

# VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

**OUT ON  
SCREEN**



DISCOVER STORIES  
BY US, FOR US

IN-PERSON SEPT 11-21  
ONLINE SEPT 22-28

[QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA](https://queerfilmfestival.ca)

[@QUEERFILMFEST](https://twitter.com/QUEERFILMFEST)

[#VQFF2025](https://twitter.com/VQFF2025)

Located on the unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm, Sḵwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətał Nations.

# OUT ON SCREEN IS FOR ALL OF US

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For **ballroom legends** and **butches**.

For **Two-Spirit Matriarchs** and **nonbinary nerds**.

For **Black trans brilliance** and **Filipino baklas**.

For **electric drag kings** and **soft masc bookworms** riding the #99.

For **South Asian sapphics**, **Chinatown elders**, and **every newcomer**  
who found a chosen family in a darkened theatre.

For **queer disabled joy**.

For **every body**, **every voice**, **every pride**.



This is the Vancouver Queer Film Festival—  
loud, layered, luminous in every frame.  
This is *your* film festival.

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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), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (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 the Indigenous Peoples of these lands.

# WELCOME FROM TSLEIL-WAUTUTH

ʔa: si:yéḡ nə siyéyə, Friends and Relatives,

We warmly welcome you to the shared and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Storytelling is a foundational part of our səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) culture, as it weaves together our history, current aspirations, and the enduring connections we have to our lands and waters as People of the Inlet. Film is a particularly powerful medium that conveys stories that are important to our community, showcases our həhǵəmiḡ əḡ language, and instills pride in our culture for the next generations.

We raise our hands in appreciation of VQFF for ensuring our Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer family and friends are represented on the big screen. We thank VQFF directors and staff for engaging with our Knowledge Keepers and Elders, and inviting our Members to be a part of the joy, discovery, and heartfelt connection that the Festival offers.

Congratulations VQFF on celebrating your 37th year! Festival-goers, we hope you enjoy the films and engaging with one another.

hay ce:p ǵə  
thank you all,

## Chief and Council,

səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)



**Tsleil-Waututh Nation**  
PEOPLE OF THE INLET

# WELCOME FROM OUR FUNDERS

On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Vancouver Queer Film Festival, taking place on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Our government is committed to building a more inclusive province by addressing discrimination, removing barriers, and recognizing the contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. The Province is proud to provide grant funding for VQFF through Creative BC and the BC Arts Council. Together, we are building a province where everyone can live freely and authentically.

**The Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert**  
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport  
of British Columbia



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Welcome to the 2025 Vancouver Queer Film Festival!

Film has the power to transform society, and events like this offer wonderful platforms to showcase our country's vibrant film scenes. The talented artists sharing their stories help us build a country where respect and inclusion prevail. As Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages, I wish you a great festival.

**The Honourable Steven Guilbeault**  
Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture



Congratulations from all of us at Creative BC on 37 editions of the Vancouver Queer Film Festival! VQFF is a true catalyst for B.C.'s motion picture industry, celebrating queer storytelling, building community, and creating opportunities. We're incredibly proud to support VQFF and its impactful programming and events that strengthen pathways for queer talent both on- and off-screen. Thank you to the organizers, filmmakers, and volunteers for your continued commitment to an inclusive creative sector in British Columbia!

**Prem Gill**

CEO, Creative BC



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Festivals like the Vancouver Queer Film Festival play a vital role in connecting Canadian cinema to audiences here and abroad, highlighting Canadian identity, our artists and our stories. They provide an important platform for emerging and established creators, fostering dialogue and collaboration.

At Telefilm Canada, we're proud to partner with the Vancouver Queer Film Festival to celebrate the unifying power of cinema. Enjoy the festival!

**Julie Roy**

Executive Director and CEO,  
Telefilm Canada



# WELCOME FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

'Uy' skweyul (good day) queer family, storytellers, seekers, and allies and welcome to the 37th annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival!

This year's programme is a vibrant celebration of 2SLGBTQIA+ presence and ways of being—past, present, and future. With 103 bold, beautiful films from 25 countries, our lineup proudly affirms: we have always existed—then, now, forever.

As a Cowichan woman and the first Indigenous Artistic Director at Out On Screen, it is my honour to lead with an Indigenized vision—one that centres Two Spirit, Indigiqueer, and Matriarchal voices; uplifts our communities; and acknowledges the unceded lands on which we gather. From our Festival artwork by Charlene Johnny, to the inaugural Matriarch Of The Year award, to the many Indigenous stories and films highlighted across the entire programme: these commitments are woven throughout the Festival experience.

Whether you're here to laugh, cry, reflect, rally, or discover something new, this is a space for connection, courage, and celebration. I invite you to lean in, take risks with your viewing choices, and engage with stories that challenge, move, and expand you.

We've created more opportunities than ever for filmmakers to shine and for audiences to feel seen. Thank you for being part of this joyful resistance. Enjoy the Festival—we're so glad you're here.

With love and strength,  
Huy ch q'u (thank you)

**Mary Galloway** (she/they)  
Artistic Director





# ARTIST

# STATEMENT



The 2025 Vancouver Queer Film Festival artwork was conceptualized and illustrated by **Charlene Johnny** (she/her).

"This piece brings together traditional Coast Salish art forms with contemporary symbolism to honour Indigiqueer, queer, and Two Spirit identities. A central raven carries sweetgrass, a medicine of connection, ceremony, and healing, while a yellow sun radiates warmth and life. Below, a canoe of paddlers reflects the strength of community and introspection. Figures with varied silhouettes represent the fluidity and diversity of our stories. Cedar and sage frame the image, grounding it in our medicines and mirroring the spirit of reflection central to both cinema and cultural resurgence. Layered with Pride-inspired colour and meaning, the artwork is a celebration of transformation, kinship, and joy."

**Charlene Johnny** (she/her) is a Coast Salish artist from the Quw'utsun Tribes and is based in Vancouver. Her interdisciplinary practice spans graphic design, murals, traditional jewelry, and weaving. She blends ancestral teachings with contemporary expression. Through public art and community projects, she creates spaces for cultural connection, resistance, and storytelling.

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## 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, knowledge, and shared stories from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Our vision is 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 2SLGBTQIA+ lives through film, education, and dialogue.

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## STAFF

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Operations & Finance Director

### **sean ko**

Operations Coordinator

### **Selina Tsehaye**

Festival Manager

### **Soph Mazzocchio**

Guest Experience Coordinator

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Daniel Gallardo  
Olivia Marie Golosky  
Mary Galloway  
Piper Fawkes  
Tristin Greyeyes

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## FESTIVAL CREATIVE

Charlene Johnny

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## DESIGNER

Co-Effect Creative

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## PUBLICIST

Pender PR

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Aaron Low  
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Sophia Greene

# IN MEMORIAM

Community is the beating heart of our work at Out On Screen. We dedicate this space to those we have lost this past year. We are determined to carry on their legacy by working toward a brighter future for 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

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**Riley Higgs** was a volunteer in recent years, supporting VQFF's return to in-person programs. They are remembered for their enthusiasm, skillfulness, and commitment to taking care of patrons. It has been an honour to work with you, Riley. Thank you for everything.

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**Kim Kinakin** was a friend of Out On Screen for decades as a filmmaker, volunteer, donor, and active community member. He was a lifelong punk who championed queer people and those living with HIV/AIDS. We will forever be indebted to and inspired by his love of queer misfits and outcasts.

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**Deborah LeRose** had supported Out In Schools since 2014. Her generosity and determination kept us going, year after year, in standing up for queer youth. Thank you for believing in us, Deborah. Rest in peace.

# VOLUNTEERS

The Vancouver Queer Film Festival relies on a dedicated group of volunteers. From distributing flyers to scanning tickets, our volunteers show up and make it happen. Out On Screen would like to acknowledge the following volunteers for their outstanding commitment to our Festival last year. We are so lucky to have you!

If you are interested in volunteering this year, please contact Volunteer Coordinators sean ko and Selina Tsehaye at [volunteer@outonscreen.com](mailto:volunteer@outonscreen.com).

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## VENUE COORDINATORS

Jack Hillman  
Bahar Imanlou  
Ryan Lim  
Maura Wingle-Land

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## FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

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	Natalia Montes de Oca	Yiming Zhang
	Marilo Morales	
	Donna Morgan	

# DIRECTORS GUILD

Out On Screen uses art to shape culture—a dream made possible by our Directors Guild. Thank you for your dedicated support. You are the reason we are able to touch the lives we do. The members of our Directors Guild make a multi-year commitment to uplift queer, trans, and Two Spirit art and storytelling.

Join our Directors Guild to keep 2SLGBTQIA+ stories on screen for years to come. Contact us at [donorservices@outonscreen.com](mailto:donorservices@outonscreen.com) to learn more.

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# D O N O R S

Out On Screen's fabulous donors breathe life into our work. Whether you've been with us since the beginning or are brand new, your contribution is what allows us to create spaces and platforms for 2SLGBTQIA+ people. From all of us at Out On Screen, thank you for standing with us!

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## 20+ YEARS

Belle Ancell  
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Ron Lambert  
Aja Lamb-Hartley  
Rachel Lando  
Sheila Landrigan

Erin LaRocque  
Kelly Lau  
Dwayne Launt  
Lori Lavigne  
Oren Laville  
Caroline Lebrech  
Minerva Lee  
Mialynn Lee-Daigle  
Judee Lena  
Theresa LeRose  
Patrice Leung  
Rachel Levin  
Ross Linton  
Maureen Long  
Zachery Longboy  
Cynthia Low  
Cory Lyon  
Chantal Lyons-Stevenson  
Braeden Mackan  
Susan MacLaurin  
Tracy Manrell  
Michael Marriott  
Rylee Mason  
K Mats  
Hari Mavridakis  
Sylvie C Mazerolle  
Shauna McCrae  
Bridgid McGowan  
Haley McNamara  
Kayla Meadows  
Magnum Media  
Giselle Miller  
K Miller  
Pierre Minvielle  
Graham Mitchell  
Kasem Mohamed  
Demi Montes  
Edan Morales  
Donna Morgan  
Victor Morin  
Eli Morris  
Sarah Mortlock  
Trina Moulin  
Nicole Mouner  
Michael Muller  
Yvonne Murphy  
Josh Murray  
Marian  
Jordan Neave  
Serene & Stevie Nguyen-Carter  
Diane Nhan

Taco Niet  
Leah Nusgart  
Dan OceanPark  
David Paine  
Gabrielle Parent  
Gray Park  
Ezra Parnall  
Anabelle Paulson  
Ron Pearson  
Jay Penner  
Brian Perkins  
Lina Pham  
April Pierce  
Kimberly & Pete Pitino  
Alicia Poon  
Natalie Prichard  
Regan Probert  
Nina Quiskamp  
Arnold Rafael  
Nora D Randall  
Ron Francis Regan  
Barbara Reid  
Brian Richards  
Theresa Riley  
Maria Rio  
Miles River  
Ariana Roach  
Janine Robbins  
Eilidh Robey  
Aaron Robinson  
Lisa Rositano  
Deborah Ross Armistead  
Melena Rounis  
Elizabeth Rush  
Mel & Tom Rushton  
Alex Saar  
Sherri Sadler  
Travis Salway  
Brian Samuels  
Taylor Sands  
Ariel Schmor  
Kyla Schnellert  
Kai Scott  
Sami Shahin  
samhita shanker  
Avery Shannon  
Jonathan Sharun  
Joshua Shepherd  
Parker Shupe  
Imogen Sirluck-Schroeder  
Ajay Sivanand

