




Jan 26–Feb 8

2024



Black History Month: A New Chapter and Celebrating Black Futures Àma
Gloria Someone Lives Here World War III The Braid Killers of the Flower
Moon Four Daughters Looking Through A Glass Onion: Deconstructing
The Beatles' White Album Cinema Salon: Dead Poets Society MENA 5 AND MORE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>MENA</p>  <p>28</p> <p>MENA: Panel Discussion - Representation in Film (MENA + SWANA) • VCT 1:00pm MENA: Stop Bundle • STU 3:00pm MENA: Animalia • VCT 3:15pm MENA: Heroic Bodies • VCT 5:30pm MENA: Pause Bundle • STU 6:00pm World War III • VCT 8:00pm Four Daughters • STU 8:20pm</p> <p>4</p> <p>The Braid • VCT 1:30pm World War III • STU 2:00pm BHM: A Tribute to Charles Officer -- Mighty Jerome • VCT 4:00pm Four Daughters • STU 4:15pm BHM: Union Street • VCT 6:00pm Someone Lives Here • STU 6:30pm BHM: Talking About Trees • VCT 8:00pm The Braid • STU 8:10pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>MENA: Funding Rendez-vous for Filmmakers • STU 3:00pm Four Daughters • VCT 6:20pm Someone Lives Here • STU 6:40pm Call Me Dancer • STU 8:20pm World War III • VCT 8:40pm</p> <p>5</p> <p>The Braid • VCT 3:45pm BHM: Union Street • STU 4:15pm Someone Lives Here • STU 6:00pm BHM: Talking About Trees • VCT 6:20pm Four Daughters • STU 7:45pm BHM: Sorry to Bother You • VCT 8:20pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Killers of the Flower Moon • VCT 12:00pm Call Me Dancer • STU 12:30pm MENA: Three Promises • VCT 6:00pm MENA: The Burdened • VCT 6:15pm MENA: Forward Bundle • STU 6:20pm Four Daughters • VCT 8:15pm Someone Lives Here • STU 8:40pm</p> <p>6</p> <p>Anatomy of a Fall • VCT 1:30pm Four Daughters • STU 1:50pm Anselm (2D) • STU 4:15pm BHM: Union Street • VCT 4:30pm The Braid • STU 6:30pm Cinema Salon: Dead Poets Society • VCT 7:00pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Killers of the Flower Moon • VCT 2:00pm Call Me Dancer • STU 4:00pm MENA: Heroic Bodies • STU 6:00pm Four Daughters • VCT 6:20pm MENA: Rewind Bundle • STU 8:20pm World War III • VCT 8:40pm</p> <p>7</p> <p>BHM: Ignite: Union Street • VCT 9:30am Maestro • VCT 12:00pm Someone Lives Here • STU 12:30pm Anselm (2D) • STU 2:15pm Anatomy of a Fall • VCT 2:45pm BHM: Union Street • STU 4:15pm Maestro • STU 6:00pm The Braid • VCT 6:20pm Anselm (2D) • STU 8:30pm BHM: Union Street • VCT 8:50pm</p>	<p>1 FEB</p> <p>MENA: Closing Ceremony • VCT 12:00pm Someone Lives Here • STU 7:00pm World War III • VCT 7:15pm</p> <p>8</p> <p>BHM: Celebrating Black Futures—Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes + Feven Kidane Sextet live • VCT 6:30pm The Braid • STU 7:45pm</p>	<p>26 JAN</p> <p>World War III • VCT 2:00pm The Settlers • STU 2:30pm Four Daughters • VCT 4:20pm Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest • STU 4:45pm Fallen Leaves • STU 6:20pm Someone Lives Here • VCT 6:40pm And the Party Goes On • STU 8:10pm</p> <p>2</p> <p>Àma Gloria • VCT 2:00pm Anselm (2D) • STU 2:20pm The Braid • VCT 4:00pm Someone Lives Here • STU 4:30pm Four Daughters • STU 6:15pm BHM: Union Street • VCT 6:30pm BHM: Sorry to Bother You • VCT 8:30pm World War III • STU 8:40pm</p> <p>Maestro FEB 7, 9, 11</p>   <p>Feven Kidane, Photo: Diane Smithers</p>	<p>27</p> <p>MENA: Middle East & North African Film Festival Opening Ceremony • VCT 3:00pm MENA: Rewind Bundle • STU 6:20pm MENA: Three Promises • VCT 6:45pm MENA: Escape • VCT 8:30pm MENA: Play Bundle • STU 8:45pm</p> <p>3</p> <p>The Braid • STU 3:00pm Looking Through A Glass Onion: Deconstructing The Beatles' White Album • VCT 3:30pm Four Daughters • STU 5:30pm Àma Gloria • VCT 6:30pm The Braid • STU 7:50pm BHM: Union Street • VCT 8:30pm</p>

