

VIFF Centre

presents



The Wonders

Fairy Tales, Folklore & Fantasy

• — PLUS — •

Best of 2023 Immediate Family Society of the Snow The
Big Lebowski Distant Voices, Still Lives Menus-Plaisirs Les
Troisgrs Smoke Sauna Sisterhood Rouge Call Me Dancer
Série Noire Coup de Torchon New Spanish Cinema AND MORE

Dec 15, 2023 – Jan 11, 2024

SUN

MON


TUE

WED


THU

FRI


SAT



Citizen Kane
DEC 17 & 19



When Marnie Was There
DEC 19 & 20



Blancanieves
DEC 21, 22, 24

15
DEC

Immediate Family • VCT
1:15 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
1:45 PM
Immediate Family • STU
3:40 PM
Maestro • VCT
4:00 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
6:20 PM
Maestro • VCT
6:40 PM
Immediate Family • STU
8:15 PM
Maestro • VCT
9:20 PM

16

Maestro • VCT
4:45 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
5:15 PM
Immediate Family • STU
7:15 PM
Maestro • VCT
7:30 PM

17

Citizen Kane • VCT
11:00 AM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
12:00 PM
The Tale of the Princess Kaguya • VCT
2:30 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
4:15 PM
Maestro • VCT
5:20 PM
Immediate Family • STU
6:15 PM
Maestro • VCT
8:00 PM
The Three Musketeers • STU
8:20 PM

18

Maestro • VCT
5:20 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
5:45 PM
Immediate Family • STU
7:40 PM
The Tale of the Princess Kaguya • VCT
8:00 PM

19

When Marnie Was There • VCT
2:00 PM
Earwig and the Witch • VCT
4:15 PM
Immediate Family • STU
5:50 PM
Citizen Kane • VCT
6:20 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
8:00 PM
Maestro • VCT
8:50 PM

20

When Marnie Was There • VCT
12:30 PM
Earwig and the Witch • VCT
2:30 PM
When Marnie Was There • VCT
4:30 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
6:00 PM
Once Within A Time • VCT
7:00 PM
Immediate Family • STU
8:00 PM
Rouge • VCT
8:30 PM

21


Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs • VCT
4:15 PM
Wolfwalkers • STU
6:00 PM
Blancanieves • VCT
6:30 PM
Rouge (New Restoration) • STU
8:10 PM
The Company of Wolves • VCT
8:35 PM

22

Society of the Snow • VCT
1:30 PM
Rouge • STU
2:00 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
4:10 PM
Wolfwalkers • VCT
4:30 PM
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs • STU
6:10 PM
The Company of Wolves • VCT
6:45 PM
Society of the Snow • STU
8:00 PM
Blancanieves • VCT
8:45 PM

24

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs • VCT
10:15 AM
The Wizard of Oz • VCT
12:00 PM
Blancanieves • STU
12:15 PM
Edward Scissorhands • VCT
2:15 PM
Rouge • STU
2:30 PM



The Wizard of Oz
DEC 24, 26, 28

26

The Wizard of Oz • VCT
12:00 PM
Edward Scissorhands • STU
12:30 PM
The King and the Mockingbird • VCT
2:10 PM
Rouge • STU
2:45 PM
Into the Woods • VCT
4:00 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
4:40 PM
Society of the Snow • STU
6:30 PM
Oppenheimer • VCT
6:45 PM

27

The King and the Mockingbird • VCT
12:00 PM
Society of the Snow • STU
12:30 PM
La Belle et la Bête (35mm) • VCT
1:50 PM
Smoke Sauna
Sisterhood • STU
3:30 PM
Pan's Labyrinth • VCT
4:00 PM
Rouge • STU
5:30 PM
Afire • VCT
6:30 PM
Society of the Snow • STU
7:30 PM
Rouge • VCT
8:45 PM

28

The Tale of Tsar Saltan • VCT
12:00 PM
Society of the Snow • STU
12:30 PM
The Thief of Bagdad • VCT
2:00 PM
The Wizard of Oz • STU
3:30 PM
The Red Shoes • VCT
4:15 PM
Rouge (New Restoration) • STU
5:45 PM
The Eight Mountains • VCT
7:00 PM
Pan's Labyrinth • STU
7:50 PM

29

The Thief of Bagdad • VCT
12:00 PM
Call Me Dancer • STU
12:30 PM
The Red Shoes • VCT
2:15 PM
Society of the Snow • STU
2:30 PM
Oppenheimer • VCT
5:00 PM
Call Me Dancer • STU
5:20 PM
Immediate Family • STU
7:15 PM
Asteroid City • VCT
8:30 PM

