

29TH VANCOUVER QUEER

AUGUST 10 - 20, 2017



your heart
is the size
of your fist...

**LOVE.
RESIST.**

QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA

UNCED COAST SALISH TERRITORIES

#VQFF2017

FILM FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Thursday 10

Friday 11

Saturday 12

Sunday 13

Monday 14

Tuesday 15

Wednesday 16

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		4 ⁰⁰ IV I Dream in Another Language p. 22	3 ³⁰ WFT Chosen Family Story Hour w/ Vivek Shraya, Alan Woo and Monique Gray Smith p. 47			
		5 ⁰⁰ GCA In the Picture w/ Vivek Shraya and K Ho p. 46	4 ⁰⁰ IV Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall Y p. 23	5 ³⁰ Intergenerations Social Jim Deva Plaza p. 27		
7 ⁰⁰ VPH Opening Gala I Dream in Another Language p. 22	7 ⁰⁰ GCA Signature Move Y p. 43	7 ⁰⁰ GCA Youth Gala Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall p. 23	6 ³⁰ GCA The Troublemakers Film Project p. 44	7 ⁰⁰ VCT Stay Gold, March Forward p. 43	6 ³⁰ IV Centre of My World p. 35	6 ³⁰ VPH Centrepiece Gala FREE CeCe! p. 24
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Legend

GCA	SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
IV	Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas
VCT	VIFF Vancity Theatre
VPH	Vancouver Playhouse
WFT	Waterfront Theatre
YT	York Theatre
	Closed Captioning
	ASL Interpretation
	Where we expect films will be rated for youth, we have placed this symbol. See queerfilmfestival.ca for specific ratings.

Our Commitment to an Accessible Festival

We're proud to continue our longstanding commitment to ensuring that all of our venues are assessed for accessibility of entrances, washrooms, parking and seating allotment for people who use wheelchairs, scooters or other mobility aides. For more detailed accessibility info, visit queerfilmfestival.ca or email info@outonscreen.com.

Washrooms

We prioritize venues with washrooms that are physically accessible and permit all-gender access during Festival dates. We've been placing gender-inclusive signs on washroom doors at all venues for most of our Festival's history.

Courtesy Seating

Look for Accessibility Volunteers at each venue who can assist you with courtesy chairs while you wait in line or to gain priority access to the venue.

Free Companion Seating

Available for companions of people with disabilities (subject to availability, please inquire at the venue Box Office).

Community Tickets

We issue over 500 complimentary tickets & memberships to local community groups for individuals who face financial and other barriers to attending the Festival. Email info@outonscreen.com if you'd like to add your group next year!

American Sign Language

ASL interpretation is available at select screenings as indicated on the schedule. Subtitled films also noted.

Childcare Subsidies

Parents or guardians can receive \$10 per screening at the venue to assist with childcare costs. Generously supported by the Law Offices of Barbara Findlay QC.

Be Scent Sensitive!

Please join us in making the Festival more accessible to people with scent sensitivities and allergies by avoiding the use of scented products at all Festival screenings and events.

Transit Information

translink.ca | 604.953.3333

For information about HandyDART services, visit translink.ca/en/Rider-Guide/Accessible-Transit or call 604.953.3680.

Let's Be Friends

Stay informed for the latest schedule updates! Subscribe to our eNewsletter, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, visit our website or download our free app for iPhone and Android.



queerfilmfestival.ca



VancouverQFF



@queerfilmfest

#VQFF2017



Festival Venues

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas

Address: 3rd floor, 88 W Pender St
Parking: underground, free while seeing a film
Entrance: 3rd floor, via elevator
Wheelchair: 4-6 spaces
Washrooms: accessible, 2nd floor

SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Address: 149 W Hastings St @ Cambie St
Parking: metered street and paid lots
Entrance: via ramp and via elevator
Wheelchair: 4-6 spaces
Washrooms: fully accessible

Vancouver Playhouse

Address: 600 Hamilton St @ Dunsmuir St
Parking: underground paid and metered street
Entrance: street ramp
Wheelchair: 4-5 spaces
Washrooms: fully accessible

VIFF Vancity Theatre

Address: 1181 Seymour St @ Davie St
Parking: nearby metered street only
Entrance: via ramp
Wheelchair: 2-4 spaces
Washrooms: fully accessible

Waterfront Theatre

Address: 1412 Cartwright St
Parking: metered street and paid lots
Entrance: street level
Wheelchair: 10 spaces
Washrooms: fully accessible

York Theatre

Address: 639 Commercial Dr
Parking: street parking, metered and free
Entrance: street level
Wheelchair: 6 spaces
Washrooms: fully accessible

Vancouver Public Library

Address: 730 East Hastings St
Parking: street parking, metered and free
Entrance: street level
Wheelchair: fully accessible
Washrooms: fully accessible

Jim Deva Plaza

Address: at Davie and Bute
Parking: metered street and paid lots
Entrance: N/A
Wheelchair: fully accessible
Washrooms: N/A

The Junction Pub

Address: 1139 Davie St
Parking: metered street and paid lots
Entrance: street ramp
Wheelchair: fully accessible
Washrooms: fully accessible

see queerfilmfestival.ca for accessibility details

Single Ticket Pricing

Regular & Gala Films

Standard \$12

Access \$8

Where to buy

Online: queerfilmfestival.ca | Visa/MasterCard/AmEx

Little Sister's | 1238 Davie St | JUL 13 - AUG 1 & AUG 7 - 9 | 9am-11pm | Wheelchair accessible | Cash or debit

Black Dog Video | 1470 Commercial Dr | JUL 13 - AUG 9 | 12pm-10pm | Wheelchair accessible

VQFF Street Team | Cash or Visa/MasterCard/AmEx

Look for our Festival Street Team at various community events, like the Dyke March and New Westminster Pride. Spot our Street Team wearing Festival volunteer t-shirts.

At the Door Venue box office opens 45 minutes prior to the first screening of the day.

NEW Tickets may be purchased online up to 1 hour before the screening.

Access pricing Reduced prices are available for students, seniors and underemployed. Sorry, no discounts on memberships.

Why wait? Buy early! Don't you hate it when you miss a sold-out show? Tickets may be purchased online up to 1 hour before the screening.

Sold Out? Odds are, we'll still have a few tickets to sell just before show time. Join the Hope Line and we hope you'll be in luck.

Will Call Online orders available for pick-up at the venue for your first screening. Bring your ID and arrive 30-45 minutes before the screening time.

Mobile Print-at-home Skip the Will Call line and print your tickets from home or get your tickets sent to your mobile device.

Refunds + Exchanges Only issued if a screening is cancelled because of technical problems.

Watch two screenings in a row! Got your ticket or screening slip for the next film? Wait for us to verify your ticket, then get comfy or head out for some popcorn!

Ticket Pack Pricing

	Standard	Access
Regular Six Pack	\$66	\$42
Youth Six Pack (24 yrs & under, valid for youth-rated films only)	\$30	

Where to buy

Online: queerfilmfestival.ca Six tickets for you to use any way you want, subject to availability. Visa/MasterCard/AmEx

Memberships

To see any films presented at the Festival, you must become a member of the Out On Screen Film and Video Society. The Festival presents films in compliance with the Motion Picture Act and Consumer Protection BC. Also, your membership demonstrates support of our mission to illuminate, celebrate, and advance queer lives through film, education, and dialogue.

Adult Membership (18 yrs & up)	\$5
Youth Membership (17 yrs & under, valid for youth-rated films only)	\$2

Purchase online or at each venue's Membership Table. Photo ID required. You must show your membership card at every screening. If you lose or forget your card, you'll need to purchase a new one.

Membership Perks Show your 2017 membership for access to select post-film parties (19+ only)! | Enter for a chance to win a 30th Anniversary Festival Pass or two six packs. Adult members are entitled to attend and vote at our AGM.



The Scotiabank Super Pass Pricing

Early-bird sales: JUL 6 - JUL 22	\$140
Regular Pass	\$165
Access Pass	\$135

Gives you access to all films & galas with front-of-line privileges, membership and access to select events and parties. 19+ only, photo ID required.

Make it count! Scotiabank will match **ALL** Scotiabank Super Pass purchases with a donation to the Festival.

Where to buy

Scotiabank | Robson branch | 1205 Robson St, Vancouver | From JUL 6 | Mon-Wed 9:30am to 5pm, Thu-Fri 9:30am to 6pm, Sat 9:30 to 4pm | In branch purchases at Early Bird price, while quantities last!

Or online: queerfilmfestival.ca

Passholders must collect a screening slip before each screening to gain admission (slips are available 30-45 minutes before each screening at the film's Passholder Table). A generous allotment of tickets are reserved for Passholders; however, seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Passes are non-transferable. ID is required.

Questions?

Call the Box Office info line

778.875.8363.

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FESTIVAL WELCOME



Chief Ian Campbell
*Cultural Ambassador & Negotiator
Intergovernmental Relations, Natural
Resources, & Revenue
Squamish Nation*

Welcome to Coast Salish territory.

It is my honour to welcome the **29th Vancouver Queer Film Festival** to the shared territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Storytelling is a critical component of cultural expression, sense of place and belonging. Thank you to all the filmmakers and artists for their contribution to changing lives by telling stories. Two-spirit people are common in today's society and are respected as fundamental and valued parts of many Indigenous cultures and societies. We look forward to the Festival celebrating culture and showcasing two-spirit people.

You have our best wishes for a strong and successful film festival.

Chen kwen mantumi (I thank you),

Chief Ian Campbell
Xálek'/Sekyú Siyám
Cultural Ambassador & Negotiator
Intergovernmental Relations, Natural
Resources, & Revenue
Squamish Nation



Hon Dr Hedy Fry
MP Vancouver Centre

Welcome to the **29th Annual Queer Film Festival**, the second largest film festival in Vancouver.

As a long-time supporter of this event, I can tell you that a quick glance at the program is all you need to know that this year will be well worth the wait. For example, **Fathers**, a Thai drama explores the journey of a gay couple raising their adopted child. On the other hand, if you are looking for a documentary, look no further than Jacqueline Gares' **FREE CeCe!** and David France's **The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson**.

Since the Festival's beginning in 1988, VQFF has proudly showcased films that illuminate the transformative moments in the lives of queer people. Each experience is different, and it is a delight to watch different interpretations play out on the big screen. You don't have to be queer to attend. Good cinema is cinema with the power to delight, inform, and inspire.

Have a great time and enjoy the Festival!

Sincerely,

The Honourable Dr Hedy Fry, PC, MP
Member of Parliament for
Vancouver Centre



Gregor Robertson
Mayor

On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my warmest greetings to the **29th Annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival**.

Vancouver is fast emerging as a true creative powerhouse on the world stage, and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival is a leading contributor to the strength of our vibrant arts and cultural community. The Vancouver Queer Film Festival is Vancouver's second-largest film festival and the largest queer arts event in all of Western Canada.

Vancouver is proud of the diversity that thrives in our community, and our city is so tremendously enriched by the economic, cultural, and social contributions of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents. The Vancouver Queer Film Festival sheds light on these contributions and shares compelling stories of LGBTQ activism, experiences, struggles and aspirations from every corner of the globe. As Mayor, I would like to thank all the film makers, entertainers, Festival organizers, and volunteers who contribute to the success of this unique and important festival.

Yours truly,

Gregor Robertson
Mayor, City of Vancouver



Spencer Chandra Herbert
Vancouver West End-Coal Harbour



Hon Mélanie Joly
*Minister of Canadian Heritage
Ministre du Patrimoine canadien*

Dear friends,

As the MLA for Vancouver's West End, a community that has been at the centre of our struggle for equality and human rights, it is my great honour to celebrate Vancouver's Queer Film Festival with you.

Queer voices in the Arts have led the way in building more inclusive communities that embrace diversity. BC is a better place to call home because of festivals like this one, and because of the activist spirit behind the Festival that has driven so many in our communities to work to change biases, build acceptance, and make our governments work for us, not against us as was the case not that many years ago. Governments can change laws to build equality, but only communities of good people can change culture to make equality real. Only communities can decide to choose love over hate.

Thank you for so clearly choosing love. I extend my very best to the you, Festival staff, and the always important volunteers for a very successful festival.

All the best,

Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA
Member of Legislative Assembly for
Vancouver West End-Coal Harbour

Welcome to the 2017 **Vancouver Queer Film Festival!**

The VQFF showcases creators from the LGBTQ2 community and lets audiences of all backgrounds and identities discover their works. Canada is recognized throughout the world for its diversity and openness; the Festival strengthens this reputation while encouraging respect and understanding within our society.

As we celebrate Canada 150 in 2017, the Government of Canada is pleased to support cultural events that give our creators a platform to share their stories—as VQFF has done for the last 29 years.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I would like to thank the organizers, volunteers and filmmakers who made this year's Festival possible. Thank you for your efforts to showcase and celebrate queer stories on screen.

The Hon Mélanie Joly
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Ministre du Patrimoine canadien



photo credit: Alissa McColl

Stephanie Goodwin *Executive Director*

Welcome to the **29th Vancouver Queer Film Festival**. It's been a year full of contradictions for our queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities. The Human Rights Act now includes gender identity and expression. Out in Schools has tripled its reach to youth across B.C. At the same time we see the volume turned way up on acts of hate based on racism, homophobia, and transphobia after the American election.

