



PRESENTED
BY



LONGING

ONLINE AUGUST 12-22, 2021

STREAMING FROM THE UNCEDED TERRITORIES OF
THE MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH & TSLEIL-WAUTUTH PEOPLES

QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA

#VQFF2021

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 xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. As an organization that operates 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 seek 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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Legend

Program Legend

Video on Demand

Available throughout the Festival

Limited Release

Limited availability during the Festival

Live Events

In person event during the Festival

Online Events

Livestreamed digital event during the Festival

Informative Symbols



Closed Captioning



Subtitles



ASL Interpretation



Where we expect films will be rated for youth, we have placed this symbol.

See queerfilmfestival.ca for specific ratings.



Flashing lights



Explicit violence



Sexual violence

Festival Schedule

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Let's Be Friends

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

#VQFF2021



queerfilmfestival.ca



VancouverQFF



@queerfilmfest



@queerfilmfest

Ticket Information

Please review our schedule carefully. Films and programs offered in a Video on Demand (VOD) format can be started at any point during the Festival, whereas films with a limited release will be available only for specific dates. Once you press play, you have 24-hours to complete your viewing, regardless of format. Please note: All films are limited to BC only.

Where to buy

Please go to queerfilmfestival.ca to purchase your tickets, memberships, and passes.

Memberships

The Vancouver Out On Screen Film and Video Society is responsible for operating in compliance with the Motion Picture Act and Consumer Protection BC. Our mandate is the encouragement and appreciation of motion pictures as a medium of art, information or education.

To attend one of our film screenings (which may not have been classified by Consumer Protection BC), you must be a member of the Society. Membership is by annual subscription. Adult Members have access to all films with a valid ticket and can vote at our Annual General Meeting, helping to direct the future of Out On Screen. **Youth Members may only attend films suitable for audiences under the age of 18.**

Only members are permitted to be present at the place where a non-classified film is being exhibited.

Adult Membership **\$5**
(18 yrs & up)

Youth Membership **\$2**
(17 yrs & under,
valid for youth-rated films only)

Single Tickets

	Friends with benefits (FWB)	Standard	Access	Access+
Regular Screenings & Special Presentations	\$21	\$14	\$10	\$5

FWB pricing

Since you only need one ticket per screening device, this pricing is for those who wish to watch with loved ones, friends, and/or your chosen family.

Access pricing

Reduced prices are available for students, seniors, and the underemployed | Access+ is our temporary access pricing for those experiencing additional hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Passes

Superpass	Standard	Access
	\$175	\$145

Passes give you access to all films and events at the Festival and include an Adult Membership to the Vancouver Out On Screen Film & Video Society. This is by far the best way to experience VQFF2021. **Passes restricted to 18+.**

Watch Online

All films are screened on our watch platform at watch.outonscreen.com

Refunds and Exchanges

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

Questions?

Call the Box Office info line 604.844.1615 x410 or email boxoffice@outonscreen.com

Our Commitment to an Accessible Festival

Accessibility is an ongoing and continual learning process. Please reach out if you have any feedback, guidance, or questions to info@outonscreen.com. Accessibility feedback will also be available in our post-festival survey. Please visit our website to read our ongoing Accessibility Statement in full.

Community tickets

We issue over 500 complimentary tickets & memberships to local community groups for individuals who face financial and other barriers to attending the Festival. Accessibility requests are available through our box office for tickets/passes: please contact info@outonscreen.com

Physical Space

- We work to ensure that our in person venues have physically accessible washrooms and that non-gendered washrooms are available.
- We request that all patrons practice scent-reduction when using our venues to ensure folks with multiple chemical sensitivities can attend.
- Funding to support accessible travel and cover the costs related to disabilities available by request.

Programming

- ASL interpretation for select programs.
- Subtitles or Closed captions for select programming
- Content warnings provided (ex: flashing lights, graphic violence, etc)
- Transcripts available for select programming

Communications

- Transit information available for all of our in-person venues
- Accessibility information listed for each event, in-person or online

Coast Salish Two Spirit Symbol as presented by Musqueam



By Mack Paul, 2018©

Mack Paul (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) 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 məθkʷəy̓ 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



Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumíxw
Squamish Nation

I chet wa kw'enmantúmiwit kwis i uys iyá s7ulh temíxw - We welcome you to our lands.

The Squamish People have lived in the Vancouver area for many generations stretching back to the ice age and before. Our language, culture, and society were birthed from these lands by passing knowledge and history from one generation to another. Today, we are organized into the Squamish Nation - an amalgamation of several different Squamish People who share common ancestry and language.

On behalf of our people, the Squamish Nation welcomes you to the shared territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, where Vancouver now exists. We join our LGBTQAI2S+ community and family to celebrate our love for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. This month and every month, we stand together with the millions of people who work to make this world a safer and more dignified place for all LGBTQAI2S+ people.

The Vancouver Queer Film Festival a vibrant space for queer arts, culture, and community. It showcases dynamic and thought-provoking films from British Columbian filmmakers and other Canadian and international directors and storytellers. We thank the Vancouver Queer Film Festival for the work they do for our city.

Chet wenáxwstúmiwit - with respect to you.

Sincerely,



Kristen Rivers - Tiyáitelut
Council Co-Chair



Joshua Joseph - Skwetsí7meltxw
Council Co-Chair

Politicians' Welcome



The Honourable
Hedy Fry, P.C., M.P.
Vancouver Centre

I am pleased to extend my warmest wishes to the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival (VQFF)** as you celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the Festival. How the time flies!

As we celebrate virtually, this year I commend the organizers and creators of the VQFF for pivoting to total digital programming.

Your continued commitment to expanding the VQFF and introducing the LGBTQ2+ community to international film, helps us all to see the creativity of Queer filmmakers and to share the common challenges, to laugh together, love together and cry together.

At a time when so many live in isolation, anxious and lonely, film brings the community together in one global hug.

I am pleased to see that you have continued an intersectional approach with the inclusion of diverse community members, including trans, queer people of colour, and Indigenous peoples.

I am excited to see what this year's festival has to offer. You never cease to delight and amaze.

See you in the virtual world. Enjoy!
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hedy Fry'.



The Honourable
Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Canadian
Heritage and Multiculturalism
Ministre du Patrimoine
Canadien et
du Multiculturalisme

Welcome to the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival**.

This year marks the 33rd edition of this event, the second largest film festival in Vancouver. Although this summer's lineup will go digital in keeping with local health guidelines, I have no doubt that it will be every bit as engaging and entertaining.

Our government understands the power of the arts, which have proven to be a critical source of joy in the pandemic. Celebrations like this provide a wonderful showcase of our open and inclusive society. The stories you will see will also shine a light on our talented LGBTQ2 filmmakers and artists from across the country. That is why we are a proud supporter of this festival.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I would like to thank everyone involved in organizing this year's landmark event, despite the obvious challenges.

Enjoy the shows!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Steven Guilbeault'.

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I'm pleased to welcome everyone attending the 2021 **Vancouver Queer Film Festival**.

The VQFF, Western Canada's largest queer art event, is a celebration of Vancouver's diversity. The films at festivals like this one can bring up a range of emotions as they speak to the spectrum of lived experience within the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Cinema is a powerful force in the cultural dialogue of our modern age, inviting viewers to a deeper understanding of and appreciation for one another. I have no doubt that everyone participating will have an entertaining and informative time.

Virtual events such as this one, provide a vital connection to community through what has been a challenging year for many. Organizing an online festival of this magnitude requires a tremendous amount of effort and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Out On Screen's staff, board and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to this event. By providing a space to honour the stories of diverse filmmakers and centering marginalized voices, you help to create a more welcoming and inclusive province where everyone is free to be who they are.

I have no doubt that audiences can expect a fantastic season of thought-provoking screenings, lively panels and engaging workshops. Enjoy the festival!



On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my warmest greetings to the **33rd Annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival**.

Vancouver is fast emerging as a true creative powerhouse on the world stage, and the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival** is a leading contributor to the strength of our vibrant arts and cultural community. The Vancouver Queer Film Festival is Vancouver's second-largest film festival and the largest queer arts event in all of Western Canada. While this year's festival is being held virtually in line with public health orders, it still plays a critical role in engaging and celebrating our communities.

Vancouver is proud of the diversity that thrives in our community, and our city is so tremendously enriched by the economic, cultural, and social contributions of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. The **Vancouver Queer Film Festival** sheds light on these contributions and shares compelling stories of 2SLGBTQ+ activism, experiences, struggles, and aspirations from every corner of the globe. As Mayor, I would like to thank all the film makers, entertainers, festival organizers, and volunteers who contribute to the success of this unique and important festival.



Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia



Kennedy Stewart
Mayor of Vancouver

Board Welcome



While the final months of 2020 did not bring us the reprieve from COVID-19 that we had hoped, we continue to push forward and seek a future filled with joy for all of our communities. This past year has asked us to bear witness to so many stories of trauma, resilience, and the movement towards collective care. If anything, the step into 2021 has confirmed that returning to what once was is not an option if we are truly committed to illuminating, celebrating, and advancing all queer, trans, and Two-Spirit lives.

The theme of “Longing” not only speaks to our desire for connection and shared embraces over the past year, but to the aching need for a future that values each and every story. It has always been the longing to love who we love, to be our true selves, and to know that we are worthy of a life well-lived that has led to the many great acts of resistance and activism integral to liberation.

Through film, we find joy and motivation in the stories of those who found what they had longed for. We can find belonging and connection through shared dreams we have yet to achieve. We can hear the call to action by those who are still fighting for the right to exist. Longing is the catalyst that propels our stories forward.

With that, we invite you to share in laughter, heartache, and celebration through the films and performances that highlight the dreams of queer, trans, and two-spirit lives.

Aimee Beauchamp,
Board Chair

Melanie Matining,
Vice Chair

Executive Director Welcome



Dearest Festies,

I had hoped that I would be able to start my second Festival as Executive Director seeing all of your beautiful faces queering up the Playhouse Theatre followed by a beautiful and joyful party at ʂxʷʂexən Xwtl'a7shn (formerly the QET Plaza). Alas.

However, I am still thrilled to welcome you to the gift that Artistic Director Anoushka Ratnarajah, VQFF Programmer Nya Lewis, and VQFF Program Coordinator Jas Calcitas have crafted for you all: the 33rd Annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival. Last year we had to plan under constantly changing conditions. This year wasn't entirely different but we felt more confident in ways in which would could still showcase the best of 2SLGBTQIA+ film and storytelling. Indeed, we heard from many of you that because of the online format you were able to participate in last year's festival for the first time or reconnect with us from across so-called "BC".

We joke that 'Longing' may be our queerest theme yet. But it's also a beautilly apt way to describe our complex feelings for the moment we're in. For me, there is so much that I miss and so much that I hope comes to pass. To sit with so much uncertainty is not new to many of us but I know that when we gather, when we dream, when we witness each other, we create better possibilities for not only 2SLGBTQIA+ people but for everyone. Storytellers are vital to a just recovery, and I hope you join us to witness their works online and safely in-person.

