

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

[#VQFF2026](https://twitter.com/VQFF2026)

Located on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh and sə́lilwətał 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.

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	2
WELCOMES	3
ABOUT US	9
OUR SUPPORTERS	12
AWARDS	26
TICKET INFO & HOW TO FEST	28
VENUES	30
ACCESSIBILITY	31
LEGEND	32
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS	34
SCHEDULE	48
FEATURES	52
SHORTS	74
PARTIES & OTHER EVENTS	88
INDUSTRY	92
FILM INDEX	94

L A N D ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Vancouver Out On Screen Film and Video Society is an organization primarily led by non-Indigenous people. We operate on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwətaʔt (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:y éh nə siyéy ə, Friends and Relatives,

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

For our səliwətaʔ (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 q ə
thank you all,

Chief and Council,
səliwətaʔ (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.

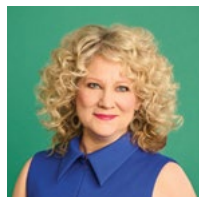
Beyond their screenings, festivals are places of dialogue, collaboration and exchange. They bring together professionals, emerging and established talent, as well as film lovers and audiences of all kinds. In pursuing our mission to support Canadian cinema, we recognize that festivals are essential to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

THE VANCOUVER OUT ON SCREEN FILM & VIDEO SOCIETY

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

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sean ko

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Tolu Ayoka

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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 Tsehay at volunteer@outonscreen.com.

VENUE COORDINATORS

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Ikediashi Favour
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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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 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

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

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
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Amanda Khan
Amanda Maximo
Amanda Sullo
Amber Verville
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Amina Chergui
Amira Anderson
Amr Kabesh
Amy Blondell
Ana Jimenez
Ana v
Anastasia Bandey
Anastasia Ledwon
Andrea Bollen

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Andrea Mulder
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Angela DiCresce
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Austyn Johnson
Ava S
Avery Shannon
Aydan Kaya
Ayilya Thampuran
AYM Zeto
B F
B Kolohon
Baraa Orabi
Barbara Costa
Barbara Reid
Barbara Walasko

