



VIFF ANNOUNCES 42ND EDITION FESTIVAL LINEUP

42nd Vancouver International Film Festival
September 28 – October 8, 2023

VANCOUVER, BC (SEPTEMBER 6, 2023) Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) presents its 42nd edition this month, the first fully in-cinema festival since 2019. This year's lineup features roughly 140 feature films and 100 shorts, presented on 10 screens in seven Vancouver venues. Vancouverites will be able to explore film culture through an expanded program of live events, performances, and exhibitions.

The festival will officially open with award-winning Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki's *Fallen Leaves*, a poignant comedy about two lonely souls who believe they're meant for each other, which won the Jury Prize at Cannes. The closing film selection will be *The Pot-au-Feu (La Passion de Dodin Bouffant)* by Tran Anh Hùng, a look at a romantic, intuitive, and intimate partnership between a famed gourmand and his beloved cook, played by Juliette Binoche. The film earned Tran Best Director at Cannes, 30 years after his debut film *The Scent of Green Papaya* won the Camera d'or at the same festival.

The 2023 film lineup speaks to the themes that are most pressing in our daily lives today, from intimate meditations on motherhood and the dynamics of family to the extensive impacts of climate change on the world around us. VIFF Talks brings together industry leaders who share insights into some of today's most popular and acclaimed films. VIFF Live breathes life into stories from the screen, combining live performance and cinema culture. VIFF Amp examines the role of music in film, laying the groundwork to foster new talent and nurturing connections between composers and directors. Signals, co-presented by VIFF and DigiBC, explores how new creative technologies are generating uncharted opportunities for storytelling.

"Vancouver is a city for filmmakers and cinephiles, and VIFF is the city's festival. The past few years were challenging, but we're back, fully in-cinema, with 11 days of celebration overflowing with powerful films and inspiring live performances to help our community reconnect with what makes this place so special," says Kyle Fostner, Executive Director. "While this year's festival falls at a tumultuous time for film industry workers, we're excited to offer both audiences and industry professionals the opportunity to come together, and to experience the power and potential film can have as a healing, inspiring, and uplifting experience."

VIFF Board Chair Lucille Pacey adds: "VIFF is a festival curated by people who love films, for people who love films. We're thrilled to present another extraordinary line up, offering sights and sounds to suit every palate. We're looking forward to welcoming back our beloved community, fully in-cinema once again, and showing filmmakers how much we appreciate their work."

"This year's film program was made possible through the dedication and passion of our largest programming team in years. With thousands of films in consideration, it was through ongoing conversation and collaboration that we ultimately arrived at our selection," says Curtis Woloschuk, Director of Programming. "In assembling our film series, including the newly launched Leading Lights and Focus sections, they not only drew from their expertise, but also their lived experiences. It's our sincere hope that the result is a program that will resonate with more Vancouverites than ever before."

Tickets are on sale now to VIFF+ Members at viff.org, and on sale to the public from Sept. 7 at 12pm (noon). Single tickets are \$18 for regular screenings, Galas and Special Presentations. Ticket packs are available in six, 10, and 20 packs. VIFF+ Members enjoy discounts on all VIFF tickets and the free U25 membership offers further discounts to youth between 19 and 25 years of age.

View the full press kit and the VIFF 2023 sizzle reel [here](#).

VIFF 2023 FILMS

OPENING FILM: *Fallen Leaves (Kuolleet Lehdet)* dir. Aki Kaurismäki (Finland/Germany)

Presented by Scotia Wealth Management

CLOSING FILM: *The Pot-au-Feu (La Passion de Dodin Bouffant)* dir. Tran Anh Hùng (France) | Canadian Premiere

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: The year's most anticipated films

Anatomy of a Fall (Anatomie d'une chute) dir. Justine Triet (France)

The Boy and the Heron dir. Hayao Miyazaki (Japan)

I'm Just Here for the Riot dirs. Kathleen S. Jayme, Asia Youngman (Canada) | BC Feature

La Chimera dir. Alice Rohrwacher (Italy/France/Switzerland)

Last Summer (L'Été dernier) dir. Catherine Breillat (France)

Monster (Kaibutsu) dir. Hirokazu Kore-eda (Japan)

Mr. Dressup: The Magic of Make-Believe dir. Robert McCallum (Canada)

A Normal Family dir. Hur Jin-ho (South Korea)

The Old Oak dir. Ken Loach (UK) | North American Premiere

Priscilla dir. Sofia Coppola (USA/Italy) | Canadian Premiere

The Promised Land (Bastarden) dir. Nikolaj Arcel (Denmark/Germany/Sweden)

Seven Veils dir. Atom Egoyan (Canada)

Swan Song dir. Chelsea McMullan (Canada)

The Zone of Interest dir. Jonathan Glazer (USA/UK/Poland)

SHOWCASE: A selection of exceptional cinema

About Dry Grasses (Kuru Otlar Üstüne) dir. Nuri Bilge Ceylan (Turkey/France/Germany/Sweden)

Close to You dir. Dominic Savage (Canada/UK)

Creature dir. Asif Kapadia (UK) | Canadian Premiere

The Delinquents (Los Delincuentes) dir. Rodrigo Moreno (Argentina)

Do Not Expect Too Much From the End of the World (Nu aștepta prea mult de la sfârșitul lumii) dir. Radu Jude
(Romania/Luxembourg/France/Croatia)

Evil Does Not Exist (Aku Wa Sonzai Shinai [悪は存在しない]) dir. Ryûsuke Hamaguchi (Japan)

Four Daughters (Les Filles d'Oifa) dir. Kaouther Ben Hania (Tunisia/France/Germany/Saudi Arabia)