31

Pinocchio • VCT
12:00 PM
Call Me Dancer • STU
12:30 PM
The Red Shoes • VCT
2:00 PM
A.I. Artificial Intelligence • STU
2:30 PM
Past Lives • VCT
4:45 PM
The Big Lebowski • VCT
7:00 PM

1
JAN

Distant Voices, Still Lives • VCT
12:30 PM
Asteroid City • STU
1:00 PM
Rouge • VCT
2:30 PM
The Red Shoes • STU
3:10 PM
The Eight Mountains • VCT
4:45 PM
Afire • STU
5:50 PM
Fallen Leaves • VCT
7:45 PM
The Big Lebowski • STU
8:00 PM

2


Call Me Dancer • STU
1:15 PM
Beauty and the Beast • VCT
1:30 PM
Pinocchio • STU
3:15 PM
Anatomy of a Fall • VCT
3:30 PM
Distant Voices, Still Lives • STU
5:30 PM
Past Lives • VCT
4:45 PM
Bottoms • STU
7:20 PM
Society of the Snow • VCT
8:45 PM
Fallen Leaves • STU
9:10 PM

3

The 5,000 Fingers of Dr T • VCT
2:30 PM
Call Me Dancer • STU
3:00 PM
Beauty and the Beast • VCT
4:30 PM
Distant Voices, Still Lives • STU
5:00 PM
BlackBerry • VCT
6:30 PM
Society of the Snow • STU
7:00 PM
Anatomy of a Fall • VCT
9:00 PM

4

BlackBerry • VCT
6:00 PM
The 5,000 Fingers of Dr T • STU
6:20 PM
Call Me Dancer • STU
8:15 PM
Maestro • VCT
8:30 PM



The Thief of Bagdad
DEC 28, 29

5

Menus-Plaisirs Les Troisgros • VCT
1:00 PM
Wild Flowers • VCT
7:00 PM

6

Close Your Eyes • VCT
2:30 PM
That Was Life • VCT
5:50 PM
The Candidate • VCT
8:10 PM

7

That Was Life • VCT
1:00 PM
The Spirit of the Beehive (35mm) • VCT
3:30 PM
The Candidate • VCT
5:40 PM
Memories of My Father • VCT
8:15 PM

8

Wild Flowers • VCT
3:00 PM
The Spirit of the Beehive (35mm) • VCT
5:15 PM
Close Your Eyes • VCT
7:20 PM

9

Menus-Plaisirs Les Troisgros • VCT
6:30 PM



That Was Life
JAN 6-7

11

Menus-Plaisirs Les Troisgros • VCT
1:00 PM
Série Noire • VCT
5:40 PM
Coup de Torchon • VCT
8:00 PM



The Spirit of the Beehive
JAN 7-8

Tickets and Memberships

	Adults	Senior	Student	VIFF+
SINGLE BILL	\$15	\$13	\$10	\$10-\$12
DOUBLE BILL	\$25			

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at viff.org (up to 60 minutes before showtime) and also in person at our box office. Call **604.683.3456** for the latest info and listings. Double bill tickets are available in-person on the day of the screenings only. Prices do not include GST.

Refunds and exchanges for in-cinema tickets may be offered at the discretion of our box office. If you have made an error with your booking, please email info@viff.org.

To attend films at the VIFF Centre, you must be 19 years of age or older. Exceptions may apply for films that have been rated by Consumer Protection BC.

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Immediate Family

DENNY TEDESCO, USA, 2022, 102 MIN.

FRI DEC 15	1:15PM	VCT
FRI DEC 15	3:40PM, 8:15PM	STU
SAT DEC 16	7:15PM	STU
SUN DEC 17	6:15PM	STU
MON DEC 18	7:40PM	STU
TUE DEC 19	5:50PM	STU
WED DEC 20	8:00PM	STU
FRI DEC 29	7:15PM	STU

Few rock docs are as fondly remembered as *The Wrecking Crew*, Danny Tedesco's revelatory tribute to the 1960s session men. His belated follow up is dedicated to the crew's 1970s counterparts. You may not know the names of Danny Kortchmar, Leland Sklar, Ross Kunkel, Waddy Watchel, or Steve Postell, but you know the stars who turned to these sidemen to embellish their recordings: Neil Young, Keith Richards, Carole King, Stevie Nicks, James Taylor, Phil Collins, David Crosby, to name but a few.

FEAT Danny Kortchmar, Leland Sklar, Ross Kunkel, Waddy Watchtel, Steve Postell, Keith Richards, Carole King, James Taylor, Stevie Nicks, Don Henley, Phil Collins, David Crosby, Neil Young



Society of the Snow

J.A BAYONA, SPAIN, USA, URUGUAY, CHILE, 2023, 144 MIN.