As queer people with complex intersecting identities, our lives are inherently political. So when politics happen on the scale and at the exposure they are happening right now in North America and globally, it affects us all in a way that is real and visceral; it has been impossible to ignore. I was thinking about this —politics, community, representation—and the role that film can play, recently over coffee with a friend.

"I'm trans today because of the Queer Film Festival, you know," he said between sips of coffee. He described sitting in a dark theatre at the Festival during a film about a young trans man's transition. Not yet trans, my friend found himself drawn into the story. Somehow he knew the story, and then he knew *why*—he wasn't just watching a film, he was seeing himself reflected on screen, perhaps for the first time. Sitting in that dark theatre, his life was illuminated and made clearer.

That's what the Festival is all about: seeing ourselves reflected on screen in ways that transform us and others in profound ways.

Last year we screened *Handsome and Majestic*, a short film about Milan, a trans youth living in Prince George. The audience's reaction, not wanting Milan to face his challenges alone, spontaneously created a list of allies, whereby each person committed to standing up for Milan when he next encountered difficulty at school. That kind of spontaneous community building is really the best of the Festival: film connecting communities together for change. This year, look to be provoked and enlivened by films that centre relevant issues in our communities today. For example, the intersections of race, queerness, and community are lovingly and critically held in **FREE CeCe!**, **Jewel's Catch One**, and **The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson**.

This is your Festival. Let the stories entertain, provoke, and resonate.



Daniel Heath Justice *Board Member*

To the Friends of the Vancouver Queer Film Festival:

I'm grateful for the opportunity to offer a few words of greeting to guests joining us for the 2017 Vancouver Queer Film Festival. As one of the newest board members for the Festival's host organization, Out On Screen, I've been impressed with the commitment that my colleagues have brought to all our exciting and growing initiatives. From this long-lived film Festival to our educational and empowerment work in schools, Out On Screen is making a real and important impact on the lives of queer people across this city and throughout this province, and that's something we can all celebrate with pride. Yet this fierce crew has also impressed me with the humility and care they've brought to matters still very much in process, especially that of the full and meaningful representation, access, and participation of marginalized communities in what we do and how we do it. There's so much we're doing well, but we're also keenly aware that we're not where we should be in ensuring that queer poor, and working class folks, two-spirit members from our First Nations hosts in these unceded territories, and people of diverse ability are represented in not only the art and educational materials we share, but also throughout the organization and its administration. A community organization is strongest when it draws on the many strengths of all members of its community, and we're working on it—that commitment is one of the main reasons I wanted to be part of Out On Screen and its work. Over the next little while you'll continue to see tangible evidence of these important commitments and guiding principles in action. We're grateful to you for your continuing support and your own dedication to helping us reflect the transformative values of our art in the everyday work we undertake and the many relationships to which we're committed. Out On Screen will always endeavour to reflect the very best of who we are—individually and collectively, in our distinctions and our connections—and we're so very pleased to be doing this work together with you.

Keep a fire,

Daniel Heath Justice
Cherokee Nation



photo credit: Alexa McCall

Anoushka Ratnarajah Artistic Director

Last December, I got a call from my dear friend and colleague Amber Dawn, proposing that we apply to be the co-Artistic Directors of VQFF. Three months later as I write this, our double Virgo-artist hearts are so excited to bring you a Festival framed by two things that drive us most: love and resistance.

When we stepped into our second interview, we were tasked with potential programming, and we're delighted to say that many of those ideas have made it into the Festival. We knew we wanted to bring **The Revival: Women and the Word** (p. 42), an inspiring and reverent documentary about a group of Black queer poets on a national tour with their work—and we are thrilled to bring one of the poets featured in the film, t'ai freedom ford, for the Vancouver launch of her stunning new book *how to get over* (p. 33). We knew we wanted to facilitate conversations between our films and inspiring local multidisciplinary artists; the resulting curation of **Indigifemme** (p. 39) and **195 Lewis** (p. 34) will surely have audiences moved by the synergy that is created when artists meet across practices.

One of our mandates in the curation of this Festival was to bring together a spotlight of films specifically by and for QTPOCS, and I am proud to say that I feel we have an excellent line up of films representing the talents and voices of queer people of colour. **I Dream in Another Language** (p. 22) had me in tears and awe at its tenderness and scope. **Maybe Tomorrow** (p. 40) captured so much about how it felt for me to be young, confused and in love. **Small Talk** (p. 43) resonated deeply with my own experiences of the silences that echo between ourselves and our parents. And then there's the classic **Chutney Popcorn** (p. 36), which, when I first watched it years ago, marked the first time I saw a glimmer of myself on screen.

Of course not all of us will find ourselves represented in Festival programming. It is impossible to capture our multiplicity, and that is a beautiful thing, because it means we will never run out of stories to tell. The variety of lives we glimpse into this year is only a drop in the ocean of who we are, and I am honoured to play whatever small part I have in bringing us to the shore together.

If ever there was a time to be together in love and resistance, it is now. It is dangerous to be a person of colour. It is dangerous to be queer. To be trans. To be poor. To be an immigrant. To be marginalized. It is dangerous because we are dangerous. Especially when we resist together. Especially when we love each other.

Amber Dawn and I share the hope that each year during the Festival, our communities can cross into each other's lives with empathy, openness and curiosity, whether we are experiencing the discomfort of being challenged on our power and privilege, or the thrill of seeing ourselves loving and resisting on the big screen. From our hearts to yours, here's to a beautiful Festival.



photo credit: Alexa McCall

Amber Dawn Artistic Director

"Hello, my name is Amber Dawn, and it is my distinct pleasure to serve as the Artistic Director of the Vancouver Queer Film Festival." Every August, between the years of 2009 to 2012, I said these words. This is how I greeted audiences during my previous tenure before Festival film screenings, at parties and special events. The words "my distinct pleasure" were always sincere—though pleasure was not the only emotion being the Artistic Director evoked.

Over the last four years, after I left *Out On Screen*, I wrote and launched three books (a novel, a memoir and a collection of poems) and have taught creative writing at the University of British Columbia, Douglas College, The Writers' Studio at Simon Fraser University, and the Thursdays Writing Collective—a lower-barrier, free writing drop in in the Downtown Eastside. Reflecting back, I realize I've been busier than a whole queer swarm of bees. I've also learned a lot about the power of stories. Stories, found on the page or in film, transform our way of receiving information. Stories invite us to have more than a cerebral experience; they evoke an emotional response and even personally participatory involvement. Stories have become my creed and credo; my values, my wisdom, and my everyday actions have all been shaped by stories.

I'm back at the Festival—paired up with one of the most brilliant and dedicated arts professionals I know, Anoushka Ratnarajah—and I'm ready to talk about how being the Artistic Director is far more than a "distinct pleasure." Believing in the power of stories, to me, means feeling humility, curiosity, discomfort, devotion, uncertainty, desire, and love in equal and simultaneous measure.

For example, when Anoushka and I first watched **Play The Devil** (p. 41) by Bahamian filmmaker Maria Govan, we were met with anxiety and anticipation watching the film's young protagonist navigate his sexuality, economic oppression, and the forceful attention of an older man. We cheered aloud while watching C. Fitz's documentary **Jewel's Catch One** (p. 40), then proceeded to talk at length about the many Black and other queer women of colour who (like Jewel Thais-Williams) have created change and influence communities. During our preview screening of **Taxi Stories** (p. 44) we were so moved by the narrative's queer and geopolitical complexities, we made bringing director Doris Young to Vancouver to visit a priority.

These are but three brief examples of the feelings, discussions and responses to the stories contained in our 29th Annual Festival programming generated for us. I hope a similar range of reactions and reflections occur for you as you come to the Festival, and I hope you are inspired to share some of your reflections and feedback with our Festival team.

"Hi, my name is Amber Dawn, and it is my vast emotionality and responsiveness (including pleasure) to serve as the co-Artistic Director of the Vancouver Queer Film Festival."

FESTIVAL TEAM

Staff

Stephanie Goodwin,
Executive Director
Amber Dawn,
Artistic Director
Anoushka Ratnarajah,
Artistic Director
Sam Snobelen,
Development Director
Brandon Yan,
Education Director
Karl Chen,
Volunteer Coordinator
Rick Clark,
Graphic Designer
Justin Ducharme,
Festival Programming Coordinator
Terry Hall,
Communications Officer
Jessica Han,
Technical Coordinator
Peter Quin-Conroy,
Bookkeeper and Festival Manager
Jamie Rokovetsky,
Technical Director
Paige Smith,
Artist Liaison & Guest Relations Coordinator
Matthew Sproat,
Box Office Assistant
Gavin Somers,
Out in Schools Program Coordinator
Leila Toledo,
Box Office Coordinator
Flora Ware,
Individual Giving Coordinator
Victoria Yeung,
Community Events Coordinator
Mateo Zepeda,
Operations and HR Coordinator

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Karan Singh
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Kiran Sunar
Jessica Wood

Office Support

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Kathryn Tullis
Anna Vander Munnik

Festival Campaign Trailer – thank you!

Be the Change Group Inc.
Myriam Dumont and Leo de la Parra, and family
Atab Erlan
Jess Giang
Pamela Greenstock and GIO Cojocaru
Bill Houghton
Stevie Nguyen
Mr and Mrs Sadowsky
Del Ray Barber Shop



Back row l to r: Stephanie Goodwin, Mateo Zepeda, Justin Ducharme, Rick Clark, Sam Snobelen, Karl Chen. Middle row l to r: Victoria Yeung, Terry Hall, Flora Ware. Front row l to r: Brandon Yan, Amber Dawn, Anoushka Ratnarajah, Gavin Somers. Absentee: Peter Quin-Conroy, Paige Smith, Leila Toledo, Matthew Sproat, Jamie Rokovetsky, Jessica Han. photo credit: Aissa McColl

Out in Schools Facilitators

Meghan Brady
Serena Carter
Audrey Cooper
Dia Davina
K Ho
Andy Holmes
Tiare Jung
Danny Lybbert
Jasper McMath
Stevie Nguyen
Emily Percival
Miranda Ruffy
Jen Sung
Joanne Tsung

Special thanks to:

All our amazing volunteers!
Our neighbours at Canadian Centre for Policy
Alternatives
Mindy Abramowitz
Jeda Boughton
Michael Boucher and Tamara Messacar,
SFU Woodward
Penny Blasch
Mickey Brazeau
Layla Cameron
Jay Catterson
Tom Charity and J Bradford, VIFF Vancity Theatre
barbara findlay, QC
Jess Giang
Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA
Marco Fratarcangeli
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Lara Honrado
Russell Keller
Kayla Kinnunen
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Lisa Loutzenheiser

Lorne Mayencourt
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Jay Wedel
Gravitypop
Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium
Chad Clark
All our Out for Breakfast Table Hosts
Kit Pacila
Jeff Muthanna
Blake Sebastian
Jen Sung and David Ng, Love Intersections
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Kent Dunn
Andrea Reimer
Fresh Voices
Fostering Change
Zoe Miles, Reel Youth
Michelle, Tru and the entire Wilson Family
Vancouver Latin American Film Festival
DOXA Documentary Film Festival
Vancouver International Film Festival
Queer Arts Festival
seven25



Amelia Surjadi is a QPOC graphic designer, web developer and educator who has helped clients with various print and digital needs, from branding, communication design to website development. She founded Artovermatter in 2007 and has worked with organizations such as Langara College, Lu Institute for Global Issues at UBC, Fraser Health and Ladies Learning Code. She loves working on projects that have a social impact and is passionate about social justice, diversity and inclusion. Amelia lives in East Vancouver with her partner and their beloved cat. View her work at artovermatter.com.



Top row from / to: Lal Madhosh, Meleida Johnston, Daniel Heath Justice, Rudolph Korompa (Treasurer). Bottom row from / to: Gerald Maynard, James Ong (Chair), Ki Wight (Secretary). Missing: Catherine Wong (Vice-Chair).

ABOUT US



At Out On Screen, donors, supporters, volunteers, and film-lovers like **YOU** believe in a world where queer, trans, and two-spirit identities are equitably valued and represented in society and in media. For 29 years, we have curated the latest in queer film and knowledges, and have convened safe spaces for the LGBTQ2+ community, because when we all see ourselves represented, we are inspired and empowered to enact social change at home, and around the world.



The Vancouver Queer Film Festival is a gathering space for the queer, trans, and two-spirit community in Vancouver, providing a platform for voices from the margins. We rival heavyweights in the international landscape of queer cinema, and share stories that accurately and authentically represent the rich and complex lives of LGBTQ2+ people from British Columbia, Canada, and around the world.



The Out in Schools program fills a gap in LGBTQ2+ education and meets a critical need in schools and communities throughout BC. We bring queer film to high schools across the province. Since 2004, supporters like you have brought powerful film, positive role models, and engaging discussions on homophobia, transphobia, and bullying to more than 90,000 youth and educators, opening hearts and changing minds in communities throughout BC.



You are our community.
You lift us up, you inspire us,
and you help us to grow.

Your attendance at the Festival is an act of resistance and your generous support for our programs is an act of love.

Every day, supporters like you are making schools safer for young people through the **Out in Schools** program and providing a platform for queer, trans, and two-spirit voices at the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival**.

