

**UNCEDED COAST SALISH TERRITORIES** 





QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA

**#VQFF2019** 





# The power of film is that it can change an attitude or inspire you.

That's why we're helping to make sure these LGBT2Q+ stories get told and are proud to be the Presenting Sponsor of the **2019 Vancouver Queer Film Festival**, where people can come together and make a difference.

Join us August 15 to August 25, 2019.



The Vancouver Out On Screen Film and Video Society is an organization historically steered by non-Indigenous people operating on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the xwmə\textit{0}kwəy\textit{2}m (Musqueam), Skwxw\u00e47mesh (Squamish), and Sə\\u00e4\u00e4liw\u00e4ta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. As an organization that travels throughout BC, we are also guests on the lands of many other First Nations. Out On Screen recognizes the governance authority of these Nations for their territories, and seeks to abide by their protocols and laws.

We endeavour to be in right relations with Indigenous people of these lands and recognize that we have much to learn and a responsibility to share our collective histories.



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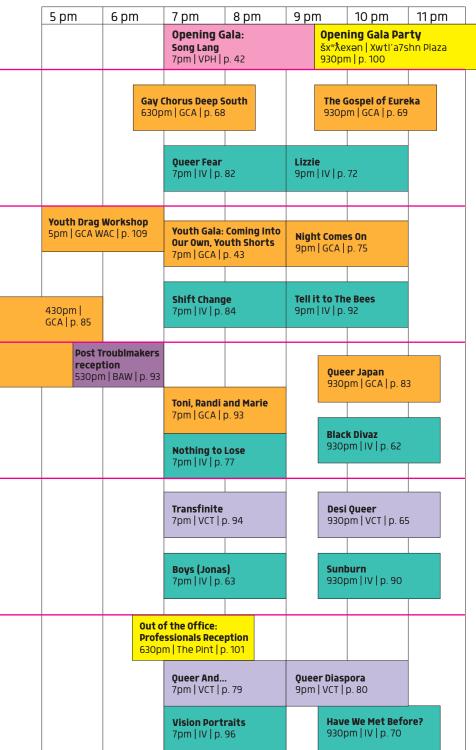
#### **Venues**

SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts GCA SFU's Goldcorp World Arts Centre GCA WAC Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas IV VCT VIFF Vancity Theatre Vancouver Playhouse VPH York Theatre ΥT **PARTY VENUES** Page 8 for details BAW Bean Around the World SUM SUM Gallery

#### **Informative Symbols**

CC	Closed Captioning
<b>É</b> g	ASL Interpretation
y	Where we expect films will be rated for youth, we have placed this symbol. See <b>queerfilmfestival.ca</b> for specific ratings.
FL	Flashing lights
EV	Explicit violence
SV	Sexual violence

	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	
Thursday 15							
Friday 16							
	Queer the CBC Workshop 11am   GCA WAC   p. 108						
Saturday 17			Collaborative Documentary w/ Love Inte 1pm   GCA WA	y Filmmaking rsections			
				Billie & Emn 2pm   GCA	<b>1a</b> p. 61		Sidney + Friends
Sunday 18	QTBIPOC Futures w/ Kalik 11am   GCA WAC   p. 110					Troublemakers 4pm   GCA   p 95	
			Queer Film Co Workshop 1pm   GCA WA				
				No Box for I Intersex Sto 2pm   GCA	ory		
				Intersex Sto	ory		
Monday 19				Intersex Sto	ory		
Monday 19				Intersex Sto	ory		
Monday 19				Intersex Sto	ory		
Monday 19 Tuesday 20				Intersex Sto	ory		



	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	
Wednesday 21							
Thursday 22							
Friday 23						Welcome to Clown Town	<b>→</b>
Saturday 24			Queer Family 1pm   GCA   p. 81				
						Our Dance of Revolution	
Sunday 25			running, ru trees go by 1pm   SUM	<b>nning</b>  p. 104			

5 pm		6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	9 pn	1	10 pm	11 pm	
	ontro	niece Deel							
Centrepiece Reel Patron Reception 530pm   VPH   p.100		Centrepiece Gala: José 7pm   VPH   p. 44		Post Centrepiece Reception 930pm   BAW   p. 44			ļ		
			Song Lang ( 7pm   IV   p.				eather m   IV   p. 74		
			The Coast is	<b>Queer</b> 64		Jules 930p	<b>of Light and</b> I m   YT   p. 71	Dark	
			Solace 7pm IV p.	88		<b>José</b> 930p	(repeat) m   IV   p. 44		
4pm   G p.110	CA		Socrates 7pm GCA p	o. 87	<b>Silva</b> 9pm	<b>na</b>   GCA	p. 86		
						1			
			<b>all our relat</b> 7pm   YT   p.		The T 9pm	YT   p.	91		
			an evening or performance 7pm   GCA W		post		performance eception p. 103		
4pm   G( p.78	CA		<b>The Spark</b> 7pm   GCA	The Marriage 7pm   GCA   p. 73					
			<b>The Garde</b> n 7pm   YT   p	<b>Left Behind</b> . 67			<b>Bones</b> om   YT   p. 66		
			Closing Gal An Almost Or 7pm   VPH   p	dinary Summ	er	The .	ing Gala Par Junction m   p. 101	ty	

#### Festival theatres

#### Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas

Address: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 88 W Pender St

Parking: underground, free while seeing a film

Entrance: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, via elevator

Wheelchair: 4-6 spaces

Washrooms: accessible, 2nd floor

#### SFU's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts Djavid Mowafaghian Theatre World Arts Centre

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

#### **York Theatre**

Address: 639 Commercial Dr

Parking: street parking, metered and free

Entrance: street level Wheelchair: 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

#### Festival party venues

#### šxʷλ̇̀exən | Xwti′a7shn Plaza

Address: 695 Cambie St

Parking: metered street and paid lots Entrance: curb cut at drop-off on Hamilton,

street level ramp

Wheelchair: fully accessible Washrooms: fully accessible

(via Queen Elizabeth Theatre lobby)

#### The Junction Pub

Address: 1138 Davie St

Parking: metered street and paid lots

Entrance: street ramp Wheelchair: fully accessible Washrooms: full accessible

#### The Pint

Address: 455 Abbott St @ W Pender St Parking: Impark Lot 2215, across the street

Entrance: Ground level Wheelchair: Accessible Washrooms: Accessible

#### Festival hangout & gallery

#### Bean Around the World

Address: 175 W Hastings St @ Cambie St Parking: metered street and paid lots Entrance: street level, no powered doors

Wheelchair: fully accessible Washrooms: fully accessible

#### **SUM Gallery**

Address: Suite 425 - 268 Keefer St Parking: metered street and paid lots Entrance: 4<sup>th</sup> floor, via elevator

Wheelchair: fully accessible Washrooms: fully accessible



#### Accessibility

### Our commitment to a more accessible Festival

We're proud to continue our 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 and memberships to local community groups for individuals who face financial and other barriers to attending.

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.

#### 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 or call 604 953 3680

#### Let's be friends

Stay informed for the latest Festival updates! Subscribe to our eNewsletter, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or visit our website.

**#VQFF2019** 



VancouverQFF



queerfilmfestival.ca





@queerfilmfest



#### Ticket information

#### Single ticket pricing

#### Regular & gala films

Standard \$14

Access \$10

#### Where to buy

#### Online

queerfilmfestival.ca

#### Little Sister's

1238 Davie St | JUL 8 - JUL 28 & AUG 6 - 9 Daily: 9am-11pm | Wheelchair accessible Cash or Debit | Service charges apply

#### **VOFF** street team

Look for our Festival Street Team at various community events, like the Dyke March and Sunset Beach Festival. 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. For that day and venue only. For future screenings, please call the box office.

#### 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.

#### Ticket pack pricing

Regular Six Pack

Standard \$70

Access \$50

#### Youth Six Pack \$40

(17 yrs & under, valid for youth-rated films only)

#### Where to buy

#### Online only

queerfilmfestival.ca Six tickets for you to use any way you want, subject to availability.

#### **Memberships**

To see any films presented at the VQFF, you must become a member of the Vancouver Out On Screen Film and Video Society. The Festival presents films in compliance with the Motion Picture Act and Consumer Protection BC. 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 \$2 (17 yrs & under, valid for youth-rated films only)

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

2019 membership grants access to post-film parties (19+ only). Our 2019 membership draw gives you a chance to win a 2020 Festival Pass or two Six Packs. Adult members are entitled to attend and vote at our AGM.

#### Access pricing

Reduced prices are available for students, seniors, and anyone with financial barriers. 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?

We might still have a few tickets to sell just before show time. Join the Hope Line and you may be in luck.

#### Mobile/print-at-home

Skip the Will Call line and receive your tickets on your mobile device or print your tickets from home. Forgot your phone? Visit the venue box office and they will print your tickets for you.

#### **Refunds and 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!

#### **Super Pass pricing**

Early-bird sales: JUL 5 - JUL 20 \$140

Regular pass \$175

Access pass \$145

A **Super Pass** gives you access to all films and galas with front-of-line privileges, membership, and access to select events and parties. 19+ only, photo ID required.

#### Where to buy.

#### 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 Passholder Table). A generous allotment of seats 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?**

Contact the Box Office

778 951 VQFF (8733)

or boxoffice@outscreen.com



#### **Coast Salish Two Spirit Symbol**



Mack Paul (x"məθk"əÿəm) developed the Coast Salish Two Spirit symbol as a visual representation of Coast Salish Two Spirit unity, dignity and respect.

The design was created using traditional Coast Salish art style and shapes, and emulates the rainbow Pride symbol already used by our LGBTQ+ friends and allies.

**Red** represents Fire

Orange represents Vision or Visibility for Two Spirit People

Yellow is the Sun

**Green** shows the Land, where our Identity comes from

**Blue** represents Water

**Purple** depicts the məθk"əỷ plant (which grows on the land where Mack is from), but it also represents the Ecosystem in our different Coast Salish territories

The rainbow design is cradled in Coast Salish cloud formations.

This symbol was offered to all our relative Coast Salish Nations to use for their own programming, out of love and in honour of all our Two Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQ+ community members and relations.

#### **Festival Welcome**



?a: si:ýém nə siyéyə, ?əmi ce:p kwətxwiləm ?i ?ə tə na šxwməθkwəyəma?t təməxw, tə šxw?aməts tə shənqəminəmqən. ?i? sqwxwaməx ?i? səfilwəta?t.

Honoured friends and relatives

Welcome to the ancestral territory of the həṅḍəmiṅəṁ speaking Musqueam people, and also the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh.

On behalf of Musqueam Nation, we want to express our gratitude to the organizers and all the many helpers who worked to offer the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival. It is truly wonderful to witness the showcase of so many talented and diverse film makers and entertainers at the Festival again this year. It is also inspiring and uplifting to take a small step back and observe all that these events contribute to increase voice, visibility, and celebration of our LGBTO+ friends and Two Spirit relatives.

In Musqueam community, we are in process of reclaiming our ancestral language to describe and include Two Spirit identity and experience, our Two Spirit cultural traditions and practices, and our responsibilities and places in family and community as Two Spirit People. It is such an honour to do some this work in collaboration with good friends, like the ones we have met at Out On Screen.

We wish you a fabulous and successful Festival this year, and many more celebrations and achievements in the years to come.

#### **Mack Paul**

Protocol Officer

#### **Corrina Sparrow**

Social Development Manager

Musqueam Nation



I would like to extend my warm wishes to Vancouver Queer Film Festival as they host their 31st annual Queer film celebration this year.

The Vancouver Queer Film Festival is dedicated to showcasing Queer lives on film and helping to bring the community together in support of Queer arts and culture. The festival aims to shed a light not only on the accomplishments of Queer artists and creators but also the struggles they still face throughout the world.

I commend the organizers and creators of Vancouver Queer Film Festival for celebrating Queer lives through film and continuing to amplify the voices of those within the Queer community. We must continue to strongly advocate for LGBTQ2+ persons and defend their rights here and around the world.

Enjoy the Festival!

Sincerely,

00000

Honourable Hedy Fry, P.C.

Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre



Welcome to the 2019 Vancouver Oueer Film Festival!

Canada's diversity, reflected in our vibrant arts and culture, is a source of strength and pride. For more than three decades, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival has harnessed the power of the arts to shine a light on the LGBTQ2 community as well as its stories, people, history and challenges in Canada and beyond. It continues to give emerging and established filmmakers a chance to share their vision, inspiration and talent.

Our government knows how important festivals like this are in bringing people together and encouraging inclusion, as well as celebrating the diverse experiences of Canadians. That is why we are proud to support this event, which helps combat homophobia, transphobia and racism, and fosters dialogue both within and across communities.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism, I would like to thank all the dedicated organizers, talented filmmakers and hard-working volunteers who made this year's festival possible. Enjoy the films!



The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism Ministre du Patrimoine Canadien et du Multiculturalisme

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I'm pleased to welcome everyone attending the 2019 Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

The VQFF presents fantastic opportunities to appreciate a spectrum of queer and trans inclusive cinema by Canadian and international filmmakers. Film is a powerful form of artistic expression that connects and inspires us, and showcasing the experiences of all genders, sexual orientations and backgrounds ensures a more vibrant, diverse, and welcoming BC for everyone.

Each year, Out On Screen's dedicated staff, board and volunteers work hard to unite and enlighten our communities through film. Over three decades of celebrating LGBTQ2S+ stories is an incredible contribution to the culture and vitality of our province, and you all have my thanks for your continued support of this festival.

I have no doubt that audiences can expect a fantastic season of captivating screenings, dynamic panels, and lively festivities. Please, enjoy the fun!



Honourable John Horgan Premier of British Columbia

On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my warmest greetings to the 31st annual Vancouver Oueer 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 culture. The VQFF's celebration of queer lives and its inclusion of stories from trans people, queer people of colour, and Indigenous people brings much needed attention to these voices and stories.

The City of Vancouver is committed to the work of enhancing access and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit and queer communities to fully participate in City services and civic life. Vancouver is proud of the diversity that thrives in our community, and our city is tremendously enriched by the economic, cultural, and social contributions of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents.

As Mayor, I would like to thank all the filmmakers, entertainers, festival organizers, and volunteers who contribute to the success of this unique and important festival.

Sincerely.

Kennedy Stewart Mayor of Vancouver





## Join us at #VQFF2019. See for yourself. Be transformed by film and community.

31 years ago the Vancouver Queer Film Festival came together to showcase LGBT2Q+ stories and films not screened anywhere else and to create an uniquely queer space for us to gather and celebrate each other. Much has changed since 1989—there are now more Hollywood films with queer content, but they have yet to capture the full spectrum of our communities. The unique role of the VQFF remains just as critical now as it did three decades ago.

As Out On Screen's new Board Chair, it is my honour to lead an organization whose purpose is the advancement and celebration of queer, trans, and two spirit lives through film, education, and dialogue.

Stories have the power to open hearts and change lives. In a time of rising homophobia, transphobia, racism, and xenophobia, telling our stories is an act of love, resistance, and liberation. Out On Screen continues our mission to showcase our lives and our stories through the power of film, celebration, education, and community building to uplift narratives that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of all LGBT2O+ communities.

This year's Festival films feature something for everyone. Come watch a Mr. Leather competition or the inaugural Miss First Nation drag queen contest or a story where love, faith, and civil rights collide with gospel music. See for yourself at the Festival and be entertained.

As Out On Screen looks to our future, may we continue to grow in love, power, and joy.

Catherine Wong Board Chair she/her



#### Welcome to the 31st Vancouver Queer Film Festival!

The theme this year is **See for yourself**. It is an invitation, an enticement, a provocation, and a flirtation to give yourself over to the beauty and complexity of gueer film.

See for yourself what makes queer film so special. We choose queer films for their artistic value that bring together diverse audiences for a shared experience leading to unexpected and stimulating conversations. We centre films we believe will enrich your lives, bring you together—closer to each other. The films are purposely diverse in their stories, their identities, and their genres. We invite you to take a risk on a film you wouldn't normally see, talk to someone new in the theatre, be open to new relationships that come from eye-opening experiences. Diversity in filmmaking and storytelling is the future of queer film. We invite you to laugh and cry along with us in the theatre as we explore the queer cultural landscape through film over the next 30 years.

