Director: Halima Ouardiri
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 13
Language: French



Starry-Eyed

Sometimes the dimmest lights burn just as bright, they're only further away. Wish upon a star in this charming and serene animation from Nova Scotia newcomer Emma McCabe.

Director: Emma McCabe
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 3
Language: English



Madeleine

Every week, two friends born 67 years apart share their life stories in a senior home's living room. The younger friend convinces the 107-year-old lady to join her in an adventure: a road trip to the sea.

Director: Raquel Sancinetti
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 15
Language: French

Shorts Programme 3

Sunday, Sept. 17, 4:00 PM – Theatre 7

Witness resilience in its many forms with these spontaneous, candid, and boundary-crossing shorts, which include a portrayal of Indian immigrants and a portrait of a trailblazing Inuk artist.



Summer 96 (Été 96)

A family's day at the beach is thrown out of balance when the tide comes in earlier than the father expected, in this beautiful work of animation.

Director: Mathilde Bédouet
Country: France
Runtime: 12
Language: French



Mamita

A Peruvian immigrant returns to her home community for her daughter's wedding. The time spent among her loved ones, precious and too short, leads her to fully grasp the sacrifices associated with her exile.

Director: Luis Molinié
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 16
Language: Spanish



Les Lavandières

Through visual poetry, director Laura Kamugisha's hybrid film *Les Lavandières* beautifully explores an immigrant woman's hope, cultural identity, and the rise and fall of a dream.

Director: Laura Kamugisha
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 5
Language: French, Kinyarwanda



Miss Campbell: Inuk Teacher

Part oral history and part visual poem, *Miss Campbell: Inuk Teacher* is the story of Evelyn Campbell, a trailblazer for an Inuit-led educational system in the small community of Rigolet, Labrador.

Director: Heather Campbell
Country: Canada
Province: Labrador
Runtime: 15
Language: English

Shorts Programme 4

Monday, Sept. 18, 6:15 PM – Theatre 3

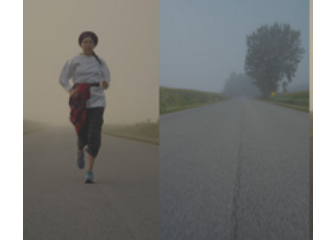
Spotlighting this year's Rail d'Or winner at Cannes and a supernatural drama from PEI, these powerful shorts traverse the diversities of the human experience and approach the vastness of oceans.



I Promise You Paradise

Following a violent incident, Eissa, a 17-year-old African migrant in Egypt, is thrust into a race against time to save his loved ones at all costs. Winner of the Golden Rail Award at Critics' Week, Cannes Film Festival.

Director: Morad Mostafa
Country: Egypt, France, Qatar
Runtime: 25
Language: Arabic



6 minutes/KM

In rhythm with the footsteps of her Atikamekw ancestors, the filmmaker immerses us in the dreamlike universe of her morning runs in this kaleidoscopic experimental documentary.

Director: Catherine Boivin
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 3
Language: Atikamekw



Breathe

Breathing deeply through her mindfulness yoga class, Milo suddenly flashes back to the fateful night when Ira confessed his love for her and their lives were suddenly changed forever.

Director: Kimberly Miller-Pryce
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 7
Language: English



27

The existential crisis of turning 27 is, for one woman, a psychedelic, psycho-sexual misadventure in this hilarious piece of animation which won the Short Palme d'Or at Cannes 2023.

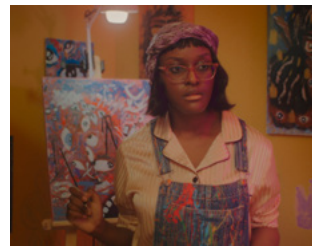
Director: Flóra Anna Buda
Country: France, Hungary
Runtime: 11
Language: Hungarian



Entrée

Two immigrant women from India put their own spin on a Thanksgiving dinner while navigating the pleasures of tradition.

Director: Akshay Shirke
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 7
Language: English



Thriving: A Dissociated Reverie

A surreal and hilarious exploration of DID (dissociative identity disorder) based on the lived experience of a black, nonbinary, disabled artist and former sexworker.

Director: Nicole Bazuin
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 10
Language: English



Miserable Miracle

Inspired by Henri Michaux's poems and drawings about his experiences with mescaline, *Miserable Miracle* explores the limits of language and perception, creating connections between sound, meaning, shapes and movement.