In love and liberation,

Brandon Yan 甄念本
Executive Director
He/Him

Artistic Director Welcome



I know that it is my job in this letter to inspire you and build your excitement for our Festival. And I truly could not be more proud of the collective effort it takes to make this an experience that brings joy to our audiences and uplifts the work of our incredible filmmakers. And yet I write this from a place of complete exhaustion, a tiredness I don't think I have ever felt before, one that I know other artists are feeling. There is a huge deficit owed to so many who have been ignored for too long. The cracks in the system are becoming more glaring-- like torn pieces of sky, the truth of what our world really looks like, what we've done to break it, is harder and harder to ignore. Stories are pouring out, along with grief, rage, and heartbreak.

But of course, these stories have also been a balm to mine and many a broken heart. Like the ocean, our stories go deep; they can reflect our dazzling light and shake us with their depth and darkness. Some of our stories rise after a long submergence, offering revelations. Others repeat and cycle like the tide. Like the sky, our stories are endless. Like the stars, our stories travel through time and space to share their light, to fill the distance between us.

The magic hour has always been a special time of day for filmmakers. It's a time in between time, both a time to wake and a time to rest. I think that's the time we are living in now. We are craving that necessary rest to go on after too much loss and suffering. And it is also very clearly a time for us to wake up, to fight, and love and change. This time, in it's forced slight pause, has brought into sharper focus that for many members of our communities, a feeling of helpless stasis is familiar. Queer people have lived through pandemics before, through many different apocalypses; colonization, climate change, white supremacy, transphobia, poverty, insitutionalization... we have been longing for change, justice, love and recognition. All our programming this year will explore this feeling in various ways.

Shake off the numbness, stretch your fingers and your toes, feel the pins and needles prickling through your skin and muscles, feel the tendons stretch and the bones crack, let the breath fill and the blood rush. Rest, and wake. We should always be longing, wanting, reaching and fighting for the world we want.

Anoushka Ratnarajah
Artistic Director,
She/Hers

Programmer Welcome



The past year has been so transformative, with honest and penetrative storytelling at the heart of creative expression across Canada. We marched, cried, rejoiced, resisted, calling to attention the machine of isms that continue to impact us all. We demanded representation and agency in the stories we see and share, now more than ever understanding the power of visual culture and media to inform and disrupt. I could not be more proud to belong to diverse communities of Black, Indigenous, and Queer People of color, whose unique perspectives globally have so much to teach us about how we honor and value each other. Though these perspectives are ever-evolving, QTBIPOC artists continue to gift us a way forward, shaping Queer art and culture. I am inspired by their bravery and honored to contribute through programming, moderating, and documenting, providing a platform for their voices. We create in spite of. We create to understand all people's struggles for humanity from the lens of our unique experiences as Queer people, using this understanding as a foundation for communication. We create to shine a light on the remedies, principles, and tools for eradicating discrimination that live in the art offerings of people of color. We curate to highlight the filmmakers who dedicate their practice to celebrating, representing, and amplifying 2SLGBTQIA+ lives, helping to write and document these stories in anticipation of Queer creatives to come.

This season we explore themes of longing. As we begin to recover from a challenging year, we hold space for the perpetual longing that Queer marginalized communities often face. For many of us, longing is an unceasing state. We are continuously yearning for a new "normal". VQFF's programming looked to filmmakers to help us manifest infinite Queer possibility in what at times felt hopeless and fleeting. These stories remind us of the promise of the Queer community, leading us through stories of resistance, renewal, loneliness, vulnerability, fear, and celebration. May we remember this year as a time of unshakable resilience rooted in a desire for more.

To Queer futures,

Nya Lewis
Programmer
they/she

Festival Team

Staff

Brandon Yan
Executive Director
 Anoushka Ratnarajah
Artistic Director
 Nanyamka Lewis
Festival Programmer
 Jas Calcitas
Festival Program Coordinator
 Madeline Taylor
Individual Giving Officer
 Muhan Zhang
Development Coordinator
 Gavin Somers
Education Director
 Miranda Rutty
Out In Schools Program Manager
 Avery Shannon
Out In Schools Program Coordinator
 Danny Lybbert
Out In Schools Program Coordinator
 Piper Fawkes
Operations Manager
 Sam Snobelen
Program Logistics Manager
 Alexis Zygan
Marketing Coordinator
 Jarred Stephen Meek
Front of House Coordinator
 Sarah Sum
Box Office Coordinator

Jessica Han
Technical Director
 Jamie Rokovetsky
Technical Coordinator
 Rick Clark
Graphic Designer

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 Melanie Matining
Vice Chair
 Chad Clark
Development Liaison
 Christopher Hallamore
Board Liaison
 Orene Askew
 Catherine Wong
 Lori MacIntosh

Publicist

Teresa Trovato

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 Brigitte Slaughter
 Edward Rae
 Novia Chen
 Sebastiane Seggie
 Evan Harding
 Alex Grove
 Harley Morrow
 Helen Leung

Meg Walls
 Mono Brown
 Ed Lee
 Neelam Swann
 Steven Porter

Consultants and Mentors

Manning Elliott
 & Humanity
 Co-effect
 Tim Agg
 Barbara Chirinos
 Amber Dawn
 Kai Cheng Thom

Festival Trailers

Jessica Han
 Jamie Rokovetsky

Out In Schools Facilitators

Marielle Rosky
 Meika Johnson
 Jackson Tse
 Moe Chowdhury

Indigenous Working Group

Keara Lightning
 Bon Fabian
 Jesse Halton
 Colt Darling
 Aimee Beauchamp
 Orene Askew

Out On Screen Staff



Brandon Yan



Anoushka Ratnarajah



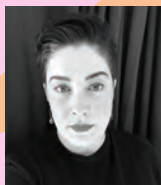
Nanyamka Lewis



Sam Snobelen



Jas Calcitas



Madeline Taylor



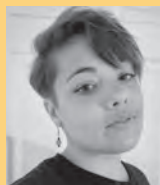
Gavin Somers



Miranda Rutty



Muhan Zhang



Piper Fawkes

Special thanks to:

All our Amazing Volunteers!

Allister Cave
Amy Fox
Andrea Rideout
Andrew Chow
Anna White
Bon Fabian
Brittney McCarthy
Bruna Arbex
Chief Byron Longclaws
Chief Terry Red Thunder
Cody Jewell
Corrina Sparrow
Duane Brown
dyani
Em Luddington
Gerhard Maynard
Grunt Gallery
Harriet Midgley
Heather McCain
Heather Wong-Mitchell
Jackie Borosa
James Ong



Jarret McKee
Jarrett Bachman
Jas Calcitas
Jen Sungshine
John Hull
Kathleen Mullen
Karla Monterrosa
Kay Wheeler
Kevin Sarrazin
Khelsilem
Kim Wise
K.P Dennis
Lisa Loutzenheiser
Luigi Alvarez
Mack Paul
Matt Corker

Melinda Johnston
Michelle Renee, Tru, Jude and
Jaslyn
Owen Ballendine
Paisley Nahanee
Patti Bacchus
Pride in Art Society
(Queer Arts Festival)
Reel Youth:
Mutya Macatumpag,
Zoe Miles, and Mark Vonesh
Reg Krake
Rosaura Ojeda
Rose Butch
Rudolph Korompis
Ryan Lim
Sandy Leo
Sarah King
Scout Gray
Sempülyan Gonzales
Serene Carter and the team
at Vancouver Pride Society
Tajliya Jamal
Tee Fergus
The Cinematheque
The Twilight Drive-In
VALU CO-OP

"The film festival is an invaluable part of our community, creating opportunities for queer people to see themselves on screen with other people like them and also to support queer artists. Any opportunity to contribute to the wellbeing of the festival is important to me."

- VQFF Volunteer

Want to volunteer with us?
Check us out at
outscreen.com



Avery Shannon



Danny Lybbert



Alexis Zygan



Jarred Stephen Meek



Sarah Sum



Jessica Han



Jaimie Rokovetsky



Rick Clark

Out On Screen Board



Aimee Beauchamp



Melanie Matining



Chad Clark



Christopher Hallamore



Orene Askew



Catherine Wong



Lori Macintosh

Festival Creative Designer



**ART
OVER
MATTER**

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

About Us



out on screen

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 2SLGBTQIA+ 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.



Curate



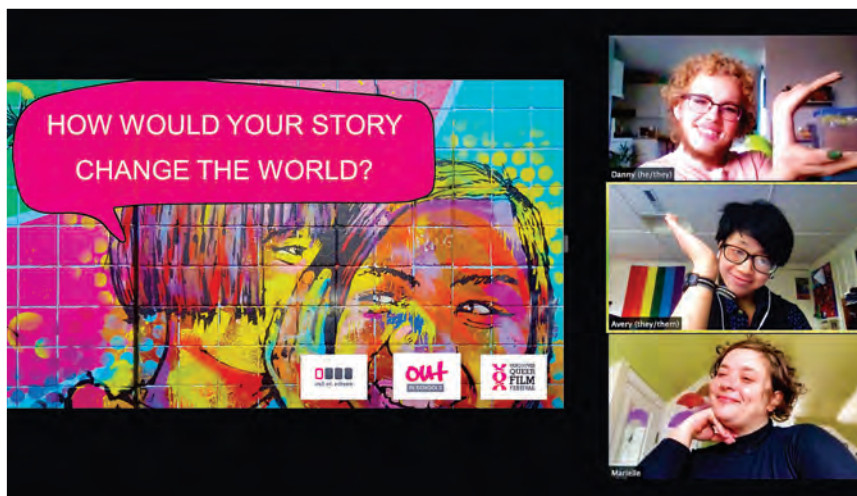
Convene



Catalyze



After the Festival, the Out In Schools program continues to share stories of 2SLGBTQIA+ lived experiences. We are the only program working at all levels of BC's education system using film and 2SLGBTQIA+ 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.



*You've just finished eating dinner in your
backyard.*

*Your friends laugh as you set up a sheet and a
projector together.*

*As the sun starts to set as you login to VQFF to
to watch queer film under the stars...*

*You're standing in line waiting to
enter the Playhouse.*

*Inside, you take a seat, surrounded
by people just like you.*

*The lights dim, the screen glows and
the film begins...*



Dream with us, Long with us

This year, we innovated to keep showcasing queer film and to meet you where it was safe: online.

While we have missed the collective holding of our breaths and the press of strangers' elbows in a dark theatre, we cherish the ability to bring the festival to you—at home, on your schedule, and anywhere in BC.

Help us take our learnings and our hopes to build a stronger, more accessible festival in 2022 and beyond.

Dream for the future.
Give today!

outonscreen.com/donate

About this Guide

The guide and the program that you're reading is a product of a lot of work, trust, and relationship building. It's never a perfect process and this was deeply impacted by the last year and a half of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the challenges of the pandemic only exacerbated existing inequities facing 2SLGBTQIA+ people. In particular, on-going white-supremacist and colonial violence continue to impact Out On Screen's staff and board, and the communities and artists we work with.

As we prepared for this year's festival we tried to centre care for ourselves and for the artists and filmmakers. This meant that it sometimes took longer to communicate or for a plan to solidify. Sometimes this meant additional complications with scheduling, contracts, or technology. This is okay. While the Vancouver Queer Film Festival has a lot of deadlines, we knew that we would have to be more flexible with ourselves and the artist we want to support. We endeavored to produce a guide and program with as much accuracy and information as possible but things shift and we invite you to check in with us if you have any questions or concerns. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information. We hope you understand and appreciate your patience and compassion.