The VQFF is about more than film and art. The Festival holds dear Out On Screen's values of fun and celebration. Celebration of LGBT2Q+ stories, bodies, and communities affirms our existence, our strengths, and the ties that unite us as a community of communities. This means parties, laughing outrageously with new friends in the theatre, and witnessing others transform when they are affirmed. And of course, it also means drag queens. Fall into the uniquely queer space the VQFF creates. Experience for yourself the liberation that comes with affirmation and belonging through the simple act of having a communal experience.

This Festival is all for you. Come. See for yourself.

Stephanie Goodwin Executive Director she/her



Welcome to the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival! The queer filmmakers of our 2019 program are taking aesthetic and narrative risks—creating art that will take you into new queer territories. Dip your toe into unfamiliar waters and be surprised, delighted and moved by the subversive, playful, heartrending queer stories in the spotlight at the VQFF.

**projecting brilliance:** a **two-spirit showcase** (p. 50), curated in collaboration with my brilliant colleague Justin Ducharme, features films and interdisciplinary performances from two spirit/indigiqueer artists who delve into the depths of their lived experiences to tell stories rooted in ancestral and contemporary practices and relationships. In **Coming Into Our Own** (p. 51), queer and trans youth show us how brilliant and brave they are, rising to the challenges that come their way with compassion, intelligence and humour. The films in **Queer Kinship** (p. 52) convey the heartbreak, frustration and tenderness of our relationships with our families of origin and chosen kin. And **A Higher Power** (p. 53) explores our connection to the ephemeral, mysterious powers around us, whether it be through faith, ceremony or artistic communion.

As our stories become more palatable to the mainstream, independent queer film festivals face a unique challenge to remain relevant and representative. Why come to the Festival when we could stream content from the safety and comfort of home? Because there is power in gathering, of sharing an emotional experience together as queer people. That's something you can't get from the LGBT section on Netflix, or even at a screening in a chain theatre. When we sit with each other, we collaborate in an ecstatic collective experience of laughter, outrage or tears, and a view into fully realized worlds. We get to show up for each other; and that is something we are going to need to commit to in a world that does everything in its power to maintain systems that are built to keep us isolated, exhausted, disconnected.

I am grateful for this revolutionary moment in queer representation in film, and know there are many queer years ahead of us, to make the world all the more beautiful and dangerous with our stories. We need to continue to be what makes this world interesting, confusing, exciting, I'm so excited to see what new queer worlds we can build together.

Remain curious and come see for yourself,

Anoushka Ratnarajah Artistic Director she/her



#### A letter to queer Indigenous festival goers,

There comes a time in programming my aspects of this festival that I think about how my younger self would feel knowing that these artists existed. Depending on your surroundings growing up (mine were rural) it can feel rare to see positive examples of queer Indigenous existence in real life, let alone on screen. My work in programming **projecting brilliance: a two spirit showcase** (p. 50) stemmed from a simple idea—to give that younger self in all of us what we so desperately craved as young indigiqueers... a hope for the future.

In all our relations: explorations of indigiqueer kinship (p. 60), we give screen time to explore the relationships that hold us up and remind us of the importance that these figures bring to our lives. Whether it's the tender relationship with an understanding mother in **Stage Name**: **Victoria** (p. 60) to the complexity and awkwardness that comes with first time chosen family bonding in **Mino Bimaadiziwin...** (p. 60) this program highlights the contrast of these relations and how they affect our ability to exist. Explore the brilliance of visiting artists Anthony Hudson and Beric Manywounds with **an evening of queer indigenous performance** (p. 102); individually these multi-disciplinary performances explore the ancestral tradition of storytelling using a mix of live performance and film while interrogating intersections of queerness and indigeneity in modern settler society.

I often think back to the first time I saw myself accurately represented on screen in director Adam Garnet Jones' *Fire Song.* That film felt like a personal gift from Adam to me and in many ways it probably was, as I feel like he too was once that young, movie obsessed, indigiqueer desperately trying to find a story on screen that felt familiar. After I saw that film, I walked with my head a little higher... I found comfort in knowing that I was not the only gay ndn in the world that was feeling this way, and that those feelings were valid. So for the 31st Vancouver Queer Film Festival, I invite you all to come and see for yourself... the brilliance and infinity that we as queer indigenous people are and always will be.

Thank you, Miigwetch,

Justin Ducharme Festival Programmer he/him/his

#### Recognizing leadership: James Ong

It is with much love (and sadness) that we recognize James Ong's departure from Out On Screen's Board of Directors.

James championed illuminating and celebrating queer lives and grew the organization by leaps and bounds over his 16 year tenure on the Board. His calm leadership, his ability to hold space for difficult conversations, and his skillfulness at building consensus is matched by his generosity of spirit, kindness and a unique empathy.

James' Out On Screen journey began 20 years ago as a Festival Venue Coordinator, then as Box Office Coordinator, then as a board member in 2003. Three years later he became the Board Chair, a volunteer role that he held in a remarkable way for 13 years.

James' compassion, intelligence and love for the organization and LGBT2Q+ communities that he expresses through his service is a shining example of the best of Out On Screen.

He has supported us all to change lives by telling stories. Thank you James for making the world a better place for LGBT2Q+ people.



#### Staff

Stephanie Goodwin, Executive Director

Brandon Yan

Deputy Executive Director

Anoushka Ratnarajah, Artistic Director

Justin Ducharme

Festival Program Coordinator

Sam Snobelen.

Development Director

Naheed Jadavji,

Engagement Officer Harriet Midgley.

Marketing Manager Gavin Somers.

Out In Schools Program

Manager

Miranda Rutty,

Out In Schools Program Coordinator

Alysha Haugen,

Operations Coordinator

Jessica Somers, and the team at Cordova Street Consulting,

Bookkeeper

Morgan Switzer, Community Events

Coordinator

Ervin Wona.

Marketing & Sponsorship Coordinator

Holden Wall

Volunteer Coordinator

Marlio Herrera Lira. Box Office Coordinator

Yuko Fedrau Box Office Assistant

Jessica Han.

Technical Director Jamie Rokovetsky,

Technical Coordinator Ciara O'Donnell.

Festival Technician

Rick Clark.

Graphic Designer

#### **Board of Directors**

Catherine Wong,

Chair

Lori MacIntosh

Vice Chair

Michelle Wilson,

Secretary

Rudolph Korompis,

Treasurer Chad Clark.

Development Liaison

Gerhard Maynard,

Board Liaison

Melanie Matining

Aimee Beauchamp Christopher Hallamore

#### **Festival Dublicists**

Helen Yagi and Andrew Poon

#### Programming Committee

Roger Blenman Mono Brown

Colt Darling

Alex Grove Ed Lee

Al MacKav

Harley Morrow

**Umair Parvez** 

Steven Porter Edward Rea

Bran Schaffer

Sebastiane Seggie

Lazarus Shaak

Brigitte Slaughter

Neelam Swann

#### Staff Photography

Ray McEachern

#### **Copy Editors**

Al MacKay

#### Consultants and Mentors

Aftab Frfan

Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales

Manning Elliott Suzanne Hawkes

Isabelle Swiderski, Seven25

#### Office Support

Rosy Deol

Anna Vander Munnik

Robyn McTague

**Brett Clark** 

Michael Wicks

Yasi Bakhit

Kathryn Tullis

#### **Festival Trailers**

Seven25

Jessica Han

Jamie Rokovetsky

#### Out In Schools Facilitators

Danny Lybbert

Serene Carter

Avery Shannon

0 Lawrence

Frankie McGee

Odera labokwe

Marielle Rosky

Makenzie Hertslet

#### OIS New Hires starting Fall 2019

Adrianna Faliszewski Lin Louis

Shila Zainal

#### Special thanks to:

#### All our amazing volunteers!

belle ancell Whess Harman

Chanelle Tye

James Ond

Melinda Johnston

Danni Black

Chief Byron Longclaws

Chief Terry Red Thunder

Mack Paul

Corrina Sparrow

Emily Percival-Paterson

Meghan Brady

Raven Loucks

Andv Holmes

Lee Newman

Kharis Lund

Patti Bacchus

Karl Chen

Russell Keller

Marco Fratarcangeli

Mickey Brazeau Ken Tomilson Little Sisters Book and Art **Emporium** Gordon Melvin Lisa Loutzenheiser Heather Mitchell Kevin Sarrazin Matt Corker Meg Walls & Lau Mehes Marwan Taliani Tru. Jude and Jaslyn **Brent Faber** Jen Sungshine and David Ng, Love Intersections Mark Vonesh. Mutya Macatumpag, and Zoe Miles. Reel Youth SD Holman and the team at the Oueer Arts Festival Jordan Arsenault and Media Queer

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#### Out On Screen Staff



Back row, left to right: Brandon Yan, Morgan Switzer, Justin Ducharme. Middle row, left to right: Sam Snobelen, Rick Clark, Stephanie Goodwin, Gavin Somers. Front row, left to right: Naheed Jadavji, Holden Wall, Ervin Wong, Anoushka Ratnarajah, Miranda Rutty. Absent: Alysha Haugen, Yuko Fedrau, Jamie Rokovetsky, Jessica Han, Marlio Herrera Lira, Harriet Midgley.

#### Out On Screen Board



Back row left to right: Chad Clark, Lori MacIntosh, Michelle Wilson, Rudolph Korompis, Melanie Matining, Gerhard Maynard. Front row, left to right: Aimee Beauchamp, Catherine Wong, Christopher Hallamore

#### **Festival Creative Designer**





Amelia Sutjiadi is a QPOC illustrator, graphic designer and web developer, who believes in using her creative power for social good. She started Artovermatter in 2007 and has helped clients with a variety of projects from developing brand identities, designing marketing materials to building custom websites. She loves working on projects that have a social impact and is passionate about social justice, diversity and inclusion. View her work at artovermatter.com

#### **About Us**



At Out On Screen, donors, supporters, volunteers, and film-lovers like you believe that film has the power to effect change and shape social landscapes. For the past 30 years, we have curated the latest in queer film and knowledge, and have shared stories from LGBT2Q+ communities, because when we see ourselves represented in film and society, we experience a sense of belonging and are inspired to enact social change at home and around the world.







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After the Festival, the Out In Schools program continues to share stories of LGBT2Q+ lived experiences year round. We are the only program working at all levels of BC's education system using film and LGBT2Q+ role models to spark dialogue and create inclusive classrooms across the province, enabling youth to be their full selves in their schools.

Visit us online at outinschools.com to learn more about how you can support authentic representation of queer, trans, and two-spirit lives year round.



# Be seen this Fall at the 17th annual Out On Screen Fall Gala The Fall Gala is a fabulous art auction and cocktail party supporting Out In Schools and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival! Sip cocktails, peruse the curated silent auction, and mingle with the who's-who of Vancouver's LGBT20+ communities before settling in for a fast and furious live art auction to support queer, trans, and two-spirit youth and artists.

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Donating to Out On Screen is perhaps the best way to ensure that our community can imagine all kinds of versions of itself now and in the future. It is diversity and possibility come to life!

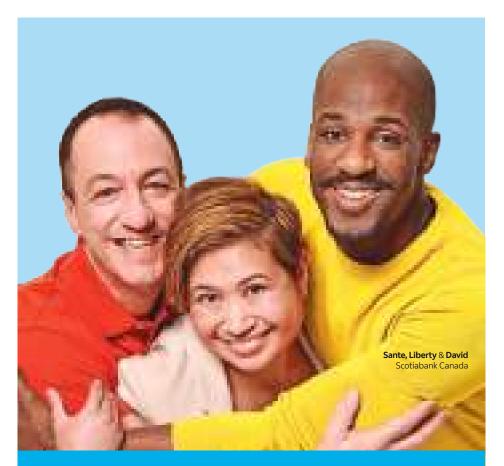
Stories are how we remember our past, examine our present, and envision our futures. At Out On Screen, we know that when we see ourselves in stories, we feel loved, we feel validated, and we feel empowered to create social change. We know that stories can change lives.

By becoming a Reel Patron, you will support a platform that uplifts LGBT2Q+ stories. Reel Patron donors form a community that elevates queer artists, holds space for voices from the margins, and actively supports queer youth across BC through increasing LGBT2Q+ stories and representations.

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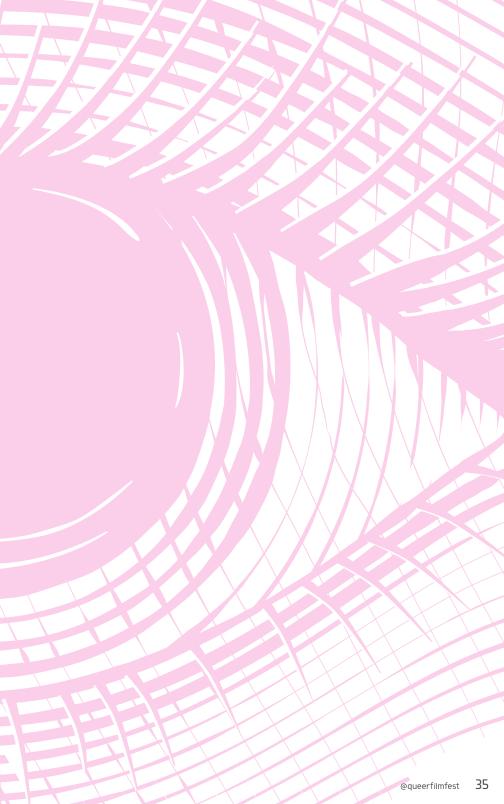




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#### Song Lang

In 1980's Saigon, tough and embittered debt-collector Dung Thunderbolt works for a relentless loan shark, exacting rough consequences on those who don't pay up. One day his boss sends him to collect from a local Cái Lương folk opera troupe who are running behind on their payments. There he meets Linh Phung, the young star of their new production who reluctantly impresses Dung when he stands up to his intimidation tactics. When Linh and Dung cross paths by chance again, they develop a friendship which grows into something more; a tender, tentative connection informed by a mutual love of music, storytelling and a desire for a higher purpose and connection. Dung can't help but let down his quard around Linh's sincerity and curiosity. As his heart opens up to the potential of love and reconnection with his creative self, he has to confront his painful past and reconcile with his own damaged relationship to the sensitive young boy he once was. Director Leon Le delivers an operatic first feature film set against the dreamy, faded beauty of Vietnam's most iconic, resilient city. Song Lang is both a tribute to the golden age of Cai Lurong, and to the sweet cautious stirrings of budding desire.

Song Lang | Leon Le | USA | 2018 | 101 min | Vietnamese with English Subtitles

**Repeat Screening** 

THU | AUG 15 | 7pm | VPH | @ (FV) WED | AUG 21 | 7pm | IV | @









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opening gala party info on page 100!



## Coming into Our Own: Youth Shorts

Emerging queer, trans and gender non-conforming youth meet their lives head on in this collection of short films that showcase the diversity of experiences that they face every day with ingenuity, determination and humour. First Day features eleven year old trans actor Evie McDonald as a young trans girl who stares down bullies in her new school. In **Spermaceti**, a young man comes of age on a whaling ship, mesmerized by the men who lead him into initiation. 2017 Gerry Award Winner Linnea Ritland's Amateur Dramatics is a gay teen twist on Romeo and Juliet, and Les lèvres gercées poignantly illustrates it's own heartbreak between a gender non-conforming teenager and their mother. Anemone features the bright and bold coming of age of a young African British immigrant who challenges their family's expectations with flair. In We Can Be Heroes, coming out to your friends is a struggle and joy all in itself; in Misdirection, falling in love with a friend poses its own complications. And the sweet and tender Maybe is a delightful exploration of a young crush leading to self discovery. This year's Youth Gala is as dynamic and engaging as our young leaders can be.