Basia Pakula
Bastien Carobbio
Bea Neufeld
Ben Hiscox
Ben Johnstone
Benjamin Negrete
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 Deborah Hosak
 Deborah Thomas
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 Diana Sanderson
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 Gordon Yusko
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 Grace Lichtenwald
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 Hannah May
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 Harris Green
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Leah Steinfeld	Marine Au Yeung	Misha Hans
Leanna Jantzi	Mark Elliott	mo bot
Lee Dalmazzi	Mark Lister	Molly Ramsay
Lee Iskander	Mark McKinsey	Monica Muller
Lee Nevens	Mark Prince	Monica Otero
Lee Smith	Mark Wirtz	Moshe Zvi
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Linda Littlejohn	Mary Heeg	Natalie Rocheleau
Linda Munz	Mary Shervin	Natascha Daiminger
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Lindsay Park	Maryna Ohanesian	Nathan Roeters
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Lo Emmett	May Heart	Nicole Spencer
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Lorinc Vass	Meaghan Gibeaux	Nikki Scott
Luc Parent	Meaghen Taylor-reid	Ning Alcuitas
Lucy Cameron	Meg Andersen	Nishat Thaver
Lucy Grainger	Meg Par	Nneka Croal
Lynda Savage	Megan	nora grove
Lynn Arychuk	Megan Tardif	Norma Wood
Lynn Kruszewski	Megara McCormick	Olivander Day
Lynn Malbeuf	Mel Siermaczeski	Olivia Crozier
Madelin Baker	Melanie Kim	Olivia Hamilton
Maegan Amanda	Melisa Cecilia	Olivia Keady
Maïke Engelbrecht	Melyssa Martin	Olivia Paddock
Maiko Hina	Meredith Karazin	Olivia Sue Reichert
Maksim Buturlakin	Merilyn Herrod	Omri Haiven
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Peter Bussigel	Russell Green	Sophie Yendole
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Pierre Gilomini	S Carroll	Stellaaa Kowolsky
Pilar Gomez	Sabrina Fernandes	Stephan Baeuml
Preet Lidder	Sage Jubelius	Stephanie Hanson
Proud Zebra	Sally Han	Stephen Belanger
Quinn Peters	Sam Baker	Stephen Joyce
Quinn Pollock	Sam Smirfitt	Stina Hanson
rach speechley	Sam Zimmerman	SugarG Masoud
Rachel Chase	Samantha McCall	Sunshine Goldsberry
Rachel Quinones	Sandra Vander Schaaf	Sunshine O'Donovan
Rachel Verner	Sandra Wong	Suzanne Suzanne
Rachel Waterlow	Sandy Alexander	Syd Akai
rachna contractor	Santiago Soler	Sylvie C Mazerolle
Raine Hermosa	Sara MacFayden	t gallmann
Ralph Steele	Sara Shaw	T L
Rana Hakami	Sara Vickruck	Taco Niet
Rea Chatterjee	Sarah Fulton	Taegan McFarlane
realPhranc Phranc	Sarah Kim	Taija Chung
Rebecca Clarke	Sarah Turner	Tamsen Simon
Reg DSilva	sarah walker	Tansy Wong
Reith Charlesworth	Sarah White	Tasha Lorenzen
Ren Hui	Sarah Wilson	Taylor Moody
Rex Anderson	Sarah Yercich	Taylor Velehna
Rhianon Dearing	Sarah Zwiep	Tess Kiing
Rich Pring	Sasha Ceperkovic	Tessa Irwin
Rick Stonehouse	Scout Light	Thalia McWatt
Robbie Gallagher	Sean Fisher	The frank
Robert Henderson	Sebastin Araya	Thea Wilcox
Robert Howsam	Serena Patterson	Theodor Metzmeier
Robert Irvine	Shan Yam	Theresa LeRose
Robert R Brownridge	Shane Hagerty	Theresa Riley
Robert White	Shane Wu	Tiana Jung
Robert Woolsey	Shantel Harrison	Tiffany Wu
Robin Claire McCullough	Sharalyn Jordan	Tim Burger
Robin Drain	Sheila Adams	Tim Lam
Robyn Ryan	Shelby Keegan	Timmi Klassen
Robyn Savage	Sheldon McRae	Tin Raganit

Tina Higashi	Veronica Singer	Wren Wylder
TK Hannah	Vic Cluett	Wyatt Learoyd
Todd Hauptman	Vicki Catterall	Xi Chen
Tova Rae	Vicki Ferguson	Yiqing Sun
Tracy herman	Victor Carvalho	Yoni Gordis
Trevor O'Rourke	Victor Dias	Yu Cheong Chan
Trina Moulin	Victor Dolhai	Yui Richard Chan
Trina Prince	Victoria Gomez	Zac Elik
Trish Alcorn	Victoria Wong	Zack Singer
Trish Kelly Chornyj	Vincent Wheeler	Zhe Ding
Tyler Horman	Virginia Moulard	Zion Greene-Bull
Tyler Horman	Wanyun Wang	Zoe Brimacombe
Tyler T	Wayne Stone	Zoe Meighan
Val Patrick	Whess Harman	Zuri Toppin
Vanessa Warren	William Galvin	

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

Festival Passes provide access to all film screenings and events 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

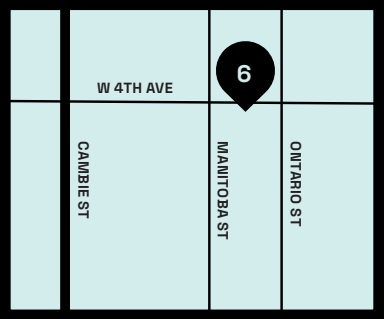
Select films will be available to stream online from September 21-27, 2026, the week after all in-person programs. Once you start a film, you have 72 hours to complete it.