First Look Fridays

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



FRI 26 JAN, 2:00PM



FRI 2 FEB, 2:00PM



Subscribe to VIFF News

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.

Become a **VIFF+** member.

See more films, save on tickets and enjoy amazing membership perks.



viff.org/plus

Black History Month

This February we're delighted to present two new series, **A New Chapter** and **Celebrating Black Futures**.

A New Chapter brings back the made-in-Vancouver festival hit *Union Street* for a limited engagement at the VIFF Centre (Feb 2-7), presenting the definitive film record of Hogan's Alley. Additionally, director Jamila Pomeroy has selected two inspiring international films as a sidebar to these screenings: Boots Riley's *Sorry to Bother You*, and Suhaib Gasmelbari's *Talking About Trees*.

In partnership with the Vancouver Art Gallery, on successive Thursdays through the month we're presenting **Celebrating Black Futures**, and we pay tribute to the late Charles Officer, with a free screening of his inspiring documentary *Mighty Jerome* (Feb 4).



Sorry to Bother You

BOOTS RILEY, USA, 2018, 111 MIN.

FRI FEB 2	8:30PM	VCT
MON FEB 5	8:20PM	VCT

In an alternate Oakland, Cassius Green (Lakeith Stanfield) searches for financial security and yearns to escape his makeshift bedroom in his uncle's garage. Taking a job as a telemarketer, he discovers an invaluable, uncanny hidden talent. In the ascendancy, Cassius is also on the opposing side of his friends who are protesting corporate oppression. Stuck between the glittering promise of corporate America and the liberation of his community, Cassius must decide if the American dream is truly his to bear.

Introduction by producer Selwyn Jacob

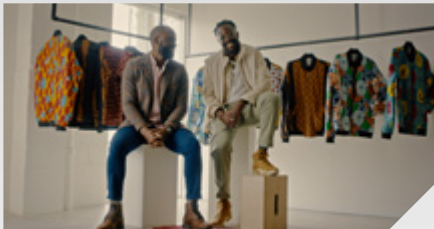
FREE!

A Tribute to Charles Officer—Mighty Jerome

CHARLES OFFICER, CANADA, 2010, 83 MIN.

SUN FEB 4	4:00PM	VCT
-----------	--------	-----

When Charles Officer died late last year, Canada lost one of its most accomplished and adventurous filmmakers. Officer's career included documentaries, dramatic feature films, TV series and shorts, and he excelled in every field. In this 2010 doc he relates the story of the rise, fall and redemption of Harry Jerome, Canada's most record-setting track and field star. Gorgeous monochrome imagery, impassioned interviews and astonishing archival footage are used to tell the triumphant and compelling story of what Harry Jerome's own coach called "the greatest comeback in track and field history."



Union Street

JAMILA POMEROY, CANADA, 2022, 79 MIN.

FRI FEB 2	6:30PM	VCT
SAT FEB 3	8:30PM	VCT
SUN FEB 4	6:00PM	VCT
MON FEB 5	4:15PM	STU
TUE FEB 6	4:30PM	VCT
WED FEB 7	4:15PM	STU
WED FEB 7	8:50PM	VCT

Interspersing interviews with archival footage, *Union Street* documents the history of Vancouver's Hogan's Alley, the Black neighbourhood which was destroyed by the construction of the Georgia viaduct. This history speaks to systemic racial injustice towards Vancouver's Black community which continues to this day. This beautifully shot portrait commemorates legacies, but also celebrates a new generation of Black Vancouverites working to rebuild community, reclaim cultural space, and facilitate Black joy.