Cecilia Skerriitt  
Sam Smirfitt  
Ed Smith  
Sheena Smith  
Thales Soares  
Isabella Song  
Nicole Spencer  
Jarrod Surette  
Sarah Szymanski  
Ryan T  
Jenea Tallentire  
Floriane Tavenard  
Madeline Taylor  
Alison Taylor  
Amos B Teo  
Agnes Terebka  
Jennifer Thompson  
Brittany Tiplady  
Annelies Tjebbes  
Laura Track

Jess Tran  
Katherine Tucker  
Lendl Tung  
Nick Valencia  
Marilia Valencio Alves  
Daria Valujeva  
Kaid van Kampen  
Sandra Vander Schaaf  
Heather Vause  
Jacqueline Verkleij  
Iolo vincent  
Evan Vipond  
Sonya Wachowski  
Richard Wadsworth  
Kristy Ware  
Lori Watt  
Duncan Watts-Grant  
Sam Webb  
John Wennemann  
Delaney Westbu

Willow Magreta Westby  
Tom Whitfield  
Amalie Wilkinson  
Kara Williams  
Tea Wilson  
Gregor Wind  
Skyla Witt  
Pearl Wong  
Victoria Wong  
Michelle Wu  
Cornelia Wyngaarden  
Alayna Yan  
Jenelle Yonkman  
Jared Yu  
Audrey Yun  
Gordon Yusko  
Kaylah Zander  
Michael Zaytsoff  
Heidi Zeunert  
Muhan Zhang

This list is based on donations between June 25, 2024 and June 24, 2025. We apologize if we missed your name, and please know that we appreciate your support. Please submit any corrections to [\*\*donorservices@outonscreen.com\*\*](mailto:donorservices@outonscreen.com).

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PARTNER



HOTEL PARTNER



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# PARTNERS

## FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS



PATAGONIA



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## FESTIVAL FUNDERS



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

# A W A R D S

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## JURIED AWARDS

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NARRATIVE	CHANGE	AWARD
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This \$5,000 cash prize will be determined by an international jury and honours a Canadian or International feature 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 **Opening Presentation** on September 11, 2025 (p. 32).

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Matriarch	of	the	Year	Award	(MOTY	Award)
-----------	----	-----	------	-------	-------	--------

Introducing the inaugural Matriarch of The Year Award (MOTY)! The MOTY Award honors an Indigiqueer or Two Spirit (2S) Matriarchal leader in film and television across Turtle Island who has made a significant impact on Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ storytelling.

To learn more about this award and this year’s prizes, visit our website. The award winner will be announced at the **Opening Presentation** on September 11, 2025 (p. 32).

---

## PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARDS

The following awards are determined by YOU, the audience! Winners are determined by the highest proportion of votes to ensure all films have the opportunity to be recognized regardless of the size of the theatre. Theatre audiences may vote in person or at [link.outonscreen.com/vote](https://link.outonscreen.com/vote) anytime after the screening. Online audiences may vote on our digital watch platform.

The award winners will be announced after the Festival.

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## GERRY BRUNET MEMORIAL AWARD: BRITISH COLUMBIA SHORT

Our annual 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. The winner will receive a \$2,850 cash prize and mentorship opportunities from the Directors Guild of Canada BC, a \$20,000 camera package prize from Keslow Camera, and a \$5,000 gear package prize from Cinelease.



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### Canadian Feature

Sponsored by the Canada Media Fund (CMF), this \$2,500 cash prize will be presented to the audience's favourite Canadian Feature.



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### Canadian Short

Sponsored by Elemental Post this \$2,500 in-kind prize will be presented to the audience's favourite Canadian Short.



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### International Short

This prize will be presented to the audience's favourite International Short.

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### International Feature

This prize will be presented to the audience's favourite International Feature.

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To see the full list of Awards and additional prizes offered at this year's VQFF, visit our website!

# 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](http://queerfilmfestival.ca) to purchase all your tickets and passes.

## SINGLE TICKETS

TICKET TIER	PRICE	DETAILS
Special Presentations	\$19	Opening, Centrepiece, and Closing Presentations only*
Standard	\$17	Our base ticket price for all screenings
Access	\$12	Students, Youth, Seniors, Low-income
Access+	\$7	Those who need reduced costs for any reason

\*Includes entry to the Opening and Closing Parties. All other sliding-scale ticket tiers will remain available to purchase for all Special Presentations.

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

## PASSES

Festival Pass	\$195	All passes are limited to patrons 18 years of age and older.
Festival Pass - Access Pricing	\$100	
Digital Pass	\$100	

**Festival Passes** provide access to all film screenings and events at the Festival, both in-person and online! Passholders can pick up their printed pass (with your name on it!) and lanyard at Box Office during the Festival and/or access a virtual pass on your mobile device. We reserve ~30% of seats for passholders at each screening. For popular and sold-out screenings, we recommend passholders collect a slip up to 60 minutes before start time at the venue’s Box Office to “save” their seat. Passholders also enter the theatre first!

**Digital Passes** are perfect for film-lovers who prefer to watch from home! The Digital Pass provides access to online streaming only, available anywhere in BC.



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## MEMBERSHIPS

All ticket purchases include a non-voting membership for the Vancouver Out On Screen Film & Video Society that expires 364 days after the event. You may also purchase a voting membership to further support and engage with our work. All Festival Passes include a voting membership that expires after the next Annual General Meeting in June, at which all voting members are eligible to vote on motions.

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Voting Membership (18 yrs & up)

\$5

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## REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

Can't use a ticket? Email us at [boxoffice@outonscreen.com](mailto:boxoffice@outonscreen.com) to ask about swapping for another film!

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## QUESTIONS?

Call us at **604-844-1615 x410** or email us at [boxoffice@outonscreen.com](mailto:boxoffice@outonscreen.com)

# HOW TO FEST

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## IN-PERSON

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### 1 hour before screening

Box Office opens, Passholders can collect slips to reserve your seat (recommended for popular or sold-out screenings)

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### 30 minutes before screening

Theatre opens, Passholders enter first

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### ~15 minutes before screening

Ticketholders enter the theatre

For sold out screenings, we assess if we can sell tickets to the Hope Line once all Passholders and Ticketholders have been seated.

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## ONLINE

Select films will be available to stream online from September 22-28, 2025, the week after the in-person Festival. Once you start a film, you have 72 hours to complete it.

**All of our online content is geolocked to BC.** The availability of online streaming is limited due to our agreements with artists and distributors and their preferences for how they'd like their work to be viewed.

To watch, purchase a virtual ticket, Festival Pass, or Digital Pass and log in to our watch platform at [watch.outonscreen.com](https://watch.outonscreen.com).

For more detailed information, check out the How to Fest section on our website or contact [boxoffice@outonscreen.com](mailto:boxoffice@outonscreen.com).

# SCHEDULE

Go to [queerfilmfestival.ca](http://queerfilmfestival.ca) to filter our full programme by event type, genre, 2SLGBTQIA+ identity, languages, and more, and to buy tickets!

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

## FEATURE FILMS

## SHORTS

## INDUSTRY

## PARTIES & SOCIALS

### THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 11

7 PM **Opening Presentation: Then. Now. Forever.** P. 32  
Vancouver Playhouse

### FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 12

6:15 PM **AMANTES** P. 44  
International Village

9:15 PM **Shorts: Screaming, Crying, Laughing** P. 70  
International Village

### SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 13

12:15 PM **Move Ya Body: The Birth of House** P. 45  
International Village

12:30 PM **Industry: Funding Your Project** P. 86  
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

12:30 PM **Really Happy Someday** P. 46  
International Village

2:45 PM **To the Moon** P. 47  
International Village

3 PM **Industry: Eat You(r Heart) Out: Queer Horror with *Yellowjackets*** P. 86  
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

3:15 PM **Outerlands** P. 48  
International Village

## SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 13

- 5:15 PM** — **Starwalker** — P. 49  
International Village
- 6 PM** — **Where You Find Me** — P. 50  
International Village
- 8:15 PM** — **SAUNA** — P. 51  
International Village
- 8:30PM** — **Shorts: Through Our Kaleidoscope** — P. 72  
International Village
- 10 PM** — **Opening Weekend Party: Fuego/Fogo** — P. 88  
The Birdhouse

## SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 14

- 12 PM** — **Dog Park Social** — P. 88  
Emery Barnes Park
- 12:15 PM** — **Relaxed Screening: Then. Now. Forever.** — P. 32  
International Village
- 12:30 PM** — **BETWEEN GOODBYES** — P. 52  
International Village
- 2:30 PM** — **A Place Where I Belong** — P. 53  
International Village
- 2:45 PM** — **Summer's Camera** — P. 54  
International Village
- 5:30 PM** — **Out In Schools & Troublemakers 9.0** — P. 42  
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema
- 5:30 PM** — **ANOTHER TAKE** — P. 55  
International Village
- 6 PM** — **Heightened Scrutiny** — P. 56  
International Village
- 8:30 PM** — **QUEERPANORAMA** — P. 57  
International Village
- 8:45 PM** — **Shorts: Tease Me, Please Me** — P. 74  
International Village

## THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 18

- 10 AM** — **Shorts: True to Yourself** *SCHOOL GROUPS ONLY* — **P. 36**  
The Cinematheque
- 1 PM** — **Speak.** *SCHOOL GROUPS ONLY* — **P. 39**  
The Cinematheque
- 7 PM** — **Centrepiece Presentation: JUST KIDS** — **P. 34**  
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

## FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 19

- 3 PM** — **Shorts: Family's A Drag + Youth Ballroom Workshop** — **P. 40**  
International Village
- 6:30 PM** — **Shorts: The Coast is Queer** — **P. 78**  
International Village
- 8 PM** — **The Coast is Queer Reception** — **P. 88**  
Venue TBD

## SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 20

- 1 PM** — **The Nature of Invisible Things** — **P. 58**  
International Village
- 1:15 PM** — **The Librarians** — **P. 59**  
International Village
- 2 PM** — **Industry: Selling Your Project** — **P. 86**  
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema
- 3:30 PM** — **Shorts: Family: Some Assembly Required** — **P. 80**  
International Village
- 4 PM** — **The Last First Time** — **P. 60**  
International Village
- 7 PM** — **Closing Presentation: Four Mothers** — **P. 35**  
Vancouver Playhouse
- 10 PM** — **Closing Weekend Party** — **P. 89**  
The Birdhouse

- 11 AM** — **Queer Film Trivia Brunch** — P. 89  
Venue TBD
- 12:30 PM** — **Outliers and Outlaws** — P. 62  
+ **Because of You: A History of Kilawin Kolektibo**  
International Village
- 12:45 PM** — **Relaxed Screening: We Are Pat** — P. 64  
International Village
- 3:15 PM** — **PRIDE & PRAYER** — P. 65  
International Village
- 3:15 PM** — **Row of Life** — P. 66  
International Village
- 5:30 PM** — **Shorts: For a Good Cry** — P. 82  
International Village
- 5:45 PM** — **The Nest** — P. 67  
International Village
- 8:15 PM** — **Rains Over Babel** — P. 68  
International Village
- 8:30 PM** — **Shorts: For a Good Time** — P. 84  
International Village

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Go to **queerfilmfestival.ca** to filter our full programme by event type, genre, 2SLGBTQIA+ identity, languages, and more, and to buy tickets!