Spotlights



Indigenous Spotlight

These documentaries, narrative, and experimental films from queer Indigenous filmmakers invite us into learning a very different kind of understanding of queerness and queer relationships. Knowing oneself is not separate from understanding others, our environment, and the living things we share it with. The Two Spirit and Indigiqueer stories shared with us this year show that responsibility and care for land and community are instrumental to queer Indigenous liberation. Responsibility to community and healing from trauma are all themes that echo through the Indigenous queer lives shared with us, as well as transformative imagination and passionate leadership. The stories shared here are deeply vulnerable and self-reflective, with an edge of playfulness and sharp truthfulness. Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer film is rich and inventive, raw and artful, deeply rooted and wildly imaginative, on the frontlines of justice and art.

Stay tuned into our website for announcements on this programming coming soon, and enjoy the Indigenous characters and artists in the following films and programs.

Caer (Caught) (p.31)

Regenerate Shorts Program (p.35)

Well Rounded (p.37)



Antes De La Erupción (Before The Eruption)

Youth Spotlight

Queer youth already face challenges, and this year they were met with so many more. And yet as we can see from the youth rated programming in this year's Festival, queer youth are powerful advocates for their own freedom. Whether they are fighting for their communities on the front lines of environmental and racial justice, or standing up for themselves to their families and society, the young protagonists in these films are fierce in their vulnerability. They demand room to be heard, space to play, and they are constantly curious about the way the world works. In this quest to understand and be understood, they push back at the things that don't make sense and clamour to create new worlds. Their energy and dogged pursuit of their dreams is truly inspirational, and serves as a reminder to those of us who are *no longer youth* that there is always potential to grow, create and change, and that those possibilities are as infinite as our imaginations.

The Coast is Queer (p.32)

Rites of Passage (p.36)

Unapologetic (p.55)

Queers Persevere: Youth Patch Making Workshop! (p.68)



Masisi Wouj

Obsidian: Black Queer Filmmakers

A spotlight on Black and African directors and filmmakers shaping cinematic storytelling across the diaspora. This shorts program includes a diverse collection of films, innovatively highlighting the beauty and complexity of the African experience. Obsidian is an opportunity for Vancouver audiences to share in the intersectional, nuanced power of Black Queer artistic expression.

This year, in alignment with the theme of longing, we explore 6 stories rooted in Black possibility. These films invite us to witness truth-seeking and self-repair of Black lives in demand of alternative frameworks for resistance. From spiritual connectivity to protest to romance, we explore the essential nature of relentless longing as an action-based wanting and a reclamation of past and future existences.

One Life To Blossom | Alexandrina Andre | USA | 2021 | 7 min | English

Keeping it Real | Malique Lee Moore | France | 2020 | 14 min | French with English subtitles

Shea | Effy Adar | Canada | 2021 | 3 min | English with English subtitles

Masisi Wouj | Zé Kielwagen, Marcos Serafim, Steevens Simeon | Haiti | 2021 | 22 min | Haitian with English subtitles

ÌFÉ | Uyaiedu Ikpe-Etim | Nigeria | 2020 | 11 min | English

Inabitável (Unliveable) | Matheus Farias and Enock Carvalho | Brazil | Brazil | 20 min | Portuguese with English subtitles

Total Runtime: 77 min

AUG 12-22 | VOD



See me. Hear me. Feel me. Spotlight on Queer Artists

The desire to be understood, to be known and truly seen, is one of the wells that stories are drawn from. We long to be in communion with others. The films in this spotlight shine on artists who follow that irresistible urge to create and connect.

The artists we follow in these films push through the barriers of ego and fear in order to cultivate empathy and share histories. They remind us that our stories live in our bodies, that we collect our pain and joy inside our muscles and breath; we are our own instruments, we just sometimes forget our capacity to play. Whether working individually or collectively, these storytellers are in pursuit of emotional resonance, a deeper connection to their audiences, and a shift in representation. Performers, dancers, singers, and poets are called to respond to injustice, to loss and heartbreak, to explore shame and desire and love and cultivate hope in these surprising, moving films. Queer artists astound with their boundless imaginations. We can create worlds while we live in this one.

Caer (Caught) (p.31)

Workhorse Queen (p.38)

Adam (p.40)

Boulevard! A Hollywood Story (p.41)

Can You Bring It (p.42)

No Straight Lines (p.49)

La Intencion De Calibri (The Intention of Hummingbird) (p.46)

Like Everyone's Watching (p.61)



Raw! Uncut! Video!

Deviant/Defiant: Spotlight on Making Queer History

Freak. Weirdo. Deviant. Strange. Queer. Half a lifetime ago our abnormality was a sentence to silence, institutionalization, violence, loneliness. The films in this spotlight are about our longing for justice and freedom, creativity, and play.

The films in this spotlight ask us to advocate for our weirdness, indulge our freakiness, lean into being strange, and uplift the radical and subversive people and movements who fight to ensure collective queer survival. They ask us to remember that we are beings made of flesh and desire; our bodies are instruments for creativity, expression and pleasure. They remind us never to forget that we deserve safety and joy, and that healing from our individual and collective trauma must go hand in hand. Not all members of our queer communities are equally allowed access to the privileges of normality. Race, ability, class, gender, and many other identities impact who is pushed to the margins and deemed abnormal, demonized as different in order to secure power stays where it has always been. Visibility can be risky as a queer person, and many of us don't have a choice about what marks us as different. These films explore the complex ways in which we are seen as queer outside the norm, and the creative and determined ways we speak back to power.

Rebel Dykes (p.34)

Raw! Uncut! Video! (p.51)

Cured (p.44)



See You Then

Spotlight: Connecting.....

The films in this spotlight explore the emotional landscape of longing in many of its incarnations. The heady sweetness of love's beginning, like the moment before a kiss, stretched into eternity. Queer longing seems made for coy glances and the pull and push of attraction. We long for what we don't have yet—for potential, for fantasy. We long for what we miss—the ache of loss, the looming of absence. We long for recognition and affirmation, to feel safe and beloved. Queer longing is also a longing for justice and freedom, for silence to be broken and wounds to be healed. These filmmakers explore the tenderness and intensity of desire, its delights and its darkness.

La Nave Del Olvido (Forgotten Roads) (p.65)

Los Fuertes (The Strong Ones) (p.66)

Possession (p.82)

It's Only the End of the World (p.79)

Absence/Presence (p.76)

Hello Mama (p.77)

Meet Cute (p.81)

Homecomings (p.78)

Sedimentos (Sediments) (p.70)

See You Then (p.71)



Special Presentations



Caer (Caught)

Caer (Caught) is a collaboration between director Nicola Mai and the TRANSgrediendo Intercultural Collective, a grassroots association defending the rights of trans Latina migrant women in Queens, New York. .

The film follows the fictional lives of Rosa and Paloma, two trans Latina sex workers as they fight back against transphobic violence and constant surveillance by immigration and law enforcement in an increasingly xenophobic political environment. The film is framed by scenes from a feedback screening for the members of TRANSgrediendo Intercultural Collective to provide their perspectives before its final editing. These glimpses into the film's process allow us to deepen our understanding of Rosa and Paloma's stories. As the women who informed their creation see their lives play out on the screen, they dialogue and debate on the complexities and differences between sex work and trafficking, the lack of occupational alternatives to sex work, and the longing for love, safety and desire.

This wholly unique film is a breathtaking ride, with the transitions between fiction and non-fiction feeling paradoxically seamless and abrupt, reminding the audience that everything happening on screen is also happening in real life. The performances by the lead actors (all non-professional performers who are members of the Collective) are not just convincing, they are completely embodied. .

Caer (Caught) | Nicola Mai | USA | 2020 | 61 min | English and Spanish with English Subtitles

AUG 12-22 | VOD |   

Content Advisory: Depictions of transphobia, police violence, discussions of sexual and physical assault.

Don't miss a Q&A with director Nicola Mai and Liaam, executive director of the TRANSgrediendo Intercultural Collective right after the film.

Screening Sponsor: UBCP/ACTRA



Enby

The Coast is Queer

Our beloved local shorts program returns! **Her Voice** is an intimate portrait of dysphoria and discovery for a young trans woman going through vocal training. In **Letter**, Martha's imagination runs away with scenarios as she gathers the courage to write down her feelings for her best friend. **The Tailor** is a touching tale of intergenerational allyship in which a gender non-conforming youth and a master tailor gain courage and inspiration from each other. **Enby** is the sweet and charming tale of a young non-binary person who has finally found the language to come out as who they truly are. **Small Town** playfully explores a queer, mixed race person's relationship to their identity and surroundings through Claymation. **Purple** is a personal exploration of bisexuality and feeling alienated within queer community. In **Reveal Party**, Samantha plans to invite her new girlfriend over for the holidays—all she has to do is tell her parents. Don't miss this collection of local queer filmmaking talent.

Her Voice | Nic Peerson | Canada | 2020 | 7 min | English

Letter | Zoë Friberg | Canada | 2020 | 5 min | English

The Tailor | Nathalie Therriault | Canada | 2020 | 16 min | English

Enby | Morgan Strug | Canada | 2020 | 11 min | English

Small Town | Meesh QX | Canada | 2021 | 1 min | English

Purple | Sophie de Kergommeaux | Canada | 2020 | 5 min | English

Reveal Party | Marina Maeski | Canada | 2020 | 5 min | English

Total Runtime: 50 min

Content Advisory: Subject matter includes gender and body dysphoria, transphobia, and racism.

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

Join us for a special in-person screening of **The Coast Is Queer** with local filmmakers at The Beaumont on August 19th at 7pm. Limited tickets available. Visit queerfilmfest.ca for details

Supported by: Creative BC, Telefilm

@queerfilmfest

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Safe

QTBIPOC JOY

It's been a hard forever. We deserve joy, lightness and laughter. This shorts program is all about Black and brown queer brilliance, tenderness, ferocity and ingenuity—on screen, and behind the camera. **To you my love** is a breathtaking film that explores the visual poetry of a love letter. The intimacies of reclaiming ritual through queer, Muslim love are portrayed with tenderness and humour in **Noor and Layla**. In **Funeral- A Long Shot**, a lost soul is guided to an underworld ball where she finds the home that sets her free. **The Way We Are** shares stories from four queer Asian women, in an emotional reflection on the importance of community and family history. The life and presidential campaign of the remarkable Joan Jett Blakk is lovingly documented in **The Beauty President**. And in **Safe**, we are invited into German ballrooms, where black and brown dancers find communion and create salvation. This stunning collection is only a small example of how truly gorgeous we are.

To you my love | Olivia Gastaldo | USA | 2020 | 5 min | English

Noor and Layla | Fawzia Mirza | Canada | 2021 | 13 min | English

Funeral- A long shot | Kerri Garrett | USA | 2021 | 3 min | No dialogue

The Way We Are | Amanda Ann-Min Wong | Canada | 2020 | 16 min | English

The Beauty President | Whitney Skauge | USA | 2021 | 15 min | English

Safe | Leo Adef | Germany | 2020 | 9 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

QTBIPOC audience members are invited to a live screening of this shorts program at The Beaumont on Aug. 15th at 7pm. This evening will include delicious samplings from the kitchen of *Top Chef Canada* runner up, and the series' first non-binary competitor, Kym Nguyen.