In English, Swahili with English subtitles.



Talking About Trees

SUHAIB GASMELBARI, FRANCE/SUDAN/GERMANY/CHAD/QATAR, 2019, 93 MIN.

SUN FEB 4	8:00PM	VCT
MON FEB 5	6:20PM	VCT

Embarking on a journey to revive an old cinema and restore cinema-going culture, the Sudanese Film Club faces stakes much higher and more complex than simple ticket sales. After decades of political turmoil and civil war, Omar al-Bashir is in power and has instilled a sociopolitical climate in which filmmakers and film-lovers must mind their every move. Though these friends encounter seemingly insurmountable resistance and emotional hardship, their love of film and and dream of Sudanese liberation prevails.

In Arabic, English, and Russian with English subtitles.

\$30 | Community Access: \$20

Celebrating Black Futures—Max Roach + Feven Kidane

SAM POLLARD, BEN SHAPIRO, USA, 2023, 82 MIN.

THU FEB 8	6:30PM	VCT
-----------	--------	-----

Born in January, 1924, Maxwell Roach would become one of the defining percussionists of his era. A pioneer in bebop, he played with game-changers like Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Mingus, Thelonious Monk and Miles Davis, led a sublime quintet with Clifford Brown in the 1950s, and kept reinventing his sound, exploring free jazz and even delving into hip-hop. Roach was a political animal, and his music was inextricable from his activism.

Co-presented with the Vancouver Art Gallery and curated by Kika Memeh, the *Celebrating Black Futures* series kicks off with a specially commissioned jazz set by the Feven Kidane Sextet. Doors from 6pm, music set 6:40pm, film 7:40pm. Ticket includes free admission to the Vancouver Art Gallery (value \$29).

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

MENA Film Festival returns to VIFF Centre for MENA 5, a celebration of five years of celebrating the art and film of MENA (Middle East & North African)/SWANA (South West Asia and North Africa) region and diaspora in Vancouver! From January 27 to February 1, 2024, MENA 5 will host over forty carefully-curated films including features and shorts bundles, selected in response to our theme of time and its passage. The festival week also features workshops, panels, Q&As, and networking opportunities. MENA looks forward to welcoming audiences new and old from across the Lower Mainland as we continue sharing work by diverse and challenging voices from across the MENA/SWANA experience. Welcome to MENA 5!



Animalia

SOFIA ALAOUI, MOROCCO/QATAR/France, 2023, 90 MIN.

SUN JAN 28	3:15PM	VCT
------------	--------	-----

With her affluent husband and his family away on a day trip, Itto (Oumaima Barid) intends to savour some solitude in their opulent home. But when an ominous meteorological event blows in, Morocco is plunged into a state of emergency. Forced to evacuate, the heavily pregnant Itto witnesses increasingly strange phenomenon. In charting this alienated woman's odyssey through an increasingly otherworldly and apocalyptic milieu, Sofia Alaoui fashions an arresting and unique debut film.

In French, Arabic, Berber with English subtitles.



Escape

KATIA JAROURA, FRANCE/QATAR, 2022, 78 MIN.

SAT JAN 27	7:50PM	VCT
------------	--------	-----

Escape is a poetic and intimate journey on the path of exile, through the story of five Syrian women artists scattered in different countries. From Paris to Oslo, from La Palma to Istanbul, the protagonists recount their broken story and their personal revolution, through their artistic practice.

In Arabic with English subtitles.



Heroic Bodies

SARA SULIMAN, SUDAN, 2022, 96 MIN.

SUN JAN 28	5:30PM	VCT
WED JAN 31	6:00PM	STU

Sudanese women were robbed of the rights to their own bodies throughout the modern ages enduring brutal and unfathomable forms of oppression, abuse, and violations. *Heroic Bodies* explores Sudanese Women's struggle and resistance, as they seek to take back their rights, utilizing Body Politics, insisting on the right to Education, pioneering initiatives in Public Health, and breaking social taboos, as well as embracing a Matriarchal Religion, the "Zar cult".