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

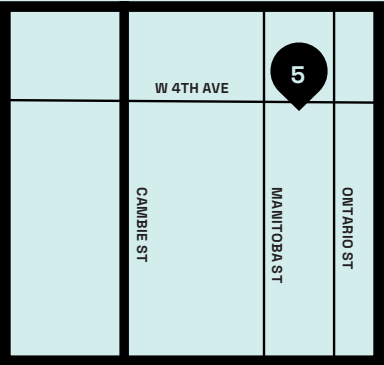
**FEATURE FILMS**

**SHORTS**

**INDUSTRY**

**PARTIES & SOCIALS**

# V E N U E S



<b>VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE</b> 600 HAMILTON ST.	1
<b>CINEPLEX ODEON INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE</b> 88 W PENDER ST., 3RD FLOOR	2
<b>SFU GOLDCORP CENTRE FOR THE ARTS</b> DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA AND WORLD ART CENTRE 149 W HASTINGS ST.	3
<b>THE CINEMATHEQUE</b> 1131 HOWE ST.	4
<b>THE BIRDHOUSE</b> 44 W 4TH AVE.	5

# ACCESSIBILITY

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## PHYSICAL SPACE

All our public screening and event venues are wheelchair accessible and have wheelchair-accessible washrooms. Most venues with the exception of International Village have gender-inclusive washrooms. We encourage patrons to support a scent-reduced environment.

Detailed transit and accessibility information for each in-person venue is available on our website.

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## PROGRAMMING

The following accessibility information is listed for each event. For the most detailed and up-to-date information, please visit our online programme at [queerfilmfestival.ca](http://queerfilmfestival.ca).

**English subtitles** and/or **open captions** will be provided for the majority of programming.

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

**Film ratings and content warnings by BC Consumer Protection** are available on our online programme from mid-August.

**Content notes**, if any are applicable, are provided by our programming team on each film page in print and online.

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## RELAXED SCREENINGS

This year we are offering two Relaxed Screenings (see pages 32 and 64) for anyone who wishes to watch a film in a sensory-friendly environment. Our Relaxed Screenings will include these additional accommodations:

- Doors remain open to the lobby/foyer
- House lights remain on but slightly dimmed
- Film audio is slightly reduced
- No trailers or ads play before the film
- Reduced capacity to increase seating selection and distancing
- Audience noise and movement is permitted during the show
- Audience may enter and exit the theatre as needed
- A chill out space outside the theatre
- Sound reduction headphones may be provided upon request, dependent on availability
- Extra staff and volunteers on-site to answer questions
- Complimentary ticket for a companion

If you would like to make an accessibility request or have questions about any of the above, please contact [boxoffice@outonscreen.com](mailto:boxoffice@outonscreen.com).

# LEGEND

Please note that this print programme does not include all Q&As, industry programs, and performances. For the most up-to-date details, please go to our online programme at [queerfilmfestival.ca](http://queerfilmfestival.ca).



Available to screen online Sept 22–28, 2025 within the province of British Columbia.



Post-screening Q&A or performance at the in-person screening.



Produced locally in Vancouver or BC.



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

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## WORLD PREMIERE

First presentation in the world.

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## INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

First presentation outside its country of origin.

---

## NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

First presentation in North America.

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## CANADIAN PREMIERE

First presentation in Canada.

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

First presentation in BC.

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## VANCOUVER PREMIERE

First presentation in Vancouver.



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



"I enjoyed watching the films and being shown instead of told about 2SLGBTQIA+ people."

—  
GRADE 7  
STUDENT

"Out In Schools provides an essential service to BC's educational landscape, offering programming that is not only informative but deeply humanizing."

—  
EDUCATOR IN  
PRINCE GEORGE, BC



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In the 2024-2025 school year, Out In Schools delivered 116 presentations to:

**8,751**

YOUTH

**1,026**

ADULTS

**19**

SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS

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Visit us online at [outinschools.com](https://outinschools.com) to book a presentation, browse our film catalogue, and access our free educator resources!

# THEN. NOW. FOREVER.

**THU, SEPT 11  
7 PM**

**VANCOUVER  
PLAYHOUSE**

**Event runtime:**  
162 min

## Relaxed Screening

Sun, Sept 14, 12:15 PM  
International Village  
Learn more on p. 29

## ONLINE

SEPT 22-28



From 18th-century queer sanctuaries to disco-era revolutions, stolen luxury in gentrified cities to tender archives and lesbian joy—our opening shorts program **Then. Now. Forever.** retraces lost histories and spotlights unsung trendsetters. Through fashion, rebellion, chosen family, and ancestral memory, these films illuminate the bold, buried, and beautiful stories that have shaped queer pasts—and continue to mold queer futures.

Followed by a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers. Join us for the **Opening Weekend Party** on Saturday, Sept 13 (p. 88)!

**Content notes:** Contains flashing lights, and depicts nudity and graphic sexual content, graphic violence and physical abuse, blood, smoking, drinking, and substance use, homophobia, swearing and strong language.



## DANDELION

**Fiona Obertinca | United States | 2025  
20 min | English with captions**

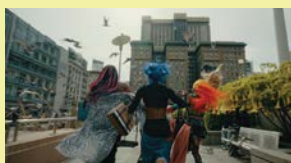
After yet another failed foster placement, Margaret is forced to roam LA with a mysterious social worker tasked with finding her a new home before daybreak.



## ANITA LOUISE AND THE WILD WOMEN

**Arena Alamino | Canada | 2025 | 13 min  
English with captions**

A beloved photographer reflects on her 50 years documenting the Nova Scotian queer community, including “Wild Women Don’t Get The Blues”—an intimate camping getaway for lesbian and bisexual women in the 80s & 90s.



## RAINBOW GIRLS

**Nana Duffuor | United States | 2025 | 16 min**  
**English with captions**

As San Francisco's tech boom gentrifies their city, Tati, Angel, and Gemini decide to take matters into their own hands by staging a heist targeting the city's most exclusive luxury brands.



## SHELLY'S LEG

**Wes Hurley | United States | 2025 | 17 min**  
**English with captions**

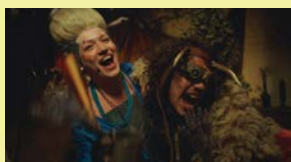
When Shelly Bauman, a young exotic dancer, loses her leg in an accident, she uses the settlement money to open Seattle's first gay nightclub. Narrated by Kathleen Turner, this film is as eccentric as Shelly herself.



## MISS HONEY: THE CATSUIT

**Brandon R. Nicholas | United States | 2024**  
**6 min | English with captions**

A glimpse into the queer fashion history behind the iconic cut-out catsuit made by Ballroom legend and designer Douglas SAYS for Moi Renee's 1992 televised performance of "Miss Honey".



## SWEETHEART

**Luke Wintour | United Kingdom | 2024**  
**18 min | English with captions**

A nervous newcomer discovers a molly-house in 18th-century London where "effeminate men" meet in secret to dress, perform, and play freely.



## CONFLUENCE

**Charlene Moore, ODMK | Canada | 2025**  
**10 min | English with captions**

Transmissions of creation among the echoes of our Ancestors guide new waves of storytelling in this unconventional 16mm film.

# JUST KIDS

VANCOUVER

PREMIERE



**THU, SEPT 18**  
**7 PM**

**SFU - DJAVAD  
MOWAFAGHIAN  
CINEMA**

**Event runtime:**  
178 min

Followed by a  
post-screening  
panel discussing  
trans rights.

**Content notes:**  
Depicts transphobia.



**Gianna Toboni | United States | 2024 | 93 min**  
**English with captions**

In this powerful documentary, three families living in states that have banned gender-affirming care face a heartbreaking choice: stay and risk their children's health and safety, or leave everything behind to seek refuge elsewhere. Over the course of a year, we witness these families confront immense challenges and show remarkable resilience as they fight to protect their children's lives.

Directed by documentarian and journalist Gianna Toboni, **JUST KIDS** amplifies the voices of trans community pioneers and civil rights experts, exposing the inhumane politicization of trans healthcare and the dire consequences on trans youth and their families. Drawing on evidence from America's leading medical associations, the film underscores that gender-affirming care is life-saving care. The film shows the steadfast strength of the trans community and their allies in the face of an onslaught, and their refusal to give up the fight for justice and compassion.

# FOUR MOTHERS

VANCOUVER

PREMIERE



**Darren Thornton | Ireland, United Kingdom | 2024**  
**89 min | English with captions**

Edward, a single gay novelist in his thirties living in the suburbs of Dublin with his ageing mother, is finally on the cusp of literary success. However, just as his long-anticipated U.S. book tour approaches, Edward's friends jet off on a Pride holiday—leaving him in charge of not only his own mother but also their eccentric, strong-willed mothers. Over one chaotic weekend, his life is transformed into a battleground of competing needs, biting wit, and unexpected tenderness.

Winner of the Audience Award at the BFI London Film Festival, **Four Mothers** is both hilariously sharp and quietly moving—a richly Irish take on queer community, caregiving, and chosen family. James McArdle charms as the talented writer and frustrated son Edward, backed by a stellar ensemble cast. Sparkling dialogue and emotional warmth are at the forefront of this witty, perceptive comedy. Indeed, in modern queer life, our love for our mothers—and for each other—can sometimes be both a burden and a blessing.

**SAT, SEPT 20**  
**7 PM**

**VANCOUVER**  
**PLAYHOUSE**

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**Event runtime:**  
120 min

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Join us after the screening for the **Closing Weekend Party** (p. 89)!

# THE FUTURE IS QUEER: YOUTH PROGRAMS

CO-PRESENTED BY THE CINEMATHEQUE AND OUT IN SCHOOLS

**The Future is Queer** is a collection of FREE youth programs and school group screenings at the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival**, curated by the educators behind our sibling program **Out In Schools**. This program aims to increase youth access to transformative 2SLGBTQIA+ stories.

**Please note:** some screenings are limited to group bookings by schools and youth-serving organizations only, see details below. All are welcome to watch these programs online, and all educators and youth under 25 can get in-person or online tickets for free.

Learn more at [queerfilmfestival.ca](http://queerfilmfestival.ca).

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## S H O R T S : TRUE TO YOURSELF

**THU, SEPT 18  
10 AM**

### THE CINEMATHEQUE

In-person screening  
for school groups  
only.

---

#### Event runtime:

93 min

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#### ONLINE

SEPT 22-28



A vibrant collection of stories about being bold, brave, and beautifully you. Whether it's sneaking a twirl in a sparkly dress, dreaming up glittery worlds, surviving prom, or finding love in unexpected places, these shorts celebrate self-expression, queer joy, and the magic of becoming who you really are—with a little help from friends (and maybe a fox)!

Specially curated for Grades 5-12, this program explores themes of identity, family, culture and expression.

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Followed by a post-screening Q&A with special guests and facilitators from The Cinematheque and Out In Schools.

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**Content notes:** Depicts homophobia and contains swearing and strong language.



## **DRAGFOX**

**Lisa Ott | United Kingdom | 2024 | 8 min**  
**English with captions**

Under the cover of night, a young child steals their sister's dress to try on—only to be caught in the act by a fox (voiced by Sir Ian McKellan). A colourful stop-motion fable with a jazzy score and foot-tapping musical numbers!



