THE 38TH ANNUAL

# VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

**OUT ON SCREEN**



DISCOVER STORIES
BY US, FOR US

**IN-PERSON SEPT 10-20**
**ONLINE SEPT 21-27**

QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA @QUEERFILMFEST #VQFF2026

Located on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwx̱ wú7mesh and səl̓ílwətaɬ Nations.

# WHO GETS A SEAT AT THE TABLE?

# ALL OF US

## WE GATHER. WE REMEMBER. WE IMAGINE.

---

Ballroom legends.
Two-Spirit matriarchs.
Black trans brilliance.
Filipino baklas.
South Asian sapphics.
Queer disabled artists.
Chinatown elders.
Disruptors.
Dreamers.
Bookworms on the #99.
First dates.
Chosen families.
Future generations.

We gather. We remember. We imagine.

Around every table is a story.
Around every story is a community.

You're invited to ours.

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*This* is the Vancouver Queer Film Festival
Take *your* seat.

**DONATE TODAY**

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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), Sḵwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. Today, these distinct Indigenous communities continue to call this land home and participate in its stewardship.

As an organization that presents programming throughout British Columbia, we also recognize that we are uninvited settlers on the territories of many other First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. We are committed to building respectful, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous Peoples, listening with humility and supporting Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination and storytelling through meaningful action.

# WELCOME FROM TSLEIL-WAUTUTH

ʔa: si:ý ém̓ nə siyéý ə, Friends and Relatives,

We warmly welcome you to the shared and ancestral territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

For our səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) community, storytelling is part of who we are—it bridges our past and present and forges deep ties to our lands and waters as the People of the Inlet. Film serves as an exceptionally strong tool to share these vital narratives from across Turtle Island and the world, while highlighting Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer identities, sharing endangered Indigenous languages, and building cultural pride for future generations.

It is important to honour our distinct identities as human beings, acknowledging that we are all inherently equal, no better than or less than one another. VQFF beautifully creates space for this celebration, alongside building a sense of community and solidarity with one another.

We raise our hands in thanks to VQFF for ensuring our Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer family and friends are represented at your festival each year. 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 of community that the festival creates.

Congratulations VQFF on celebrating your 38th year!

hay ce:p q̓ ə
thank you all,

**Chief and Council**,
səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Tsleil-Waututh Nation
PEOPLE OF THE INLET

# WELCOME FROM OUR FUNDERS

Festivals like the Vancouver Queer Film Festival play a vital role in connecting Canadian cinema with audiences at home and abroad. They showcase our stories, our artists and our creativity, while strengthening the bond between filmmakers and audiences around the world. Canadian cinema plays a key role in shaping and promoting our cultural identity. As audiences seek out stories that resonate with them, festivals bring us together.

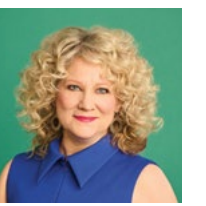
At Telefilm Canada, our core mission is to invest in and highlight the importance of film. We support productions every step of the way, from development to distribution, so that Canadian stories are seen and celebrated. By working with our industry partners, we contribute to a strong and vibrant film ecosystem.

Beyond their screenings, festivals are places of dialogue, collaboration and exchange. They bring together professionals, emerging and established talent, as well as film lovers and audiences of all kinds. In pursuing our mission to support Canadian cinema, we recognize that festivals are essential to the vitality of our industry.

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



On behalf of Langara College, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

At Langara, we believe education extends far beyond the classroom. It lives in the stories we share, the communities we build and the spaces where people can gather with openness, curiosity and care. The Vancouver Queer Film Festival embodies these values by creating opportunities for artists, audiences and communities to connect through powerful storytelling that challenges perspectives, celebrates identity and inspires meaningful dialogue.

We are proud to support Out On Screen and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival as they continue to champion 2SLGBTQIA+ voices and foster spaces where creativity, belonging and representation can thrive. In a time when these stories are more important than ever, the festival reminds us of the power of film and art to build empathy, strengthen community and imagine more inclusive futures.

Whether this is your first festival or you've been part of this community for years, we hope you enjoy the remarkable films, conversations and celebrations that make this festival so special.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating queer storytelling, artistic excellence, and the many voices that enrich our communities.

Happy Festival!



**Yusuf Varachia**
Vice President,
External Relations and Community Engagement

# WELCOME FROM PROGRAMMING

Welcome! We're so glad you're here. Come on in. Make yourself at home. Would you like a cup of tea? A glass of water? Take a deep breath. You made it.

**There's a seat at the table for you.**

2026 marked a shift in the way we approach programming at VQFF. Mirroring the changes in our leadership structure, we brought more voices to the table.

We revitalized our Screening Committee, bringing together over 15 volunteers from all corners of our community, some returning from a decade prior. We celebrated the return of the Programming Disruptor Fellowship, centering the voices of three emerging curators in our programme.

What unfurled was a deep desire for nuanced representation. Messy, uncomfortable, playful. Evolving through intergenerational and intercultural connections. Self-realization. Indigenous sovereignty. Having a seat at the table, or making our own. Ecosystems not empires. Communities beyond colonialism. Celebrating our achievements. Thriving in our own realms of myth, fantasy, and tomorrow.

We asked, how do we let our guard down, strengthen and honor who we are? What is the act of communing? How can our connection to the natural world teach us how to tend to each other and grow together?

A single species does not make an ecosystem.

We hope, through this collection of 87 stunning films, we will collectively begin the beautiful work of coming closer to the truth.

**Let's feast!**

**Akira**, **Audder**, **Britney**, **Eli**, **Sufi**, **Shruthi**
VQFF Programming Team

# WELCOME FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Community,

As Out On Screen enters this next chapter, we are excited to announce that we are now operating with a shared leadership model rooted in collaboration, care, and accountability. This shift has emerged from a nine-month process (an apt gestational period!) involving our Board of Directors, staff, and consultants from Evenings and Weekends.

Out On Screen's co-directors and their areas of focus are:

**Eli Morris** (they/he) — Strategy & Programs

**fanny kearse** (they/she) — Development & Communications

**Piper Fawkes** (they/them) — Operations & Finance

Our shared leadership structure reflects the values that have long guided our work: the belief that leadership is strongest when it is shared, transparent, and responsive to community. Together, we are committed to fostering a culture where honesty, curiosity, and mutual respect shape how we work with one another and with the communities we serve.

This model invites us to lead through consensus, recognizing that meaningful decision-making is strengthened by diverse perspectives and collective wisdom. It also challenges us to remain nimble and humble—to learn, adapt, and grow as both individuals and an organization.

As we continue building the future of Out On Screen, we are committed to creating clear systems, open communication, and intentional practices that support resilience and trust across our team. We believe that how we work together matters just as much as what we accomplish, and we strive to reflect the kind of queer community and world we hope to help create: one grounded in compassion, transparency, and care.

We are grateful for the opportunity to steward this organizational shift together and look forward to continuing this journey alongside you all.

With gratitude,





**Eli Morris**, **fanny kearse**, and **Piper Fawkes**
Out On Screen Leadership Team

# ARTIST STATEMENT



The 2026 Vancouver Queer Film Festival artwork was conceptualized and illustrated by **Odera Igbokwe** and **Tolu Ayoka**.

**A Seat at the Table** imagines queer existence as a place of abundance, belonging, and possibility. Beneath an expansive night sky, figures gather around a dreamlike feast where ritual, celebration, and kinship intertwine. Mirrored figures below carry the table on their heads, honouring the ancestral foundations that hold queer futures.

The work reflects on the dialogue between embodied ancestral knowledge and queer futurity, where past, present, and future remain intimately connected. The table becomes a place of nourishment through food, memory, storytelling, care and the radical act of gathering.

Filled with fruit, flowers, candlelight, and celestial symbols, the illustration celebrates the rituals that sustain queer communities and the joy of creating spaces where we are fully seen. Created for the 38th Vancouver Queer Film Festival, **A Seat at the Table** offers an invitation to gather, remember, imagine, and make space for every generation yet to come.

To learn more about this year's poster artists please visit **queerfilmfestival.ca**.

# ABOUT US

## 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.

## STAFF

**Abhimanyu Binoy**
Marketing Coordinator

**Audder Jasmine Monton**
VQFF Program Manager

**August Winter**
Program Consultant

**Bianca Santana**
Marketing & Communications Manager

**Celina Doubleday**
Tech Coordinator

**Coral Santana**
Project Manager

**Danny Lybbert**
Out In Schools Program Manager

**Eli Morris**
Director of Strategy & Programs

**Faly Mevamanana**
Interim OIS Program Coordinator

**fanny kearse**
Development & Communications Director

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Box Office Coordinator

**Keel**
Jr. Emotional Support Specialist - Canine Division

**Lydia Alemu**
Out In Schools Program Coordinator

**Madeline Taylor**
Development Manager

**Mary Galloway**
Artistic Director (on leave)

**Maura McDowell**
Partnerships Coordinator

**Maven**
Sr. Emotional Support Specialist - Canine Division

**Percy Tran**
Development Coordinator

**Piper Fawkes**
Operations & Finance Director

**sean ko**
Operations Coordinator

**Selina Tsehaye**
Festival Manager

**Soph Mazzocchio**
Guest Experience Coordinator

**Sufi Rafat**
VQFF Program Coordinator

## PROGRAMMING FELLOWS

Akira Iahtail
Britney Mocca
Shruthi Budnar

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Karan Kedia
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Trevor Aune

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Corrina Sparrow
Daniel Gallardo
Mary Galloway
Olivia Marie Golosky
Piper Fawkes
Tristin Greyeyes

## FESTIVAL CREATIVE

Odera Igbokwe
Tolu Ayoka

## DESIGNER

Co-Effect Creative

## TRAILER EDITOR

Nakita Johnson

## PUBLICIST

Pender PR

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anata laylay
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Let's Make It Count
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sean
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Yousif Rahmani

# VOLUNTEERS

At Vancouver Queer Film Festival we rely 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, Percy Tran, and Selina Tsehaye at **volunteer@outonscreen.com.**

## VENUE COORDINATORS

Ihomehe Agbebaku
Ikediashi Favour
Emma Houxbois
Tommy Laflamme
Ryan Lim
Maura Wingle-Land

## FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

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# 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** 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 you're 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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Theresa Clark
Tim Masuell
Trent Berry
Ty Noel
Umair Parvez
Valerie Alberts
Victoria Tait
Vince Kanasoot
Vincent Tom
Yuin Lin
Zella Baran
Zhaleh Moulaei

## 5+ YEARS

Allie Hamilton
Amy Severson
Ana Bidwell
Andy Levine
Anna Barford
Arvin Villamejor
Beth Malena
Brad Cotter
Cathy Stonehouse
Celine McRae-Hamdy
Christen McDonald
Christine Fletcher
Christopher Dodge
Christopher Girodat
Christopher Koene
Christopher Smendziuk
Cynthia Cole
David Kuefler
David Matte & Mark Gilbert
Dean Spottar
DEE GELBART
Diane Nhan
Elizabeth Saewyc
Emily Angus
Eric Atkinson
Evan Cairns
Glee Devereaux
Graham Mitchell
Ian Fisher
Idrissa Brathwaite
Jared Yu
Jarrett Bachman & Ben Sledge
Jean Parlina
Jeff Pope
Jim Balakshin
Jim Moore
Jo-Ann Cutler
Joaquin Acevedo
Jodi Loudfoot
John Kinsley
Jonathan Loranger
Jorgen Harink
Josephine Schrott
Joshua Coleman
Joy Masuhara
Jude Goodwin
Julia Quon
Karen Smith
Katherine Lunney
Katie Marsh
Kiefer Doerksen
Laura Jamieson
Lauren McGuire-Wood
Lorenz Villa
Mark Richards
Maureen Reynolds
Megan Croutch
Michelle Paulin
Nick Logan
Orest Wasarab
Patrick Martone
Pearl Wong
Percy Shroff
Rene Perey
Richard A Banner
Roni Simunovic
Ross Hornby
Samantha Cheng
Sara Jellicoe
Sarah Mortlock
Sean Lowe
Serena Jackson
Shauna McCrae
Stephanie Lemmon
SweatCo. Workout Studios
Thackery Mackie
Thomas Polgreen
Tim Ell
Val McEachern
Vincent Wong
William Bernosky
Yvan Nadeau

## 1+ YEARS

A Bmann
A Madden
Abby Collins
Ace Golliher
Adam Fraser
Adam White
Aditya Bhagirath
Agnes Terebka
Aimee Shannon
Aish K
Aja Lamb-Hartley
Al Issek
Alba Clarkson
Alba Cristoffanini Benavente
Alejandra Valadez
Alex Kardelis
Alex Mackenzie
Alex Rodz
Alex Samur
Alex Truong
Alex Xanthoudakis
Alexandra Erjavec
Alexis Dayfoot
Alice Bonacina
Alice Fulmer
Alicia Poon
Alida Morris
Alix Krahn
Aliyah Jessa
Allan Fuhr
Allen MacDonald
Allison Kirschenmann
Alyssa Rutherford
Amanda Cantelon
Amanda Khan
Amanda Maximo
Amanda Sullo
Amber Verville
Amelia Zahradnik
Amina Chergui
Amira Anderson
Amr Kabesh
Amy Blondell
Ana Jimenez
Ana v
Anastasia Bandey
Anastasia Ledwon
Andrea Bollen
Andrea Broder
Andrea Mulder
Andrew Ha
Andrew Joaquin
Andrina Fawcett
Andy Lau
Angela DiCresce
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Siena Dolinski
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Sonja Pitre
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Soraya Oswin
Stef Draskic
Stefan Draskic
Steffanie Pui
Stelllaaa Kowolsky
Stephan Baeuml
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t gallmann
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Taylor Moody
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Thalia McWatt
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Tiana Jung
Tiffany Wu
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Tim Lam
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Val Patrick
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Yu Cheong Chan
Yui Richard Chan
Zac Elik
Zack Singer
Zhe Ding
Zion Greene-Bull
Zoe Brimacombe
Zoe Meighan
Zuri Toppin

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This list is based on repeat and new donations made between June 24, 2025 and June 29, 2026. We apologize if we missed your name, and please know that we appreciate your support. Please submit any corrections to **donorservices@outonscreen.com**.

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# A W A R D S

VQFF is proud to offer the following awards to Indigenous, Canadian and International filmmakers.

## JURIED AWARDS

### NARRATIVE CHANGE AWARD

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.

### MATRIARCH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Honors an Indigiqueer or Two Spirit Matriarchal leader in film and television across Turtle Island who has made a significant impact on Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ storytelling.

### GERRY BRUNET MEMORIAL AWARD: BRITISH COLUMBIA SHORT

Established in 1997 in recognition of Gerry Brunet, a lifelong contributor to the arts and an early board member of Out On Screen.

Jury award winners will be announced at the Opening Presentation on September 10, 2026 (p. 32).

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

These 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 they are screened in. Theatre audiences may vote in-person or at **link.outonscreen.com/vote** anytime after the screening. Online audiences may vote on our digital watch platform.

**International Feature**

**International Short**

**Canadian Feature**

**Canadian Short**

The award winners will be announced after the Festival.

## PRIZES

Thank you to our award sponsors for offering the following prizes!

**24 Frames** - $6,000 color correction and finishing services

**CC Productions** - $3,000 in-kind rental services

**Cinelease** - $5,000 in-kind services

**Elemental Post** - $2,500 in-kind services

**Hollywood Suites** - $5,000 in-kind services

**Keslow Camera** - $20,000 in-kind services

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 visit **queerfilmfestival.ca** to purchase 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 remain available for purchase for all Special Presentations.

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

## PASSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Festival Pass | **$195** |
| Festival Pass - Access Pricing | **$100** |
| Digital Pass | **$100** |

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

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

## 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| Voting Membership (18 yrs & up) | **$5** |

## REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

Can't use a ticket? Email us at **boxoffice@outonscreen.com** to ask about swapping for another film!

## QUESTIONS?

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

# HOW TO FEST

## IN-PERSON

| | |
|---|---|
| **1 hour before screening** | Box Office opens, Passholders can collect slips to reserve their seat (recommended for popular or sold-out screenings) |
| **30 minutes before screening** | Theatre opens, Passholders enter first |
| **~15 minutes before screening** | Ticketholders enter the theatre |

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

## ONLINE

Select films will be available to stream online from September 21-27, 2026, the week after all in-person programs. 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**.

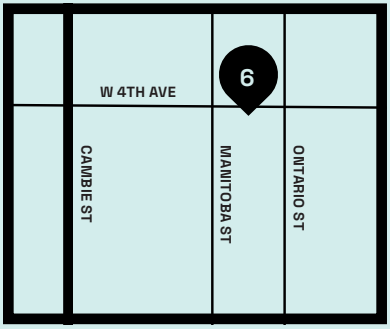
For more detailed information, check out the **How to Fest** section on our website or contact **boxoffice@outonscreen.com**.

# V E N U E S










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149 W HASTINGS ST.

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1131 HOWE ST.

**THE BIRDHOUSE** 6
44 W 4TH AVE.

**EMERY BARNES PARK** 7
1170 RICHARDS ST.

# ACCESSIBILITY

At Out On Screen we want to have more of us in every space we touch. This is how we are committed to making that happen.

## PHYSICAL SPACE

All our public screening and event venues are wheelchair-accessible, with wheelchair-accessible and gender-inclusive washrooms. We also encourage our patrons to support a scent-reduced environment.

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

## PROGRAMMING

The following accessibility information is listed for each event. For the most detailed and up-to-date information, please visit our online programme.

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

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

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

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

## RELAXED SCREENINGS

We are offering three relaxed screenings (see pages 34, 40 & 42) that offer a more sensory-friendly environment. These screenings will include the following 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 members may enter and exit the theatre as needed
- A chill-out space in the lobby
- Extra staff and volunteers will be on-site to answer questions
- Complimentary ticket for a companion

**PLEASE NOTE:** Ecosystems and Empires will be mask mandatory. For any accessibility request for the festival please contact boxoffice@outonscreen.com.

# L E G E N D

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**.



Available to screen online Sept 21-27, 2026 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| **WORLD PREMIERE** | First presentation in the world. |
| **INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE** | First presentation outside its country of origin. |
| **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE** | First presentation in North America. |
| **CANADIAN PREMIERE** | First presentation in Canada. |
| **BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE** | First presentation in BC. |
| **VANCOUVER PREMIERE** | First presentation in Vancouver. |

# KESLOW CAMERA



Since 1990, Keslow Camera has served the filmmaking community across the globe with the very best cinema cameras, lenses, and support in the industry. As the largest privately-held cinema camera rental house in North America, with locations across the US and Canada, Keslow Camera is here to support your vision, wherever the story takes you.

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New Orleans • Chicago • Atlanta • Sudbury • Toronto

# ECOSYSTEMS NOT EMPIRES

## THU, SEPT 10
## 7:00 PM

**VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE**

**Event runtime:**
172 min

**RELAXED SCREENING**
**SUN, SEPT 13, 1:00 PM**
SFU - DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA
Learn more on p.31

**PARTIALLY ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

Beyond cold concrete walls, there are lush worlds formed by queer communities, ready for a new tomorrow. Our worlds evolve differently: not by what we take, but by what we give. How we thrive is not drawn out in a blueprint, but an invitation to dance, shed skin, and become something wild.

Find your wings with these seven short films.

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

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**Content notes:** Contains references to blood; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; psychological or verbal abuse; and strong language.



## LOSS OF ALTITUDE
(SINKFLUG)

**Hoàng Quỳnh Nguyễn | Germany | 2026**
**12 min | German with English subtitles**

**INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE** In a haunting near future where borders are redrawn and belonging becomes a moral test, two women discover that love alone cannot shield them from the weight of collective complicity.



## ABJAD ḤAWAZ (أبجد هوز)

**Hadi Moussally | Lebanon | 2025 | 5 min**
**Arabic with English subtitles**

A mesmerizing collision of dance, techno, and poetry, **Abjad Ḥawaz** (أبجد هوز) transforms the Arabic alphabet into a fearless celebration of SWANA identity, language, and artistic liberation.



## TAKE CARE, TILL SPRINGTIME

**Yi Shi | Canada | 2025 | 22 min | English, Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles**

A slice of life portrait on Bill Xū, a local Chinese medicine practitioner and community organizer, through seasons of healing.



## KILORAN BAY

**Michael Bruce | United Kingdom | 2026 14 min | English with captions**

When a gay man (Alan Cumming) returns to Scotland with his partner to attend a wedding cèilidh, memories of a difficult coming out process resurface.