In Arabic with English subtitles.



MENA 5 Short Programs

Forward Bundle	Rewind Bundle
JAN 30 6:15PM STU	JAN 27 6:20PM STU
Pause Bundle	JAN 31 8:20PM STU
JAN 28 6:00PM STU	Stop Bundle
Play Bundle	JAN 28 3:00PM STU
JAN 27 8:45PM STU	

See viff.org for full programme



World War III

HOUMAN SEYEDI, IRAN, 2022, 107 MIN.

FRI JAN 26	2:00PM	VCT
SUN JAN 28	8:00PM	VCT
MON JAN 29	8:40PM	VCT
WED JAN 31	8:40PM	VCT
THU FEB 1	7:15PM	VCT
FRI FEB 2	8:40PM	STU
SUN FEB 4	2:00PM	STU

An illiterate labourer takes a job as a nightwatchman on an Iranian film set, a WWII drama about the Holocaust. He's soon roped into appearing as an extra, as one of the Jewish prisoners in a concentration camp. But when the actor playing Hitler is forced to quit, Shakib gets an unexpected promotion... Houman Seyed's extraordinary film is many things: tragic, funny, provocative, shocking. It's a black comedy and it's a mystery thriller, a satire on filmmaking and a love story. In some ways its closest analogues may be Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* and Benigni's *Life Is Beautiful*, but Seyed's movie burns with a hotter kind of rage.

In Farsi with English subtitles.



Four Daughters

KAOUTHER BEN HANIA, TUNISIA/France/GERMANY/SAUDI ARABIA, 2023, 110 MIN.

FRI JAN 26	4:20PM	VCT
SUN JAN 28	8:20PM	STU
MON JAN 29	6:20PM	VCT
TUE JAN 30	8:15PM	VCT
WED JAN 31	6:20PM	VCT
FRI FEB 2	6:15PM	STU
SAT FEB 3	5:30PM	STU
SUN FEB 4	4:15PM	STU
MON FEB 5	7:45PM	STU
TUE FEB 6	1:50PM	STU

In April 2016 Olfa Hamrouni raised the alarm. Her two oldest daughters, both still teenagers, had fled Tunisia to fight for ISIS. This rupture remains the defining tragedy of Olfa's life and it's the subject of this invigorating and inventive hybrid docu-drama from Academy Award-nominee Kaouthar Ben Hania (*The Man Who Sold His Skin; Beauty and the Dogs*). Mixing dramatic reenactment with interviews, and introducing the actors to the real-life family, this Brechtian approach is stimulating and cathartic.

In Arabic with English subtitles.



Àma Gloria

MARIE AMACHOUKELI, FRANCE, 2023, 84 MIN.

FRI FEB 2	2:00PM	VCT
SAT FEB 3	6:30PM	VCT

This may be the most precious love story you will see all year. On the one hand, Gloria (Ilça Moreno Zego), a middle-age caregiver from Cape Verde with a couple of kids back home. And on the other, Cléo (Louise Mauroy-Panzani), a chirpy Parisienne, all of six years old. They are each other's sunlight. But when Gloria's mother passes, she must return to Cape Verde to look after her family. She has a request: that Cléo come visit her in the summer. The trip will leave an indelible mark...

In French and Creole with English subtitles.



Anselm (2D)

WIM WENDERS, GERMANY, 2023, 93 MIN.

FRI FEB 2	2:20PM	STU
TUE FEB 6	4:15PM	STU
WED FEB 7	2:15PM, 8:30PM	STU

In this stunning documentary, acclaimed director Wim Wenders presents the work of contemporary German artist Anselm Kiefer, who for decades has rattled history and shown a mirror to post Second World War complacency and forgetfulness. Gorgeous cinematography captures the inner and outer landscape of the artist, while past and present narratives blur the boundaries between cinema and visual art. An absorbing, tremendously cinematic experience.

In German, English

The Braid

LAETITIA COLOMBANI, FRANCE/CANADA/ITALY, 2023, 120 MIN.