Please note that the live screening is available to self-identified QTBIPOC folks only. We ask that if you are white, please consider this to be an opportunity for allyship, and enjoy the films online. If you have questions, please email info@outonscreen.com.

For more information about the event, please visit queerfilmfestival.ca.



Rebel Dykes

Rebel Dykes is the kick-ass story of refusal and angst that we have all been waiting for. Highlighting the experience of London's late-1980's dyke community, director Harri Shanahan and Siân Williams' film folds archives, animation, and first hand accounts into a documentary honouring the women who launched the Queer liberation movement. From Peace Camps, to the lesbian S&M club Chain Reaction, to the passing of Clause 28, this film illustrate an explosive time of sex, culture, and politics. 1980's London saw an explosion of activism addressing queer rights, the AIDS crisis, class inequality, racism, and many other social issues. At a time of increased resistance to BDSM community presence, leather queers have been at the forefront of Queer advocacy, teaching us about Pride, power, sexuality, consent, and creativity. Centered on a gang of working-class dykes united through squats, underground bars, art scene, **Rebel Dykes** is a celebration of a family of misfits, brave and unapologetic. Out to disrupt the mainstream and expansively define feminism, the film follows the lives of London's sex-positive rad-femme lesbian crowd, and the influential impact art can make as a tool for demanding social change.

Rebel Dykes | Harri Shanahan, Siân Williams | United Kingdom | 2021 | 92 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD

Content advisory: Sexually explicit content.

Don't miss a Q&A with directors Harri Shanahan, Siân Williams, and Rebel Dyke Fisch after the screening.

Screening Sponsor: Xtra



Stories from land back camp

Regenerate

Restoration and renewal. Queer and Trans bodies in uninterrupted exchange with land and waters. In contemplation of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and their unique relationship to the natural world. **Regenerate** is a celebration of Queer connections to nature while critically assessing the root causes and power structures that displace our communities and destabilize the very connections that are vital to our survival. What happens when we honour and unearth the rurality of Queer experiences? This collection of shorts and roundtable talk, creatively explores Queer environmentalism, ideas grounded in envisioning systems that center the safety and sustainability of Queer and Trans communities. Environmental justice as an inextricable tie to Queer liberation, racial justice, disability justice, and Indigenous sovereignty.

Stories from land back camp | Erik O'Neill | Turtle Island | 2021 | 26 min | English

2064 | Joseph Adesunloye | Botswana and Zimbabwe | 2019 | 12 min | Shangaan and Tswana with English subtitles

Taking the Waters | Kathryn Ferguson and Anna Hart | UK | 2018 | 18 min | English

Extractions | Thirza Jean Cuthand | Turtle Island | 2019 | 15 min | English

Total Runtime: 71 min

AUG 12-22 | VOD

Don't miss a Q&A with directors from these films after the screening.



Rites of Passage

Queer and Trans youth approach defining moments in their lives with determination and curiosity in this heartwarming collection. On an eighth grade field trip into the mountains, Xo navigates the landscape of puberty, but it turns out hormones aren't the only things raging out in the wilderness in **Pine Mountain Overnight**. **Cuttlefish** follows a young tomboy as they find their way through the spaces that exist between binaries to discover their own expression of play and beauty. In **I am Leo**, an unexpected change enters Leo's life, giving them the opportunity to define who they are. **Before the Eruption** is a love letter to the power of friendship, as one member of a long time group of friends takes a step towards true self-expression. In **Pure**, Celeste, a young queer Black girl, is preparing for her cotillion ball and wonders if she can make this tradition work for her as she steps into the spotlight for her first dance. In **Birthday Boy**, César, a young trans man, takes a risk to attend his next birthday party as himself. **From A to Q** finds Alex shocked by a dream in which she kisses a girl who also happens to be her best friend. Prom night nerves take centre-stage in **At Last**, as Sam and her best friend Flash hatch a scheme with unexpected results. These brilliant young people carve out their own paths to discovery and self-actualization, getting the shine they deserve.

Pine Mountain Overnight | Geena Marie Hernandez | USA | 2020 | 14 min | English

Cuttlefish | Alexandra Geller | USA | 2020 | 12 min | English

Weil Ich Leo Bin (I am Leo) | Tanja Hurrle | Germany | 2021 | 18 min | German with English Subtitles

Antes De La Erupción (Before the Eruption) | Roberto Pérez Toledo | Spain | 2020 | 9 min | Spanish with English Subtitles


Pure | Natalie Jasmine Harris | USA | 2020 | 12 min | English

Vuelta Al Sol (Birthday Boy) | Judith Corro | Panama | 2020 | 7 min | Spanish with English Subtitles

From A to Q | Emmalie El fadli | United Kingdom | 2021 | 19 min | English

At Last | Lorena Gordon | USA | 2020 | 13 min | English

Total Runtime: 104 min

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

Screening Sponsor: Vancouver Front Runners

Don't miss our Queers Persevere:
Patch Making Workshop on August
15th at 5pm! See p.88 for details.

@queerfilmfest



Well Rounded

Edgy, hilarious, sometimes raunchy, and sometimes heartbreaking, **Well Rounded** brings fat queers to the forefront, with interviews from artists to health professionals in this fantastic new local documentary from former Artistic Director Shana Mayara.

Systemic fatphobia has been shaped by white supremacy, nationalism, and misogyny. These same oppressive dynamics play out in queer communities everyday. Featuring hilarious, vulnerable, and insightful stories from Mi'qmaq comedian and broadcaster, Candy Palmater, interdisciplinary performer Ivory, and local queers including style icon Lydia Okello and comedian Joanne Tsung, this documentary balances the personal impacts of fatphobia with scientific insight on weight stigma from psychologist Dr. Janet Tomiyama and socio-political context from historian Dr. Jenny Ellison. **Well Rounded** is a celebration and affirmation of fat queer bodies and identities, especially for those of us who don't often see our BIPOC, LGBTQ+, disabled and/or fat selves celebrated on screen.

Well Rounded | Shana Mayara | Canada | 2020 | 61 min | English

AUG 19-21 | LIMITED RELEASE

Don't miss a Q&A with director Shana Myara and select cast members.



Workhorse Queen

When *RuPaul's Drag Race* first sashayed onto television screens over a decade ago, it became a pop culture juggernaut that brought drag into the living rooms of people all around the world, and offered queer performers an opportunity of a lifetime.

Director Angela Washko creates an intimate and engaging portrait of Ed Popil, also known as Mrs. Kasha Davis, who finally became a contestant in season seven of the show after auditioning every year prior. Hailing from Rochester, New York, Mrs. Davis is an incarnation of Ed's mother, a delightful and warm 1950's housewife with a penchant for afternoon cocktails and dirty jokes. As we follow Ed through the hoops and gates to career success, the conversations about performance, character, and representation deepen. Mrs. Kasha Davis' narrative complicates the impact of *Drag Race* and its effect on queer performance and culture, and ultimately reminds us what we love most about drag: that it opens up so many possibilities for experimentation and play, expression and healing. The freakiness, comedy, and courageous vulnerability of the performers we meet in **Workhorse Queen** shows the life of a Queen isn't all glam and drama—it's also struggle and perseverance and ingenuity and community.

Workhorse Queen | Angela Washko | USA | 2021 | 87 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD

Don't miss a Q&A with director Angela Washko and Mrs Kasha Davis.

Features



Adam

Based on a true life story, **Adam** is the journey of a young trans man who crosses geopolitical and gender boundaries in order to find his home. Originally an award-winning stage play, this project was shot in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland during Glasgow's lockdown. The titular role is played by Adam Kashmiry, who began sharing his story in 2012 as he was seeking asylum. Nearly a decade later, this film chronicles Adam's difficult and courageous fight to find safety as he leaves Egypt for the United Kingdom. Like many displaced queer and trans people who flee from lands devastated by colonialism, Adam lives with a particular kind of heartbreak: the choice between self and family, and the loss of language and community are all woven thematically through this autobiographical hybrid.

Adam in form is both documentary and narrative, theatre and film, paralleling the liminal spaces where the character of Adam exists—between cultures, languages, and genders. It is also a cross-temporal conversation between Adam's past, present, and future selves. Adam's interactions between his two bodies and his two voices are a poetic dramatization of one trans man's quest to bring himself into a whole. This film is an important reminder of the discrimination that many trans refugees face in the asylum system around the world. They are caught in a cruel catch-22, unable to access the resources needed to transition until they are granted asylum, while simultaneously denied asylum until they can prove they are trans "enough". The process is enragingly subjective and exhaustingly bureaucratic. **Adam** is a triumphant story that emerges from this arduous process, a love letter to all who risk everything to fall in love with their own self.

Adam | Cora Bissett, Louise Lockwood | United Kingdom | 2021 | 59 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD |   

Content Advisory: Discussions and depictions of dysphoria, self-harm, transphobia, sexual assault, homophobia, racism.

Screening Sponsor: IATSE Local 891



Boulevard! A Hollywood Story

Sunset Boulevard was one of the most shocking and successful films of its time, uniquely pulling back the curtain on Hollywood's glamour to reveal the ugly corporate and cultural machinations that control artistic production in the industry. **Boulevard! A Hollywood Story** performs a similar service while honoring the legacy of three artists who pursued their success doggedly in the face of constant challenges.

Long before Glenn Close won a Tony for her portrayal of Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, the original Norma, Gloria Swanson, had her own aspirations to bring Sunset Boulevard to the stage. She had expected the film to shine a renewed spotlight on her career, but found herself still languishing for parts as a woman of a certain age. Enter Dickson Hughes and Richard Stapley, two young artists (and a closeted couple) trying to emerge in a competitive film and theatre world, eager for the opportunity to collaborate with a screen legend like Swanson. Several failed attempts to get the project off the ground leave the trio discouraged, and they part ways. Of course, just like Norma Desmond, the show wasn't quite ready to let the lights fade, and dramatics ensue.

A tale of creative passion and longing for recognition, this hidden gem of Hollywood and Broadway history provides a glimpse into the ways in which commercial artistic success has been denied to women and queer people. Gloria, Dickson, and Richard are like so many who strive to be bathed in the light of stardom, and yet never quite made it there. Still, their contributions are part of a collective effort to make space on the screen and stage for honest and daring stories—for romance, tragedy, and connection.

Boulevard! A Hollywood Story | Jeffrey Schwarz | USA | 2021 | 85 min | English

AUG 16-22 | LIMITED RELEASE



Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters

Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters brings to life the creative process that culminated in choreographer-dancer-director Bill T. Jones's ballet *D-Man in the Waters*. The film traces the history and legacy of one of the most important works to come out of the AIDS epidemic. *D-Man* gave physical manifestation to the grief and hope of the times. After reconstructing the original choreography, a group of young dancers learn about the forgotten history and deepen their understanding of the power of art to bring about change. This politically and emotionally charged work uniquely illustrates themes of sacrifice, loss, and love. A mixture of archival material and firsthand accounts, the lyrical documentary illustrates the spirit of community and survival. In the early 80's, the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Company was at the forefront of the creative energy catalyzed by the gay liberation movement. At its height, AIDS was ravaging through Queer communities, taking some of our youngest and brightest. In response, artists gave birth to expressions that connect and document, mobilizing through dance and keeping the memory of their loved ones alive. Traversing the struggles of countless and the deterioration of one dancer, the titular D-Man "D-Man" Acquavella, the light-hearted ballet became a penetrating reflection of the gravity of the epidemic and the many communities it impacted.

Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters | Rosalynde LeBlanc, Tom Hurwitz | USA
| 2020 | 93 min | English

Aug 12-22 | VOD | 



Chosen Fam

This fun and engaging webseries follows a QTBIPOC indie band as they navigate drama in their personal lives, community politics and artistic ambition. This Bay Area comedy-drama is a fresh depiction of young queers loving and living and figuring out who they are.

We follow the members of the titular band as they confront personal and professional success and failures over the course of this first cute season of this ongoing webseries. Cody is fresh out of a break up with Trent, and feeling lost without him, and hating sitting with his own thoughts. But if he finally leans into his own company, he might be able to write the song he's been waiting for. His roommate and best friend Evie manages their band and recently started working for QUNTY, a feminist blog. When an editor position opens up, Evie is determined to land the job—until her ethics start to become compromised and she's faced with a difficult choice. Dani is Chosen's Fam's drummer, a hedonistic heartbreaker who skips from hookup to hookup, ignoring the consequences of her decisions in a haze of relationships and partying. When she loses her most recent job as a bartender, she's forced to move back in with her mom, and look at her life more clearly. And Maddox, Chosen Fam's guitarist, is preparing to start a family with their partner Anna but they are having trouble. When Anna loses her job, the financial strain opens the door to Maddox's mother, with whom they have a toxic relationship. Cody, Evie, Dani and Maddox stay true to the name of their band, supporting each other through their individual struggles as they work towards their collective goal: the biggest gig of their career. This series is helmed by an QTBIPOC cast and crew, and directed by Natalie Tsui, who echoes the playfulness of the script with popping sets and dreamlike lighting. Chosen Fam is sure to make you excited for a second season.

Chosen Fam | Natalie Tsui | USA | 2020 | 75 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 



Cured


For centuries, medical and scientific institutions have wielded enormous power and influence over the physical and emotional safety of queer people. **Cured** chronicles a group of dedicated activists who went to battle with one of the most formidable gatekeepers to queer health, safety, and freedom: the American Psychiatric Association.

Prior to the 1970's homosexuality had long been diagnosed as a mental illness, and the prescription was often cruelty. Institutionalization, electroshock treatment, conversion therapy, sterilization; many patients were drugged, abused, and neglected by doctors. The fight to remove homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) was crucial to de-stigmatizing queerness in North American society. Experience the remarkable stories of the steadfast and passionate activists and doctors who never gave up on this crucial pursuit for humane and caring medical treatment for queer people from the medical establishment. This history is sensitively handled by documentary filmmakers Bennett Singer (whose credits include *Brother Outsider*, the story of gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin) and Patrick Sammon (*Codebreaker*, a documentary about gay mathematician Alan Turing). With interviews conducted over the course of five years, the stories revealed in this engaging documentary are rich, nuanced, and moving.

Cured | Bennett Singer, Patrick Sammon | USA | 2020 | 80 min | English

Preceded by: **Dick**, a homoerotic short that plays with public domain sources in order to examine representations of queerness through different lenses and eras.

Dick | Kevin McLellan | USA | 2020 | 7 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

Content advisory: Subject matter contains homophobic and transphobic language, and descriptions and images of medical abuse.

Screening Sponsor: 24 Frames

Community Partner: Community Based Research Centre (CBRC)



Fabulous

This wonderful documentary follows Lasseindra Ninja, a professional vogue dancer who returns to her home country of French Guiana to teach the beauty and drama of vogue. Lasseindra's story of exile and return is like so many hero's journeys: a quest to find where the truth of oneself really lives. Do we find ourselves out in the world, or when we come home again?

Director Audrey Jean-Baptiste shows care and respect for her participants and a great love for the queer French Guianese community in process and practice. This film was shot in indoor locations, undercover. French Guiana's population is only sixty thousand people, and though homosexuality is not illegal, unintentionally outing someone in such a close-knit community could have serious consequences. Drag and vogue are rooted in these underground, temporary safe spaces where freedom can fly about unfettered and play and creativity flourish. These performance styles are also inextricably linked to support systems and chosen family, alternatives to larger structures that have failed and marginalized the most vulnerable communities. The tension and danger from the outside seeps into the precious world Lasseindra has built for her students. Having faced her own dragons many times over, Lasseindra encourages the young people to funnel their rage, heartbreak and urgency through their bodies. Through one-on-one interviews and in the conversations during dance class, the audience is invited into intimate encounters with these determined dancers who stretch beyond the constraints society attempts to hold them within.

Fabulous is an exploration of this queer microcosm as much as it is a portrait of Lasseindra herself in a search for reconciliation with her sense of home. As she steps into a leadership role, we see her struggle with the weight of such a responsibility, as any compassionate leader would do. This charming, courageous film is a lot like the art form at its centre; fierce, resilient and expressive.

Fabulous | Audrey Jean-Baptiste | Guyana | 2019 | 46 min | French with English Subtitles

Aug 12-22 | VOD | **SB**




La Intención Del Colibrí (The Hummingbird's Intention)

Juan tries to rescue his lover Ulises from artistic obscurity after his passing by bringing his last paintings out of dark storage and into the light. This is a love story between life and death, and a moving portrait of an artist whose fiercely vulnerable work is finally brought into the light it deserves.

Ulises Beisso was a daring and accomplished artist whose erotic and autobiographical work spanned over three decades while Uruguay transitioned from a period of dictatorship and repression through to a time of increased freedom and cultural expression. When he passed away from pancreatic cancer, his estate was divided, with half remaining fragmented and concealed by his mother's shame. But Juan refuses to let his lover's work remain hidden from the world, and what follows is a moving effort to preserve and exhibit Ulises' legacy. Through interviews with Juan, we are introduced to Ulises' work and his unique commitment to his craft, and to a tender and resilient relationship that transformed them both.

This compelling love story is also a personal love letter from director Sergio de León to his mentors. Meeting Juan and Ulises at the age of 19 opened up his eyes to world in which love and art were possible. His directorial eye is as much a tribute to Ulises as the content of the interviews with Juan, as he attempts to represent someone dear but absent. Ulises haunts every frame, a gentle ghost shining through the veil. Without him, his work speaks him into the present.

La Intencion De Calibri (The Hummingbird's Intention) | Sergio de León | Uruguay | 71 mins | 2019 | Spanish

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 



La Nave Del Olvido (Forgotten Roads)

In a suburban Chilean town, residents are fascinated by a bright alien light that flashes intermittently from the cosmos above them. No one knows where these lights come from or what their purpose is—these mysterious visitors from the skies could bring annihilation or a universe of possibility.

70-year-old Claudina's husband has passed away and a vast empty space stretches all around and within her. Everything changes when she meets her daughter's neighbour, Elsa, and she soon finds herself swept into a delicious love affair. As she comes into a new awareness of herself and finds a community in an underground queer cabaret, Claudina becomes enamoured not just by Elsa and her new friends, but also by her new sense of freedom and autonomy. However, the precious world she is building is threatened by her small town's Catholic conservatism, her daughter's outrage, and the uncertainty of her future. Claudina faces annihilation or possibility—will she stay grounded on earth or follow the lights in the sky to a new world?

This beautiful film shows that one's life can shift at any point, that age needn't be a barrier to change and growth, nor must it steal sensuality, curiosity, or courage. Rosa Ramírez Ríos is utterly captivating as Claudina, portraying experience and innocence, strength and vulnerability. The chemistry in her romance with Elsa is tender and electric, with a naturalistic sensuality that is rare for older women on screen. Director Nicol Ruiz Benavides guides us through this journey with a steady, thoughtful hand on the camera, and a romantic eye.

La Nave Del Olvido is an enchanting journey of self discovery.

La Nave Del Olvido (Forgotten Roads) | Nicol Ruiz Benavides | Chile | 2020 | 71 min | Spanish

AUG 12-22 | VOD | **SB**

Community partner: Vancouver Latin American Film Festival




Los Fuertes (The Strong Ones)

Architecture student Lucas arrives in the Southern Chilean town of Neibla to visit his sister before his move to Montreal on a post-graduate scholarship. He spends his first days in Chile sketching colonial forts and wandering through the foggy fishing village. One day, his eye is caught by Antonio, a young fisherman who is playing a soldier in a re-enactment of the Chilean War of Independence on the grounds of one of the forts. The attraction is instant, and an affair begins to gently unfold.

This is Chilean director Omar Zúñiga's first feature film, inspired by his short film *San Cristobal*, which won the *Teddy* for best short at the 2015 Berlinale. Antonio and Lucas are two people pulled together by undeniable chemistry and connection. And though they are from different class backgrounds and have different dreams, they are both contending with a push and pull that many young people face at the end of their twenties: the risk of the future and the comfort of the present.

Much is revealed through subtlety; Zúñiga frames his protagonists delicately and romantically, perfectly capturing the curiosity, euphoria, and heartache of an evolving love affair. Through passing dialogue and body language, we come to understand the landscape for queer people in Chile, and how it affects Lucas and Antonio's relationship with their families and communities. But the sociopolitical and familial tensions are a quiet backdrop in this intense love story. The deeper conflict is with time and within our protagonists. As the days pass and the present begins to contract, moving ever closer to their futures, Lucas and Antonio face a bitter choice between young love and their own dreams.

Los Fuertes (The Strong Ones) | Omar Zúñiga | Chile | 2019 | 99 min | Spanish

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 



No Straight Lines

Comics are one of the most popular mediums for storytelling in the literary world and contain some of the most imaginative landscapes and possibilities for new worlds in their pages. In **No Straight Lines**, we meet some of the queer comic artists who brilliantly paved the way for future generations of writers and illustrators.

Comics and zines have been an important part of queer culture and communities since *Tom of Finland*, and *Dykes to Watch Out For*. Beginning in the 1930's "golden age" of comics, through to the modern and noted work of comic artists like Alison Bechdel, Jennifer Camper, Howard Cruse, Rupert Kinnard and Mary Wings, director Vivian Kleiman charts an undersung history of queer artists, who shifted representation ahead of their time. Comics were as heavily censored in the United States as film, and marginalization of queer artists was common even in underground publications. However, these inventive and persistent creatives never gave up on their stories, pushing for authenticity in their art and their lives. Creating work that reflected their experiences of the AIDS crisis, first sexual experiences, familial relationships, heartbreaks, and protests, these remarkable artists created windows into queer worlds; a lifeline to many isolated queer people in each panel. Through that window, we can see both a reflection of ourselves, and the endless potential for adventure, connection, and healing.

No Straight Lines | Vivian Kleiman | USA | 2021 | 73 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD

Screening Sponsor: 24 Frames

Community partner: Vancouver Comic Arts Festival




Nowhere

Adrian and Sebastian are a Colombian couple living together in New York City, happily in love and both on track for professional success in each of their fields. They have a close group of friends and a loving community, and their futures feel bright and certain. But when Sebastian suddenly loses his job, his immigration status is threatened and these two young dreamers fear losing everything they've worked so hard for.

