

The VIFF logo is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

41st Festival

Vancouver International Film Festival

29 Sept — 09 Oct

Lead Partner

Scotia Wealth Management.

VIFF ANNOUNCES 2022 FILMS FOR VANGUARD, ALTERED STATES, INTERNATIONAL SHORTS, AND MODES

41st Vancouver International Film Festival
September 29 – October 9, 2022

VANCOUVER, BC (SEPTEMBER 20, 2022) Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) is thrilled to unveil the complete film lineups for **Vanguard**, **Altered States**, **International Shorts**, and **MODES**. Vanguard is a platform for rising international talents to bring their singular visions to the screen; Altered States is where the wild ones come out to play; International Shorts showcases films that immerse you in fully realized narratives in only minutes; and MODES presents international short works that explore how far the form of cinema is capable of bending. All films will be presented in-cinema, with a select number of feature films available across BC via VIFF Connect.

"We are elated to bring to VIFF audiences the eight works showcased in **Vanguard**," says Curtis Woloschuk, Director of Programming. "This competitive series offers a platform for first- and second-time directors who've helmed keenly perceptive and wonderfully vibrant films that are deeply tied to the histories and cultures of their regions."

Vanguard highlights include: the world premiere of **Harvest Moon**, a delightfully tender drama that stars the director, Amarsaikhan Baljinnyam, who plays a man returning to his native village in the Mongolian grasslands and strikes up an unlikely friendship with a 10-year-old orphan boy; the Canadian premiere of **The Locust**, a dizzying, tragicomic descent into the living nightmare of a female filmmaker striving for creative freedom that is filled with anarchic energy, rapid-fire dialogue and biting humour; the North American premiere of **The Uncle**, an impressive debut feature film set in the 1980s Balkan countryside that draws from familiar genre prompts and regional socio-political tensions to craft a terrifying psychological thriller; and the international premiere of **Tortoise Under the Earth**, an exquisitely nuanced observational docu-drama that positions an intimate story of loss against the backdrop of cultural and environmental devastation caused by the profit-driven uranium mining.

"**Altered States** has always been a home for some of the most inventive, irreverent, and involving films in the festival selection. This year, this series also boasts VIFF's highest quotient of comedies. As long as you like your laughs served dark and twisted," says Woloschuk. "For good measure, we also have films that dive headfirst into the metaphysical and supernatural."

Altered States highlights include: the Canadian premiere of **Sick of Myself**, an utterly merciless takedown of fame culture that follows one woman's attempt to seek celebrity by inhaling banned meds in order to incur hideous side effects; the Canadian premiere of **Quantum Cowboys**, which follows a pair of drifters as they take a deep dive

into a multiverse comprised of a dozen different mediums from 16mm to oil paints; the 2022 winner of the Special Jury Prize for Innovative Spirit at Sundance **Leonor Will Never Die**, writer-director Marika Ramirez Escobar's debut feature tells the story of a once-prominent action filmmaker and is packed with thrills and B-movie nostalgia; and **Huesera**, a bone-chilling, spidery genre-bender that draws from supernatural lore in its exploration of motherhood and female agency.

"This year's **International Shorts** series brings together films reflective of themes preoccupying people's minds around the globe at this moment in time," says Sandy Gow, International Shorts Programmer. "The first program focuses on connecting, disconnecting and reconnecting — something that we're all learning to do as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The second program is dedicated to family ties and all that entails, while the third program is an ode to anyone simply having a bad day. The fourth program centres on questions of morality, and the fifth program honours the diverse personal journeys that people have, and are currently, undertaking."

International Shorts features six world premieres, five North American premieres, four international premieres, and 10 Canadian premieres. Highlights include: the world premiere of **A Different Place**, which follows a 40-something woman who embarks on a journey of rediscovery during a clandestine date; the international premiere of **Mumu**, about the 6-year-old daughter of a deaf-mute couple who frustrates her father, who believes she can hear and speak; the world premiere of **The Silent Ones**, the tale of a small trawler's desperate captain and crew as they decide to take a dangerous, but potentially lucrative, risk to change their fortune; and the world premiere of **My Name is Anti**, the high-speed story of a teen girl who jumps from a moving car to flee a sex trafficking abduction that she records all on a stolen cell phone.