Green Border (Zielona Granica) dir. Agnieszka Holland (Poland/Czech Republic/France/Belgium)

How to Have Sex dir. Molly Manning Walker (UK/Greece)

I Am Sirat dirs. Deepa Mehta, Sirat Taneja (Canada)

Il Boemo dir. Petr Václav (Czechia/Italy/Slovakia) | Canadian Premiere

Just the Two of Us (L'Amour et les Forêts) dir. Valérie Donzelli (France) | Canadian Premiere

Kidnapped (Rapito) dir. Marco Bellocchio (Italy/France/Germany)

The Monk and the Gun dir. Pawo Choyning Dorji (Bhutan/France/USA/Taiwan)

The Royal Hotel dir. Kitty Green (Australia/UK)

The Teachers' Lounge (Lehrerzimmer) dir. İlker Çatak (Germany)

They Shot the Piano Player (Dispararon Al Pianista) dirs. Fernando Trueba, Javier Mariscal (Spain/France)

Tótem dir. Lila Avilés (Mexico/Denmark/France)

PANORAMA: Narratives from every corner of the globe

19B dir. Ahmad Abdalla (Egypt) | Canadian Premiere

All Ears (Bu Xu Ci Xing [不虛此行]) dir. Liu Jiayin (China) | International Premiere

Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry dir. Elena Naveriani (Georgia/Switzerland) | North American Premiere

The Braid dir. Laetitia Colombani (Italy/Canada/India) | World Premiere

Days of Happiness (Les jours heureux) dir. Chloé Robichaud (Canada)

The Feeling That the Time for Doing Something Has Passed dir. Joanna Arnow (USA)

Four Little Adults (Nelja Pienta Aikuista) dir. Selma Vilhunen (Finland/Sweden) | Canadian Premiere

Gamodi dir. Felix Kalmenson (Georgia/Canada) | World Premiere

Goodbye Julia (وداعاً جوليا) dir. Mohamed Kordofani (Sudan)

Here dir. Bas Devos (Belgium)

Housekeeping for Beginners (Domakinstvo za Pocetnici [ДОМАКІНСТВО ЗА ПОЧЕТНИЦИ]) dir. Goran Stolevski (Macedonia/Poland/Croatia/Serbia/Kosovo)

If Only I Could Hibernate dir. Zoljargal Purevdash (Mongolia/France/Switzerland/Qatar) North American Premiere

In Broad Daylight (白日之下) dir. Lawrence Kan (Hong Kong) | Canadian Premiere

Irena's Vow dir. Louise Archambault (Canada/Poland)

Let the River Flow dir. Ole Gjaever (Norway/Sweden/Finland) | Canadian Premiere

Measures of Men (Der vermessene Mensch) dir. Lars Kraume (Germany) | International Premiere

The Oceans Are the Real Continents dir. Tommaso Santambrogio (Cuba/Italy)

One Day All This Will Be Yours (En dag kommer allt det här bli ditt) dir. Andreas Öhman (Sweden) | Canadian Premiere

Only the River Flows (Hébiān de Cuòwù [河边的错误]) dir. Wei Shujun (China) | North American Premiere

Puan dirs. Maria Alché, Benjamin Naishtat (Argentina/Italy/France/Germany/Brazil) | Canadian Premiere

Raging Grace dir. Paris Zarcilla (UK)

The Rapture (Le Ravissement) dir. Iris Kaltenbäck (France) | North American Premiere

Red Rooms (Les Chambres Rouges) dir. Pascal Plante (Canada)

Robot Dreams dir. Pablo Berger (Spain/France)

The Settlers (Los Colonos) dir. Felipe Galvez (Chile/Argentina/France/Denmark/UK)

Snow in Midsummer (Wǔ Yuè Xuě [五月雪]) dir. Keat Aun Chong (Malaysia/Taiwan/Singapore) | North American Premiere

Suddenly dir. Melisa Önel (Turkey) | North American Premiere

There's No Place Like Home (Den, der lever stille) dir. Puk Grasten (Denmark) | Canadian Premiere

Toll (Pedágio) dir. Carolina Markowicz (Brazil/Portugal)

A Tour Guide dir. Kwak Eun-mi (South Korea) | Canadian Premiere

Tsugaru Lacquer Girl (バカ塗りの娘) dir. Keiko Tsuruoka (Japan) | North American Premiere

Undercurrent (アンダーカレント) dir. Rikiya Imaizumi (Japan) | International Premiere

Wild Swans (Gorai Phakhri) dir. Rajni Basumatary (India)

VANGUARD: Rising international talents

Presented by MUBI

Animal dir. Sofia Exarchou (Greece/Austria/Romania/Cyprus/Bulgaria) | North American Premiere

Bitten (La Morsure) dir. Romain de Saint-Blanquat (France) | North American

The Face of the Jellyfish (El Rostro de la Medusa) dir. Melisa Liebenthal (Argentina) | Canadian Premiere

Let Me Go (Laissez-moi) dir. Maxime Rappaz (Switzerland/France/Belgium) | North American Premiere

Octopus Skin (La Piel Pulpo) dir. Ana Cristina Barragán (Ecuador) | Canadian Premiere

On the Go dirs. María Gisèle Royo, Julia de Castro (Spain) | North American Premiere

The Sea and Its Waves (La Mer et ses Vagues) dirs. Liana Kassir, Renaud Pachot (Lebanon/France) | North American Premiere

Tomorrow Is a Long Time (Míng tiān bǐ zuó tiān cháng jiǔ [明天比昨天长久]) dir. Jow Zhi Wei (Singapore/Taiwan/France/Portugal) | North American Premiere

