

VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY
OUT ON SCREEN

LEAD
PARTNER



ONLINE
& IN PERSON

AUGUST 10-20
QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA

Located on the unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm, S̱ḵw̱x̱ w̱ú7mesh, and s̱əḻḻw̱ətaʔ Nations.

35 YEARS OF
* 35 YEARS OF
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35 YEARS OF
35 YEARS OF
35 YEARS OF
35 YEARS OF
35 YEARS OF
35 YEARS OF
* 35 YEARS OF

CONNECTION
COMMUNITY
RESISTANCE
RESILIENCE
* REALNESS
CAMP
* JOY



35 YEARS OF OUT ON SCREEN



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L A N D ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Vancouver Out On Screen Film and Video Society is an organization primarily led by non-Indigenous people. We operate on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. Today, these distinct Indigenous communities continue to call this land home and participate in its stewardship.

As an organization that travels throughout BC, we are also uninvited settlers on the lands of many other First Nations and Indigenous communities. We aspire to build right relationships with Indigenous peoples of these lands, and we have much to learn as we work to build meaningful relationships and fulfill our responsibility to share our collective histories.



WELCOME FROM T S L E I L - W A U T U T H



Tseil-Waututh Nation PEOPLE OF THE INLET

ʔo: si:ýérm̓ nə siyéýə,

Friends and Relatives,

ʔərm̓i ce:p kʷətxʷiləm ʔə tə təməxʷ wə čʷwet ʔə tə məsteyəxʷ təh̓I ʃ
xʷməθkʷəýəm ʔi? sqʃʷam̓əx ʔi? səl̓ilwətaʔ

Welcome to the shared territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh peoples.

As “People of the Inlet,” storytelling is a critical part of sharing our rich culture, history, language, and enduring connections to our land and waters across generations.

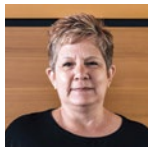
We have good feelings in our hearts to join this year’s Vancouver Queer Film Festival and uplift our Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, and LGBTQIA+ relatives and friends through the diverse stories being presented on film.

Enjoy the festival!

hay čxʷ éə,

Chief Jen Thomas

səl̓ilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh Nation)



CANADIAN FILMS HAVE IT ALL.

BIG HITS
BIG HITS
BIG HITS

BIG HITS
BIG TALENTS

BIG TALENTS
BIG TALENTS
BIG TALENTS



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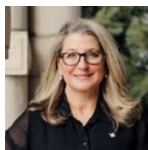
On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, welcome to the 2023 Vancouver Queer Film Festival. Our government is committed to building a more inclusive and welcoming province by tackling discrimination, removing barriers and celebrating the contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ people everywhere. The Province is proud to support the Vancouver Queer Film Festival through Creative BC, the BC Arts Council and the Fairs, Festivals, and Events Fund.

British Columbia's motion picture industry is recognized internationally for excellence and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival is an important contributor to its success. Thank you to filmmakers for sharing your talent and message with us through the powerful medium of film. Lastly, thank you to the Festival's audience for supporting this work and being a part of advancing the values of diversity and inclusion in British Columbia.

Enjoy the festival!

Honourable Lana Popham

Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



Welcome to the 2023 Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

The arts are a powerful force in our society. They inspire us, break down barriers and unite in our shared humanity. Now more than ever, our artists have a critical role to play in shaping an open, inclusive society where everyone has the chance to participate equally and flourish.

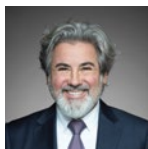
Events like this have the power to fuel this transformative change, not just for the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, but for everyone. For 11 days, film fans will enjoy stories from some of the best queer filmmakers in Canada and beyond. The common thread is the power of the human spirit, in all its diversity. We are proud to support the 35th edition of this inspiring festival.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I'd like to thank everyone involved in making this celebration such a success.

Enjoy the shows!

Honourable Pablo Rodriguez

Minister of Canadian Heritage



WELCOME FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear friends and supporters,

On behalf of Out On Screen, it is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to this year's edition of our cherished event. As Executive Director and Board Chair, we are delighted to present a captivating program that celebrates the power of unity and resilience.

With the theme "Stronger Together," we embrace the essence of solidarity within our vibrant 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. We recognize art, culture, and storytelling's vital role in fostering understanding, igniting conversation, and creating positive change. The Vancouver Queer Film Festival serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that our collective voice is stronger than ever.

We are inspired by the remarkable talents of filmmakers, artists, and activists who continue to amplify marginalized voices and challenge societal norms. Their unwavering dedication has paved the way for a more inclusive and accepting world, and we will not go backward. Together, we will forge new paths, redefine boundaries, and celebrate our beauty.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our artists, staff, volunteers, partners, and audiences for their ongoing support. Through your collective effort, we can create an environment where every one of us feels seen, heard, and valued.

Welcome to the Vancouver Queer Film Festival, where we believe that together, we are unstoppable.

In solidarity,

Brandon Yan
Executive Director



Chris Hallamore
Board Chair



WELCOME FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome, VQFF family!

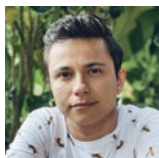
Leading the curation of the 2023 Vancouver Queer Film Festival has been a profound privilege. For the Festival's 35th anniversary, the programming team set out to build a lineup of bold, uplifting, and expansive portrayals of our community. We're thrilled to invite you to enjoy 87 exceptional films and five brilliant pilot episodes from 28 countries—each a testament to the fierce authenticity and extraordinary visions of 2SLGBTQIA+ creators.

We kick off the Festival with our **Opening Presentation: Stronger Together**, a remarkable collection of shorts celebrating our community's rich and multifaceted experiences. Our Centrepiece Presentation is the Canadian Premiere of the award-winning documentary **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture**, an astonishing film that unveils new revelations and casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for queer and trans prejudice. We close on Saturday, August 19 with our **Closing Presentation: Runs In The Family** in support and celebration of our beloved trans community and drag performers. Finally, on Sunday, August 20, we'll showcase encore screenings of the most loved stories at the Festival.

I invite you to explore this programme, find yourself in its pages, and seek out the unknown and unexpected. I hope you come out to meet VQFF's visiting artists, discover local queer talent, connect with the community, fall in love with new films, and party like an animal.

I truly look forward to meeting you all!

Charlie Hidalgo
Artistic Director



THE VANCOUVER OUT ON SCREEN FILM & VIDEO SOCIETY

At Out On Screen, donors, supporters, volunteers, and film-lovers like you believe that film has the power to effect positive change and shape social landscapes for the better. For over three decades, we have curated the latest in film, education, and shared stories from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Our vision is of an equitable society where 2SLGBTQIA+ people are respected, valued, and protected across all our intersections of identity. Our work through the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and the Out In Schools program seeks to achieve this vision by illuminating, celebrating, and transforming queer lives through film, education, art, and dialogue.

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Festival Programmer
(2023 Disruptor Fellow)

Sarah-Tai Black

Festival Programmer

Simone Ling

Guest Programmer

Rico Johnson-Sinclair

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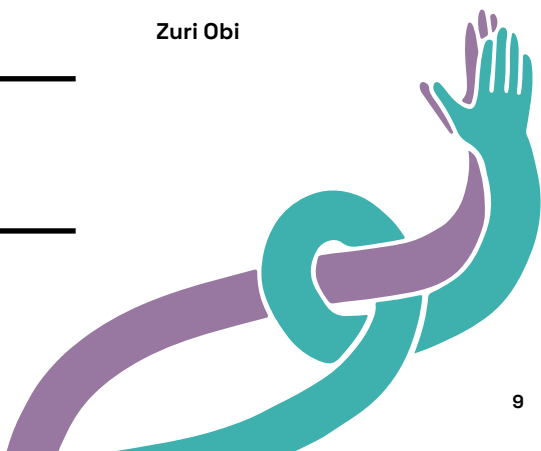
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Sarah-Tai Black

Simone Ling

Tamara Dawit

Zuri Obi



DIRECTORS

GUILD

Out On Screen is proud to celebrate 35 years of life-changing queer art, education, and culture. Thank you to our Directors Guild for your dedicated support. We couldn't do any of this without you. The members of our Directors Guild make a multi-year commitment to uplifting queer, trans, and Two Spirit art and storytelling.

Join our Directors Guild to support 2SLGBTQIA+ stories on the big screen for another 35 years. Contact Executive Director Brandon Yan at brandon@outonscreen.com to learn more.

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D O N O R S

Out On Screen's fabulous donors make it possible for us to do what we do. Whether you have been with us since the beginning or are brand new, your contribution is why we're able to celebrate our 35th anniversary. From all of us at Out On Screen, thank you for your commitment to keeping 2SLGBTQIA+ stories on screen!

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FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS



JAMES
GOODMAN



A W A R D S

Award winners will be announced and celebrated at the Closing Presentation on Saturday, August 19th.

PROGRAMMING

DISRUPTOR

FELLOWSHIP

We are grateful to Telefilm Canada, Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada and the BC Arts Council for sponsoring the inaugural **Programming Disruptor Fellowship for Emerging BIPOC 2SLGBTQIA+ Film Curators**. Heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Romi Kim, Jasmine “Audder” Monton and Eva Grant for being a part of the first cohort and an essential part of programming of this Festival.

TELEFILM CANADA PARTNER OF CHOICE

WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY
Access
CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL | BRITISH COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

RBC

NARRATIVE

CHANGE

AWARD

We are proud to introduce the **RBC Narrative Change Award**. Sponsored by RBC, this \$5,000 cash prize will be determined by an international jury and will honor a Canadian or International film that uses the power of cultural strategy to overturn outdated narratives, inspire change, and expand the audience's perception of 2SLGBTQIA+ identities. The award winner will be announced at the Closing Night Gala on August 19th have an encore screening on the last day of the Festival on August 20.



GERRY BRUNET MEMORIAL AWARD: BEST BRITISH COLUMBIA SHORT

Our annual juried prize for the Festival's **Best British Columbia 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. This \$2,500 cash prize is generously supported by the Directors Guild of Canada-BC. The winner will also receive a \$15,000 camera package prize from Keslow Camera.

DGC
DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

KESLOW
CAMERA

The **People's Choice Awards** are determined by audience ballots, and every film screened at the Festival is eligible for one of the four following awards. Winners are determined by the highest proportion of votes, ensuring all films have the opportunity to be recognized regardless of the size of the theatre they are screened in. To vote, complete your ballot on tablets provided by our staff and volunteers as you leave the theatre or submit a rating for each film you watch on our digital watch platform until August 19.

Best Canadian Feature

Sponsored by the Canada Media Fund (CMF), this \$5,000 cash prize will be presented to the audience's favourite Canadian Feature.



Best Canadian Short

Sponsored by Panavision, this \$20,000 camera package prize will be presented to the audience's favourite Canadian Short.



Best International Feature

This \$2,500 cash prize will be presented to the audience's favourite International Feature.

Best International Short

This \$2,500 cash prize will be presented to the audience's favourite International Short.



TICKET INFORMATION

All film screenings are offered at the same sliding scale price range, whether available online or in-person. Please go to queerfilmfestival.ca to purchase all your tickets and passes.