Director: Ryo Orikasa
Country: Canada, Japan, France
Runtime: 8
Language: English



In Between (Entre-deux)

Adèle considers the prospect of becoming a mother, all the while mourning the passing of a time she doesn't want to leave behind. Fluctuating between resistance and abandon, she strives to confront the very emotions that she's drowning in.

Director: Clara Prévost
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 23
Language: French, Polish



Testing

When a young gay man suspects he has an STI, he goes in for testing only to discover the older man he just slept with is the doctor at the clinic.

Director: Andy Reid
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 9
Language: English



The Great Kind Mystery

Inuk and Mi'kmaw artist Amy Hull tells stories about growing up in Newfoundland. Her words are illustrated by altered analogue footage, reflecting her complex relationship with the land.

Director: Ella Morton
Country: Canada
Province: Newfoundland and Labrador
Runtime: 16
Language: English, Mi'kmaw



Sea Salt

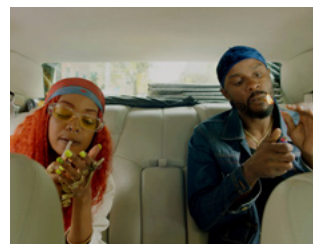
Ben, an internet technician, finds himself trapped in a remote fishing village where there are whispers of a creature in the ocean depths.

Director: Logan Fulford
Country: Canada
Province: Prince Edward Island
Runtime: 22
Language: English

Shorts Programme 5

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 8:30 PM — Theatre 7

Featuring a Cannes Cinefondation animation standout, a Sundance Special Jury Award winner, as well as the world premiere of a Nova Scotian thriller, these shorts promise to shock, bewilder, and freak you out (in the best way possible).



The Vacation

In Flatbush, Brooklyn, a barber's plan for a vacation day at the beach with friends goes awry when his car breaks down.

Director: Jarreau Carrillo
Country: USA
Runtime: 10
Language: English



I Have No Tears, and I Must Cry

Maria Luisa is ready to escape immigration limbo, but when her greencard interview takes an unexpected turn, she faces the anxiety of losing the life she had planned.

Director: Luis Fernando Puente
Country: USA
Runtime: 13
Language: Spanish, English



Signal and Noise

On a structured press tour of Guantanamo Bay, where only the recording of sound is permitted, these experimental filmmakers question the politics of incarceration and American ideology in this genre-defying documentary.

Director: Jess Shane, Katie Matthews
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 13
Language: English



Shallots and Garlic (Bawang Merah Bawang Putih)

Reunited for their grandparents' wedding anniversary, tensions between sisters rise as they fight for their grandmother's adoration in filmmaker Andrea Widjajanto's riveting body horror drama.

Director: Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto
Country: Indonesia, Canada
Province: British Columbia
Runtime: 17
Language: Bahasa Indonesia, English

Shorts Programme 6

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:15 PM — Theatre 5

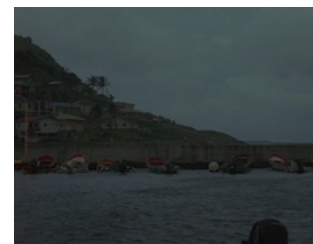
With a lovingly captured documentary of a renowned ceramist who passed away earlier this year, and the world premiere of a Nova Scotian romance, these shorts delve deep into the lives of others through fascinating portraits of weird and wonderful characters.



The Miracle

The Miracle, a place where the sun always shines, with endless opportunities to relax and food in abundance. But how do you relate to a place that constantly confronts you with the things you don't have?

Director: Nienke Deutz
Country: Belgium, The Netherlands, France
Runtime: 13
Language: English



All the Days of May (Tous les jours de mai)

A meditative elegy on intergenerational trauma and a spiritual descendant of Charles' triumphant first feature *This House*, from one of Canada's most poetic analogue filmmakers.

Director: Miryam Charles
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 7
Language: Creole, French



Mickey

When their "situationship" looks like it's come to a conclusion, the usually reserved Mickey (played by director Stevey Hunter) decides to be vulnerable for a change.

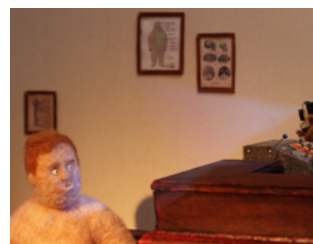
Director: Stevey Hunter
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 5
Language: English



Atlantis

At an all-inclusive resort vacation, a matriarch finds her bonds tested by the bizarrely tense atmosphere and her perfectly naive family, in this slow-burning drama which stops just short of the infinity pool's edge.