## **BECOMING RUBY**

**Quan Luong | Canada | 2025 | 10 min**  
**English and Vietnamese with English subtitles**

Canada's first drag artist-in-residence Ruby Chopstix blazes a trail in Winnipeg, uplifting queer BIPOC performers and taking up space.



## **LOUD AND CLEO!**

**(CLÉO SE FAIT DES FILMS)**

**Tallulah Farquhar | Belgium | 2024 | 17 min**  
**French with English subtitles**

12-year-old Cleo escapes from a hostile school environment into a glittery make-believe world...in the boys' bathroom. Little does she know, someone else is hiding there too.



## **EMBERS OF QUEER JOY**

**Mary Galloway | Canada | 2025 | 4 min**  
**English with captions**

An endearing spoken word poem overlays 16mm vignettes of authentic queer joy.

**Continued on the next page.**





## WITH LOVE, LOTTIE

Lily Drummond | Australia | 2024 | 14 min  
English with captions

When Lottie, a disabled teen, worries that love isn't in the cards, she turns to her friends for dating advice—only to discover that love doesn't always follow the rules.



## LEO

Julian LeBlanc, Athena Russell | Canada  
2024 | 6 min | English with captions

In this genre-bending short, Leo Walker charges headfirst into prom night, the supposed pinnacle of teenage life. Emotions peak and expectations spiral in this portrait of teenhood teetering on the edge.

# The Cinematheque Experience Essential Cinema

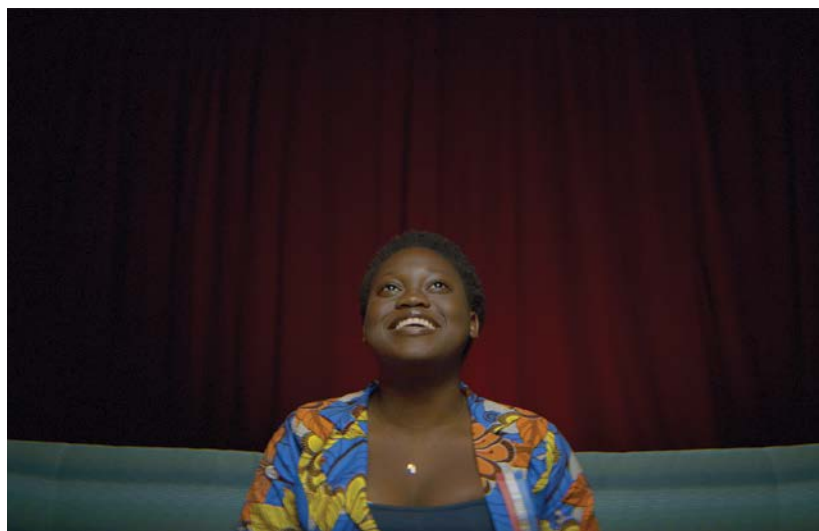
*Pink Narcissus*, James Bidgood, 1971

[thecinematheque.ca](http://thecinematheque.ca) 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver





# SPEAK.



**Jennifer Tiexiera, Guy Mossman | United States  
2025 | 99 min | English with captions**

Five top-ranked high school students from across the U.S. step onto the national stage to compete in the world's most intense public speaking competition. Against a backdrop of rising anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and political division, they channel personal conviction into powerful performances that confront injustice head-on.

**Speak.** offers an intimate, stirring portrait of youth who refuse to stay silent, crafting stories that challenge those in power, demand change, and prove that our voices are a force to be reckoned with.

**Curriculum connections:** Grade 8-12, Social Studies, Arts Education, and English Language Arts

**THU, SEPT 18  
1 PM**

## THE CINEMATHEQUE

In-person screening for school groups only.

### Event runtime:

132 min

Followed by a post-screening Q&A with Out In Schools.

## ONLINE

SEPT 22-28



# SHORTS: FAMILY'S A DRAG

**FRI, SEPT 19  
3 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Event runtime:**  
109 min

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**ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

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A heartwarming and playful collection of short films celebrating self-expression, big feelings, and the families who (surprisingly) show up with love. From dress-up adventures and school play dreams, to chosen family, drag magic, and daring to be yourself—these stories remind us that being true to who you are is always worth braving the spotlight.

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Followed by a free workshop for youth. See online for details.



## THE REVEAL

**Jackie Hoffart | Canada | 2025 | 14 min**  
English with captions

An upcoming gender reveal party has Stevie grappling with how to tell their family about their own gender journey. Winner: Crazy8s Film Society Top 6.



## IMMATURE

**Eddy Wu | Taiwan, Netherlands | 2024**  
6 min | Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles

An abstract, animated documentary exploring our relationship to our bodies and what it means to feel at home in your body.



## INTO THE BLOO

**Austin Nunes | United States | 2024**  
15 min | English and Spanish with English subtitles

Follow drag artist and rising country music star Lagoon Bloo as she prepares for her biggest show yet and opens up about family, love, loss, grief, acceptance, and becoming who you were meant to be.



## GRAND DANDY (FOR EZRA)

**The Campbells | United States, United Kingdom | 2024 | 4 min | English with captions**

A tender, stop-motion short based on a poem written by a real-life nonbinary grandparent to their young grandson sharing their queer identity, and celebrating everyday joy and their love for one another.



## WAIT, WAIT, NOW!

**Ramon Te Wake | New Zealand | 2025**  
12 min | English with captions

When best friends Alex and Sam are left home alone for the night, they do what all teenage boys do: raid mum's wardrobe, play dress up, and create a fantasy world where they feel safe and accepted! Little do they know—the parents are on to them.



## THE PLEATS OF THE SKIRT (LOS PLIEGUES DE LA FALDA)

**Blanca Muñoz Ávila | Colombia | 2025**  
20 min | Spanish with English subtitles

When Linda is offered the lead “male” role in the school play “The Ugly Duckling”, her father tries to forbid it while her mother Maria decides to help her, even if it means swimming against the tide.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

# OUT IN SCHOOLS & TROUBLEMAKERS 9.0

SUN, SEPT 14, 5:30 PM

SFU - DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA

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Event runtime: 126 min

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ONLINE SEPT 22-28

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## OUT IN SCHOOLS: BRIDGING AND BUILDING WORLDS



Did you know that VQFF has a sibling program that brings 2SLGBTQIA+ films and dialogue to schools and communities all across BC? The **Out In Schools** team is back to share an abridged version of our Beyond Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) presentation with curious VQFF audiences! This special presentation will precede the Troublemakers screening and set the stage for understanding the importance of positive 2SLGBTQIA+ representation.

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# TROUBLEMAKERS 9.0



The intergenerational film project Troublemakers returns to the big screen for the ninth year! **Reel Youth** and **Out On Screen** present three new films by youth filmmakers documenting the lives of local queer elder “troublemakers” who inspire us through their advocacy and lived experiences. This screening will be followed by a Q&A with the elder troublemakers, youth filmmakers, and program facilitators.

## QUEERING THE WORLD

Featuring: Stephen Joyce  
Created by: Misha Avdeyev, Vitória Martins, Izzy Little

## I AM WHO I AM. FOR THAT, I AM.

Featuring: Sandy-Leo Laframboise  
Created by: Zay Williams, Bennett Ho, Ayden Holmes

## TITO GARY

Featuring: Gary Lising  
Created by: Ariel Paikin, Michael Brooks, Frances Borja, Emerson Cleary

## PROGRAM FACILITATORS

Lia Peralta  
Mark Vonesch

## MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

Storyhive  
BC Arts Council  
City of Vancouver  
SFU School for Contemporary Arts

WORLD

PREMIERE

# AMANTES



**FRI, SEPT 12**  
**6:15 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**ONLINE**

SEPT 22-28

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**Content notes:**

Contains flashing  
lights and sexually  
explicit content.

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**Caroline Fournier | France | 2025 | 112 min**  
**French with English subtitles**

**AMANTES** explores the tangled contradictory nature of contemporary queer relationships through the lives of a close group of friends and lovers. Musician Nour falls headlong into a passionate new romance with Camille who wants to slow things down; Laura shakes up her throuple with Rebecca and Ophélie by proposing they start a family together, stirring up both hope and tension; meanwhile, psychologist Gabrielle struggles with feelings of neglect as her workaholic partner Ruby pulls away.

Rooted in romantic, platonic, and polyamorous bonds, this sexy, dramatic comedy unpacks vulnerability, desire, and the complexities of making love and life work in unconventional ways.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# MOVE YA BODY: THE BIRTH OF HOUSE



**Elegance Bratton | United States | 2024 | 87 min**  
English with captions

**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**12:15 PM**

**Move Ya Body: The Birth of House** traces the origins of house music through the life of Vince Lawrence, who recorded the first house track following the infamous racist attack of “Disco Demolition Night” in 1979 Chicago. For Vince, the same oppressive forces that tried to silence disco, and later house, sought to confine him as a young Black man living in a segregated city.

Blending archival footage, re-creations, and interviews director Elegance Bratton explores how house music emerged as both cultural expression and political resistance—born in defiantly, joyfully queer, Black, and brown spaces. The film affirms the origins of house in a radical movement of joy, unity, and defiance. Centering Black bodies in motion as resistance, **Move Ya Body** captures house music’s evolution from its roots as an underground movement to the global phenomenon it has become today.

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**

Depicts graphic violence, racism and racial slurs.

VANCOUVER

PREMIERE

# REALLY HAPPY SOMEDAY



**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**12:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**

Depicts needles, smoking, drinking, and substance use, swearing and strong language, nudity, and sexually explicit content.

**J Stevens | Canada | 2024 | 90 min | English with captions**

Set in Toronto's vibrant theatre scene, **Really Happy Someday** follows Z, a trans-masculine performer navigating the shifting terrain of his identity, voice, and artistic passions. As he strives to find harmony between who he was and who he is becoming, Z is buoyed by a circle of support: his vocal coach, his partner, and a kind bar owner who help him rediscover the music within.

Jointly penned by director J Stevens and lead actor Breton Lalama, this intimate, deeply personal film resonates with authenticity, offering a moving meditation on resilience, self-expression, and queer joy.



# VANCOUVER TO THE MOON PREMIERE



**Kevin Hartford | Canada | 2024 | 85 min | English  
with captions**

A heartwarming, offbeat comedy about love, self-discovery, and the beautiful mess of growing up—at any age. Sam (Jacob Sampson), a closeted single dad on the cusp of an empty nest, is trying to figure out what's next for himself, while his savvy teen daughter Ella (Phoebe Rex) keeps things in check. When their eccentric new neighbour Claire (Amy Groenig) arrives on the scene, their lives begin to intertwine in surprising and delightful ways.

With sharp humor and tender moments—and dancing—director Kevin Hartford, joined by celebrated Halifax producer Thom Fitzgerald (*Cloudburst*, *The Hanging Garden*), delivers a winsome story full of heart, hope, and the unexpected rhythms of connection.

**SAT, SEPT 13  
2:45 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**ONLINE  
SEPT 22-28**

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# BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE OUTERLANDS



**SAT, SEPT 13  
3:15 PM**

## INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

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### Content notes:

Depicts smoking, drinking, and substance use, strobe or flashing lights, sexually explicit content.

**Elena Oxman | United States | 2025 | 100 min  
English with captions**

In the margins of San Francisco, nonbinary gig worker Cass unexpectedly finds themselves caring for the child of a casual hook-up. When this small favour turns into a greater responsibility than Cass is used to, they are forced to reckon with the past they've tried to outrun.