For in-person films, each attendee requires their own ticket. For online films, 1 ticket = 1 film stream, regardless of who is watching.

SINGLE TICKETS

TICKET TIER	PRICE	WHO IT'S FOR
Friend with Benefits (FWB)	\$21	Film-lovers who can afford a little extra
Standard	\$14	Our base ticket price
Access	\$10	Students, Youth, Seniors, Low Income
Access+	\$5	Those who need reduced costs for any reason

PASSES

All passes are limited to patrons 18 years of age and older.

Festival Pass	\$175
Festival Pass - access pricing	\$145
Digital Pass	\$100

Festival Passes provide access to all films and events at the Festival, in-person and online. Passholders enter the theatre first up to 30 minutes before start time, and can collect a slip to reserve their seat up to 60 minutes before start time at the venue's Box Office. Only ~30% of in-person screening seats are reserved for passholders.

Digital Passes are perfect for film-lovers who prefer to watch from home. The Digital Pass provides access to online streaming only.

REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

Call us at 604-844-1615 x410 or email us at boxoffice@outonscreen.com

MEMBERSHIPS

All ticket purchases now include a non-voting membership to the Vancouver Out On Screen Film & Video Society that expires 364 days after the date of attendance. All Festival Passes include a voting membership that expire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, at which all voting members are eligible to vote on motions.

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

If the price of a voting membership is prohibitive, please reach out to info@outonscreen.com.

HOW TO FEST

IN-PERSON

1 hour before screening Box Office opens
Passholders can collect slips
to reserve your spot

30 minutes before screening Theatre opens, Passholders enter first!

~15 minutes before screening Ticketholders enter the theatre

ONLINE

All of our online content is geolocked to BC only. As much as we'd love to screen all our films online for the entire duration of the Festival, the availability of online streaming is subject to our agreements with artists and distributors and their preferences for how they'd like their work to be viewed.

Select films will be available to stream online one day after they screen in person and remain available for a period of 72 hours total. Once you start a film, you have 24 hours to watch it all the way through.

To watch, purchase a virtual ticket, Festival Pass, or Digital Pass and log in to our watch platform at watch.outonscreen.com.

For more detailed information, check out the How to Fest section on our website or contact boxoffice@outonscreen.com.

SCHEDULE



GO TO QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA FOR DETAILS ON POST-SCREENING Q&A'S, WORKSHOPS, AND INDUSTRY EVENTS!

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

FEATURE FILMS

SHORTS PROGRAMS

PARTIES

THURSDAY

AUGUST 10

- 7:00 PM** **Opening Presentation: Stronger Together** P. 32
Vancouver Playhouse
- 8:15 PM** **Opening Night Party** P. 96
Vancouver Playhouse

FRIDAY

AUGUST 11

- 6:30 PM** **Before I Change My Mind** P. 42
International Village - Theatre 8
- 6:30 PM** **This Place** P. 43
VIFF Centre
- 7:00 PM** **Lie With Me (Arrête avec tes mensonges)** P. 44
International Village - Theatre 9
- 9:00 PM** **Three Tidy Tigers Tied a Tie Tighter** P. 45
International Village - Theatre 8
- 9:00 PM** **Clashing Differences** P. 46
VIFF Centre
- 9:15 PM** **Shorts: Midnight Foreplay + Performance** P. 68
International Village - Theatre 9

SATURDAY

AUGUST 12

- 1:30 PM** — **Bittersweet Becoming** — P. 47
International Village - Theatre 8
- 1:45 PM** — **Shorts: Homecomings** — P. 70
International Village - Theatre 9
- 4:00 PM** — **Egghead & Twinkie** — P. 48
International Village - Theatre 9
- 4:15 PM** — **I LOVE YOU MORE** — P. 49
International Village - Theatre 8
- 6:30 PM** — **Big Boys** — P. 50
International Village - Theatre 9
- 6:45 PM** — **Episodic: Fresh Starts** — P. 72
International Village - Theatre 8
- 8:45 PM** — **Girlfriends and Girlfriends (La amiga de mi amiga)** — P. 51
International Village - Theatre 8
- 9:00 PM** — **Drifter** — P. 52
International Village - Theatre 9

SUNDAY

AUGUST 13

- 12:30 PM** — **Out In Schools & Troublemakers 7.0** — P. 36
International Village - Theatre 9
- 2:00 PM** — **Shorts: Inner Riots** — P. 74
International Village - Theatre 8
- 2:30 PM** — **Shorts: Blood and Water** — P. 76
International Village - Theatre 9
- 3:45 PM** — **20,000 Species of Bees** — P. 53
International Village - Theatre 8
- 4:45 PM** — **It's Only Life After All** — P. 54
International Village - Theatre 9
- 6:30 PM** — **Three Headed Beast** — P. 55
International Village - Theatre 8
- 7:30 PM** — **Shorts: Treats, Tears & Truth-Bombs** — P. 78
International Village - Theatre 9
- 8:45 PM** — **Queendom + Performance** — P. 56
International Village - Theatre 8

WEDNESDAY**AUGUST 16**

7:00 PM — **Centrepiece Presentation:** — **P. 34**
1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture
Vancouver Playhouse

THURSDAY**AUGUST 17**

6:30 PM — **Shorts: The Coast is Queer + Performance** — **P. 80**
International Village - Theatre 9

6:45 PM — **Mutt** — **P. 57**
International Village - Theatre 8

8:45 PM — **Shorts: Cinema Non-Conforming** — **P. 82**
International Village - Theatre 8

9:00 PM — **Shorts: Something About Him** — **P. 84**
International Village - Theatre 9

FRIDAY**AUGUST 18**

6:30 PM — **Wolf and Dog (Lobo e Cão)** — **P. 58**
International Village - Theatre 8

6:45 PM — **The Mattachine Family** — **P. 59**
International Village - Theatre 9

9:00 PM — **Shorts: Slay 4 Me + Performance** — **P. 86**
International Village - Theatre 8

9:15 PM — **Shorts: "It's Complicated"** — **P. 88**
International Village - Theatre 9

9:30 PM — **Le Beau Mec** — **P. 60**
The Cultch - Historic Theatre

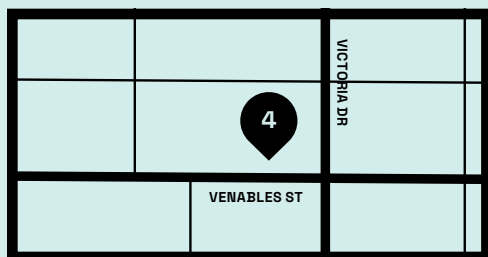
- 2:00 PM** — **Shorts: Talkin' Bout a Revolution** — P. 90
International Village - Theatre 9
- 2:15 PM** — **The life and strange surprising adventures of Robinson Crusoe** — P. 61
International Village - Theatre 8
- 4:00 PM** — **How to Tell a Secret** — P. 62
International Village - Theatre 9
- 4:15 PM** — **A Queer's Guide to Spiritual Living** — P. 63
International Village - Theatre 8
- 7:00 PM** — **Closing Presentation: Runs In The Family** — P. 35
Vancouver Playhouse
- 8:30 PM** — **Closing Party** — P. 96
Vancouver Playhouse

- 1:45 PM** — **Programmers' Picks: Shorts** — P. 92
International Village - Theatre 9
- 2:00 PM** — **People's Choice Award: International Feature** — P. 19
International Village - Theatre 8
- 4:00 PM** — **Narrative Change Award Winner** — P. 18
International Village - Theatre 9
- 4:30 PM** — **People's Choice Award: Shorts** — P. 19
International Village - Theatre 8
- 6:30 PM** — **People's Choice Award: Canadian Feature** — P. 19
International Village - Theatre 9
- 6:45 PM** — **Programmers' Pick: Feature** — P. 64
International Village - Theatre 8

GO TO QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA FOR DETAILS ON POST-SCREENING Q&A'S, WORKSHOPS, AND INDUSTRY EVENTS!

V E N U E S

-
- VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE** 1
600 Hamilton St.
-
- CINEPLEX ODEON INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE
THEATRES 8 AND 9** 2
88 W Pender St., 3rd Floor
-
- VIFF CENTRE
VANCITY THEATRE** 3
1181 Seymour St.
-
- THE CULTCH - HISTORIC THEATRE** 4
1895 Venables St.



ACCESSIBILITY

OUR COMMITMENT TO AN ACCESSIBLE FESTIVAL

PHYSICAL SPACE

We work to ensure that our in-person venues are as accessible as possible, including accessible and gender-inclusive washrooms, scent-reduced environments, and other supportive practices.

Transit and accessibility information for each of our in-person venues is available in detail on our website.

PROGRAMMING

The following accessibility information is listed for each event. If something is omitted from this Guide, the most detailed and up-to-date information will always be available on our online programme at queerfilmfestival.ca.

English subtitles and/or **open captions** will be provided for all programming.

Live ASL interpretation is provided for select programs. **Live auto-captioning** will be used when ASL is not available.

Film ratings by BC Consumer Protection are available on our online programme only from mid-July.

Content warnings, if applicable, are provided on each program page in print and online to help audiences make informed decisions on potentially physiologically or psychologically triggering content.

COMMUNITY TICKETS

We issue complimentary tickets to individuals and local community groups for those who face barriers in attending the Festival.

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Out On Screen is committed to cultivating safer spaces for all members of our community. Learn more about our community guidelines and safety protocols on our website.

If you would like to make an accessibility request or have questions about any of the above, please contact boxoffice@outonscreen.com. We welcome your feedback on our accessibility protocols.

LEGEND

Please note that this print Guide does not include information on post-screening Q&A's, workshops, or industry events. This information will be available in full on our online programme at queerfilmfestival.ca.



Available to screen online on selected dates.



There will be a performance, multimedia, or other special component at the in-person screening.



Program was entirely or partially produced locally in British Columbia.



Youth-friendly program. For official ratings by BC Consumer Protection, see our online programme.

WORLD PREMIERE

First presentation in the world.

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

First presentation outside its country of origin.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

First presentation in North America.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

First presentation in Canada.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

First presentation in BC.

VANCOUVER PREMIERE

First presentation in Vancouver.

SUGAR
HIGHS

SORT OF

SPARKING STORIES EVERYWHERE



The Canada Media Fund is here to support bold, courageous voices across the audiovisual industry—from television and web series to documentaries, video games, IDM and immersive projects. Wherever there's a vision and a desire to shine a light, we're there to light the spark.



CANADA
MEDIA FUND

FONDS DES MÉDIAS
DU CANADA

cmf-fmc.ca

SPEC



PRE

TATI

CIAL



SEN

ONS

STRONGER TOGETHER

THU, AUG 10
7:00 PM

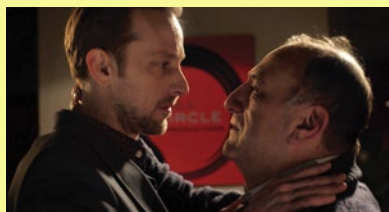
VANCOUVER
PLAYHOUSE

ONLINE
AUG 11, 7 PM TO
AUG 14, 7 PM

RUNTIME: 81 MIN

This unforgettable opening night shorts program showcases the indomitable spirit of queerness, celebrates our collective resilience, and illuminates the power of our unity. Prepare for an evening of stories to lift your spirits and ignite your imagination.