Your gift can:

- bring international queer, trans, and two-spirit artists to Vancouver
- provide a platform for voices from the margin
- combat homophobia, transphobia, and bullying in schools
- give young people the opportunity to bring their stories to the big screen
- create safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community to share and celebrate

Support us online at outonscreen.com/donate/ or speak with us outside the theatre to learn more.

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Donor Benefits	Ingenué \$40 – \$74	Cameo \$75 – \$149	Star \$150 – \$374	Producer \$375 – \$749	Director \$750 – \$1499	Directors Guild \$1000+ x 3 years
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Centrepiece Gala Reception <small>Centrepiece Gala screening reception</small>			●	●	●	●
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Art inspires the creativity in everyone.

We believe that we're all capable of making art, sharing a new perspective, and seeing the world in a different light. That's why we support the arts in Canadian communities – to inspire the artist in all of us, and to give more people the opportunity to share their story. Scotiabank is proud to support the Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

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Intergenerations Spotlight

Create Provoke Transform

SFUW presents socially progressive contemporary arts creations and collaborations to challenge and engage our diverse communities/audiences through transformative cultural experiences. Such experiences are further explored through informed discourse and dialogue.

SFUW Cultural Programs is delighted to be celebrating our 5th year of working together with VQFF to advance key social and democratic issues surrounding gender and identity. Last year we supported the Many Splendour Genders program highlighted by the screening of MAJOR and the remarkable live Skype interview with Miss Major Griffin-Gracy.

This year our Intergenerations Spotlight partnership focuses on featuring trailblazing seniors whose courage and tenacity are captured through mini-documentaries created by LGBTQ20+ youth filmmakers. The bridging of these two generations is a vital step to advancing the legacy of gender tolerance and acceptability in our society.

The TROUBLEMAKERS 2.0 program is proudly supported by SFUW and SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts.



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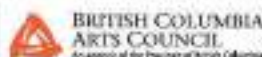
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With much gratitude to our allies and partners at the following organizations:

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amnesty.ca

BOLD: Bold, Old(er) Lesbians & Dykes
boldfest.com

CampOUT!
campout.ubc.ca

Cinemafantastique Film Fest Society
cinemafantastique.org

Cineworks
cineworks.ca

CiTR Radio 101.9FM & Discorder Magazine
citr.ca

CJSF 90.1 FM
cjsf.ca

DOXA Documentary Film Festival
doxafestival.ca

The Foundation of Hope
foundationofhope.net

Full Circle: First Nations Performance
fullcircle.ca

Geist
geist.com

Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Society
facebook.com/gvnscs78

Health Initiative for Men (HIM)
checkhimout.ca

Indian Summer Festival
indiansummerfest.ca

LEGIT - Canadian Immigration for Same-sex Partners
legit.ca

Lezervations
lezervations.com

Migrante BC
migrantebc.com

Momentum Health Study
momentumstudy.ca

PACE Society
pace-society.org

PFLAG Vancouver
pflagvancouver.com

Positive Living BC
positivelivingbc.org

PuSh International Performing Arts Festival
pushfestival.ca

QMUNITY - BC's queer, trans, and Two-Spirit resource centre
qmunity.ca

Queer Families of Vancouver
facebook.com/groups/1418626981698968

Rainbow Refugee
rainbowrefugee.ca

Raindance Vancouver
raindance.org/vancouver

Ricepaper Magazine
ricepapermagazine.ca

Sher Vancouver
shervancouver.com

South Asian Film Education Society (S.A.F.E.S)
southasianfilm.blogspot.ca

Trans Alliance Society
transalliancesociety.org

Union LGBT+ Wedding Show
unionweddingshow.com

Vancouver Asian Film Festival
vaff.org

Vancouver Frontrunners
vancouverfrontrunners.org

Vancouver International Film Festival
viff.org

Vancouver Latin American Film Festival
vlaff.org

Vancouver Men's Chorus
vancouvermenschorus.ca

Vancouver Taiwanese Film Festival
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Women in Film and Television Vancouver
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For more information on all of our community partners, please visit queerfilmfestival.ca/community-partners.



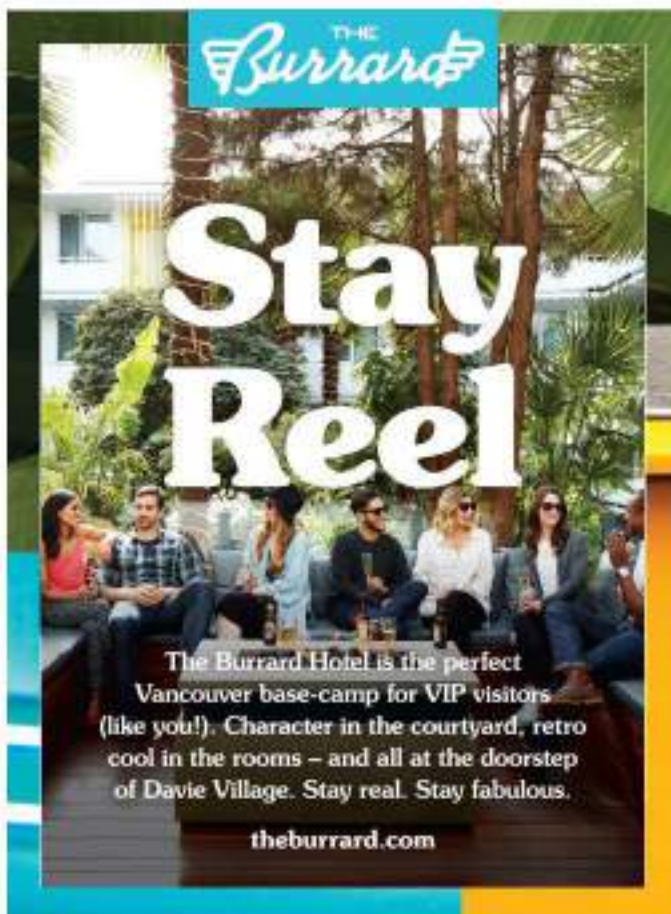
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You write the story. We'll help bring it to life.

That's why we are proud to be joining you as we share in the stories that make our communities beautiful and diverse. Thanks to the Vancouver Queer Film Festival for bringing us together as we celebrate Somedays and share in our collective love of film.

Let's make your Someday happen.™



out

IN SCHOOLS

Out in Schools is a unique high school outreach initiative that uses film and video presentations to engage youth and educators on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. Through our film presentations, facilitated workshops, and youth film-making initiatives, Out in Schools is working toward promoting safer and more diverse communities, free from transphobia, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination.

“Out in Schools showed me that you don't have to be afraid about who you are or what you identify as. You're beautiful just the way you are and you don't need to change!

-Elementary School Student, Kamloops

Opening Hearts
Changing Minds

“I think the most valuable thing about the presentation was that the presenters themselves were so open and honest in presenting the information and sharing their personal stories. The videos were wonderfully valuable, but to have someone there to put an immediate face on a member of the queer community, made the most impact.

-Educator, North Vancouver

outinschools.com



I Dream in Another Language (Sueño en otro idioma)

The award-winning Contreras brothers—director Ernesto and writer Carlos—have teamed up again to bring us their most ambitious film yet. Set in a small jungle settlement in Mexico's Veracruz province, **I Dream in Another Language** begins with a young linguist, Martín, and his research with the last three surviving speakers of the Indigenous language Zikril. Martín quickly discovers that communication between two of the three language holders, Isauro and Evaristo, has been severed by a fifty-year feud. This seeming irreconcilable feud gradually gives way to a long-lost love story.

Winner of the 2017 Audience Choice Award at Sundance, much of the film's success lies in its ability to blend a compelling romantic drama with the captivating magical realism that frequently hallmarks Latin American cinema. But at the crux of this story is its portrayal of the loss of Indigenous languages; as director Ernesto Contreras said in a feature Sundance interview, "When you lose a language, you lose a culture, a worldview, knowledge."

Since its big win at Sundance, **I Dream in Another Language** has gone on to garner audience choice awards at film festivals in Guadalajara, Minneapolis, and Maitland, Florida.

I Dream in Another Language (Sueño en otro idioma) | Ernesto Contreras | Mexico | 2017 |
103 min | Spanish with English subtitles

THU | AUG 10 | 7pm | VPH 

SAT | AUG 12 | 4pm | IV 

Screening Sponsors: **Cineplex, Scotiabank**



Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall

This year's Youth Gala is sure to inspire queer, trans, and allied youth, and also the young-at-heart.

With over two million subscribers, multi-talented YouTube and Broadway star Todrick Hall launches his most ambitious project yet: the full-scale original musical *Straight Outta Oz*. **Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall** is a fiercely fun and inspiring documentary that offers a behind the scenes look into Hall's journey producing the album, visual album, and musical stage tour in a heart-stopping production schedule of mere months.

Director Katherine Fairfax Wright (*Call Me Kuchu*) delivers a film that is part tour chronicle and part biography—allowing audiences to form a deep connection with Todrick Hall and his crew. Hall grew up Black and gay in a religious household in Texas. His personal roots greatly influenced his 2016 tour, which was set amidst the political backdrop of the US election, the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, and the deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile at the hands of police. **Behind the Curtain** offers an intimate look into the creative process and tells an artist's coming-of-age story at the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality that's made possible thanks to family, friendship, dance, song, and lots of glitter.

Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall | Katherine Fairfax Wright | USA | 2017 | 100 min

SAT | AUG 12 | 7pm | GCA  

SUN | AUG 13 | 4pm | IV 

Spotlight Sponsor: RBC
Screening Sponsor: Cineplex





FREE CeCe!

On June 5, 2011, Chishaun Reed "CeCe" McDonald was brutally attacked. While defending her life, her attacker was killed. CeCe was incarcerated in a men's prison in Minnesota. An international campaign to free CeCe garnered significant support from media and activists, including trans activists Kate Bornstein, Leslie Feinberg, and Laverne Cox. Soon after CeCe's incarceration, Laverne Cox met director Jac Gares, and together the two immediately knew the critical importance of CeCe's story reaching large audiences. "Of the 25 anti-LGBTQ murders in 2012, 53.8% of homicide victims in 2012 were transgender women and 73.1% were people of colour," Gares noted in an interview with *Persephone Magazine*. Gares aimed to push past the everyday narratives of victimhood surrounding the lives of transgender people to spotlight the way CeCe and other trans people are leading a growing movement fighting for the rights of trans people everywhere.

Cox signed on as executive producer of **FREE CeCe!** and committed to exploring the role race, class, and gender played in CeCe's case. "CeCe's story is one that should have been covered more in the press. Trans women, particularly trans women of color, experience disproportionate amounts of violence and not enough is being done to eradicate that violence," says Cox.

The documentary's focus follows CeCe's trial, but above all it shows the months after her release as she calls upon a circle of support from caring friends and family, and demonstrates her invaluable leadership as an activist and educator. Her leading voice resonates throughout the documentary and will surely remain in the minds of everyone who sees **FREE CeCe!**

FREE CeCe! | Jac Gares | USA | 2017 | 102 min | Director in attendance

WED | AUG 16 | 630pm | VPH

FRI | AUG 18 | 930pm | GCA **67**

Screening Sponsors: Scotiabank, UBC: Critical Studies in Sexuality / UBC Education



Handsome Devil

After 11-days of laughing, crying, learning, and connecting, come close the Festival with a feel-good comedy. Picture *Dead Poets Society* meets *Glee* at a rugby-obsessed Irish boy's boarding school. In **Handsome Devil**, lanky, red-haired misfit Ned, sticks out glaringly among his macho peers. Ned copes with everyday bullying by keeping to himself, until the rugby team's newest star athlete, Conor, moves into his dorm room. Gradually, the loner and the jock form an unlikely friendship—one that teaches them to both care for and challenge one another in ways they never thought possible.

The film also offers satisfying sub-plot in the story of closeted English teacher, Dan Sherry (Andrew Scott of *Pride* and *Sherlock*), who struggles to support Ned and Conor while trying not to out himself. Writer and director John Butler successfully shows the true threats of homophobia for youth and adults, while keeping the narrative decidedly optimistic. Winner of the Dublin Film Critics Circle Award in 2016, John Butler's sophomore feature film has been charming audiences worldwide.

Handsome Devil | John Butler | Ireland | 2016 | 95 min

SUN | AUG 20 | 7pm | VPH



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Opening Gala: Love. Resist.

Following our gorgeous Opening Gala screening of **I Dream In Another Language**, join us in kicking off our 29th Festival! Just a skip away from the Playhouse, under the stars in the Queen Elizabeth Plaza, we'll be mingling and dancing the night away in all our Festival finery. In keeping with our Festival theme this year, our Gala performers will be celebrating all the ways our fabulous and diverse communities love and resist. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for some spectacular drag including first runner up of Mr/Ms Cobalt 2017 Maiden China, East Van's tag team DJ dream duo BODY PARTY and a few surprises. Come celebrate with us!

THU | AUG 10 | 830pm | Queen Elizabeth Plaza

Fully wheelchair accessible venue area and washrooms.



Closing Gala

The magic of the Festival will linger long after it's over—our connections will travel across the city and the globe, and our stories will be resonating in our hearts for the year to come, but let's close off with a rainbow and glitter bang. We'll be traipsing over from The Playhouse to the The Junction after **Handsome Devil**, in a joyful queer procession that's as much fun as the actual party. With performances from long-time local Festival favourites and **DJ O Show** from the School of Remix to sweetly serenade us on dance floor, let's dance it out till next year (our 30th anniversary!)