## MY NAME IS LILITH
(MON NOM EST LILITH)

**Leo Luna Robert-Tourneur | Belgium, France 2025 | 14 min | French with English subtitles**

An encounter with Adam shatters worlds in this striking animation. A sensorial exploration of healing from sexual trauma and radical joy.



## ATA PŪAO

**Allie Howell | New Zealand | 2025 | 14 min English and Māori with English subtitles**

Hiwa reckons with outgrown friendships amid the glittery nightlife of Tamaki Makaurau. Deeply rooted in iawhiti (Māori trans) experiences.



## FLY

**Carlton Daniel Jr. | United States | 2026 15 min | English with captions**

Skylar, a disciplined dancer, auditions for a breakout opportunity with a prestigious ballet company. As the pressure surmounts, their perfectionism is challenged by a fellow dancer.

# APOLO

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE



## THU, SEPT 17
## 7:30 PM

**EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY - RELIANCE THEATRE**

**Event runtime:**
164 min

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

**Tainá Müller, Ísis Broken | Brazil | 2025 | 83 min**
**Portuguese with English subtitles**

An intimate, moving, and joyful documentary following Ísis Broken and Lourenzo Gabriel as they navigate an unexpected pregnancy as a trans couple in Brazil. Their journey unfolds as a heartwarming love letter to their child, Apolo, layered with an honest portrayal of trans-centered family life. Co-directors Tainá Müller and Ísis Broken expose the inaccessibility of healthcare for trans people with hope. Where trans rights are faced with resistance, this family story offers affection.

Awarded Best Documentary at Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival. Following a successful World Premiere, Apolo celebrated its International Premiere at SXSW.

**Content notes:** Contains references to blood; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; transphobia; and psychological or verbal abuse.

PRECEDED BY THE SHORT FILM

## BEBA FROM 5 TO 9



**Dano Cerny | United States | 2026 | 14 min | Spanish and English with English subtitles**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE** After her sister's death, Beba (Michaela Jaé Rodriguez, *Pose*) reckons with her own mortality, juggling her job as a hospice nurse and new single parenthood. A captivating portrait dedicated to immigrant communities in East L.A.

# GUGU'S WORLD (FEITO PEIPA)

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE



## SAT, SEPT 19 7:00 PM

**VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE**

**Event runtime:**
148 min

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

**Content notes:**
Hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

**Allan Deberton | Brazil | 2026 | 90 min**
**Portuguese with English subtitles**

Gugu's life with his strong-willed grandmother Dilma feels like an endless playground. In their little community in Northeastern Brazil, he dreams of being a soccer player. He wears what glimmers, dances, and befriends every girl in his class. While his disapproving father and the rival boys in his class scoff at his effeminate nature, Gugu is unbothered. Dilma, his pillar of support, is often by his side (when she's not stealing a man's heart on the dance floor). But, a sudden shift turns their world upside down: Dilma begins to show symptoms of Alzheimer's. Gugu tends to her in secret knowing that neither of them can live freely if she's sent to a hospital.

With a breakout performance by Yuri Gomes, this unforgettable story of a boy-wonder was crowned multiple international awards. Gugu's coming-of-age invites audiences into the hearts of characters fueled by unconditional love.

# 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 that increase youth access to transformative 2SLGBTQIA+ stories.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some screenings are limited to group bookings by schools and youth-serving organizations only. All educators and youth under 25 can get tickets for free.

Learn more at **queerfilmfestival.ca**.


| | |
|---|---|
| **SHORTS: JOURNEY TO YOU** | **P. 40** |
| **NIÑXS** | **P.42** |
| **QUEER CREATION STATION** | **P.43** |




Participants from Troublemakers 9.0 at VQFF 2025

# SHORTS: JOURNEY TO YOU

## THU, SEPT 17
## 10:00 AM

**THE CINEMATHEQUE**
SCHOOL GROUPS ONLY

**Event runtime:**
84 min

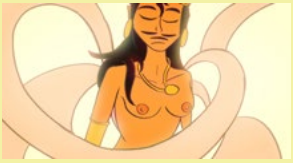
**RELAXED SCREENING**
**SUN, SEPT 20, 1:30 PM**
SFU - DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA
Learn more on p.31

A fun and heartwarming collection of short films that celebrate authentic expression and supportive, sometimes quirky, community. Through mythical beings from space and sea, and Canadian history past and present, these films cheer youth on to feel proud of who they are today.

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

The Sept 17 screening will be followed by a post-screening Q&A with special guests and facilitators from The Cinematheque and Out In Schools.

**Content notes:** Contains references to homophobia, swearing, and strong language.



### MOON CYCLE (CHANDRAKAAL)

**Ayilya Thampuran | Canada | 2026 | 5 min**
**English with captions**

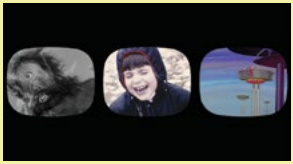
A rarely told queer love story from Indian mythology on Ila and Sudyumna, a being whose identity shifts with the phases of the moon.



### SISTER OF MINE (SYSTER MIN)

**André Vaara | Sweden | 2026 | 13 min**
**Swedish with English subtitles**

Ten year-old Noel wants to be more like his sister. When an unwanted haircut sparks unspoken jealousy, he takes matters into his own hands. A tender portrait of longing and self expression within a normative family environment.



## THE FRUIT MACHINE: A SPACE OPERA

**Lorri Millan, Shawna Dempsey | Canada 2025 | 7 min | English with captions**

A young, queer alien lands on earth in the 1960s when the Canadian government was running secret tests to try and weed out 'the homosexuals'. A delightfully quirky documentary about diversity, representation and space dust.



## THE CROWN WITH A SHADOW & THE SEARCH FOR SELF!

**Jasbir (JB) Singh Ghuman | United States 2026 | 15 min | English with captions**

A multi-dimensional storytelling experience about a gender-bending Pink Skunk fish who learns how to live and lead her community from the heart.



## ARE YOU BEING THANKED ENDLESSLY?

**Gulzar G | Canada | 2026 | 15 min | English with captions**

Filmmaker Gulzar invites us to a conversation with their two best friends, as they reflect on their relationships to hair, gender roles, and belonging.



## SHAPING A DRESS

**Aaren Rackett | Canada | 2025 | 4 min English with captions**

A 19th-century tailor makes a dress for themselves to share their queer identity with their family. A soft and uncomplicated coming out story focussed on kindness and community.

# NIÑXS



## THU, SEPT 17
## 1:00 PM

**THE CINEMATHEQUE**
SCHOOL GROUPS ONLY

**Event runtime:**
116 min

**RELAXED SCREENING**
**SUN, SEPT 20, 4:30 PM**
SFU - DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA
Learn more on p.31

**Content notes:**
Contains references to transphobia and violence, swearing and strong language.

**Kani Lapuerta | Germany, Mexico | 2025 | 86 min**
**Spanish with English subtitles**

Over eight years, **Niñxs** follows Karla, a young trans girl who lives in Tepoztlán, Mexico. At the foot of Tepozteco, a sacred hill that governs the winds and fertility, Karla navigates gender and transition, with support from her family and community.

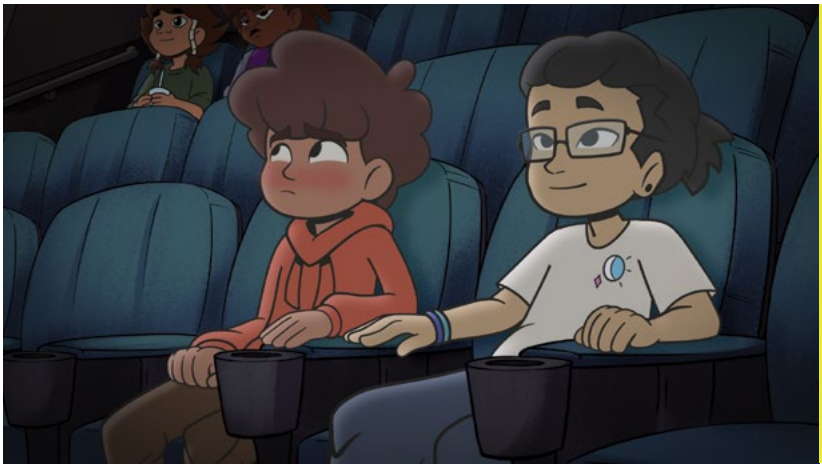
Intertwined with whimsical fantasy sequences that tell the story on Karla's terms, **Niñxs** offers a humorous, life-affirming story centered in the pursuit of living authentically against a backdrop of rising discrimination.

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This program is ideal for students in **Grades 8-12**, with curricular connections to Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Arts Education. Facilitators from The Cinematheque and Out In Schools will host a post-screening Q&A after the Sept 17 screening.

PRECEDED BY THE SHORT FILM

## I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND



**Zachary Kornblum, Conor Larsen | Canada | 2026 | 3 min | English with captions**

This heart-warming animated short explores a young boy's anxiety and excitement as he sits in a movie theatre beside his crush.

# QUEER CREATION STATION

## SUN, SEPT 20
## 3:00 PM

**SFU - WORLD ART CENTRE**

**Event runtime:**
75 min

As part of The Future Is Queer Program, we welcome youth to join us for a fun 90 minutes at the **Queer Creation Station**. This will be an inclusive space to explore a variety of crafting mediums such as embroidery and nature-based paper art. Bring a friend and let your unique and creative self shine!

# OUT IN SCHOOLS & TROUBLEMAKERS X

## SUN, SEPT 13, 4:00 PM

**SFU - DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA**

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## MAKING TROUBLE: 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Participants from Troublemakers 9.0 at VQFF 2025

This year marks the tenth anniversary of our beloved intergenerational film project and we can't wait to celebrate with you!

Please join us for a special presentation featuring and honouring Troublemakers from years past. Hosted by facilitators from **Out In Schools**, we'll celebrate and learn more about local queer history and the elders that have helped shape our communities.

# TROUBLEMAKERS X




**Reel Youth** and **Out In Schools** present three new films by youth filmmakers documenting the lives of local queer elders - "Troublemakers" - who inspire us through their advocacy and lived experiences. This screening will be followed by a Q&A with the Troublemakers and youth filmmakers.

