



May 24 – Jun 6

2024



Life Is Climbing! Sweetland Summer Qamp Wicked Little Letters The King Tide They Shot the Piano Player I Am Not a Witch MUBI Presents: Gasoline Rainbow Songs of Earth Plastic People: The Hidden Crisis of Microplastics A Bullet Pulling Thread VIFF Live: A Page of Madness AND MORE

# Closed for Renovations: June 24 - Mid August

This summer, we're upgrading the VIFF Centre's main theatre, installing state-of-the-art projection, immersive sound, and refurbishing our much-loved seats.

Learn more: [viff.org/next-chapter](http://viff.org/next-chapter)

26

The King Tide • VCT  
4:15pm  
The Great Salish Heist • LOC  
4:45pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
6:30pm  
Plastic People:  
The Hidden Crisis of  
Microplastics • LOC  
6:50pm  
Summer Qamp • VCT  
8:30pm  
Sasquatch Sunset • LOC  
8:45pm



Evil Does  
Not Exist  
JUN 4, 5

27

The Great Salish Heist • LOC  
5:50pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
6:20pm  
They Shot the Piano Player  
• LOC  
8:00pm  
The King Tide • VCT  
8:20pm

3  
JUN

Wicked Little Letters • LOC  
5:40pm  
Life Is Climbing! • VCT  
6:20pm  
I Am Not a Witch • LOC  
8:00pm  
Perfect Days • VCT  
8:45pm

28

Wicked Little Letters • VCT  
4:00pm  
Sasquatch Sunset • LOC  
6:00pm  
**FREE SCREENING**  
ACCESSfest:  
Life Is Climbing! • VCT  
6:20pm  
July Rhapsody • LOC  
8:30pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
8:30pm

4

Life Is Climbing! • VCT  
1:00pm  
La Chimera • LOC  
1:30pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
3:30pm  
Perfect Days • LOC  
4:10pm  
Life Is Climbing! • VCT  
6:20pm  
Wicked Little Letters • LOC  
6:45pm  
Evil Does Not Exist • VCT  
8:45pm

29

Sweetland • VCT  
4:00pm  
Plastic People: The Hidden  
Crisis of Microplastics • LOC  
5:40pm  
The King Tide • VCT  
6:10pm  
I Am Not a Witch • LOC  
7:30pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
8:20pm

5

Summer Qamp • LOC  
5:50pm  
Life Is Climbing! • VCT  
6:20pm  
Evil Does Not Exist • LOC  
7:30pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
8:20pm

30

Wicked Little Letters • VCT  
3:50pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
6:00pm  
I Am Not a Witch • LOC  
6:30pm  
MUBI Presents: Gasoline  
Rainbow • VCT  
8:00pm  
Summer Qamp • LOC  
8:30pm

6

La Chimera • LOC  
5:50pm  
Life Is Climbing! • VCT  
6:20pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
8:20pm  
Perfect Days • LOC  
8:45pm

24  
MAY

Songs of Earth • VCT  
2:00pm  
Sweetland • LOC  
2:15pm  
The King Tide • VCT  
4:15pm  
July Rhapsody • LOC  
4:30pm  
Summer Qamp • VCT  
6:30pm  
Plastic People:  
The Hidden Crisis of  
Microplastics • LOC  
6:45pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
8:20pm  
Sasquatch Sunset • LOC  
8:45pm

31

Cottontail • VCT  
1:00pm

SAT

25

**RELAXED SCREENING**  
The Great Salish Heist  
(By Donation) • LOC  
12:00pm  
Wilfred Buck • LOC  
2:15pm  
Summer Qamp • LOC  
4:15pm  
Songs of Earth • VCT  
4:45pm  
Sweetland • LOC  
6:00pm  
Plastic People:  
The Hidden Crisis of  
Microplastics • VCT  
6:45pm  
Sasquatch Sunset • LOC  
8:15pm  
The King Tide • VCT  
8:40pm



Perfect Days  
JUN 3, 6

## New Perks for VIFF+ Premium and Patron Members

Local arts organizations including Arts Club, Ballet BC, the Cultch, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Opera, and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra have united to bring our closest supporters a new discount program:

### ArtsPerks!

Learn more: [viff.org/artspersks](http://viff.org/artspersks)

60  
YEARS

ARTSCLUB

Vancouver  
Artgallery

vancouveropera

BALLET  
BALLE  
BALLE  
BALLE  
BALLE

THE CULTCH

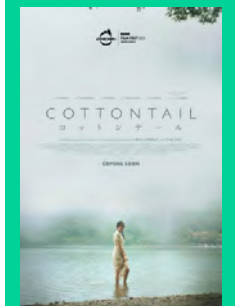
VSO VANCOUVER  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

## First Look Fridays

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



FRI 24 MAY, 2:00PM



FRI 31 MAY, 1:00PM

## Become a VIFF+ member.

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



### 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](http://viff.org) (up to 60 minutes before showtime) and also in person at our box office. 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](mailto: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.