Director: Zoé Pelchat
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 15
Language: French, Spanish



Human Resources

In this ingenious mockumentary stop-motion animation, Andy decides to go to a particularly unique "recycling" appointment.

Director: Trinidad Plass Caussade, Titouan Tillier, Isaac Wenzek
Country: France
Runtime: 4
Language: French



The Score 97.9

A disc-jockey is haunted by the radio.

Director: Violet Shoshana Pask
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 9
Language: English



Electra

Academy Award-nominated director Daria Kashcheeva stuns with *Electra*, a gripping, provocative, animated/live-action hybrid that explores a father/daughter relationship that unfolds through a mix of memory, dreams, and hidden fantasies.

Director: Daria Kashcheeva
Country: Czech Republic, France, Slovakia
Runtime: 25
Language: English



A Love Letter to Léopold L. Foulem

Filmmaker Renée Blanchar creates a cinematic and heartfelt ode to the dazzling life and career of folk artist Léopold L. Foulem, his bucolic New Brunswick studio/summer residence, and his brilliantly eccentric persona.

Director: Renée Blanchar
Country: Canada
Province: New Brunswick
Runtime: 53
Language: French

Shorts Programme 7

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 8:15 PM — Theatre 5

From heartbreaking drama to coming of age and comedy, these graceful and raw short films sing of love, anxiety and hope, climbing the peaks and valleys of living with ourselves and each other.



Daughter of the Sea

A Korean expatriate begins to repair her roots through the traditions of the “Haenyeo” — an all-female practice of mollusk divers — in this documentary about home, healing, and heritage.

Director: Nicole Gormley
Country: USA
Runtime: 18
Language: English, Korean



48 Hours

After three years in prison, Nader is given a furlough to go home. He has 48 hours to become a father to his four-year-old daughter.

Director: Azadeh Moussavi
Country: Iran
Runtime: 20
Language: Persian



Two Apples

This folkloric romance created in gorgeous clay animation, expertly etched frame-by-frame, is infused with longing and tender hope.

Director: Bahram Javahery
Country: Canada
Runtime: 9



Joie de vivre

What seems like a perfectly innocent question to her boyfriend launches one woman across the constellations of her inner thoughts, jamming the machinery of their relationship.

Director: Dada
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 11
Language: French



Gold and Mud

A sprawling story of love and loss, as reflected on a single face.

Director: Conor Dooley
Country: USA
Runtime: 9
Language: English



Payback

Things might have finally gone too far for a hapless gambler primed for a rude awakening on his birthday.

Director: Jesse Harley
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 6
Language: English



Summer 2000 (Été 2000)

Nine-year-old Sarah is quietly discovering love when an assault derails her sexual awakening. *Summer 2000* is an intimate and delicate tale in which the play between different mediums offers an insight into gender performativity and consent.

Director: Virginie Nolin, Laurence Olivier
Country: Canada
Province: Quebec
Runtime: 20
Language: French

Cut!

Take a break between shots to catch up on the news.

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Life Classes

Saturday, Sept. 16, 11:00 AM – Theatre 7 (Free)

William D. MacGillivray's *Life Classes* tells the story of Mary (Jacinta Cormier) who leaves home in Cape Breton to give birth in Halifax and decides to stay, discovering her independence through art. This elegantly told work of social realism is as radiantly tender as it is revealing of the changes in Nova Scotian identity brought about in the 1970s. It is also without a doubt one of the most influential Canadian films ever made. *Presented by The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television.*

AIFF is pleased to present the newly restored print of the 1987 Atlantic classic in partnership with the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television as a special edition of the Academy Talks: Close-Up. *Presented by Telefilm.*

Director: William D. MacGillivray
Country: Canada
Province: Nova Scotia
Runtime: 117
Writer: William D. MacGillivray
Producer: Stephen Reynolds

Cast: Jacinta Cormier, Leon Dubinsky, Leo Jessome, Frances Knickle, Evelyn Garbary
Cinematographer: Lionel Simmons
Editor: William D. MacGillivray
Language: English



The Mother and the Whore

Friday, Sept. 15, 3:00 PM – Theatre 3 (Free)

Jean Eustache's *The Mother and the Whore* has been called the film that "shattered the mystique of the French New Wave" — it eschewed the detached cool of its contemporaries to lay bare the malaise of French life after the 1968 protests, with Jean-Pierre Léaud, the de-facto face of the *nouvelle vague*, as its destabilizing star. But after earning the Grand Prix at its Cannes premiere in 1973, outside of ultra rare rep-house screenings, it's been nearly impossible to see. We're thrilled to present the brand-new 4K restoration of this incomparable and era-defining work.