First Day | Julie Kalceff | Australia | 2017 | 18 min | English Spermaceti | Jacky De Groen | Belgium | 2018 | 12 min | No dialogue Amateur Dramatics | Linnea Ritland | Canada | 2018 | 7 min | English Les lèvres gercées | Fabien Corre, Kelsi Phung | France | 2018 | 5min | French with English Subtitles Anemone | Amrou Al-Kadhi | United Kingdom | 2018 | 18 min | English

We Can Be Heroes | Camille Caroli | Belgium | 2018 | 17 min | French with English Subtitles Misdirection | Carly Usdin | USA | 2018 | 14 min | English

Maybe | Kat Cole | USA | 2018 | 10 min | English

Total Runtime: 101 min

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#### José

19 year old José lives in Guatemala City with his mother, working at a food stall and running orders to waiting drivers. Isolated and often bored, he spends his free time on dating apps and cruising hook up spots in the city for random sex with other closeted men. Through one of these trysts he meets Luis, a migrant worker from the Carribean, whose tender nature awakens his resigned heart. The two begin seeing each other as often as possible, dreaming of a life of freedom to love each other and live together without fear and secrecy. As their passion and affection deepen and Luis' time in Guatemala City runs out, José faces a difficult choice; to stay with his mother, who depends on him for his income and with whom he has a loving (if closeted) relationship, or to follow Luis.

Filmed on location in Guatemala City with a local crew and starring Mayan actor Enrique Salanic, this feature was based on two years of interviews with young Latin American people, guided around the following questions: Which person are you closest to in your life? What's your most unforgettable memory? Have you been in love? Crafted with a deliberate empathetic collaborative spirit, **José** is a testament to the resilience of young queer people in Latin America today.

José | Li Cheng | Guatemala | 2018 | 85 min | Spanish with English Subtitles Director Li Cheng and Producer George F Roberson in attendance

Please join us for a post screening reception with Li Cheng and George F Roberson at Bean Around the World at 930pm.

Repeat Screening

WED | AUG 21 | 7pm | VPH | 🚥

THU | AUG 22 | 7pm | IV | 🙃

Screening Sponsors: Cineplex, Delta Air Lines



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## **An Almost Ordinary Summer**

This charming comedy brings together two very different families to spend their holidays in the same house on the lush Italian seaside. Silver-fox Toni Castelvecchios and sensitive bear Carlo Petagnas have a secret to reveal to their children—the two men are engaged. Naturally, they orchestrate a vacation for their respective and unsuspecting families in order to facilitate in-law introductions... but their plans go comedically awry.

The aristocratic Castelvecchios are artistic, open-minded and eccentric, and immediately clash with the tight-knit, working-class Petagnas. However, once the engagement is announced, the two eldest siblings from each family form an unlikely alliance and plot to derail the marriage — Carlo's son Sandro because of his homophobic shock that his father would fall in love with a man after the death of his wife, and Toni's daughter Penelope because she still hasn't come to terms with her parents divorce. Class differences create tension and old family wounds reopen in this family romcom; it's La Cage Aux Folles meets Mamma Mia! on the sexy Italian coast.

An Almost Ordinary Summer | Simone Godano | Italy | 2019 | 100 min | Italian with English Subtitles

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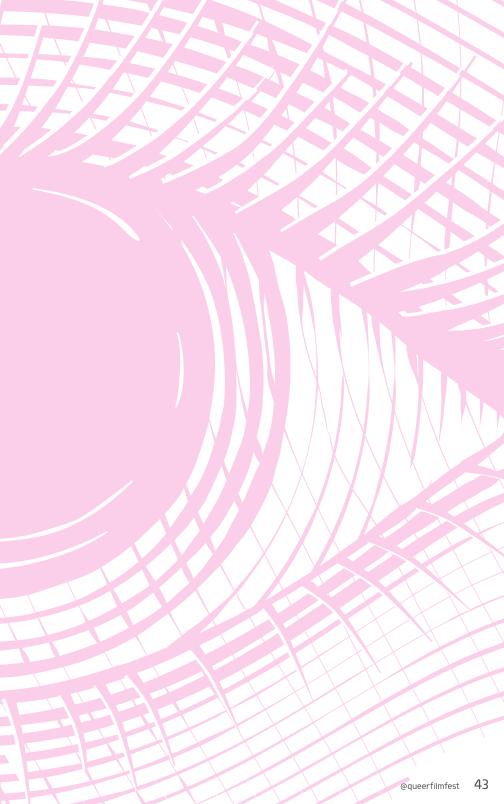
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# projecting brilliance: a two-spirit showcase

This years queer Indigenous spotlight widens its focus beyond singular artisic diciplines and ancestral roots to truly celebate the brilliance that two-spirit/indigiqueer artists hold within themselves. Rooted in a fierce focus on authentic and complex forms of representation around kinship within indigiqueer comminites, **all our relations: explorations on indigiqueer kinship** (p. 60) showcases an array of documentary and narrative film that invites audiences into the nuance of these relationships on screen. In director Adrian Russell Wills' documentary **Black Divaz** (p. 62), we're invited to witness the inaugural Miss First Nation pageant where six Indigenous drag queens from around Australia battle it out over five days for the crown. Bear witness to BIPOC femme screen reclamation within the thriller genre with co-directors Danni Black & Oliva Marie Goloksy's **Nite Ride** (p. 82), screening in our **Queer Fear** program.

With **an evening of queer indigenous performance** (p.102) multidiciplinary artists Beric Manywounds and Anthony Hudson will showcase their solo performance pieces, each individually blending a hybrid of film, performance and theatre—followed by an intimate post show panel at our festival hangout.

Be sure to check out **running, running trees go by...**[p. 104] from August 20th to 25th at the SUM Gallery. Curated by Justin Ducharme in collaboration with the artist, this is a new and retrospective short term exhibit of artist Zachary Longboy's admirable body of work, concentrating most on the clash of his native heritage with his white urban cultural environment. The exhibit comes to an end with a Sunday afternoon artist salon on August 25th.

Nite Ride (p. 82) Black Divaz (p. 62) Running, running trees go by... (p. 104) José (p. 44) Welcome to Clown Town (p. 110) all our relations: explorations of indigiqueer kinship (p. 60)
Looking for Tiger Lily (p. 102)
Descent - The Twins - Metamorphosis (p. 103)



## **Youth Spotlight**

Queer and trans youth shine in this spotlight, meeting challenges with creativity and courage. Often wise beyond their years and intuitively sure of themselves, the young protagonists in these films draw on their inner strength to face their present and build their own futures. In **No Box For Me: An Intersex Story** (p. 76), two young intersex folks connect with each other through letters and shared stories, moving through their trauma and growing into activists for extremely marginalized members of our community. In **Solace** (p. 88) and **Jules of Light and Dark** (p. 71), unlikely friendships prove to be defining and transformative for the young heroines at the centre of these stories. Our Youth Gala, **Coming Into Our Own: Youth Shorts** (p. 43), features a collection of films that represent the diversity of experiences that young queer people navigate as they come of age and step into their power. The future of queer art and activism will be bright, brave and inventive, if the young stars of this spotlight are any indication of the path that lies ahead for our communities.

Billie and Emma (p. 61)
Jules of Light and Dark (p. 71)
No Box For Me: An Intersex Story (p.76)
Solace (p. 88)
Youth Gala: Coming Into Our Own (p. 43)





## **Queer Kinship**

Familial and kinship ties often hold a complicated place in queer hearts. The people with whom we share DNA, the ones who raise us, can be a source of strength and/or trauma. Chosen family can offer safe refuge but are not devoid of conflict or struggle either. And lovers and partners, with whom we can share our most vulnerable selves, can be the ones we feel the closest and most isolated from simultaneously. Our **Queer Family** shorts program (p. 81) shows the ways in which our families of origin hurt, surprise and delight us. **Our Dance of Revolution** (p. 78) explores the work of Black queer people fostering reciprocal community care in the absence of biological familial support and alienation from whitewashed queerness. **The Garden Left Behind** (p. 67) shows trans women of colour finding solidarity and comfort by sharing their stories and standing up for each other. From the first blush of romance in **Tell It To The Bees** (p. 92), to the lover you just can't ignore no matter how much time has passed in **The Marriage** (p. 73), these films show us all the beauty and pain that's possible when we share ourselves with another human. Whether blood or chosen, the films in this spotlight illustrate the complexity of our connections to who we come from and who we choose to spend our lives with.

An Almost Ordinary Summer (p. 45) Desi Queer (p. 65) Fish Bones (p. 66) Have We Met Before? (p. 70) Mr. Leather (p. 74)

Night Comes On (p. 75)
Our Dance of Revolution (p. 78)
Queer Diaspora (p. 80)

Queer Japan (p. 83)
Sidney + Friends (p.85)
Socrates (p. 87)
Tell It To The Bees (p. 92)
The Garden Left Behind (p. 67)
The Marriage (p. 73)
The T (p. 91)

Queer Family (p. 81)





## **A Higher Power**

Historically, in many Indigenous cultures around the world, community members who were not heterosexual were considered to have particular spiritual power, a connection to a multiplicity of selves that signified a closeness to and understanding of many different experiences. Organized religion, scientific racism and misogyny and binary thinking has stifled our relationships to the spiritual forces that connect us to our histories, communities and our world. Faith, religion, the supernatural; the quest for a communion with something bigger than ourselves, whether it be god, the universe, spirit or an artistic calling threads through the films in this spotlight. **Transfinite** (p. 94) takes us through many realms where queer and trans people of colour step into their powers to confront hate and change their worlds. **The Gospel of Eureka** (p. 69) and **Gay Chorus Deep South** (p. 68) both explore the complex relationships between queer and trans people and Christianity in the United States. And documentaries **Silvana** (p. 86) and **Vision Portraits** (p. 96) show how the power of a creative purpose can transform people through artistic sacrament. The films in this spotlight show us that connection and collectivity are their own miracles. We all need something to believe in.

Gay Chorus Deep South (p.68)
The Gospel of Eureka (p. 69)
Nothing to Lose (p. 77)
Queer And... (p. 79)
Queer Fear (p. 82)
Silvana (p.86)
Song Lang (p. 42)
Transfinite (p. 94)
Vision Portraits (p. 96)





# Proud to support the Out In Schools program.

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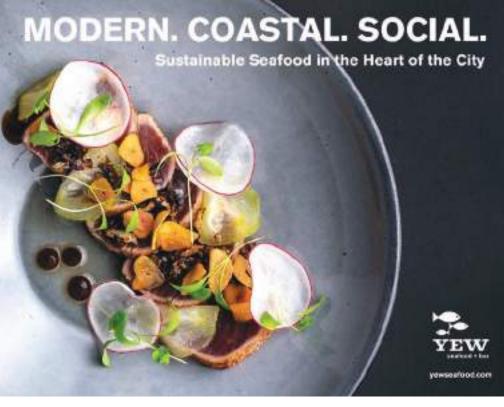
-grade 11 student



"Words fail to express the gratitude and appreciation to the team at Out In Schools. Your presentations have made a positive and pivotal impact to our school community. Heartfelt thanks on behalf of the students and staff at Fleming Elementary."

-educator





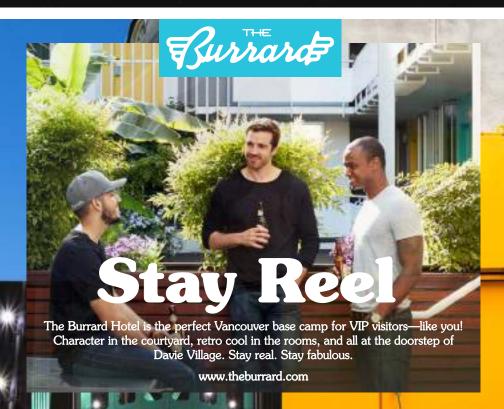
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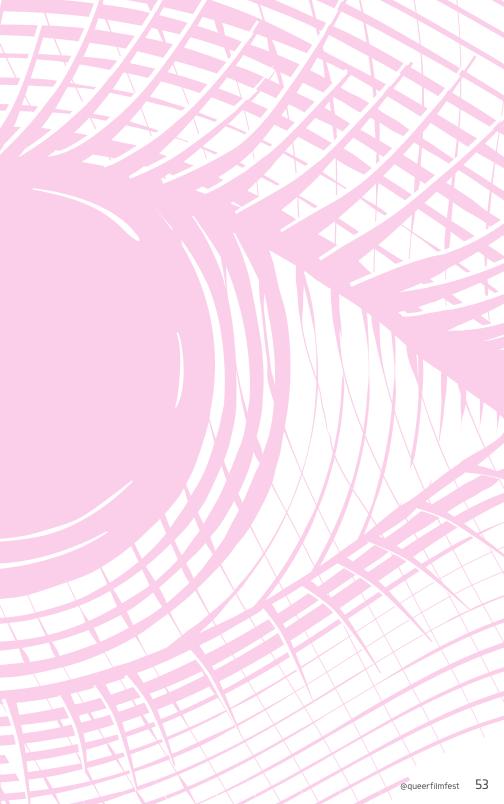
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# all our relations: explorations of indigiqueer kinship

Chosen family kinship holds a place of reverence to two spirit and indigiqueer survival. This program interrogates the ways in which we as queer indigenous bodies carve out space for these human and non-human relationships as well as the impact they have on our ability to exist in a world that doesn't always care for us. Join us for a mix of narrative and documentary film in partnership with the launch of *Projections*, the newest issue of the **Together Apart** zine.

**Stage Name: Victoria** | Taran Morriseau | Turtle Island | 2017 | 4 min | English **Colour of Scar Tissue, Wii ningokwan (it's going to be cloudy)** | Madison Thomas | Turtle Island | 2018 | 9 min | English

Walk with My Spirits | Tyler Jacobs | Turtle Island | 2018 | 5 min | English
Mino Bimaadiziwin | Shane McSauby | Turtle Island | 2018 | 10 min | English & Anishinaabemowin
Niish Manidoowag | Debbie S. Mishibinijima | Turtle Island | 2017 | 6 mins | English
My Friend Michael Jones | Samson Rambo | Aotearoa | 2018 | 15 mins | English

Total runtime: 49 min

Curated by Festival Programmer, Justin Ducharme.

**Together Apart** is a three-part collection of short zines pulling together voices from across Turtle Island and from the "Together Apart, Queer Indigeneities" symposium that took place over three days at the grunt gallery in the spring. Continuing the conversations from the symposium this second issue, *Projections*, focuses on imagining queer futures, how we reclaim archives and media, and how we bend and reshape the world to see ourselves in it.

FRI | AUG 23 | 7pm | YT



#### **Billie and Emma**

Quiet dreamer Billie is forced to move to a small town outside Manila with her aunt when her parents discover she's gay. Enrolled in a new and very Catholic high school where her aunt is the religion teacher, Billie struggles to get through her first few days alone, but she forms a reluctant bond with the school's star pupil Emma. Smart and driven, Emma is ready to leave her small town life behind and not follow in the footsteps of her young mother who became pregnant with her during high school. She is perturbed by her attraction to Billie at first, but soon the two girls grow closer and their friendship deepens into a young romance that challenges their peers and the adults around them. Then Emma finds out she's pregnant from her relationship with her nice but deadbeat on and off boyfriend, and faces a tough decision. Billie and Emma is a sweet film that shows the strength and determination young women have within, as they face the challenges of their young lives head on.

Featuring an all queer Fillipinx cast playing queer roles, this is the second feature film from Samantha Lee, whose previous film, Baka Bukas (Maybe Tomorrow), was the winner of VQFF's OutTVGo People's Choice Award for Best Feature in 2017.

Billie and Emma | Samantha Lee | Philippines | 2018 | 107 mins | Tagalog with English Subtitles



#### **Black Divaz**

Welcome to the behind the scenes drama of the inaugural Miss First Nation pageant, a milestone event for queer Indigenous Australians. This heartfelt and stunning documentary follows contestants Nova Gina, Isla Fuk Yah, Crystal Love, Josie Baker, Jojo and Shaniqua as they vie for the crown and sash, and share their stories of struggle and triumph that are unique to the experiences of queer Indigenous people in Australia. The impacts of colonization have had deeply harmful effects on Indigenous queerness in Australia, and each Queen in this film has a deeply personal narrative that touches upon the ways in which they face racism within the queer spaces and homophobia and misogyny in their own communities. We witness each contestant as they talk candidly about what brought them to this glittering stage—their triumphs and tragedies and what being Miss First Nation means for them and their people. Despite the adversity they face everyday, these Queens are the picture of poise, glamour and determination, and this film is an exemplary documentation of courage and resistance.