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



VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE 600 HAMILTON ST.	1
CINEPLEX ODEON INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE THEATRES 8 AND 9 88 W PENDER ST., 3RD FLOOR	2
EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY OF ART + DESIGN RELIANCE THEATRE AND INTEGRATED MOTION STUDIO 520 E 1ST AVE.	3
SFU GOLDCORP CENTRE FOR THE ARTS DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN CINEMA AND WORLD ART CENTRE 149 W HASTINGS ST.	4
THE CINEMATHEQUE 1131 HOWE ST.	5
THE BIRDHOUSE 44 W 4TH AVE.	6
EMERY BARNES PARK 1170 RICHARDS ST.	7

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.

LEGEND

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



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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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.

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

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 HAWAZ (أبجد هوز)

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

A mesmerizing collision of dance, techno, and poetry, **Abjad Hawaz** (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**

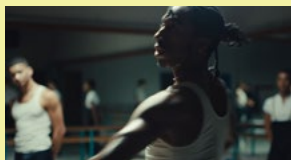
An encounter with Adam shatters worlds in this striking animation. A sensorial exploration of healing from sexual trauma and radical joy.



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

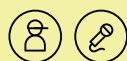
RELAXED SCREENING
SUN, SEPT 20, 1:30 PM
SFU - DJAVAD
MOWAFAGHIAN
CINEMA

Learn more on p.31

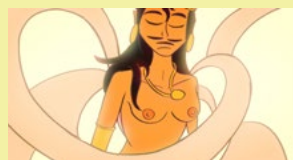
A fun and heartwarming collection of short films that celebrate authentic expression and supportive, sometimes quirky, community. Through mythical beings from space and sea, and Canadian history past and present, these films cheer youth on to feel proud of who they are today.

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

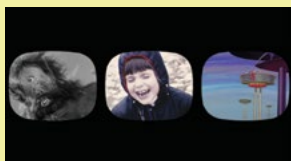
A rarely told queer love story from Indian mythology on Ila and Sudyumna, a being whose identity shifts with the phases of the moon.



SISTER OF MINE (SYSTER MIN)

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

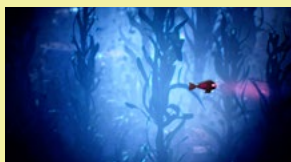
Ten year-old Noel wants to be more like his sister. When an unwanted haircut sparks unspoken jealousy, he takes matters into his own hands. A tender portrait of longing and self expression within a normative family environment.



THE FRUIT MACHINE: A SPACE OPERA

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

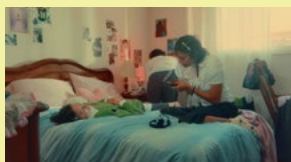
A young, queer alien lands on earth in the 1960s when the Canadian government was running secret tests to try and weed out 'the homosexuals'. A delightfully quirky documentary about diversity, representation and space dust.



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.

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

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."

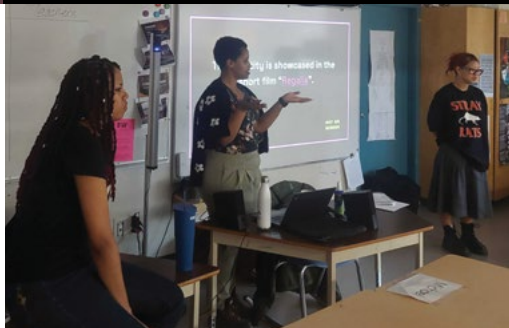
—
EDUCATOR IN PRINCE GEORGE, BC

"The facilitators 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!

Better than you thought a carshare could be.

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bed-online.ca

A large white circular logo with the word "bed" in a stylized, lowercase font. The letters are filled with a pattern of colorful, vertical fabric stripes in shades of pink, orange, yellow, green, and blue.

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
- 9:00 PM** — **The Coast is Queer Reception** — **P. 88**
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

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	

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

M I N E S H A F T :

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.