Nowhere is set in that place where so many queer immigrants live, a land between passports where safety is contingent on a structure so complex that a slight shift in the bricks could bring a life crashing down. Adrian and Sebastian try not to let a precarious present and an ambiguous future unsettle their relationship, but the cracks begin to multiply as the dates on Sebastian's visa tick down. Adrian becomes more and more desperate as he tries to find ways to keep his love with him; as a fellow immigrant he can't sponsor Sebastian, so he begins proposing all kinds of plans to get around the system. And yet, there are two options Adrian considers even more impossible and frightening than losing Sebastian, as both would require Adrian to come out to his parents.

Adrian and Sebastian's story is crafted by David and Francisco Salazar, adapted from their award-winning screenplay. At the core of this particular love story is a universal question: how far would you go for the person you love? The unique circumstances that these characters face push them both to the very edge of that question.

Nowhere | David Salazar, Francisco Salazar | Colombia | 2018 | 88 min | English and Spanish with English Subtitles

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

Screening Sponsor: Carl Meadows & Les Dick, Migrant Voices

Community Partner: Foundation of Hope




Raw! Uncut! Video!

The AIDS crisis devastated a generation and, despite advances in treatment and prevention, is still an ongoing pandemic. When the virus first began rapidly spreading through gay men's communities, the lack of clear or comprehensive information about the virus spread a second pandemic of fear and isolation. Gay men were experiencing a horrific paradox—an aching for intimacy juxtaposed with the fear of another's touch. Enter Jack Fritcher and Mark Hemry, an entrepreneurial couple who made it their mission and their business to create safe sex pornography for gay men.

Jack and Mark's meeting at Harvey Milk's birthday party in 1979 is like a gay fairytale. When AIDS swept through their community in 1980's San Francisco, Jack and Mark moved to Sonoma County and turned their ranch into the legendary Palm Drive Video, a safe sex porn studio that created sexual possibilities and education to generations of gay men. Casting non-professional models and actors with many sexual desires and body types, Palm Drive created pornography that embraced the creativity of gay kink, where power and domination were explored alongside tenderness and intimacy. Most importantly, Jack and Mark's work offered gay men education, representation, and fantasy during a time when the state and society completely failed queer communities. Palm Drive Video was more than a porn studio; it was a public health service and a cultural champion for queer kink, invested not just in filling holes, but also filling an emotional and sexual void in their community.

Raw! Uncut! Video! | Ryan A. White, Alex Clausen | USA | 2021 | 80 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

Content advisory: Sexually explicit content.

Screening Sponsor: James Goodman



Sedimentos (Sediments)

In the hills of León, Spain, six trans women embark upon a road trip together in this remarkable documentary about a paradoxical quest for connection and belonging as well as individuality and a sense of self.

Over the course of their holiday, the women unearth the many layers of experience that create the foundations of their identities. As they share their stories over meals and during walks through the wild Spanish countryside, Yolanda, Lena, Tina, Saya, Cristina, and Alicia invite each other and the audience into a deepening intimacy. The wine flows and inhibitions loosen, and our protagonists open up to each other to reveal secret fears and pleasures. As they get to know each other better and connect, the women also find themselves bumping up against their differences. Class, race, and generational divisions create tremors and cracks on the path of polite conversation, allowing space for trauma to breathe and honesty to be heard.

Director Adrián Silvestre sensitively documents this emotional excavation against a gorgeous landscape, quietly inviting us along so that it feels as though we are the seventh guest on this trip. Like a radiographical scan of the earth, the camera reveals the depth and complexity of each of these women and their relationships to each other. **Sedimentos** is both a truly unique and deeply familiar journey, and a truthful and tender portrait of six extraordinary women.

Sedimentos (Sediments) | Adrián Silvestre | Spain | 2021 | 90 min | Spanish with English subtitles

AUG 12-22 | VOD | **SB**

Screening Sponsor: Mission Hill Wines

Community partner: Women in Film & TV Vancouver



See You Then

Two ex-lovers meet up for an evening of intimate and vulnerable revelations in **See You Then**. Kris left Naomi abruptly without an explanation, only for Naomi to hear about her transition through a mutual friend. A decade later, the two have a lot to catch up on. Over the course of a night they wander through the landscape of their old life, while the ghosts of their past lives manifest as shared jokes, old wounds, and simmering resentments.

Director Mari Walker, who also co-wrote the script, threadstreads tension throughout the film, tightening the line as the deeper unresolved conflict and pain builds towards an inevitable eruption. Kris and Naomi's conversations about womanhood, femininity, and misogyny are complex and come from Walker's personal experiences as a trans woman. The result is a nuanced journey for her protagonists as they navigate cultural expectations, interpersonal relationships, and personal disappointments on a path to forgiveness. Lynn Chen as Naomi and Pooya Mohseni as Kris dive completely into their characters, and honestly portray these women as the brilliant, loving, frustrated, contradictory people they are.

See You Then is a cinematic exercise in compassion and empathy, for oneself as much as for others. In confronting each other, Kris and Naomi also face themselves, contending with their own darkness and dreams for freedom and fulfillment. The result is a painfully honest and beautifully vulnerable depiction of a complicated relationship between two complex women.

See You Then | Mari Walker | USA | 2021 | 74 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

Content Advisory: Conversations about transphobia

Screening Sponsor: Accenture

Community partner: Women in Film & TV Vancouver



The Fandom

The Fandom takes us on a journey into the imaginative world of Furies, an often misunderstood subculture that finds expression, joy and authenticity through the anthropomorphic arts. Join a cast of unique characters in this illuminating and heartwarming documentary that is sure to surprise and delight.

Directed by Ash Kreis, this film provides intimate access to a history and a community, with historical footage and present day interviews. From the first gatherings in the last 1970's to the practically mainstream conventions like Anthrocon, we learn more about the subculture's foundational connections to animation and comics. And of course, we meet the incredible designers of some truly magnificent fur suits. For many of these artists the expression they create is not just a form of creativity, but also a way to connect to community and kinship in a world where they feel lonely and marginalized.

The Fandom is a very queer space, with an estimate of 80% of furies identifying on the queer spectrum. "Of course furry is full of sexuality," says veteran furry Rod O'Riley, "because furry is full of human beings, who are alive and thinking and feeling." The rise of furry culture coincided with the AIDS crisis, when stigma against anyone considered on the sexual fringe was rampant. However, moral judgement is still cast upon this subculture by broader society today, with many misconceptions and homophobic ideas about kink and queerness still circulating in mainstream culture. In a time when our gatherings have been impossible, and when homonormativity dares to decry kink's place in pride, The Fandom is a loving and important tribute to weirdness, ingenuity, playfulness and daring—all things that really do put the queer in pride, which is something we cannot lose.

The Fandom | Ash Kreis | USA | 2020 | 89 min | English



AUG 12-22 | VOD | 



Unapologetic

Unapologetic follows the lives of two young Black activists, Janaé Bonsu and Bella BAHHS, and their fight for racial equity amid the worldwide reckoning with police brutality. After the murder of two Black Chicagoans, Rekia Boyd and Laquan McDonald, the demand for justice amplifies, as activists challenge Chicago administration to take accountability for their complacency in perpetuating violence against its residents. This journey to justice explores the responsibility, love, anger, frustration, and fight that it takes to advocate for a new approach to public safety. Highlighting Queer Black women's historic role in advocacy, **Unapologetic** captivates the painful truths surrounding anti-Black racism movements and the relentless spirit of the community leaders on the front lines of defending Black lives.

Unapologetic | Ashley O'Shay | USA | 2020 | 86 min | English

AUG 12-22 | VOD |  

Screening Sponsor: Vancouver Front Runners

Shorts



West Kerry Cowboy

Absence/Presence

Grief is one of our most feared and most inevitable emotions. The filmmakers in this program bravely explore this shared experience through their own uniquely queer eyes in this beautiful and moving collection. **Eleven Weeks** is an aching and tender portrait of a couple about to say goodbye; Carla accepts her fast-acting cancer diagnosis as her wife and photographer Anna documents their last days together in a deeply affecting love story. Basti searches for his lost love Davide, caught between memory and present, navigating a world that is not set up for him to move freely in the melancholy yet hopeful short film **Some things are hard to say**. **Golden Frames in The Closet** is a sensitive story about respect for bodily autonomy even when our souls have departed, in which a mortuary cosmetologist faces a dilemma with her latest client. On the anniversary of his mother's death, Big Mac gathers his courage to share his deepest secret with his father Frank in **The West Kerry Cowboy**. Finally, in **It Was The Dog That Saved My Life**, visual artist Jonathan recreates and memorializes his time spent with his lover Kevin who died from AIDS, and his dog, Toby who was his companion in loss. We have all felt degrees of loss this past year. Perhaps these films can provide reflection and solace; a chance not to turn away from the sadness, but to hold it close and give it space to transform into something else.

Eleven Weeks | Anna Kuperberg, Julie Caskey | USA | 2021 | 14 min | English

Das Muss Man Erst Mal Aussprechen Können (Some things are hard to say) | Benjamin Deboosere | Belgium | 2021 | 12 min | German with English Subtitles

Jemari Yang Menari di Atlas Luka-Luka (Golden Frames in The Closet) | Putri Sarah Amelia | Indonesia | 2019 | 16 min | No dialogue

The West Kerry Cowboy | Cian O'Connor | Ireland | 2020 | 18 min | English

It Was The Dog That Saved My Life | Adam Golub, Sylvaine Alfaro | USA | 2020 | 10 min | English

Total Runtime: 70 mins

AUG 12-22 | VOD

Content Advisory: Subject matter deals with death, illness, and transphobia.



A Companion

Hello Mama

Partings, reunions, and complicated family dynamics are all at play in these films exploring mothering and motherhood. **Parev Mama** follows a first-generation Armenian-American queer woman caught between truth and tradition, forced into a confrontation with her mother after she comes home late after a night out with her girlfriend. In **The Only Beautiful Thing**, Nikki and her partner Margaux agree to foster Sinatra, a rescue pitbull paired with Nikki's incarcerated mother and who offers Nikki a chance to process some long repressed emotions. An estranged mother and daughter are brought together in a crisis are offered a chance for a truthful reconciliation in **A Companion**. **The Test** is a charming comedy about a lesbian couple taking that next big step together as a couple—will they be able to handle the results? And **Sheer Qorma** is a moving story of identity and belonging, about a queer Muslim couple that attempts a family reunion after years apart. Sometimes hilarious, sometimes heartbreaking, this shorts program explores the spaces between generations where hurt and healing are possible.

Parev Mama | Natalie Shirinian | USA | 2020 | 12 min | English and Armenian with English Subtitles

The Only Beautiful Thing | Elizabeth Irwin | USA | 2020 | 15 min | English

A Companion | Jung Hye Won | Korea | 2020 | 22 min | Korean with English Subtitles

The Test | Jessica Smith | Australia | 2021 | 8 min | English

Sheer Qorma | Faraz Arif Ansari | India | 2021 | 30 min | Hindi and Urdu with English Subtitles

Total Runtime: 87 mins

AUG 12-22 | VOD



Between Us

Homecomings

Transmasculinity is woefully underrepresented on screen, and like many other queer characters, transmasculine folks in film don't often get happy endings. In this shorts program, we see transmasculine representation bin front of and behind the camera, capturing the creativity, growth, and joy of transmasculine lives. Jamal Phoenix bids a playful and tender farewell to his breasts a month prior to his mastectomy in **Mes Chéris**. Part documentary, part pornography, this sexy film is an act of self-love we rarely get to see in mainstream or pornographic trans representation. In **Another Shot**, Logan is frustrated by dating, wishing he could connect with someone more deeply. When his ex-girlfriend Mara comes back into town and reaches out, the two begin to have the difficult and truthful conversations they couldn't have when the relationship ended. **Between Us** explores the complex and loving relationship between Kei, a Japanese trans man, and his queer white partner Erin, as they navigate culture, gender, and belonging as individuals and a couple. In another queer pornography/documentary hybrid we are invited into a trans and non-binary couple's journey through pregnancy, as they become and create **Another Beautiful Creature**. This program is a glimpse into what transmasculine beauty and diversity in cinema can look like and a celebration of the transcendent joy of coming home into yourself.