Black Divaz | Adrian Russell Wills | Australia | 2018 | 60 mins | English

Preceded by:

#### Candy's Crush

A portrait of trans Samoan/Kiwi wrestler Leilani Tominiko, known by her stage name Candy Lee.

Candy's Crush | Roberto Nascimento | Aotearoa | 2018 | 7 min | English

#### Fan Girl

When a young fa'afafine is rejected by society, she finds strength in identity through the spirits of her ancestors, and in communion with her fa'afafine sisters, Fine Fatale.

Fan Girl | Mario Faumui | Aotearoa | 2018 | 6 min | No dialogue





# **Boys (Jonas)**

Two timelines converge in this sexy mystery, all revolving around Jonas, whose life changed the day he met Nathan in high school. Nathan is self assured and charismatic, and Jonas is instantly drawn to him, if a little intimidated. They spend more and more time together, soon skipping class to make out and smoke in the gymnasium.

Flash forward fifteen years and Jonas is a disaffected and impulsive thirty-year old whose boyfriend has kicked him out for cheating one too many times. He has also just been arrested for getting into a fight at the local gay bar, Boys. Something about the bar sets him off, and sends him on a reluctant journey to come to terms with the dark and pivotal event that changed him forever.

As it moves back and forth between its two timelines, this film succeeds as both a sweet coming-of-age love story and a dark suspenseful thriller. What happened to turn an innocent teenager into the sad, angry man stalking around his hometown, carrying a hidden burden?

Content advisory: Flashing lights

Boys (Jonas) | Christophe Charrier | France | 2018 | 85 min | French with English Subtitles



## The Coast Is Queer

Our perennial local shorts program returns, highlighting the work of homegrown queer filmmakers both emerging and established. These short films range in genre and style, from documentary to narrative, animation, fantasy, experimental and romance. Make sure to join us at The York Theatre for the best in local gueer film.

Above the Bar | Kerri Flannigan | Canada | 2019 | 3 min | English

Brunch Queen | Sean Horlor, Steve Adams | Canada | 2019 | 11 min | English

Come Around | Andy Alvarez | Canada | 2019 | 7 min | Tagalog with English Subtitles

Everything's Great! | Linnea Ritland | Canada | 2019 | 15 min | English

La Ceri-se | Bruna Arbex | Canada | 2019 | 13 min | English

I Am Me | Jazmine Smith-Gladue, Quanah Style | Canada | 2018 | 4 min | English

ô Criatura: Navigating (dis)location | Andréa Monteiro | Canada | 2019 | 9 min | English and

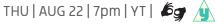
Portuguese with English Subtitles

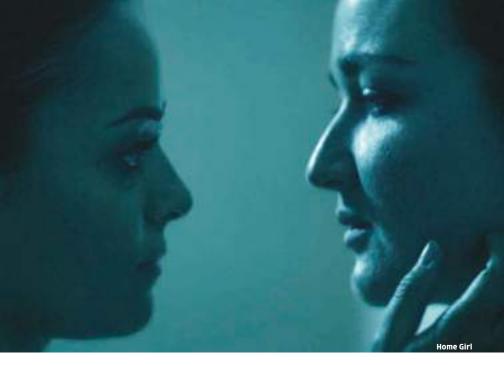
Ricecake | Yuko Fedrau | Canada | 2019 | 8 min | English

A Typical Fairytale | Annette Reilly | Canada | 2019 | 11 min | English

Voicemail | Raymund Santos | Canada | 2019 | 15 min | English

Total Runtime: 96 min





#### Desi Queer

This beautiful collection of short films captures the complexities of queer South Asian experiences across borders and identities. In **Home Girl**, a closeted woman comes to terms with all the things left unsaid in the wake of her mother's death. In **The Last Letter**, devoted father Mohan reminisces about a long ago love affair, and wonders whether he should come out to his wife and daughter. Documentary **Pahichan** shines a light on nineteen year old Nepalese trans woman Rukshana Kapali as she fights for herself and her community to have equal access to post secondary education. **Please Mind The Gap** follows transman Anshuman as he navigates the gendered space of the Dehli Metro. In Canada, teenage **Priya** struggles to please her overbearing, traditional mother and be honest about her relationship with her girlfriend. And single mother Usha finds herself drawn to the local primary school teacher in her rural Indian village, awakening feelings she never thought were possible in **U for Usha**. Family, tradition and large and small acts of resistance are all themes in these thoughtful portravals of brown queer lives.

Home Girl | Poonam Brah | United Kingdom | 2018 | 12 mins | English
The Last Letter | Vishal Jejurkar | India | 2018 | 15 mins | Hindi with English Subtitles
Pahichan | Yajaswi Rai | Nepal | 2019 | 7 mins | Nepali with English Subtitles
Please Mind The Gap | Mitali Trivedi | India | 2018 | 20 mins | Hindi with English Subtitles
Priya | Daniela Pinto | Canada | 2018 | 11 mins | English
U for Usha | Rohan Parashuram Kanawade | India | 2019 | 22mins | Marathi with English
Subtitles

Content Advisory: Sexual violence

Total Runtime: 87 min







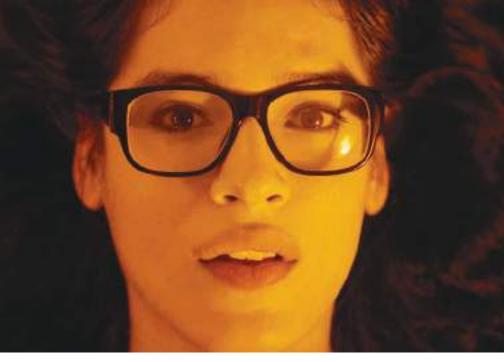


#### Fish Bones

Hana is a college student who comes home to New York on winter break to help her mother and brother run their Korean Barbeque restaurant. She also models part-time in secret, knowing her conservative mother would disapprove. At one of her shoots she meets Nico, a charming Latina indie music producer. Nico's forward interest is flattering, if unfamiliar, to Hana, and she begins to realize that their mutual feelings may be more than friendship. As the two young women fall into a tentative and tender relationship, introverted and isolated Hana finds herself struggling to follow her desires while also remaining loyal to her family's traditional cultural values. Meanwhile, Nico, whose family and friends are less of a challenge to her, begins to feel tested by Hana's hesitation, and question her commitment. With the fall semester approaching, Hana will have to face herself fully if she is to make a choice.

Starring Korean model Joony Kim in her first film role, this feature debut from director Joanne Mony Park is an expressive, moody indie. Mony Park's minimalist approach to filmmaking and her intentional manipulation of the timeline of Hana and Nico's relationship throws the viewer into as much uncertainty as the two leads. Art house and indie lovers will be beguiled by this evocative drama.

**Fish Bones** | Joanne Mony Park | USA | 2018 | 82 mins | English and some Korean and Spanish with English Subtitles



#### The Garden Left Behind

Tina, a young Mexican trans woman, lives in Queens, New York with her grandmother Eliana. Together they navigate Tina's upcoming medical transition while struggling to survive as undocumented immigrants. Tina spends her days hustling hard as a taxi driver and bartender to make ends meet and save for hormone therapy, and her nights with her boyfriend, who becomes increasingly distant as she moves towards her dream of physically transitioning.

Then Tina's world is rocked when another transwoman of colour in her community is brutally beaten. She and her friends form a small but mighty trans advocacy group to combat the hate they face, but soon Tina's challenges, including the medical system. immigration authorities, and a racist transphobic culture, threaten to overwhelm her. She begins to lose hope, but has unknowingly become the focus of inspiration and longing for a questioning youth who has been watching her closely from afar.

U.S. based queer Brazilian refugee Flavio Alves' first feature film stars an all trans cast, led by the stunning Carlie Guevara as Tina. Alves also worked with the Trans Filmmakers Project to identify a pool of 50 transgender filmmakers in roles behind the camera. This film captures so much about the transfeminine experience, one that is rife with violence, joy, and community simultaneously.

Content Advisory: Transphobic violence and murder. Trauma counselors will be available post screening for audience members.

The Garden Left Behind | Flavio Alves | USA | 2019 | 82 mins | English and some Spanish with **English Subtitles** 

Director Flavio Alves and actor Carlie Guevara in attendance.

SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, Spotlight Partner

SAT | AUG 24 | 7pm | YT | (FV)





#### **Gay Chorus Deep South**

After the 2016 elections, discriminatory legislation against LGBTQ people has increased exponentially as political division deepens rifts between citizens of an already troubled nation. In response to this wave of conservatism, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus decides to embark upon a tour of the American Deep South joined by The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Performing in churches, concert halls and community centres, the choirs travel from Mississippi to Tennessee, through the Carolinas and over the bridge in Selma, where Martin Luther King led his historic walk for racial justice. Many of the choral members fled the South themselves because of discriminatory violence, and this tour represents more than just a song for equity and inclusion, but a journey towards reconciling with their pasts. This heartfelt documentary is a combination of ecstatic music and genuine dialogue and connection between people who choose to reconnect with the communities and institutions who once disowned them. As one chorus member says, in the face of heartbreak, "there are two things we can do: we can sing and we can love."

**Gay Chorus Deep South** | David Charles Rodrigues | USA | 2019 | 100 mins | English Director David Charles Rodrigues and Gay Chorus Conductor Dr Tim Seelig in attendance

Preceded by:

#### Joy Boy

Jonny is caught between his conservative family, an evangelical church and coming to terms with his sexuality.

Jov Bov | Stef Smith | Australia | 2018 | 9 min | English







## The Gospel of Eureka

Worlds apart but in the same small town, two actors ready themselves backstage; one prepares to step onto the glamourous stage of a gay bar; the other readies himself for the holy role of a Roman centurian in The Great Passion Play. Love, faith and civil rights collide in the southern town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas as evangelical Christians and drag queens each step into the spotlight.

Eureka Springs seems like a stereotypical small southern town at first glance, but the residents defy expectations. There's the devout Christian transwoman who cracks a Lazarus joke with her husband in the audience of "The Great Passion Play"; the son of an openly gay pastor, who runs a religious souvenir shop in the village; the queens who lipsync to country hymns; the gay couple who run the local gay dive bar who still quibble over religion after thirty one years of marriage.

Although the state of Arkansas is embroiled in a conflict over an anti-trans bathroom bill, this documentary feels less like political commentary and more like a rural town hall where everyone goes out for a beer and a greasy burger at the local diner after. Narrated by the iconic Mx Justin Vivian Bond, **The Gospel of Eureka** is an intimate and comic look at religion, faith, performance, and how we live with each other. And it's one hell of a show.

The Gospel of Eureka | Donal Mosher, Michael Palmieri | USA | 2018 | 75 min | English

Preceded by:

#### Bad Theology

Faith, survival and the black trans body take centre stage in this collaborative performance piece featuring original poetry by J Mase III and choreography by Randy Ford.

Bad Theology | Samira Shifteh | USA | 2018 | 5 min | English





#### Have We Met Before?

Longing, loneliness, serendipity, missed connections and parallel lives are the themes explored throughout this charming short film program. **Have We Met Before?** documents the history of queer men's hook-up culture, from bathrooms, cruising and the hanky code to internet chat rooms and dating apps. **Spectrum** follows a diverse cast of characters through a single night in Manchester's gay village; for some it's their first night out of the closet and in the village, for others it's a familiar haunt with old friends. Finally, **In The Dark** is a peek into the sexy basement of a Berlin cruise bar, where lovers find their desires piqued and their curiosities stimulated.

Have We Met Before? | Oliver Mason | United Kingdom | 2019 | 12 min | English Spectrum | Abigail Henry, Christopher Bowles, Kieron Moore | United Kingdom | 2018 | 37 min | English

In The Dark | Rory Midhani | Germany | 2018 | 5 min | No dialogue

Total runtime: 54 min





# Jules of Light and Dark

In rural Texas, Maya and her on again, off again girlfriend Jules celebrate their highschool graduation by going to a backwoods rave. On their way home the next morning, Maya loses control of the car, sending it spinning off the road, seriously injuring Jules. They are rescued from the wreckage by Freddy, a divorced and lonely oil rig worker, whose rugged exterior hides a sensitive heart. In the aftermath of the accident, Maya is heartbroken as Jules drifts away from their ambiguous relationship, and surprisingly finds herself forming a friendship with Freddy, who is shyly beginning to question his sexuality. The two connect over their shared isolation and subtly encourage one another to chase after what they want the most—or at least figure out what that might be.

This slow burning indie drama is a more nuanced coming of age story than the films we are used to; instead of focusing on a singular event or challenge, our protagonists move through a series of seemingly negligible and disconnected life events that are nonetheless transformative in large and small ways. Director Daniel Laabs beautifully captures the slow calm splendor of the bare Texan landscape and the aching lonesomeness of rural queer life, broken by the relief and tenderness of chance connections.

#### Content advisory: Flashing lights

Jules of Light and Dark | Daniel Laabs | USA | 2018 | 90 min | English

Preceded by

#### My Ex-Girlfriend is a Shovel

After her girlfriend breaks up with her, Coral realizes that her ex was, in fact, a shovel. This is a humorous short about the ways in which we cope with moving on.

My Ex-Girlfriend is a Shovel | Dezi Gallegos | USA | 2018 | 14 min | English

Scotiabank, Youth Spotlight Sponsor

THU | AUG 22 | 930pm | YT | 🌶





#### Lizzie

1892: Fall River, Massachusetts. Lizzie Borden resides in her family home with her father, step-mother and sister. Considered a social outcast for being an unmarried woman at the age of 32, Lizzie is rarely allowed out from under her domineering father's rule. When her family hires live-in maid Bridget (a shy and uncertain Irish immigrant), the two women discover something in one another. Their friendship begins with secret communication and companionship that slowly evolves into an intimate and passionate connection. All the while tensions arise in the Borden household and their claustrophobic existence grows in oppression, leading to its inevitable breaking point.

Chloe Sevingy and Kristen Stewart deliver performances that brim with intelligence and simmer with rage. Backed by a strong supporting cast made up of Fiona Shaw, Denis O'Hare and Kim Dickens, **Lizzie** is a compelling psychological thriller soaked in feminist revenge based on the much speculated murders of the Borden parents.

Content advisory: Sexual assault, violence, blood

Lizzie | Craig William Macneill | USA | 2018 | 105 mins | English



#### The Marriage

A decade after the brutal Kosovo War, Bekim and his fiance, Anita, travel to the Serbian border, where another group of unclaimed bodies from the conflict have been exhumed. Anita hopes and fears she will find her disappeared parents among the dead. Her engagement to Bekim is the fresh start she longs for after years of uncertainty.

Bekim however, is hiding a secret from Anita, one that will be revealed by the return of his childhood friend and secret sweetheart, Nol, who has traveled from France where he has a successful music career to attend the wedding. Bekim is shocked, pleased and a little perturbed to see his old friend, but he, Nol and Anita soon bond over drinks and reminiscing. However, as Nol's presence begins to shift the dynamic between Bekim and Anita, tension builds to an inevitable breaking point, and Bekim finds himself trying to reconcile his feelings for NoI with his idea of familial duty and the prevalent homophobia of Kosovar society—while Anita fears her steady lodestar will be extinguished if Bekim leaves her.

Time jumps back and forth, juxtaposing the tender fumblings of young desire against the uncertain terror of war; the expectation and predictability of duty with the obscurity and euphoria of love. The Marriage takes both a wide and intimate view of human tragedies, and the parallel contradictions of people trying to build a new life on the foundations of secrets in their past, and a nation trying to rebuild from the ashes of unresolved trauma.

The Marriage | Blerta Zegiri | Kosovo | 2017 | 97 mins | Albanian with English Subtitles

SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, Spotlight Partner



#### Mr. Leather

In 2018, the second edition of the Mr. Leather Brazil competition is underway. The title is being fought over by Dom PC, Kake, Deh Leather, and Maoriguy. The winner will receive the ribbon from the hands of Dom Barbudo, the first Mr. Leather in the country, and has the task to promote the culture of leather during the next year. The contest stirs the passions of the gay fetish community of São Paulo.