FRI DEC 22	1:30PM	VCT
FRI DEC 22	8:00PM	STU
SAT DEC 23	2:40PM	STU
TUE DEC 26	6:30PM	STU
WED DEC 27	12:30PM, 7:30PM	STU
THU DEC 28	12:30PM	STU
FRI DEC 29	2:30PM	STU
SAT DEC 30	7:30PM	STU
TUE JAN 2	8:45PM	VCT
WED JAN 3	7:00PM	STU

In 1972, a plane carrying 101 people—many of them belonging to a rugby team—crashed in the high Andes between Uruguay and Chile. It was winter. Spotter planes missed the wreck. There was no food. In order to live the survivors had to turn to the unthinkable... Previously filmed as *Alive* in 1993 (and an inspiration, probably, for *Yellow-jackets*), this harrowing saga makes for extreme drama. JC Bayona stresses authenticity along with the spiritual dimension of this prolonged near-death experience.

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Enzo Vogrincoic, Agustín Pardella, Matías Recalt, Esteban Bigliardi, Diego Vegezzi, Fernando Contigiani García



The Big Lebowski

JOEL COEN, ETHAN COEN, USA, 1998, 127 MIN.

SUN DEC 31	7:00PM	VCT
MON JAN 1	8:00PM	STU

Some movies only improve with age. And as *Lebowski* hits 25, this strikes us as the best way to see out 2023. This may be the best time Hollywood has given us in the last quarter century. It's a whacky, warped slacker generation riff on Raymond Chandler, a shaggy dog story which delights in going sideways at every turn. Jeff Bridges is the Dude, and what he really wants is to get his rug back...

CAST Jeff Bridges, John Goodman, Julianne Moore, Steve Buscemi, David Huddlestone, Philip Seymour Hoffman, John Turturro, David Thewlis, Ben Gazzara, Sam Elliott

Come as your favourite character! White Russians at the bar!



Distant Voices, Still Lives

TERENCE DAVIES, UK, 1988, 84 MIN.

MON JAN 1	12:30PM	VCT
TUE JAN 2	5:30PM	STU
WED JAN 3	5:00PM	STU


Cinema lost a unique voice in October with the passing of Terence Davies. His first feature is an autobiographical work, harking back to Davies' childhood in a working class Liverpool family. Although there are painful dramatic vignettes—Davies' father lived in a state of seething fury—the film is structured as a chorale, around pub singalongs, popular showtunes and Hollywood musical numbers. It's this music which affords the family pleasure, kinship, community, and a sense of spiritual comfort.

"It will be remembered and treasured as one of the greatest of all English films." JONATHAN ROSENBAUM


CAST Frieda Dowie, Pete Postlethwaite, Angela Walsh, Dean Williams, Lorraine Ashbourne

First Look Fridays


Enjoy \$10 tickets and free tea & coffee at these Friday matinee screenings:



FRI DEC 15, 1:15PM



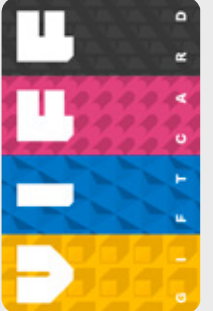
FRI DEC 22, 1:30PM



FRI JAN 5, 1:00PM

For any Film Aficionado:

A VIFF gift card can be redeemed for tickets at the VIFF Centre and our annual festival.



Available at viff.org and our Box Office.

On Sale Now

The Wonders

Fairy Tales, Folkllore & Fantasy

Dec 20-Jan 4

Youth Tickets \$8

Magic mirrors... Enchanted kisses... Wolves and witches... One, two, three wishes...

The oldest stories we teach our youngest, first. These are the timeless tales, the Once-upon-a-times: Stories of magic and mischief, flight and fantasy... Fables of fortunes found and lost; Trials of true love and wicked witchery... Ancient enchantments that allow us to dream the world anew.

In this holiday season we tap into the deepest wells of wonder: fairy tales, folklore and fantasy as told and re-told by Hans Christian Andersen, the Brothers Grimm, Scheherazade, Walt Disney, Jean Cocteau, Guillermo del Toro, Tim Burton and Steven Spielberg, to name but a few.

The season begins with a free/pay-by-donation screening for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank of Godfrey Reggio's brand new collaboration with composer Philip Glass, **Once Within a Time**, a 52- minute

eco parable that melds the avant-garde with pantomime, circus and comedy (Dec 20).

It includes two of the foundational classics of animated film: **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** and **Pinocchio**, as well as the French film that inspired Studio Ghibli's Hayao Miyazaki, **The King and the Mockingbird**—a movie that took 30 years to complete.

