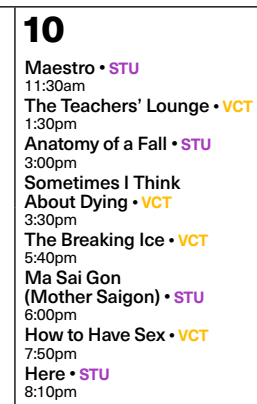


February 9–25
2024



The Invisible Fight Lunar New Year Screenings Celebrating Black Futures
Breaking Ice Here Má Sàì Gòn The Teachers' Lounge Valentine's: Eternal
Sunshine of the Spotless Mind & Ninotchka How to Have Sex Persona
Sometimes I Think About Dying 2024 Oscar Shorts KDocs Film Festival AND MORE



17

Grandma and Her Ghosts • VCT
1:30pm

2024 Oscar Animated Shorts • STU
2:00pm

2024 Oscar Shorts (Documentary) • STU
3:45pm

Abang Adik • VCT
4:00pm

2024 Oscar Shorts (Live Action) • STU
6:30pm

Untold Herstory • VCT
7:00pm

Society of the Snow • VCT
9:15pm

24

KDocs: Kokomo City • VCT
12:30pm
KDocs: Someone
Lives Here • VCT
3:30pm
2024 Oscar Animated
Shorts • STU
4:30pm
2024 Oscar Shorts
(Live Action) • STU
6:15pm
KDocs: Big Fight in
Little Chinatown • VCT
6:30pm
The Invisible Fight • VCT
9:30pm

Call **604.683.3456** for the latest info and listings.

viff.org/plus

Black History Month

All the Colours of the World Are Between Black and White

BABATUNDE APALOWO, NIGERIA, 2023, 93 MIN.

THU FEB 15	6:30PM	VCT
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Short Film Showcase

VARIOUS, CANADA/NIGERIA, 2023, 69 MIN.

THU FEB 22	7:00PM	STU
THU FEB 22	8:15PM	STU

KDocsFF

FEB 21-25

Igniting Dialogue, Inspiring Action: KDocsFF stands at the forefront of documentary activism, shining a light on untold stories that challenge perceptions and provoke dialogue. The festival is a beacon for filmmakers and advocates who seek to explore and illuminate the truths of our time. All screenings come with a keynote address and panel discussion. Tickets just \$7. Explore the program at viff.org

LUNAR NEW YEAR SCREENINGS • See viff.org for full programme



The House of No Man

TRAN THANH, VIETNAM, 2023, 102 MIN.

FRI FEB 16	4:30PM	VCT
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The House of No Man revolves around a family of 5 members: grandmother - Ngoc Nga, the owner of a crab noodle soup store - Ngoc Nu, the eldest daughter - Ngoc Nhu and her husband - Phu Nhuan, and the youngest daughter - Ngoc Nhi. When three generations live under one roof, differences in life perspective and feelings gradually appear, which leads to conflicts in the relationships between parents and children, wife and husband, son-in-law and the wife's family.

In Vietnamese with English subtitles.

CAST Le Giang, Uyen An, Song Luan, Tran Thanh, Kha Nhu, Le Duong, Bao Lam, Ngoc Giau, Viet Anh, Cong Ninh

Preceded By

Have You Eaten?

LANA LI, CANADA, 2020, 5 MIN.



Grandma and Her Ghosts

SHAU-DI WANG, TAIWAN, 2021, 84 MIN.

SAT FEB 17	1:30PM	VCT
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This classic Taiwanese animated film follows a young boy named Dou-Dou as he adjusts to life with his grandmother while his mother is away. While initially bored with his new surroundings, he discovers that his grandma is a supernatural expert who regularly contends with ghosts! Soon, circumstances make it possible for Dou-Dou to see and interact with spirits, too, resulting in plenty of paranormal adventures. He meets specters of various dispositions, including the gentle apparition of a young girl.

In Mandarin and Taiwanese with English subtitles.

CAST Po-Wen Chuang, Ying Wen, Jeffery Hsu

Preceded By

Have You Eaten?

LANA LI, CANADA, 2020, 5 MIN.