Stick around for our **Opening Night Party** (p.96) after the screening!



DOTTING THE “I”

Doug Tompos | United States
2022 | 11 min | English with
captions

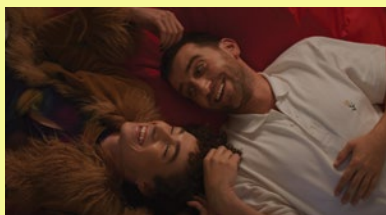
With the power of an unexpected kiss, a modern-day Cyrano and a mid-life cynic embark on a profound exploration of lost love and the possibilities of love yet to be discovered.



THRIVING: A DISSOCIATED REVERIE

Nicole Bazuin | Canada | 2022
9 min | English with captions

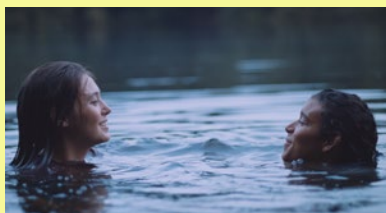
A bold, imaginative, and super-saturated peek into the world of Kitoko, a Black nonbinary disabled artist and former sex worker diagnosed with a dissociative identity disorder.



AC UNIT

**Grace Godvin | United States
2023 | 13 min | English with
captions**

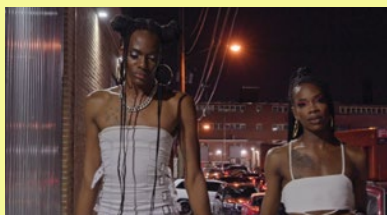
A Jewish queer helps their stylish trans femme friend install an air conditioner. Panic ensues when the pair have to deal with an unexpected fatality while high on shrooms.



GROCERY LIST

**Joanne Momy Park | United States
2022 | 9 min | English with
captions**

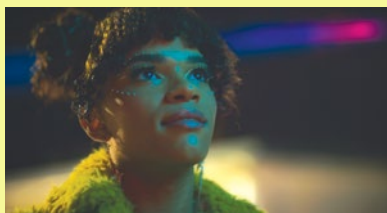
A queer couple living in the suburbs just want to go grocery shopping, but somehow issues big and small keep getting in the way.



MNM

**Twiggy Pucci Garçon
United States | 2023 | 15 min
English with captions**

What does it take to be your true authentic self every day? Beautiful and sensorial, this film explores this fundamental question as two chosen siblings make their runway ballroom debut.



MARS

**Abel Rubinstein | United Kingdom
2022 | 19 min | English with
captions**

Frank, fearless, and funny, Yasmin Finney of the hit show *Heartstopper* stars as young Charlie, who, over one magical night, assesses what truly matters in this love song to trans youth created by award-winning music artist, Yungblud.

1946: THE MISTRANSLATION THAT SHIFTED CULTURE



**WED, AUG 16
7:00 PM**

**VANCOUVER
PLAYHOUSE**

IN-PERSON ONLY

**Sharon Roggio | United States | 2022
92 min | English with captions**

2SLGBTQIA+ identities and Christian beliefs are often in opposition, with many queer-identifying Christians facing judgment or outright rejection from both communities. Sharon Roggio's fascinating etymological excavation traces the origins of the Christian anti-gay movement back to 1946, when a damaging mistranslation resulted in the first appearance of the word

"homosexual" in the Bible, thus providing a "sacred weapon" for the religious right to use against gay people. Significantly, while critical of religious dogma, this documentary does not oppose Christianity.

Roggio, herself a lesbian, grew up under the watchful eye of her preacher father, and this personal investment in the relationship between queerness and faith makes for an empathetic film that strives for inclusivity over division. This documentary is essential viewing for everyone regardless of personal beliefs, but particularly important for queer Christians who have been forced to hide their identities in the hope of gaining acceptance.

CLOSING PRESENTATION

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE
RUNS IN THE FAMILY



Ian Gabriel | South Africa | 2022 | 107 min
English with captions

Varun, a former con artist, and his trans drag performer son River embark on a road trip across South Africa to break River's estranged mother out of rehab. Their cross-country escapades seem to be going to plan until River's dream of winning prize money at a drag competition to pay for top surgery appear to be dashed when he learns that his performance partner is injured. But all hope is not lost; River's mother has a plan—perhaps Varun could step in and save the day?

While feel-good family stories are not always easy to come by in queer cinema (chosen families notwithstanding), this huge-hearted romp not only features a beautiful father-son relationship at its centre but was also a real-life family collaboration directed by Ian Gabriel and written by and starring his son Gabe. Infinitely likeable and full of insight, this family affair has good feelings to spare.

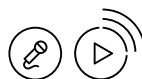
Join us for our **Closing Night Party** (p.96) after the screening!

SAT, AUG 19
7:00 PM

VANCOUVER
PLAYHOUSE

ONLINE
AUG 20, 7 PM TO
AUG 23, 7 PM

CONTENT WARNING:
SEXUAL CONTENT,
FLASHING LIGHTS



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

WORLD

PREMIERE

OUT IN SCHOOLS & TROUBLEMAKERS 7.0

SUN, AUG 13, 12:30 PM

RUNTIME: ~90 MIN

INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE - THEATRE 9



ONLINE

AUG 14, 12:30 PM TO AUG 17, 12:30 PM
(TROUBLEMAKERS 7.0 ONLY)

OUT IN SCHOOLS: BEYOND SOGI



The award-winning Out In Schools program harnesses the power of film to open hearts and change minds in schools across BC. Experience an abridged version of our Beyond Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) presentation, which explores the importance and impact of positive 2SLGBTQIA+ representation and showcases two new films in the Out In Schools film catalogue! Beyond SOGI will precede our classic Troublemakers program.

TROUBLEMAKERS 7.0



The intergenerational film project Troublemakers returns to the big screen for the seventh year! Reel Youth, Out On Screen, and LOVE Intersections present five new films by youth filmmakers documenting the lives of local lesbian, gay, queer, trans, and nonbinary community members who inspire us through art and advocacy. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the youth filmmakers and “Troublemaker” film subjects.

FILM TITLE	“TROUBLEMAKERS”	FILMMAKERS
Becoming Queer Joy	Tien No Eamas	Ronnie Cheng Leo Litke
Incredibly Hyper, Goofy, Sad, and Angry	Ezi Baker	Margit Gomes Neto Vivian Li
Wild Thing and Her Daughter	Apis Teicher	Adriana Cumming-Teicher
Owning the Future	Columbine Demers	Dev Petrovic Roki Qing Jiang
Can't Keep Quiet	Heidi McDonell	Naomi Leung Naomi Giogis

PROGRAM FACILITATORS:

Danny Lybbert
Gavin Somers
Lydia Alemu
Mark Vonesch
Mutya Macatumpag

MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM:

STORYHIVE powered by TELUS
SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs
SFU School for Contemporary Arts
The Parachute Fund

We believe that when people participate in their community, good things can happen.

Our goal is to help bring people together through shared experiences to help foster connected communities.

That's why we support events and initiatives that give people opportunities to get involved in their communities.

Learn more at td.com/connectedcommunities



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

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OUT IN SCHOOLS HARNESSES THE POWER OF FILM TO OPEN HEARTS AND CHANGE MINDS

“Some of the greatest work I have been a part of professionally in my career in education.”

— EDUCATOR

“I now feel more confident sticking up for the LGBTQ+ community.”

— GRADE 7 STUDENT

“Your facilitators were so warm and engaging, and created a lovely safe affirming space.”

— EDUCATOR

“Now that I learned from your lecture, I feel like I have nothing to be scared of.”

— HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT



In the 2022-2023 school year, Out In Schools delivered a total of 105 presentations to:

11,430

YOUTH

1,176

ADULTS

12

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Visit us online at outinschools.com to book a presentation, browse our film catalogue, and access our free educator resources!

VISIONARY PARTNER



PREMIER EDUCATION PARTNER



BENEFACTORS



SCHOLAR

MCGRANE-PEARSON ENDOWMENT FUND

ADVOCATE

OTTO & MARIE PICK FOUNDATION

FEAT



URES



BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND



FRI, AUG 11
6:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

IN-PERSON ONLY



PRECEDED BY **PETE**

Trevor Anderson | Canada | 2022 | 88 min
English with captions

It's Robin's first day at a new school, and despite trying to fit in, they attract the unwanted attention of school bully Carter. But rather than becoming enemies, an unexpected friendship blossoms—leading to a whole new set of problems for Robin.

There is so much to love about Trevor Anderson's sweetly idiosyncratic debut feature, from its super-stylized 80s aesthetic and oddball humour to the charming performances from its young cast. Notably, Robin's gender identity does not propel the narrative, leaving his most dreaded question "Are you a boy or a girl?" not only unanswered but obsolete.

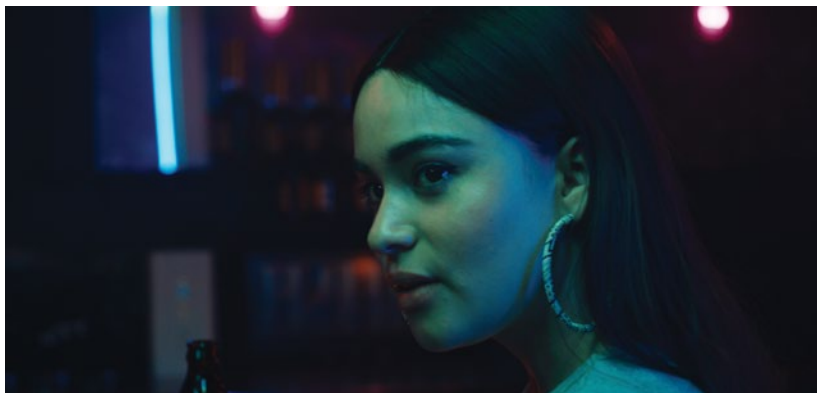


P E T E

Bret Parker | United States | 7 min
English with captions

It's 1975, and a baseball-loving kid who goes by the name Pete wants nothing more than to join the boys' Little League team. A moving, uplifting tale of being who you know you are.

THIS PLACE



V. T. Nayani | Canada | 2022 | 86 min
English, French, Mohawk, Persian, and Tamil
with English subtitles

Saying goodbye to the community of Kahnawà:ke in which she was raised, budding poet Kawenniióhstha arrives in Toronto to attend university and search for the father she never knew. Conversely, Malai, who lives with her brother in Toronto, has just finished university and is anxiously contemplating her next move. Malai's future planning is put on hold when her alcoholic father unexpectedly returns, forcing the siblings to confront unresolved traumas. One fateful day, Kawenniióhstha and Malai cross paths in a laundromat, and a connection is immediate. With both women facing complex family situations, will their connection find the space it needs to develop into something more?

Carefully acknowledging the specificity of cultural experience, V. T. Nayan's impressive debut deftly uses the framework of a love story to explore themes of identity, displacement, and colonialism within Iranian, Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk), and Tamil communities.