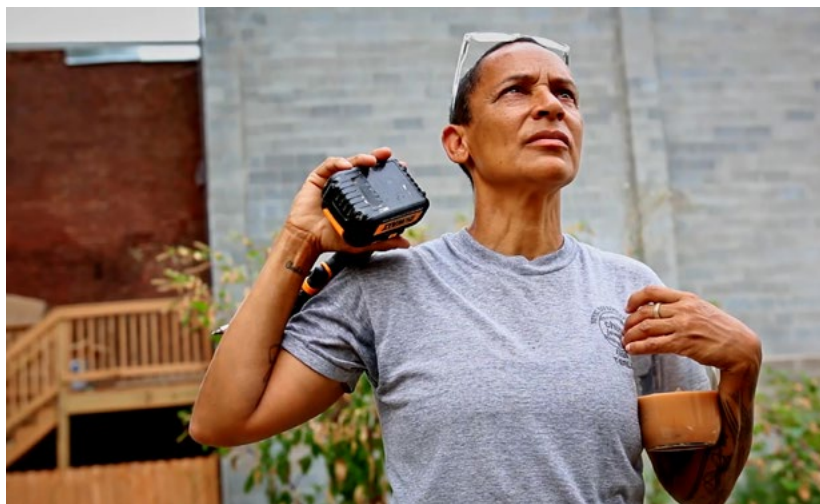
Gail Maurice | Canada | 2025 | 89 min | English and Michif with English subtitles

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.

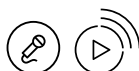
SAT, SEPT 12
1:30 PM

**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.



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

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.

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.

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.

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

THEY DREAM

**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.

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.

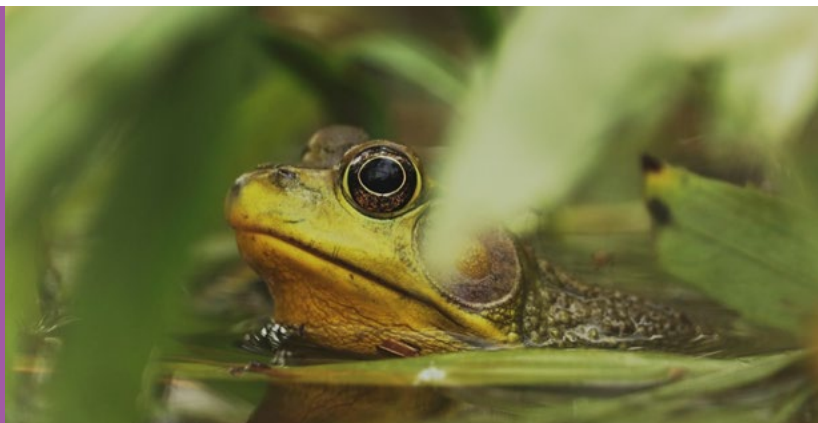




ʔə ɬ x^wməθk^wəyəm | at Musqueam

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.

RIDE OR DIE

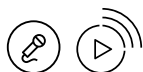


SAT, SEPT 19
4:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE**

Followed by a post-screening Q&A.

ONLINE
SEPT 21-27



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

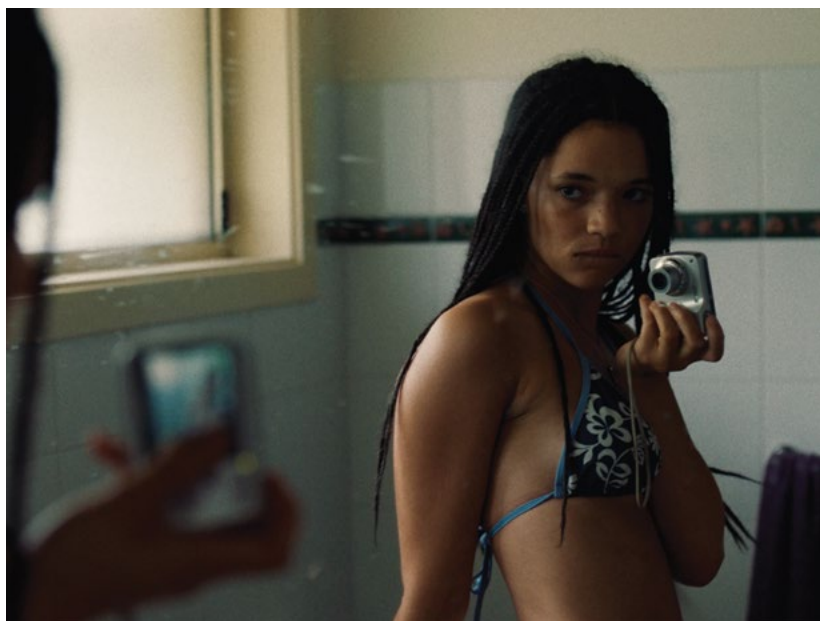
A road-trip romance takes a sinister turn in Josalynn Smith's thrilling debut feature. In the summer after college, Paula, a young Black woman constrained by parental expectations, falls hard for Sloane, her rebellious high school crush. Their spontaneous escape to California becomes a visceral journey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