There are live action fairy tale films from the UK (**The Red Shoes**), France (**La Belle et la Bete**) and Russia (**The Tale of Tsar Saltan**), and modern reinterpretations like the Spanish **Blancanieves**—which pulls in flamenco and bull fighting—**Pan's Labyrinth**, and Ireland's **Wolfwalkers**. Along the way we'll meet genies and giants, hairy huntsmen, beautiful beasts and singing squirrels.

These movies are a magic carpet transporting us across continents and centuries, yet always bringing us—like Dorothy's ruby slippers—safely home again.

Explore the full series: viff.org/thewonders



The Red Shoes

MICHAEL POWELL, EMERIC PRESSBURGER, UK, 1948, 135 MIN.

THU DEC 28	4:15PM	VCT
FRI DEC 29	2:15PM	VCT
SAT DEC 30	2:30PM	STU
SUN DEC 31	2:00PM	VCT
MON JAN 1	3:10PM	STU

The son of a cobbler, Hans Christian Andersen wrote *The Red Shoes* in 1845. A century later Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger settled on the fairy tale for the climactic ballet sequence in what is widely regarded as the greatest dance film ever made. The tale's themes are mirrored in the movie's backstage drama, a triangle between ballet impresario Lermontov (Anton Walbrook), who demands absolute commitment to the art, and young lovers, composer Julian (Marius Goring) and ballerina Vicky (Moirá Shearer).

"The film is voluptuous in its beauty and passionate in its storytelling. You don't watch it, you bathe in it." ROGER EBERT

CAST Moira Shearer, Anton Walbrook, Marius Goring, Robert Helpmann, Léonide Massine



The Tale of Tsar Saltan

ALEXANDER PTUSHKO, RUSSIA, 1967, 85 MIN.

THU DEC 28	12:00PM	VCT
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Driven from the court by her sisters' scheming (you'll be reminded of *Cinderella*), the young Tsarina is thrown into the sea in a cask with her infant son. The mother and her now magically-adult son land on a remote island where he falls in love with a Swan Princess in human form and longs for reunion with his estranged father. Chock-a-block with spectacular flights of fancy, and based on a Pushkin poem, this is gorgeous live action fantasy from "the Soviet Disney". And just wait for the singing squirrel!

+ Animated short *The Mountain of Sgaana* (Christopher Auchter, Canada, 2017) 10 min

In Russian with English subtitles.

CAST Vladimir Andreyev, Larisa Golubkina, Oleg Vidov, Kseniya Ryabinkina, Sergey Martinson, Olga Viklandt



The King and the Mockingbird

PAUL GRIMAULT, FRANCE, 1980, 83 MIN.

TUE DEC 26	2:10PM	VCT
WED DEC 27	12:00PM	VCT

The legendary animator Paul Grimault (who had a profound and lasting influence on Studio Ghibli's Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata) and the surrealist writer Jacques Prévert (*Les Enfants du Paradis*) collaborated for the second time in 1948 on an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep*. It took them more than 30 years to finish it to their satisfaction, but it's a masterpiece, an impish political satire for adults and a delightful adventure film for kids.

"The filmmaker who most influenced me was the French animator Paul Grimault." HAYAO MIYAZAKI, STUDIO GHIBLI

In French with English subtitles.

CAST Jean Martin, Pascal Mazzotti, Raymond Bussi eres, Agn es Viala, Renaud Marx, Hubert Deschamps



Pinocchio

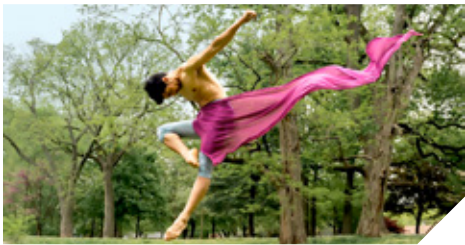
USA, 1940, 88 MIN.

SAT DEC 30	12:00PM	VCT
SUN DEC 31	12:00PM	VCT
TUE JAN 2	3:15PM	STU

When the woodworker Geppetto sees a falling star, he wishes that the puppet he just finished, Pinocchio, could become a real boy. In the night, the Blue Fairy grants Geppetto's wish and asks Jiminy Cricket to serve as the wooden boy's conscience. But the naive and trusting Pinocchio falls into the clutches of the wicked Honest John, and he is lured to Pleasure Island. In the summer of 2023, *Time Out* magazine named *Pinocchio* the Best Animated Movie of All Time.