FRI, AUG 11
6:30 PM

VIFF CENTRE

ONLINE

AUG 12, 6:30 PM TO
AUG 15, 6:30 PM



BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

LIE WITH ME

(ARRÊTE AVEC TES MENSONGES)



FRI, AUG 11
7:00 PM

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9

ONLINE
AUG 12, 7 PM TO
AUG 15, 7 PM

CONTENT WARNING:
EXPLICIT SEXUAL
CONTENT



Olivier Peyon | France | 2022 | 98 min
French and English with English subtitles

When best-selling novelist Stéphane Belcourt is invited to be a brand ambassador for a renowned cognac label established in his hometown, he faces the reality of returning to a world he had left many years ago. Dormant memories are woken, and Stéphane is overcome with a tidal wave of emotions when he meets Lucas, the son of his first love Thomas, who he last saw when they were just 17 years old.

Anchored by a beautifully layered performance from Guillaume de Tonquédec as Stéphane, Olivier Peyon's deeply affecting adaptation of Philippe Besson's award-winning autobiographical novel is every bit as intimate and poignant as its source material deserves. Seamlessly traversing between the warm nostalgia of 1984 and the cooler realities of the present day, this captivating drama feels epic in its decade-spanning scope yet disarmingly intimate in its central themes of first love and enduring heartache.

THREE TIDY TIGERS TIED A TIE TIGHTER (TRÊS TIGRES TRISTES)



Gustavo Vinagre | Brazil | 2022 | 83 min
Portuguese with English subtitles

Winner of the Teddy Award for Best LGBTQIA+ Film at this year's Berlin International Film Festival, Gustavo Vinagre's wildly inventive comic curio takes place in a dystopian São Paulo, where the fourth wave of a pandemic of a disease that atrophies memory rages on.

Taking place during one sunny afternoon, three young queer friends—a student named Isabella, her roommate Pedro, a sex worker, and Pedro's HIV-positive nephew Jonat—drift through the chaos of the city, sharing stories, memories, and make-up tips as they attempt to make sense of their current reality, while still reeling from the fallout of the Bolsonaro regime. Like its tongue-twisting title, this idiosyncratic fusion of surrealist humour, speculative fiction and politically-charged social realism may appear daunting at first glance, yet the playful, mischievous way in which it tackles its complex themes makes for an exhilarating and unforgettable ride.

FRI, AUG 11
9:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE
AUG 12, 9 PM TO
AUG 15, 9 PM

CONTENT WARNING:
EXPLICIT SEXUAL
CONTENT, AND NUDITY



CLASHING DIFFERENCES



FRI, AUG 11
9:00 PM

VIFF CENTRE

IN-PERSON ONLY

Merle Grimme | Germany | 2023 | 72 min
German with English subtitles

The all-white board of the House of Womxn has been told to diversify, or they can't attend a prestigious conference. Reluctantly, they task a junior member, who believes that being from East Germany makes her a minority, with collecting suitable candidates because she has "connections to those communities"—indeed, she is sleeping with two of the invitees. Those who trek out to the Nazi hotbed of Brandenburg include a powerhouse lawyer adopted from Vietnam, her estranged "white saviour" mother, a Black high fashion matriarch, a disabled immigrant, and a nonbinary filmmaker. The guests clash, revealing painful differences but ultimately addressing their similarities.

Punchy, darkly funny, and caustically subversive, this film takes a candid look at issues including tokenism and colourism. German filmmaker Merle Grimme made this film as part of her graduation thesis and ensured her crew was as diverse as the cast.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

BITTERSWEET BECOMING



Polina Teif | Canada | 2023 | 89 min
English with captions

Karla Rae James began her transition later in life. Having spent years playing a role dictated by familial and societal expectations, it is not until the cusp of her seventh decade that Karla summons the strength to embrace her true self. This intimate documentary invites us to join Karla on her journey, allowing precious access to her memories, hopes and fears, and bearing witness to her gender-affirming surgeries.

Director Polina Teif spent three years with Karla while making the film. The closeness between filmmaker and protagonist is evident through the care and sensitivity with which the story is presented. But perhaps the film's greatest feat is simply allowing us to get to know Karla, a kind, thoughtful, resilient figure who is never less than wonderful company and stands as an inspiring example of how it is never too late to reclaim your identity.

SAT, AUG 12
1:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE
AUG 13, 1:30 PM TO
AUG 16, 1:30 PM

CONTENT WARNING:
BLOOD, DEPICTION OF
SURGERY, MENTIONS
OF TRANSPHOBIA AND
TRANS MISOGYNY



BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE
EGGHEAD & TWINKIE



SAT, AUG 12
4:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

IN-PERSON ONLY



**Sarah Kambe Holland | United States
2022 | 87 min | English with captions**

After awkwardly coming out to her conservative parents, Asian American teen Twinkie enlists her BFF Egghead for a cross-country road trip to LezDance, a lesbian dance party in Texas, where she is convinced she will meet the girl she has fallen for online. Unfortunately, this is all news to Egghead, who has been harbouring a secret love for his best pal for some time now.

Director Sarah Kambe Holland's adorable road trip movie, a directorial debut, is so full of heart-warming joy and exuberance that one could almost overlook just how smart it is, effortlessly tackling complex themes of cultural and queer identities in thoughtful and amusing ways. Not just a delight for the heart and mind, the film's dynamic fusion of multiple visual styles makes for an eye-popping treat, perfectly reflecting the energetic unpredictability of teenage friendship and the confusing contractions we face as we figure out which road to take.

I LOVE YOU MORE



Erblin Nushi | Kosovo, Albania | 2022 | 93 min
Albanian and English with English subtitles

Reserved teenager Ben has two dreams: to escape the picturesque yet stifling Kosovar town in which he was raised and to finally be united with Leo, his long-term boyfriend who he has been dating online for a year but has yet to meet in person. With Leo set to visit in a month, Ben's romantic dreams are within reach, with enough time left for him to concoct the perfect cover story for his family. But when Ben learns of an exciting and immediate opportunity to travel overseas before Leo's arrival, his dreams are placed in dramatic opposition, leaving him to make an almost impossible decision.

Effectively juxtaposing the bucolic beauty of its rural setting with Ben's turbulent interior emotions, Erblin Nushi's beautifully controlled feature debut is a strikingly shot and emotionally layered piece of work. With so few queer films produced in Kosovo, it is truly inspiring to see one as accomplished as this.

SAT, AUG 12
4:15 PM

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8

ONLINE
AUG 13, 4:15 PM TO
AUG 16, 4:15 PM



BIG BOYS

SAT, AUG 12
6:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

IN-PERSON ONLY



Corey Sherman | United States | 2023 | 88 Min
English with captions

14-year-old homebody Jamie is an old soul, happier perusing classic cookbooks than being on a football field. The one thing, however, that gets him outside is the annual camping trip with his older brother Will and his favourite cousin Allie. When Allie's new boyfriend Dan joins the group, prescriptive Jamie finds himself inexplicably drawn to Dan's easygoing charm.

Favouring moments of quiet poignancy over familiar teen-movie melodramatics, Corey Sherman's witty and warm-hearted directorial debut is an uncommonly relatable coming-of-age tale, driven by a star-making performance from the brilliant Isaac Krasner as a young man trying to make sense of who he is, both inside and out.

CANADIAN

PREMIERE

GIRLFRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS (LA AMIGA DE MI AMIGA)



Zaida Carmona | Spain | 2022 | 89 min
Spanish with English subtitles

Aspiring filmmaker Zaida—played by director Zaida Carmona—has recently been dumped. Not one to sit at home and mope, she plunges herself into Barcelona’s lesbian singles pool while trying to work on her screenplay. Bouncing between various bars, shows, and parties on her search for a rebound rendezvous, Zaida meets Lara, her ex-girlfriend’s current girlfriend. And would you believe it, there’s a spark...

Paying playful homage to cinema’s most romantic philosopher Éric Rohmer, Carmona’s meta-textual debut feature is a cinephile’s dream, filled with knowing references and sharp observations on the very nature of storytelling. Above all, this is a film about love; a fun and frisky audit of the lesbian dating scene that effortlessly breathes queer life into the seemingly familiar format of the rom-com.

SAT, AUG 12
8:45 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

IN-PERSON ONLY

CONTENT WARNING:
NUDITY

D R I F T E R

SAT, AUG 12
9:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

IN-PERSON ONLY

CONTENT WARNING:
SUBSTANCE USE,
EXPLICIT SEXUAL
CONTENT, AND NUDITY

Hannes Hirsch | Germany | 2022 | 79 min
German and English with English subtitles

Shortly after moving to Berlin to be with his boyfriend, 22-year-old Moritz finds himself unexpectedly single. Struggling to make sense of the sudden break-up, he finds himself alone in an unfamiliar place, unsure of what to do next. As he slowly finds his feet, Moritz explores the city's underground queer party scene, making new connections, experimenting with drugs, and expanding his sexual horizons.

A welcome antidote to countless coming-of-age films in which sex, drugs, and other hedonistic pleasures are presented as sinful temptations, Hannes Hirsch's vibrant snapshot of contemporary queer Berlin has no time for didactic moralizing. Rather, as Moritz drifts through bustling bars, sweaty techno raves, fetish spaces and the bedrooms of various lovers, we witness a world of possibilities and contradictions, in which characters are not defined by individual decisions and loose ends are part of life's tangled tapestry.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

20,000 SPECIES OF BEES (20.000 ESPECIES DE ABEJAS)



Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren | Spain | 2022
125 min | Spanish, Basque, and French with
English subtitles

An eight-year-old struggles with the fact that people keep addressing her in confusing ways. During a summer in the Basque Country among the beehives, she explores her gender identity alongside the women of her family, who reflect on their own lives and desires.

Effortlessly capturing the quotidian, Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren's striking debut exudes warmth and sensitivity. In a uniformly excellent cast, Sofia Otero shines as the questioning pre-teen, delivering a star-making performance that won the nine-year-old the Silver Bear for Best Leading Performance at this year's Berlin International Film Festival, the youngest winner in the festival's history.

SUN, AUG 13
3:45 PM

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8

IN-PERSON ONLY

IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL



SUN, AUG 13
4:45 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

IN-PERSON ONLY

Alexandria Bombach | United States | 2023
123 min | English with captions

Folk rock stalwarts, pioneering queer icons, and tireless political activists—the Indigo Girls (aka Amy Ray and Emily Saliers) have come a long way since they first met in elementary school in their hometown of Atlanta. Offering acoustic life lessons to countless fans worldwide, the duo's effortless mix of disarming vulnerability and raw passion has helped them sell millions of records, fill iconic venues, and win a host of awards. Yet, despite their widespread success and unwavering integrity, they have often been reduced to a punchline by a sexist, homophobic industry unwilling to create space for two queer women with a vision.

In her heartfelt, celebratory, yet never hagiographic, documentary, director Alexandria Bombach lets Ray and Saliers do the talking, weaving together new interviews with a treasure-trove of archival footage to paint a complex, fascinating, and occasionally self-critical portrait of a band we are lucky to have.