Call 604.683.3456 for the latest info and listings.




### Cottontail

PATRICK DICKINSON, UK/JAPAN, 2023, 94 MIN

FRI MAY 31	1:00PM	VCT
FRI JUN 7	4:15PM	VCT
SAT JUN 8	5:10PM	LOC
SUN JUN 9	2:30PM	VCT
MON JUN 10	5:50PM	LOC
TUE JUN 11	8:15PM	LOC
WED JUN 12	4:15PM	VCT

*Shoplifters* star Lily Franky plays Kenzaburo, a widower still deeply traumatized by his wife's passing. Arriving in England with his grown son Toshi to scatter her ashes in Lake Windermere as she has requested, the pig-headed Kenzaburo sets off in a huff and winds up lost, miles from anywhere, with minimal English and no map... Operating in a similar melancholy vein to Koreeda Hirokazu, writer-director Patrick Dickinson picked up the award for Best First Feature at the Rome Film Festival last fall.

*In Japanese and English with English subtitles.*



**CAST** Lily Franky, Ryo Nishikido, Tae Kimura, Rin Takanashi, Ciaran Hinds, Aoife Hinds




### Sweetland

CHRISTIAN SPARKES, CANADA, 2023, 105 MIN.

FRI MAY 24	2:15PM	LOC
SAT MAY 25	6:00PM	LOC
WED MAY 29	4:00PM	VCT

The government is ready to resettle the far-flung fishing community of Sweetland, Newfoundland with a healthy pay-out—but only if the entire community signs up for the move. Retired fisherman Moses is one of the last hold-outs. He's lived here his entire life, and he's not ready to put his ghosts behind him. This sensitive adaptation of a novel by Michael Crummey is distinguished by its beautiful cinematography and a formidable central performance from Mark Lewis Jones.

**CAST** Mark Lewis Jones, Sara Canning, Mary Walsh




### The King Tide

CHRISTIAN SPARKES, CANADA, 2023, 100 MIN.

FRI MAY 24	4:15PM	VCT
SAT MAY 25	8:40PM	VCT
SUN MAY 26	4:15PM	VCT
MON MAY 27	8:20PM	VCT
WED MAY 29	6:10PM	VCT

They call her "Isla". The miracle baby found alive in an upturned boat. Ten years later, Isla is still working miracles in this small fishing village off Newfoundland—healing ailments, summoning a bumper catch—and the community's only real anxiety is that no one from the mainland should get wind of their good fortune. The second outstanding release of the spring from St Johns filmmaker Christian Sparkes (*Sweetland*—also showing at the VIFF Centre) is a roiling supernatural fable with shades of Stephen King.

**CAST** Clayne Crawford, Frances Fisher, Aden Young, Alix West Leffler, Lara Jean Chorostecki, Michael Greyeyes





### Life Is Climbing!

SOKICHI NAKAHARA, JAPAN, 2023, 89 MIN.

MON JUN 3	6:20PM	VCT
TUE JUN 4	1:00PM, 6:20PM	VCT
WED JUN 5	6:20PM	VCT
THU JUN 6	6:20PM	VCT
FRI JUN 7	2:30PM	LOC
SAT JUN 8	7:15PM	LOC
SUN JUN 9	1:00PM	LOC

Ready for a reminder of how incredible human beings are? Koba started climbing at 16. At 28, he was diagnosed with an intractable eye disease and slowly went totally blind. But this hasn't stopped him. With his friend Naoya as his guide, he's earned four consecutive gold medals in the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships. Naoya has a dream: to bring Koba to Indian Creek, Utah, and take him up an iconic spiral outcrop atop a vertiginous cliff face... This is an exhilarating film about friendship, the gifts of adversity, and the courage it takes to put everything on the line for the thing you love, culminating in a breathtaking sequence you won't soon forget.