Ajoomma 花路阿朱媽

HE SHUMING, SINGAPORE/KOREA, 2022, 90 MIN.

SUN FEB 18	2:30PM	VCT
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A middle-aged, Korean-drama obsessed widow from Singapore travels out of the country for the first time to Seoul, and ends up getting lost. Her journey becomes an unexpected road of self discovery, as she comes to terms with the life she truly wants for herself, beyond her roles of daughter, wife, and mother.

In Mandarin and Korean with English subtitles.

CAST Hong Huifang, Jung Dong-Hwan, Kang Hyung Suk, Shane Pow, Yeo Jingoo

Preceded By

Flavours of Hope: Nourishing Community, Cultivating Change

CANADA, 2023, 7 MIN.



Be With Me 車頂上的玄天上帝

HWARNG WERN-YING, TAIWAN, 2023, 131 MIN.

SUN FEB 18	5:00PM	VCT
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Be With Me is the debut cinema feature by director Hwarng Wern-ying and tells the story of a woman at a crossroads in life who makes the decision to return to Chiayi County to take care of her ailing father under the guidance of a Taoist deity. The spiritual and emotional journey of the woman is told over three time periods as she reminisces about her late grandfather, who was the first to show her the way of the world.

A virtual Q&A will follow the screening with director Hwarng Wern-ying, hosted by Jimmy Lo.

In Taiwanese and Mandarin with English and Traditional Chinese subtitles.

VALENTINE'S 2-FOR-1 TICKETS!



Ninotchka

ERNST LUBITSCH, USA, 1939, 110 MIN.

SUN FEB 11	2:00PM	VCT
WED FEB 14	5:30PM	VCT

Garbo laughs! But only after her Communist apparatchik falls for the decadent charm of Melvyn Douglas in a sublimely romantic Paris. Scripted by Billy Wilder and Charles Brackett, and directed by MGM's master of classy comedy Ernst Lubitsch, this is about as irresistible a defense of the high life as you could wish for.

Sunday afternoon's screening of *Ninotchka* will be followed by a conversation about the relationship between Billy Wilder and Ernst Lubitsch with **Donald Brackett** (author: *Dark Mirror: The Films of Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder*) and **Devan Scott** (podcast: *How Would Lubitsch Do It?*)

CAST Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas, Sig Ruman, Felex Bressart



Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (20th Anniversary Screening)

MICHEL GONDRY, USA, 2004, 108 MIN.

WED FEB 14	8:00PM	VCT
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If you could wipe out the memories of your ex lover and start over again with a clean slate, well, why wouldn't you? That's the question screenwriter Charlie Kaufman and director Michel Gondry pose in this bittersweet reflection on love and remembrance (20 years old this year!), with what is probably Jim Carrey's best dramatic performance, plus an unforgettably orange-haired Kate Winslet. The late Tom Wilkinson and *Poor Things'* Mark Ruffalo round out the cast.

CAST Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Kirsten Dunst, Mark Ruffalo, Tom Wilkinson, Elijah Wood



Here

BAS DEVOS, BELGIUM, 2023, 82 MIN.

FRI FEB 9	4:30PM	VCT
SAT FEB 10	8:10PM	STU
SUN FEB 11	12:30PM, 5:30PM	STU
MON FEB 12	3:45PM	STU
TUE FEB 13	6:10PM	STU
THU FEB 15	8:00PM	STU

In Brussels, a Romanian construction worker about to leave on vacation crosses paths with a Belgian-Chinese biologist writing a dissertation on moss. Such is the slender but fruitful starting point of Belgian filmmaker Bas Devos' sensuous fourth feature, a film so attuned to the rhythms and textures of the everyday that even its characters' names are an afterthought. A luminous exploration of the visible world, *Here* is a film about two people united by their mutual delight in their surroundings.

In Dutch, French, Romanian, Chinese with English subtitles.

CAST Stefan Gota, Liyo Gong, Cedric Luvuezo, Teodor Corban, Saadia Bentaieb



Má Sài Gòn (Mother Saigon)

KHOA LÊ, CANADA, 2022, 100 MIN.