THREE HEADED BEAST



Fernando Andrés and Tyler Rugh | United States 2022 | 84 minutes | English with captions

Nina and Peter, both bisexual, have had an open relationship for almost a decade. Their non-monogamous arrangement allows them to freely explore outside connections in an honest and mutually beneficial way. But while Nina's sexual encounters are no strings attached, Peter's relationship with regular lover Alex appears to deepen, a development Nina quickly notices. As trust and transparency give way to jealousy and insecurity, the pair begin to question the future of their relationship.

Fittingly for a film where characters struggle to communicate effectively, this bracingly unconventional relationship drama unfolds almost entirely without dialogue. Instead, directors Fernando Andrés and Tyler Rugh rely on non-verbal details to convey the unspoken feelings of the characters. Experimental yet still accessible, this is one of the most distinctive queer films in recent memory.

**SUN, AUG 13
6:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE

AUG 14, 6:30 PM TO
AUG 17, 6:30 PM

CONTENT WARNING:
EXPLICIT SEXUAL
CONTENT, NUDITY



BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

QUEENDOM



SUN, AUG 13
8:45 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

IN-PERSON ONLY

**SCREENING
FOLLOWED BY A DRAG
PERFORMANCE**



Agniia Galdanova | France | 2023 | 102 min
Russian with English subtitles

Hailing from a small town in the far east side of Russia, Gena, a 21-year-old trans performance artist, uses fashion as a form of political protest, marching the streets of Moscow in fantastic homemade creations as if in their own personal gallery space. Using drag activism as a means of challenging modern beauty standards as well as protesting the treatment of LGBTQIA+ people in Russia under Putin's profoundly conservative rule, Gena receives attention wherever they go. But while their art is met with stunned confusion in their hometown, it risks eliciting more violent responses in the country's capital, placing Gena under the constant threat of danger.

A thrilling showcase of Gena's boundless creativity, Agniia Galdanova's rousing documentary is a visually stunning piece of work, which also serves as a powerful testament to countless other queer Russian artists, activists, and disruptors who risk their lives in the hope of a better future.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

MUTT



Vuk Lungulov-Klotz | United States | 2023
87 min | English and Spanish with English subtitles

Feña, a young trans guy living in New York, cut most emotional ties from his past after transitioning. But over one long and chaotic day, the ghosts of his previous life come knocking. First, he runs into his high school boyfriend, and then he receives an impromptu visit from his younger sister. Feña also discovers that his father is trying to get in touch with him. As his past collides with his present, Feña must juggle the emotional needs of those he thought he had left behind while staying true to himself.

Injecting a touch of the cinematic into the everyday, this gorgeously shot, thoroughly engrossing character study marks a striking debut from writer/director Vuk Lungulov-Klotz, who drew on personal experience when writing the screenplay. This authenticity is perfectly matched by the sensational Lío Mehiel, who truly inhabits the role of Feña with a quietly commanding performance.

THU, AUG 17
6:45 PM

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8

IN-PERSON ONLY

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

WOLF AND DOG (LOBO E CÃO)



FRI, AUG 18
6:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE
AUG 19, 6:30 PM TO
AUG 22, 6:30 PM



Cláudia Varejão | Portugal, France | 2022
102 min | Portuguese with English subtitles

In the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean, 1000 miles west of Portugal, lies the Azores island of Sao Miguel. The Catholic community that resides there has held onto its traditions for centuries, until one summer, three queer teenagers disrupt their ancient rituals and expectations: Ana (Ana Cabral) questions the injustice of a strictly binary gender; their best friend Luis (Ruben Pimenta) rocks iconic gender fluid looks; and visitor from Canada Cloé (Cristiana Branquinho) brings the promise of love and a different future.

Award-winning Portuguese documentarian Cláudia Varejão fuses reality and fiction with dreamlike images in this fiction feature debut. Spinning a poetic tale, the film is steeped in place and resonates with a bittersweet truth that is underscored by the filmmaker's choice to cast first-time performers from the island itself.

THE MATTACHINE FAMILY



Andrew Vallentine | United States | 2021
99 min | English with captions

When Thomas (Nico Tortorella), a devoted photographer, and Oscar (Juan Pablo Di Pace), a forgotten child star, meet, it's love at first sight. When they decide to foster Arthur, he imbues their life with boundless light and joy. A year later, however, Arthur is sent back to live with his biological mother, and the grieving couple must reconcile what family means to them—with a little help from friends (Emily Hampshire and Jake Choi).

The Mattachine Family gives us an insight into the complexities of queer parenthood. Shaped by director Andrew Vallentine's own experiences, the film balances moments of vulnerability with comic relief and heartfelt honesty. You'll have the warm and fuzzies long after you've left the theatre.

FRI, AUG 18
6:45 PM

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9

ONLINE
 AUG 19, 6:45 PM TO
 AUG 22, 6:45 PM



LE BEAU MEC



FRI, AUG 18
9:30 PM

**THE CULTCH -
HISTORIC THEATRE**

IN-PERSON ONLY

CONTENT WARNING:
EXPLICIT SEXUAL
CONTENT AND NUDITY

Wallace Potts | France | 1979 | 73 min
French with English subtitles

Bridging the gap between European art cinema and hardcore pornography, this long lost but recently rediscovered and digitally restored erotic treasure chronicles the libidinous life of its titular hunk—played by Karl Forest, who also served as co-writer/producer—from his school days to military service to street hustling and beyond. Featuring uncredited choreography by legendary dancer Rudolf Nureyev and partly lensed by Oscar-winning cinematographer Néstor Almendros (*Days of Heaven*, *Sophie's Choice*), the film boasts top-tier artistic credentials, delivering an eye-popping blend of visual lyricism and titillating voyeurism, with a touch of dreamlike surrealism. Underneath the heady layers of erotic fantasy, artistry, and tongue-in-cheek(s) irony lies an unexpected thoughtfulness and disarming sense of intimacy that lingers long after the film's sensory pleasures have left the body.

THE LIFE AND STRANGE SURPRISING ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE



Benjamin Deboosere | Belgium | 2023 | 74 min
Dutch and English with English subtitles

An experimental retelling of *Robinson Crusoe* that challenges the colonial ideology embedded in Daniel Defoe's popular adventure novel. Starring rising Black artists: musician Oriana Ikomo and deaf actor Bernice Leming.

On an island both beautiful and dangerous, Robinson Crusoe (Ikomo) is a shipwrecked explorer surviving the elements while living in fear of a tribe of cannibals. Abandon the epic you may think you know as we witness a man find solace in mice, religion, and domestic bliss with his man Friday (Leming). This theatrical portrayal rendered with vintage cinematematics and a queer lens spins its source material into an absurd comedy.

For centuries, *Robinson Crusoe* glamorized the tale of a white explorer discovering an unknown island and "civilizing" its Indigenous inhabitants. VQFF alumnus director Benjamin Deboosere revisits the familiar story of their youth, scoffing at the "Crusoe" myth and revealing it as colonialist propaganda.

SAT, AUG 19
2:15 PM

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8

IN-PERSON ONLY

HOW TO TELL A SECRET



SAT, AUG 19
4:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

IN-PERSON ONLY

Shaun Dunne, Anna Rodgers | Ireland | 2022
97 min | English with captions

Expanding on his acclaimed theatre project *Rapids*, Shaun Dunne and co-director Anna Rodgers have crafted a powerful and poignant hybrid documentary reflecting on what it means to live with HIV in contemporary Ireland. From gay men and migrant women to artists and activists, the film's vast range of contributors each speak publicly about their HIV status for the first time, addressing complex issues around secrecy, disclosure, stigma, and advocacy in unique and surprising ways.

A rich tapestry of traditional documentary filmmaking, performance art, and poetic monologues, this is a formally ambitious and oftentimes experimental film; but never does its style overshadow the content nor detract from the immediacy of its subject matter. The film ultimately reveals truth, insight, and, perhaps most importantly, hope.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

A QUEER'S GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL LIVING



**Ari Conrad Birch, Michal Heuston | Canada
2023 | 77 min | English with captions**

Blending zine-inspired animation, spoken word, and poetry with insightful interview footage, this lo-fi documentary collage follows four queer people from different religious backgrounds as they explore the intersections of faith and queerness. We meet Summeiya, the genderfluid founder of Queer Muslim Network Toronto; Juliana, a bisexual teacher and former Baptist Christian; Vaibhav, a gay Hindu dancer; and Ari, a trans Christian Orthodox drag artist. Each person talks openly about their own spiritual journey, and their testimonies collectively open up possibilities for faith and queerness to connect rather than exist in opposition.

Recognizing the complexity and pain of individual queer faith journeys, directors Ari Conrad Birch and Michal Heuston have crafted an intimate work that prioritizes beauty over conflict and demonstrates that the process of reconciliation does not have to be tackled alone.

**SAT, AUG 19
4:15 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE
AUG 20, 4:15 PM TO
AUG 23, 4:15 PM



PROGRAMMERS' PICK FEATURE

With 87 exceptional films to choose from, knowing what to watch is an almost-impossible choice! But don't panic; our programmers have your back. Sit back, relax, and watch a special encore of our Programmers' Pick Feature.

Don't forget to check out the other same-day encore screenings of our award winners (p. 18).

SUN, AUG 20
6:45 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**



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S H O



PROG

RTS



RAMS

SHORTS

MIDNIGHT

FOREPLAY

FRI, AUG 11
9:15 PM

INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9

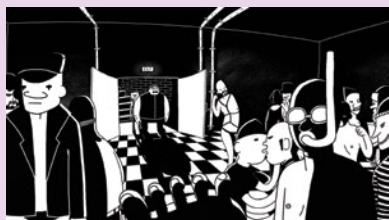
ONLINE
AUG 12, 9:15 PM TO
AUG 15, 9:15 PM

RUNTIME
89 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:
EXPLICIT SEXUAL CONTENT, NUDITY,
DEATH, BLOOD, SUBSTANCE USE,
VIOLENCE, ANIMAL CARCASS

Come on a spine-tingling journey of seductive and chilling tales that will ignite your deepest fears—and desires. Experience the unsettling allure of these films and embrace the rollercoaster of emotions they offer.

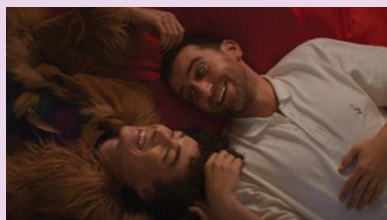
SCREENING FOLLOWED BY DRAG PERFORMANCES.



PIPES

Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier,
Sujanth Ravichandran Switzerland
2022 | 4 min | No dialogue

In striking monochrome, this delightfully deviant adult animation follows a bear (the actual animal, to be clear) who is surprised to find his latest plumbing job is in a gay fetish club.



AC UNIT

Grace Godvin | United States
2023 | 13 min | English with
captions

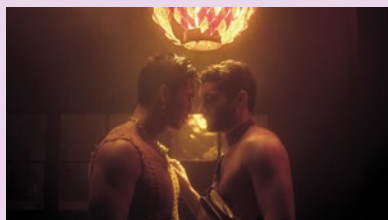
A Jewish queer helps their stylish trans femme friend install an air conditioner. Panic ensues when the pair have to deal with an unexpected fatality while high on shrooms.