NORTHERN LIGHTS: The next wave of Canadian and Indigenous storytellers

Presented by Telefilm Canada

Aitamaako'tamisskapi Natosi: Before the Sun dir. Banchi Hanuse (Canada)

Fitting In dir. Molly McGlynn (Canada)

Float dir. Sherren Lee (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

Hey Viktor! dir. Cody Lightning (Canada)

I Don't Know Who You Are dir. M. H. Murray (Canada)

I Used to Be Funny dir. Ally Pankiw (Canada)

In Flames (Blazh) dir. Zarrar Kahn (Canada/Pakistan)

Les Filles du Roi dir. Corey Payette (Canada) | BC Feature | Canadian Premiere

Richelieu dir. Pier-Philippe Chevigny (Canada/France/Guatemala)

Seagrass dir. Meredith Hama-Brown (Canada) | BC Feature

Someone Lives Here dir. Zachary Russell (Canada)

Union Street dir. Jamila Pomeroy (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

When Adam Changes (Adam change lentement) dir. Joël Vaudreuil (Canada)

Wild Goat Surf dir. Caitlyn Sponheimer (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

***NEW* LEADING LIGHTS: A celebrated Canadian filmmaker curates a selection of international films that influenced their artistic journey**

Supported by the Directors Guild Of Canada

VIFF welcomes Anthony Shim as the inaugural Leading Lights curator. Shim began his career as an actor, theatre director, and producer. In 2019, he wrote, directed, and produced his first feature film, *Daughter*. His second film, *Riceboy Sleeps*, had its world premiere at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival, where it won the Platform Prize.

A Woman Under the Influence dir. John Cassavetes (USA)

Dust in the Wind (戀戀風塵) dir. Hou Hsiao-hsien (Taiwan)

Joint Security Area (공동경비구역 JSA) dir. Park Chan-wook (South Korea)

Peppermint Candy (박하사탕) dir. Lee Chang-dong (South Korea/Japan)

***NEW* FOCUS: WOMEN, LIFE AND FREEDOM: A guest programmer embarks on a thematic exploration using cinema as their guide**

VIFF welcomes Fay Nass as this year's inaugural guest programmer. Nass is a community-engaged director, writer, dramaturg, innovator, producer, and educator. They are the Artistic Director of the frank theatre company and the founder/Artistic Director of Aphotic Theatre.

Joonam dir. Sierra Ulrich (USA)

Seven Winters in Tehran (Sieben Winter in Teheran) dir. Steffi Niederzoll (Germany/France)

Numb dir. Amir Toodehroosta (Iran)

Terrestrial Verses (Ayeh Haye Zamini) dir. Ayeh Haye Samini (Iran)

Valley of Exile dir. Anna Fahr (Canada/Syria/Lebanon)

INSIGHTS: Documentaries that change the way we see the world

Common Ground dirs. Josh & Rebecca Tickell (USA) | Canadian Premiere

Deep Rising dir. Matthieu Rytz (USA)

The Invention of the Other (A invenção do Outro) dir. Bruno Jorge (Brazil) | North American Premiere

Lynx Man (Ilveskuiskaaja) dir. Juha Suonpää (Finland/Estonia)

The Mission dirs. Jesse Moss, Amanda McBaine (USA/India) | Canadian Premiere

On the Adamant dir. Nicolas Philibert (France)

Mareya Shot, Keetah Goal: Make the Shot dir. Baljit Sangra, Nilesh Patel (Canada) | BC Feature

Physician, Heal Thyself dir. Asher Penn (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

WaaPaKe dir. Jules Arita Koostachin (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

Winter Chants (Dung Mei Loi [冬未來]) dir. Tsang Tsui Shan (Hong Kong) | North American Premiere

SPECTRUM: Innovative nonfiction filmmaking

Asog dir. Seán Devlin (Canada/Philippines) | BC Feature | Canadian Premiere

Between Revolutions (Între revoluții) dir. Vlad Petri (Romania/Croatia/Iran) | North American Premiere

Hello Dankness dir. Soda Jerk (Australia)

Kim's Video dirs. David Redmon, Ashley Sabin (USA/UK/France)

Lonely Oaks (Vergiss Meyn Nicht) dirs. Fabiana Fragale, Kilian Kuhlendahl, Jens Mühlhoff (Germany) | North American Premiere

Mighty Afrin: In the Time of Floods dir. Angelos Rallis (Greece/France/Germany) | North American Premiere

The Mother of All Lies (Kadib Abyad) dir. Asmae El Moudir (Morocco/Qatar/Saudi Arabia/Egypt)

Orlando, My Political Biography (Orlando, ma biographie politique) dir. Paul B. Preciado (France)

Smoke Sauna Sisterhood dir. Anna Hints (Estonia/France/Iceland)

The Tuba Thieves dir. Alison O'Daniel (USA)

PORTRAITS: A kaleidoscope of ground-breaking artists, great performances, and cultural icons.