FRI FEB 9	8:15PM	STU
SAT FEB 10	6:00PM	STU
TUE FEB 13	4:10PM	STU
WED FEB 14	3:45PM	STU
SUN FEB 18	2:00PM	STU

About halfway through *Má Sài Gòn* we hear a conversation about how filmmakers always get Vietnam's LGBTQ scene wrong, trading on clichés and caricatures. Vietnamese Canadian filmmaker Khoa Lê took the time to immerse himself in the culture and sees that we do too. The movie unfolds as a series of vignettes, portraits of queer and trans folks forging relationships in a conservative but rapidly evolving society.

"A dreaminess that recalls the visionary work of Hong Kong moviemaker Wong Kar-wai." MAURIE ALIOFF, *NORTHERN STARS*

In Vietnamese with English subtitles.



The Teachers' Lounge

ILKER ÇATAK, GERMANY, 2023, 94 MIN.

THU FEB 8	1:15PM	VCT
SAT FEB 10	1:30PM	VCT
SUN FEB 11	12:00PM	VCT
MON FEB 12	2:00PM	VCT
TUE FEB 13	2:30PM	VCT
THU FEB 15	4:30PM	VCT

Nominated for the Academy Award for Best International Film, this gripping high school drama shows an idealistic young math teacher (the extraordinary Leonie Benesch) seeking to rectify a miscarriage of justice, only to make matters unfathomably worse. New to the school, Ms Nowak is reluctantly drawn into the interrogation of two grade 6 class reps after a series of thefts. They implicate a Turkish classmate, but she's unconvinced. An ethics master class, the film vividly taps the social angst of our school days.

In German with English subtitles.

CAST Leonie Benesch, Micheal Klammer, Rafael Stachowiak, Anne-Kathrin Gummich, Eva Lobau



The Breaking Ice

ANTHONY CHEN, SINGAPORE/CHINA, 2023, 97 MIN.

FRI FEB 9	2:15PM	VCT
SAT FEB 10	5:40PM	VCT
SUN FEB 11	7:00PM	VCT
MON FEB 12	8:20PM	VCT
TUE FEB 13	6:30PM	VCT
WED FEB 14	3:20PM	VCT
SUN FEB 18	12:00PM	STU

When Hao loses his phone on a solo trip to the wintry Chinese/Korean city of Yanji, tour guide Nana invites him to dinner—to the surprise of her date, Xiao. They drink, they eat, they dance. When Hao misses his flight the next morning they eat, they drink, they dance some more. Nana and Hao wind up in bed. If Xiao minds, he doesn't show it. Even if it's just for a long weekend, they're friends now. Singaporean filmmaker Anthony Chen (*Drift*, *Ilo Ilo*) crafts a melancholy snapshot of three young people forging a connection on the margins.

In Mandarin and Korean with English subtitles.

CAST Zhou Dongyu, Liu Hoaran, Qu Chuxiao



Sometimes I Think About Dying

RACHEL LAMBERT, USA, 2023, 93 MIN.

FRI FEB 9	6:20PM	VCT
SAT FEB 10	3:30PM	VCT
SUN FEB 11	5:00PM	VCT
MON FEB 12	6:20PM	VCT
TUE FEB 13	4:30PM	VCT
WED FEB 14	5:50PM	STU
THU FEB 15	6:00PM	STU
MON FEB 19	1:50PM	STU

St Helens, Oregon is the kind of small town where you could fall asleep in the spring, wake up in the fall, and never miss a beat. That's its charm. But for Fran (Daisy Ridley), stuck in an equally uneventful office job, rigor mortis may be setting in. Enter balding, middle aged Robert (David Merheje). He's no heart throb, but he takes an interest in her—and not in a creepy way. Slowly, unsurely, Fran emerges from her emotional shell. Rachel Lambert's movie is a gentle, dreamy comedy about depression, timidity, and the kindness of strangers.

CAST Daisy Ridley, Dave Merheje, Parvesh Cheena, Marcia Debonis, Meg Stalter, Brittany O'Grady



How to Have Sex

MOLLY MANNING WALKER, UK/GREECE, 2023, 98 MIN.