FRI FEB 2	4:00PM	VCT
SAT FEB 3	3:00PM, 7:50PM	STU
SUN FEB 4	1:30PM	VCT
SUN FEB 4	8:10PM	STU
MON FEB 5	3:45PM	VCT
TUE FEB 6	6:30PM	STU
WED FEB 7	6:20PM	VCT
THU FEB 8	7:45PM	STU

Laetitia Colombani's assured adaptation of her own best-selling novel weaves together three stories of female perseverance across three continents, in India, Italy, and Canada. Smita, Giulia and Sarah never meet and represent three very different levels of affluence and privilege, but in tracking their struggles Colombani finds echoes and parallels as well as the obvious contrasts. What counts is setting your own goals, she implies. This is an attractive, strongly acted movie with a big emotional pay-off.

In English, Italian, and Hindi with English subtitles.





Someone Lives Here

ZACHARY RUSSELL, CANADA, 2022, 75 MIN.

FRI JAN 26	6:40PM	VCT
MON JAN 29	6:40PM	STU
TUE JAN 30	8:40PM	STU
THU FEB 1	7:00PM	STU
FRI FEB 2	4:30PM	STU
SUN FEB 4	6:30PM	STU
MON FEB 5	6:00PM	STU
WED FEB 7	12:30PM	STU

In the summer of 2021, Khaleel Seiwright, a carpenter, decided to build tiny homes for Toronto's homeless population. Soon afterwards, the city told him that he wasn't allowed to build them, citing safety issues, despite a lack of available shelter beds. *Someone Lives Here*, which won the Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary at Hot Docs 2023, is deftly told by first-time documentarian Zack Russell, who captures this Kafkaesque story in a humane and empathetic way.

Winner: Best Canadian Documentary, VIFF



Looking Through A Glass Onion: Deconstructing The Beatles' White Album

SCOTT FREIMAN, USA, 2024, 120 MIN.

SAT FEB 3	3:30PM	VCT
-----------	--------	-----

In this two hour multimedia presentation, composer/producer Scott Freiman transports his audience into Abbey Road studio for a look at the revolutionary techniques used during the production of "Revolution", "While My Guitar Gently Weeps", "Blackbird", and other songs from the White Album. Using rare audio and video clips, Freiman allows the audience to see and hear the evolution of these groundbreaking songs and discusses the songs' lasting influence on popular music. You will never listen to the Beatles the same way again!

IN-PERSON PRESENTATION Scott Freiman



Killers of the Flower Moon

MARTIN SCORSESE, USA, 2023, 206 MIN.

TUE JAN 30	12:00PM	VCT
WED JAN 31	2:00PM	VCT

Scorsese's revisionist epic chronicles the tragic history of the wealthiest community in the Americas, circa 1920. When the Osage Nation found they were sitting on an oil field, their fortunes were made. Yet their life expectancy plummeted. Enter Ernest Burkhardt (Leonardo DiCaprio), a WWI vet encouraged to find himself an Osage wife by his uncle, the local sheriff (Robert De Niro). Ernest courts Molly (Lily Gladstone) and they fall in love. But those around Molly continue to die in suspicious circumstances...

"A colossal tale of the sociopathy of American history."

RICHARD BRODY, *THE NEW YORKER*

In English and Osage Languages with English subtitles.

CAST Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Lily Gladstone, Tantoo Cardinal, Jesse Plemons



Cinema Salon: Dead Poets Society

PETER WEIR, USA, 1989, 128 MIN.

TUE FEB 6	7:00PM	VCT
-----------	--------	-----

An unconventional English teacher, John Keating, returns to his Alma Mater, the "best prep school in America," to teach his impressionable students the importance of setting aside the status quo and seizing the day with passion, because "poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for." Tom Schulman based his Oscar-winning screenplay on his own school days and leads his characters, riddled with parental pressure and personal anxieties, to a world of inspiring possibilities.

GUEST Leslie Hurtig, Artistic Director, Vancouver Writers Festival

CAST Robin Williams, Ethan Hawke, Robert Sean Leonard, Josh Charles