Director: Jean Eustache
Country: France
Runtime: 219
Writer: Jean Eustache
Producer: Vincent Malle, Bob Rafelson
Cast: Bernadette Lafont,

Jean-Pierre Léaud, Françoise Lebrun
Cinematographer: Pierre Lhomme
Editor: Denise de Casabianca, Jean Eustache
Language: French

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The Grand Seduction

Sunday, Sept. 17, 3:30 PM – Theatre 5 (Free)

In *The Grand Seduction*, which opened AIFF in 2013, a city doctor Paul Lewis (Taylor Kitsch) arrives for a court-ordered trial residence, and the townsfolk rally to charm and hoodwink him into staying. Under the guidance of an unemployed fisherman (Brendan Gleeson), they go to hilarious lengths to make it seem as though their sleepy town has everything Dr. Lewis could want. Featuring a standout performance from Gordon Pinsent that earned him a Canadian Screen Award for Acting in a Supporting Role, *The Grand Seduction* is a dramatic comedy of the highest caliber that manages to blend rural hijinx with heartbreaking humanity. *Presented in partnership with Reel Canada.*

Director: Don McKellar
Country: Canada
Province: Ontario
Runtime: 120
Writer: Michael Dowse, Ken Scott
Producer: Barbara Doran, Roger Frappier

Cast: Gordon Pinsent, Taylor Kitsch, Brendan Gleeson, Liane Balaban
Cinematographer: Douglas Koch
Editor: Dominique Fortin
Language: English



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John and the Missus

Sunday, Sept. 17, 11:30 AM – Theatre 5 (Free)

To acknowledge Gordon Pinsent's tremendous legacy, the festival is proud to showcase *John and the Missus* (1987). Gordon directed, wrote, and received a Canadian Screen Award for acting for the film, which takes place in a small Canadian town that is devastated when a local mine—the town's only source of income—is closed. The film follows one man as he incurs the wrath of the community when he stubbornly refuses the settlement money offered by the government. *Presented in partnership with Reel Canada.*

Director: Gordon Pinsent
Country: 1987
Province: Newfoundland
Runtime: 100
Writer: Gordon Pinsent
Producer: John Hunter, Peter O'Brian

Cast: Gordon Pinsent, Jackie Burroughs, Randy Follett
Cinematographer: Frank Tidy
Editor: Bruce Nyznik
Language: English



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ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

AIFF & Linda Joy Awards Ceremony

Art Bar, NSCAD

Thursday, Sept. 21st, 2023. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

AIFF is proud to showcase exceptional work from local talent every year and the Atlantic International Film Festival Awards is our opportunity to recognize and celebrate outstanding Atlantic Canadian filmmaking from this year's program. The awards will be given at a laid-back gathering at NSCAD's Art Bar and are presented in partnership with the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative's Linda Joy Awards. Free and open to all; come toast to this year's award winners!

THE GORDON PARSONS AWARD FOR BEST ATLANTIC FEATURE

Presented by the Director's Guild of Canada

BEST ATLANTIC SHORT

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BEST ATLANTIC CINEMATOGRAPHER

BEST ATLANTIC ORIGINAL SCORE

JOAN ORENSTEIN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

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DAVID RENTON AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

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BEST ATLANTIC EDITOR

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AIFF Filmmaker Lab

The AIFF Filmmaker Lab, presented by RBC Emerging Artist foundation, is designed to welcome emerging filmmakers to the world of festivals and film distribution through a series of workshops (labs), 1-2-1 meetings with a Film Festival Strategist and attendance at industry events, screenings and panels offered at this year's festival. Our 2023 cohort represents filmmakers from across the Atlantic region: Akshay Shirke, Norman Ho, Daniel Brown, Veronica Dymond, Paul Rossiter, Chelsea Innes, Barrett Hooper, Kate Devlin, Nicola Hawkins and Madison Hughes.

PANELS

Presentation: Insider Distribution Trends

Park Lane - Theatre 2

Sunday, Sept. 17th 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM **FREE**

Presented by the National Film Board of Canada

Your film has finished production! Now what? Getting your film into the world can feel overwhelming. In this presentation, members of the NFB Marketing and Distribution team will share their insights on the best ways to get your film in front of audiences.

Panel: Writing for Film in a TV World

Park Lane - Theatre 2

Monday, Sept. 18th. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM **FREE**

Join Stephanie Joline as she hosts panelists discussing the challenges facing writers today in this ecosystem of series, strikes and streaming.