SUN | AUG 20 | 830pm | The Junction

Fully wheelchair accessible venue area, and washrooms.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Chosen Family Picnic and Play

After Chosen Family Story Hour (p.47) at Waterfront Theatre, head over to Granville Island Water Park—Sutcliffe Park for an all-ages family picnic and play date. Bring a blanket and your favourite snacks. One of our fabulous Festival photographers will be there to capture candid queer portraits.

SUN | AUG 13 | 5pm | Granville Island Water Park

Many areas of the park are wheelchair accessible.



Intergenerations Social

Our Intergenerations Spotlight is mainly comprised of Vancouver-made films, showing our communities' desire for intergenerational conversation. The conversation continues with the cast members of **Stay Gold**, **Man Up** and **The March Sweater Project** during this afternoon social prior to the screening of **Stay Gold**, **March Forward** (p.43). Pop-up performances, music and mingling. Thanks to our friends at the West End Business Improvement Association for welcoming us to the Jim Deva Plaza at Davie and Bute.

MON | AUG 14 | 530pm | Jim Deva Plaza

Most areas of the plaza are wheelchair accessible.

THE EXPERIENTIAL LENS: FILMMAKERS OF COLOUR SPOTLIGHT



Film, like many other art forms, is a medium where the people empowered to tell stories are those with the most privilege. Queer cinema is no different – how often do we see narratives about queer and trans people of colour on screen that were created by people not grounded in our experiences?

This spotlight shines on directors and writers of colour, knowing that there is no one better equipped to tell our stories than ourselves. This robust program includes directors and writers of colour from around the world, telling the stories closest to them with an integrity of voice, and a critical and tender eye. From the humour and sweetness of **Signature Move** and **Fathers**, to the detailed authenticity of **Taxi Stories** and **The Revival: Women and the Word**, and the deep care and respect of **I Dream in Another Language**, audiences will be charmed and stunned by the talent, skill, and heart of these artists of colour. Through an experiential lens, there is an intimacy and empathy that invites audiences to feel the connection and discomfort that can only exist when we listen to truths being spoken from those who live them. It is a humanizing film-going experience, and, as the success of such films as *Moonlight* showed us, these films are necessary and visionary.

We're excited to be joined by a few of the directors in this spotlight: Doris Yeung (**Taxi Stories**) and Francis Luta (**Project Gelb**).

Features:

195 Lewis p. 34

A Million Happy Nows p. 34

Chutney Popcorn p. 36

Fathers p. 38

I Dream in Another Language p. 22

The Revival: Women and the Word p. 42

Signature Move p. 43

Taxi Stories p. 44

Shorts:

Connect p. 36

Crossing Bridges p. 41

Faux Solo p. 36

Lions in Waiting p. 36

The Migrant Mixtape p. 41

The Night Cleaner p. 37

Project Gelb p. 42

Violet and June p. 36

Where do I Belong? p. 38





Films by and featuring queer and trans youth are moving far beyond the typical coming of age stories we expect, breaking the mold and pushing artistic and narrative boundaries. The breathtaking, lush, and intense **Play the Devil**, delves deeply into what it means for a young queer man of colour to lack role models while trying to carve a way through the world. Our Centrepiece Gala film **FREE CeCe!**, is a searing and tender participatory documentary that lifts up the story of young trans woman activist CeCe McDonald, who was convicted of a crime for defending herself against a racist, transphobic attacker. Her court case galvanized trans activists and allies across the globe, and after her release, we follow the bright and confident CeCe as she reunites with her family and travels across the United States to meet with other trans activists and speak to her experiences.

Our youth-centred films this year offer the joy and optimism we love about films about being young and discovering yourself. **Maybe Tomorrow** and **Seventeen** both highlight the importance of friendship and affirming self-confidence when it comes to moving into adulthood.

Finally, our Youth Gala film is a spectacular showstopping demonstration of the power of connection and art. **Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall** features YouTube sensation Todrick Hall, whose music and performance has changed the lives of countless youth who identify with his struggles and triumphs as a Black queer person making art and living as loudly as a Broadway classic being belted to the rafters.

Features:

Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall p. 23

FREE CeCe! p. 24

Maybe Tomorrow p. 40

Play the Devil p. 41

Seventeen p. 42

Shorts:

A Small Part of Me p. 34

Events:

Chosen Family Story Hour p. 47

Presented by:





How can we vision into the future without communion between the past and present? This spotlight of films invites audiences into conversation with our elders, our peers, our futures.

The truth of many queer and trans people's lives is that we have to create our own family ties when those we were born into are broken. But what about those of us who continue to be in close relationship (and sometimes close proximity) with our biological families? Local short film **Carla and Hayfa**, is a loving portrait of queer family, and the most intimate documentary of the Festival, **Small Talk**, explores this question in riveting detail, charting the life and loves of butch lesbian Anu through the eyes of her daughter, director Huang Hui-chen.

Many of the films in this stream feature the lives of local and international elders and trailblazers. **The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson** investigates the circumstance of her mysterious death, and reverently looks back at the generous and outspoken person she was in life. The film also pays tribute to Marsha's sister in arms, the passionate, determined Sylvia Rivera—lifting up the complex stories of two of the most important, formative trans revolutionaries in our history. Local artist and elder Antonette Rea is featured in a documentary biopic of her remarkable life and work, paired in conversation with **A Small Part of Me**, a short documentary about young trans writer and performer Tobin Eckstein. And we're thrilled to show local documentaries **The March Sweater Project** and **Stay Gold Man Up**, both of which explore formative queer geographies and people of Vancouver, then, now and onward.

Features:

The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson p. 36

More than T p. 41

Small Talk p. 43

Shorts:

Antonette p. 34

Carla and Hayfa p. 36

The March Sweater p. 43

Older than What? p. 42

Stay Gold Man Up p. 43

The Troublemakers Project p. 44

Presented by:





Two-Spirit and Indigenous queer cinema are grossly underrepresented in film. The perverse relationship between film and photography with colonialism means that images of Indigenous peoples have been used to misrepresent and dehumanize diverse, multifaceted cultures, languages, and artistic legacies. Two-Spirit and queer Indigenous films are moving towards towards decolonizing our gaze by shining a light on the challenges and joys of queer Indigenous and Two-Spirit lives and stories.

The intimate and moving *Kumu Hina: A Place in the Middle* has screened at our Festival previously, as a short film, and now is one of our most popular educational films in our Out in Schools program. **Kumu Hina** returns this year as a full-length documentary. Filmmakers create a collaborative and participatory portrait of the impressive Hina Wong-Kalu, a native Hawaiian midlife teacher who uses traditional culture to inspire her elementary students. The film follows Hina as she fosters another young gender-questioning student to claim her place as leader of the school's all-male hula troupe, navigates her marriage with her new Tongan-immigrant husband, and defends the sanctity and sovereignty of her Hawaiian land against colonial developers. **Kumu Hina** is a remarkable film for the ways in which it zooms in on one life while also giving context to the histories and present struggles and triumphs of the Indigenous peoples of Hawaii.

IndigIFemme, a term gifted to our program by Glean artist and photographer Si Sneyawiks (Jessica Wood), honours the many facets of Indigenous and Two-Spirit femme genius in film and art. The powerhouse double bill will feature archival classics and new shorts from Indigenous women like Dana Claxton, Thirza Cuthand, Shelly Niro, and Gail Maurice, with performances by stellar local multidisciplinary IndigIFemme artists. Indigenous femme identities are dynamic, playful, and powerful. To witness these artists represent themselves will surely be a transformative and transcendent experience.

Features:

Kumu Hina p. 40

Shorts:

Assini p. 39

Dance to Miss Chief p. 39

Her Sugar Is p. 39

Mary p. 39

The Shirt p. 39

Two Spirit Dreamcatcher Dot Com p. 39

Presented by:



Gerry Brunet Memorial Award

Value \$2500

Our annual juried prize for the Festival's best BC short film was established in 1997 in recognition of Gerry Brunet, a lifelong contributor to the arts and an early board member of Out On Screen. Patrick Currie won this prize in 2016 for *Meer Cute*. The 2017 winner will be announced at our Closing Gala presentation on August 20.

This award is generously supported by Su Crak and Lisa Heddema, and the Directors Guild of Canada - BC.



GERRY JURY



Patrick Currie studied acting at York University as a member of the BFA Acting ensemble. He is well known in the sci-fi community for his work in shows such as *Stargate SG-1* and *Battlestar Galactica*. In 2014 he wrote, produced, and performed in short drama *The Out-Laws*. *Meer Cute* is his second film with the Crazy8s film society.



Blair Fukumura is a self-taught filmmaker whose fifth short film is the award winning animated documentary **The Night Cleaner**. Blair's work in both documentary and narrative short film explores the experience of the outsider voice within minority groups and stories that arise from intersectionality. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Blair lives in Mississauga, Ontario.



Jo Shin is a VQFF alumna who worked as the Marketing Coordinator with Out On Screen from 2012 to 2014. She's now a creative professional currently researching the ways we value material and digital possessions as communities in Vancouver, BC. She's the maker of delicious foods, a lover of road trips, and an active community member serving on the boards of Megaphone Magazine and Hope in Shadows.



OUTtv People's Choice Award for Best Feature

Value \$750

Join OUTtv in supporting queer film by casting your vote for your favourite feature-length film. *It Runs in the Family* directed by local director Joella Cabalu took home the coveted OUTtv People's Choice for Best Feature in 2016.

OUTtv People's Choice Award for Best Short

Value \$500

This award goes to the audience's selection for exceptional short film. Support independent directors by voting at the Festival! Last year's award went to *Handsome and Majestic* co-directed by Jeff Lee Petry and Nathan Drillot.

FILM INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS with support from Creative BC



Pitch Your Project to OUTtv

Calling all filmmakers—our pitching workshop is back by popular demand! Join OUTtv's COO Brad Danks and Head of Content Nicky Forsman, on the best ways to pitch your developing ideas to a broadcaster. Learn how to present your finished videos, web series, and more for their consideration. This workshop will offer you the skills in pitching to help you elevate your projects from script to screen.

Then participants will have the chance to pitch one-to-one with Brad and Nicky—it could be your big break!

Register at workshops@outonscreen.com to claim your space. Space is limited so register early!

FREE

SUN | AUG 13 | 11am | GCA



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S CREATIVE INDUSTRY CATALYST

Tricks of the Trade with Creative BC

The team from Creative BC returns to the Festival for an informative panel and Q&A about opportunities for independent BC filmmakers. Participants will get insight into early development funding, how to build a strong MPPIA Short Film Award application—and learn about all the secret locations right here in Vancouver that can bring the world to your film.

Register at workshops@outonscreen.com to claim your space. Space is limited so register early!

FREE

SAT | AUG 12 | 11am | GCA

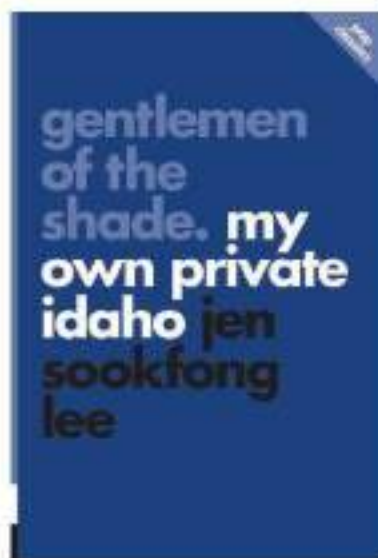
Gentlemen of the Shade Book Launch and Film Viewing Commentary

Gus Van Sant's 1991 indie darling *My Own Private Idaho* perplexed and provoked, inspiring a new ethos for a new decade: being different was better than being good. In her newest book, **Gentlemen of the Shade**, author Jen Sookfong Lee examines how the film was a coming-of-age for a generation of young people who would embrace the alternative and bring their outsider perspectives to sustainability, technology, gender constructs, and social responsibility. In this media-interactive book launch, Jen Sookfong Lee will look at film clips, media responses, and her own unique exploration of Van Sant's cult classic.

Jen Sookfong Lee is a Canadian broadcaster, novelist, and radio personality for CBC Radio One. She is the author of *The Conjoined*, *The Better Mother*, *Shelter*, and *The End of East*. *Gentlemen of the Shade* was launched this summer on ECW press.

Free event with Festival membership. Books will be for sale, cash only. With support from CMHC - Granville Island.

SUN | AUG 13 | 1:30 pm | Waterfront Theatre | 1412 Cartwright St.



how to get over Book Launch and Writing Workshop

Appearing in the documentary **The Revival: Women and the Word** (p.46) is cast member t'ai freedom ford, who is touring her first poetry collection book **how to get over**. Join us for a matinee reading at the new VPL necta?mat at Strathcona Branch with t'ai freedom ford and local poet and Vancouver Slam Master, Jillian Christmas.

t'ai freedom ford's writing has also been featured in several journals and anthologies including *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*. In 2012 and 2013, she toured as part of a queer women of colour literary salon, *The Revival*. Her first poetry collection, **how to get over** is part instruction manual, part prayer, part testimony, and speaks to culling, Blackness, whiteness, and gentrification, and even pop culture icons like Chaka Khan, and Nicki Minaj.