Presented by the Audain Foundation

Anselm (Das rauschen der zeit) dir. Wim Wenders (Germany) | North American Premiere

Apolonia, Apolonia dir. Lea Glob (Denmark/Poland) | Canadian Premiere

Caiti Blues dir. Justine Harbonnier (Canada/France)

Call Me Dancer dirs. Leslie Shampaine, Pip Gilmour (USA/India)

A Cooler Climate dirs. James Ivory, Giles Gardner (UK/France) | Canadian Premiere

Invisible Beauty dirs. Bethann Hardison, Frédéric Tcheng (USA)

It's Only Life After All dir. Alexandria Bombach (USA)

PIANOFORTE dir. Jakub Piątek (Poland) | Canadian Premiere

Robert Irwin: A Desert of Pure Feeling dir. Jennifer Lane (USA) | Canadian Premiere

Sculpting the Giant dirs. Banu Wirandoko, Rheza Arden Wiguna (Indonesia) | World Premiere

ALTERED STATES: Where the wild ones come out to play

The Animal Kingdom (Le règne animal) dir. Thomas Cailley (France) | North American Premiere

Animalia dir. Sofia Alaoui (Morocco/France/Qatar)

Chronicles of a Wandering Saint (Crónicas de una Santa Errante) dir. Tomas Gomez Bustillo (Argentina/USA) | International Premiere

Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person (Vampire humaniste cherche suicidaire consentant)
dir. Ariane Louis-Seize (Canada)

My Animal dir. Jacqueline Castel (Canada)

Restore Point dir. Robert Hloz (USA/Czech Republic)

The Sacrifice Game dir. Jenn Wexler (USA)

Tiger Stripes dir. Amanda Nell Eu (Malaysia, Taiwan, France, Germany)

The Wait (La Espera) dir. F. Javier Gutierrez (Spain) | Canadian Premiere

White Plastic Sky (Műanyag égbolt) dirs. Tibor Bánóczy, Sarolta Szabó (Hungary/Slovakia)

VIFF SHORT FORUM: Short-form storytellers from Canada

Supported by Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada

All the Days of May (Tous les jours de Mai) dir. Miryam Charles (Canada)

Ancestral Threads dir. Sean Stiller (Canada) | BC Feature

Autre Chose (Something Else) dir. Étienne Lacelle (Canada) | World Premiere

Baikal Nuur - Lake Baikal dir. Alisi Telenqut (Canada/Germany)

Between You and Me dir. Cameron Kletke (Canada) | BC Feature | Canadian Premiere

Black Box Investigations dir. Paige Smith (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

Cassandra dir. Bea Santos (Canada) | World Premiere

Cloud Striker dir. A.W. Hopkins (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

The Company We Keep dir. Wojtek Jakubiec (Canada) | World Premiere

Conviction dir. Bruce Thomas Miller (Canada)

Cristo Negro dirs. Paul Stavropoulos, Brendan Mills (Canada/Panama) | Canadian Premiere

Death Mask dir. John Greyson (Canada) | World Premiere

Defining Human dir. Daniel Code (Canada/Kenya) | BC Feature | North American Premiere

Dickinsonia dir. Charline Dally (Canada/France) | Canadian Premiere

Donna dir. Keenan MacWilliam (Canada/USA) | International Premiere

Dream Tricks: Over a Six Stair dir. Adam Seward (Canada) | World Premiere

Element dir. Will Niava (Canada/Côte d'Ivoire)

Four Mile Creek dir. Ryan McKenna (Canada) | World Premiere

Gentle Hum of Spring (Un paradis pour les abeilles) dir. Simon Garez (Canada)

The Great Kind Mystery dir. Ella Morton (Canada)

Hair or No Hair dir. Janessa St. Pierre (Canada) | BC Feature | Canadian Premiere

Her Name Is Like a Sigh (Tên Nàng Như Một Tiếng Thở Dài) dir. Solara Thanh-Binh Dang (Canada) | BC Feature

Katshinau (Les mains sales) dirs. Julien G. Marcotte, Jani Bellefleur-Kaltush (Canada) | World Premiere

Les Lavandières dir. Laura Kamugisha (Canada) | Canadian Premiere

Making Babies (Faire un enfant) dir. Éric K. Boulianne (Canada)

Master of the House dir. Dylan Maranda (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

Modern Goose dir. Karsten Wall (Canada)

Mothers and Monsters dir. Edith Jorisch (Canada)

My Tomato Heart (Mon cœur de tomate) dir. Benoît Le Rouzès Ménard (Canada) | World Premiere

Niqigtug (The South Wind) (Niqigtug ᓃᓴᓃᓃᓃᓃ) dir. Lindsay McIntyre (Canada)

Our Grandmother the Inlet dirs. Jaime Leigh Gianopoulos, Kayah George (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

Outside Center dir. Eli Jean Tahchi (Canada/Germany) | Canadian Premiere

Portrait of the Con Artist as a Young Man dir. Ryan Leedu (Canada) | Canadian Premiere

Redlights dir. Eva Thomas (Canada)

Return to Ombabika dirs. Ma-Nee Chacaby, Zoe Gordon, Shayne Ehman (Canada)
***Silkworm* (کرم ابریشم)** dir. Amir Honarmand (Canada/Iran) | BC Feature | North American Premiere
Sisters dir. Marisa Hoicka (Canada) | Canadian Premiere
Soleil de Nuit dirs. Fernando Lopez Escriva, Maria Camila Arias (Canada)
Sun, Moon and Four Peaks dir. Kevin Jin Kwan Kim (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere
Take Care dir. Tony Massil (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere
Unspeakable Heap dir. Kara Ditte Hansen (Canada/USA/Denmark) | International Premiere
Yun dir. Yuezhang Qin (Canada) | BC Feature | World Premiere

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: Immersive international shorts

Family Adventures

Basri and Salma in a Never-Ending Comedy (Basri & Salma dalam Komedi yang Terus Berputar) dir. Khozy Rizal (Indonesia) | Canadian Premiere