Introduction by movie scholar and animation expert Michael van den Bos, Sat 30 December

CAST Dickie Jones, Cliff Edwards, Christian Rub, Walter Catlett, Evelyn Venable, Frankie Darro



Call Me a Dancer

LESLIE SHAMPAIN , PIP GILMOUR, INDIA/UK/ISRAEL/USA, 2023, 84 MIN.

FRI DEC 29	12:30PM, 5:20PM	STU
SAT DEC 30	12:30PM	STU
SUN DEC 31	12:30PM	STU
TUE JAN 2	1:15PM	STU
WED JAN 3	3:00PM	STU
THU JAN 4	8:15PM	STU

Manish Chauhan, a talented, self-taught acrobatic street dancer, hungers to make a living as a professional dancer—but with a scarcity of paying opportunities, the odds are stacked against him. This tale of raw determination and artistic passion traces the charmingly earnest Manish's triumphs and setbacks throughout his aspirational journey to dance on the world stage: from classical ballet lessons in Mumbai to a contemporary dance program in Israel, and from Bollywood sets to New York City and beyond.

"Astonishing! It's the classic underdog story... touching... lustrous imagery." MATTHEW CAREY, DEADLINE

In English, Hebrew, Hindi with English subtitles.

FEAT Manish Chauhan

VIFF Audience Award (Portraits Section)



Menus-Plaisirs Les Troisgros

FREDERICK WISEMAN, FRANCE, USA, 2023, 240 MIN.

FRI JAN 5	1:00PM	VCT
TUE JAN 9	6:30PM	VCT
THU JAN 11	1:00PM	VCT
SAT JAN 13	1:00PM	VCT
SUN JAN 14	1:00PM	VCT

For several weeks in the spring of 2022 veteran documentarian Fred Wiseman bedded down in one of the most highly esteemed restaurants in France, La Maison Troisgros. A family-run restaurant for four generations, it's maintained its three Michelin stars for more than half a century. "Menus-plaisirs" means "small pleasures" and Wieman's rich, savoury film is full of them. At four hours, this is a magnificent and unforgettable sitting.

"Both a food lover's dream and an aspiring chef's guidebook, uncovering the sophisticated alchemy that makes such places not only run flawlessly, but serve up groundbreaking dishes that are also locally sourced." JORDAN MINTZER, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

In French with Eng subtitles.

Best Non Fiction Film 2023, New York Film Critics



Smokey Sauna Sisterhood

ANNA HINTS, ESTONIA/France/ICELAND, 2023, 89 MIN.

FRI DEC 15	1:45PM, 6:20PM	STU
SAT DEC 16	5:15PM	STU
SUN DEC 17	12:00PM, 4:15PM	STU
MON DEC 18	5:45PM	STU
TUE DEC 19	8:00PM	STU
WED DEC 20	6:00PM	STU
FRI DEC 22	4:10PM	STU
TUE DEC 26	4:40PM	STU
WED DEC 27	3:30PM	STU
SAT DEC 30	5:15PM	STU

Within the confines of a smoke sauna deep in an Estonian forest, groups of women gather to cleanse themselves in both body and soul, sharing in traditional sauna-based rituals, while also revealing their hurts and longings, joys and pains. In this Sundance-winning documentary, filmmaker Anna Hints boldly combines an intimate documentary approach with sensuous lyrical expressionism. Less an act of individual portraiture than a kind of collective diary, the film sees a hotbox become a place of healing.

In Estonian, Seto, V ro with English subtitles.

World Documentary Directing Award, Sundance 2023



Rouge (New Restoration)

STANLEY KWAN, HONG KONG, 1987, 96 MIN.

WED DEC 20	8:30PM	VCT
THU DEC 21	8:10PM	STU
FRI DEC 22	2:00PM	STU
SAT DEC 23	6:45PM	VCT
SUN DEC 24	2:30PM	STU
TUE DEC 26	2:45PM	STU
WED DEC 27	5:30PM	STU
WED DEC 27	8:45PM	VCT
THU DEC 28	5:45PM	STU
SAT DEC 30	5:00PM	VCT
MON JAN 1	2:30PM	VCT

In this supernatural love story, Cantopop idol Anita Mui is the heartbroken ghost who returns to Hong Kong 50 years after committing suicide to find out why her lover (Leslie Cheung) has yet to join her in the after-life. *Rouge* is a funny, sad story beautifully told. Kwan captures the changing face of this booming metropolis and ties it to a glamorous love story from a bygone era, contrasting the tragic passion of yesteryear with a comparatively pallid modern couple.

In Cantonese with English subtitles.