Bring your pens and favourite notebook! The readings will be followed by a participatory 30-minute writing workshop led by Jillian Christmas. Come explore your own inner poet in a queer-driven creative space.

Free event. Books will be for sale, cash only. With support from Creative BC.

SAT | AUG 19 | 4pm | necta?mat at Strathcona Branch | 730 East Hastings St.



Jillian Christmas serves as Artistic Director of Verses Festival of Words and as the Master of Vancouver Poetry Slam. Jillian's past titles include Vancouver Poetry Slam Champion (2012, 2014), Vancouver Women of the World representative (2013, 2014, 2015).





195 Lewis

Race, queerness and polyamory are investigated with honesty and affection in this award-winning web series turned international film festival hit. Director Chanelle Aponte Pearson sets out to represent *Bad Stuy* as she sees it: Black, queer, and home to the activists and artists that make the neighbourhood vibrant and unique. Bronx-bred, and Brooklyn-based herself, Aponte Pearson allows her audiences to feel completely immersed in the complex, sexy, and inherently political world of **195 Lewis**.

Watch the first five episodes and see for yourself why this series won an Independent Filmmaker Project Award—episodes will be complimented with pop-up performances by local poets Tiare Kela Jung, Jillian Christmas, and Adèle Barclay.

195 Lewis (episodes 1-5) | Chanelle Aponte Pearson | USA | 2017 | 80 min

SAT | AUG 19 | 930pm | YT

Screening Sponsors: **24 Frames, The Cutch**



A Million Happy Nows

Albert Alarr is best known as an Emmy award-winning director and producer of *Days of Our Lives*; he is also one of the few filmmakers of colour working in daytime television. For his debut feature film, Alarr draws upon his career to tell the story of Lainey Allen (Crystal Chappell) from *Days of Our Lives* and *One Life to Live*, a veteran soap opera star who retires to a beach house with her partner Eva (Jessica Leccia from *Guiding Light*). Lainey soon reveals that her early retirement is due to Early Onset Alzheimer's. Steering clear of the slow pacing and melodrama of soaps, **A Million Happy Nows** genuinely reminds us that every day, every minute with the one you love, counts.

A Million Happy Nows | Albert Alarr | USA | 2016 | 80 min

THU | AUG 17 | 7pm | TV

Screening Sponsors: **Be the Change Group Inc., Sootlabank**



Antonette & Tobin: local trans stories

Tobin, a transgender teen living in Squamish, BC, prepares for his acting debut where he'll be playing a male leading character in the youth play. While rehearsals are in progress, his friends and chosen family band together to help remove him from a difficult living situation and connect him the support he needs.

A Small Part of Me | Steve Adams, Sean Hodor | Canada | 2017 | 15 min

This documentary captures the spirit and life story of local trans elder and poet Antonette Rea—in all of its humour, pain, and passion. Antonette culminates in the production of *Mis Understood*, the interdisciplinary performance showcased at PuSh Festival last year based on Rea's poetry. At times harrowing, but ultimately hopeful, directors Darren Heroux and Ian Barbour deliver a moving tribute to a significant community figure and the healing power of writing. Rea has been performing spoken word since 2008, and is a member of the *Thursdays Writing Collective* in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Antonette | Darren Heroux, Ian Barbour | Canada | 2017 | 47 min

Directors and cast in attendance

FRI | AUG 18 | 830pm | GCA | PG

Spotlight Partner: **SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs**

Screening Sponsor: **Hastings Crossing GIA**

B&B

Joe Ahearne (guest director for *Doctor Who*) puts a gay spin on the British murder mystery genre. Like the popular television series *Midsomer Murders* and Agatha Christie's *Miss Marple*, **B&B** takes place in a rural village that seems quaint enough on the surface, but becomes more eerie and frightening as the action builds. Protagonists Mark and Fred are newly married husbands who return to a bed-and-breakfast after a lengthy court battle with the establishment's homophobic owner. What begins as a demonstration of their equal rights, turns into an entangled whodunnit, forcing Mark and Fred to face off with a mysterious Russian stranger, the B&B owner's closeted son, and a cruising park full of anonymous men.

B&B | Joe Ahearne | United Kingdom | 2016 | 87 mins

Follow **B&B** with our horror short program **DTF: Down to Fright** (p. 41) for back-to-back thrills.

FRI | AUG 11 | 7pm | IV

Screening Sponsors: Cineplex, OUTtv



Body Electric (Corpo Elétrico)

Summer arrives and Elias, a young assistant at a busy garment factory in São Paulo, is dreaming of carefree parties and hot hook-ups. Outside of the factory's long hours, Elias becomes increasingly interested in connecting with work colleagues, including a casual and tender fling with a flirty co-worker. Despite upper management warning him not to fraternize with the "common" floor workers, he finds a new joy in the acceptance and openness of his fellow young working class friends. When his much older and wealthy ex-boyfriend re-enters his life, Elias endeavours to bring the separate parts of his life together for the biggest party of the summer.

Director Marcelo Caetano achieves a richly textured and honest portrayal of a young gay man's life in contemporary Brazil. **Body Electric** won the Best Feature Film 2017 Prémio Maguary—Guadalajara International Film Festival.

Body Electric (Corpo Elétrico) | Marcelo Caetano | Brazil | 2017 | 94 min | Portuguese with English subtitles

TUE | AUG 15 | 930pm | IV

WED | AUG 16 | 930pm | IV



Screening Sponsors: Cineplex, Vancouver Frontliners

Centre of My World (Die Mitte der Welt)

Phil returns to his small provincial hometown after his summer holidays to find his family is stranger than ever. His sister barely speaks to him, and his whimsical mother has managed to become even more eccentric. Alienated at home, Phil hangs close to his boisterous best friend Kat. But when the crush-worthy new kid at school, Nicholas, takes an interest in Phil, Kat grows cagey and possessive. The combined complexities of family, friendship, and first love soon demand that Phil grow into adulthood and self awareness.

This quintessential queer coming-of-age story is artfully rendered with photo collages, childhood flashbacks, cinematic jump cuts, fun pop-song montages, creatively shot love scenes, and other visual treats. In 2016, **Center of My World** won the Best Feature Award at the Florence International Queer Festival and the Audience Choice Award at the Hamburg International Queer Film Festival.

Center of My World (Die Mitte der Welt) | Jakob M Erwa | Germany | 2016 | 115 min | German with English subtitles

TUE | AUG 15 | 930pm | IV

SAT | AUG 19 | 2pm | GCA



Screening Sponsors: English Bay Swim Club, James Goodman



Chutney Popcorn

Our special outdoor screening inspired us to bring back one of our all-time favourite films. Director Nisha Ganatra was born in Vancouver and raised in a traditional Indian household. She wrote and directed her first feature—**Chutney Popcorn**—at age 25. Film lovers know this beloved cult classic received immediate praise and awards among international film communities. But what many audiences don't know is that Ganatra originally did not cast herself in the film. Weeks before production was scheduled to start, a leading actress canceled, leaving Ganatra to play the now-iconic part of Reena.

Reena is a lesbian living in New York with her girlfriend, Lisa. When her happily married sister, Santa, discovers that she is infertile, Reena offers to be a surrogate mother. How does this act of love impact Reena's relationship with her disapproving mother and her girlfriend? Find out for the first time, or rediscover this South Asian queer, Canadian-made, cinematic favourite.

Chutney Popcorn | Nisha Ganatra | Canada, USA | 1999 | 82 min

FREE SCREENING!

WED | AUG 16 | 830pm | Queen Elizabeth Plaza



Violet and June

The Coast Is Queer

Our annual local program brings together debut and established filmmakers. Notably, Jason Karman is celebrating his seventeenth film with his suspenseful hockey-themed drama, **Lions in Waiting**. In turn, health researcher Britney Dennison is hailing her first film with the healing-themed documentary, **Still Here**. Come out to our new East Van venue—the York Theatre—to cheer on this multifarious mix of documentary, romantic, fantasy, and dramatic short films.

Caw | Jeremy Luttar | Canada | 2017 | 18 min

Still Here | Britney Dennison | Canada | 2017 | 4 min

Connect | Nargis Mohabbi | Canada | 2016 | 10 min

Carla and Hayfa | Love Intersections | Canada | 2017 | 9 min

Faux Solo | Nancy Lee | Canada | 2017 | 4 min

Lions in Waiting | Jason Karman | Canada | 2017 | 17 min

Do I Have Boobs Now? | Josella Catbala & Milena Salazar | Canada | 2017 | 7 min

Limina | Joshua M Ferguson & Florian Habedi | Canada | 2018 | 15 min

Violet and June | Linnea Riland | Canada | 2017 | 6 min

Running Time: 88 min | Directors in attendance

FRI | AUG 18 | 7pm | YT

Screening Sponsors: Creative BC, The Cuff



The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson

Marsha P. Johnson is best known for being a leader in the Stonewall uprising and first person to fight back against police raids. In the 1970s, Johnson co-founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) with Sylvia Rivera, and in the 1980s she became a respected organizer with the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP). Johnson was found floating in the Hudson River in 1992. The NYPD deemed her death a suicide and her case was quickly closed. Years later, Victoria Cruz re-examines Johnson's case. Cruz, who is a domestic abuse counselor and trans activist herself, is deeply familiar with the violence trans women of colour face. "They're yelling out from their graves for justice," Cruz says.

Made by Academy Award nominated director David France (*How to Survive a Plague*), and featuring rare archival footage and interviews with Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, **The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson** honours the legacy of her tremendous life while asking hard questions about the circumstances of her death.

The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson | David France | USA | 2017 | 106 min

FRI | AUG 18 | 830pm | YT

Screening Sponsors: Hospital Employees Union, The Cuff

Discreet

For anyone who has accused queer cinema of becoming too mainstream, this film is for you! Director Travis Mathews (*Interior Leather*, *Bar* and *I Want Your Love*) positions a kinky gay survivor of childhood abuse as an unlikely and utterly compelling protagonist. Alex returns to his hometown in rural Texas, reuniting with hurtful memories and estranged family. His search for answers and healing attracts a cast of unusual people into his life, including a strange local teenager, a spiritual YouTube star, anonymous fetish online hookups, and a menacing, shattered man from his past.

Discreet has an undeniable David Lynch-ian, cult-classic in the making aesthetic. This film is both transgressive and keenly sincere in its portrayal of trauma, masculine vulnerability, and the systemic failures of modern-day America.

Discreet | Travis Mathews | USA | 2017 | 80 min

Canadian Premiere

MON | AUG 14 | 7pm | IV

Screening Sponsors: Cineplex, DailyXtra.com



Dream Boat

Dream Boat is an annual gay cruise that promises seven days of fun, sun, and two-thousand nearly-naked men. But beneath the speedos, lies a host of tender stories. In one way or another, the Dream Boat cruisers have complicated and varied identities, families, relationships, and desires. There's buff, Polish-born, Marek, who underneath his muscled body just wants to be loved. Dipankar, an Indian living in Dubai, begins to feel lonely despite partying with thousands of men. Philippe finds himself the sole user of a wheelchair on the ship. Palestinian Ramzi travels with his Belgian partner, both celebrating the latter's recovery from cancer. Finally there's Martin from Austria, who's navigating hooking-up while living with HIV.

While gorgeous to watch, **Dream Boat** challenges the idea that men's party culture is vacuous or unfeeling.

Dream Boat | Tristan Mielwski | Germany | 2017 | 82 min | English and Arabic, German and French with English subtitles

Canadian Premiere

SUN | AUG 13 | 900pm | IV

Screening Sponsors: Davie Village Post, Delta Air Lines



DTF: Down To Fright

Do you ever find casual encounters terrifying? You will after watching this program of horror, hook-ups, and just the right amount of humour. Whether via mobile app or at the bathhouse, the gay heroes in these short films find far more than the NSA (No Strings Attached) they seek. Zombies, demons, and other queer creatures lurk in the night. Watch **DTF** after gay murder mystery **B&B** (p 39) for back-to-back thrills.

A late night on a hook-up app leads CJ to a backwoods farmhouse.

Tonight It's You | Dominic Haxton | USA | 2016 | 18 min

Pyotr is online catfished by a violent anti-gay group, but he has a diabolical surprise of his own for his attackers.

PYOTR486 | Blake Maxwell | Canada | 2016 | 15 min | Russian with English subtitles

The cleaner at Canada's busiest bathhouse has some harrowing work to do.

The Night Cleaner | Blair Fukumura | Canada | 2016 | 5 min

The men at this sauna are hungry ... really hungry! Who will live to see the dawn? Who will still find a hook-up in the midst of a zombie outbreak?

Sauna the Dead - A Fairy Tale | Tom Frederic | UK | 2016 | 21 min

FRI | AUG 11 | 930pm | IV

Screening Sponsors: Cineplex, OUTtv





Fathers

Phoon and Yuke are a young Thai couple raising their adopted son Buir in an environment where they face legal and social barriers. When Buir and his classmates celebrate Mother's Day at school, he is teased for having two fathers, and begins asking why he is different from all the other kids. Tensions rise and threaten the relationship when Phoon and Yuke are confronted by the director of a child protection agency who is unsympathetic to their situation. In a country where gay marriage is not yet recognized by law and traditional beliefs about families still hold strong, **Fathers** is a sweet romantic drama that looks at navigating childhood, staying true to yourself, and creating your own definition of family.