Koichiro Kobayashi (Koba), his sighted guide Naoya and Director Nakahara will be in attendance for our screenings, June 3 and 4. Screening with English Audio Description, June 4, 6:20pm.

*In Japanese and English with English subtitles.*

**CAST** Koichiro Kobayashi, Naoya Suzuki





### Sasquatch Sunset


NATHAN ZELLNER, DAVID ZELLNER, USA, 2024, 89 MIN.

FRI MAY 24	8:45PM	LOC
SAT MAY 25	8:15PM	LOC
SUN MAY 26	8:45PM	LOC
TUE MAY 28	6:00PM	LOC

There are apes. And then there are apes. Skirting the planetary ambitions of your Kongs and your Caesars, the family in the new film from the directors of *Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter* just want a quiet corner of the woods to call their own...

"You will laugh, you will shriek, you may cover your eyes. But after 20 minutes of watching, you start to acclimatize, you start to appreciate their different personalities. The longer you stay with them, the more you start to see." ELI GLASNER, *CBC*

**CAST** Jesse Eisenberg, Riley Keough, Nathan Zellner, Christophe Zajac-Denek




### Wicked Little Letters

THEA SHARROCK, UK/France, 2023, 110 MIN

TUE. MAY 28	4:00PM	VCT
THU. MAY 30	3:50PM	VCT
MON. JUN 3	5:40PM	LOC
TUE. JUN 4	6:45PM	LOC

Based on a scandal that rocked the UK in 1920, *Wicked Little Letters* is a slyly subversive contribution to the normally staid genre of British costume drama. Edith (Olivia Colman) is a spinster who looks after her mum and dad, attends Church, and wouldn't say "Boo!" to a goose. Rose (Jessie Buckley), her next door neighbour, is a single mum (a widow, she claims), Irish, outspoken and likes a pint. When Edith starts receiving vulgar poison pen letters it doesn't take a genius to figure out who they're from.

**CAST** Jessie Buckley, Olivia Colman, Gemma Jones, Timothy Spall, Anjana Vasan, Gemma Jones






### Summer Camp

JEN MARKOWITZ, CANADA, 2023, 80 MIN.

FRI MAY 24	6:30PM	VCT
SAT MAY 25	4:15PM	LOC
SUN MAY 26	8:30PM	VCT
THU MAY 30	8:30PM	LOC
WED JUN 5	5:50PM	LOC

Camp fYrefly, Alberta, is a haven for LGBTQIA2S+ teens, a place where they can be themselves without fear or anxiety, far away from the fierce political battle currently being waged against queer expression and gender identity. This is the opposite of a "conversion camp". It's an affirmation camp. And filmmaker Jen Markowitz has to do little more than talk to the kids themselves to show just how important a space like this can be.

"Heartwarming... a tonic." DEVON BANFIELD, *NOW TORONTO*



### They Shot the Piano Player

FERNANDO TREUBA, JAVIER MARISCAL, SPAIN/France, 2023, 103 MIN.

MON MAY 27	8:00PM	LOC
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*Chico & Rita* team Fernando Trueba and animator Javier Mariscal return with another animated musical docu-fiction, this time the story of Francisco Tenório Jr, a brilliant Brazilian pianist murdered while touring Argentina in 1976, at the age of 35. Jeff Goldblum voices the American writer who becomes obsessed with finding everything about Tenório: his part in the Bossa Nova explosion which also brought us João Gilberto, Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil and so many other greats; Why he was killed, and by whom?

*In English, Portuguese, and Spanish with English subtitles.*

**CAST** Jeff Goldblum, Gilberto Gil, Caetano Veloso, Joao Gilberto, Vinicius de Moraes





### I Am Not a Witch

RUNGANO NYONI, UK/France/Germany/Zambia, 2017, 93 MIN.

WED MAY 29	7:30PM	LOC
THU MAY 30	6:30PM	LOC
MON JUN 3	8:00PM	LOC

Screening in the series *...to glimpse: African Cinema Now!* curated by Fegor Obuowoma, Rungano Nyoni's acclaimed debut feature is a visually striking satire about a 9-year-old orphan accused of witchcraft in contemporary Zambia. Although this accusation comes with obvious disadvantages (she is exiled to a witch camp and tethered to the ground) it also brings a degree of fame, and even opportunity...