ECSTASY

Carolina Costa | Mexico, United States | 2023 | 8 min | Spanish with English subtitles

A mystical and ethereal sci-fi poem emerges from the writing of Saint Teresa de Avila as, within the sacred walls of a preternatural mausoleum, nuns succumb to a black hole.



COWBOY, CHOKER, HARNESS & HEART

Nicolas Blanco, Julia Ponce Diaz United States | 2023 | 8 min English with captions

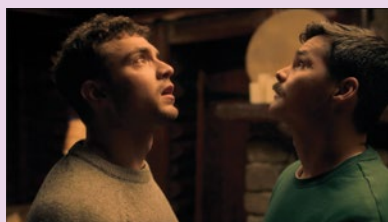
A cheeky and authentic portrayal of poppers, ketamine, and desire in queer nightlife.



MOM, IF I WERE A VAMPIRE

Deborah Devyn Chuang | Taiwan 2022 | 17 min | Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles

The chaos of adolescence is captured with anarchic, feisty aplomb when a despondent teen, fed up with her overbearing mother, becomes infatuated with the rebellious cool girl at school.



TERROR/FORMING

Rylan Friday | Canada | 2022 23 min | English with captions

This one-shot mumblecore, nail-biter follows boyfriends Darren and Parker, who get detoured on their way to a remote cabin. As events take a sinister turn, cracks show in their relationship.

SHORTS

HOMECOMINGS

SAT, AUG 12

1:45 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

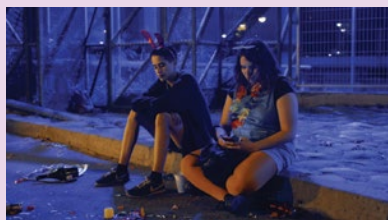
ONLINE

AUG 13, 1:45 PM TO

AUG 16, 1:45 PM

RUNTIME: 96 MIN

These filmmakers of the global majority seek familiarity despite barriers and reclaim identity through connection. Experience their homecomings with stunning landscapes, heartwarming ideas of place, and the search for family and community.



JANUARY FIRST

(DIA UNO)

**Constanza Lobos Arévalo | Chile
2022 | 22 min | Spanish with
English subtitles**

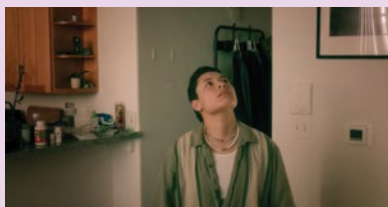
It's 2020, and on the bustling streets of Santiago, Chile, two strangers connect amid a sea of revelers in this bittersweet non-fiction piece capturing a moment of hope in the face of the unknown.



JIA

**Vee Shi | Australia | 2022 | 15 min
English and Mandarin Chinese
with English subtitles**

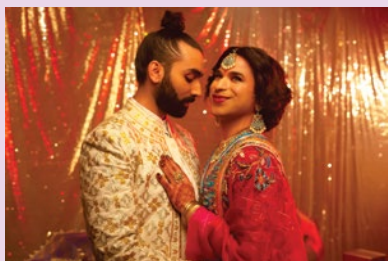
A grieving Chinese mother arrives in Australia to embark on a road trip with a young Caucasian man, both remembering a loved one.



APARTMENT 605

**Bianca Catbagan | United States
2023 | 7 min | English, French,
Tagalog with English subtitles**

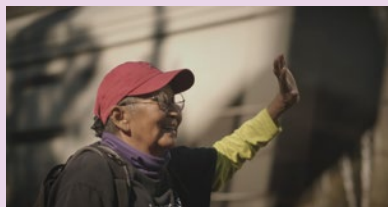
A nonbinary Filipinx person is packing up their late father's apartment when they are interrupted by a friendly stranger at the door.



QUEER PARIVAAR

**Shiva Raichandani | United
Kingdom | 2022 | 27 min | English,
Hindi, and Urdu with English
subtitles**

A mysterious gate-crasher appears at the wedding of Madhav and Sufi, who face past secrets and reflect on what makes a family. Inspired by traditional South Asian dance and Bollywood.



RETURN TO OMBABIKA

**Ma-Nee Chacaby, Shayne Ehman,
Zoe Gordon | Canada | 2023 | 22 min
English and Anishinaabemowin
with English subtitles**

A delicately realized meditation on family history, legacy, and colonization that follows activist, artist, and Two Spirit Oji-Cree elder Ma-Nee Chacaby on their journey home to Ombabika, Ontario.

EPISODIC

FRESH STARTS

**SAT, AUG 12
6:45 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

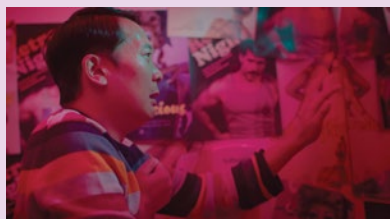
ONLINE

AUG 13, 6:45 PM TO
AUG 16, 6:45 PM

RUNTIME
81 min

CONTENT WARNING:
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT, NUDITY

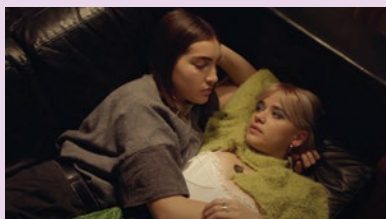
It's never too late to reinvent yourself. This wickedly amusing and endlessly surprising medley of episodic pilots reveals that the path to finding the new you is not always smooth.



A GUIDE TO NOT DYING COMPLETELY ALONE

**Yen Tan | United States | 2023
11 min | English with captions**

Eat Pray Love for the cynical homosexual, this droll and navel-gazing dark comedy follows a writer intent on improving his life after passing out in a gay bar on his 40th birthday.



PSYCHO BABY

**Charlotte Kennett | United States
2023 | 23 min | English with
captions**

What happens when a diagnosed psychopath falls for an undiagnosed love addict?



ONE BABY, PLEASE!

Polly Pierce | Canada | 2022 | 3 min
English with captions

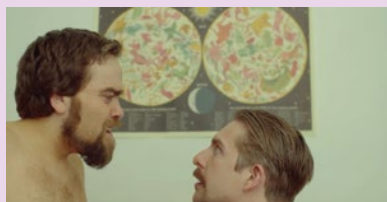
Omar and Dieon are having a baby! How will their friends and families react?



DIVR

Zoey Martinson | United States
2022 | 16 min | English with
captions

When three college friends create a casual-sex app by and for queer women of colour, it succeeds their wildest expectations. However, secrets emerge that could destroy both business and friendships.



HOOK UP

Coby Friesen | Canada | 2023
9 min | English with captions

Dillon, usually a 'top' in the bedroom, is ready to explore being a 'bottom.' Horoscopes, positions, and sex toys are all shared in this consensual hook-up.

SHORTS

INNER RIOTS

**SUN, AUG 13
2:00 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE

AUG 14, 2:00 PM TO

AUG 17, 2:00 PM

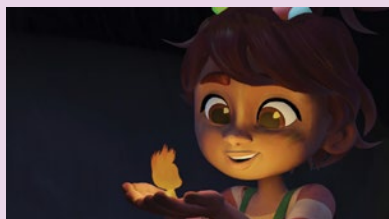
RUNTIME

73 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:

HOMOPHOBIA

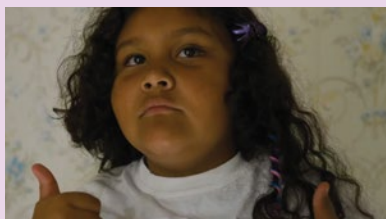
Starting over can begin when you ask yourself, "Whose life is it anyway?". Get up close and personal with characters at a crossroads of identity, and prepare to be inspired toward self-discovery.



TWIN SPARKS

Ollie Yao, Heather Yun | United States | 2023 | 4 min | English with captions

When a forest child's inner fire spirit breaks loose, they frantically try to catch it before damage is done. Inspired by co-director Ollie Yao's experience growing up trans, this is a beautiful tale of radical self-acceptance.



GORDITX

Malik Ever | United States | 2022 | 15 min | English and Spanish with English subtitles

Ursula doesn't fit in at the country club where her dad works. Trans masc Chef Cormac doesn't either. Together they hatch a plan to win the kids' golf tournament.



BUTCH UP!

**Yu-jin Lee | South Korea | 2022
12 min | Korean with English
subtitles**

Underappreciated by her straight indie band, Mi-hae finds community after meeting trans artist Coco (Hae-jun Choi).



FOREIGN UNCLE

**Sining Xiang | China, United
States | 2021 | 20 min | Chinese
and English with English subtitles**

Featuring re-enactments from his own family, director Sining Xiang relives the experience of introducing his white American boyfriend to his Chinese family, who are oblivious to their gay relationship.



THE SPIRIT GOD GAVE US

**Michael Donte Jemison | United
States | 2021 | 20 min | English
with captions**

Sitting at the intersections of love and faith, Blackness and Queerness, Malcolm and Shamont wrestle with shame, religious piety, and deep longing.

SHORTS

BLOOD AND WATER

**SUN, AUG 13
2:30 PM**

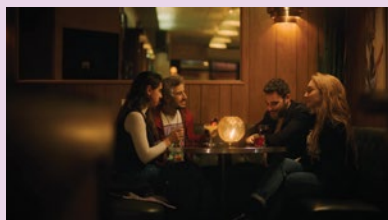
**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

ONLINE
AUG 14, 2:30 PM TO
AUG 17, 2:30 PM

RUNTIME
99 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:
MENTIONS OF SELF-HARM OR SUICIDE,
DEATH, SUBSTANCE USE, FLASHING
LIGHTS

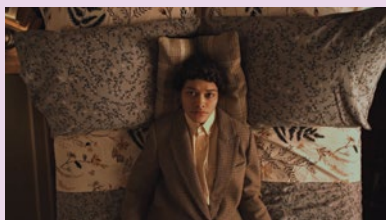
This program shines a new light on chosen and biological families, speaking to our communities' longing and need for unconditional support systems.



COUSINS

**Karina Dandashi | United States
2022 | 13 mins | Arabic and English
with English subtitles**

A gently comedic tale of cultural disconnection and family set in Brooklyn. When Layla and her Syrian-born cousin awkwardly reunite, they form a surprising bond when Layla runs into her ex.



INÉS UNFORTUNATELY

**Anna Salinas | United States | 2022
13 min | English with captions**

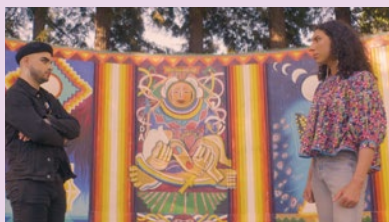
In this tender intergenerational tale of finding support in tough times, heartbroken Inés' plan to end her life is interrupted by the ghost of her neighbour.