Fathers | Palatpol Mingpompit | Thailand | 2016 | 95 min | Thai with English subtitles
Canadian Premiere

SAT | AUG 12 | 900pm | TV 14

Screening Sponsor: Cineplex, Scotiabank



The Geopolitics of Queer

Often audience favourites, international docs allow us to deepen our understanding of the world and our own roles within it. But how many of these films are made by directors from their subjects' nations or communities? These questions have been increasingly vocalized in film communities, and have even prompted the hashtag #DocsSoWhite (a riff on #OscarsSoWhite).

Included in our **Experiential Lens: Filmmakers of Colour Spotlight**, **The Geopolitics of Queer** honours films (three documentaries, one docu-drama and one narrative) made by filmmakers who have direct connections to the people and stories featured in their films.

Sisak | Faraz Aref Ansari | India | 2017 | 15 mins

Poshida: Hidden LGBT Pakistan | Faizan Faz | Pakistan | 2016 | 20 mins

The Streets Are Ours: Two Lives Cross in Karachi | Michelle Fiorillo | Pakistan | 2017 | 18 min

She | Ndimbira Claudine | Rwanda | 2015 | 16 mins | Kinyarwanda with English subtitles

Where Do I Belong? | Vanna Hem | Cambodia | 2016 | 16 mins | Khmer with English subtitles

Fawzia Mirza, cast member of **Poshida** and **The Street are Ours**, in attendance

SUN | AUG 13 | 630pm | TV 14

Screening Sponsors: Be the Change Group Inc., DailyXtra.com



Heartland

Following the tragic death of her partner, Lauren retreats to her childhood home in Oklahoma reuniting her with her sweet but less-than-accepting mother, played by actress Beth Grant—known for playing conservatives and religious zealots (*Little Miss Sunshine*, *The Mindy Project*). The arrival of young wine entrepreneur Carrie—played by Laura Spencer (*Big Bang Theory*, *Bones*)—rouses Lauren from her grief. However, Carrie may be the last woman Lauren should develop a crush on. **Heartland** is a satisfying contemporary take on a forbidden lesbian love drama.

This crowd-funded independent drama is the debut feature for Maura Anderson, an emerging director who has built her career doing everything from casting to producing horror films. Anderson saw her premiere at the 2016 Cinequest Film Festival, where it won the Audience Award for Narrative Drama, and has since gone on to play countless festivals around the world.

Heartland | Maura Anderson | USA | 2016 | 98 mins

FRI | AUG 11 | 800pm | GCA | 14A

Screening Sponsors: Be the Change Group Inc., Vancouver Frontrunners

IndigiFemme

Have you noticed #IndigiFemme in your Twitter or Instagram feeds? This emerging hashtag (and term) began with queer Gixan Tsimshian artist and activist, Si Sityaawiks (Jessica Wood), and has been fostering visibility and community among indigenous femmes.

Likewise, the **IndigiFemme** double-bill centres indigenous femme identities and stories. Programmed with the mentorship of Si Sityaawiks (Jessica Wood) and Kwagw'it (Kwakwaka'wakw) scholar-activist Sarah Hunt, **IndigiFemme** includes new and archival film, as well as visionary live performances. Come be inspired for a single show, or better yet, stay for both.

IndigiFemme: Body Sovereignities

Opening comments with Si Sityaawiks (Jessica Wood) and Sarah Hunt.

Our film program begins with the self-discoveries of an indigenous child, the focus of Cree/Métis director Gail Maurice's latest short narrative, **Aaxini**. Inuk director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril illuminates complex relationships in an outpost in Nunavut in **AVILIAQ (ENTWINED)**. Celebrated iconoclasts Shelley Niro and Kent Monkman use sharp satire to resist colonial narratives in their award-winning experimental films, while African and Cherokee multi-media artist Indra Allegra poetically explores healing her sexuality.

Special **IndigiFemme** live performances with poets and storytellers Samantha Nock (Michif) and Dokshimashisi (Anishinaabe-kw).

Aaxini | Gail Maurice | Canada | 2015 | 13 min

AVILIAQ (ENTWINED) | Alethea Arnaquq-Baril | Canada | 2015 | 13 min

Mary | Kent Monkman | Canada | 2014 | 15 min | Inuktitut with English subtitles

Blue Covers | Indra Allegra | Canada | 2008 | 4 min

The Shirt | Shelley Niro | Canada | 2003 | 4 min

TUE | AUG 15 | 7pm | VCT

IndigiFemme: Sex Sovereignities

Self-love, sexuality and an infusion of sass are reoccurring themes in the second half of **IndigiFemme**. Director Jessie Short sets a first kiss on a sweet grass covered hill in **Sweet Night**. Preeminent filmmakers Dana Claxton and Kent Monkman probe dance and cultural appropriation in their experimental shorts. Jaene Castrillon's video poem is a promise to love herself as a mixed race Indigenous Colombian/Hong Kong Chinese queer woman living with disabilities. Festival favourite Thirza Cuthand brings us another offbeat romantic Two-Spirit comedy.

Live performance includes the breathtaking burlesque of Shane Sable (Gixsan) and Ruth Ordare (from the Mohawk Nation), members of the all-indigenous troupe Virago Nation who focus on rematriating indigenous sexuality and songstress Edza'u (Tahltan-Tlingit) will mesmerize with her sultry harmonic vocal loops.

Sweet Night | Jessie Short | Canada | 2017 | 8 min

Two Spirit Dreamcatcher Dot Com | Thirza Cuthand | Canada | 2017 | 5 min

Her Sugar Is | Dana Claxton | Canada | 2009 | 3 min

Celebration of Darkness | Jaene Castrillon | Canada | 2015 | 7 min

Dance to Miss Chief | Kent Monkman | Canada | 2010 | 5 min

TUE | AUG 15 | 930pm | VCT



Edza'u



Dokshimashisi



Si Sityaawiks

Spotlight Sponsor: Vanity

Screening Sponsors: Downtown Vancouver BIA, OPUS Hotel Vancouver



Shane Sable



Sweet Night



Jewel's Catch One

"This club is a dark, sultry machine," says one dedicated nightclub goer. For over four decades, Jewel's Catch One Nightclub in Los Angeles served as the oldest Black lesbian owned disco in the United States. Honoured elder Jewel Thais-Williams has worn many hats in her life: entrepreneur, restaurateur, DJ, activist, healer. Known as "The Catch" to many regulars, the nightclub was a safe haven and refuge, opening its doors to all races, genders, and sexualities and earning its legendary title as the "Unofficial Studio 54 of the West Coast". Featuring interview appearances by Sharon Stone, Thelma Houston, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Sandra Bernhard, Thelma Austin, Jenifer Lewis, Representative Maxine Waters and Bonnie Pointer, **Jewel's Catch One** is a glowing celebration of community and chosen family, highlighting the importance of the dancefloor as a gathering place for racialized, queer, and other marginalized groups.

Jewel's Catch One | C Fiv | USA | 2016 | 90 min

MON | AUG 14 | 9:00pm | VCT | PG 

Screening Sponsors: Downtown Vancouver BIA, OUTTV



Kumu Hina

In 2015, the short film *Kumu Hina: A Place in the Middle* screened as part of our Best of International Shorts program. **Kumu Hina**—the feature-length documentary—builds off of themes from the short: the Hawaiian concepts of *mahe* (gender fluidity and inclusion), and the vital importance of preserving indigenous knowledge and perspectives. Hinalemoana Wong-Kalu is a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) teacher, cultural practitioner, and community leader. She is a founding member of Kula Na Mamo, a community organization established for *mahe wahine* (transgender women), and has served for 13 years as the Director of Culture at a Honolulu public charter school to forward Hawaiian culture and history as tools for empowering the next generation of warrior scholars. This award-winning documentary follows Hina as an educator and an activist, and also offers an intimate look into her personal life as she builds a relationship with her new husband Hema Kalu.

Kumu Hina | Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson | USA | 2015 | 80 min

SAT | AUG 19 | 9:30pm | GCA | PG  

Spotlight Sponsor: Vancity



Maybe Tomorrow (Baka Bukas)

What happens when you fall in love with your best friend? Alex is a twenty-something creative professional in Manila juggling multiple jobs, while dealing with a recent breakup. She hasn't yet come out to her best friend—the "straightest straight girl she knows" Jess—an up and coming actress who she's had feelings for since childhood. Alex eventually lets Jess in on the truth, and the pair are driven to face their inner selves. Samantha Lee's directorial debut is as stylishly shot as the carefully curated social media feeds of the film's main characters. The winner of the Audience Choice Award at the Cinema One Originals Festival in Manila and with references that every millennial can relate to, **Maybe Tomorrow** is a tender and funny love story that quietly captures the time in your life you're expected to adult but still don't quite have it all figured out.

Maybe Tomorrow (Baka Bukas) | Samantha Lee | Philippines | 2016 | 83 min | English, Tagalog with English subtitles

Canadian Premiere

SAT | AUG 12 | 6:30pm | N | PG   WED | AUG 16 | 7pm | IV | PG 

Spotlight Sponsor: RBC

Screening Sponsors: Cineplex, Coast Coal Harbour Hotel by APA, DailyXtra.com, Delta Air Lines

The Migrant Mixtape

HELEM Montreal (an acronym for "Lebanese protection for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and trans individuals") is a grass-roots organization that provides support to queer refugees arriving from Arab countries. Director Eli Jean Tahchi positions a series of cassette-tape recordings sent to HELEM from Arab LGBT individuals; each tape is a letter, a request for support and asylum in Canada in order to escape persecution and homophobic violence. Tahchi's creative background spans fashion photography to experimental film, making **The Migrant Mixtape** as visually striking as it is critically engaging.

The Migrant Mixtape | Eli Jean Tahchi | Canada | 2017 | 22 min

In this autobiographical short doc, director Rama Luksiarto faces his past internalized homophobia as he reflects on his experience as a gay Asian man and immigrant.

Crossing Bridges | Rama Luksiarto | Canada | 2017 | 20 min

Crossing Bridges director Rama Luksiarto is joined by Rainer Oktoavianus and members of the Rainbow Refugee Committee in a post-film panel.

THU | AUG 17 | 7:00pm | GCA | PG 

This presentation is part of Migrant Voices, presented by: Carl Meadows and Les Dick

Screening Sponsors: Modo the Car Co-op



More Than T

In 2001, Silas Howard directed one of the first feature films with trans characters played by trans actors. This groundbreaking cinematic moment of trans talent onscreen and behind the camera was the multi-award-winning *By Hook or By Crook*. Since then, Howard has held unique space as one of the only trans directors (*Transparent*, *This is Us*) working in North America.

His latest documentary shines a spotlight on seven transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, all of whom are artists, activists, and groundbreakers in their own right. Deeply human and honest, **More Than T** veers from themes of isolation and violence commonly seen in trans documentaries and follows stories of triumph, healing, and belonging.

More Than T | Silas Howard | USA | 2017 | 60 min

Featuring Justin Vivian Bond, this music video captures the 1970s gay hustler scenes of pre-HIV/AIDS era on Polk St in San Francisco.

The Golden Age of Hustlers | Silas Howard | USA | 2014 | 5 min

SAT | AUG 19 | 7:30pm | GCA



Spotlight Partner: SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs

Play the Devil

The mountain beauty of Paramin village in Trinidad and Tobago, along with the pulsating rhythm of Carnival, serves as a backdrop to this story where aspirations and obsession collide. Headstrong eighteen-year-old Gregory is studying furiously to obtain a scholarship in medicine so he can one day provide for his family. Amidst academic and home pressures, Gregory manages to pursue creative passions: photography, dance, and theatre. It is during one of his enthralling stage performances that wealthy, married businessman James takes a keen interest in him.

This sophomore film from director Maria Govan shatters conventions of sexuality, privilege, and masculinity to tell a multi-layered coming-of-age story that is bound to leave you thinking. "The Caribbean, in general, is so misunderstood and clichéd, and yet there is so much history, diversity and complexity to our region," says Govan. Her directorial vision thus far has earned her awards at film festivals in Los Angeles, Nashville, and Woodstock.

Play the Devil | Maria Govan | Trinidad and Tobago, USA | 2016 | 89 min

MON | AUG 14 | 9:00pm | IV | PG 

Spotlight Sponsor: RBC

Screening Sponsors: Cineplex, DailyXtra.com





Project Gelb

Project Gelb

Often reduced to racist stereotypes like the model minority, kung fu master, or desexualized nerd, this documentary from Francis Luta features East, South East, and South Asian men from the greater Toronto area openly discussing struggles with both internal and external racism in the queer community and beyond. The ideal—muscular, masculine, and White—is implied when one interviewee points out the common disclaimer “no fatties, no femmes, no Asians” seen on gay dating apps. Project Gelb critically and frankly examines Asian masculinities and why it’s not simply “just a preference.”

Project Gelb | Francis Luta | Canada | 2014 | 43 min

Director in attendance

Project Gelb is preceded by the story of twelve queer and trans elders responding to ten questions about aging, visibility, and the social change they’ve been a part of. With responses that are inspiring, funny, and at times heartbreaking, this short doc engages with a diverse group that includes locals Pat Hogan, Bill Richardson, Bradford McIntyre, and Glenn Saunders.