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

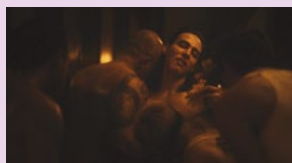
Brampton-based Safa's annual family trip to the Jummah turns into an awkward confrontation with her ex-girlfriend Maha.



SHOWTIME (像这样的时刻)

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

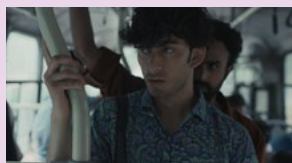
Tia, a lonely teen who lives in a rural Chinese mining town, seeks refuge in her online persona as Michael Jackson's doppelgänger.



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.

INTO THE LIGHT

SUN, SEPT 13

4:30 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE**

Event runtime:

118 min

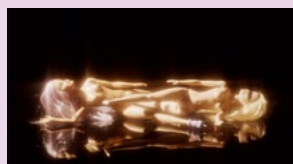
PARTIALLY ONLINE

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

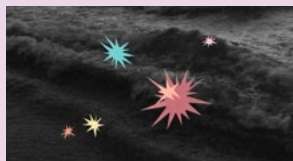
One simple question from a coworker leads a woman to the glittery depths of her mind.



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.

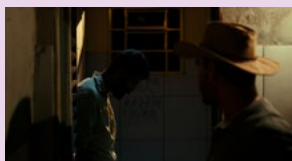


“IT IS NOT DIRTY”

(« 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

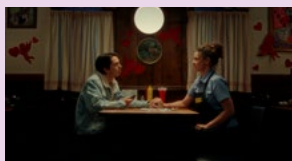
After his father's death, strong and silent Mauro hires a farm hand to work alongside him. Long days in the sun together cause Mauro's questions to grow heavier and heavier.



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

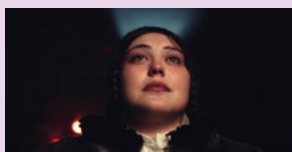
Order's up for Ronita Rambo, a steely middle-aged waitress of a rural Missouri diner! On the night of Valentine's, Rambo's sour mood is challenged by two gay teens on a date.



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

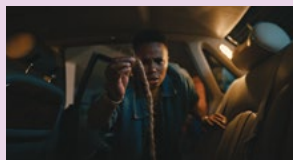
ONLINE

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**

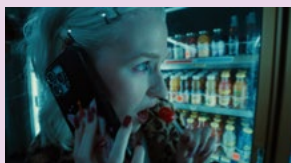
Zena returns home with her partner to grieve the loss of a family member. If that weren't already challenging enough, she must keep a level head among relatives determined to test her patience and disturb her peace.



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

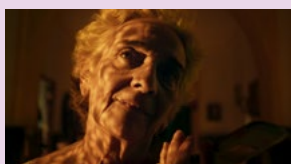
Provoked and angered, Terry fixates on the first woman he sees. His plot for revenge leads to a getaway cabin set for a wild night.