CAST Anita Mui Yim-Fong, Leslie Cheung Kwok-Wing, Alex Man Chi-heung, Emily Chu Bo-ye, Irene Wan Pik-ha, Tam Sin-hung

Winner: 6 Hong Kong Film Awards including Best Film, Director and Actress

BEST OF 2023



Oppenheimer

CHRISTOPHER NOLAN, USA, 2023, 180 MIN.

TUE DEC 26	6:45PM	VCT
FRI DEC 29	5:00PM	VCT

Christopher Nolan is contemporary cinema's great engineer. He sets himself a formal challenge like a scientist testing a hypothesis. So it makes makes that he finds his most substantial subject in Robert Oppenheimer, a theoretical physicist compelled to apply theory to the very practical concern of constructing the ultimate weapon. This is a giant Rubik's Cube of a movie. It will amass Oscar nominations across the board, and Cillian Murphy and Robert Downey Jr are front-runners in the actor categories.

"A great achievement in formal and conceptual terms, and fully absorbing, but Nolan's filmmaking is, crucially, in service to the history that it relates." MANOHLA DARGIS, NEW YORK TIMES

CAST Cillian Murphy, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr, Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, Benny Safdi, Rami Malek, Josh Hartnett



Asteroid City

WES ANDERSON, USA, 2023, 103 MIN.

FRI DEC 29	8:30PM	VCT
MON JAN 1	1:00PM	STU

Starry, layered, and fleet, *Asteroid City* is a lot. It probably needs a few viewings to unpack it. It's a film of a live 1955 TV doc about the creation of a TV play about a bunch of teen science whizz kids convening in a crater in Nevada, and it's shot in Wes Anderson's patently ersatz comedic style. That it stands in stark formal relief from the sombre *Oppenheimer* should not let us overlook how it distills the spiritual malaise ushered in by the Atomic Age with exacting precision.

"Filled with the assiduous visuals, mythic faces and charming curiosities that you expect from this singular filmmaker. It's comic and often wry, but like some of his other films, it has the soul of a tragedy." MANOHLA DARGIS, NEW YORK TIMES

CAST Jason Schwarzmann, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Tilda Swinton, Jeffrey Wright, Edward Norton, Liev Schreiber, Bryan Cranston



Past Lives

CELINE SONG, USA, 2023, 106 MIN.

SUN DEC 31	4:45PM	VCT
TUE JAN 2	6:30PM	VCT

Two men and a woman between them sitting at a New York bar. She's engaged in conversation with one man, the other seems excluded—this would be her husband. Thus Celine Song's lovely *Past Lives* sets the stage for a subtle, intimate romantic drama probing deep emotional connection and the forces that pull us apart.

"A confident entry in the canon of great romances—one that expands the emotional scope of what a love story can be." SHIRLEY LI, THE ATLANTIC

"A movie that liberates your tears and makes you fall in love with it. It is almost assuredly predestined to be the single best movie you see this year." DAVID FEAR, ROLLING STONE

In English, Korean with English subtitles.

CAST Greta Lee, Teo Yoo, John Magaro



Anatomy of a Fall

JUSTINE TRIET, FRANCE, 2023, 152 MIN.

TUE JAN 2	3:30PM	VCT
WED JAN 3	9:00PM	VCT

When Samuel is found dead outside his alpine cabin it's clear he fell from the attic. But did he jump, or was he pushed? The French authorities suspect the widow (Sandra H ller, *Toni Erdmann*), a prickly German novelist, and the marriage was evidently strained. The other key witness is the couple's ten-year-old son. But as the trial unfolds his faith in his mom is shaken. Justine Triet became only the third woman to win the the Palme d'Or at Cannes, for this complex, thoroughly engrossing courtroom drama.

"*Anatomy of a Fall* is formidable stuff, and you should arrange to watch it at the cinema with your most capacious friends." ANTHONY LANE, NEW YORKER

In French with English subtitles.

CAST Sandra H ller, Swann Arlaud, Milo Machado Gr ner, Antoine Reinartz, Samuel Theis

Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival; Best International Film, New York Film Critics



Bottoms

EMMA SELIGMAN, USA, 2023, 88 MIN.

SAT DEC 30	7:15PM	VCT
TUE JAN 2	7:20PM	STU

"A movie about empowering women (the hot ones)," as the poster puts its. Canadian Emma Seligman's second film (after *Shiva Baby*) is a raunchy high school comedy, and a hilarious parody of the same. *Shiva* star Rachel Sennott is PJ, a loser with one friend to her name, Josie (Ayo Edebiri). Sapphically-inclined, the pair are determined to lose their virginity to cheerleaders, and hit upon a plan to form a fight club, for girls, to make it happen. Surprisingly, this works. *Bottoms* punches up and kicks ass.