FRI FEB 9	8:30PM	VCT
SAT FEB 10	7:50PM	VCT
SUN FEB 11	8:55PM	VCT
MON FEB 12	4:00PM	VCT
TUE FEB 13	8:40PM	VCT
THU FEB 15	8:30PM	VCT
FRI FEB 16	2:30PM	VCT
SUN FEB 18	7:50PM	VCT
MON FEB 19	3:50PM	STU

Sixteen-year-old Tara and her two best friends arrive to a Greek party town ready to let their hair down. But while Tara is indeed down for some summer fun, her boundaries keep getting trampled on by those closest to her. Mia McKenna-Bruce turns in a devastating performance as kind-hearted but impressionable Tara in Molly Manning Walker's sobering feature debut that interrogates the culture of consent, for which she took home *Un Certain Regard* Prize in Cannes earlier this year.

CAST Mia McKenna-Bruce, Lara Peake, Samuel Bottomley, Shaun Thomas, Enva Lewis, Laura Ambler



The Invisible Fight

RAINER SARNET, ESTONIA/LATVIA/GREECE/FINLAND, 2023, 115 MIN.

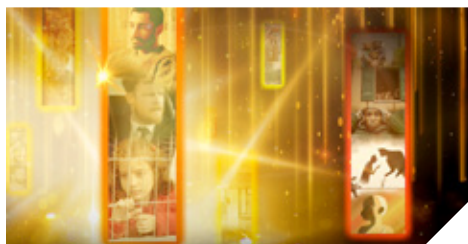
SAT FEB 24	9:30PM	VCT
MON FEB 26	4:00PM	VCT
TUE FEB 27	6:30PM, 8:45PM	STU
THU FEB 29	8:30PM	VCT

1973. Rafael is the sole survivor when Chinese kung fu assassins breach the border with the USSR. Convinced he's been spared for a purpose—and that purpose is to learn kung fu—Rafael finds unlikely mentors in an Orthodox monastery where spiritual teachings are supplemented with kick ass chop sockey. Fans of Black Sabbath, kung fu, and/or wacky comedy won't want to miss *The Invisible Fight*. This gonzo Estonian martial arts movie is an unholy cross between Aki Kaurismaki and Edgar Wright; a true one-off.

"Hilarious... an explosive mix of kung fu, heavy metal and Orthodox Christianity." MARIANA HRISTOVA, *CINEUROPA*

In Estonian with English subtitles.

CAST Ursel Tilk, Ester Kuntu, Indrek Sammul, Kaarel Poggia



2024 Oscar Nominated Shorts Programmes: Live Action, Animation, Documentary

VARIOUS, 2024

FRI FEB 24 - SUN MAR 3	VCT / STU
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Every year, VIFF showcases the Academy Award nominees in short-form filmmaking, in the categories of Live Action, Animation, and Documentary Shorts. While Hollywood features seem to get longer and longer (looking at you, Christopher Nolan and Martin Scorsese) short films are a reminder of how less can be more. It's also a chance to get the scoop on your office Oscar pool!

Explore the program at viff.org



Pantheon, The Greatest Films of All Time: Persona

INGMAR BERGMAN, SWEDEN, 1966, 83 MIN.

SUN FEB 18	11:00AM	VCT
TUE FEB 20	5:50PM	VCT

Persona is Bergman's most admired and influential film, a self-reflexive modernist text which echoes right through to a film like *May December*. Liv Ullmann plays a famous actress, Elisabeth. Withdrawing from the world by refusing to speak, Elisabeth is placed under the care of a chatty nurse, Alma (Bibi Andersson) in a remote sea-side cottage. Alma begins to identify with her charge; indeed, the film suggests, identity is always a projection of conscious choices and subjective desires...

In Swedish with English subtitles.

Sunday's Pantheon screening will be preceded by a 15 minute introductory lecture and feature a book club-style discussion afterwards.

Intro by **Christine Evans**, Professor in Cinema Studies, UBC

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Sunday, March 10, 3pm

~~\$25~~ \$35 Early Bird Price before February 25

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Get tickets at viff.org