This artful and intimate documentary tells the history of the Brazilian Mr. Leather competition, a thrilling opportunity for the emerging leather and kink community in the city of São Paulo. Featuring a sardonic but loving narrator who takes great pleasure in the drama of recounting the love and resetments within the community, this sexy documentary takes a mischevious, intimate view into leather culture, probing personal histories, gender politics, and queer visibility in the increasingly politically conservative Brazillian nation. The film also never lets the interviewees get away with contradictions when it comes to issues of gender and inclusion, offering a more radical approach to how a leather community can work. The stylized, artistic approach to documentary makes Mr. Leather a unique, sincere journey into a culture that is often misunderstood and misrepresented.

Mr. Leather | Daniel Nolasco | Brazil | 2019 | 85 min | Portuguese with English Subtitles



#### **Night Comes On**

We meet Angel LaMere (Dominique Fishback) on the day she leaves a juvenile detention centre, just before her eighteenth birthday. Angel has been in the foster care system since her father killed her mother when she was just a child. Angel's life has been a series of desperate choices to survive, one of which led to her being imprisoned. Now she has only one place to go—to her girlfriend's, who she hasn't seen since she was arrested. When their reunion doesn't go as planned, she ends up with nowhere to stay on her first night out of captivity. Exhausted and alone, Angel is haunted by both a tragic past and a future she feels she can't escape.

It eventually becomes clear that she's driven by a need for revenge, but circumstances keep interrupting and offering her opportunities to drift from the path she feels is her only option. One of these interruptions takes form in her wisecracking younger sister, Abby (Tatum Marilyn Hall), who is still in foster care. When Angel visits her crowded foster home, Abby stubbornly follows her older sister on her quest to find their father, hoping for a long promised trip to the beach. Angel's focus is torn between her quest for vengeance and Abby, who simply wants to connect with the only family she has left.

Based upon co-writer Angelica Nwandu's own experiences in the foster care system, this heartbreaking and yet hopeful feature film debut from director Jordana Spiro never loses sight of the larger context of racism and neglect that black girls are subjected to in the United States. Angel and Abby are abandoned by a system that places no value on black children, and only have each other to rely upon. Fishback and Hall are utterly captivating in their roles as sisters, conveying struggle, humanity and love with the kind of depth that promises these young two actors are bound for long careers.

**Content Advisory**: Discussions of childhood sexual abuse, violence.

Night Comes On | Jordana Spiro | USA | 2018 | 86 min | English

SAT | AUG 17 | 930pm | GCA | (FV)







# No Box For Me: An Intersex Story

An estimated 1.7 percent of people are born with variations to their sex characterisitics that defy medical and societal perceptions of "male" and "female" bodies. Intersex people and their identities are still highly discriminated against in Western countries, where infants and children undergo nonconsensual surgeries, hormone treatments and blockers and genital mutilation. Many of their doctors and parents believe they are doing the child a service by modifying their bodies to fit within the socially constructed binaries of biological sex. Some parents are not even notified prior to the surgeries, and some are fed false medical information to encourage them to put their children under the knife.

This artful and courageous documentary follows two young people, M and Deborah, as they seek to reclaim their bodies and stand firm in their identities, revealing the limits and cruelty of hegemonic binary definitions of sex and gender. Despite the incredible physical and psychological toll they have been through, M and Deborah step into their power to become brave advocates for their community, and to live life with integrity and hope.

**No Box For Me: An Intersex Story** | Floriane Devigne | France | 2018 | 58 mins | French with English Subtitles

#### Preceded by

#### A Normal Girl

Intersex activist Pidgeon Pagonis takes us on their journey to advocate for an end to intersex surgeries and the right for bodily autonomy for intersex people.

A Normal Girl | Aubree Bernier-Clarke | USA | 2018 | 14 min | English

Scotiabank, Youth Spotlight Partner





# **Nothing to Lose**

**Nothing to Lose** follows the fierce, fat, queer cast of Force Majeure's award winning, groundbreaking dance theatre production of the same name. The film explores the inherent movement potential of the fat body and the relationships the extraordinary cast of the production have with themselves and each other.

The show was a collaboration between Force Majeure's Artistic Director Kate Champion, an award winning choreographer and dancer, and Kelli Jean Drinkwater, a fat activist and performance artist. The two came together to facilitate the show because they felt a keen lack of representation of queer fat bodies on stage, especially in the world of dance. The documentary follows the cast from their open audition process to the opening of the sold out show at Sydney Festival 2015. The performers, some with no formal dance training, draw upon their lived experiences that have often been defined by their size. Over the course of rehearsals, the cast forms deep ties with one another, and much of the choreography relies on their trust in one another as much as their individual bodies and stories. Through their performances, the dancers confront cultural projections around beauty, sexuality and ability, with unapologetic self love, strength and solidarity.

Nothing to Lose | Kelli Jean Drinkwater | Australia | 2018 | 71 min | English

Preceded by

#### **Dressed for Pleasure**

A young disabled woman throws off her over-protective parents in pursuit of her own sexual liberation.

**Dressed for Pleasure** | Marie de Maricourt | Switzerland | 2017 | 17 min | French with English Subtitles





# Our Dance of Revolution

Phillip Pike's remarkable chronicle of Toronto's Black queer organizing history begins with Black Live Matter Toronto's 2016 sit in to disrupt the Pride Parade, then flashes back to the to foundations on which movements like BLM TO were built.

There's the collective household that, in the early 80s, nurtured several influential activists, including Makeda Silvera, co-founder of Sister Vision Press, Debbie Douglas, Rinaldo Walcott and Douglas Stewart, who share stories of resistance and ecstacy, actions and dance parties that bonded them as family. The film also documents the activism of Black Cap, an organization committed to reducing the spread of HIV infection in Black communities, founded in 1989.

Four generations of organizers fight for a city where they can all live free from violence and oppression, working collaboratively to protest police brutality, raise awareness for the AIDS crisis, create sweaty block parties and celebrate Black joy. The transformative, visionary organizing documented in **Our Dance of Revolution** honours a invisibilized part of Toronto's history and bears witness to the courage it took to dance in the street for the struggle. With footage from four decades of passionate activism in the city, this documentary serves as both an archive and celebration of Toronto's Black queer community.

**Our Dance of Revolution** | Phillip Pike | Canada | 2019 | 102 min | English Director Phillip Pike in attendance

SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, Spotlight Partner





# Queer And...

For gueer people of colour, compartmentalizing identity for the sake of fitting into community, maintaining relationships with family and culture, or simply remaining safer in a homophobic and racist world is a familiar compromise. The films in this program explore what it means to be be gueer and...

What does it mean to be young, black and gay in today's world? Father Figure is a gorgeous and poetic short documentary that explores this complex question through the stories of the members of The Kiki House of Angels, a voguing community in Rotterdam. We are first introduced to Guilliano, the founder and father of the House of Angels, who found voguing to be a welcome escape from the racism and marginalization of his daily life. On the dance floor and within their community. Guilliano and the other men can be freer versions of themselves; uninhibited, graceful and powerful. This film is a lyrical collage of personal stories, dance sequences, and iconographic visual and literary interludes.

Father Figure | Bibi Fadlalla | Netherlands | 2019 | 25 min | Dutch with English Subtitles

**Yellow Peril: Queer Destiny** is a new short documentary from local filmmakers Love Intersections that probes the nuances of Queer Chinese Canadian identity. The film investigates how being part of a distant diaspora, as well as being othered as outsiders in Canada, informs the racial and queer identities of the subjects. We follow local drag artist Kendall Yan, otherwise known as Maiden China, along with other local gueer Chinese performers and activists as their intimate interviews reveal the ways in which being "marked" as the embodiment of femininity, to the lack of representation, to sexual racism, informs the forging of identities by queer Chinese Canadians.

Yellow Peril: Queer Destiny | David Ng, Jen Sungshine | Canada | 2019 | 20 mins | English Directors Jen Sungshine and David Ng of Love Intersections and interviewees in attendance.





# **Queer Diaspora**

This shorts program poignantly explores the hearbreaking choices of queer refugees and immigrants. A Ugandan lesbian who has faced state-sanctioned homophobia and a forced marriage escapes to Canada, where she contemplates her new life while waiting to hear if she will be deported, in the documentary **in the Middle of Nowhere. Abeo** is a mixed media animated short that depicts the journey of Nadia and Lupe, two immigrants who risk their lives to cross the Arizona desert in search of a better life. In **Choke**, a rising MMA star hides her girlfriend from her Muslim parents and her refugee status from her small American town, admidst rising xenophobic and racist tensions—but compartmentalization may not be a survival mechanism she needs anymore. **She's Not A Boy** takes us on the personal journey of intersex refugee Tatenda Ngwaru, who left Zimbabwe to claim asylum in the United States. Tatenda now lives in New York City, advocating and educating people about intersex issues, while fighting her homesickness; even in a more queer friendly place, she still struggles to feel comfortable. The courageous protagonists of these films face risk and loss in their pursuit of freedom.

#### Content advisory: Violence

In the Middle of Nowhere | Oksana Hohol, brooke | Yohoke | Canada | 2018 | 15 min | English Abeo | Brenda Lopez | Canada | 2018 | 7 min | Spanish with English Subtitles

Choke | Rolla Selbak | USA | 2019 | 15 min | English

She's Not A Boy | Robert Tokanel, Yuhong Pang, | USA | 2018 | 23 min | English

Total runtime: 60 min





# **Queer Family**

Family distance, friction, unconditional love and unexpected inheritances come together in this tense and tender collection of short films. The semi autobiographical **Brother X** explores judgment and cognitive dissonance between two trans siblings. In **Long Distance**, a young Indian woman living in Australia gets a frustrating call from her Mum. A boy struggles with coming out to his parents but has an ally in his sister in **Cereal Boy**. Awkwardly hilarious hijinks ensue in **Hi, Mrs Friedman!**, when a mother and daughter show up at a queer sex club on the same night. In **Pepitas**, Andrea moonlights as a drag queen, but his secret life is about to be revealed to his grandmother. In **On the Other Side of the Park**, theatre actor Bretrand reconnects with his estranged adult son Antoine. Andy, who is exhausted from living as a full-time carer for his distant mother, receives a surprise intervention from his childhood imaginary friend in **Chaos Toad**. **La Serenada** is a story of two parents who struggle with their beloved Mexican musical tradition when their son requests a love song for another boy. And in **Piscina**, a young lesbian goes to visit her grandmother's old house, only to find a mysterious woman living beneath the swimming pool who has a secret connection to her family.

Brother X | Conner DeMita | USA | 2018 | 8 min | English
Long Distance | Anoop Lokkur | Australia | 2019 | 7 min | English and Hindi with English Subtitles
Cereal Boy | Susannah joffe | USA | 2018 | 8 min | English

Hi Mrs Friedman! | Rachel Epstein | Canada | 2018 | 8 min | English Subtitles

Pepitas | Alessandro Sampaoli | Italy | 2018 | 8 min | Italian with English Subtitles

**On the Other Side of the Park** | Émile Tremblay | Canada | 2018 | 17 min | French with English Subtitles **Chaos Toad** | Tomm Coles | United Kingdom | 2018 | 9 min | English

**La Serenada** | Adelina Anthony | USA | 2019 | 12 min | English and Spanish with English Subtitles **Piscina** | Leandro Goddinho | Brazil | 2016 | 29 min | Portugese with English Subtitles

Total runtime: 106 min

SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, Spotlight Partner

SAT | AUG 24 | 1pm | GCA



## **Queer Fear**

Queer horror returns to freak you out in this bizarre and chilling collection of short films. Jeremiah is a highschool football player who is being haunted by a mysterious figure he just can't shake—even when he locks the door and shuts the curtains. In The Pain Within Us, Ray is trying to recover from the recent loss of her wife who was killed in a terrible accident, but she keeps seeing a shadow in their house, and hearing the slow drip of water, leaving her wondering whether the grief is getting to her or if something more sinister is going on. A boy and his two fathers are visited night time by a mysterious stranger in Little Boy Blue. In Estigma (Stigma), the aftermath of a hookup leaves Alex feeling funny the next morning, and soon he notices some terrifying changes when he looks in the mirror—will the changes turn him into a monster? Pop Ritual introduces us to João, a priest, who imprisons a vampire, conducting strange experiments on the creature, and develops an obsessive relationship with his captive. And Nite Ride follows a group of four friends who do battle with supernatural beings during a bike ride. Guaranteed to give you the creeps and have you jump in your seat, this is sure to be an evening of frights and fun.

Jeremiah | Kenya Gillespie | USA | 2018 | 10 min | English
The Pain Within Us | Dylan Murray | Canada | 2018 | 14 min | English
Little Boy Blue | Andreas Samuelson, Nader Ryan Pah | Sweden | 2017 | 11 min | Swedish with
English Subtitles

Estigma (Stigma) | David Velduque | Spain | 2018 | 14 min | Spanish with English Subtitles Pop Ritual | Mozart Freire | Brazil | 2018 | 20 min | Portuguese with English Subtitles Nite Ride | Danni Black, Olivia Marie Golosky | Treaty 7 | 2018 | 12 min | English

Total Runtime: 81 min

Content Advisory: Violence, blood, gore.





## Queer Japan

Trailblazing artists and activists from across the spectrum of gender and sexuality defy social norms and dare to live unconventional lives in this kaleidoscopic view of LGBTQ+ culture in contemporary Japan. From shiny pride parades to playful and perverse underground parties, this detailed documentary shows people living brazen and ordinary queer lives in the sunlight, the shadows, and everywhere in between.

Iconic drag queen Vivienne Sato peels back the layers of language and identity with her daring performances. Maverick manga artist Gengoroh Tagame tours the world with his unapologetic erotic gay comics, reflective of the tradtions of Tom of Finland and Japanese manga. Councilwoman Aya Kamikawa reveals her difficult and rewarding path to becoming the first trans elected official in Japan. And at the legendary kink-positive hentai party Department H, non-binary performance artist Saeborg uses rubber to create a second skin for their gender non-conforming works. Created from over one hundred interviews conducted over three years in locations across Japan, **Queer Japan** features dozens of individuals sharing their experiences in their own words, in a country with a unique history of queer expression.

**Queer Japan** | Graham Kolbeins | USA | 2019 | 100 mins | Japanese with English Subtitles Director Graham Kolbeins in attendance.



# **Shift Change**

Explore the heartbreaks and joys of the women who take centre screen in this program. 
Terminally In Love is a journey through the mind of Quinn, a neurotic stoner trying to get over her ex-girlfriend. In the program's namesake film, Shift Change, Alicia and Vero work security in an art gallery guarding a sculpture that unexpectedly tests their compatibility. After a drunken hook-up, best friends Belle and Jesse have to deal with the consequences in Treacle. The Night Before follows Shae, a deaf South Asian bride-to-be, as she pays a visit to her ex-girlfriend, confronting repressed emotions and unanswered questions. Oranges is a sensuous meditation on a relationship, recalling the beauty of the beginning to make the end more bearable. In Rehearsal, Anna's UK student visa is on the verge of expiration, so she and her girlfriend decide to get married—the only obstacle is Anna's conservative Russian mother. Parker finds two lovers who flirted with others at a party tease each other during the ride home, both trying to brush off their jealousy. In The Half Wall, a couple's argument about their bathroom renovation sparks a laughable argument. And Adeline tells the story of an elderly woman in a care facility, reminiscing about her first love. Misunderstandings and re-connections are portrayed with compassion, honesty and humour in these short films.