Panel: Good Vibes Only

Park Lane - Theatre 2

Tuesday, Sept. 19th. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM **FREE**

Directors discuss managing egos on set (including your own) and creating safe environments for industry folks to work, including the addition of the new role of an "Intimacy Coordinator".

Panel: Docs That Matter: Telling the Stories of our Time Through Documentary Film

Park Lane - Theatre 2

Wednesday, Sept. 20th. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM **FREE**

Presented by Telus Fund

A conversation between documentary filmmakers about the power and purpose of documentary film to elevate the voices of people and the environment.

Panel: Casting Outside the Box

Park Lane - Theatre 2

Thursday, Sept. 21st. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM **FREE**

Check out the new trends in casting including: gender neutral roles, zoom auditions, casting non-professional actors, and using social media for casting calls!

Stories that Inspire. Stories that Unite.

We are proud to support the Atlantic International Film Festival and its mission to connect us all through stories centered around the human condition.



EVENTS



Opening Night Gala Celebration

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Thursday, Sept. 14th, 2023. 9:00 PM - Late

Presented by Barkeep Cocktails and Villa Maria

(Open to: Pass holders, Opening Night Gala Screening ticket holders and tickets available for purchase.)

Following AIFF's Opening Night Gala Screening, we invite filmmakers, industry folk and audience members buzzing with first-day-of-festival excitement to continue the festivities at our Opening Night Gala Celebration! Steps away from the Halifax Waterfront, this year's event will take place at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Come help us kick off the first night of the festival! Open to Festival Pass holders and Opening Night Gala Screening ticket holders. Tickets are also available to purchase online.

New Zealand Film Commission Presents: Industry Happy Hour

The Lord Nelson Hotel in the Georgian Lounge

Friday, Sept. 15th, 2023. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

(Open to Pass holders or by invitation.)

Sponsored by the New Zealand Film Commission and with New Zealand wine and bites on hand, the event will be held at the Lord Nelson Hotel in the Georgian Lounge from 5:00-7:00pm. Mingle with our AIFF Partners delegates and local industry folks. Following the reception, there will be a screening of the New Zealand Special Presentation Film: *Red, White and Brass* at Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane. Open to pass holders and AIFF Partners delegates.

Atlantic Gala Party

The Garden Halifax

Friday, Sept. 15th, 2023. 9:00 PM - Late **FREE**

Local filmmaking is the cornerstone of the Atlantic International Film Festival; we love showcasing and championing the diverse storytellers of our region. After our Atlantic Gala feature this year, we are thrilled to invite you to take part in celebrating local filmmaking at our Atlantic Gala Party! This year's festivities will be taking place at The Garden on the colourful and historic Queen St. Free and open to all.

Love Film Party

Cable Wharf

Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2023. 9:00 PM - Late **FREE**

Since our inception in 1981, AIFF has seen many changes. One thing that has stayed the same throughout our 43 years, however, are the crowds of filmmakers, industry folk, movie-goers and community members who continue to join us, united by the fact that they all #LoveFilm. This year, to celebrate our legacy and these people that have made it possible, we are hosting our first ever AIFF Love Film Party. Join us at the Cable Wharf Kitchen & Patio on the historic Halifax Waterfront and celebrate under the spotlight! Free and open to all.

AFCOOP's FILM 5 Party

AFCOOP Office 1800 Argyle Street, Suite 303

Sunday, Sept. 17th, 2023. 8:30 PM - Late **FREE**

You're invited! Join AFCOOP staff and members at the AFCOOP office to celebrate this year's FILM 5 films premiering at AIFF! Meet the filmmakers, eat some chips and take a breather at the halfway mark of this year's festival. Everyone is welcome and we're in the neighbourhood, within walking distance to Park Lane!

NFB Open House

NFB Office 5475 Spring Garden Rd #201

Tuesday, Sept. 19th, 2023. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **FREE**

Come check out the NFB studio in downtown Halifax! If you work or are interested in the film industry, we'd love to meet you. All are welcome.

Closing Night Party

Pacifico Nightclub

Thursday, Sept. 21st, 2023. 9:00 PM - Late **FREE**

As the closing credits of the 2023 edition of AIFF begin to roll, we intend on going out in style. Come celebrate our Closing Night Gala film and raise a glass to AIFF 2023 at our Closing Night Party. This year, festival staff and members of the film community will be gathering at the Pacifico Nightclub in the heart of downtown Halifax for Closing Night festivities. Join us as we revel in this year's festival merriment one last time! Free and open to all.

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