

The logo for the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

41st Festival

# Vancouver International Film Festival

29 Sept — 09 Oct

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## 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 Mohajersabi (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 Yadlin (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 Jiwarangsarn (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](https://viff.org/ticket-info).

To explore VIFF's complete 2022 programming, visit [viff.org](https://viff.org).

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

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#VIFF2022

**Press Kit**

<https://bit.ly/VIFF2022>

**About VIFF** | [viff.org](https://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<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔ4/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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