The Family Circus dir. Andrew Fitzgerald (USA) | International Premiere

In Too Deep dir. Chris Overton (UK) | North American Premiere

Just the Two of Us (L'Amour et les Forêts) dir. Clara Lemaire Anspach (France) | Canadian Premiere

Lovebugs dir. Teddy Alvarez-Nissen (USA)

Southern Afternoon (南方午后) dir. Tian Lan (China) | Canadian Premiere

Where the Time Goes dir. Justin Tyler Close (USA/Canada) | World Premiere

Not Your Everyday Drama

Confessions dir. Stephanie Kaznocha (USA)

Cuarto de Hora dir. Nemo Arancibia (Chile/France) | Canadian Premiere

Fairplay dir. Zoel Aeschbacher (Switzerland/France) | Canadian Premiere

Jeong-Dong dir. Choi Woo Gene (South Korea) | International Premiere

Just a Rehearsal (Solo un Ensayo) dir. Hugo Sanz (Spain)

A Lien dirs. Sam Cutler-Kreutz, David Cutler-Kreutz (USA) | Canadian Premiere

Nothing Comes Easy

Cut dir. Samuel Lucas Allen (Australia) | World Premiere

Far From the Tree (Daleko od stromu) dir. Emma Marková (Czechia) | World Premiere

Mira dir. Eva Louise Hall (USA) | Canadian Premiere

Night Shift (Turno Nocturno) dir. Santiago Lago (Argentina) | International Premiere

Spasm dir. Sahra Asadollahi (Iran) | North American Premiere

Conflicts of the Heart

Almost Fall (Presque l'Automne) dir. Margot Pouppeville (France) | Canadian Premiere

Beyond the Sea dir. Hippolyte Leibovici (Belgium) | North American Premiere

Headdress dir. Taietsarón:sere 'Tai' Leclair (USA) | Canadian Premiere

An Ordinary Day (가장 보통의 하루) dir. Gim Ju-yeon (South Korea)

Youssou & Malek (Youssou et Malek) dir. Simon Frenay (France)

Relational Baggage

Big Day dir. Chung Chieh Chiang (Taiwan) | North American Premiere

Hedgehog (İğaçok) dir. D. Mitry (USA) | Canadian Premiere

Hide Your Crazy dir. Austin Kase (USA)

Nowhere dir. Garin Hovannisian (Armenia/USA) | Canadian Premiere

Pisko the Crab Child Is in Love (蟹から生まれたビスコの恋) dir. Makoto Nagahisa (Japan) | North American Premiere

Snif & Snüf dir. Michael J Ruocco (USA)

Sushi dir. Iván Morales (Spain) | Canadian Premiere

MODES: Form-bending international short work

MODES 1

Let's Talk dir. Simon Liu (Hong Kong)

Mother Land (Terra Mater) dir. Kantarama Gahigiri (Rwanda/Switzerland) | North American Premiere

Shadow Does dir. Laure Prouvost (Belgium/France/Austria) | International Premiere

Slow Shift dir. Shambhavi Kaul (India/USA) | North American Premiere

Square the Circle dir. Hanna Hovitie (Finland) | North American Premiere

This Is Not Here dir. Charlotte Mungomery (Australia) | International Premiere

MODES 2

Aqueronte dir. Manuel Muñoz Rivas (Spain) | Canadian Premiere

A Bird Called Memory (Pássaro Memória) dir. Leonardo Martinelli (Brazil/UK)

Loving In Between dir. Jyoti Mistry (South Africa/Austria) | North American Premiere

Mast-del dir. Maryam Tafakory (Iran/UK)

Short film playing before a feature film:

The Birthday Party (Il compleanno di Enrico) dir. Francesco Sossai (Germany) | North American Premiere

Live Events

VIFF Talks: Creators and innovators share expertise on their craft

Supported by Creative BC

Community Broadcast Partner TELUS STORYHIVE

VIFF Talks connects fans of film culture with the brilliant minds behind the work they love. The 2023 lineup features expertly moderated conversations with a wide range of experts from creators to showrunners, directors, writers, producers, and craftspeople celebrated for their outstanding contributions to groundbreaking film and television.

Welcome to Barbie Land with Sarah Greenwood & Katie Spencer | Friday, Sept. 29, 6:30pm

Venue: Vancity

Price: \$22

Sarah Greenwood (Production Designer) & Katie Spence (Set Decorator) have been close collaborators for 25 years. The creative duo was recently tapped by Greta Gerwig to bring to life beloved Barbie Land in the record-breaking and hottest film of last summer (and this year) — *Barbie*. Join us for a conversation on the importance of creative collaboration required to pull off a director's vision, design sets for modern utopias versus period pieces, and give us a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes magic. This talk will be moderated by director and journalist, Chandler Levack (*I Like Movies*, 2022).

Building the Closet of Oppenheimer with Costume Designer Ellen Mirojnick | Saturday, Sept. 30, 6:30pm

Supported by ACFC West

Venue: Annex

Price: \$22

In Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, costume designer Ellen Mirojnick channels the iconic style of the "father of the atomic bomb". With 45 years of experience, she's worked on films like *Fatal Attraction*, *Showgirls*, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, *The Greatest Showman*, and *Bridgerton*. Discover her insights on designing for drama and period pieces, emphasizing research and creative collaboration.

Canadaland Presents: The Backbench Live! With Host Mattea Roach (Live Taping) | Tuesday, Oct. 3, 6:30pm

Venue: Rio Theatre

Price: \$22

Explore the impact of government policy on art and culture with Backbench host Mattea Roach and special guests in this LIVE podcast taping. Delve into the contentious Bill C-11, its potential to disrupt the status quo, challenges facing Canadian filmmaking, and the struggle of independent art venues against industry giants. Join the urgent, thoughtful, and entertaining conversation shaping our cultural landscape.