HALVES AND DOUBLES

Adam Mbowe | Canada | 2023
15 min | English with captions

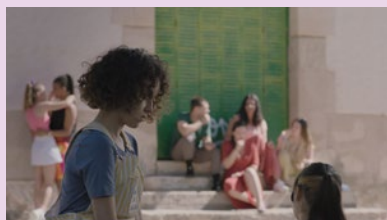
Adam and her sibling Khadija share unspoken trauma. Traversing a winding road of emotions, they finally find mutual understanding.



DO DIGITAL CURANDERAS USE EGGS IN THEIR LIMPIAS?

Roberto Fatal | United States
2022 | 14 min | English and Spanish
with English subtitles

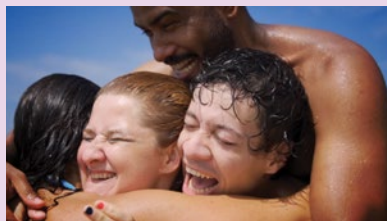
In this imaginative yet down-to-earth slice of Indigenous futurism, River Gallo shines as a queer, nonbinary, Latinx healer who has lost their magic and needs a friend's consent to upload their consciousness online.



ETERNAL HAPPINESS (PERPETUA FELICIDAD)

Sofia Esteve, Isa Luengo | Spain
2022 | 22 min | Spanish with
English subtitles

This quietly insightful story of understanding and acceptance follows Alma, who sings in her father's village choir. While her father adjusts to life after a laryngectomy, Alma connects with her sexuality, and tensions begin to simmer.



LOVE LINGERS (AMAR NUNCA SECA)

Washington Calegari | Brazil
2022 | 22 min | Portuguese with
English subtitles

When the two people he loves most are hospitalized during the pandemic, Jonas holds on to hope as he reflects on their memories as a chosen family.

SHORTS

TREATS, TEARS & TRUTH-BOMBS

SUN, AUG 13
7:30 PM

RUNTIME
126 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT

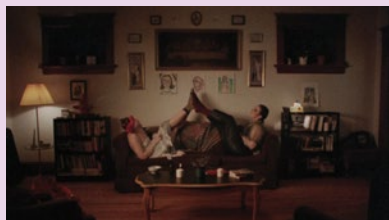
**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

ONLINE

AUG 14, 7:30 PM TO
AUG 17, 7:30 PM

Experience flirtation, reflection, and catharsis: these six captivating short films navigate the complexities of queer relationships, from quirky satires to heartfelt dramas.

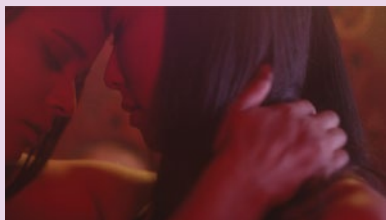
STAY FOR A POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION AND SOME TASTY TREATS.



THE YEAR LONG BOULDER

Brielle LeBlanc | Canada | 2022
10 min | English with captions

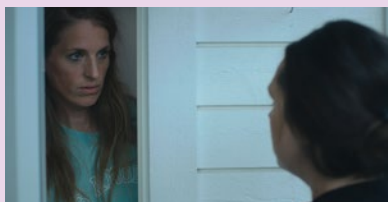
A melancholic reflection on healing and self-acceptance is tracked by the changing seasons as a heartbroken poet finds solace in art and their best friend over the course of a year.



WORK

April Maxey | United States | 2021
13 min | English with captions

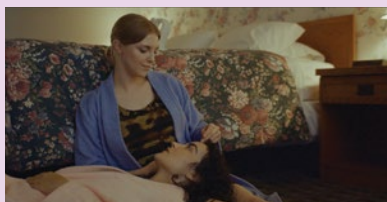
After a painful breakup, Gabriela impulsively drops into her previous job giving lap dances and unexpectedly runs into an old friend.



THE TREE

Ida Hansen Eldøen | Norway | 2023
14 min | Norwegian with English subtitles

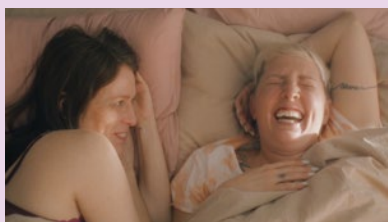
Two ex-girlfriends go to battle over an apple tree in this deliciously dark Norwegian black comedy—rarely has a breakup been so entertaining.



SOAP

Lulu Wei | Canada | 2023
13 min | English with captions

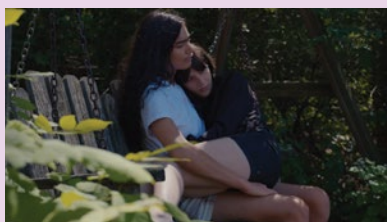
Written and acted with improvised dialogue, this short sees two best friends share an intimate conversation after a breakup.



LITTLE MOUSE

Lena Kaminsky | United States
2022 | 14 min | English with captions

As Betsy prepares to sell the home she shared with her ex, she unexpectedly befriends a resident mouse. This breakup tale balances the sad with the absurd.



A PLACE ON THE EDGE OF BREATH

Veronica Rutledge | United States
2022 | 29 min | English with captions

The relationship between an Anishinaabe trans man and a white trans woman is tenderly documented in this lyrical and intimate expression of love.

SHORTS

THE COAST IS QUEER

THU, AUG 17
6:30 PM

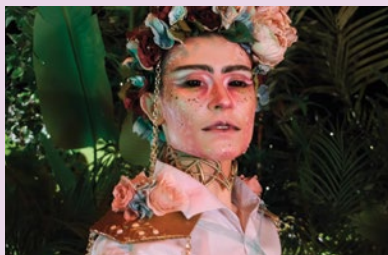
**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

ONLINE
AUG 18, 6:30 PM TO
AUG 21, 6:30 PM

RUNTIME | **CONTENT WARNING:**
113 MIN | BLOOD, NUDDITY

The coast is queerer than ever! Our annual showcase of homegrown talent is back with a quartet of shorts exploring trans and nonbinary identities, featuring some familiar faces, including Kendall Gender and SKIM.

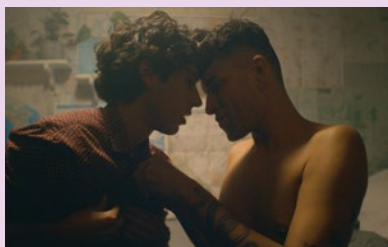
SCREENING FOLLOWED BY A DRAG PERFORMANCE.



E.S.S. SCENES

Romi Kim | Canada | 2022 | 31 min
English with captions

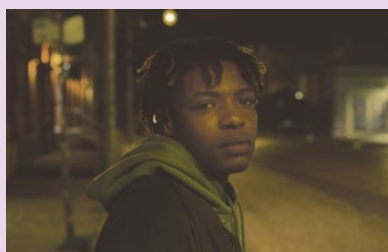
Set in Eastside Studio's beloved former space 'The Warehouse', Romi Kim (a.k.a SKIM) portrays the vibrant and monstrous worlds of Vancouver's drag scene. An ode to the transformative power of LGBTQ+ spaces.



STAY

King Louie Palomo | Canada | 2022
22 min | English with captions

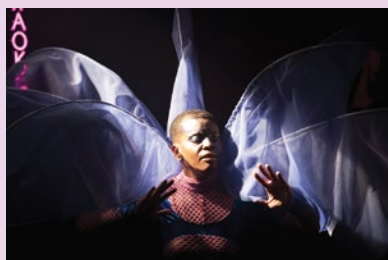
Canada's Drag Race legend Kendall Gender stars in this tender exploration of relationships and coming to terms with yourself.



SCARING WOMEN AT NIGHT

Karimah Zakia Issa | Canada | 2022
11 min | English with captions

Two scared strangers try to escape one another while walking home. Their worlds collide at an intersection, forcing them to question who they're afraid of and why.



TABANCA

Lauren Marsden | Canada | 2022
12 min | English with captions

Set in a gloomy Vancouver winter, genderqueer Marlinn misses Carnival season back home in Trinidad—until they discover the power of masquerade within.

SHORTS

CINEMA NON-CONFORMING

**THU, AUG 17
8:45 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE

AUG 18, 8:45 PM TO

AUG 21, 8:45 PM

RUNTIME

77 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:

RACISM AND RACIAL SLURS,
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT,
NUDITY, FLASHING LIGHTS

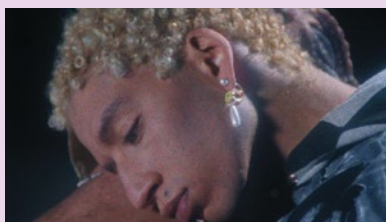
In this experimental shorts program, queer artists push the boundaries of mainstream cinema through considerate but playful editing, intimate renderings of sound, and Cher's 1998 hit single "Believe."



MOONCAKE

**Braine Hanson | United States
2022 | 11 min | English with
captions**

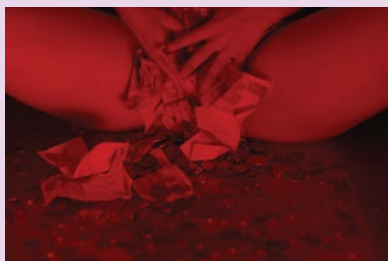
An experimental meditation on genderqueerness and the blurred lines between influence, desire, and obsession. The unnamed protagonist revisits a childhood memory, and fantasies that once captured their imagination re-surface.



BRIGHT HEART

**Tarek Lakhrissi | France, Belgium
2023 | 14 min | French with English
subtitles**

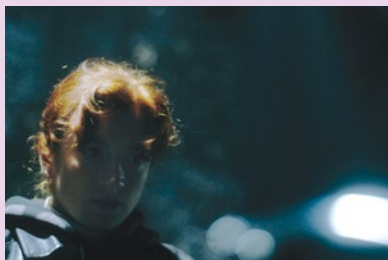
Feeling surveilled and stalked after saying goodnight to a close friend, Jahid finds refuge in a museum where classic, almost spectral, sculptures confront him with improbable discoveries.



OB SCENE (OB SCENA)

Paloma Orlandini Castro
Argentina | 2021 | 18 min
Spanish with English subtitles

In this striking and meditative work, filmmaker Paloma Orlandini Castro categorizes her sexual history using old medical terms and comparisons to contemporary pornography.



GEN

Vivian Barton | United Kingdom
2023 | 10 min | English with
captions

A surrealist journey begins on a dark and mysterious night in this metaphorical expression of self-discovery and rebirth.



NO ONE KNOWS I'M A DOG ON THE INTERNET

Nate King | United States | 2023
4 min | English with captions

Animator Nate King unabashedly claims his space in kink in this neon, retro web surf through the private files of a queer man with a penchant for puppy play.



NOWHERE

Pedro Gonçalves Ribeiro | Portugal,
Brazil | 2022 | 19 min | English,
Portuguese, and French with
English subtitles

An instrumental remix of Cher's "Believe" provides the score to this profound and personal essay film which explores themes of memory, identity, and queerness.