Quietly powerful and emotionally layered, director Elena Oxman's feature debut is a raw and nuanced portrayal of what it takes to care for a young person while healing your own inner child. Featuring an outstanding lead performance by Asia Kate Dillon (*Billions*, *Orange Is the New Black*). **Outerlands** premiered at SXSW 2025.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# STARWALKER



**Corey Payette** | Canada | 2025 | 116 mins | English  
with captions

Star (Dillan Chiblow), a lonesome Indigiqueer Two-Spirit call boy, discovers a new sense of purpose in the vibrant world of drag after being welcomed into The House of Borealis led by charismatic matriarch Mother (Stewart Adam McKensy). As Star immerses themselves in this chosen family and embraces their artistry, they reconnect with a long-buried cultural identity—and resurface painful memories. Star leans on a new connection Levi (Jeffrey Follis) and their drag sisters to transform grief into power, emerging as Starwalker, a fierce fusion of ancestral spirit and unapologetic self-expression.

Screening at VQFF in its hometown premiere, musical drama **Starwalker** is written, directed, and composed by Oji-Cree theatre veteran and filmmaker Corey Payette of the Indigenous-focused theatre company Urban Ink. Payette takes this universal story of self-discovery and acceptance to dazzling musical heights with sensational drag numbers and original music, shot in the familiar streets of East Van.

**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**5:15 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

Followed by a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers.

**ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

**Content notes:**  
Contains flashing lights, and depictions of death or dying, swearing and strong language.



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

# WHERE YOU FIND ME (OBEN OHNE)



**SAT, SEPT 13  
6 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

**ONLINE**

SEPT 22-28



**Content notes:**

Depicts graphic violence and physical abuse, nudity, flashing lights, blood, death, sexually explicit content, medical procedures, miscarriage, abortion, transphobia and trans misogyny, smoking, drinking and substance abuse.

**Willi Andrick, Juan Bermúdez, Isis Rampf, Anna Schröder | Germany | 2025 | 79 mins | German and English with English subtitles**

Alex, a trans-femme nightclub manager, faces public scrutiny while preparing for parenthood with her pregnant partner. Meanwhile, Beatrice, a successful gynecologist, grapples with whether to have an abortion while caring for a dying loved one. The two women's paths converge unexpectedly, intersecting in and around the charged space of a queer nightclub. Together, their stories explore bodily autonomy, queer kinship, and the quiet resilience needed to navigate life-altering choices.

Rooted in real-life cases and informed by activist voices, this boldly queer feminist drama centres queer bodies, identities, and experiences in a deeply human exploration of what it means to claim ownership over one's own body.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# SAUNA



**Mathias Broe | Denmark | 2025 | 105 min | Danish, English, and Swedish with English subtitles**

Johan, a young gay man in Copenhagen, spends his days working at Adonis, the only gay sauna in the city, and his nights in a blur of parties and fleeting encounters. To him, the city is a playground of desire. Everything shifts when he meets William, a transgender gay man whose quiet confidence and depth open Johan to a newfound desire for intimacy and connection. As their relationship blossoms, Johan and William must balance private desire and public perception. Introducing each other into their respective worlds proves far from simple, as prejudices—both subtle and overt—challenge their bond at every turn.

Through its bold storytelling and emotional honesty, **SAUNA** challenges rigid ideas about queerness and sexuality, offering a deeply honest and human portrait of vulnerability, desire, and the transformative power of love.

**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**8:15 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**

Depicts sexually explicit content and nudity.

CANADIAN

PREMIERE

## BETWEEN

## GOODBYES



**SUN, SEPT 14**  
**12:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

**ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

**Content notes:**

Depicts death or dying, and swearing and strong language.

**Jota Mun | United States, South Korea | 2024**  
**96 min | English, Korean, and Dutch with English subtitles**

**BETWEEN GOODBYES** is an intimate and insightful documentary centred around Mieke, a queer Korean adoptee raised in the Netherlands, and her birth mother Okgyun who was forced to give her up under South Korea's harsh one-child policy and the pressures of social stigma and financial hardship. Six years after her emotional reunion with her birth mother, Mieke returns to Seoul with her wife to celebrate their marriage—an occasion filled with joy and shadowed by decades of separation. As they navigate love, loss, and cultural gaps, mother and daughter confront the lasting impacts of international adoption.

In a heartfelt and deeply personal directorial debut, director Jota Mun, a Korean adoptee herself, expands the adoptee documentary far beyond the drama of initial reunion. **BETWEEN GOODBYES** tenderly explores the enduring individual journeys of reconciliation, identity, and belonging for adoptees, as well as the decades-spanning historic legacy of South Korea's international adoption program which saw over 200,000 children sent abroad between 1950 and 2020.





# A PLACE WHERE I BELONG



**Rheanna Toy | Canada | 2025 | 67 min | English with captions**

Amy, Alison, Lyle, Noah, and Brian are each on unique journeys of love, acceptance, self-empowerment, and family but share a common experience as 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals with intellectual disabilities. They are also all a part of Connecting Queer Communities (CQC), a social group for 2SLGBTQIA+ people with intellectual disabilities to connect with each other and the broader queer community in the Lower Mainland. As each person finds safety and solidarity within CQC, they navigate a range of experiences from the joys of coming out to dealing with family rejection.

With CQC's future in peril due to funding challenges, **A PLACE WHERE I BELONG** shines an urgent light on the unique challenges at the intersection of disability and 2SLGBTQIA+ justice, and serves as a powerful reminder that everyone deserves to find a place where they belong. World Premiering at VQFF 2025, director Rheanna Toy's feature documentary debut is a moving portrait of queer and disabled resilience in our local community and a call to action to create true inclusion.

**SUN, SEPT 14  
2:30 PM**

## INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

Followed by a post-screening Q&A with special guests and drag performances.

### Content notes:

Contains strobe or flashing lights, and discussions of mental illness and ableism, sexual assault, child abuse/pedophilia/incest, transphobia and trans misogyny, and homophobia.



CANADIAN

PREMIERE

# SUMMER'S (여름의 카메라)

# CAMERA



**SUN, SEPT 14**  
**2:45 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

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**Divine Sung | South Korea | 2024 | 82 mins**  
**Korean with English subtitles**

"Whenever I see you, I hear the shutter click..."

Summer is a young high school student mourning her late father with whom she shares a love of photography and capturing fleeting moments. When she becomes fascinated by Yeonwoo, a standout on the girls' soccer team, a spontaneous photograph sets off a subtle unraveling.

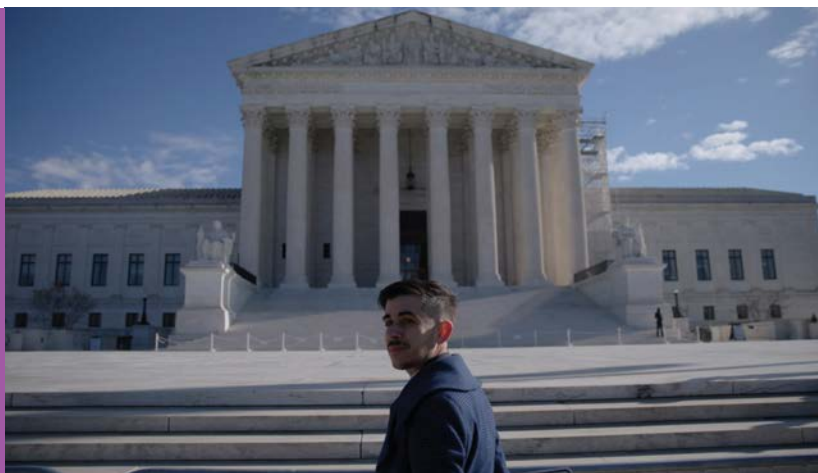
Poetic and gently mysterious, **Summer's Camera (여름의 카메라)** is a tender meditation on memory, first crushes, and the invisible threads of intergenerational queerness.





BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY



**SUN, SEPT 14  
6 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**

Depicts transphobia  
and trans misogyny.

**Sam Feder | United States | 2025 | 81 mins**  
**English with captions**

From the director and team behind the award-winning Netflix documentary *DISCLOSURE* (2020) comes **Heightened Scrutiny**, a searing, urgent portrait of trans resistance in a time of escalating attacks on trans healthcare, safety, and dignity. The film follows Chase Strangio, an ACLU attorney and the first known trans person to argue before the Supreme Court, as he fights a high-stakes legal battle to overturn Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care for transgender youth (*United States v. Skrmetti*).

Featuring expert insights from journalists such as Jelani Cobb, Lydia Polgreen, and Gina Chua, and trans activists like Laverne Cox and Elliot Page, **Heightened Scrutiny** exposes the dangerous role mainstream media plays in fueling anti-trans legislation and threatening democratic processes. Set before the devastating Supreme Court decision to allow bans on lifesaving care for trans youth, the film is a snapshot of the moment before the fall as well as a beacon from the near past to carry on the fight for justice.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# QUEERPANORAMA

(眾生相)



**Jun Li | Hong Kong, United States, China | 2025**  
**87 mins | Mandarin, English, Persian, and Thai**  
**with English subtitles**

In this provocative, black-and-white drama from director Jun Li (*Tracey, Drifting*), a nameless young gay man drifts through the homes and arms of strangers in Hong Kong, assuming the personas of each successive lover—an actor, a teacher, a delivery man—in an effort to find something real. Portrayed by newcomer Jayden Cheung with a raw intensity, the film's protagonist begins to lose grip on reality as he slips from hookup to hookup, persona to persona, in a city obsessed with performance and superficiality.

Premiering at Berlinale 2025 and in competition for the Teddy Award, **QUEERPANORAMA (眾生相)** is a bold and dark meditation on intimacy, identity, and the masks we wear. Beneath the film's erotic charge lies a deeper inquiry about what it means to be truly seen.

**SUN, SEPT 14**  
**8:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**

Depicts sexually explicit content, nudity, racism and racial slurs.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# THE NATURE OF INVISIBLE THINGS (A NATUREZA DAS COISAS INVISIVÉIS)



**SAT, SEPT 20  
1 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

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**Content notes:**  
Depicts death and  
dying.

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**Rafaela Camelo | Brazil, Chile | 2025 | 91 min**  
**Portuguese with English subtitles**

10-year-old Gloria is spending her summer among patients at the hospital where her mother works long shifts as a nurse. One day, she meets Sofia, a curious, imaginative girl who believes the hospital is slowly draining her great-grandmother's spirit. As their newfound friendship blossoms in hidden corners and quiet moments, reality begins to shimmer with the surreal. Guided by wonder and a shared bond, the girls imagine a world beyond the hospital. Both families journey to the countryside to find closure at the end of an unforgettable summer.

With a lyrical blend of magical realism and emotional clarity, director Rafaela Camelo crafts a deeply moving portrait of childhood, identity, and the unseen bonds that tether us. Winner of the Outstanding Feature Award at the 2025 Frameline Film Festival in San Francisco, **The Nature of Invisible Things (A Natureza das coisas invisíveis)** is a beautiful story where our invisible grief, courage, and transformation come gently into view.