**FILMMAKERS:**

Anise Laflèche, Anisha Atwal, Desmond Tompkins, Jack Kunau, Karen Takeuchi, Nye Holmes, Rocky Bondi, Roki Jiang, Sandra Melech Falk, and Yoli Godt

**TROUBLEMAKERS:**

Amir Al Tabbaa, Mikah Sharkey, and Sekani Dakelth

**PROGRAM FACILITATORS:**

Mark Vonesch and Vitoria Martins, with support from Out In Schools

**MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM:**

Storyhive, City of Vancouver, Parachute Fund, and SFU School for Contemporary Arts

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



**“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

**“The faciliatators were very good and open which made me feel comfortable.”**

—

GRADE 5 STUDENT

**“Presenters helped us to feel welcome and safe. Great spread of topics. Love the direction and flexibility.”**

—

EDUCATOR IN BELLA COOLA, BC



In the 2025-26 school year, Out In Schools delivered 97 presentations to:

**3,921**
YOUTH

**1,220**
ADULTS

**15**
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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

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# SCHEDULE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
FEATURE FILMS
SHORTS
PARTIES & SOCIALS
INDUSTRY

## THURSDAY — SEPTEMBER 10

**7 PM** — **Opening Presentation: Ecosystems Not Empires** — P. 34
Vancouver Playhouse

## FRIDAY — SEPTEMBER 11

**6:00 PM** — **Ephemera** — P. 52
International Village

**9:00 PM** — **Mineshaft: The Cruising Murders** — P. 53
International Village

## SATURDAY — SEPTEMBER 12

**Industry Day** — P. 92
SFU - Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

**1:00 PM** — **Blood Lines** — P. 54
International Village

**1:30 PM** — **Saving Etting Street** — P. 55
International Village

**4:00 PM** — **Barbara Forever** — P. 56
International Village

**4:30 PM** — **Test** — P. 57
International Village

**7:30 PM** — **FOUR GIRLS** — P. 58
International Village

## SATURDAY — SEPTEMBER 12


**8:00 PM** — **10s Across the Borders** — P. 59
International Village

**10:00 PM** — **Opening Weekend Party** — P. 88
The Birdhouse


## SUNDAY — SEPTEMBER 13


**11:00 AM** — **Dog Park Social** — P. 88
Emery Barnes Park

**1:00PM** — **Relaxed: Ecosystems Not Empires** — P. 34
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

**1:00 PM** — **TheyDream** — P. 60
International Village

**1:30 PM** — **Shorts: Rainbows in a Desert** — P. 74
International Village

**4:00 PM** — **Black Burns Fast** — P. 61
International Village

**4:00 PM** — **Out In Schools & Troublemakers X** — P. 44
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

**4:30 PM** — **Shorts: Into the Light** — P. 76
International Village

**7:00 PM** — **Again Again** — P. 62
International Village

**7:30 PM** — **Shorts: Get Out (of the Closet)!** — P. 78
International Village

## THURSDAY — SEPTEMBER 17

**10:00 AM** — **The Future is Queer: Shorts: Journey To You** — P. 40
The Cinematheque

**1:00 PM** — **The Future is Queer: Ninxs** — P.42
The Cinematheque

**7:30 PM** — **Centrepiece Presentation: Apolo** — P. 36
Emily Carr University - Reliance Theatre

## FRIDAY — SEPTEMBER 18

**7:00 PM** — **Shorts: The Coast is Queer** — P. 80
Emily Carr University - Reliance Theatre

P. 88

**9:00 PM** — **The Coast is Queer Reception**
Emily Carr University - Integrated Motion Studio

## SATURDAY — SEPTEMBER 19

**Industry Day** — P. 92
SFU - Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

**1:00 PM** — **Shorts: Drag Darlings** — P. 82
International Village

**1:30 PM** — **Understanding Myself as an Amphibian** — P. 64
International Village

**4:00 PM** — **Ride or Die** — P. 66
International Village

**4:30 PM** — **Shorts: Amor(es) Ciego** — P. 84
International Village

**7:00 PM** — **Closing Presentation: GUGU'S WORLD** — P. 38
Vancouver Playhouse

**10:30 PM** — **Closing Weekend Party: FUEGO/FOGO** — P. 89
The Birdhouse

## SUNDAY — SEPTEMBER 20

**1:00 PM** — **GAYS AGAINST GUNS** — P. 68
International Village

**1:15 PM** — **What Will I Become?** — P. 69
International Village

**1:30 PM** — **Relaxed Screening: Shorts: Journey To You** — P. 40
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

**3:00 PM** — **The Future is Queer: Queer Creation Station** — P. 43
SFU - World Art Centre

**4:00 PM** — **Warla** — P. 70
International Village

**4:15 PM** — **Our Body is an Expanding Star** — P. 72
International Village

**4:30 PM** — **Relaxed Screening: Ninxs** — P. 42
SFU - Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

**7:15 PM** — **Shorts: Joy Ride** — P. 86
International Village

**7:30 PM** — **Lunar Sway** — P. 73
International Village

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
**FEATURE FILMS**
**SHORTS**
**PARTIES & SOCIALS**
**INDUSTRY**

CANADIAN PREMIERE

# EPHEMERA〔浮浮游游〕



## FRI, SEPT 11
## 6:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Shan Jiang | Singapore, United States | 2026**
**83 min | Mandarin Chinese, English with English subtitles**

On the day before she flies away from Shanghai, a Chinese-American actor finally asks her crush out for a date. Asher and the charming Tori fall into an immediate, playful ease with each other. Glowing streets and twinkling glances between the women fill the air with possibility. Minutes turn to hours as the pair roam the city, chasing an irresistible spark. The surge of chemistry begins to prod at Asher's imminent departure. With wide-eyed hopes and the chance to stay in each other's orbit, Asher and Tori confront a fleeting romance before sunrise.

From an enchanting World Premiere at Tribeca's U.S. Narrative Competition comes an electrifying lesbian romance to make audiences giddy for love in the urban age. Shanghai is quietly unveiled as an epicenter for culture and wonder, tempting young characters with the prospect of becoming.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# MINESHAFT: THE CRUISING MURDERS



**Jeffrey Schwarz | United States | 2026 | 84 min**
**English with captions**

Revisiting one of the most contested chapters in queer cinema, Emmy-winning filmmaker Jeffrey Schwarz examines the complex history surrounding William Friedkin's *Cruising* and the real-world events that shaped its enduring legacy.

Schwarz excavates the radical visibility of New York's leather community: a sex-positive, underground culture that challenged dominant ideas of queer identity, intimacy, and desire. Tracing the vibrant queer worlds that flourished in spaces like the city's legendary piers—gathering places for connection and refuge that have since been demolished or gentrified—the film explores a defining moment of queer dissent and popular uprising. Blending archival investigation, true crime, and film history, Schwarz's documentary offers a nuanced reflection on representation, displacement, and the communities whose histories continue to shape the cultural landscape.

## FRI, SEPT 11
## 9:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Contains flashing lights; references violence and homicide towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; nudity; sexually explicit content; smoking, drinking; and strong language.

# BLOOD LINES



## SAT, SEPT 12
## 1:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Contains references to sexually explicit content, and strong language.

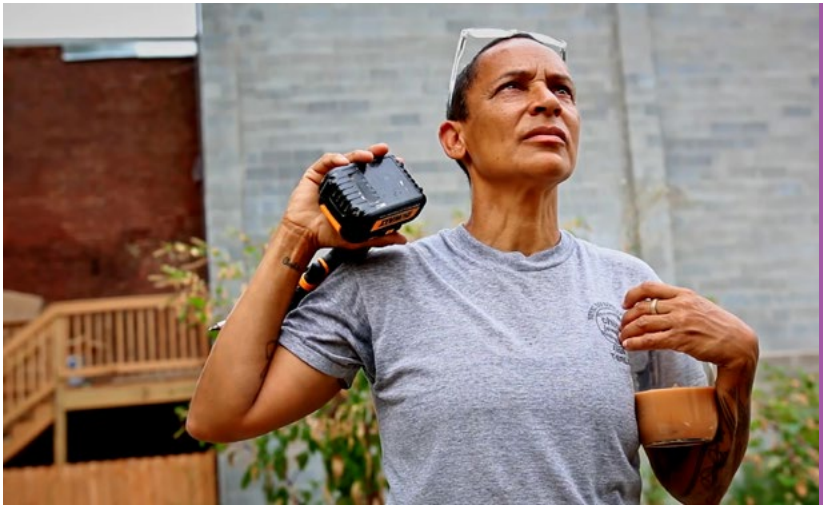
**Gail Maurice | Canada | 2025 | 89 min | English and Michif with English subtitles**

Between her job at the convenience store and as a citizen journalist, Beatrice is steadily in the know. Regulars at the store offer advice on everything, including her lesbian love life. The village is abuzz with news about two new arrivals—Chani, a young woman in search of her biological family, and Beatrice's mother Léonore, who abandoned her child to be raised by the village. Directed by Métis filmmaker Gail Maurice, **Blood Lines** is a lesbian romance and family drama that takes place in Wapamon Sipi, a contemporary Métis village.

Praised by critics for its authentic portrayal of an intergenerational and Michif-speaking community. **Blood Lines** is layered with cultural pride and unpacks conversations on Canada's colonial harm to Indigenous communities.

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

# SAVING ETTING STREET



**Dena Fisher, Amy Scott | United States | 2025**
**67 min | English with captions**

Dena Fisher invites us into her neighbourhood. Police sirens, rushing ambulances, gunshots and rows of deteriorating vacant properties shape the landscape of Etting Street in Baltimore, Maryland. Here, we meet Shelley: a driven, hardworking queer carpenter with high standards. She envisions a world where Black women's safety is never in question and self-sufficiency builds lifelong confidence.

As Shelley and the women build each house, Shelley's impact reaches far beyond the technical skills. For participants like Bryanna, Shelley becomes a possibility model and proclaims "I want to be just like her".

**Saving Etting Street** opens a conversation about gender roles in trade work, redlining, systemic racial inequalities and the barriers and benefits of home ownership. The women of Black Women Build Baltimore take us through the triumphs and challenges of saving homes in the community of Etting Street.

## SAT, SEPT 12
## 1:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

Followed by a post-screening Q&A.

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

**Content notes:**
Contains references to racism or racial slurs; sexism or misogyny; and strong language.

VANCOUVER PREMIERE

# BARBARA FOREVER



## SAT, SEPT 12
## 4:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Contains references to death; nudity; sexually explicit content; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse.