"For most of its tight running time, *Bottoms* hovers on the cusp of greatness. *Bottoms* confirms that Seligman and Sennott are major new forces in American comedy." ELISABETH VINCENTELLI, NEW YORK TIMES

CAST Rachel Sennott, Ayo Edebiri, Havana Rose Liu, Kaia Gerber, Marshawn Lynch



BlackBerry

MATT JOHNSON, CANADA, 2023, 119 MIN.

WED JAN 3	6:30PM	VCT
THU JAN 4	6:00PM	VCT

A Canadian success story that turned into a fiasco provides the raw material for one of the standout comedies of the year... a Canadian success story, in fact. It's 1996, and Mike Lazaridis (Jay Baruchel) and his business partner and best friend Douglas Fregin (director Matt Johnson) are on the edge of creating the world's first Smartphone. Unfortunately their tech savvy is not matched by their business acumen, until seasoned executive Jim Balsillie (a knockout performance by Glenn Howerton) signs on...

"A riotous, fiery kind of comedy whose subterfuge is so subtly stage-managed that you don't see the cans of gas fuelling the flames higher and higher." BARRY HERTZ, GLOBE AND MAIL

CAST Jay Baruchel, Glenn Howerton, Matt Johnson, Rich Sommer, Michael Ironside, Martin Donovan



Afire

CHRISTIAN PETZOLD, GERMANY, 2023, 103 MIN.

WED DEC 27	6:30PM	VCT
MON JAN 1	5:50PM	STU

Christian Petzold (*Transit; Phoenix*) returns with this serio-comic portrait of a sulky writer struggling with his second novel at his friend's summer cottage. Leon (Thomas Schubert) is stuck inside his head most of the time. So much so, he's not really alive to what's going on around him, except in as much as it affects him negatively. Leon is especially put out to find they're going to be sharing the cottage with a stranger, Nadja (Paula Beer), who turns out to be lovely, which is even more annoying...

"Immaculate... casually crisp... rawly funny... It's the film's great, disorienting structural risks, its humor of human untidiness and confusion, that make it so subtly thrilling and moving." GUY LODGE, VARIETY

In German with English subtitles.

CAST Thomas Schubert, Paula Beer, Enno Trebs, Langston Uibel, Matthias Brandt

Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize, Berlin Film Festival



The Eight Mountains

CHARLOTTE VANDERMEERSCH, FELIX VAN GROENINGEN, ITALY/BELGIUM, 2023, 147 MIN.

THU DEC 28	7:00PM	VCT
MON JAN 1	4:45PM	VCT

Husband and wife team Felix van Groenigen and Charlotte Vandermeersch (*Broken Circle Breakdown*) have lovingly crafted a tender rural epic about two boys, childhood friends, who spend summers together in the Alps. This is Bruno's home. But for Pietro, it's only a retreat from the cosmopolitan life he knows in Turin. As the boys grow up, their paths diverge, only to come together again when Pietro's father dies. Perhaps this land he loved so much can help his son find peace.

"A movie with air in its lungs and love in its heart. This film has mystery and passion, it climbs mountainous heights and rewards you with the opposite of vertigo: a sort of exaltation." PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN

In Italian with English subtitles.

CAST Alessandro Borghi, Luca Marinelli, Filippo Timi

Jury Prize, Cannes



Maestro

BRADLEY COOPER, USA, 2023, 129 MIN.

THU JAN 4	8:30PM	VCT
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Bradley Cooper's second film as director is a symphonic portrait of the composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein, with Cooper in the title role and Carey Mulligan as his wife, actress Felicia Montalegre. Like *A Star is Born*, *Maestro* is a searing love story within an imbalanced relationship; the bisexual Lenny loves Felicia almost as much as he loves himself, but she won't play second fiddle. Cinematically daring, musically exhilarating, and with two knockout performances, this is one of the films of the year.

"*Maestro* is a stunning portrait of the artist as a charismatic narcissist in thrall to a marriage he believes in yet can't completely live up to. Most of the music we hear is Bernstein's own, and its astringent rapture is the soundtrack to his anguish and ecstasy... Cooper places himself on a high wire, working with a pointillistic intimacy that invests every moment with fascination and surprise." OWEN GLEIBERMAN, VARIETY

CAST Bradley Cooper, Carey Mulligan, Maya Hawke, Sarah Silverman



Fallen Leaves

AKI KAURISM KI, FINLAND/GERMANY, 2023, 81 MIN.