# THE LIBRARIANS



**Kim A. Snyder | United States | 2025 | 92 min**  
**English with captions**

As an unprecedented wave of racist and anti-2SLGBTQIA+ book bans rips through the United States, librarians join forces to defend intellectual freedom and targeted communities. As tensions escalate, a nationwide coalition of librarians comes together to lay bare the underpinnings of the white Christian nationalism fueling these censorship efforts. Despite facing harassment, threats, and laws aimed at criminalizing their work, the librarians unite under a rallying cry for the freedom to read.

Peabody Award winner and Academy Award nominee Kim A. Snyder (*Newtown*, *Us Kids*, 2025 Oscar-nominated *Death By Numbers*) takes us to the front lines where these knowledge-keepers emerge as first responders in the fight for democracy and free access to information. **The Librarians**, which World Premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, reminds us that we have powerful allies everywhere.

**SAT, SEPT 20**  
**1:15 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
 VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**

Discussions of homophobia, transphobia, and racism.

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CANADIAN

PREMIERE

# THE LAST FIRST TIME

(EL FIN DE LAS PRIMERAS VECES)



**SAT, SEPT 20**  
**4 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**

Depicts smoking, drinking, and substance use, strobe or flashing lights, sexually explicit content, nudity.

**Rafael Ruíz Espejo | Mexico | 2024 | 76 mins**  
**Spanish with English subtitles**

When 18-year-old Eduardo leaves his small town for Guadalajara to take a university entrance exam, the city opens up to him in unexpected ways. In just one day, chance meetings and unfamiliar feelings blur the line between innocence and awakening.

**The Last First Time (El fin de las primeras veces)** is a tender, emotionally charged coming-of-age journey that captures that dizzying first taste of freedom, the rush of fleeting connections, and the bittersweet beauty of growing up.



# From our stage to the screen.

Proudly championing queer artists at  
VQFF and beyond.

# Langara.

ᑭᓐ ᐱᓐ ᐱᓐ ᐱᓐ ᐱᓐ | at Musqueam



# OUTLIERS AND OUTLAWS + BECAUSE OF YOU: A HISTORY OF KILAWIN KOLEKTIBO

SUN, SEPT 21  
12:30 PM

INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE

ONLINE  
SEPT 22-28



**Content notes:** Depicts nudity, sexism and misogyny, homophobia, and racism.



**Because of You: A History of Kilawin Kolektibo (Dahil Sa 'Yo: Ang Storya Ng Kilawin Kolektibo) | Barbara Malaran, Desireena Almoradie | United States | 2025 | 41 min | English and Tagalog with English subtitles**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE** Joyful, raw, and revolutionary, **Because of You** unearths the vibrant history of Kilawin Kolektibo—a pioneering collective of queer Filipinx's who carved out space for love, protest, and belonging in 1990s New York. Blending decades of archival footage with intimate reflection, this powerful documentary explores chosen family, political resistance, and the enduring impact of creating home between cultures.





**Outliers and Outlaws | Courtney Hermann | United States | 2024 | 65 mins**  
**English with captions**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE** With the dream of escaping to an idyllic lesbian community, hundreds of women and lesbian couples descended upon the small town of Eugene, Oregon in droves in the 1960s to 1990s in search of a life and community free from the constraints of patriarchy, misogyny, and homophobia. Through intimate archival footage and endearing interviews with the now-elders that lived this history, **Outliers and Outlaws** reveals the untold story of this large, vibrant lesbian community.

Part of the Eugene Lesbian History Project, this film not only documents a unique local history, but also affirms the profound liberatory possibilities of daring to imagine—and to try to build—a world that uplifts love between and among women. Directed by veteran documentarian Courtney Hermann and featuring music by Dolly Parton.

# WE ARE PAT



**SUN, SEPT 21**  
**12:45 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**RELAXED SCREENING**

Learn more on p. 29

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**Content notes:**

Discusses self-harm and suicide, transphobia and trans misogyny, and homophobia and heterosexism.

**Rowan Haber | United States | 2025 | 92 min**  
**English with captions**

“At ten years old, I didn’t know why I was fixated on a bizarre 90s sketch comedy character. I just knew something about Pat felt familiar, unnerving, and oddly comforting. Years later, I realized the punchline wasn’t about me—it was me.”

Nonbinary filmmaker Rowan Haber revisits the *Saturday Night Live* sketch “It’s Pat”—their first glimpse of androgynous possibility—and examines its complicated legacy in this laugh-out-loud documentary. How has the sketch aged? How has our culture shifted? Can a problematic character be redeemed and reimagined? **We Are Pat** explores these questions and more, tracing the evolution of gender representation in comedy and media from the cultural anxieties of the 90s to the double-edged sword of trans visibility in the present day.

The film invites a stacked cast of trans and nonbinary comedians including Murray Hill, James Tom, Ally Beardsley, Sabrina Wu, and Roz Hernandez to rewrite and reimagine the original Pat sketches, reclaiming the character as a site of radical trans joy.

# PRIDE & PRAYER



**Panta Mosleh | Canada | 2025 | 62 mins | English and Persian with English subtitles**

Torn between devotion and identity, filmmaker Panta Mosleh embarks on a soul-searching journey to reconcile her queerness with her Muslim faith. Through raw conversations, moments of solitude, and spiritual questioning, she invites us into a deeply personal quest for belonging—where love, belief, and selfhood collide in a moving meditation on what it means to live between worlds.

**SUN, SEPT 21  
3:15 PM**

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## INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

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Followed by a post-screening Q&A with special guests.

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**ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

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### Content notes:

Discussions of homophobia, sexual content, death, and violence.

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# ROW OF LIFE



**SUN, SEPT 21  
3:15 PM**

## INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

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Followed by a post-screening Q&A with special guests.

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### **Content notes:**

Depictions of death or dying.

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**Soraya Simi | United States | 2025 | 82 min  
English with captions**

In a daring voyage spanning 2,400 miles of open ocean, Paralympic medalist and 16-time world-record-holder Angela Madsen set out in 2020 on her most ambitious journey yet: to row alone and unassisted across the Pacific from Los Angeles to Hawaii.

Told through tender letters and breathtaking footage, this lyrical documentary is as much a harrowing hero's journey as it is a tragic love story between Madsen and her wife Deb, two women separated by a vast ocean who supported each other's dreams even as they drifted toward tragedy.



# BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# THE NEST



**Chase Joynt, Julietta Singh | Canada | 2025  
89 min | English and Japanese with English  
subtitles**

When her mother decides to sell their house, decolonial writer Julietta Singh returns to her childhood home on the Assiniboine River to say goodbye. As Singh listens to the stories embedded in its walls, the house reveals 140 years of overlooked histories—Japanese, Deaf, Métis, Indigenous, and Irish women whose lives, like Singh's, were shaped by resistance and care. In this genre-defying, cross-community film, the home becomes more than a personal archive, transforming into a site of radical feminist possibility.

Weaving the metaphor of a “nest” as both sanctuary and layered history, **The Nest** connects Singh's fraught upbringing to a legacy of matriarchs and activists, building bridges across time, identity, and silence.

**SUN, SEPT 21  
5:45 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Content notes:**  
Discussions of  
death or dying, and  
racism.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# RAINS OVER BABEL

(LLUEVE SOBRE BABEL)



**SUN, SEPT 21**  
**8:15 PM**

**Gala del Sol | Colombia, United States, Spain**  
**2025 | 111 min | Spanish with English subtitles**

## INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

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### **Content notes:**

Depicts smoking,  
drinking, and  
substance use, and  
death.

In this tropical-punk fantasy, purgatory takes the form of a dive bar called Babel, where the living and dead converge under the watch of La Flaca, the city's Grim Reaper. Here, souls can gamble precious years of their lives with Death herself. A group of misfits confronts their pasts and dare to roll the dice.

This bold and stylish reimagining of Dante's *Inferno* is filmmaker Gala del Sol's feature debut. With dark humor, lush visuals, and rebellious spirit, **Rains Over Babel (Llueve Sobre Babel)** explores what it means to risk everything to reclaim the parts of yourself you thought were lost forever.



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SHORTS

# SCREAMING, CRYING, LAUGHING

**FRI, SEPT 12  
9:15 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Event runtime:**

114 min

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**PARTIALLY ONLINE**

SEPT 22-28

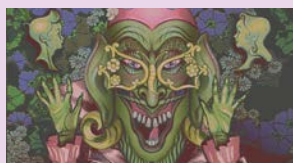
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Horror and sci-fi shorts that find humour in the frightening, existential, and strange. From lonely rodent girls and claymation space adventures, sissy devils and murderous revenge fantasies—these films explore the inherent queerness and camp of the horror and sci-fi genres.

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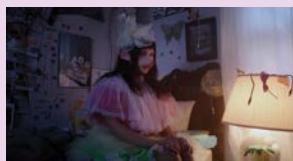
**Content notes:** Depicts smoking, drinking, and substance abuse, death or dying, swearing and strong language, graphic violence and physical abuse, blood, and homophobia.



## HANDSOME DEVIL

**Daniel Barrow | Canada | 2024 | 5 min**  
English with captions

Using Amiga software from the late 80s, Daniel Barrow creates a romantic pink and green universe where “sissy devils” probe antiquated search engines and artists swipe right on imaginary dating apps.



## RAT+CAMMIE=FOREVER

**Marissa Sean Cruz | Canada | 2025 | 12 min**  
English with captions

Two strangers connect through the BetterHell App and bond over their fears and unrealized dreams. When a paywall threatens their relationship, they risk everything to meet—in real life.

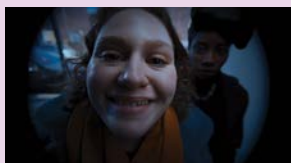




## CAT SITTERS

Claren Grosz | Canada | 2024 | 11 min  
English and Spanish with English subtitles

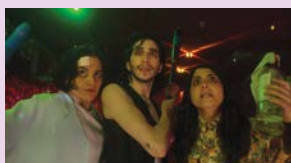
To survive a night of cat-sitting, just remember you are never truly alone...



## HOUSE HUNTERS

Joe Warner | United Kingdom | 2024 | 11 min  
English with captions

In a nightmare housing market, a lesbian couple must come to terms with a cold-blooded real estate agent and the high cost of living.



## LAST CALL

Tricia Hagariles | Canada | 2025 | 10 min  
English and Spanish with English subtitles

Zombies descend on a queer bar where a lesbian couple have met to say goodbye and a battle-worn bartender is just trying to make it through another shift.



## ORGANZA'S REVENGE

Walter Scott | Canada | 2024 | 20 min  
English with captions

In a distant galaxy, starving artist Organza blasts off on a revenge mission against her ex-lover, meeting cyborg pop stars and cosmic chaos along the way. A deliriously camp, stop-motion space opera.



## DIE BULLY DIE

Nathan Lacey, Nick Lacey | Australia  
2024 | 16 min | English with captions

In this award-winning comedic horror, things take a twisted turn when Max goes to dinner with his high school bully Adam.

SHORTS

# THROUGH OUR KALEIDOSCOPE

**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**8:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Event runtime:**  
120 min

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**PARTIALLY ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

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CO-PRESENTED WITH THE VANCOUVER LATIN  
AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

---

Absurd, diverse, abstract, and profound—**Through Our Kaleidoscope** celebrates a bold new wave of queer Latin American cinema. Featuring different genres, visual styles, and themes, these films each break new ground in queer storytelling.

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**Content notes:** Contains flashing lights, and depicts sexually explicit content, graphic violence, smoking, drinking, and substance abuse, and death or dying.