**Brydie O'Connor | United States | 2026**
**108 min | English with captions**

The timeless spirit of the late film auteur, Barbara Hammer, comes to life in this TEDDY award-winning documentary. Since Barbara's birth, which she marked as the moment she became a lesbian in the '70s, Barbara wielded a camera that forged an expansive lens for lesbian cinema. Barbara created one of the first lesbian sexuality films in American history, *Dyketactics* (1974). While critics at the time dubbed her as "too lesbian for the avant-garde" and vice-versa, Barbara was overcome with the urgency to create. Her experimental films on the body, women, and relationships were meant to be legacies of queer life, despite censorship.

Narrated in her own voice, **Barbara Forever** embodies the energy and lyricism of the 90+ works she achieved in decades. Brydie O'Connor's debut feature is a tour-de-force archive of an artist who never stopped creating. Once more, "a poet of images" gives a love letter to dreamers.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

# TEST



**Sam McConnell | United States | 2026 | 108 min**
**English with captions**

A bodybuilder in rural Ohio contends with the pressures of competition, family dysfunction, and his closeted sexuality. On the surface, Eddie's (Brock Yurich) small town life is as rock solid as the body he's sculpted. He's the pride and joy of his overbearing mother (Tammy Blanchard, *American Sports Story*). He's a man of respect to his pastor (Matthew Morrison, *Glee*) and community. Behind closed doors, his cam model clientele swell with appreciation for his polished muscles while relieving his emotional stress. Eddie senses he's on the edge of championship. He turns to an established coach to heighten his strict training regimen. Soon, the newfound attention becomes both an alluring catalyst and backbreaking performance for Eddie to achieve all that he truly wants.

Winner of the jury award for Outstanding First Narrative Feature at Frameline Festival. Yurich's semi-autobiographical script is bolstered with emotional performances and Sam Connell's gritty, seductive cinematography.

## SAT, SEPT 12
## 4:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Depiction of self-harm and blood; nudity; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

# FOUR GIRLS (QUATRO MENINAS)



## SAT, SEPT 12
## 7:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Deals with racism and contains references to sexual assault.

**Karen Suzane | Brazil | 2026 | 90 min | Portuguese with English subtitles**

Set in 1880s Brazil, four Black women - Lena, Tita, Francisca, and Muanda - hatch a plan to escape their enslavement. After an act of self-defence forces Lena into hiding, their plans to break free from the boarding school and colonial elite become urgent. Their white mistresses discover their escape plan, but unexpectedly insist on joining them. The group finds refuge in an abandoned mansion, hidden by a lush rainforest blooming with tropical fruit. As seasons change, the women contend with differing dreams of freedom and the demands of survival, testing their paths to new lives.

Karen Suzane's bold historical drama explores race, gender, and power through a refreshing lens. At its core, the film celebrates the joys, strengths, and ancestral knowledge of Black women who create new possibilities for liberation.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

# 10s ACROSS THE BORDERS



**Sze-Wei Chan | Philippines, Singapore, Germany 2025 | 100 min | English, Thai, Malay, Tagalog with English subtitles**

Ballroom has always been more than performance. Born from Black and Latinx queer and trans communities in New York, it is a living legacy of radical self-expression, chosen family, and the ongoing fight to carve out space where none existed. **10s Across the Borders** honours those roots with remarkable care, tracing how that legacy is embraced, safeguarded, and reimagined across Southeast Asia.

Following community leaders Xyza (Philippines), Sun (Thailand), and Teddy (Malaysia), director Sze-Wei Chan captures a movement sustained not by spectacle alone, but by the people who teach, organize, mentor, and show up for one another. Electrifying ballroom moments pulse alongside quiet acts of care, revealing that every category walked is supported by generations of love and labour. Joyous, thoughtful, and deeply rooted in ballroom's history, this documentary celebrates a truth that reaches far beyond the runway: communities endure because people choose, again and again, to carry them forward.

## SAT, SEPT 12
## 8:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

Followed by a post-screening Q&A.

**Content notes:**
Contains flashing lights; references hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; sexual assault; and strong language.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

# THEYDREAM



## SUN, SEPT 13
## 1:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Contains references to eating disorders, body hatred, or fatphobia; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; and strong language.

**William D. Caballero | United States | 2026**
**86 min | English with captions**

William D. Caballero spent 20 years archiving his family's life to bring us the Sundance award-winning documentary **TheyDream**. What began as a loving gesture to honour his family quickly became an art piece about resilience, memories and love. Family members joke while recounting life's hardships, laugh to the point of tears and hold space for each other when reflecting on years of fluctuating health and shared loss.

Through home recordings, interviews, animation, clay artistry and recreated conversations, Caballero reimagines his family origins in a masterful way, blending storytelling and physical art. **TheyDream** shows us the importance of connection across generations and the value of archiving stories that shape us. Caballero showcases the beautiful joy of truly living and a hopeful path to preserve family legacies.

VANCOUVER PREMIERE

# BLACK BURNS FAST



**Sandulela Asanda | South Africa | 2025 | 95 min**
**English, Xhosa with English subtitles**

17-year-old Luthando (Esihle Ndleleni) is at the top of her class in a prestigious all-girls boarding school in South Africa. All is in order in Luthando's pristine world until the arrival of an intriguing new girl at school. Luthando is eager to impress Ayanda (Muadi Illung) but struggles to balance what it takes to remain the school's golden child. Along with her awakened feelings comes an exciting new social life as a cool entourage of girls welcome her in. Between her mother, school, and friends, Luthando's life is full of expectations to maintain.

Director Sandulela Asanda draws from her own experiences with repressed sexuality at an Anglican all-girls private school and sets forth to prove that there is joy outside of the things that confine us. This beautiful coming-of-age film balances the joys of girlhood with the fear of embracing one's identity.

## SUN, SEPT 13
## 4:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Contains references to hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

# AGAIN AGAIN



## SUN, SEPT 13
## 7:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

Followed by a post-screening Q&A.

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

**Content notes:**
Contains references to blood; death or dying; flashing lights; self-harm or suicide; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.

**Mia Moore Marchant | United States | 2026**
**99 min | English with captions**

Agatha's past 10 years have gone by in a blur, or rather, a loop, as she's trapped living the same day again and again. Her bubbly and doting girlfriend Tess remains the only constant in the fog. Agatha wanders through each day as best as she can: getting high in their motorhome, buying punk records, and observing the small town of Aberdeen. On a cloudy day like no other, Agatha awakens to find the loop has stopped. But as the new dawn breaks, so does the insularity of her life. Agatha and Tess are forced to unravel the phenomenon. Secrets flood to the surface of Agatha's mind as she teeters between a chance to move forward or fall under the weight of the past.

Supported by crowdfunding and executive producer Lilly Wachowski, Mia Moore Marchant sets a daring path for trans creatives in her atmospheric sci-fi mystery.









# From our stage to the screen.

**Proudly championing queer artists at VQFF and beyond.**

# Langara.

ʔə ƛ̓ xʷməθkʷəy̓əm | at Musqueam

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

# UNDERSTANDING MYSELF AS AN AMPHIBIAN



## SAT, SEPT 19
## 1:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

Followed by a post-screening Q&A.

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

**Content notes:**
Swearing and strong language.

**May Caroline Matchim | Canada | 2026 | 63 min**
**English with captions**

May Matchim explores the diversity of gender and sexuality in nature while navigating her own gender transition. Drawing on queer ecology across Turtle Island, the film reveals the fascinating science of sex-changing amphibians, same-sex animal families, and all-female salamander groups. Through science, history, and grassroots initiatives like the Queer Forest Club and Feminist Bird Club, Matchim highlights spaces where queer and trans communities connect with nature. This thoughtful documentary challenges binaries and celebrates the natural world's boundless diversity, reminding us that queerness is not an exception—it exists everywhere, across ecosystems, species, and communities.

PRECEDED BY THE SHORT FILM

## NATURE GIRL



**Trent Maynard, Candace Campo | Canada | 2026 | 27 min | English with captions**

Candace Campo (xets'emits'a), a shíshálh knowledge keeper, artist, and cultural educator, collaborates with Trent Maynard, a settler filmmaker, poet, and ethnoecologist. Set throughout five years of fieldwork, the pair reimagine documentary filmmaking as a meditational practice of listening and relation-making.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

# RIDE OR DIE



## SAT, SEPT 19
## 4:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

Followed by a post-screening Q&A.

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

**Josalynn Smith | United States | 2025 | 85 min**
**English with captions**

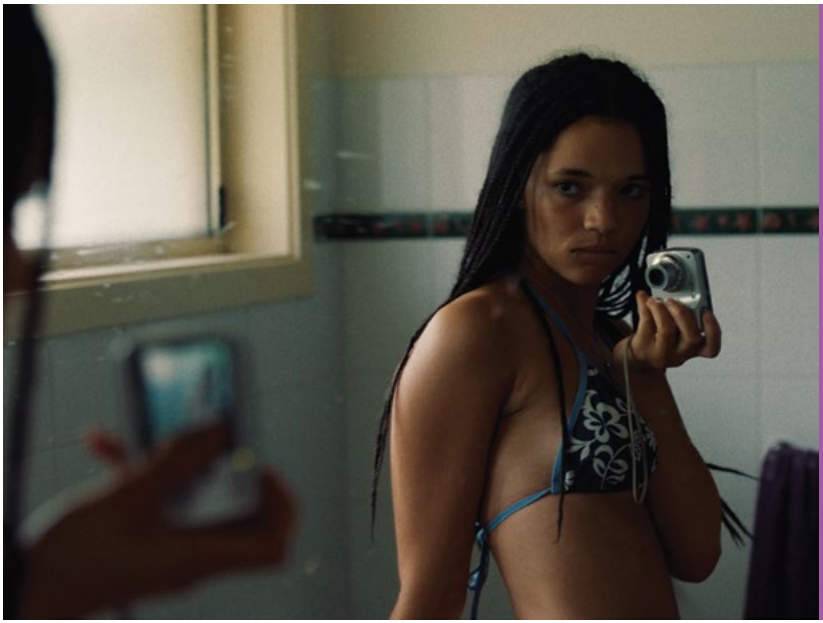
A road-trip romance takes a sinister turn in Josalynn Smith's thrilling debut feature. In the summer after college, Paula, a young Black woman constrained by parental expecations, falls hard for Sloane, her rebellious high school crush. Their spontaneous escape to California becomes a visceral journey as Paula questions how well she knows her dream girl.