SHORTS

SOMETHING ABOUT HIM

THU, AUG 17
9:00 PM

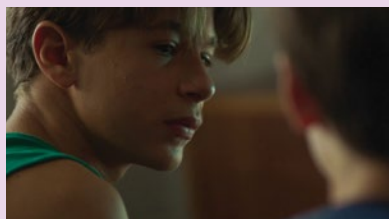
**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

ONLINE
AUG 18, 9:00 PM TO
AUG 21, 9:00 PM

RUNTIME
89 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT, NUDITY

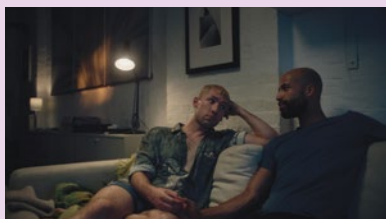
It's date night, and we're serving up new love! Think meet-cutes, first-date anxiety, daytime solicitation, and unsuspecting connection. This one's for the boys who want their hearts lifted, crops watered, and skin cleared.



THE DEPENDENT VARIABLES (LE VARIABILI DIPENDENTI)

Lorenzo Tardella | Italy | 2022
**16 min | Italian with English
subtitles**

On a school trip to the theatre, two teenage boys unexpectedly kiss. Will they have the language to process this monumental moment?



OUTDOORS

**John Mark Fitzpatrick | United
Kingdom | 2022 | 13 min | English
with captions**

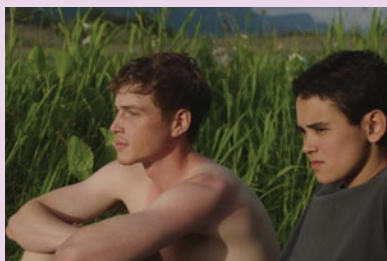
Bim and Nathan meet in the park and have immediate chemistry. A chance encounter reveals something Bim has been trying to hide.



HABIB & THE THIEF

Naures Sager | Sweden | 2021
15 min | English with captions

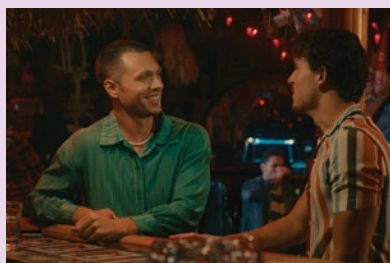
Bonded by a stolen cape, Habib and his princely thief play a dangerous game on an exhilarating night out. The consequences of their actions call into question the cost of living boldly and joyfully.



THE DALLES

Angalis Field | United States | 2023
10 min | English with captions

In this sensitive exploration of burgeoning desire and the loneliness of growing up queer in rural Oregon, a handsome cyclist asks a teen for directions to a cruising spot. The boy takes this as an invitation.



POLYWOOD

Alessio Mineo | United States
2023 | 16 min | English with
captions

A playful, tongue-in-cheek jab at the modern dating scene, serial singleton Clayton's first date nerves wane within minutes of meeting August. But as Clayton's confidence grows, August drops a bombshell—he isn't single.



DOGFRIEND (HUNDEFREUND)

Maissa Lihedheb | Germany | 2022
18 min | German with English
subtitles

A date between two men (one Black, one white) takes an unexpected turn in this boldly unpredictable exploration of racial politics, microaggressions, and mental health.

SHORTS

SLAY 4 ME

FRI, AUG 18
9:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 8**

ONLINE
AUG 19, 9:00 PM TO
AUG 22, 9:00 PM



RUNTIME
112 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:
MENTIONS OF SELF-HARM OR SUICIDE,
HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA

This heartfelt, dazzling, and vulnerable program explores ballroom and drag in communities around the world.

Experience films alongside live performances, and stay for a talk about queer performance practices.



AND THEY WERE LOVED

Malik Shamar Julien, Emily McClanahan
United States | 2023 | 39 min | English with captions

Set in the Deep South, this film explores creating safer spaces in hostile environments and centering the QTBIPOC community through sexual health advocacy, multimedia artistry, and ballroom culture.



TANK FAIRY

**Erich Rettstadt | Taiwan, United States
2021 | 10 min | Mandarin Chinese with English
subtitles**

In her film debut, Taiwanese trans artist Marian Mesula delivers gas tanks across Taipei in red stilettos with an entourage of sequined mice and inspires 10-year-old Jojo to finally dance in drag.



YAHA WAHA

**Sarah Li | United Kingdom | 2021 | 31 min
English with captions**

Anthony Pius is a Bharatanatyam dancer and drag queen from London. Almass Badat is a BBC DJ and a queer Muslim woman. Both explore British Asian identity and seek to be understood and celebrated through their work.

SHORTS

“IT’S COMPLICATED”

**FRI, AUG 18
9:15 PM**

RUNTIME
78 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT, NUDITY,
SUBSTANCE USE

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

ONLINE
AUG 19, 9:15 PM TO
AUG 22, 9:15 PM

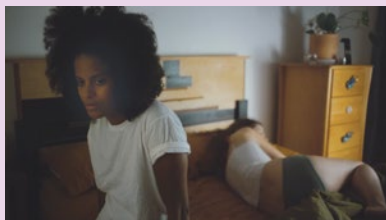
From the playfully witty to the searingly emotional, each film in this sundry selection finds its language to explore the pleasures and pains of that crazy little thing called love.



TAPS

Arvind Caulagi | India | 2023
15 min | English and Hindi with
English subtitles

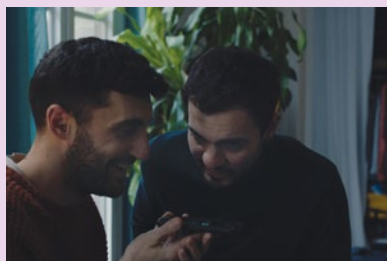
Set over a single night, this intimate and culturally nuanced story centers around the discord and fissures of unresolved discontent between two men.



THE WALL

Valeska Miller | United States
2022 | 15 min | English with
captions

Newly separated, Eva and Hope are spending their last night together. At 3 am, Eva decides to paint the living room wall. A fresh and affecting story of the pain of saying goodbye.



IAGO AND TRISTAN (IAGO Y TRISTÁN)

**Miguel Ibáñez Monroy | Spain
2022 | 13 min | Spanish with
English subtitles**

In this genre-bending short, Iago and Tristan navigate a complicated breakup when something darker adds new weight to their decision.



HOUSE OF WHORESHIP

**Holly Laura Bates | Australia | 2023
16 min | English with captions**

While on her period, a sex worker resorts to asking her ex-girlfriend for help in the most mortifying circumstances.

A BED FOR THREE OR THE EXTRAORDINARY AND SURPRISING COMPLEXITY OF BEDROOM FURNITURE

**Jan-Peter Horstmann | Germany
2023 | 17 min | German with
English subtitles**

It's after hours in a furniture store, and three young protagonists call for the help of a vaping fairy godmother. But will a supersized bed save the throuple or break them apart?

SHORTS

TALKIN' BOUT A REVOLUTION

SAT, AUG 19
2:00 PM

RUNTIME
90 MIN

CONTENT WARNING:
NUDITY, SUBSTANCE USE

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**

ONLINE
AUG 20, 2:00 PM TO
AUG 23, 2:00 PM

How do marginalized queer bodies live through institutional violence and conservative, patriarchal systems? These powerful shorts explore how queer, trans, and nonbinary individuals reclaim their bodies, resist oppression, and redefine power.



CRACKS WILL COME (VIENEN LAS GRIETAS)

**Daniel Mateo Vallejo | Colombia,
Netherlands | 2022 | 18 min**
Spanish with English subtitles

Within the crisp white walls of the gallery where they work, Keisi is transfixed and transported by a photo series that speaks to their desire to escape into nature.



HOW TO CARRY WATER

**Sasha Wortzel | United States
2023 | 15 min | English with
captions**

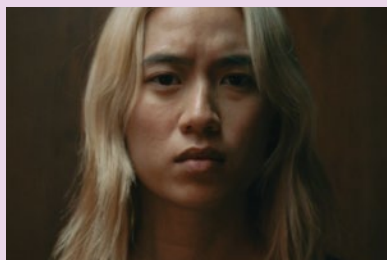
Shoog McDaniel's photographs of fat queer subjects have altered how our community sees themselves. This iridescent fairytale finds itself in one of America's most hostile states for queer and trans people.



BITTERSWEET POWER (POSSA PODER)

**Victor Di Marco, Márcio Picoli
Brazil | 2022 | 19 min | Portuguese
with English subtitles**

In a colloquial rumination on memory and place, three friends remember what it is to be queer and reaffirm their conviction to stay true to who they are.



THE SCRIPT

**Brit Fryer, Noah Schamus | United
States | 2022 | 16 min | English
with captions**

Blending personal interviews with dramatized reenactments, **The Script** explores the complicated relationship between trans and nonbinary communities and medical providers regarding gender-affirming care.



SÃO PAULO OPEN WOUND

**Elizabeth Rocha Salgado
Netherlands, Brazil | 2022 | 18 min
Portuguese with English subtitles**

Underground queer artists make art, create spaces of togetherness, and share their urgent resistance.

PROGRAMMERS' PICK SHORTS

Get your dessert stomachs ready for an encore screening of the crème de la crème of VQFF's 2023 shorts. Carefully curated by our programmers from across our entire line-up, these delicacies are sure to satisfy all of your cravings.

Don't forget to check out the other same-day encore screenings of our award winners (p. 18).

SUN, AUG 20
1:45 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE - THEATRE 9**



CRAFT BREWED IN PORT MOODY



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DISCOVERY**

PAR



TIES



OPENING NIGHT PARTY

THU, AUG 10
8:00 PM TO
11:30 PM

VANCOUVER
PLAYHOUSE



Join us after our **Opening Presentation: Stronger Together** (p. 32) as we activate the Vancouver Playhouse balcony, lobby, and salons for our first party of the Festival! Complete with performers, DJs, food, a dance floor, and pockets of quiet space to sit, chat, and relax—there will be a little something for everybody. We can't wait to celebrate our 35th year of queer programming with you!

Entry to this FREE event is included with tickets to Opening Presentation screening.

Must be 18+.

CLOSING PARTY

SAT, AUG 19
8:30 PM TO
11:30 PM

VANCOUVER
PLAYHOUSE



Wrap up this year's VQFF with a party after our **Closing Presentation: Runs In The Family** (p. 35). Join us in the reception spaces of the Playhouse for a chance to connect with the community and reminisce about your favourite moments from the Festival. Food, performances, and DJs will keep you entertained. And with both dance spaces and quieter conversation spaces available, introverts, extroverts, and ambiverts alike can find their groove! Celebrate the culmination of 35 years of being stronger together!

Entry to this FREE event is included with tickets to the Closing Presentation screening.

Must be 18+.

CALLING ALL SAPPHICS, GAYS, AND NONBINARY B A B E S !

Are you ready to mingle? We're partnering with some of the hottest organizers in the city to bring you the queer4queer parties of your dreams. Save the date for August 12 and go to our website for details. You won't want to miss these!

SAT, AUG 12
FROM LATE
TILL EVEN
LATER!

GO TO QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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100 FOR \$50

250 FOR \$100



SFU

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Co-presented with DanceHouse
and Vancouver International Flamenco Festival

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- The New York Times



SEPTEMBER 27 – 30 / 2023 | 8pm
Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts 149 West Hastings Street



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FILM

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