The Many Worlds of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* with Jason Kisvarday and Kelsi Ephraim | Wednesday, Oct. 4, 6:30pm

Presented by IATSE 891

Venue: Vancity

Price: \$22

Everything Everywhere All at Once was the biggest independent film sensation recently and the winner of the Best Feature Film at the 95th Academy Awards. This year, VIFF is lucky to be hosting Jason Kisvarday (Production Designer) and Kelsi Ephraim (Set Designer), who will talk about working on this record-beating fan-favourite and explain how they spectacularly brought to life the many worlds of the multiverse. Jason and Kelsi are no strangers to working on independent hits and created the looks of some of the most memorable films including *Swiss Army Man*, *Sorry to Bother You*, and the soon-to-be-released thriller *MaXXXine* (directed by Ti West).

Creating Epic Sound Art: From *Dune* to *Mad Max: Fury Road* with Mark Mangini | Saturday, Oct. 7, 6:30pm

Supported by Vancouver Film School and Motion Picture Sound Editors

Venue: Vancity

Price: \$22

Mark Mangini has made his life's work creating unimagined worlds and fabricated sonic realities of the most epic films you can imagine. Join us to meet in person the two-time Oscar winning (*Dune*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*) and six-time Oscar-nominated sound designer known for films including *Blade Runner 2049*, *Star Trek I, IV & V*, *The Fifth Element*, and *Gremlins* as he shares with the audience the secrets behind creating the most memorable sound art of those epic films.

VIFF Live

VIFF Live is a series of performances and experiences that push the boundaries of traditional film festival programming, intersecting cinema culture with music, comedy, podcasting, and performance in unique, cinema-infused live shows.

Lending his expertise and curatorial excellence to VIFF this year as Guest Curator of VIFF LIVE, Norman Armour (Founder of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival) has programmed a genre-defying series of performances, which explore the outer edges of film culture through experiential cinema and musical experimentation.

Machine Folklore | Sunday, Oct. 1, 7pm & 9pm

Venue: Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre – Performance Centre

Price: \$22

Machine Folklore by Software2050 & NAXS FUTURE introduces Vancouver audiences to Taiwan's vibrant and deeply experimental interdisciplinary arts scene. In this immersive audio-visual performance screening, artificial intelligence meets virtual consciousness. Together, we see humanity through non-human AI eyes. Using music,

imagery, and light design, *Machine Folklore* is a glimpse into the infinite possibilities of the future of digital culture and virtual technology in this hypnotic audio-visual work.

32 Sounds | Thursday, Oct. 5, 7pm

Venue: Vancouver Playhouse

Price: \$38

An immersive documentary and profound sensory experience from filmmaker Sam Green that explores the elemental phenomenon of sound. The film is a meditation on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders, and reshape our perception of the world around us. Each audience member will be provided headphones to create an incredible binaural sound mix and add a new, deeply immersive element to the live documentary form. The “live cinema” event will feature live narration, directed and performed by Sam Green, and composed by JD Samson.

VIFF Live: The Ironworks Series

New to the Festival for 2023, The Ironworks Series invites four established resident artists to perform their innovative works in the exploratory and experimental framework of the iconic Ironworks venue, in Gastown. Don't miss this remarkable series of boundary-defying performances which will dissolve the space between artist and audience.

Venue: The Ironworks

Winnipeg Babysitter by Daniel Barrow | Thursday, Oct 5, 9–10:30pm

Price: \$15

Winnipeg-born, Montreal-based artist Daniel Barrow uses obsolete technologies to present written, pictorial, and cinematic narratives centering on the practices of drawing and collecting. Barrow presents *Winnipeg Babysitter*, a mischievous tracing of a brief synapse in Canadian broadcasting history when cable companies were federally mandated in the late 70s and 80s to provide public access as a condition of their newly granted broadcasting licenses.

Experimental Performance by Cris Derksen | Friday, Oct 6, 10–11pm

Price: \$15

Juno-nominated Cris Derksen is an internationally respected Indigenous cellist and composer. Originally from Treaty 8 in Northern Alberta, she comes from NorthTall Cree Reserve on her father's side and Mennonite homesteaders on her mother's. Derksen will introduce audiences to the unforgettable virtuosity that has led to her break-out solo career, while also collaborating with some of Canada's Finest; Tanya Tagaq, Buffy Sainte Marie, Naomi Klein, and Leanne Simpson

Experimental Performance by Sammy Chien | Saturday, Oct 7, 7–8pm

Price: \$15

Artistic Director of Chimerik 似不像, Sammy Chien 簡上翔 is an interdisciplinary artist pioneering ways of integrating new media into performance. Chien uses the technologies of real-time performance software to produce deep connections between image, sound, and movement. Presenting samplings from ongoing research and a new work-in-progress exemplary of a practice that draws upon a composite of art forms, disciplines, and lived experiences.

The World Made Itself and Infinitely Yours by Miwa Matreyek | Saturday, Oct 7, 9–10pm

Price: \$15

Miwa Matreyek is an animator, designer, and performer originally based in Los Angeles, now based on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, also known as Vancouver BC. Matreyek will perform *The World Made Itself and Infinitely Yours*, works that weave surreal and poetic narratives of conflict between humans, nature, and the climate crisis.