Sophisticated, seductive, and subversive, **Ride or Die** offers a compelling exploration of white fragility within interracial queer relationships, challenging audiences to examine the complexities of love and accountability.

**Content notes:** Contains references to animal cruelty or animal death; blood; death or dying; graphic violence or physical abuse; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; homicide; nudity; psychological or verbal abuse; racism or racial slurs; sexism or misogyny; sexually explicit content; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.

PRECEDED BY THE SHORT FILM

## SOUVENIR



**Renée Marie Petropoulos | Australia | 2025 | 15 min | English and French with English subtitles**

**CANADIAN PREMIERE** Crashing waves, shrieking cicadas, warm skin. A toxic power dynamic forms between two young lovers when Zoe crosses an intimate boundary on Keira's family vacation. Heightened diegetic sound forms an unnerving backdrop in this artful SXSW award-winning short.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

# GAYS AGAINST GUNS



## SUN, SEPT 20
## 1:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Content notes:**
Contains references to blood; death or dying; flashing lights; graphic violence or physical abuse; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people and religious groups; homicide; psychological or verbal abuse; racism or racial slurs; sexual assault; self-harm or suicide; sexism or misogyny; and strong language.

**Paul Rowley | Ireland, United States | 2026 | 86 min**
**English with captions**

In the aftemath of the Pulse nightclub tragedy, Paul Rowley began documenting the work of Gays Against Guns, a direct action group committed to "nonviolently breaking the gun industry's chain of death." What began as standalone archival footage grew into a decade-long exploration of ongoing activism and the fight to end gun violence through protest.

While grief remains ten years after the shooting in 2016, determination is ever present among friends and families of the victims. Through interviews, photographs, and stories shared by loved ones, the film brings audiences closer to those affected by gun violence. **Gays Against Guns** honours their memories, preserves their stories, and highlights the power of collective action in the pursuit of change.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# WHAT WILL I BECOME



**Lexie Bean, Logan Rozos | United States | 2026**
**88 min | English with captions**

Transmasculine directors memorialize the lives of two trans boys gone too soon, sharing their legacies with tenderness. The memories of Blake Brockington and Kyler Prescott are held dearly by their communities, families, coaches, teachers, and the film's directors. Blake inspired many through his proud embrace of his trans identity on Tumblr and as the first openly trans homecoming king in 2014. Kyler, who lived a quieter life, is remembered as sweet, creative, and deeply loved. Both were poets and musicians navigating trans discrimination and mental health struggles despite supportive communities.

Rather than sensationalizing suicide among transgender youth, co-directors Lexie Bean and Logan Rozos portray Blake and Kyler as beloved souls, not tragic statistics. Reflecting on the connections between their own experiences and those of the boys, they create a hopeful gift for trans youth while exploring what it takes to heal in community.

## SUN, SEPT 20
## 1:15 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

**Content notes:**
Contains references to ableism; child abuse; death or dying; hate or discrimination towards trans people; self-harm or suicide.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# WARLA



## SUN, SEPT 20
## 4:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

**Kevin Zarate Alambra | Philippines | 2025 | 83 min**
**Tagalog, Japanese and English with English subtitles**

Young KitKat joins an underground gang of trans women who hold foreign men for ransom to fund their gender-affirming surgeries. Joice (Jervi Wrightson), the leader of the group, swiftly takes KitKat under her wing. KitKat moves amidst the vigilante group with hopes of belonging and becoming as resilient to daily discrimination. Meanwhile, the stakes grow higher for the rest of the women, who see the surgeries as the key to a better life.

Based on the true case of the "Warla Gang", director Kevin Alambra, trans activists, and an all trans lead cast shift narrative power in this dark crime thriller.

**Content notes:** Contains references to blood, death or dying; graphic violence or physical abuse; hate or discrimination towards trans people; kidnapping and abduction; psychological or verbal abuse; and strong language.

PRECEDED BY THE SHORT FILM

## **ICE** (YELO)



**Gab Rosique | Philippines | 2025 | 20 min | Cebuano and Tagalog with English subtitles**

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE** Long days together in a sweltering thrift shop fuel Jessa's desires for Candy. When an American suitor catches Candy's eye, tension between the women grows unbearably hot.

# **OUR BODY IS AN EXPANDING STAR** (NUESTRO CUERPO ES UNA ESTRELLA QUE SE EXPANDE)



## SUN, SEPT 20
## 4:15 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Semillites Hernández Velasco, Tania Hernández Velasco | Mexico | 2025 | 84 min | Spanish and English with English subtitles**

Sweeping across Turtle Island in search of ancient modes of belonging, siblings and co-directors Semillites and Tania embrace their own bodies with a gaze rooted in love and curiosity. Bare skin meets landscapes rich with life, connecting the corporeal with the cosmic. Through dreamlike visuals, immersive soundscapes, and powerful spoken word, this non-linear story reconstitutes collective memory, transforming queer, brown bodies into vessels of ancestral knowledge, joy, and resilience.

**Our Body is an Expanding Star** deftly challenges harmful narratives imposed on racialized bodies. Deeply introspective and immersive, this autobiographical work expands notions of identity and belonging, reclaiming space for queer and trans people of colour beyond the limitations of external perception.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIERE

# LUNAR SWAY



**Nick Butler | Canada | 2026 | 95 min | English with captions**

Cliff is a young man searching for love in all the wrong places in the small desert town of Mooncrest. When his birth mother, Marg, arrives unexpectedly, the two begin to forge a tentative connection, but the secrets she carries soon catch up with them. Set among eccentric desert misfits, **Lunar Sway** unfolds as a tender queer coming-of-age story of longing, family, and belonging.

Written during a period of unrequited love, writer-director Nick Butler transforms personal heartbreak into a wistful, offbeat odyssey where melancholy and deadpan humour coexist. Somewhere between a sun-bleached fever dream and a quietly hopeful romance, the film embraces uncertainty over easy answers. Anchored by Noah Parker's deeply endearing performance and an electrifying turn from Liza Weil, **Lunar Sway** is a distinctive debut that lingers long after its final moments.

## SUN, SEPT 20
## 7:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

**Content notes:**
Contains references to animal cruelty or animal death; blood; nudity; and sexually explicit content.

SHORTS

# RAINBOWS IN A DESERT

## SUN, SEPT 13
## 1:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**
115 min

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

BIPOC perspectives that first provoke, then seduce, the narratives of queer belonging. Explore themes of loneliness, migration, caste, and closeted desires with unflinching honesty. Meet characters who confidently spark mischief and embrace defiance. Despite pressures to assimilate, they enter spaces of public conformity looking for spontaneous bubbles of defiance, compassion, and community.

**Content notes:** Contains references to child abuse, graphic violence; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; psychological or verbal abuse; nudity; racism or racial slurs; self-harm or suicide; sexual assault; sexually explicit content; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.



## WOODPECKER

**Tanju Ozdemir | United States | 2026 | 15 min**
**Kurdish, Turkish with English subtitles**

**WORLD PREMIERE** Follows Cihan, a gay and Kurdish asylum seeker in the US, as he goes through a series of intense encounters on the same day as his immigration case hearing.



## SAME TIME NEXT YEAR?

**Anushay Sheikh | Canada | 2025 | 8 min**
**Arabic, English, Urdu with English subtitles**

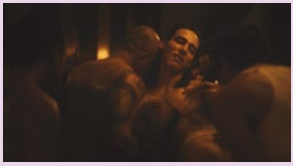
Brampton-based Safa's annual family trip to the Jummah turns into an awkward confrontation with her ex-girlfriend Maha.



## SHOWTIME (像这样的时刻)

**Lam Can-zhao | China, Malaysia, Switzerland | 2026 | 15 min | Min Nan Chinese, Cantonese with English subtitles**

Tia, a lonely teen who lives in a rural Chinese mining town, seeks refuge in her online persona as Michael Jackson's doppelgänger.



## WHAT DO YOU SEEK IN THE DARK? (หาอะไร?)

**Tossaphon Riantong | Thailand | 2026 20 min | Thai with English subtitles**

An erotic thriller that captures the dying charm of Thailand's stand-alone cinemas which also serve as cruising sites for closeted gay men.



## UPON STARVATION (UPAASMAAR)

**Saurav Mahin | India | 2026 | 16 min | Marathi with English subtitles**

A jaded petty thief in Pune, India, unexpectedly stumbles into profound intimacy with a college student, awakening a new hunger that rips open an unspeakable social chasm.



## OUT OF SHADOWS

**Pradeep Mahadeshwar | Ireland | 2025 15 min | Spanish, English and Hindi with English subtitles**

A short documentary with striking visuals of nature and folk imagery, performance art, and oral storytelling by three men living with HIV who, upon immigrating to Ireland, received free access to life-saving treatment.

SHORTS

# INTO THE LIGHT

## SUN, SEPT 13
## 4:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**
118 min

**PARTIALLY ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

An anthology of coming-of-age stories bursting from hope within. Curated for those coming out of the shadows of internalized homophobia, toxic masculinity, and societal and familial expectations and stepping into the light of self-love. Whether you are a quiet farmer, a small town waitress, or an aspiring actress turned foot model, brighter horizons are ahead.

**Content notes:** Contains references to death; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; nudity; sexually explicit content; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.



### "GIRLFRIEND GIRLFRIEND"

**Sara Werner | United States | 2025 | 5 min**
**English with captions**

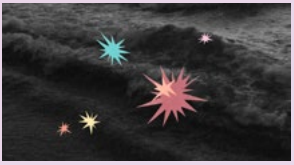
One simple question from a coworker leads a woman to the glittery depths of her mind.



### WELCOME TO PARIS

**Al Oxborough Karr | France | 2026 | 14 min**
**English, French with English subtitles**

Evie, an aspiring actress, lands her first gig in Paris as a foot model, but her employers find a problem with her feet.



### "IT IS NOT DIRTY"
(« CE N'EST PAS SALE »)

**Ulysse Thevenot | France | 2025 | 5 min**
**French with English subtitles**

As Didier remembers his life, animation shifts from colourless to colourful through a process of self-love.