MON JAN 1	7:45PM	VCT
TUE JAN 2	9:10PM	STU

Aki Kaurism ki is a genre unto himself. If you've seen *Le Havre* or *The Other Side of Hope* then you know, and if you haven't, they're charming, deadpan comedies about working class people, often melancholic or just alcoholic, but goodhearted and kind to dogs (there's always a dog). In *Fallen Leaves*, Ansi meets Holappa, and these two lonely souls feel they are meant for each other, but Fate may have other ideas... Kaurism ki crafts a poignant and pertinent comedy which picked up the Jury Prize at Cannes.

"What constitutes a perfect film? A perfect film doesn't have to be in any particular genre, in any event. A perfect film knows what it's about, knows what it wants to say, and knows that even when what it has to say is unusually simple, what it says can't be reduced to words or any form of description apart from the thing itself. Which means that a perfect film has to be seen in order for its perfection to be appreciated." GLENN KENNY, ROGEREBERT.COM

In Finnish with English subtitles.

CAST Alma P ysti, Jussi Vatanen, Janne Hyyti inen, Nuppu Koivu



Série Noire

ALAIN CORNEAU, FRANCE, 1979, 111 MIN.

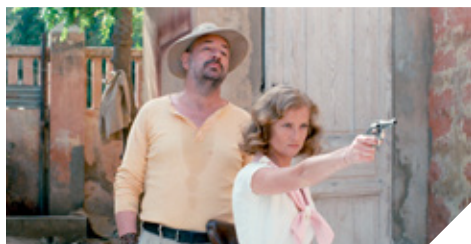
THU JAN 11	5:40PM	VCT
FRI JAN 12	9:10PM	VCT
SAT JAN 13	1:30PM	STU
THU JAN 18	8:20PM	STU

Debt collector and salesman Frank (Patrick Dewaere) meets 17-year-old Mona (Marie Trintignant) as his life is falling apart. His fate is sealed. Corneau's film of Jim Thompson's *A Hell of A Woman* turns the novel on its head but remains true to its manic desperation. One of the most popular French actors of the 1970s, Dewaere gave what is regarded as his best performance here. Frank is a congenital lowlife, a charmer and liar who fools himself that he's a good guy even as he plots murder and betrayal.

"It's hard to find words, exact sentences, to describe what we feel physically after *Série Noire*, as we come out exhausted, knocked out..." BERTRAND TAVERNIER

In French with English subtitles.

CAST Patrick Dewaere, Myriam Boyer, Marie Trintignant, Bernard Blier, Jeanne Herviale, Andreas Katsulas



Coup de Torchon

BERTRAND TAVERNIER, FRANCE, 1981, 128 MIN.

THU JAN 11	8:00PM	VCT
FRI JAN 12	6:40PM	VCT
SAT JAN 13	3:50PM	STU
THU JAN 18	5:50PM	STU

Jim Thompson was the blackest of hardboiled noir novelists: nihilistic, lurid, disturbingly funny. Although he's been filmed often (*The Grifters*; *The Getaway*; *The Killer Inside Me*) the best adaptations are from France: *Série Noire* (1979) and *Coup de Torchon*. Tavernier switched the locale of *Pop. 1280* from the American South to French Colonial West Africa, 1938. Philippe Noiret is the slob of a sheriff, a local joke and cuckold whose apparent impotence puts him above suspicion when his enemies start dying.

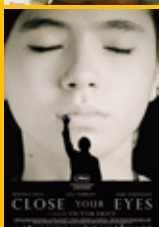
"Bertrand Tavernier's rowdy, broad, unsettling moral tale...follows screwball comedy out to its other side as madness: you're never sure whether what you're watching is high spirits or insanity." DAVE KEHR

In French with English subtitles.

CAST Philippe Noiret, Isabelle Huppert, Stéphane Audran, Jean-Pierre Marielle, Eddy Mitchell, Guy Marchand

New Spanish Cinema

Jan 5-8



VIFF is happy to be working with Ibero-American Images and AJA Entertainment again to co-present the fourth edition of the New Spanish Cinema festival after a lengthy hiatus. Unless your name is Almodovar, few Spanish filmmakers see their work distributed in North America. Even the legendary master Victor Erice has yet to secure a deal for his first film in over 30 years, *Close Your Eyes*. This weekend is a chance to rectify this situation. Along with *Close Your Eyes* and Erice's 1973 classic, *Spirit of the Beehive*, we have *The Candidate*, a political thriller by Rodrigo Soroyen, director of *The Beasts*; David Martín de los Santos's *That Was Life* starring veteran actress Petra Martínez; *Memories of My Father*, by Fernando Trueba (*Chico & Rita*); and our opening night film, *Wild Flowers*, by Jaime Rosales. With the exception of *Spirit of the Beehive*, all these films are Vancouver premieres.