---



**I LOVE YOU I LOVE YOU I LOVE YOU (...)**  
(EUTEAMO EUTEAMO EUTEAMO (...))

**Boy Pretty | Brazil | 2024 | 4 min | Portuguese  
and English with English subtitles**

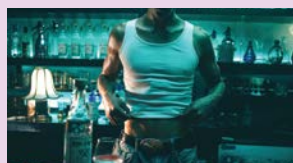
In this mock-film trailer, a trans nonbinary couple decide to get married, defying societal norms in an upside down world.



**MDB**

**Mila Aquilia | Argentina | 2025 | 19 min**  
**Spanish with English subtitles**

Summer of 2005 in Mar del Plata. 14-year-old Pilar and her family spend their afternoons at a spa, where she meets Camila and first love blossoms in secret.



**QUERIDA**

**Santiago Sierra Soler | Mexico | 2024**  
**6 min | Spanish with English subtitles**

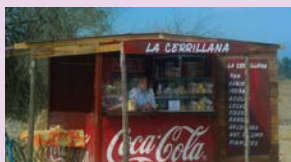
The cards show the past, present and future. In **Querida**, it all comes down to bravery for a young man in search of his sexual identity.



## EXEMPT (EXENTO)

Otto Morales | Cuba | 2024 | 15 min | Spanish with English subtitles

An intimate experimental meditation on gay cruising in Havana, Cuba.



## LA CERRILLANA

Andrea Urquiola | Argentina | 2023 | 14 min | Spanish with English subtitles

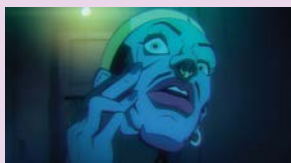
**WORLD PREMIERE** When a young trans man visits her kiosk on the side of the road, a mother learns to understand and unconditionally love her trans teenage child.



## CATARATAS

Francisco Bendorir | Argentina | 2024 | 6 min | Spanish with English subtitles

It's New Year's Eve and Catalina is waiting for her girlfriend to pick her up when fireworks change the course of their encounter.



## DEVIL'S BEACON (LUZ DIABLA)

Gervasio Canda, Paula Boffo, Patricio Plaza | Canada, Argentina | 2024 | 11 min | Spanish with English subtitles

In the Argentine Pampas, a young raver is entangled in a strange car accident on the way to a party he can't seem to escape.



## ¡SALSA!

Antonina Kerguelén Román | Colombia | 2024 | 14 min | Spanish with English subtitles

A woman seeking freedom from her life meets a deaf tourist at a seaside bar. Through music and movement, they find common ground.

SHORTS

# TEASE ME, PLEASE ME

**SUN, SEPT 14**  
**8:45 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Event runtime:**

122 min

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**PARTIALLY ONLINE**

SEPT 22-28

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This provocative collection of shorts dives headfirst into the pleasures, politics, and power of queer sexuality. From strip clubs to saunas, backrooms to fantasy realms, these films explore kink, consent, revenge, ritual, and transformation with fearless sensuality. Blending eroticism with radical self-expression, this lineup celebrates bodies in motion, unapologetic queer desire, and the beautifully messy freedom of choosing your own way to love, fuck, and exist.

---

**Content notes:** Contains flashing lights and depicts nudity, sexually explicit content, sexual assault, smoking, drinking and substance use, swearing and strong language



## **HOW A RIVER IS BORN** (COMO NASCE UM RIO)

**Luma Flôres | Brazil | 2025 | 9 min**  
**No dialogue**

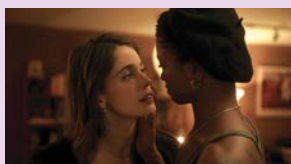
In this sensual animation, a person convenes with Mother Earth, caressing her peaks and valleys and diving into her rivers.



## **UNDERGROUND MORPHOLOGY** (MORFOLOGÍA UNDERGROUND)

**Sidka S. Vera | Argentina, Chile | 2025**  
**13 min | Spanish with English subtitles**

While documenting Buenos Aires' vibrant club culture, a filmmaker embarks on their own gender journey, confronting and challenging normative expectations of self-expression.



## M

**Christina Burchard | United States | 2024**  
**9 min | English with captions**

In this psychosexual film, two women explore power dynamics in their new relationship.



## NOT ENOUGH HANDS

**John Bergerhausen | Germany | 2024**  
**9 min | English with captions**

Dark rooms. Glowing whirlpools. Steamy seduction. Descend into a gay sauna in the centre of Cologne.



## PEPPERMINT DIESEL 20%

**Mariangela Pluchino | Finland | 2024**  
**15 min | English with captions**

After a long day on set, Liboria and Claudia stop at a deserted gas station and accidentally fill their van with the wrong fuel. Their unorthodox solution ignites a tense unraveling of memory, fear, and vengeance.



## NEVER FULLY NAKED

**Laurence Bidal-Pouliot | Canada | 2024**  
**7 min | English with captions**

While getting ready for their shift at a Montreal stripclub, three friends discuss the nuances of sex work and how their job informs their relationship to gender, sexuality, and their bodies.

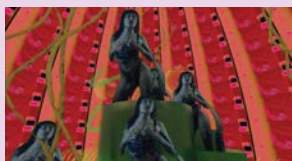
**Continued on the next page.**



## SCORPIONIKAS- COUNTERMANIFESTO (ESCORPIÔNİKAS- CONTRAMANIFIESTO)

**Bruna Kury, Nisha Platzer, Matheus Mello**  
Spain, Brazil, Canada | 2025 | 13 min | Spanish  
and Portuguese with English subtitles

Weaving performances, interviews, and archival footage into a radical (anti-)manifesto; **Scorpionikas-countermanifesto** follows trans women, sex workers, and racialized voices as they confront colonial and patriarchal systems.



## RED LIGHT GREEN

**Eva Wu** | United States, Germany | 2025  
7 min | English with captions

A hypnotic, sensual 3D animation and love letter to the parents who tried their best, and their children who surpassed them in daring to love more boldly.



## REPORT FROM THE INTERIOR

**Lucas Crawford** | Canada | 2025 | 4 min  
English with captions

Trans love and kink find its rhythm in this “animated pop-poetic incantation for weirdo intimacy.”



## THE EATING OF AN ORANGE

**May Kindred-Boothby** | United Kingdom  
2024 | 7 min | English with captions

In a large manor full of lifeless, identical figures, the sensory discovery of an orange draws one woman into a surreal realm, challenging her to choose between conformity and a new way of being.

# YOU IGNITE CHANGE. WE BRING THE SPARK.

THE QUEEN  
OF MY DREAMS

SUMMER QAMP

UNUSUALLY NORMAL

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# THE COAST IS QUEER

**FRI, SEPT 19**  
**6:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**  
126 min

**PARTIALLY ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28



**The Coast is Queer** celebrates love, legacy, and liberation in BC through the lens of local 2SLGBTQIA+ storytellers. Watch young love sprout in hidden corners, daring elders and land defenders cultivate sanctuaries, and queer culture bloom. With themes of belonging, land, memory, and first desire, these local shorts reflect a city where queer stories take root, grow, and thrive.

Followed by a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers and **The Coast is Queer Reception** (p. 88).

**Content notes:** Contains flashing lights, and depicts graphic violence and physical abuse, mental illness and ableism, swearing and strong language, smoking, drinking, and substance abuse.



## THE PALACE

**Lauren Marsden | Canada | 2025 | 9 min**  
**English with captions**

**WORLD PREMIERE** At a secret forest hideout, suburban teen Dani meets up with her crush Jayde, only to discover an otherworldly presence has joined them.



## RAMEN BOYS

**Jason Sakaki | Canada | 2024 | 13 min**  
**English with captions**

A first crush turns into a first kiss when shy teen Kevin finally connects with the charming lifeguard he's long admired from afar, sparking an unforgettable summer.

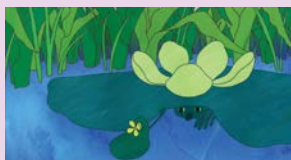




## FOREST ECHOES

Eva Grant | Canada | 2024 | 18 min | English  
with captions

A queer urban Indigenous couple resettle in Victoria and heal through love in a time of climate crisis and the opioid epidemic.



## LITTLE LAKE

Lia Fabre-Dimsdale | Canada | 2024 | 4 min  
No dialogue

An adventurous young lily pad encounters death for the first time when they find a dead fish at the bottom of the pond.



## PHRANC: THE BUTCH CLOSET

Paige Gratland | Canada | 2025 | 21 min  
English with captions

Artist and musician Phranc reflects on her new exhibition The Butch Closet—a multi-disciplinary installation spanning 40 years of her life as a queer, gender-nonconforming artist and performer.



## JEEZ LOUISE

Ana AJ Jimenez | Canada | 2025 | 4 min  
English with captions

**WORLD PREMIERE** A devout Catholic teen makes a steamy confession—and her irreverent, sex-positive classmate overhears it.



## BURCU'S ANGELS

Özgün Gündüz | Canada | 2025 | 20 min  
English and Turkish with English subtitles

For over 30 years, Turkish elder Burcu Özdemir has offered 2SLGBTQIA+ people a place to belong. More than a vintage store, Burcu's Angels is a vibrant sanctuary in the heart of Vancouver.

SHORTS

# FAMILY: SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

**SAT, SEPT 20  
3:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

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**Event runtime:**  
129 min

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**PARTIALLY ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

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Chosen, blood-bound, estranged, or reconciled: love finds a way home in this tender collection of shorts exploring family in its many forms. Across generations and geographies, these stories trace how queer and trans people negotiate tradition, faith, and belonging with humour, heartbreak, and hard-won healing.

---

**Content notes:** Depicts transphobia and trans misogyny, homophobia and heterosexism, death or dying, psychological or verbal abuse.



## GRANDMA NAI WHO PLAYED FAVORITES (CHAO SOMNOP CHET)

**Chheangkea | Cambodia, France, United States | 2024 | 19 min | Central Khmer with English subtitles**

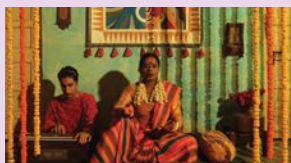
It's Qingming (Tomb Sweeping Day), and Grandma Nai follows her big, bickering family out of the cemetery after hearing her grandson is getting engaged...to a woman.



## A KIN SIN

**Gulzar G. | Canada | 2024 | 6 min | English and Hindi with English subtitles**

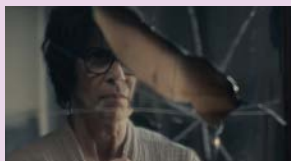
A young adult reflects on their transness while navigating cultural and parental hopes. Shot on 16mm, this documentary asks: what does love look like when it doesn't appear as expected?



## **JALSA - THE NAME DAY**

**Saikat Mondal | India | 2024 | 23 min | Hindi with English subtitles**

Two siblings reunite after years apart, accompanied by kinnars, mythical beings known for their androgynous beauty and musical talent.



## **AS IF ONCE AGAIN (ENCORE DÉSOLÉ)**

**Mert Er | France | 2024 | 8 min | French with English subtitles**

While caring for his mother with Alzheimer's, Guillaume shares old photographs that trigger memories, forcing him to confront her painful reactions to his sexuality.