## THE BLAME SILENCE (ALÉM DA CULPA)

**Israel Cordova | Brazil | 2025 | 20 min**
**Portuguese with English subtitles**

After his father's death, strong and silent Mauro hires a farm hand to work alongside him. Long days in the sun together cause Mauro's questions to grow heavier and heavier.



## GRACE

**Jana Park | United States | 2025 | 13 min**
**English with captions**

Honolulu, 1959. Two women hide their forbidden love over a family dinner, with the looming dread of the heteronormative pressure to marry and the Nation being admitted into the US.



## RONITA RAMBO

**Michael Doshier | United States | 2026**
**13 min | English with captions**

Order's up for Ronita Rambo, a steely middle-aged waitress of a rural Missouri diner! On the night of Valentine's, Rambo's sour mood is challenged by two gay teens on a date.



## AS IT SHOULD BE (此刻剛好)

**Edwin Lai | Hong Kong | 2026 | 12 min**
**English, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese**
**with English subtitles**

Set during Lunar New Year in Hong Kong and surrounded by family, tradition, and love, Megan finally faces her fears and states her truth, but how will her family take it?



## NANCY

**Eva Grant | Canada | 2026 | 10 min | English**
**with captions**

**WORLD PREMIERE** After being born in 1893 in a human zoo, Nancy Columbia Palmer Eneutseak became the first Indigenous screenwriter, writing and starring in the long-lost film The Way of the Eskimo.

SHORTS

# GET OUT (OF THE CLOSET)!

## SUN, SEPT 13
## 7:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**
114 min

**ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

Where do your fears lurk? Visionary filmmakers beckon you towards the horrors in common shadows and dark corners. Encounter sharp thrillers across seven films. Here, the doors to your queer nightmares swing open and refuse to be closed again.

**Content notes:** Contains references to animal cruelty or animal death; blood; death or dying; flashing lights; graphic violence or physical abuse; homicide; hate or discrimination towards trans people; psychological or verbal abuse; racism or racial slurs; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; sexism or misogyny; strong language; and torture.



## DREAD

**Loren Loubser, Gabe Gabriel | South Africa, United Kingdom | 2026 | 10 min | English with captions**

Cape Town driver Toni becomes the unsolicited ear to a "crispy-fried German lady", unraveling an ordinary day into a haunting encounter.



## PURGATORY

**Nikki Shaffeeullah | Canada | 2026 | 20 min English with Captions**

Zena returns home with her partner to grieve the loss of a family member. If that weren't already challenging enough, she must keep a level head among relatives determined to test her patience and disturb her peace.



## THIS HOUSE THAT BEARS NO FRUIT

**Chantal Leong | Canada | 2026 | 6 min**
**English with captions**

In a Chinese-Canadian home, Mother knows best. A teen girl learns forgotten offerings of fruit carry consequences better left unsaid.



## SCISSORS

**Hannah Alline | United States | 2026**
**13 min | English with captions**

Provoked and angered, Terry fixates on the first woman he sees. His plot for revenge leads to a getaway cabin set for a wild night.



## FOUR ITCHY BOYS

**Andrew Hebert | United States | 2026**
**13 min | English with captions**

Four boys are forced to defend their humanity in a terrifying dystopian world by Emmy-nominee Andrew Hebert.



## KILLJOTE

**Ángel Villahermosa | Spain | 2025 | 12 min**
**Spanish with English subtitles**

Now that her husband is dead, Carmen is ready to leave her life behind and be with Mari, the woman she loves. But there's one problem — Mari's husband is still alive.



## RUBINSTEIN'S

**Tommy Ross-Williams | United Kingdom**
**2026 | 15 min | English with captions**

Buyers beware... Jade is drawn into an antique shop while searching for a gift for her partner.

SHORTS

# THE COAST IS QUEER

## FRI, SEPT 18
## 7 PM

**EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY - RELIANCE THEATRE**

**Event runtime:**
111 min

**PARTIALLY ONLINE**
SEPT 21-27

A VQFF fan favourite returns: Enter the multiverse of British Columbia's queer filmmaking talent. From absurd comedies, dark experimentations, and powerhouse performances, the sky is the limit for our showcase of local storytellers.

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

**Content notes:** Contains references to death or dying; nudity; self-harm or suicide; sexually explicit content; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.



### SUMMER FLING

**Krit Komkrichwarakool | Canada | 2025**
**13 min | English with captions**

Two men reunite once again for the annual summer festival, but the nature of their breezy hook-ups comes into question.



### EGG YOLK CUSTARD BUN (奶黃包)

**Soya Wu | Canada | 2025 | 2 min | Cantonese with English subtitles**

Sticky. Steamy. Sweet. Prepare fora generous helping of pleasures at the dim sum table.



### MIRTH CONTROL AKA "FAKING IT"

**Eva Grant, Yasmeen Grant | Canada | 2026**
**5 min | English with captions**

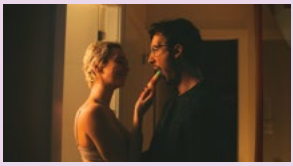
**WORLD PREMIERE** A surreal feminist take on how patriarchy weaponizes laughter into a performance of pleasure.



## MASCOTT

**Marilyne Lamontagne, Shane Savage**
**Canada | 2026 | 14 min | English with captions**

**WORLD PREMIERE** A transmasculine actor finally gets their shot to be on live television, but only if they don a bear costume.



## SHE'S NONBINARY

**Jess McLeod | Canada | 2026 | 11 min**
**English with captions**

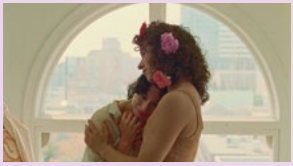
Nonbinary Max finally gets off the top surgery waitlist, prompting an identity crisis from Jake, their cis straight boyfriend.



## FADEAWAY

**Brendan Prost | Canada | 2025 | 14 min**
**English with captions**

A closeted bisexual man grieves a lifeline connection after a fatal overdose. A performance-driven drama on loneliness starring Riley Davis and Matt Dejanovic.



## GALATEA

**Céline Ribard | Canada | 2025 | 8 min | No dialogue**

A modern-day adaptation of a Greek myth, where the artist Pygmalion (Mya Lowe, *Yellowjackets*) falls in love with her beautiful statue.



## I DO（願憶）

**Kimberly Ho, Cynthia Zhou | Canada | 2026**
**14 min | English, Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles**

**WORLD PREMIERE** Lifelong dreams manifest for Jacob, a queer Taiwanese man, on the day of his wedding. While every seat is filled, the presence of a family member points him to the space between them.

SHORTS

# DRAG DARLINGS

## SAT, SEPT 19
## 1:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**
120 min

Meet the performers behind captivating drag personas showcased by new Canadian filmmakers. **Drag Darlings** explores the artistry and experiences of Canadian and international performers, revealing how their environment shapes their work. Whether deeply personal or unapologetically political, these stories remind us that the revolution will be contoured.

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

**Content notes:** Contains references to death; flashing lights; graphic violence or physical abuse; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; nudity; smoking, drinking, or substance abuse; and strong language.



### TETHER

**Matt Prazak | Canada | 2025 | 5 min | No dialogue**

In need of a quick mend to his work vest, a man returns to the space that fulfilled him the most.



### GUIHUA（桂花）

**Yixuan Wang | China | 2026 | 11 min | English, Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles**

Toronto-based filmmaker Yixuan Wang studies GuiHua in her first film: A charismatic drag performer shining in the underground, but torn from home. GuiHua navigates the collision of family obligation, state authority, and queer self-expression while challenging his survival within the system.



## VICTORIA'S KING
(VICTORIA KA RAJA)

**Ayilya Thampuran | Canada | 2026 | 24 min**
**English, Hindi with English subtitles**

Ayilya Thampuran's debut documentary follows Badshah, the first Bollywood drag king in Canada. Moving between high-energy performances and intimate offstage moments, the film traces Badshah's journey of self-discovery as they navigate identity, culture, and self-expression.



## THE DARLINGS - INTERLUDE

**Jesse Ray McEachern | Canada | 2026**
**38 min | English with captions**

**WORLD PREMIERE** Filmed over eight years, Ray McEachern charts the rise of The Darlings, a Vancouver-based drag quartet composed of Continental Breakfast, Maiden China, PM (season finalist from Season 6 of *Canada's Drag Race*), and Rose Butch.

SHORTS

# AMOR (ES) CIEGO

## SAT, SEPT 19
## 4:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

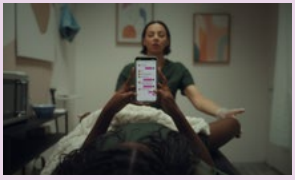
**Event runtime:**
115 min

CURATED BY **KATHLEEN MULLEN** AND **ROBERT RÍOS**

Queer Latin American storytellers present a guide for hopeless romantics. Desire, discovery, and devotion collide—revealing that sometimes when we love, we are blinded to our paramours' imperfections.

VLAFF and VQFF reunite for a joyful showcase of modern day love affairs in film. This year's selection seeks to charm and cling to love against all odds.

**Content notes:** Sexually explicit content, Ableist language.



## SOFIA

**Camila de Ilhéus | United States | 2025 10 min | English and Portuguese with English subtitles**

A waxing appointment at a local spa goes wrong for Sofia, leaving her with far more (or less) than she bargained for.



## MIÉNTEME

**Nico Blanco | United States | 2025 | 13 min English and Spanish with English subtitles**

Felipe and Catalina's perfect wedding is turned upside down by an unexpected guest and the buried feelings that come along with them.



## TODAY & TMRW

**Mariales Diaz Batista | United States 2026 | 13 min | English, Spanish with English subtitles**

Every day after school, Mariah picks up bestie Kimberly at the train station. Bonds are tested when Mariah finds Kimberly with a boy, stirring their usual rhythms together.



## CRABS IN THE AIR
(CANGREJOS EN EL AIRE)

**Esteban Guerrero Carranco | Mexico | 2025 18 min | Spanish with English subtitles**

Iván flees from his boyfriend seeking refuge and freedom with an old flame. The past returns to challenge them to face what was left behind.



## MY GIRL (MI CHICA)

**Lariss de la Vega | Mexico | 2026 | 3 min Spanish with English subtitles**

Colourful, playful, and sexy, this music video by RUBIO—acclaimed Chilean singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist—offers a vibrant celebration of queer love and desire.