FOUR ITCHY BOYS

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

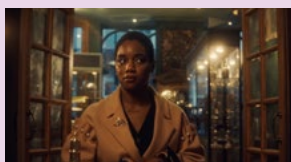
Four boys are forced to defend their humanity in a terrifying dystopian world by Emmy-nominee Andrew Hebert.



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

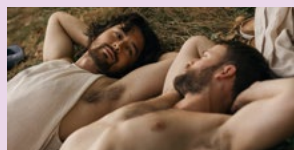
PARTIALLY ONLINE
SEPT 21-27



AVQFF 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

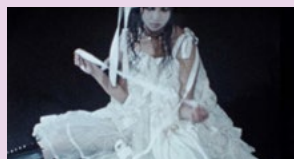
Two men reunite once again for the annual summer festival, but the nature of their breezy hook-ups comes into question.



EGG YOLK CUSTARD BUN (奶黃包)

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

Sticky. Steamy. Sweet. Prepare for a 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

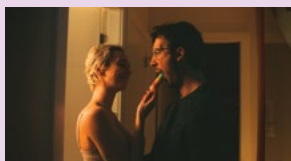
WORLD PREMIERE A surreal feminist take on how patriarchy weaponizes laughter into a performance of pleasure.



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

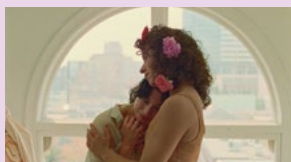
Nonbinary Max finally gets off the top surgery waitlist, prompting an identity crisis from Jake, their cis straight boyfriend.



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.

DRAG DARLINGS

SAT, SEPT 19
1:00 PM

**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE**

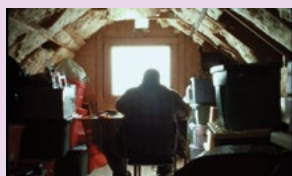
Event runtime:
120 min



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**

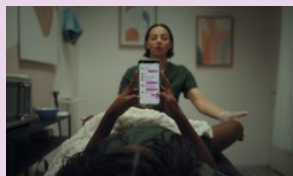
Event runtime:
115 min

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.

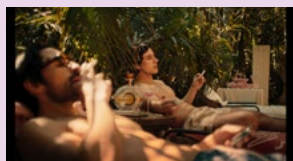
Content notes: Sexually explicit content, Ableist language.



SOFIA

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

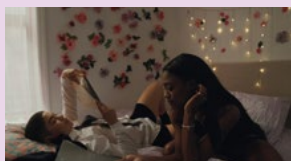
A waxing appointment at a local spa goes wrong for Sofia, leaving her with far more (or less) than she bargained for.



MIÉNTEME

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

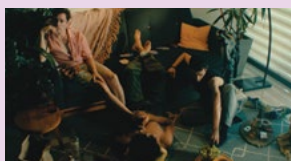
Felipe and Catalina's perfect wedding is turned upside down by an unexpected guest and the buried feelings that come along with them.



TODAY & TMRW

**Mariales Díaz 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**

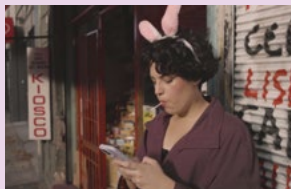
Colourful, playful, and sexy, this music video by RUBIO—acclaimed Chilean singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist—offers a vibrant celebration of queer love and desire.



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

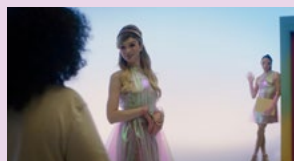
**INTERNATIONAL
VILLAGE**

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.

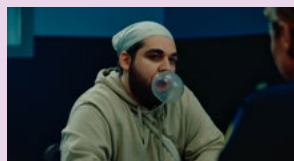
Content notes: Contains references to death; hate or discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people; racism or racial slurs; and strong language.



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

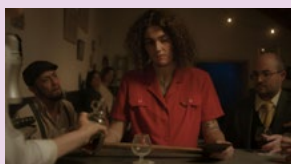
Heartbreak comes into focus in Lief Ramsaran's delightfully offbeat comedy. Tobi's visit to the optometrist captures the strange logic of moving on.