**One ticket will grant admission to both performances at The Ironworks on Saturday, Oct 7.*

Signals: Exploring creative technology's potential in storytelling

Presented by VIFF and DigiBC

Signals is supported by the Province of British Columbia, Canada Media Fund, Invest Vancouver, Creative BC, IM4 Media Lab, Hudson Pacific Properties, and the Centre for Digital Media

Oct. 1–7 | Venue: Bentall II

A unique interactive exhibition that brings together bleeding edge technology with some of the city's most innovative storytellers. Signals celebrates the creative power, playfulness, and cinematic potential of new technologies, while exploring their many real-world implications. The second edition tackles challenges around reconciliation and addresses Indigenous sovereignty with more than 20 works that are being presented in never-before-seen formats. More information: viff.org/signals

Exclusive Signals Media Tour: September 29. A media advisory with all details will be distributed on September 22.

Artist and Industry Development

VIFF Amp: Explore the essential role of music in film

Funded by Creative BC, FACTOR Canada, Music BC, and RBC Foundation

Supported by ASCAP, BMI, DGC, MPC and SOCAN

Community Broadcast Partner TELUS STORYHIVE

VIFF Amp's Music In Film Summit nurtures, educates & champions emerging and newly established music professionals (composers, songwriters, music entrepreneurs), with a strong focus on elevating those from marginalized or underrepresented communities. The program provides creative insights, mentorship, and unique career development opportunities from international experts in the music for media space.

Oct. 4–7 | Beaumont Studios, Birdhouse, The Warehouse Studio & The Ironworks
Amp & Industry professionals only

The Art of Music Supervision | Thursday, Oct. 5

Moderator: Tony Scudellari

Four feature film music supervisors who have worked on everything from indies to major blockbusters will discuss their work in an informative and interactive setting. Original in format and geared towards real-time learning, this event is a must-attend for aspiring content creators. Featuring Bonnie Greenberg, Jojo Villanueva, Maureen Crowe and Morgan Rhodes.

Stages to Screens | Thursday, Oct. 5

Moderator: Jane Aurora

Three local artists represented by three local music companies (from influential start-ups to major indies) perform songs that have been successfully synced in film and TV over the past year. This panel explores the journey of the music from inception to final placement. Featuring Jon Bryant (Nettwerk).

The Art of Composition | Friday, Oct. 6

Presented by the Directors Guild of Canada

Moderator: Adrian Ellis

A successful screen composer is able to handle a combination of skills: communication, translation, execution, and adaptation. This moderated conversation between a film director and composer team will offer a revealing, candid look behind the curtain: What is their creative process? How does the composer meet the filmmaker's needs? How can the power of music aid in storytelling?

VIFF Amp Town Hall | Friday, Oct. 6

Moderators: Rob Calder & Tony Scudellari

Following the intensive learning experience at VIFF Amp, attendees can join an open conversation about opportunities within an evolving music-in-media ecosystem, with a focus on initiatives from some of this year's partner organizations. The town hall will explore advocacy, funded programs, mentorship opportunities and the

future of equity in the entertainment world with experts and advocates for emerging talent in the music for media space. Featured speakers to include Allyson Newman (Alliance for Women Film Composers), Amritha Vaz (Composers Diversity Collective), Erin Collins (SESAC/Reel Change Program), Heather McIntosh (Alliance for Women Film Composers), Lachi (RAMPD), Tracy McKnight (Broadcast Music, Inc), and representatives from ASCAP and SOCAN (TBA).

Music BC's SOUNDOFF | Friday, Oct. 6

Presented by Music BC, SOUNDOFF is a platform for Vancouver's most promising musicians, with a focus on song placement and sync licensing in film and TV. Local artists perform songs and connect with music supervisors in this expansive yet intimate live gathering. Featuring music supervisors Angela Jollivette, Bonnie Greenberg, Kyle Merkley, Natasha Duprey, and Valerie Biggin; and performing artists Adam Mah, Ché Aimee Dorval, Kylie V, NADUH, and Zada.

Scoring Masterclass: Animated Explorations | Saturday, Oct. 7

Three local composers are highlighted in this deep dive exploration of scoring for animation, featuring a curated live ensemble performance of works. Curated by Amritha Vaz, featuring panelists Jay Stutler (Senior Vice President, Music Disney), Sascha Paladino (showrunner), and composers Amanda Cawley, Kalaisan Kalaichelvan, and Red Janes.

VIFF Industry Days

VIFF Industry Days serves as a hub for film and television professionals to engage in dialogue, network, and celebrate the film culture of Western Canada. Across three packed days, industry experts will participate in influential keynote speeches, panels, ask-me-anything sessions, dialogues, case studies, and networking, all at the VIFF Centre.

Industry Days run from Oct 1–3, 2023, open to industry-accredited professionals. To learn more and apply for a pass, visit: viff.org/industry.

Highlights this year:

Exploring Federal Support Opportunities | Sunday, Oct. 1

National agencies come together to share how their organizations contribute to the film, Broadcast television, and/or web-based projects. Stay current, well-informed, and ready to move your project forward by hearing from Telefilm Canada, the National Film Board of Canada, and the Canada Media Fund.

DGC Visionaries | Sunday, Oct. 1

Presented by the Directors Guild of Canada

The Directors Guild of Canada presents a day of fascinating conversations with renowned filmmakers. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from exciting voices from across Canada pushing the creative boundaries of filmmaking.

Featured speakers: Sherren Lee and Cody Lightning.

Co-Production Forum | Monday, Oct. 2

Presented by The Canadian Media Producers Association

The co-production landscape in independent filmmaking is changing quickly, demanding constant adaptation from producers and filmmakers. With a rising number of bilateral treaties, the Canadian film industry offers industry professionals chances to co-create and co-fund projects. At the second Co-Production Forum, producers from this year's co-produced films will discuss their latest international collaborations.