## CHULO

**Joshua Hernández | Puerto Rico | 2026 15 min | English, Spanish with English subtitles**

As Gael reconnects with family and memory in Puerto Rico, a chance encounter leaves a lasting impression.



## FAR FAR AWAY FROM LA
(DOS CONEJAS)

**Rita Hostt, Maruja Bustamante | Argentina 2025 | 17 min | English and Spanish with English subtitles**

La Coneja learns that you can take the girl out of Argentina, but when your intense situationship is not willing to emigrate either... well...

SHORTS

# JOY RIDE

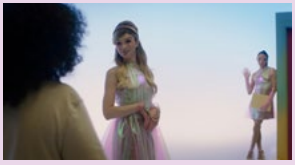
## SUN, SEPT 20
## 7:15 PM

**INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE**

**Event runtime:**
120 min

Buckle up for a joy ride where nothing goes according to plan. These wildly entertaining shorts veer from outrageous to heartfelt, packing enough twists to make you gasp, laugh, swoon, and question what's coming next. Equal parts clever and crowd-pleasing, **Joy Ride** is the perfect date night. Bring your besties, your boo, or just yourself—embrace the chaos and enjoy the ride.

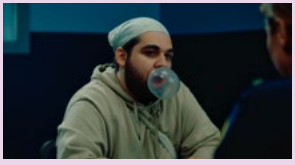
**Content notes:** Contains references to death; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; racism or racial slurs; and strong language.



## FIRST DEATH

**Alyssa Lerner | United States | 2026**
**25 min | English with captions**

After a complicated first life, Soul #659 (Kimia Behpoornia) refuses to let go of the love they left behind. Their plan to reunite with Leah (Vic Michaelis) forces them to confront what it truly means to cherish a life, however brief.



## FLIGHT RISK

**Mohammad Awad | Australia | 2025 | 16 min**
**English with captions**

Muhammad's fruity holiday plans hit turbulence when airport security accuses him of intending to join ISIS—forcing him to navigate a high-stakes interrogation with humour, defiance, and the absurd.



## ONE OR TWO

**Lief Ramsaran | Canada | 2026 | 10 min**
**English with captions**

Heartbreak comes into focus in Lief Ramsaran's delightfully offbeat comedy. Tobi's visit to the optometrist captures the strange logic of moving on.



## YOU AND ME MAKES THREE

**Emmalie El Fadli | United Kingdom | 2026**
**19 min | English with captions**

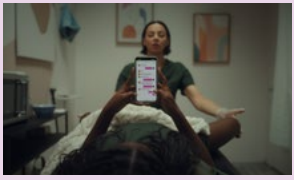
Welcome to the wild world of sperm donors, DIY insemination, and awkward conversations! In this romcom charmer, a lesbian couple bounces between chosen family dynamics to launch towards parenthood.



## THEY, WITH AN AXE
(ENTRÓ CON UN HACHA)

**Cande Lázaro | Spain | 2025 | 14 min**
**Spanish with English subtitles**

A village spins competing versions of an unforgettable encounter in this sly mockumentary. Folklore, gossip, and gender collide in a witty interrogation of who gets to shape the stories we believe.



## SOFIA

**Camila de Ilhéus | United States | 2025**
**10 min | English and Portuguese with English subtitles**

A waxing appointment at a local spa goes wrong for Sofia, leaving her with far more (or less) than she bargained for.

# OPENING WEEKEND PARTY

**SAT, SEPT 12**
**10 PM - 2 AM**

**THE BIRDHOUSE**

MUST BE 19+

A movie lover celebrates all things gay and glittering. Will they leave with new friends, or even, the best date story of their life? Wait! This story is about you! Join us for a night out with live performances, DJs, and a dance floor with room for everyone. We're opening VQFF 2026 with a party to show how we build ecosystems, not empires!

Entry to this event is included with tickets to the **Opening Presentation** (p.34).

# THE COAST IS QUEER RECEPTION

**FRI, SEPT 18**
**9 PM - 11 PM**

**EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY - INTEGRATED MOTION STUDIO**

The credits may roll, but the conversations are just beginning. Join filmmakers and fellow festival-goers for drinks, conversation and celebration as we honour BC's incredible 2SLGBTQIA+ film community. Around every table is a story. Around every story is a community. We'd love for you to be part of both

Entry to this event is included with tickets to **Shorts: The Coast is Queer** (p.80).

# DOG PARK SOCIAL

**SUN, SEPT 13**
**11 AM - 2 PM**

**EMERY BARNES PARK**

FREE

Calling all dog moms, dads, and puppy parents! Join filmmakers and their four-legged friends for a laid-back afternoon in the park. Meet fellow 2SLGBTQIA+ artists, chat about your latest pet projects, or simply stop by to say hello! Dogs optional.

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

## SAT, SEPT 19
## 10:30 PM - 2 AM

**THE BIRDHOUSE**

MUST BE 19+

CO-PRESENTED BY THE VANCOUVER LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL.

The everlasting flame between VLAFF and VQFF burns on! Join us for a joyful, high-energy finale full of spectacular performances, infectious beats and unforgettable community. The best way to close two Vancouver festivals is the same way we built it: together.

Entry to this event is included with tickets to **Shorts: Amor (es) Ciego** (p.84) or **Our Body is An Expanding Star** (p.72).

Go to **queerfilmfestival.ca** to get tickets, and for full details on parties, performers, and events.

# PuSh

International Performing Arts Festival

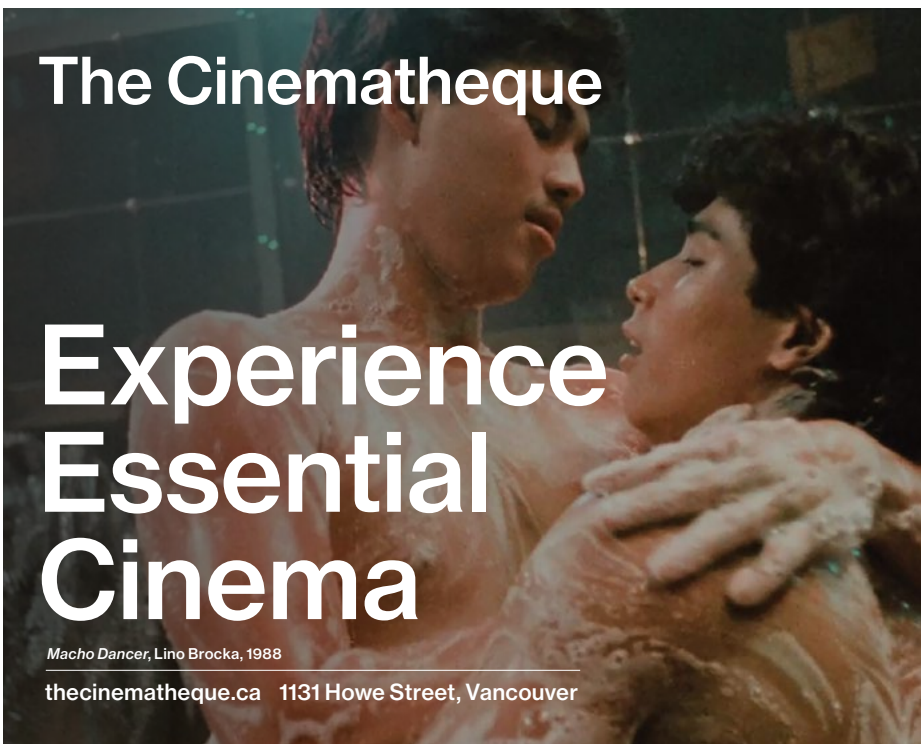


An audacious program for the culturally fearless, featuring theatre, dance, circus, music, film, and multimedia works from around the globe.

Midwinter – Vancouver BC
Jan 20 – Feb 07, 2027

PUSHFESTIVAL.CA

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thecinematheque.ca 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver



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QUEER

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**Hollywood Suite** supports VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

**SEPT 12 AND 19, 2026**

VQFF is excited to offer industry-leading workshops, panels, 1:1 meetings and networking events where filmmakers can learn, connect with fellow industry professionals, and get inspired by witnessing what's possible.

Mark your calendars and come meet the queer collaborators of your dreams!

# PITCH COMPETITION

**PUT YOUR BEST FILM FORWARD**

After a successful and creatively invigorating first year, VQFF Pitch Competition is back! Five 2SLGBTQIA+ filmmaking teams will have the opportunity to pitch an original narrative proof of concept, digital series, or short film to a live audience and jury of industry professionals.

Each of the five projects will be in the running to receive one (or all!) of the prizes on offer, allocated by the jury based on the strengths and unique needs of each project.

# INDUSTRY ACCESS

Are you a 2SLGBTQIA+ film student, emerging filmmaker, or filmmaker experiencing systemic barriers to accessing the industry?

You may be eligible for a sliding-scale, all-access Industry Pass to VQFF 2026! Learn more on our website **queerfilmfestival.ca**.

# PROGRAMMING DISRUPTOR FELLOWSHIP

**NO GATEKEEPERS, JUST GAME-CHANGERS**

This year celebrates the second edition of the Programming Disruptor Fellowship! Three emerging film programmers were selected for the opportunity to:

- Curate the 38th annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival as integral members of our programming team
- Receive a living wage for training and work as a film programmers
- Learn from inclusive and respected industry professionals
- Shift the tides in media representation and the stories we see on screen.

As co-creators, community leaders, and cultural disruptors, Fellows aimed to create impactful experiences for VQFF audiences and the landscape of Canadian cinema. Alongside an outstanding programme, we are proud to present 3 short film programs curated by each Fellow.

## Meet the 2026 Disruptor Fellows



**Akira Iahtail**
(she/her)

**Shorts: Into The Light**



**Britney Mocca**
(she/her)

**Shorts: Get Out (of the Closet)!**



**Shruthi Budnar**
(she/they)

**Shorts: Rainbows in a Desert**

Watch shorts programs curated by the Disruptor Fellows on Sunday, Sept 13 (p. 74-81)

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# TICKETS

| | |
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| STANDARD TICKET | **$7-$17** |
| SPECIAL PRESENTATION TICKET | **$7-$19** |
| FESTIVAL PASS | **$195** |
| FESTIVAL PASS (ACCESS) | **$100** |
| DIGITAL PASS | **$100** |

Purchase at
**queerfilmfestival.ca**

Contact
604-844-1615 x410 or
**boxoffice@outonscreen.com**

# DONATE

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