YOU AND ME MAKES THREE

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

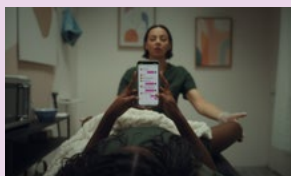
Welcome to the wild world of sperm donors, DIY insemination, and awkward conversations! In this romcom charmer, a lesbian couple bounces between chosen family dynamics to launch towards parenthood.



THEY, WITH AN AXE (CENTRÓ 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

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12 AND 19,
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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

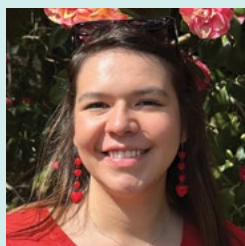
NO GATEKEEPERS, JUST GAME-CHANGERS

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



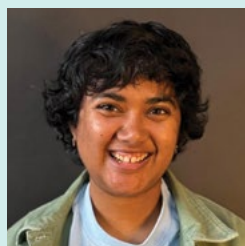
Akira lahtail
(she/her)

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)

"Girlfriend Girlfriend"	P. 76
"It is not dirty"	P. 76
10s Across the Borders	P. 59
Abjad Hawaz	P. 34
Again Again	P. 62
Apolo	P. 36
Are you being thanked endlessly?	P. 41
As It Should Be	P. 77
Ata Pūao	P. 35
Barbara Forever	P. 56
BEBA FROM 5 TO 9	P. 37
Black Burns Fast	P. 61
The Blame Silence	P. 77
Blood Lines	P. 54
Chulo	P. 85
Crabs in the air	P. 85
The Crown with a Shadow & The Search for SELF!	P. 41
The Darlings - Interlude	P. 83
Dread	P. 78
Egg Yolk Custard Bun	P. 80
Ephemera	P. 52
Fadeaway	P. 81
Far Far Away from LA	P. 85
First Death	P. 86
Flight Risk	P. 86
FLY	P. 35
Four Girls	P. 58
Four Itchy Boys	P. 79
The Fruit Machine: A Space Opera	P. 41
Galatea	P. 81
GAYS AGAINST GUNS	P. 68
Grace	P. 77
GUGU'S WORLD	P. 38

GuiHua	P. 82
I Do	P. 81
I wanna hold your hand	P. 43
Ice	P. 71
KillJOTE	P. 79
Kiloran Bay	P. 35
Loss of Altitude	P. 34
Lunar Sway	P. 73
Mascott	P. 81
Miénteme	P. 84
Mineshaft: The Cruising Murders	P. 53
MIRTH CONTROL aka "Faking It"	P. 80
Moon Cycle	P. 40
My Girl	P. 85
My name is Lilith	P. 35
NANCY	P. 77
Nature Girl	P. 65
Niñxs	P. 42
One Or Two	P. 87
Our Body is an Expanding Star	P. 72
Out of Shadows	P. 75
Purgatory	P. 78
Ride or Die	P. 66
Ronita Rambo	P. 77
Rubinstein's	P. 79
Same Time Next Year?	P. 74
Saving Etting Street	P. 55
Scissors	P. 79
Shaping a Dress	P. 41
She's Nonbinary	P. 81
SHOWTIME	P. 75
Sister of Mine	P. 40
Sofia	P. 84
Sofia	P. 87
Souvenir	P. 67
Summer Fling	P. 80

Take Care, Till Springtime	P. 35
Test	P. 57
Tether	P. 82
They, With an Axe	P. 87
TheyDream	P. 60
This House That Bears No Fruit	P. 80
Today & Tmrw	P. 85
Troublemakers X	P. 45
Understanding Myself as an Amphibian	P. 64
Upon Starvation	P. 75
Victoria's King	P. 83
Warla	P. 70
Welcome to Paris	P. 76
What do you seek in the dark?	P. 75
What Will I Become?	P. 69
Woodpecker	P. 74
You and Me makes Three	P. 87



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