Mes Chéris (My Darlings) | Ethan Folk, Ty Wardwell, Jamal Phoenix | Germany | 2020 | 12 min | English

Another Shot | Arlen Kerndt | USA | 2021 | 21 min | English

Between Us | Cailleah Scott-Grimes | Canada and Japan | 2020 | 17 min | Japanese with English subtitles

Another Beautiful Creature | Mahx Capacity | USA | 2021 | 15 min | English

Total Runtime: 66 mins

AUG 12-22 | VOD

Content advisory: Sexually explicit content.

Screening Sponsor: 24 Frames



Hekademia

It's Only the End of the World

Themes of confinement and freedom, love and loss, reality and imagination are all explored in this experimental and enchanting sci-fi and fantasy program. **Mena Brea: A Techno Dysmorphic Tale**, explores how technology isolates as much as it can connect. In the future of **Hekademia**, Marion, an isolated teen, enrolls in a virtual reality school and develops a crush on one of her fellow students. But as classes progress, she begins to question how deep the simulation goes. A few hours before the end of the world, two strangers find unexpected intimacy as a strange pink fog spreads across their city in **Escaping the Fragile Planet**. In the year 2050, as the world is about to be engulfed by its end, Pedro and Miguel escape the chaos of the city to seek eternity together in **The Last Romantics of the World**. After an apocalypse in **Operation Gingham**, two young people venture out into the world for a forbidden meeting, carving out space for spontaneity and connection even through Hazmat suits. **Sinvergüenzilla in "First Kiss"** follows a curious blue alien as she travels to earth in search of her first kiss—but when she lands in the middle of a global pandemic, her dream of romance becomes complicated. During the COVID-19 lockdown in Melbourne, Jamie finds company and escapism in queer film and television, but soon finds their reality bending from the isolation in **Are You Still Watching?**. This inventive program is full of endings and beginnings, exploring the many landscapes of queer imagination.

Mena Brea: A Techno Dysmorphic Tale | Angelica Perez Anzures | Canada | 2020 | 19 min | English
Hekademia | Gloria Mercer | Canada | 2020 | 15 min | English


Escaping the Fragile Planet | Thanasis Tsimpinis | Greece | 2020 | 17 min | Greek with English Subtitles
The Last Romantics of the World | Henrique Arruda | Brazil | 2020 | 23 min | Portuguese with English Subtitles

Operation Gingham | Mily Mumford | Canada | 2020 | 6 min | English

Sinvergüenzilla in First Kiss | Anita Abbasi | Canada | 2021 | 9 min | English

Are You Still Watching? | Alex Cardy, Tali Polichtuk, Kitty Chrystal | Australia | 2021 | 6 min | English

Total Runtime: 95 mins

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 



The Dancing Man of L.A.

Like Everyone's Watching

Watch as we create like our lives depend on it. Free from inhibitions, movement and expression inform sentimentality, joy, grief, revelry. This heartwarming collection of shorts spotlights unapologetic Queer interdisciplinary artists and lovers of art as they navigate feelings of belonging. Long before any notions of "safe spaces", interdisciplinary arts housed uninhibited creativity, passion, and spirit. A refusal of invisibility, this shorts program presents a spectacle of Queer and Trans people unashamedly being themselves. Through dance, poetry, music and theatre, Like Everyone's Watching sets the scene for dynamic stories of vulnerability, community, and love.

God's Daughter Dances | Sungbin Byun | Korea | 2020 | 25 min | Korean with English subtitles

The Dancing Man of L.A. | Scott Sheppard, Jen Fodor | USA | 2021 | 26 min | English

De Reinas y Otros Colores (About Queens And Other Colors) | Juan H. Zuluaga | Guatemala | 2020 | 17 min | Spanish with English subtitles

The Space Around You | Rainer Kelly | Australia | 2021 | 11 min | English

From... | Sepideh Yadegar | Canada | 2020 | 11 min | English

Out of the Dark: AKeem | Sarah Klein, Tom Mason | USA | 2021 | 4 min | English

Inabitáveis (The Uninhabitable Ones) | Anderson Bardot | Brazil | 2020 | 25 min | Portuguese with English subtitles

Total Runtime: 119 min

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 



BEAT 97

Meet Cute

Fleeting fantasies, chance connections, dashed expectations, and surprising flirtations create a collage of queer meetings in this shorts program. **The Ephemeral** finds two strangers meeting in a subway car; as fingers brush and eyes glance, a collage of past, present, and future forms between them. In **Silver and Gold**, a lonely performer, who spends her days as a living statue, waits and wishes for someone to notice her. One day another statue appears on her boardwalk, pulling her out of her shell. An online search for bookbinding materials leads a shy Hasidic bookbinder to a BDSM Craigslist ad that pulls him into an emotional bond with a stranger on the internet in **The Binding of Itzik**. **Real** is a charming short-form webseries about a deaf queer woman on the search for genuine romantic connection as she navigates a world of complex communication. In **Beat 97**, Alvaro is on day ninety-seven of quarantine during the pandemic, lonely and horny. Is he imagining a flirtation between himself and his delivery man? Lastly, **Gayme On** similarly finds Nathan looking for love online in lockdown, finding only older white men who want to play daddy to a younger Black man. But then a message from a fellow gamer sparks something in Nathan he didn't expect. One of the most courageous things we can do as queer people is to follow our deep desire to connect, and seek out love, recognition, and closeness. These films are a funny, honest, heartbreaking, and complex look at that longing.

The Ephemeral | Jorge Muriel | Spain | 2020 | 20 min | Spanish with English Subtitles

Silver and Gold | Jack Pulford | United Kingdom | 2021 | 10 min | No dialogue

The Binding of Itzik | Anika Benkov | USA | 2020 | 17 min | English and Yiddish with English Subtitles

Real | Maria Forsythe | USA | 2020 | 5 min | American Sign Language and English with English Subtitles

Beat 97 | Washington Calegari | Brazil | 2020 | 12 min | Portuguese with English Subtitles

Gayme On | Giovanni Adams | USA | 2020 | 11 min | English

Total Runtime: 55 min

AUG 12-22 | VOD

Content Advisory: Sexually explicit content.



Possession

Queer fear is back in this collection of creepy tales exploring the darker sides of longing. We begin on the set of a horror film in **Spontaneous Combustion**, where actress Audrey finds herself drawn to the director of photography, Cordelia. When their misogynist director pushes the women too far, something powerful awakens within Cordelia, threatening everyone in her proximity. In the psychological horror **Itsy-Bitsy Spider**, a young man who has just moved in with his boyfriend finds himself growing increasingly paranoid with visions of a menacing spider. **Come Back My Love** takes us on a twisted Frankenstein-inspired story of a love that won't let go and transforms into something monstrous. **New Flesh For the Old Ceremony** explores the physicality of coming to terms with grief and loss through a macabre fable about a woman whose wife is eaten by their own dogs, only for her spirit to then possess them. In **Sundown Town**, we are given a chance to see supernatural justice for the many Black people who were caught by white supremacists in segregated towns after dark. Not for the faint of heart, these films will have you thinking about grief, revenge, loss, and empowerment, proving that horror is a ripe genre to explore the interiority of those emotions.

Combustion Spontanée (Spontaneous Combustion) | Pierre-Jean Delvolvé | France | 2020 | 28 min | French with English subtitles

Itsy-Bitsy Spider | Brodi-jo Scalise | Canada | 2020 | 19 min | English

Reviens Mon Amour (Come Back My Love) | Ralph Bou Chaya | France | 2019 | 16 min | French with English subtitles

New Flesh For the Old Ceremony | Elizabeth Rakhilkina | USA | 2020 | 13 min | English

Sundown Town | Mylo Butler | USA | 2021 | 10 min | English

Friend of Sophia | Aiden Peters | USA | 2021 | 6 min | English

Total Runtime: 92 min

AUG 12-22 | VOD | 

Content advisory: Subject matter contains images of blood, gore, violence, and racism.



**To all our artists:
thank you for your work. You are
changing the world. And to find out
more about our artists, please visit
queerfilmfestival.ca**



Industry & Awards

Workshops

Queer Film 101

Curious about the history of queer film, or just want to brush up on your understanding of queer cinema? Join us for a primer on the history of queer representation in film from the 1920's to our present day, with Artistic Director Anoushka Ratnarajah. From comedic foils to villainous manipulators to cautionary tales to art house weirdos and avant garde trailblazers to indie success to mainstream breakthroughs, this presentation will chart the evolution of queer people on the silver screen.

SAT AUG 14 | 11AM | LIVE ONLINE | FREE

Representation at VQFF

Like many other artistic spaces and industries, film and film festivals are working to catch up to a decades-long deficit in fair and authentic representation. VQFF turns inward to look at trends within our own programming from the last five years. How well are we doing when it comes to representation behind and in front of the camera, and where do we fit in the industry?

SAT AUG 14 | 2PM | LIVE ONLINE | FREE

Sponsor: ACFC West Local 2020 Unifor

Programming During a Pandemic

Join our programming team and other members of Vancouver's artistic community for a behind the scenes look at programming politically, representing our communities, where we see ourselves going and what we dream of for the future. We'll be speaking about programming in a pandemic, and other emergencies, programming against white supremacy while trying to decolonize, and the emotional toll of creative and cultural work.

SUN AUG 15 | 11PM | LIVE ONLINE | FREE

VQFF x Out in Schools Presentation

Come join Out In Schools and witness the work we are doing firsthand! Out In Schools facilitators will present our slide content, share a few short films, and answer questions from the audience. We'll be discussing queer representation in the media, terminology and concepts, and allyship. Invite friends and family who want to learn how to show up in support and solidarity, or fellow 2SLGBTQIA+ folks and learn more about your community!

SUN AUG 15 | 2PM | LIVE ONLINE | FREE

The Gay Canadian Baking Show: TV, Food, and Identity.

Join the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and CBC Vancouver in conversation with Sheldon Lynn, Quarter-finalist on Season 4 of the Great Canadian Baking Show, and a member of Vancouver's all-Asian drag dynasty, House of Rice. Join us as we talk through being queer on reality television and bringing your full self into the spot light.

SAT AUG 14 | 1PM | LIVE ONLINE | FREE

Sponsor: CBC Vancouver

Queer As In F*ck You: Queers in Politics

Queer communities are at the forefront of intersectional advocacy, often in spaces created in direct conflict with our liberties and freedoms. This past year has highlighted the need for action beyond representation in Canadian politics. Acknowledging Queerness as a dimension wherein one invents and creates alternative worlds for survival, Out on Screen ED, activist, educator and former running councilman Brandon Yan meets with Queer politicians taking on the unnerving task of being Queer in politics. The panel promises to be an informative and warm conversation surrounding the experiences of Queer folks active in legislation and policy advocacy.