"Lights, Camera, Climate Action" – Exploring the Power of Film to Spark Environmental Change | Monday, Oct. 2

Presented by Reel Green™ at Creative BC

In an era of pressing environmental challenges, storytelling is crucial in shaping our response to the climate crisis. Reel Green™, in collaboration with VIFF and Creative BC, presents a panel discussion on the intersection of climate consciousness and filmmaking. Esteemed award-winning filmmakers will discuss their impactful work that sparks vital conversations on environmental issues. Join us for an exploration of why climate representation in media isn't just creative but an ethical obligation, capable of inspiring global action.

Producing in BC | Tuesday, Oct. 3

Presented by The Canadian Media Producers Association

Discover insights from seasoned producers in BC as they provide candid and practical advice on bringing film projects to fruition. Gain knowledge about navigating the local industry, understanding funding structures, participating in set work, and adapting to new challenges and opportunities.

Featured speakers: Sara Blake (Ceroma Films), Michelle Morris (Lily Pictures), Mike Johnson (Studio 104 Entertainment), and Michael Grand (Big Country Films).

The Art of the Portrait in Documentary | Tuesday, Oct. 3

Presented by Knowledge Network

Portrait film remains one of the most popular art forms in today's documentary film. Learn from some of the most skilled documentary filmmakers how to capture the true and authentic essence of a person, whether they are a prominent and well-documented figure or an ordinary yet meaningful character.

Featured speaker: Asher Penn (*Physician, Heal Thyself*).

Comedy Voices in Canada | Tuesday, Oct. 3

Presented by the Pacific Screenwriting Program

Meet some of the most sought-after and accomplished comedy creators in Canada who will provide an insider's look at their work on the funniest shows of today. Conversations will focus on topics like genre navigation, engagements in TV and film, maintaining relevance and inclusivity, and crafting characters that make us laugh out loud.

Featured speakers: Cody Lightning (*Hey, Viktor!*), Ally Pankiw (*I Used to Be Funny*), Bilal Baig and Fab Filippo (*Sort Of*).

Other sessions will include a discussion on Bill C-11, Benjamin Loeb on Cinematography, a Black Women in Film event, a Pitch workshop, and a Genre Filmmaking Panel with Pascal Plante, Ariane Louis-Seize, and Zarrar Kahn.

VIFF Labs

Presented by Creative BC and Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada

VIFF Labs is an intimate, invitation-only series that empowers emerging local filmmakers through meaningful, direct dialogues with global talent.

Highlights this year:

Inside the Joke: Comedy Writing with Cody Lightning & Sam Miller | Tuesday, Oct. 3

After starring in *Smoke Signals* 25 years ago, *Hey Viktor!* is a hilarious mockumentary that follows Cody Lightning, a titular former child actor looking to make a film sequel. With premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival and Tribeca Film Festival, Lightning and Miller's collaboration on the film marks the arrival of a major comedic voice in Indigenous cinema. This Lab delves into their collaborative approach as a writing duo.

The Power of Documenting Communities with Karen Cho & Jamila Pomeroy | Wednesday, Oct. 4

As cities evolve and gentrify, filmmakers like Karen Cho (*Big Fight in Little Chinatown*) and Jamila Pomeroy (*Union Street*) are driven to preserve and amplify their respective communities. In conversation, Cho and Pomeroy will unpack their roles and responsibilities fighting for visibility, capturing the BPOC history, and platforming the contemporary stories of Vancouver's Black communities and North America's Chinatowns through documentary.

Experimenting with Horror in Skinamarink with Kyle Edward Ball | Friday, Oct. 6

Shot over seven days and on a budget of \$15,000, Kyle Edward Ball's debut film *Skinamarink* is a bona fide hit, Ball will explore his process and unconventional approaches to experimenting with horror aesthetics and form.

The Art of the Poster with Akiko Stehrenberger | Friday, Oct. 6

Akiko Stehrenberger is an award-winning art director, illustrator, and designer who works with directors, and movie studios to create some of the most iconic film artwork in recent memory. With her illustrations and designs embodying a playful sense of inspired creativity, Stehrenberger will walk us through her process of developing a distinct voice in interpreting films to graphics.

Tickets and Information

Adult Ticket	\$18
Senior Ticket	\$16
Student/Youth	\$14
Accessible	\$13
VIFF+ Members	\$15
VIFF+ Premium/Patron/U25	\$13
Ticket Pack of 6	\$102 / \$87 VIFF+ / \$75 Premium/Patron/U25
Ticket Pack of 10	\$165 / \$140 VIFF+ / \$120 Premium/Patron/U25
Ticket Pack of 20	\$320 / \$270 VIFF+ / \$230 Premium/Patron/U25
Student 6 Pack	\$78
Senior 6 Pack	\$93
Senior 10 Pack	\$150
Senior 20 Pack	\$290
VIFF Talks	\$22
VIFF Live Tickets	\$15–\$38
Signals	\$15

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

To explore VIFF's complete 2023 programming, visit viff.org.

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

#VIFF2023

Press Kit

bit.ly/VIFF2023

About VIFF | viff.org

Beyond film exhibitions, VIFF strives to engage and empower communities, encourage dialogue and champion local artists. With decades of experience and an unwavering commitment to creating exceptional programs, VIFF has transformed into a highly esteemed annual festival and a premier arthouse cinema.

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. All year, 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

For media inquiries:

press@viff.org

Laura Murray | lmurray@mpmgarts.com | 604.418.2998

Ines Min | imin@mpmgarts.com | 604.440.0791