**Terminally In Love** | Emily Jenkins, Justin Black | Canada | 2018 | 17 min | English **Shift Change** | Federico Untermann | Spain | 2018 | 10 min | Spanish with English Subtitles **Treacle** | Rosie Westhoff | United Kingdom | 2019 | 18 min | English

**The Night Before** | Mragendra Singh | USA | 2018 | 10 min | English and ASL with English Subtitles **Oranges** | Lud Mônaco | France | 2019 | 7 min | French with English Subtitles

Rehearsal | Valentina Gordeeva | Russia | 2018 | 13 min | English and Russian with English Subtitles Parker | Rhianon Jones | USA | 2017 | 5 min | English

The Half Wall | Ida H. Eldóen | Norway | 2018 | 6 min | Norwegian with English Subtitles Adeline | Audrey Biche | France | 2018 | 10 min | French with English Subtitles

Total Runtime: 96 min

SAT | AUG 17 | 7pm | IV

Screening Sponsor: Cineplex



# Sidney + Friends

Filmed over 3 years, this deeply affecting documentary follows Sidney, an intersex Kenyan man living an isolated life in Nairobi until he meets a group of other intersex and trans Kenyans who bring him into a community of hope and solidarity. Together, they fight discrimination and discover life, love and self-worth. It's a heartfelt exploration of the hopes, dreams, and daily reality of a group of intersex and transgender people fighting to survive on the edge of Kenvan society.

Sidney grew up in rural western Kenya, and was raised as a girl, though he never felt that he fit into the preconceived notions of feminine behaviour and ideals. Sidney was born intersex, but with no words to describe his experiences of his body and sexuality, Sidney only knew he was different. Growing up, he found these differences increasingly made him stand out in his community, as he became a source of concern, then shame, to his family. Ben was rejected by parents who saw him as a lesbian after a childhood desire to play with boys and do boys' work gave way to wearing male-coded clothing and a name change. Due to the bureaucracy of Kenyan law, Sidney and Ben are unable to secure work because they are assumed to be using false ID when necessity forces them to try to pass as female. Martina, an enigmatic and charming transwoman, encounters similar struggles in her own life. They all fled to secure safety, all the more difficult in a country and culture that places a heavy emphasis on family and community as systems of social and economic support.

This intimate documentary is also a portrait of a nation on the brink of change when it comes to LGBTQI rights. The remarkable subjects of this film reveal their struggles with poignancy and humour. This isn't the story of people in need of rescue so much as it's the story of people strategizing ways to empower themselves in the face of immense odds through the power of community.

Sidney + Friends | Tristan Aitchison | Kenva | 2018 | 75 min | Swahili with English Subtitles

Migrant Voices Program, Supported by Carl Meadows & Les Dick

SAT | AUG 17 | 430pm | GCA |



## Silvana

"Let's smash patriarchy!"

This resounding cry, shouted out by Swedish hip-hop artist Silvana Imam through a megaphone, is met by a thunderous echo and hundreds of hands that shoot into the air. It's a personal call to revolution that the music star takes seriously.

This personal documentary follows Silvana for three years starting in 2014 as her music career explodes in Sweden and she adjusts to being a public persona while trying to remain authentic and vulnerable. Born to a Syrian father and Lithuanian mother, Silvana and her family immigrated to Sweden when she and her siblings were still young. Her music is deeply autobiographical and draws upon her experiences as a queer mixed race immigrant woman. She struggles with the multiplicity of her identity as much as she is strengthened by it. Her relationship to her parents and to her two motherlands is complicated by the realities of war and patriarchal cultures, but tender clips from home videos shot in the mid-1990's show how much her parents support her artistic nature.

The film also chronicles Silvana's relationship with fellow feminist pop star Beatrice Eli. The couple become public property and lesbian icons as they discuss their relationship in media interviews, but it's during the intimate moments disclosed only to the directors when the couple discuss their music, Swedish society, fandom and artistry.

Facing the pressures of fame and taking a public stand against oppressive forces, Silvana's bravado, which is sometimes interpreted as arrogance, ultimately masks a deep rage and heartache at the injustices of sexism, homophobia, racism and xenophobia.

**Silvana** | Mika Gustafson, Olivia Kastebring, Christina Tsiobanelis | Sweden | 2017 | 95 min | Swedish with English Subtitles

FRI | AUG 23 | 9pm | GCA | 🙃



## Socrates

Fifteen year old Socrates comes home to find his mother has suddenly died. Without his only anchor that held him steady in a relentlessly turbulent existence, Socrates finds himself flailing. He tried to hold onto his mother's job as a janitor by pretending he is still covering for her while she is sick, but the tenuous arrangement does not last long. With poverty and eviction on his doorstep, Socrates finds a job as a day labourer on a construction site, where he meets the brooding and charismatic Maicon. Though their first interaction is less than friendly, the two soon develop a passionate relationship. In Maicon, Socrates finds the balm to soothe his broken heart—or at the very least, a welcome distraction from his mourning.

However, when he goes to claim his mother's ashes, he discovers that his estranged and abusive homophobic father has already taken possession of them. A series of brutal disappointments piles up and sends Socrates into a tailspin, exacerbated by his grief, poverty and a systemic lack of opportunity. Socrates must find what agency and hope he has left in small acts of resistance and fortitude, holding fast to his faltering sense of self in the face of overwhelming loneliness and loss.

Filmed with a micro budget of under twenty thousand dollars, Socrates is the debut feature film from Brazilian-American director Alexandre Moratto. Produced by the Querô Institute, a UNICEF-supported project that provides filmmaking mentorship to teenagers of low income households in the Baixada Santista region of São Paulo, the film was co-written, produced, and acted by at-risk teenagers from these communities, under the direction and mentorship of Alexandre. This devastatingly beautiful film is a testament to the resiliency and creativity of young people who live on the very edge of the margins.

Content Advisory: Physical violence.

Socrates | Alexandre Moratto | Brazil | 2018 | 71 mins | Portuguese with English Subtitles

FRI AUG 23 7pm GCA 6





## Solace

Following the death of her father, seventeen year old Sole is sent to live with her estranged grandmother in Los Angeles. Devastated from the loss of her father and having to leave New York, Sole stubbornly refuses to believe that this is now her life.

Then she forms an unexpected connection with her neighbour, Jasmine, who is everything Sole is not—rebellious, loud, untethered to any kind of plan. Jasmine and fellow misfit Guedado lead Sole into a world of music, dance and late nights, one she never encountered in her hyper-focused academic New York life. Their unlikely friendship inspires Sole to pursue her artistic and activist passions, though they are still part of her plan to get back to New York. Her unwillingness to let go of both her past and her imagined future soon comes into conflict with her present reality, creating friction not only between her and her newfound friends and family, but within herself. Sole copes in the ways she has always known how—by binge eating in moments of high stress, self sabotaging and lashing out at those closest to her.

Director Tchaiko Omawale curates this debut feature film with a nuanced and intimate understanding of the history of black bodies and stories on screen. The experimental and self-reflective aesthetics of the film interrupt normative narrative structures and brings audiences closer to embodied experiences of black queerness. Solace is a remarkable break-out from a filmmaker who is sure to have an impressive career.

Content Advisory: Eating disorders and self harm

**Solace** | Tchaiko Omawale | USA | 2018 | 87 min | English Director Tchaiko Omawale in attendance.

Scotiabank, Youth Spotlight Sponsor





# The Spark

This multifaceted collection of short films catalogues the many complications queer men navigate in their love lives. In **Lesson #8**, an app rendevous takes an unexpected turn, proving that the best laid plans won't get you laid in the ways you planned. My Loneliness is Killing **Me** explores the intersections of hook-up culture and toxic masculinity and their effects on the quest for intimacy. In **Delivery Boy**, Chunho develops feelings for Eric, an American lawyer living in Hong Kong. Next Level Shit follows Taylor as he prepares obsessively for the perfect third date with dreamboat Chris, but his efforts backfire—unintentionally creating a whole new level of intimacy between them. Fatphobia and rejection are adressed in Gentleman **Spa**, when Hao, the janitor at a gay men's spa, develops a crush on a handsome customer. Scene from the Men's Toilets at a Ceilidh is the charming story of Rory and Dan, who get into a hilarious fight in the bathroom during a Scottish dance party. **Engaged** is a dramedy that follows Darren, who keeps trying (and failing) to propose to his boyfriend Elliot. Stains is a stunning experimental film that chronicles an intense affair. And in the titular short **The Spark**, a couple who has been together for ten years find that an unanticipated question casts doubt over their relationship. Sexy, tender and vulnerable, the stories in this program capture the complexity of men's relationships.

Lesson #8 | Alberto Ferreras | USA | 2019 | 5 min | English
My Loneliness is Killing Me | Tim Courtney | United Kingdom | 2018 | 17 min | English
Delivery Boy | Hugo Kenzo | Hong Kong | 2019 | 15 min | Cantonese with English Subtitles
Next Level Shit | Gary Jaffe | USA | 2018 | 11 min | English
Gentleman Spa | Yu Jhi-han | Taiwan | 2018 | 18 min | Mandarin with English Subtitles
Scene from the Men's Toilets at a Ceilidh | Louis Norris | United Kingdom | 2018 | 10 min | English

**Scene from the Men's Toilets at a Ceilidh** | Louis Norris | United Kingdom | 2018 | 10 min | Englisl **Engaged** | David Scala | USA | 2019 | 17 min | English

Stains | Rebecca Weltner | Germany | 2017 | 6 min | No dialogue

**The Spark** | Xavier Miralles | Spain | 2019 | 13 min | Spanish with English Subtitles

Total runtime: 112 min

SAT | AUG 24 | 7pm | GCA



## Sunburn

Four friends. One swimming pool. One house. One phone call. One question... What if the love of your life came back 10 years after everything was over?

In the heat of the Portuguese summer four friends join each other in a fabulous villa, taking in sun rays and hanging by the pool. As the sexually fluid group drink, laugh and tan, hints of complex past relations threaten to surface. A phone call disrupts their tranquil weekend to announce that an old friend David, newly back in town after almost a decade, will join them for dinner. David's phone call sends unnerving energy throughout the house and the friendly dynamic quickly ripples to reveal the singular effect David has had on each of the friends.

As the arrival of their unexpected extra guest looms closer, those simmering tensions cannot be contained any longer. But who is this mysterious David? And what secrets does he hold? Director Vincente Alves do Ó (who audiences may remember from last year's Al Berto) delivers a stylish and sexy psychological drama that takes a simple premise and transforms it into an exploration of kinship, aging and quiet discomfort.

**Sunburn** | Vincent Alves do Ó | Portugal | 2018 | 82 min | Portuguese with English subtitles



## The T

**The T** follows Jo and Carter, a young trans woman and queer Black man, as they re-learn how to be best friends in the wake of their romantic relationship ending and Jo's transition.

Jo is finding that the intimacy she craves is an increasingly elusive prize. She works at a sexual health clinic by day and in her free time tries to find a connection that will last longer than a brief hook-up. When she finally meets a guy who she thinks can give her something more, she is confronted by his desire to hide her trans identity from his family, out of an apparent need to protect her from their judgment. Jo's longing for love is placed in direct confrontation with her firm sense of self worth, and she has to make a decision that will honour both

Carter, meanwhile, struggles to reconcile his identity as a queer Black man with his conservative upbringing. Raised by a pastor, he begins to realize the deep impacts his Christian childhood has had on his sense of self. Despite being an out and proud queer man, he finds that the roots of internalized shame go deeper than he thought. On the heels of a potentially frightening diagnosis, he must have the courage to face the demons he thought he had already defeated.

As the two friends go through awkward hook-ups, nervous dates, and the difficult pursuit of lasting love, they find comfort in the fact that at least they have each other. Bea Cordelia and Daniel Kyri are the creators, producers, directors, and stars of this lovely webseries, which is based on their own lives. Told in brief and intimate moments, **The T** is a gentle yet sharply funny portrayal of life in Chicago's gueer community.

The T | Bea Cordelia, Daniel Kyri | USA | 2018 | 43 min | English



## Tell It to the Bees

Anna Paguin and Holliday Grainger star in this romantic period piece set in 1950's rural Scotland. Grainger plays single mother Lydia, who has been deserted by her husband after his WWII military service left him scarred and angry. On her own with her young son Charlie, Lydia works in shifts at a factory, where her former mother-in-law is her judgmental boss. Charlie has his own problems with bullies at school, and after a particularly rough tussle, is brought to the new local doctor, Jean (Paguin), who senses his pain goes deeper than cuts and bruises. She invites him to her estate to visit the bees she keeps as a hobby, telling him that he can confide any secret he wishes to the small creatures, who will hold them in comfort and confidence.

Charlie's friendship with Jean leads to a deeper connection between Jean and Lydia, that slowly blossoms into romance. As the two try to keep their love hidden both from Charlie and the rest of the village, a heartbreaking secret that Jean has been hiding for years comes to light and Lydia must also face her past in order to make an empowered decision about her future.

Content Advisory: Sexual assault, violence.

Tell It To The Bees | Annabel Jankel | USA | 2018 | 88 mins | English

SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, Spotlight Partner







## Toni, Randi and Marie

**Toni, Randi and Marie** is a unique cinéma-vérité trilogy about the everyday lives of the eponymous female impersonator cabaret star, trans hustler, and female sex worker. This honest and intimate film depicts the underbelly of the Expo-Olympics metropolis of Montreal. Documentarian Ron Hallis, a pioneer of independent social issue documentary in English Quebec, broke ground in 1970 with this early exploration of folks living in the margins of sexuality and class, created in collaboration with his partner and editor Ophera Hallis. This early documentary stands up as a respectful encounter between the filmmaker and the subjects, which is rare in a cinematic genre rife with problematic objectification for the so-called sake of journalistic objectivity. Please join us for a screening of this treasure from the vaults of Canadian queer film archives.

Toni, Randi and Marie | Ron Hallis | Canada | 1970 | 48 min | English

Preceded by

#### In Black and White

An experimental archival short that asks the viewer to re-examine the right of the police to harass adults because of their sexual preferences.

In Black and White | Michael McGarry | Canada | 1978 | 10 min | English

This screening is a collaboration with Media Queer's cross-Canadian archival project, 69 Positions, to commemorate and problematize the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 Omnibus which legalized same-sex sexual activities.

#### FREE

Skype Q&A with Ophera Hallis post screening.

Presented with:



SUN AUG 18 7pm GCA



## **Transfinite**

This sci-fi anthology feature film is composed of seven stand-alone short stories where supernatural trans and queer people from various cultures use their powers to protect, love, teach, fight and thrive. A girl in love uses her third eye to defend her relationship; a business professional resists capitalist patriarchy with a magic connection; bullies are defeated with a sacred dance; politicians are brought into submission with spells; and supernatural beings find intimacy with the earth. The omnibus format of this film celebrates a diverse array of cultural, spiritual and science fiction traditions, honouring the many ways queer and trans people of colour connect to our inheritances in the face of oppression.

The films, all written by a different team of QTBIPOC artists, are guided by a singular vision by director Neelu Bhuman, strung together by poetry and gorgeous animation. It features the voices and talents of an array of emerging and established queer and trans people of colour performers, including D'Lo, Harmony Santana (Gun Hill Road, 2011), Carmen K Moore (Drunktown's Finest, 2014) Blossom Brown, Skyler Cooper and Davia Spain.

Transfinite | Neelu Bhuman | United Kingdom | 2019 | 70 mins | English Director Neelu Bhuman in attendance.

#### Preceded by

#### Transmission

K and L are cultural conservationists working in a not-so-distant future to preserve the artifacts and histories that are being systematically destroyed by a totalitarian government. When they are in a deadly car accident, time splinters into parallel realities, and they embark on a search between worlds to find each other again.

Transmission | Emily Mkrtichian, Anahid Yahjian | USA | 2018 | 15 min | English Actors and writers lee williams boudakian and Kamee Abrahamian in attendance.

MON | AUG 19 | 7pm | VCT | 💪 🥞



## Troublemakers 4.0

Our intergenerational film project Troublemakers is back for a fourth year! The Vancouver Queer Film Festival, Reel Youth and Love Intersections have gathered a fresh team of aspiring young filmmakers and experienced "troublemakers" to work together through an eight-session filmmaking program that captures our local queer, trans and two-spirit histories. The unveiling promises to be a gathering of talented young filmmakers, inspiring troublemakers, cast and crew, friends and family.