## **NUN'S BEACH**

**Kate diRienzi | United States | 2024 | 13 min English with captions**

When introduced to her fellow nun's family, Sister Flora questions her romantic relationship with Sister Muriel and her devotion to God.



## **QUEEN MOTHER (INANG REYNA)**

**King Louie Palomo | Canada | 2024 | 14 min English and Tagalog with English subtitles**

A drag queen's loving Filipino mother is helping them prepare for a performance when the conversation veers into vulnerable territory. Together, they unpack the layers of unspoken grief in their family history.



## **HOLY CURSE**

**Snigdha Kapoor | India, United States 15 min | English and Hindi with English subtitles**

While visiting their family in India, 11-year-old Radha battles with family members who believe that an ancestral curse is the cause of Radha's non-conforming gender identity.

SHORTS

# FOR A GOOD CRY

**SUN, SEPT 21**  
**5:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**  
142 min

**PARTIALLY ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28



Grieving is a queer thing. Discover stories of loss, longing, and the courageous ways we hold on—and let go. A fading memory, an unspoken goodbye, a deferred dream... With tenderness, humour, and grace, these films remind us that, whatever we're grieving, we don't have to go it alone.

Followed by a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers.

**Content notes:** Depicts death or dying, mental illness and ableism, transphobia and trans misogyny, swearing and strong language.



## LOVIN' HER

**day | Canada, United States | 2024 | 15 min**  
**English with captions**

An older trans woman navigates the complexities of a fading memory and her evolving gender identity. Featuring music by the iconic late Jackie Shane.



## OLD DYKES

**Ezra Rose | United States | 2025 | 19 min**  
**English with captions**

**WORLD PREMIERE** When Mel (Lea DeLaria) visits Laurie in hospice to say goodbye, Laurie finally confesses the feelings she's held onto since they were eighteen.



## THE WORST KIND OF AFTERTASTE

Sam Chang Bravo | Canada | 2024 | 9 min  
English with captions

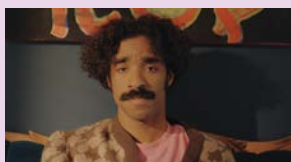
In this poignant animated short, a film student navigates the shockwaves of hidden trauma and PTSD on a night out with friends.



## MY DEAREST DARLING

Vahn Leinard C. Pascual | Philippines | 2025  
20 min | Tagalog with English subtitles

**WORLD PREMIERE** Overcome by loneliness, an aging trans woman tries to contact the spirit of a lost loved one. An emotionally-rich dark comedy from emerging Filipino filmmakers.



## FINE

Kris von Kleist | Canada | 2024 | 3 min |  
English with captions

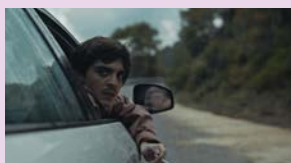
**WORLD PREMIERE** Xavier insists they're fine—but, as they struggle to confront buried emotions, the weight of honesty becomes both a burden and a breakthrough.



## SORRY FOR YOUR COST

Rosie Choo Pidcock | Canada | 2024  
15 min | English and Mandarin with English subtitles

After a devastating car crash, Ren must make an impossible choice: use her tuition for a funeral or pursue her life-long dreams.



## HI MOM, IT'S ME, LOU LOU (MERHABA ANNE, BENİM, LOU LOU)

Atakan Yilmaz | Turkey | 2024 | 21 min  
Turkish with English subtitles

When their mom dies abruptly, Lou Lou leaves their colourful life in the city to attend the funeral, where they face estranged family members and old wounds.

SHORTS

# FOR A GOOD TIME

**SUN, SEPT 21**  
**8:30 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL  
VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**  
118 min

**PARTIALLY ONLINE**  
SEPT 22-28

There's no shame in needing a charming rebound, especially if it comes with a good chuckle! These feel-good queer films revel in the unlikely. From Jesus with a secret to baby carrots at an orgy, it's the pick-me-up you didn't know you needed!

**Content notes:** Depicts blood, smoking, drinking and substance use, sexually explicit content, nudity, racism and racial slurs, swearing and strong language, homophobia and heterosexism.



## I TURN GRILLS ON

**Lizzy De Vita | United States | 2025 | 15 min**  
**English with captions**

**WORLD PREMIERE** Newly widowed Ruth is drowning in post-death logistics and barbecue sauce when she meets a stranger in crisis.



## DTF?

**Jess McLeod | Canada | 2024 | 15 min**  
**English with captions**

A writer on a sexual bender ends up on a date with his former English professor.



## WILD OATS

**Rosa Duncan | United Kingdom | 2024 | 8 min**  
**English with captions**

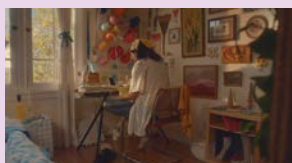
Shy teen Rhona just wants a private moment to tend to her celebrity crush—but the goats aren't going to milk themselves.



## TWO BLACK BOYS IN PARADISE

**Baz Sells | United Kingdom | 2025 | 9 min**  
English with captions

The love between two young Black boys, Eden and Dula, leads them to a paradise free from shame and judgement. Based on a poem by Dean Atta, narrated by Jordan Stephens.



## THE BOYFRIEND SWEATER

**Nikki Mezaros | United States | 2024**  
12 min | English with captions

An emotionally avoidant textile artist invokes the “sweater hex”—the belief that if you knit someone a sweater, your relationship will end—instead of being honest about her lukewarm feelings.



## HOLD ME CLOSE

**Aurora Brachman, LaTajh Simmons-Weaver**  
United States | 2024 | 19 min | English with captions

If these walls could talk, what would they say about Black Queer love? Witness tender scenes and everyday conversations between Corinne and Tiana, shot in super 16mm.



## CHERRIES

**Jaimee Poipoi | New Zealand | 2025 | 9 min**  
English with captions

Two shy wallflowers at their first orgy find one another and connect over small talk and baby carrots.



## GAY JESUS

**Aaron Jin | United States | 2024 | 5 min**  
English with captions

In this divine comedy, Jesus tries to save humanity and fulfill his purpose on earth—but runs into some unexpected, internalized hurdles.

# FUNDING YOUR PROJECT

**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**12:30 PM**

**SFU DJAVAD**  
**MOWAFAGHIAN**  
**CINEMA**

Want to get your film project funded? Join us for a panel talk with reps from major Canadian film funding bodies to learn how to successfully apply to get your project off the ground. Go to our website for details on panelists.

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# EAT YOU(R HEART) OUT: QUEER HORROR WITH *YELLOWJACKETS*

**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**3 PM**

**SFU DJAVAD**  
**MOWAFAGHIAN**  
**CINEMA**

Special guests from the hit sapphic horror show *Yellowjackets* (2021-present) do a deep dive on their experiences filming locally in Vancouver, breaking ground on sapphic representation in television, and their love of the genre.

Hosted by **Today in Gay** podcast's Nay Bever.

---

# SELLING YOUR PROJECT

**SAT, SEPT 20**  
**2 PM**

**SFU DJAVAD**  
**MOWAFAGHIAN**  
**CINEMA**

Listen in as some of Canada's largest networks, broadcasters and streaming platforms discuss what they look for in film pitches and discuss the current status of Canadian content. Go to our website for details on panelists.

This public event will be followed by invite-only **Industry Speed-Dating!** All VQFF 2025 artists and select VQFF alumni will be invited to connect with industry executives 1:1.



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## But wait! There's more!

To see more industry programs at VQFF and details on panelists, go to [queerfilmfestival.ca](http://queerfilmfestival.ca).

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## Industry Pass

**Are you a 2SGLBTQIA+ film student, emerging filmmaker, or filmmaker experiencing systemic barriers of access to the industry?** You may be eligible to apply for a free all-access Industry Pass to VQFF 2025! Learn more on our website. Applications close Sept 8, 2025.

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## Film Unions

Local chapters of several film & TV labour unions will be boothing during our Industry Programs at SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts to provide resources and chat with folks on how to join a union and get more involved with the film & TV industry labour movement!



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**IN-PERSON | SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 | 10 A.M. – 1 P.M. PST | 151 W CORDOVA ST, VANCOUVER**

# OPENING WEEKEND PARTY: F U E G O / F O G O

**SAT, SEPT 13**  
**10 PM - 2 AM**

**THE BIRDHOUSE**

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MUST BE 19+

CO-PRESENTED WITH THE VANCOUVER LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Fire and flair. Film and fiesta. Hot things happen in pairs, so we're teaming up with VLAFF for another steamy after-party at the club! Move those hips out of the theatre and into the heat of the night, Latine Queer/Cuir style. With smokeshow performances in drag and vogue, step to salsa, cumbia, and fiery fusion beats all night long!

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## DOG PARK SOCIAL

**SUN, SEPT 14**  
**12 PM - 3 PM**

**EMERY BARNES  
PARK**

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FREE, ALL AGES

Calling all dog moms, dads, and puppy parents! Filmmakers and their fidos are invited to an afternoon at the park for a laidback networking event. Meet other 2SLGBTQIA+ artists and chat pet projects. Drop in any time (even if you are not a dog owner)!

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## THE COAST IS QUEER R E C E P T I O N

**FRI, SEPT 19**  
**8:00 PM**

**VENUE TBD**

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MUST BE 19+

Keep the night going after the screening of local shorts at this lowkey networking social and reception, celebrating the best in local 2SLGBTQIA+ queer film.

Entry to this event is included with tickets to **Shorts: The Coast is Queer** (p. 78).

# CLOSING WEEKEND PARTY

**SAT, SEPT 20  
10 PM - 2 AM**

**THE BIRDHOUSE**

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MUST BE 19+

Will the DJ save your life? Who was that mysterious movie-lover from last night? Whether you like a cliffhanger or a happy ending, come for a climactic finale to the Festival! Before our last day of screenings, join us in celebrating queer cinema one more time! We'll see you on the dance floor after our **Closing Presentation: Four Mothers** (p. 35).

Entry to this event is included with tickets to the **Closing Presentation** screening (p. 35)

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## QUEER FILM TRIVIA BRUNCH

**SUN, SEPT 21  
11 AM**

**VENUE TBD**

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ALL AGES

Festies, there will be a test... Bring your best team or worst enemies for brunch. Flaunt your knowledge of films to win a prize! If you have an appetite for queer media or watched many VQFF films this year, join us for a game of trivia!

HINT: The more VQFF screenings you attend, the more trivia clues you'll be privy to!

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## Cheers, Queers!

Go to [queerfilmfestival.ca](http://queerfilmfestival.ca) to get tickets and for the latest details on parties and performer lineups.

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# **Celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ stories** with the Vancouver Queer Film Festival

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[TELEFILM.CA](https://www.telefilm.ca)



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# T I C K E T S

STANDARD TICKET	<b>\$7-\$17</b>
SPECIAL PRESENTATION TICKET	<b>\$7-\$19</b>
FESTIVAL PASS	<b>\$195</b>
FESTIVAL PASS (ACCESS)	<b>\$100</b>
DIGITAL PASS	<b>\$100</b>

Purchase at  
**[queerfilmfestival.ca](http://queerfilmfestival.ca)**

Contact  
604-844-1615 x410 or  
**[boxoffice@outonscreen.com](mailto:boxoffice@outonscreen.com)**

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# D O N A T E

**KEEP OUR STORIES  
ON SCREEN!**

Scan the QR code and donate  
to support VQFF and 2SLGBTQIA+  
stories for years to come.