"**MODES** offers viewers a chance to explore the outer limits of the cinematic form in breathtaking and astonishing new ways," says T Bannister, MODES Curator. "This year's three programs each take on a unique theme, from investigating the darker impulses of our social and political realms, to breathing new life into ancient and archetypal stories, and films dedicated entirely to the art and craft of animation."

MODES highlights include: the North American premiere of **The Stopover**, which follows two filmmakers travelling from Kinshasa to Frankfurt as they find themselves unjustly relegated to airport purgatory; the North American premiere of **Parasite Family**, a collage of re-discovered film negatives that are transformed through AI into digital images that capture the faces of a new species of parasitic monster; and the North American premiere of **Hardly Working**, a piece by Total Refusal that depicts Non-Playable Characters (NPCs) from the popular action-adventure game Red Dead Redemption as they break out of their routines to display touching human faults.

Films streamed on VIFF Connect will include a selection of recorded Q&As from filmmakers and creators, supported by Creative BC and with Community Broadcast Partner TELUS STORYHIVE.

VANGUARD: Rising international talents

Presented by MUBI

Harvest Moon dir. Amarsaikhan Baljinnyam (Mongolia) | World Premiere

Know Your Place dir. Zia Mohajersbi (USA) | Canadian Premiere

The Locust dir. Faeze Azizkhani (Iran/Germany) | Canadian Premiere

Moja Vesna dir. Sara Kern (Australia/Slovenia) | North American Premiere | *Streaming on VIFF Connect*

Nightsiren dir. Tereza Nvotová (Slovakia/Czech Republic) | Canadian Premiere

Other Cannibals dir. Francesco Sossai (Germany) | North American Premiere

Tortoise Under the Earth dir. Shishir Jha (India) | International Premiere

The Uncle dirs. David Kapac, Andrija Mardešić (Croatia/Serbia) | North American Premiere

ALTERED STATES: Where the wild ones come out to play

Blaze dir. Del Kathryn Barton (Australia)

Huesera dir. Michelle Garza Cervera (Mexico/Peru)
Leonor Will Never Die dir. Martika Ramirez Escobar (Philippines)
Quantum Cowboys dir. Geoff Marslett (USA) | Canadian Premiere
Rodeo dir. Lola Quivoron (France)
Sick of Myself dir. Kristoffer Borgli (Norway) | Canadian Premiere
Smoking Causes Coughing dir. Quentin Dupieux (France)
Something in the Dirt dirs. Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead (USA)

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: Immersive international shorts

Connect/Disconnect/Reconnect

Bye Bye dir. Amélie Bonnin (France) | Canadian Premiere
The Ceremony dir. Lisle Turner (UK) | International Premiere
The Cormorant dir. Lubna Playoust (France) | Canadian Premiere
A Different Place dir. Sophie Black (UK) | World Premiere
Island of Freedom dir. Petr Januschka (Czech Republic) | North American Premiere
Magnified City dir. Isaku Kaneko (Japan) | Canadian Premiere

Family Ties

Baby dir. Cristina Sánchez Salamanca (Colombia) | Canadian Premiere
Ellie dir. Fernando Bonelli (Spain) | Canadian Premiere
Further Further Away dir. Polen Ly (Cambodia) | Canadian Premiere
Killing Ourselves dir. Maya Yadin (Israel) | International Premiere
Mumu dir. Mo Sha (China) | International Premiere
Nest dir. James Hunter (Australia) | Canadian Premiere

Having a Bad Day

Censor of Dreams dirs. Léo Berne, Raphaël Rodriguez (France)
Judy, Judy, Judy dir. Jessica McGaugh (USA) | Canadian Premiere
Marianne dir. Julien Gaspar-Oliveri (France) | North American Premiere
My Name Is Anti dirs. Andreas Vakalios, Fili Olsefski (Greece) | World Premiere
OST dir. Abhichoke Chandrasen (Thailand)
Plastic Killer dir. Jose Pozo (Andorra/Spain) | North American Premiere
Starfuckers dir. Antonio Marziale (USA)