Older than What? | Steen Sarr | Canada | 2017 | 13 min

FRI | AUG 18 | 7:30pm | GCA | PG



Screening Sponsor: Delta Air Lines



The Revival: Women and the Word

What happens when a group of Black queer poets and musicians pile in a tour van and set off across the USA?

Bahamas-born queer television and documentary filmmaker Sekiya Dorsett is more than familiar with giving issues of visibility and social justice a voice. Camera and creative authenticity in hand, Dorsett follows the touring artists from stage triumphs to fleeting flirtations with audience members, as well as the challenges they face surrounding gender, race and, sexuality. Insightful feature interviews with leading Black feminist and queer thinkers including Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs and Alexis De Veaux, offer this road-trip-meets-participatory documentary deeper intersectional contexts.

The Revival: Women and the Word | Sekiya Dorsett | USA | 2018 | 81 mins

Cast member Chai Freedom Ford in attendance, and will be guest reading from her new poetry collection, *how to get over*.

SAT | AUG 19 | 7pm | YT | 14A



Screening Sponsor: The Cutch



Seventeen (Siebzehn)

Monja Art's debut feature film dishes up a classic, yet remarkably unique love triangle. In small-town Austria, Paula secretly swoons over shy and gentle Charlotte during the final weeks of high school before summer break. Meanwhile, the school's mean girl, Lily, takes a very vocal and gossipy interest in Paula. Caught between an unobtainable crush on one hand and predator-like attention on the other, Paula explores her feelings and sexuality in brave and uncertain ways.

Beautifully shot, with a mix in intimate close ups and panoramic views, Monja Art took home the prestigious 2017 Max Ophüls Prize largely for cinematography. **Seventeen** undeniably shows the sexual openness, fast-paced, hopeful yearning of youth.

Seventeen (Siebzehn) | Monja Art | Austria | 2017 | 109 min | German and French with English subtitles

THU | AUG 17 | 9:00pm | IV



Spotlight Sponsor: RBC

Screening Sponsor: Cineplex

Signature Move

Pakistani Muslims, Lesbians, and Luchadora Wrestlers Have More in Common Than You Think. - No Film School

Premiering at this year's SXSW, **Signature Move** is an indie comedy-drama co-written and starring Fawzia Mirza as Zaynab, a queer second generation Pakistani woman living in Chicago. Zaynab's mother, delightfully played by Shabana Azmi (*Midnight's Children*, *Fire*), has moved in after becoming a widow and spends her days glued to the couch watching Pakistani soap operas and occasionally peering outside with binoculars scouting for husband "potentials" for her semi-closeted daughter. When Zaynab meets and falls for Alma, an out Chicana woman who has a very different relationship with her immigrant mother, Zaynab must literally grapple with her choices in life and love—and grapple with a few tough women wrestlers too. **Signature Move** explores the parallel experiences of hyphenated American communities of colour through clever dialogue, tender moments, wrestling, and romance.

Signature Move | Jennifer Reeder | USA | 2017 | 80 min

Writer and cast member Fawzia Mirza in attendance

FRI | AUG 11 | 7pm | GCA | PG

SAT | AUG 12 | 2pm | IV | PG

Screening Sponsor: DailyXtra.com, Scotiabank



Small Talk (Ri Chang Dui Hua)

The intimacy of autobiographical documentary is unequivocal. In director Hui-chen Huang's case, her mother-daughter documentary isn't only intimate, but it also breaks a taboo in her culture in its questioning of a mother's unconditional love. Anu (Hui-chen Huang's mother) married off at a young age—as was customary in Taiwan in the 1970s—and had two children. She quickly divorced her violent husband and brought up her daughters alone. Since then, Anu has become a Taoist priestess, and has had many, many relationships with women.

Throughout the documentary, the director attempts to better understand her mother through a series of long conversations about topics such as trust, abuse, and cognizance. Frequently these conversations end in painful silence, and yet even the silences reveal a deep yearning for closeness. Will this mother and daughter close the gap between them by the time the credits roll? **Small Talk** won the Teddy Award for Best Documentary at the 2017 Berlinale.

Small Talk (Ri Chang Dui Hua) | Hui-chen Huang | Taiwan | 2016 | 88 min | Taiwanese with English subtitles

SUN | AUG 13 | 9pm | GCA

Spotlight Sponsor: SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs

Screening Sponsor: Coast Coal Harbour Hotel by APA, IATSE Local 881



Stay Gold, March Forward

Stay Gold Man Up

What began 9 years ago as a drag king competition night at one of the last lesbian bars in Vancouver—the now closed Uok nightclub—has since turned into a monthly multi-gender drag spectacular and queer dance party in East Vancouver. Celebrating kings, queens, and everything in between, Man Up has grown to become indispensable in Vancouver's vibrant and diverse queer community, proving that drag is for everybody. **Stay Gold Man Up** features interviews with key figures, attendees, and performers alike. Man Up happens the last Friday of every month at the Cobalt.

Stay Gold Man Up | Ray McEathern | Canada | 2017 | 25 min

The March Sweater

Five celebratory stories are shared from local queer elders speaking on life, love, and the wisdom that comes from growing older. Presented in 5 parts: The Caretakers, The Healer, The Phoenix, The Queen, and the Nun, **The March Sweater** is a beautifully shot and quietly moving look at five diverse life experiences.

The March Sweater | Cory Ashworth | Canada | 2016 | 33 min

MON | AUG 14 | 7pm | VCT

Screening Sponsor: OUTtv, West End BIA





Taxi Stories

Doris Yeung's sophomore feature may be the most ambitious, nuanced film of the Festival. Filmed in three different countries, **Taxi Stories** tells the story of a closeted cab driver in Beijing, a trophy wife with her Indonesian maid in Hong Kong, and a young pedi-cab driver in Jakarta. In the making, Yeung wore three different hats—writer, director, and executive producer—to ensure her inquiry into the growing divide between the social and cultural classes in Asia was handled with integrity and vision. This career defining film is deeply personal to Yeung, who says, "My work often deals with cross cultural migrant stories of home, identity, family, and sexuality as I [myself] am a product of different cultures."

While **Taxi Stories** features 80% non-actors to give it a hyper-realistic feel, the film also boasts leading roles by renowned Hong Kong actress Petrina Fung Bo Bo and Indonesian pop star Shanty.

Taxi Stories | Doris Yeung | China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Netherlands | 2017 | 98 min | English, Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese with English subtitles

Director in attendance
Canadian Premiere

THU | AUG 17 | 9:00pm | GCA  SAT | AUG 19 | 4:30pm | GCA 

Sponsoring Sponsors: Be the Change Group Inc., Delta Air Lines, Scotiabank



The Troublemakers Film Project

Troublemakers 2.0

Double Trouble: Vancouver Queer Film Festival, Reel Youth, and Love Intersections teamed up for a matchmaking project pairing aspiring youth filmmakers and troublemaking seniors. The results of these fruitful unions are short documentaries profiling seniors whose work spans generations. Come celebrate these conspirators! Special thanks to Vancouver Foundation's Fresh Voices and Fostering Change programs.

Troublemakers: Javier Barajas, Natasha Barsotti, Josie Boyce, Roger Chin, Dave Decarlo, John Dub, Fatima Jaffer, Veronique Noelle, Keith Oberding, Kasey Reese
Youth: Heather Addison, Mohamed Ibrahim Ali, Desaraigh Byers, Kweegay Iwans, Ruby Liu, Drew Neil Lertz, Amar Mangat, Han Pham, Shanella Sharn, Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky, Pieta Rupia, Moe Yang

SUN | AUG 13 | 6:30pm | GCA 

Spotlight Partner: SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs

With Special Thanks To: Cadillac Fairview, Love Intersections, Reel Youth, SFU - School for the Contemporary Arts

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.
Ce projet est financé en partie par le gouvernement du Canada.



The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin

The latest from director Jennifer Kroot (*To Be Take*) celebrates the life of beloved storyteller Armistead Maupin, best known for his newspaper column-turned-novels, *Tales of the City*. Maupin's own life tales are lesser known and just as interesting as his fiction. He tells his story with the help of some friends (including Laura Linney, Sir Ian McKellen and Olympia Dukakis) to offer a disarmingly candid look at his journey from conservative upbringings in the south, serving multiple tours in the Vietnam War and later life in the Castro District of San Francisco. **The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin** weaves together the history of an iconic gay rights pioneer in a tender, lively, and at times laugh out loud hilarious fashion.

The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin | Jennifer Kroot | USA | 2017 | 90 mins

SAT | AUG 12 | 8:30pm | GCA



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Vivek Shraya is a Toronto-based storyteller, poet, musician, and filmmaker. This Festival marks her third visit to the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival** (previously screening *Seeking Single White Male*, 2010 and *What I LOVE about being QUEER*, 2011). We are honoured to invite her back to share her wider body of work with our Festival audience.

As a creator of prose and verse, Shraya's first book of poetry, *even this page is white*, won a 2017 Publisher Triangle Award and was longlisted for CBC's Canada Reads. Her debut novel, *She of the Mountains*, was named one of *The Globe and Mail's* Best Books, and her first children's picture book, *The Boy & the Bindi*, was featured on the *National Post* Bestseller List.

Her musical body of work includes seven albums, five EPs and three singles, including *Girl It's Your Time*, which scores this year's Festival trailer.

"**Vancouver Queer Film Festival** was one of the first film festivals to support my work when I was first beginning to explore filmmaking. This support was invaluable in building my confidence to keep making films," says Shraya. During her visit, we paired her up with other artists who work across genres and disciplines.

In the Picture

with Vivek Shraya and K. Ho

The photograph has an undeniable transformative power. Photos preserve our histories and memories, share knowledge, and evoke emotion. In the hands of queer and trans artists of colour, the photograph can also create visibility and authentic self-representation, and even interrupt the whiteness and heteronormativity that still dominates media and popular culture.



"I come with a 35 mm and an intersectional lens," says photographer K. Ho, whose goal is for every person to feel represented and seen in their images, and they strongly believe in the power of photography to tell stories that build connection across differences. K. Ho will be speaking to select images from their portfolio.

Vivek Shraya's acclaimed photo essay *Trisha* gained her international attention both on online art forums and in galleries. Though *Trisha* was hardly the first time Shraya employed the photograph to probe themes of family, culture, gender, and healing. For the first time, Shraya will present her photo-based body-of-work together in a 50 minute performance/talk.

K. Ho and Vivek Shraya conclude this program with an artist-in-conversation style Q&A.

SAT | AUG 12 | 5pm | GCA

Event Sponsor: **Modo the Car Co-op**

Girl It's Your Time

What is that alluring song that scores our Festival trailer, you ask? On her 35th birthday, Vivek Shraya begins using "she/her" pronouns; *Girl It's Your Time* is the song she wrote to mark the occasion. Find it on Bandcamp or iTunes.



Bring the kids, bring your inner kid, bring anyone who loves a heartfelt story—it's story hour! Hear three prominent queer, kid's lit authors—Monique Gray Smith, Alan Woo and Vivek Shraya—read while, page-by-page, their books appear on the big screen.

Monique Gray Smith is a mixed-heritage woman of Cree, Lakota, and Scottish ancestry and the author of four books, all of which focus on Indigenous relationships and emotional wisdom. *My Heart Fills with Happiness*—illustrated by Cree, Métis illustrator Julie Flett—won a 2016 BC Book Prize. Her new children's book *You Hold Me Up* is illustrated by Danielle Daniel and will be published by Orca Press this fall.

Alan Woo is the author of *Maggie's Chopsticks*, which won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature award at the BC Book Prizes 2013. He had previously worked as the gay men's outreach coordinator for the Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS and produced a monthly fundraiser event, Showtunes, at 1181. His new children's book, *Chinese Skip*, is due out from Kids Can Press in September of 2018.

Joining them is Vivek Shraya with her book *The Boy & The Bindi*, about a boy who discovers that wearing a bindi allows him to joyfully explore and express his difference. Illustrated by Rajni Perera.

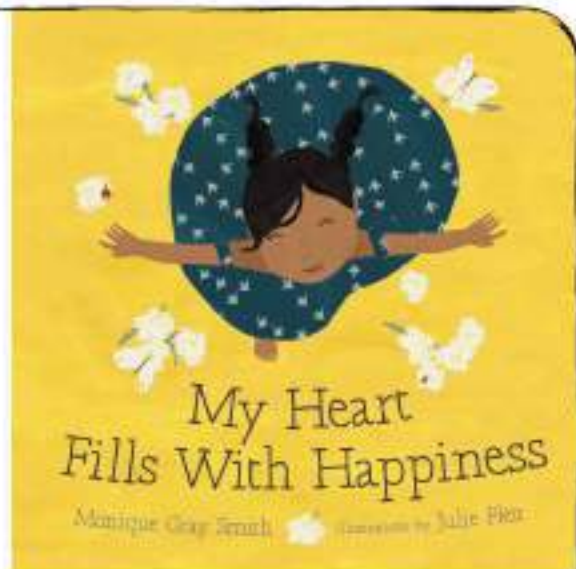
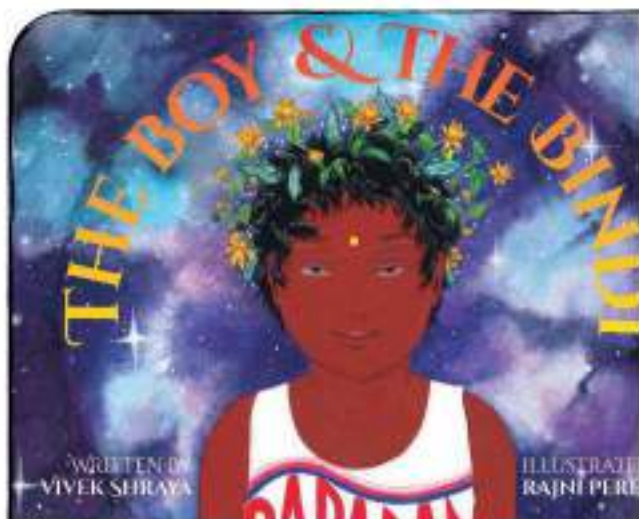
After Chosen Family Story Hour, head over to Granville Island Water Park – Sutcliffe Park for an all-ages family picnic and play date (p.27).