#### Troublemakers-

David C Jones, Christopher Hunte, Hamilton, Terrie Hamazaki, Gregory Karlen, Marq Yeo, Sumter/April Sumter-Freitag, !Kona, Lisa Salazar, Morgane Oger

Mac Walsh, Ichiro Kubozono, Corey Kuefler-ter Weeme, Ezra Loggin, Garima Garima, Emily Tsang, Ezra Avdeyev, Christopher Riaz, Alex Dounce, Wyatt Chan, Mina Yang

The Troublemakers series will be preceded by 2019 Cinematheque and Out In Schools Student Short Films: Boy, Gen-darr, Painted Dreams and Becoming Me

Please join us for a post screening reception with cast and crew at Bean Around the World at 530 pm.

Supported by: Telus Vancouver Community Board, BC Arts Council, Telus StoryHive, City of Vancouver







## **Vision Portraits**

What does it mean to see and what does it mean to have vision?

This personal documentary follows accomplished and award-winning filmmaker Rodney Evans (*Brother To Brother*, 2004), (*The Happy Sad*, 2013) as he embarks on a scientific and artistic journey, questioning how his loss of vision might impact his creative future. Diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called retinitis pigmentosa, which results in the gradual deterioration of peripheral and eventually all vision, Rodney has only twenty percent of his vision left, and wonders what will become of his art practice as his lived reality shifts.

In an effort to understand how his career in a very visual field can continue and change, Evans interviews three other visually impaired artists. Photographer John Dugdale became nearly totally blind due to a stroke and CMV retinitis, an HIV-related illness at thirty three. Instead of ending his career, he began using older photographic techniques as well as assistants to create a new collaborative visual arts practice. Evans also interviews dancer Kayla Hamilton as she creates and performs Nearly Sighted, a 360 degree experience where the audience is invited to experience the work in the manner in which Hamilton created it (blind in the left eye due to Glaucoma) by wearing an eye patch over their left eye. And writer Ryan Knighton (local to Vancouver) whose blindness didn't stop him from becoming a successful writer and teacher, discloses his struggles and triumphs.

This experimental and vulnerable film features aesthetic interludes that simulate the process of Evan's experience of transitioning vision. His journey explores the ways in which the artists affected by the changes in their sight has changed their creative process has changed or adapted, and in doing so, offers us a unique series of questions about literal and figurative artistic vision, and attempts to expand our ideas of what makes an artist.

**Vision Portraits** | Rodney Evans | USA | 2019 | 78 min | English

Director Rodney Evans in attendance

TUE | AUG 20 | 7pm | IV

Screening Sponsor: Xtra



Meet the faces of CBC Vancouver News







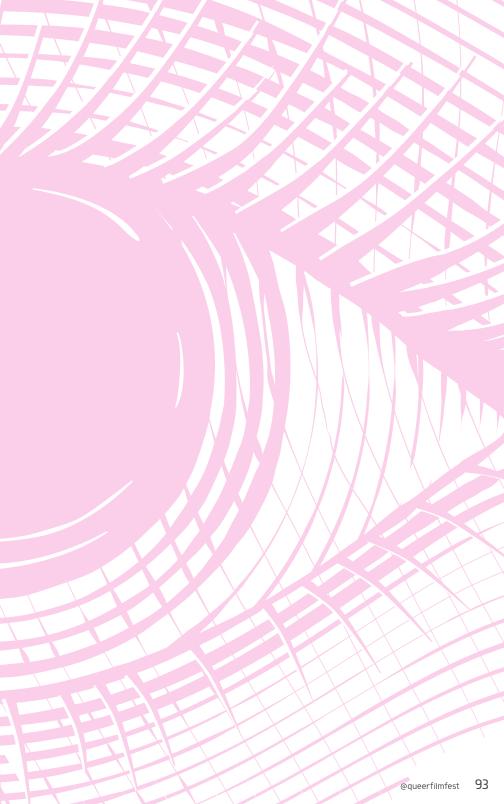
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CBCVANCOUVER CBCNEWSBC

CBC.CA/BC





# Opening Gala Party

Join us after our Opening Gala screening of **Song Lang** (p.56) at the šx\*\*\(\frac{3}{2}\) exem | Xwtl'a7\)shn plaza just steps away from the Vancouver Playhouse. In theme with the operatic aesthetics of the film, it will be a night of high drama featuring performances from Maiden China, Shay Dior, Coven and Virago Nation's Sparkle Plenty. Dance the night away with us to vibes curated by DJ Denise and celebrate our 31st year!

THU | AUG 15 | Šx<sup>w</sup>ħexən | Xwtl'a7shn plaza | 930pm

Beverages provided by: Mission Hill Family Estates and Phillips Brewing & Malting Co.

## Centrepiece Reel Patron Reception

Reel Patron Donors, you're invited to celebrate the impact you are making in LGBT2Q+ communities. This is our opportunity to say thank you for your support and for you to meet other like-minded film lovers. Please bring your reception ticket. Canapés provided with a cash bar. Centrepiece Gala tickets required to attend the film.

WED | AUG 21 | 530PM | VPH Salon A

## **Closing Gala Party**

## We did it!

Come close our 2019 Festival with us after our Closing Gala film

An Almost Ordinary Summer (p. 45) and celebrate the extraordinary time we've had together. Performances from some of our city's best drag artists and gender benders, bumpin' beats from our DJs and a sweaty dance floor—it's all happening at the Junction.

SUN | AUG 25 | 930pm | The Junction



## Out of the Office

Get out of the office and into the theatre with LOUD Business, Start Proud, and Pride at Work! Join us for an early evening mingler with local LGBT2Q+ business leaders then settle in for the screening of **Have We Met Before?** (p. 70) across the street at Cineplex International Village.

Price includes canapés at The Pint, screening ticket, and Out On Screen Society Membership. Cash bar.

TUE | AUG 20 | The Pint | 630pm | \$20

## Festival hangout

Drink coffee. Drink beer. Drink wine. Talk film. Flirt. Hang out. Post film special events.

Bean Around the World Cambie and Hastings.

SUN | AUG 18 | 530pm WED | AUG 21 | 930pm SAT | AUG 24 | 9pm

## an evening of queer indigenous performance



# **Looking For Tiger Lily**

Starring Anthony Hudson (The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde), the human vessel for Portland's premiere drag clown Carla Rossi, **Looking For Tiger Lily** utilizes song, dance, drag, and video to put a queer spin on the ancestral tradition of storytelling. Asking what it means for a queer mixed Native person to experience their heritage through white normative culture as they recount growing up watching the 1960 production of "Peter Pan" featuring Sondra Lee's blonde, blue-eyed "Indian Princess" Tiger Lily, Anthony (and Carla) draw from a songbook stretching across Disney's "Pocahontas" to Cher's "Half-Breed." Not just autobiography, **Looking For Tiger Lily** is a coming-of-age story that's more than cowboys versus Indians.

Preceded by: Descent - The Twins - Metamorphosis

Be sure to check out Anthony's workshop, Welcome to Clown Town: A Drag Workshop (p. 110)



# **Descent - The Twins - Metamorphosis**

**Descent - The Twins - Metamorphosis** is an ongoing personal journey out of darkness and struggle. Cross fading between the realms of performative video, live performance, and self portrait narrative, artist Beric Manywounds discerns what it means to be a two spirited/multi gendered person in a postcolonial world. Exploring the terrain of inter-dimensional communication and unresolved grief, multiple spiritual presences and characters emerge to speak their stories from parallel universes and alternate realities. Part conversation, part meditation, **Descent - The Twins - Metamorphosis** is a performative exploration that seeks transformation and healing through expression, embodiment, and two spirit resurgence.

# SAT | AUG 24 | 7pm | GCA WAC

Anthony and Beric will join audiences for a post-performance panel on queer Indigenous arts and practice at Bean Around The World (p. 8)

## running, running trees go by...



Untitled, 2019

Curated by Justin Ducharme in collaboration with the Artist... this year's Festival offers a pop-up exhibit featuring new and retrospective works from artist Zachery Longboy.

Longboy is from Churchill, Manitoba and is of Sayisi Dene lineage. This new and retrospective collection continues the artists' exploration within a fractured cultural experience through deeply felt layered videos, paintings and archival film.

The exhibit is co-presented with the SUM Gallery and runs from August 20th to 25th.

Join us for an intimate artist salon on Sunday, August 25th before the Festival's Closing Gala from 1-3pm.





# SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs activates diverse communities through the ARTS!

Create: Provoke: Transform

**SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs** proudly celebrates seven years of collaboration with **VQFF**, working to advance issues surrounding gender and identity to the benefit of all.

This year we are thrilled to co-present the **Queer Kinship on Screen Spotlight**. These familial relationships by birth or choice come with unique challenges revealing the depth of care and commitment we make to these essential bonds.

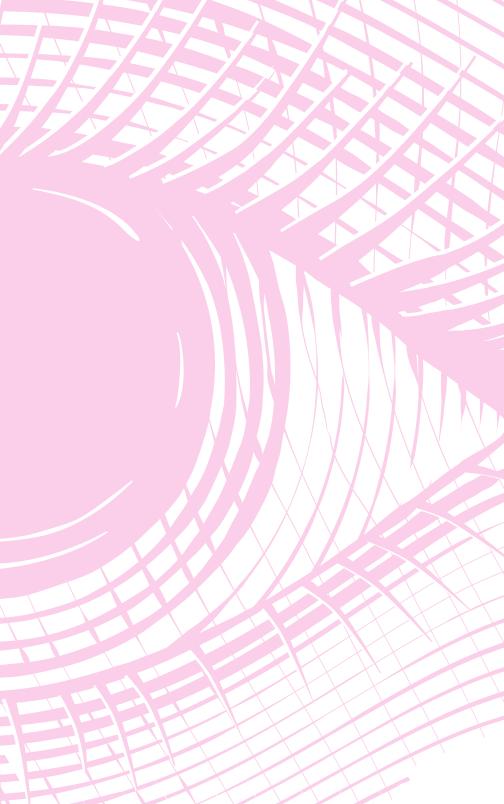
SFUW Cultural Programs along with The School for the Contemporary Arts are delighted to support the **TROUBLEMAKERS 4.0** initiative (the photos explain why). Celebrating who we are, forever comfortable in our own skin, is vital to our collective happiness.

Finally we are so pleased to have **Love Intersections** back in a community building conversation led by Vancouver's two most charismatic cultural activists,









## Workshops

Supported by Creative BC

## Queer the CBC



VQFF and the CBC will host a discussion panel on the role of a national broadcaster in the creation and dissemination of LGBT2Q+ content. Participants will get a chance to learn about what the national broadcaster looks for in LGBT2Q+ content and how to get your content noticed by a major television network.

SAT | AUG 17 | 11am | GCA WAC

CBC/Radio-Canada, Workshop Partner

## Collaborative Documentary Filmmaking with Love Intersections



Building trust with your subjects is one of the greatest and most important challenges of documentary film-making. Local filmmakers Jen Sungshine and David Ng from Love Intersections will share their experiences as documentary filmmakers and collaborators who centre their subjects and engage them in a collaborative filmmaking process. They will outline the challenges and joys of the collaborative filmmaking practice with participants, and share strategies for building trust while upholding artistic integrity and creativity.

SAT | AUG 17 | 1pm | GCA WAC

ACFC West Local 2020 UNIFOR, Workshop Sponsor

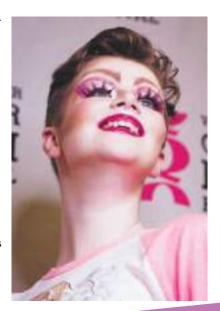
## Youth Drag Workshop

Are you ready to W-E-R-Q the house down? Prior to our Youth Gala (p. 43) we are hosting a Youth Workshop that explores the various facets of drag performance and art. Get ready to look and dance the part, just like some of your favorite drag queens. Plus the first 20 participants who register at the door will receive a FREE TICKET to the Youth Gala!

In Ralph Escamillan's voque femme class vou will learn the 5 basic voque elements that are incorporated in the freestyle dance form. His background as both a commercial and contemporary dancer makes for a class that is accessible to anyone, any age at any dance level. You will for sure have fun and break a sweat learning how in this vogue class.

Be sure to see Coming Into Our Own: Youth Shorts (p. 43), screening right after this workshop at 7 pm in the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts' Djavid Mowafaghian Cinema.

SAT | AUG 17 | 5pm | GCA WAC



## **Oueer Film Curation**

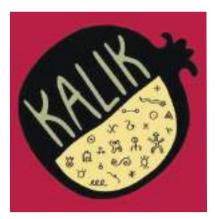
Want to know what goes into programming a Oueer Film Festival? Go behind the scenes of VQFF with Artistic Director Anoushka Ratnarajah, Festival Programmer Justin Ducharme, and members of VOFF's Programming Committee. Participants will get a chance to learn about all the moving pieces behind curating a film festival, from research to film selection to working with distributors to collaboration with multidisciplinary artists. Participants will get a look into what the climate and ecology of the international and national film festival circuit including current trends and challenges.

SAT | AUG 18 | 1pm | GCA WAC



## **QTBIPOC Futures with Kalik**

Kalik is an interdisciplinary film and media collective that works specifically with gueer and trans people of colour and the science fiction genre. Queer and trans people and people of colour are often excluded from or marginalized within science fiction films. This workshop will ask the guestions: what does the future look like for gueer and trans people of colour? How do we imagine creatively surviving and thriving in worlds and times to come? And how do we dream up alternative realities that explore and expand our realities and histories? Filmmakers, performers and writers lee williams boudakian and Kamee Abrahamian will engage participants by sharing their own stories and leading collaborative screenwriting exercises.



SUN | AUG 19 | 11am | GCA WAC

## Welcome to Clown Town: A Drag Workshop

Portland's premier drag clown Carla Rossi (with intellectual support from her human avatar Anthony Hudson) attempts to chart the vast abyss of drag and its potential, addressing how drag's many varieties, flavors, and houses correspond to the unchartable spectrum of genders and sexuality - with supporting looks at its legendary elders, artists, and ancestors, from Two-Spirits (and other-gender shamans of the pre-settler North American continent) and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to Marsha P. Johnson, Leigh Bowery, Elvira, RuPaul, and Christeene

FRI | AUG 23 | 4pm | GCA



## **Gerry Brunet Memorial Award**

#### Value \$2,500

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. Yuki Chen won in 2018 for Colours. The 2019 winner will be announced at our Closing Gala presentation on August 25.

This award is generously supported by the Directors Guild of Canada - BC.



#### **Gerry Jurors**

#### Yuki Chen

Yuki is a Vancouver-based illustrator and 2D animator from China, who graduated from Emily Carr University of Art + Design. Her thesis film, Colours, won the Gerry Brunet Award in 2018. Yuki is now working full-time as a designer in studio animation, as well as a freelancer in animation and illustration in pursuit of her personal passion for storytelling.



#### **Roger Blenman**

Roger is a novelist, playwright, and educator who also enjoys running, wrestling, hiking, travel, theatre, and film, Among the things he values most are creativity and compassion in himself and others. It is a pleasure and a privilege for him to be involved in the Queer Film Festival.



#### Joshua M. Ferguson

Joshua M. Ferguson (PH.D.) is a non-binary trans (they/them) writer, filmmaker, advocate, and alchemist. Ferguson's filmmaking work includes the award winning Whispers of Life; Limina, which was shown at festivals around the world and praised for its trans inclusivity; and the love story Henry's Heart. Their writing has been featured in international publications, and their memoir, "Me. Myself, They" was released with House of Anansi Press on May 7, 2019.





## OUTtvGo People's Choice Award for Best Feature Value \$750

Join OUTtvGo in supporting queer film by casting your vote for your favourite feature.

Saturday Church (Damon Cardasis, director) took home the coveted OUTtvGo People's Choice for Best Feature in 2018.

## OUTtvGo 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!

**Beauty** (Christina Willings, director) was awarded the OUTtyGo People's Choice award for Best Short in 2018.

## **Volunteer Award / Community Partners**



### Volunteer Award

Last year, we introduced a new award to Out On Screen—the inaugural Volunteer Service Award. We always say that volunteers are at the heart of what we do, so we'd like to honour one every vear as a small token of our appreciation. It is an annual award to recognize significant contribution to LGBT20+ communities through volunteer service with Out On Screen and its programs, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and Out in Schools.