AUG 14-22 | VOD | FREE

Queers Persevere: Patch Making Workshop!

Join Out In Schools for an interactive patch making workshop! Youth aged 13 - 25 are invited to connect with queer history and engage hands-on! We will discuss the origins of queer symbols, the use of handicrafts for protest and expression, and the art of embroidery. With guidance from Regan Shrumm (they/them), youth will have the opportunity to design and create their very own custom patches. Participants will also receive a free code to our Youth Gala Screening at this year's virtual Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

Register by August 4 to receive a free box with embroidery supplies and more!
Contact info@outinschools.com if you have any questions.

SAT | AUG 14 | 5pm | FREE



Regan Shrumm is a queer, disabled, and genderqueer artist and curator. Their practice is interdisciplinary, focusing on textiles and social practice. Shrumm has lived as an uninvited settler on Lekwungen and WSANEC territory (Victoria, BC) on and off for the past eleven years. Shrumm has programmed for a number of museums and artist spaces in Victoria including the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Open Space Arts Society, and Integrate Arts Festival. They create programming that centres the arts at every level of society, as the arts allow us to communicate often paradoxical, contradictory, and complicated truths about our human experiences.

Awards

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. Alayna Silverbergwon in 2020 for B-side. The 2021 winner will be announced after the close of the festival on August 22. This award is generously supported by the Directors Guild of Canada, British Columbia.



Please visit queerfilmfestival.ca to learn more about the jury members for the Gerry Brunet Memorial Award.

Audience Choice Award for Best Feature

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

Breaking Fast (Mike Mosallam, director) took home the coveted People's Choice for Best Feature in 2020.

Audience Choice Award for Best Short

This award goes to the audience's selection for exceptional short film. Support independent directors by voting at the Festival!

HIV: Healing Inner Voices (Martin Moberg & Jada-Gabrielle Pape, directors) was awarded the People's Choice award for Best Short in 2020.

For information on how to vote, please go to queerfilmfestival.ca

Volunteer Service Award

Ryan Lim

Established in 2018, the Volunteer Service Award recognizes significant contribution to 2SLGBTQIA+ communities through volunteer service through Out On Screen and its programs, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and Out In Schools. We always say that volunteers are at the heart of what we do, so we'd like to honour one every year as a small token of our appreciation.

This year, our recipient is **Ryan Lim**. Ryan should be a familiar face to many of you as he's always eager to support us during the Festival and also at our many other fundraising and public events. Here's a bit from Ryan on his experience volunteering with Out On Screen.



My first year of volunteering with Out On Screen was in 2013, and it was a wonderfully positive experience. I met amazing people, saw incredible films, and found a place which I was excited to return to year after year. And that I did, as Out On Screen became my portal to the 2SLGBTQIA+ culture and community; it was also my way to contribute while feeling connected at the same time.

Want to volunteer with us?
Check us out at
outonscreen.com

Community Partners

RicePaper Magazine

What's On Queer BC

Sher Vancouver

Vancouver Taiwanese Film Festival

Victoria Pride Society

Mycelium + YouthCo

CJSF 90.1 FM

QMUNITY

QueerFM Van 101.9FM

Chilliwack Gender Support Network

The Vancouver Pride Society

Queer Community Collective

PFlag

DOXA

Zee Zee Theatre

Queer Arts Festival

Vancouver Latin American Film Festival

Fraser Valley Youth Society

SAD Magazine

Elk Valley Pride Festival

Vancouver Art Book Fair

WISH Drop-In Centre Society

Vancouver Men's Chorus

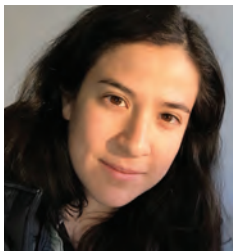
Rainbow Foundation of Hope

ARC Foundation / SOGI 123

The Kettle Society

Studio 58

Local Artists



Angelica Perez Anzures

Angelica is a Mexican filmmaker based in Vancouver. **Mena Brea: A Techno-Dysmorphic Tale** is her first time directing professionally. She currently works as a Cinematographer. She started her career as an actor in a theater company where she found her passion in filmmaking. Telling stories through the lens have been a dream come true for Angelica. As a Cinematographer she has collaborated on many films and her favorite part is to be able to translate emotions and discourses into images. Angelica's biggest interests are in science and the psychology of human behavior. She is now writing and ready to get more projects happening.

Mena Brea (p.60)

Sophie de Kergommeaux (pronounced de-kur-go-mo) is a 21-year-old filmmaker from Kelowna, BC. **Purple** was originally created as a final project for a Queer Film class at the University of Victoria, where she currently attends for Writing and Film Studies. The short film was entirely created within one week and shot in her dorm room alone or near the UVIC campus with the help of her younger brother Nicolas de Kergommeaux. The **Vancouver Queer Film Festival** will be the first film festival to feature her work.

Purple (p.32)



Sophie de Kergommeaux



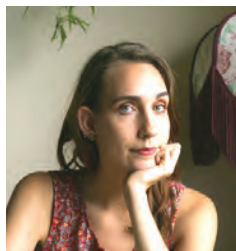
Zoë Friberg

Zoë Friberg (she/they) is a Vancouver and Minneapolis based director also specializing in assistant directing, production design, and color grading. She was raised by artists and continues to pursue all things creative. In 2021, she received a Film Production diploma from InFocus Film School where she was also voted by her peers for the Team Spirit Award. Last year, she had the pleasure to be included in Vancouver Queer Film Festival for doing camera and sound on a fellow student's featured short doc "Fluid". She's currently working on projects through FP53 Media, a Vancouver based video production start-up.

Letter (p.32)

Gloria Mercer is a filmmaker from Vancouver, which is located on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Her award-winning short films have screened at international festivals worldwide. She is an alumni of the Simon Fraser University Film Program, and recently completed the Women in the Director's Chair Career Advancement Module program. She is passionate about featuring more women in front of and behind the camera, and fostering new talent in the BC film industry.

Hekademia (p.60)



Gloria Mercer



Mily Mumford

Mily Mumford (they/them) is an immersive theatre creator/playwright, filmmaker, screenwriter, and queer multimedia artist based in unceded xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) territory ("Vancouver"). Recent work includes *The Cinephiles* a film/drag queer multimedia series, and the short films *GEMINI* (Cannes Short Film Corner) *Operation Gingham* (Winner of Best Film at Vancouver Quarantine Performance Project, 2020) and *Marsha's Knitting Club* (2021 Finalist, Vancouver Run and Gun Challenge), *a's Knitting Club* (2021 Finalist, Vancouver Run and Gun Challenge).

Operation Gingham (p.60)

Shana Myara is an award-winning writer. She is a curator, recovered festival director and community arts programmer who has cultivated arts and dialogue for social change for over 20 years. **Well Rounded** is her first feature length film.

Well Rounded (p.37)



Shana Myara



Nic Pearson

Nic is filmmaker born in a place known as Vancouver. Their work thus far would seem focused on quiet examinations at the intersections of queerness, intimacy, and the human tactility of cinema. It has been watched by strangers at such festivals as the Vancouver Queer Film Festival, the New Mexico Feminist Border Arts Festival, Boston Wicked Queer Film Festival, and Inside Out. Alongside filmmaking, Nic facilitates media technology access, in part through the NVDPL StoryLab.

Her Voice (p.32)

Meesh QX is a queer, interdisciplinary artist based out of BC. Their work spans film, stop-motion animation, 2D and 3D materials, and writing. Across these varied mediums, a uniting theme in Meesh's work is an exploration of identity including aspects of gender, race, and intergenerational ties. Recently their work has been featured in the Comox Valley Art Gallery's online and in-gallery exhibition "The Space Between Us", as well as through the Arts Club Theatre LEAP Playwriting Intensive, and as part of Reel Youth Film 2021 Troublemakers program.

Small Town (p.32)



Meesh QX



Brodi-jo Scalise

A graduate of Capilano University's Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts degree program, Brodi has garnered a wealth of experience in the physical production setting in Vancouver, performing in roles from Production Coordinator to Production Executive. In 2020 Brodi wrote & directed **Itsy Bitsy Spider**, part of the Crazy 8s competition in Vancouver, which had its world premiere at the Salem Horror Fest and has since been acquired by CBC Reflections for a Fall 2021 airdate.

Itsy Bitsy Spider (p.63)

Morgan (ze/zim) is a Jewish non-binary writer, photographer and filmmaker born and raised on unceded mi'kmaq territory in Halifax, NS. After earning an Honours BA in Anthropology and Gender Studies from Dalhousie ze moved to Vancouver to pursue filmmaking. Morgan's films have screened at ViewFinders, OutEast and InsideOut Toronto. Ze is currently writing for PedalStreet and developing zir next project Inch by inch.

Enby (p.32)



Morgan Strug



Nathalie Therriault

A queer woman in her 50s, Nathalie Therriault (she/her) is a Vancouver based emerging filmmaker. She has been teaching acting in Vancouver for over 9 years and has mentored many talented artists. In the last few years, Nathalie enrolled in film studies at Langara College where she discovered her love of writing and storytelling. She hopes her films give hope and a voice to the outcasts who feel unseen, unheard and unloved. She firmly believes it is never too late to take a chance.

The Tailor (p.32)

As a young girl growing up in Iran—where the idea of gender equality is equated with the end of civilizations—Sepideh always struggled to find a means to tell her story. When she arrived in Canada, she was elated with her newfound ability to express herself. She found voices like hers in films, therefore, she knew what she needed to do. Sepideh has directed two short documentaries **From...**(2020), and *Uprooted* (2017) and two short dramas *Asal* (2019) and *Dancing in the Afternoon* (2018); her short films have been awarded and recognized nationally and internationally.

From... (p.61)



Sepideh Yadegar

Out In Schools

Opening Hearts, Changing Minds

103 presentations delivered

10,837 youth reached

1,347 educators and adults reached

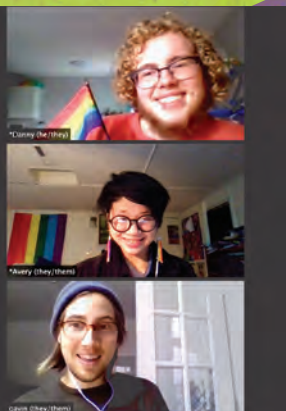
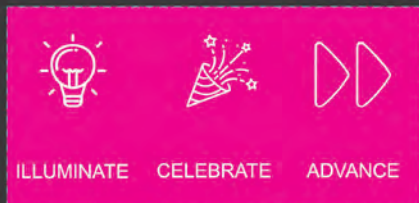
22 educator presentations

62 IRL presentation deliver (January - March 2020)

43 Digital deliveries (April - December 2020)

"The demographics in schools are changing constantly with diverse students of varying ethnic backgrounds, racial identities, sexual orientation and genders. The workshop provided extremely important information on how we can be mindful of inclusion and representation, and support students who identify as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community so that they feel safe being themselves and can learn in a healthy environment."

Student Teacher, Fall 2020



"Youth in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community can be very isolated, particularly in rural areas away from city centers. Seeing members of a community they identify with on screen and in person, while sharing dialogue about the challenges and successes within those communities is a way to promote acceptance and build esteem in individuals."

Educator, March 2020

out

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