Morality Plays

For Real dir. Ernest Lorek (Poland) | International Premiere
The Lone Wolf dir. Filipe Melo (Portugal)
A Moral Man dirs. Paul and Simon Wade (UK) | North American Premiere
Perspective dir. Alaa Algburi (Iraq/Jordan)
The Silent Ones dir. Basile Vuillemin (France/Belgium/Switzerland) | World Premiere
Solar Eclipse dirs. Alireza Ghasemi, Raha Amirfazli (France/Iran) | Canadian Premiere

Personal Journeys

Before Birth dirs. Álex Mena, Carmen Jiménez (Spain) | World Premiere

Empire of My Melodious Mind dir. Jeannette Louie (USA) | Canadian Premiere

Firecracker Bullets dir. Chad Charlie (USA) | World Premiere

For You Today the Light of the Sun Will Not Shine dir. Andrea Bordoli (Switzerland)

Ponto Final dir. Miguel López Beraza (Spain/Portugal) | World Premiere

Will You Look at Me dir. Shuli Huang (China) | North American Premiere

MODES: Form-bending international short work

MODES 1

Lake of Fire dir. NEOZOON (Germany) | North American Premiere

The Stopover dirs. Collectif Faire-part (Paul Shemisi, Nizar Saleh, Anne Reijniers, Rob Jacobs) (Belgium/DR Congo) | North American Premiere

Very, Very, Tremendously dir. Guangli Liu (China/France) | North American Premiere

It's Raining Frogs Outside dir. Maria Estela Paiso (Philippines) | Canadian Premiere

The Earth Will Swallow it All dir. Dominik Ritszel (Poland) | International Premiere

Watch the Fire or Burn Inside it dir. Caroline Poggi, Jonathan Vinel (France) | Canadian Premiere

MODES 2

Laika dir. Deborah Stratman (USA) | Canadian Premiere

Parasite Family dir. Prapat Jiwangsan (Thailand) | North American Premiere

Prelude Op. 28 No.2 dir. Jenni Toikka (Finland) | North American Premiere

The Fruit Tree dir. Isabelle Tollenaere (Belgium) | Canadian Premiere

Saving Some Random Insignificant Stories dir. Anna Vasof (Austria/Greece) | North American Premiere

Neighbour Abdi dir. Douwe Dijkstra (The Netherlands) | Canadian Premiere

MODES 3

backflip dir. Nikita Diakur (Germany/France)

Woman as Image, Man as Bearer of the Look dir. Carlos Velandia (Colombia) | North American Premiere

Zoon dir. Jonatan Schwenk (Germany)

Intermission dir. Réka Bucsi (Hungary)

Perforated Realities dir. Gustaf Broms (Sweden) | North American Premiere

Hardly Working dir. Total Refusal (Susanna Flock, Robin Klengel, Leonhard Müllner, Michael Stumpf) (Austria) | North American Premiere

Tickets and Information

Single Tickets	\$15 / \$13 Seniors / \$10 Students
Special Presentations	\$17
VIFF Connect Tickets	\$10
Platinum Pass	\$1,000
Festival Pass	\$350 / \$300 Seniors / \$120 Students
Festival 6 Pack	\$84 / \$72 Seniors / \$54 Students
Festival 10 Pack	\$135 / \$110 Seniors / \$80 Students
VIFF Talks and Industry Panel Tickets	\$18–\$25
VIFF Special Event	\$58
VIFF Live Tickets	\$18
Signals	Free

More ticket details at viff.org/ticket-info.

To explore VIFF's complete 2022 programming, visit viff.org.

VIFF's health and safety protocols — in strict compliance with provincial health orders — can be viewed [HERE](#).

Lead Partner

Scotia Wealth Management.

Premier Partner



Premier Supporters



Public Supporters



Social Media

facebook.com/VIFFest
youtube.com/VIFFest
twitter.com/VIFFest
instagram.com/VIFFest

#VIFF2022

Press Kit

<https://bit.ly/VIFF2022>

About VIFF | viff.org

Founded in 1982, the Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society is a not-for-profit cultural society and federally registered charitable organization that operates the internationally acclaimed Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) and the year-round programming at the VIFF Centre. VIFF produces screenings, talks, conferences, and events that act as a catalyst for the community to discover the creativity and craft of storytelling on screen.

VIFF is presented on the traditional and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ4/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

For media inquiries and media kit:

press@viff.org

Laura Murray | lmurray@mpmgarts.com | 604.418.2998
Ines Min | imin@mpmgarts.com | 604.440.0791