SUN | AUG 13 | 330pm | WFT

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Steve Adams and Sean Horlor direct, produce, and write together. They are a gay couple from Vancouver and are self-taught filmmakers. They're also from smaller communities in British Columbia and had little exposure to LGBTQ+ stories growing up in the 80s and 90s. They like to create stories where LGBTQ+ characters are complicated and multifaceted and human.



Cory Ashworth is the co-host of Janice and Cory on Roundhouse Radio 88.3. Previously an announcer on The PEAK, Cory is also co-host of Rain City Chronicles, co-creator of A Good Book Drive for children in Vancouver, and founder of AYAM Civic Society, which produced the **The March Sweater Project** in support of Vancouver's aging LGBTQ2+ population.



Ian Barbour and Daron Heroux produce documentaries with Radar Nine Films. For the past 10 years they've worked almost exclusively by themselves, trading roles of producer, director, camera operator, sound recordist, editor, and other facets of documentary production. They are able to create real relationships with their subjects, and this proximity is reflected in the intimacy of their work.



Joella Cabatu is a Filipino-Canadian Vancouver-based filmmaker with an Art History degree from the University of British Columbia (2008) and a graduate of the Documentary Film Production Program at Langara College (2013). In 2015, Cabatu delivered her first broadcast documentary *It Runs in the Family*, which won last year's OUTtv People's Choice Award for Best Feature.



Britney Dennison is the Research Advisor for Men's Health Research where she coordinates the social media and communications. She is also the deputy director of the Global Reporting Centre where she specializes in mental health reporting and international journalism. Her work has appeared in the *Toronto Star*, *The Tyee*, *CTV*, *Al Jazeera*, and more.



Joshua M. Ferguson and Florian Halbedl have produced and directed the award-winning *Whispers of Life* (2013) and *Limina* (2016). In addition to *Henry's Heart* (shooting fall of 2017), they are developing a short-length documentary and a feature-length fiction film. They are based in Vancouver.



Kay (K) Ho is a queer, non-binary artist of colour. They are a photographer, writer, and facilitator. In their body of work, K focuses on the joy, struggle, and tenderness of living in intersectional margins. These days, they are especially curious to take part in conversations around transgression, whiteness, and unbelonging. K currently lives in unceded Coast Salish territories.



Jason Korman is a graduate student in Film Production and Creative Writing at UBC. His short films have screened at festivals in Brazil, Hong Kong, Australia, across Europe, the United States, and Canada. He received the Gerry Brunet Memorial Award at Vancouver Queer Film Festival in 2011. In 2015, he was the recipient of the Jury Choice Award at Reel Pride Winnipeg.



Nancy Lee is a curator of interactions. An avid filmmaker, Nancy has worked as a documentarian, music video director, and experimental film director. Commissioned by Festival of Recorded Movement for their 2016 program, Nancy directed and premiered dance film **Faux Solo** in collaboration with Ralph Escamilla.



Rama Luksiarto is a designer with over six years of experience working with non-profit and social cause projects. He recently graduated from the Master of Arts in Media Production program at Ryerson University in 2016 where he directed and produced his first documentary **Crossing Bridges**.



Measuring in at a height of six feet seven inches tall, Jeremy Lutter understands the benefit of standing out in a crowd. Lutter's work is known for intimate narratives with an element of fantasy. His filmography has brought to life a robot best friend, a vicious changeling, and a monster brother to name a few.



Ray McEachern is a queer non-binary trans artist working and living on Coast Salish Territories. What has always been consistent in Ray's art is their fascination with the diversity of human expression and experience. Their personal photo and video work focuses on exploring and documenting local gender variant culture and queer identity.



Narges Mohebbi was born in Tehran, Iran. She became interested in cinema as a story teller in her twenties when she noticed her life as a refugee traveler played an important role in enhancing her experiences in her personal life and artistic life.



David Ng and Jen Sungshina, co-founders of Love Intersections, are artist-activists who provoke the question: how do we all love? Bringing to art and life the intersecting dimensions of queerness, racial/cultural identity, disability, family, and love to the screen, their work has screened in 30 film festivals across the world. They insist on leading with fearless empathy and critical curiosity.



Linnea Ritland is a full-time student in the UBC Film Production Program and part-time lover of bread. She once saw some comedy and was like, "wow, that brought me so much joy! I should try writing some." And that's when the joy turned to suffering. She hopes it will transcend back to joy when you see **Violet and June**.



Milena Salazar's work as a documentary director, editor or cinematographer has screened at festivals, online, broadcast, and on Air Canada in-flight entertainment systems. In 2016, she was selected as 1 of 8 emerging filmmakers from across Canada to participate in the Hot Docs documentary channel Doc Accelerator Program.



t'ai freedom ford is a New York City high school English teacher, Cave Canem Fellow and Pushcart Prize nominee. She received her MFA in Fiction from Brooklyn College. Her work has been widely published and anthologized, including in *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*. In 2012 and 2013, she completed two multi-city tours as a part of a queer women of colour literary salon, *The Revival*. In 2014, she was the winner of *The Feminist Wire's* inaugural poetry contest judged by Eve Shockey and is a 2015 Center for Fiction Fellow. Her first poetry collection, *How to get over*, was published with Red Hen Press, Spring 2017.



Francis Luta is an emerging Canadian filmmaker with works ranging from fiction to non-fiction. To date, he's directed seventeen short films, and his debut feature *"Alone Across the Arctic"* currently in post-production. With a background in fine arts and graphic design, Francis Luta has exhibited art works in Berlin, Germany and Toronto, Canada. Shows include Toronto International Art Fair, Berliner Kunstsalon and Preview Berlin.



Jac Gare is a New York-based filmmaker. **FREE CeCe!** is her directorial debut documentary feature film. For five years, Jac served as producer and supervising producer of *in the Life* on public television; her work garnered awards from NGLJA, GLAAD, and Webby's. She produced specials and documentaries for the History Channel, Food Network, USA Networks, and PBS's premiere non-fiction film showcase, *POV/The American Documentary*. Gare has a BA in English Literature from Rutgers University and an MA in Media Studies from The New School. Jacqueline has been named *Go Magazine's* 100 Women We Love.



Doris Young was raised in Hong Kong and California. She has written and directed films in China, Europe, and the US and has studied at the University of California, Los Angeles, American Film Institute, and Beijing Film Academy with degrees in Art History and Directing. Her first feature film, *Motherland* (2009) was named one of the 10 best Asian American Films of 2009 by Asian Pacific Arts Magazine. She was named "filmmaker to watch" by the *Hollywood Reporter*. She has resided and worked in Amsterdam since 2002 and founded the *CinemAsia Film Festival*, Netherlands.



Samantha Lee is a filmmaker from the Philippines. Her recently completed film **Maybe Tomorrow (Baka Bukas)** won the Audience Choice Award in the recently concluded Cinema One Originals Festival in Manila. She has done a variety of freelance commercial work both in the Philippines and in Australia, where she completed her Master of Communication at RMIT University. She currently works as the Multimedia Editor for CNN Philippines Life.



Fawzia Mirza is a Pakistani-Canadian film and television actress, writer, producer, and comedian. She is known for her works such as web series *Kim Kardashian* and the feature comedy **Signature Move**. She uses performance, personal storytelling & comedy to break down stereotypes across a multiplicity of identities: race, religion, sexual orientation, gender and defies the concept of the "model minority."



Steen Starr is a writer, playwright, performer, and filmmaker based in Toronto, Canada. Her work for theatre has been produced across Canada and in the US and her writing has been included in a number of Canadian and international anthologies. **Older Than What?** is Starr's second short film. Her first, *Putting the "T" in Trans* circulated to film festivals worldwide and won the Audience Award as Best GenderBender Short at the Hamburg International Queer Film Festival.



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A mixed-race Tanh-Ting songwriter and composer, Edzu mesmerizes audiences with her sultry harmonic vocal loops, modal changes, and electronic audio-exploration. Her sound has evolved into mixing electronic with acoustic writing, and sampling audio from many generations of her grandmothers' recorded stories. Edzu is writing, destroying, and re-writing an EP.



Monique Gray Smith is a mixed-heritage woman of Cree, Lakota, and Scottish ancestry and a proud mom of twins. Monique is an accomplished consultant, writer, and international speaker. Her first novel, *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience*, won the 2014 Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature.



Sarah Hunt is a Kwagw'it (Kwakwaka'wakw) scholar, a Two-Spirit activist and lazy femme. She has long worked in collaboration with Indigenous communities to address diverse issues related to justice, health, gender, and sexuality. Sarah is assistant professor in the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies at UBC.



Samantha Nock is a Cree-Métis poet and writer from Dawson Creek, BC. Her family originates from Sakitawak or le-a-la-Croix, Saskatchewan. She has been published in GUTS Magazine, Red Rising Magazine, Shameless Magazine, and Mamaschomowak: Lit, Crit, and Art Literary Journal. She cares about radical decolonization, coffee, corgis, and her two cats, Betty and Jughead. You can find her tweeting at @sammymaria.



Rume Ordas is a performer of mixed heritage from the Mowak Nation and is a founding member of the all-Aboriginal burlesque troupe Virago Nation.



Ockishimaasizi (Sophie Bender Johnston) is an Anishinaabe-kwe, marten clan, and a member of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. As an uninvited guest in Coast Salish homelands, she holds a Bachelors of Arts from UBC in Creative Writing and Indigenous Studies. Sophie is a doula and student midwife at Ryerson University.



Shane Sable is a Two-Spirit Gílxan artist of mixed heritage. Since her 2011 burlesque debut, Shane has played stages all over Vancouver in front of and behind the scenes. Shane is the convening member of Virago Nation - North America's first all-Indigenous burlesque collective.



Alan Woo is the author of *Maggie's Chopsticks*, which won the Children's Literature Award at the BC Book Prize 2013. He has worked as the gay men's outreach coordinator for the Asian Society for the Intervention of ADO and produced a monthly Showunes event at 1181, fundraising for community organizations. His book, *Chinese Skip*, is due out from Kids Can Press in September of 2018.



Jillian Christmas serves as Artistic Director of Verses Festival of Words and as the Master of Vancouver Poetry Slam. Jillian's past titles include Vancouver Poetry Slam Champion (2012, 2014) and Vancouver Women of the World representative (2013, 2014, 2015).



Jen Sookfong Lee is a Canadian broadcaster, novelist, and radio personality for CBC Radio One. She is the author of *The Conjoined*, *The Better Mother*, *Shelter*, and *The End of East*. *Gentlemen of the Shade* was launched this summer on ECW press.



DJ O Show brings 8+ years of experience to the industry. She has dedicated herself to music, chiseling out her niche as a Two-Spitted DJ. DJ O Show is also The Head instructor at the School of Remix, teaching students to pursue their dream of becoming a DJ. In addition to DJ'ing, she is an inspirational speaker, traveling across the country to bring ambition and drive to youth.



Maiden Chins had her drag debut on the 1181 stage at Peach Cobbler's Shame Spiral in 2016. Daughter of Shay Dior, her drag burns with the fire of intersectional feminist politics and draws inspiration from Classical Chinese Theatre and queer androgyny. Love and Liberation is her performance mandate. Maiden was the first runner up of Mr/Ms Cobalt 2017, and is part of the Man Up family.



Si Sityadawks - Woman who creates change (Jessica Wood) is a Gílxan/Tsimenian multi-disciplinary artist whose background in traditional northwest coast art is the foundation for her contemporary work as a photographer, filmmaker, and activist. Her work focuses on topics related to Indigenous women, gendered violence, queer identity, and sex work. She is a main contributor to the blog Tee & Bamock.



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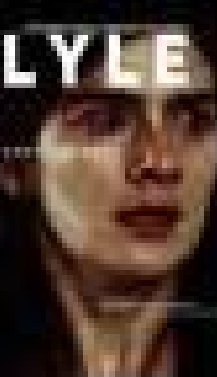
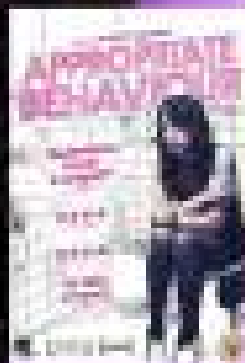
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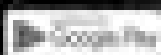
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