Last year's recipient was Rosy Deol. Rosy truly captures the spirit of Out On Screen. From editing our Festival guide, driving visiting artists around the city, compiling data entry for Out In Schools, and working almost every screening during the last four Festivals, she has amazed so many with her grace, knowledge, and has done so tirelessly and without expectation.

Thank you so much, Rosy!

## **Community Partners**

**Black Lives Matter** 

blacklivesmattervancouver.com lezervations.com

BOLD; Bold, Old(er), Lesbians & Dvkes

boldfest.com

Camp Out!

campout.ubc.ca

Cineworks

cineworks ca

DOXA

doxafestival.ca

Foundation of Hope

foundationofhope.net

frank theatre company thefranktheatre.com

Full Circle (Talking Stick

Festival) fullcircle.ca

**Hogan's Alley Working Group** 

hogansalleysociety.org

checkhimout ca

Indian Summer Festival

indiansummerfest ca

**LEGIT Vancouver** 

legit.ca

Lezervations

**Metro Vancouver Kink** 

mvkvancouver.com

Migrante BC

migrantworkersrights.net

**Momentum Health Study** momentumstudy.ca

Music On Main

musiconmain ca

pace-society.org

**PFLAG** 

pflagvancouver.com

**Positive Living BC** 

positivelivingbc.org

**Powell Street Festival** powellstreetfestival.com

**PuSH International** 

Performing Arts Festival

Health Initiative for Men (HIM) pushfestival.ca

**Omunity** 

gmunity.ca

**Sher Vancouver** shervancouver.com South Asian Film Education Society

TransCare BC

phsa.ca/transcarebo

Union LGBT+ Wedding Show unionweddingshow.com

Vancouver Asian Film Festival vaff.org

Vancouver Frontrunners

vancouverfrontrunners.org Vancouver International

Film Festival

viff.ora

Vancouver Men's Chorus vancouvermenschorus.ca

Vancouver Men in Leather

vancouvermeninleather.ca Vancouver Pride Society

vancouverpride.ca

Women in Film & TV womeninfilm.ca

#### **Visiting Artists**

Flavio Alves is a Brazilian film director and producer. He was granted political asylum in the United States in 1998 and earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Columbia University. Alves new film, The Garden Left Behind, is an IFP Narrative Lab project that has recently received support from GLAAD. Alves received The Film Society of Lincoln Center's Artist Academy fellowship, and has received grants from numerous organizations including the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and Jerome Foundation. The Garden Left Behind (p. 67)



Flavio Alves

Kamee was born in an immigrant suburb to an Armenian family by way of the SWANA region. They arrive in the world today as a queer mother and an interdisciplinary creative, writer, producer, and facilitator, Kamee is currently pursuing an MA/PhD in community, liberation, indigenous and eco psychologies (Pacifica Graduate Institute). The bedrock of their creative background is in visual art, performance, film, and immersive storytelling. Their work is primarily collaborative and is interested in ancestral reclamation, diasporic futurism, and radical imaginaries.

Transmission (p. 94) OTBIPOC Futures with Kalik (p. 110)



Kamee Abrahamian

Neelu is an independent artist exploring social and political themes, evoking insights into the workings of difference in intimacy, their films blend viewpoints ranging from race, gender, sexuality, culture, class and romance. Neelu's films purposefully move towards abstract retellings of the problematics of identity categories and foregrounding varieties of resilience and resistance to experiences of duress. FU377 (2014) has won best animation awards in New Delhi, New York City and Kolkata film festivals, while Love Letter/Prema Lekha (2016) garnered the best short in Graphic Arts category at the Tunis Chouftouhonna Feminist Festival.

Transfinite (p. 94)



Neelu Bhuman

lee williams boudakian (uses they, them, theirs pronouns) is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, producer, facilitator, and consultant. lee's work emerges from their experiences as a gueer, trans, mixed race settler born into an immigrant family. Their work is critical and necessarily intersectional. lee is invested in art and storytelling that integrates ancestral and cultural herstories; grapples with our current worlds: and visions into futures that centre the lives and stories of those of us currently living on the fringe and in the margins.

Transmission (p. 94) QTBIPOC Futures with Kalik (p. 110)





Originally from China, Cheng left biotechnology research in 2007 to focus on film and his first feature. Joshua Tree (2014), is a critique of the dominant American culture. His second feature, **José** (2018), premiered at Venice Film Festival on 6 September 2018, and was awarded Oueer Lion the following day - for the project he conducted research in 12 Latin American countries and lived in Guatemala for two years: a struggling place yet filled with youthful hope. Cheng holds a PhD in Cell Biology from Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.

José (p. 44)





Kelli Jean Drinkwater is an award winning filmmaker, performer and public speaker recognized internationally for her voice in radical body politics. Her work explores the complex relationshipwe all have with our bodies. In 2016. Kelli Jean presented a TedXSydney, which has received over 1.8 million views. Aguaporko! (2013), won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at OueerScreen, Monsta Gras (2018), for ABCArts / LoveBites showcased Australian gueer filmmakers. Nothing to Lose (2018), is Kelli Jean's first feature documentary, kellijeandrinkwater.com Nothing to Lose (p. 77)

Kelli Jean Drinkwater



Rodney Evans is the writer/director/producer of several award winning films, including: Brother To Brother (Special Jury Prize in Drama at 2004 Sundance Film Festival, 4 Independent Spirit Awards), and Persistence of Vision (Jury Prize at the Ann Arbor International Film Festival in 2017). Evans has taught at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Princeton and Swarthmore. Vision Portraits (p. 96)



Carlie is a first generation college student. Her interests have taken her through fine arts, menswear design, and now computer science. Most recently, she starred in The Garden Left Behind. These days she spends her time thinking of the intersection of visual arts and computer science.

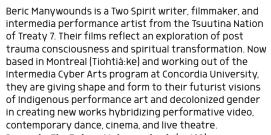
The Garden Left Behind (p.67)

Anthony Hudson (The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, performer, and filmmaker best known as Portland, Oregon's premier drag clown, Carla Rossi, an immortal trickster whose attempts at realness almost always result in fantastic failure. Together they host Queer Horror (the United States' only LGBTQ horror screening series) at the historic Hollywood Theatre. Anthony was named a 2018 National Artist Fellow by the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation, a Native Launchpad artist by the Western Arts Alliance, and a 2019 Individual Artist Fellow by the Oregon Arts Commission. Find out more at TheCarlaRossi.com

Looking For Tiger Lily (p. 102) and Welcome to Clown Town (p. 110)

Graham Kolbeins is a Los Angeles based filmmaker, writer, and fashion designer. He's the co-director, with Dorian Wood, of the short film Paisa, and the director of the short documentary The House of Gay Art. The Japan-U.S. Friendship Council named Kolbeins a recipient of their Creative Artists Exchange Fellowship in 2016, and he subsequently spent five months directing **Oueer Japan**. a feature documentary about sexuality and gender identity in Japan.

Queer Japan (p. 83)



Descent - The Twins - Metamorphosis (p. 103)

Tchaiko has interned for Spike Lee, Mira Nair and assisted directors George C Wolfe and Tom Vaughan. She produced the short film his/herstory with franklin leonard (the black list), which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. She was awarded the Gaea Sea Change residency for artists working for social change where the idea to make a film inspired by her journey with an eating disorder and self-harm was born. She made the short film, Solace, then wrote the feature script (semi-finalist for 2012 sundance writers lab) and completed production july 2015.

**Solace** (p. 88)



Anthony Hudson



Graham Kolbeins



Beric Manywounds



Tchailko Omawale



Phillip Pike

Phillip Pike is an emerging documentary filmmaker. As a graduate of McGill University's Faculty of Law, Phillip's journey of personal and professional discovery has taken him from a career creating change as a community activist and human rights lawyer to a career creating change through storytelling as a documentary filmmaker. He is a graduate of the Documentary Filmmaking Institute (School of Creative Arts & Animation, Seneca College, Toronto). He also received intensive training in video production at Trinity Square Video in Toronto and the Bay Area Video Coalition in San Francisco.

Our Dance of Revolution (p. 78)



George F. Roberson

George F Roberson is a writer and producer. His first feature, Joshua Tree (2014) focused on the crisis of the American dream. José (2018), is his second feature film. It's currently touring leading festivals in dozens of countries world-wide. An academic and social theorist, he was Fulbright Scholar to Morocco, holds a PhD from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and has lived and worked in over sixty countries. José (p. 44)



David Charles Rodrigues

David is a Greek-American-Brazilian filmmaker and equal rights activist. He's a Sundance New Frontier and Doc lab fellow. His work leverages art, music and cinematic narratives to trojan-horse challenging messages into people's hearts and minds. Rodrigues' short films and commercials have garnered over 1 billion views online and were featured at MOCA Los Angeles, MOCA Tei Pei, The San Jose New Media Biennial, Skirball Cultural Center, The Art Directors Club, Cannes Lions and Art Basel Miami. Gav Chorus Deep South is his feature documentary debut.

Gay Chorus Deep South (p. 68)



Tim Seelig is a conductor, singer, author and motivational speaker. He the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Dr. Seelig holds four degrees, including a Diploma from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He has authored seven books and DVDs on choral technique. Gay Chorus Deep South (p. 68)

#### **Local Artists**

Steve J. Adams and Sean Horlor are a gay directing team from Vancouver, Canada. Their documentary and docufiction films explore the intersection of identity, humour, and popular culture. They are obsessed with human behaviour and memory and all the weird and wonderful ways people act and interact. Their short doc, A Small Part Of Me, screened at the 2017 Vancouver Queer Film Festival

Brunch Queen (p. 64)



Steve J. Adams and Sean Horlor

Andy Alvarez is a filmmaker based in Vancouver. After more than fourteen world-wide festival screenings, and several awards, her directorial debut La Mariposa was awarded a Leo Award for Best Student Production in 2018. She was also selected as one of the ten filmmakers to participate in Vancouver's International Film Festival's first Talent Lab program. This year Andy was awarded the Lindalee Tracey Award at Hot Docs for her recent short film, Our Home.

Come Around (p. 64)



Andy Alvarez

Director and DOP, Bruna Arbex, was born and raised in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. She recently completed the Film Production program at Vancouver Film School. Throughout the course of her film career, she has written three full-length scripts, was the Director of Photography for the second episode of a short episodic web series Joe Personman, and has directed multiple short media platform advertisements as well as 3 short films. Now, she plans on staying in Vancouver and applying her latest short film La Ceri-se to local and foreign film festivals as well as developing and directing new projects.

La Ceri-se (p. 64)



**Bruna Arbex** 

Born in Brampton, ON, Ralph started his training at age 14 at Harbour Dance Centre in Vancouver, BC. His arsenal of performance skills include a variety of street dance styles, ballroom, circus, drag and was a graduate of Contemporary Training Program Modus Operandi (2015). In his earlier years of dancing he danced with Vancouver crews such as Kill The Lights, House Of Ladouche, Freshgroove Productions, SickStyles and 247company.

Youth Drag Workshop (p. 109)



Ralph Escamillan



Yuko Fedrau is a fourth year undergraduate student at UBC, majoring in Art History and minoring in Asian Canadian and Asian Migration Studies. In her research, she is interested in examining culture through a post-colonial and queer lens. The short documentary, **Ricecake**, is her very first step into the world of documentary filmmaking, and she hopes to create many more films in the future.

Ricecake (p. 64)



Kerri Flannigan

Kerri Flannigan is an artist, educator, and animator currently based on Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ Territories, who explores methods of storytelling and documentary through art and animation. Coming-of-age confessions, gueerness, and swimming have all been subjects of recent works. Flannigan has shown locally and internationally, receiving a Canada Arts Media Grant in 2017, a BC Arts Council Project Assistance Grant in 2017, the Best English Zine at the Expozine Awards (2011 and 2014) and was runner-up to the inaugural Lind Prize (2016).

Above The Bar (p.64)



Tyler Jacobs

Tyler Jacobs' ancestral name is Sxela'pchtn that goes back as far as 9 Generations from the Skwxú7mesh Úxwumixw He does Traditional Protocol Land acknowledgement on the Unceded Territories of the Squamish, Musqueum and Tsleiwatuth Nations as being the three neighboring tribes in Tyler's home Territory. He is a local entrepreneur, fashion designer, and artist, having worked with Manitobah Mukluks & has made many custom traditional regalia's across Indian country. Keeping the culture alive in more ways than one, he also teaches Pow Wow lessons in local school districts to the children as being a respected Cultural role model. Huy chexw mentum7stlá.

#### Walk with my Spirits (p. 60)



Zachery Longboy

Zachery Longboy is a multidisciplinary artist born in Churchill, Manitoba of Sayisi Dene lineag, he studied at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. His intensely felt, hybrid layered videos often use his complex performance-installations as a departure point. Those works concentrate most on the clash of his native heritage with his white urban cultural environment. Longboy is nationally honoured, widely shown in gueer and First Nations venues, as well as in public collections. The National Gallery of Canada, Glenbow Museum. The Canada Council Art Bank. Numerous screenings include The Edmonton Art Gallery, Museum of Modern Art, Images Independent Film & Video Festival.

running, running trees go by... (p. 104)

Love Intersections has been called a creative love note, penned by a group of hopeful millennials. Co-founded in 2014 by Jen Sungshine and David Ng, both queer and Chinese/Taiwanese artist-activists based in Vancouver, Love Intersections, like all families, is a work in progress-an ongoing story that is told by many voices. Grounded by an ethos of collective care, and expressed through the medium of film, Love Intersections aims to deepen the mainstream narrative of our differently interconnected lives fueled by empathy and extraordinary nuance

Yellow Peril: Queer Destiny (p. 79)

Collaborative Documentary Filmmaking (p. 108)

Andréa Monteiro is a Brazilian-Canadian filmmaker based in Vancouver, BC. She holds a PhD in nursing and social justice issues are the focus of her scholarship and filmmaking. She has a deep love for the art, magic and advocacy possibilities of documentary filmmaking. Andréa would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the land on which, as a visitor, she lives and grows in the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples.

ô Criatura: Navigating (dis)location (p. 64)



The Pain Within Us (p. 82)

Annette Reilly is a local Vancouver actor/director/producer. She plays Diana Spellman in the Netflix original, Chilling Adventures of Sabrina. Annette grew up in Alberta and holds a degree in Theatre from UVic. After a bout with colon cancer, Annette returned to filmmaking, producing Unintentional Mother the first Canadian film to be funded by the KSF Foundation. Since creating her new production company, Exeunt Productions, Annette has produced, directed and acted in the Leo Award nominated A Typical Fairytale.

A Typical Fairytale (p. 64)



Love Intersections



Andréa Monteiro



Dylan Murray



Annette Reilly



Linnea Ritland

Linnea Ritland (Violet and June, Everything's Great!, Amateur Dramatics) holds a BFA in Film Production from the University of British Columbia, and specializes in gueer, comedy and educational content. More at her website: linnearitland.com

Amateur Dramatics (p. 43) Everything's Great! (p. 64)



Raymund Santos

Raymund is a Filipino-Canadian filmmaker based in Vancouver, BC. He graduated from Far Eastern University, Manila with a degree of Bachelor of Arts, Major in Mass Communication. He worked in a Post-Production house as a writer/producer for two years before his family moved to Canada in 2006. He studied Film Production in Vancouver Film School and worked on independent shorts in various positions. After his self-inflicted hiatus from film production, he is returning to his roots and rekindling his passion for story-telling. Voicemail (p. 64)

Jazmine Smith-Gladue

Jazmine Smith-Gladue was born and raised on Flying Dust First Nation, a Cree reserve located in Northern Saskatchewan. She runs a beauty business called Transendence Beauty, which is geared towards helping transgender women, crossdressers and drag queens. On the side she helps run a jewelry and apparel business called Grizzly Turtle Jewelry and Art with her husband Spencer Smith. With her film I Am Me. she hopes to bring awareness of transgender and two spirited issues and inspire others to never give up.

I Am Me (p. 64)



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Love Intersections



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