*In English, Bemba, Chewa, and Tonga with English subtitles.*

**CAST** Maggie Mulubwa, Henry B.J. Phiri, Nancy Mulilo, Margaret Sipaneia, Gloria Huwiler






### MUBI Presents: Gasoline Rainbow

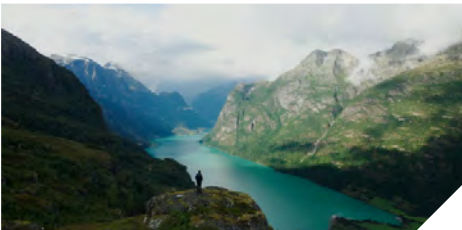
BILL ROSS IV, TURNER ROSS, USA, 2023, 111 MIN.

THU MAY 30	8:00PM	VCT
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**Canadian Premiere.** A sympathetic slice of pure, authentic Americana, the latest from the Ross brothers follows five high school graduates on a summer trip across the Pacific Northwest. Their destination is a beach party billed as "The End of the World", but their real purpose is to delay what's next—be it a job or college—and hang out with their friends for a few weeks longer. *Gasoline Rainbow* quietly, curiously, reveals a corner of the world and the hopes and dreams of a handful of kids finding their way into it. *Includes virtual Q&A with directors.*

**CAST** Makai Garza, Micah Bunch, Nichole Dukes, Nathaly Garcia, Tony Aburto





### Songs of Earth


MARGRETH OLIN, NORWAY, 2023, 90 MIN.

FRI MAY 24	2:00PM	VCT
FRI MAY 24	8:20PM	VCT
SAT MAY 25	4:45PM	VCT
SUN MAY 26	6:30PM	VCT
MON MAY 27	6:20PM	VCT
TUE MAY 28	8:30PM	VCT
WED MAY 29	8:20PM	VCT
THU MAY 30	6:00PM	VCT
TUE JUN 4	3:30PM	VCT
WED JUN 5	8:20PM	VCT
THU JUN 6	8:20PM	VCT

Some films are captured with such skill, you feel you can breathe the air, scent the spring, feel the ground beneath your feet. Such a film is *Songs of Earth*, a visually stunning ode to the fjords, glaciers, lakes and mountains of Norway, where 84-year-old Jorgen has lived his entire life in the home where filmmaker Margreth Olin was born. Executive produced by Wim Wenders and Liv Ullmann, the film is also more than that, a love letter from a daughter to her father, and a rueful reflection on the passage of time.

*In Norwegian with English subtitles.*

**FEAT** Jørgen Mykle, Magnhild Mykløen



### Plastic People: The Hidden Crisis of Microplastics


BEN ADDELMAN, ZIYA TONG, CANADA, 2024, 84 MIN.

FRI MAY 24	6:45PM	LOC
SAT MAY 25	6:45PM	VCT
SUN MAY 26	6:50PM	LOC
WED MAY 29	5:40PM	LOC

40 percent of global plastics production is single use. That microplastics have infiltrated the animal kingdom has been known for some time now: they're in the oceans, in the soil, and in the food chain. So it's hardly surprising that they're now being found in the human body, even in the brain. This alarming doc points out that there is a lot we don't know about the long-term effects of this universal infiltration, but suggests we might want to put the brakes on plastic production now, before it's too late...

"A crucial documentary about how plastic is literally invading us all... It takes an issue you think you've grasped and colors it in. It takes your scattershot information and fuses it into a fuller vision—of the past, and the future."

OWEN GLEIBERMAN, *VARIETY*





### A Bullet Pulling Thread + Violet Gave Willingly


IAN DAFFERN, CANADA, 2023, 95 MIN

TUE JUN 11	7:30PM	VCT
WED JUN 12	2:00PM	VCT
THU JUN 13	5:50PM	LOC

In January 2020, in Lytton, BC, a man named Barry Shantz was shot dead by police, as he intended. The incident raises troubling questions about response protocols (why wasn't a mental health worker dispatched to a stand-off which lasted several hours, for example?), and about institutional accountability. But Ian Daffern's film gives us much more than this. It is a compassionate portrait of Barry, an imperfect man, a former drug dealer, who nevertheless turned his life around and became an advocate for fellow prisoners and for the homeless, as related by his sister, Marilyn, whose own life followed a very different path. In response to the tragedy, Marilyn creates a series of art quilts called *Kairos*—a Greek word which means "an opportune time for action". *A Bullet Pulling Thread* opens up several pathways we might usefully follow.

**Marilyn Farquhar Q&A, June 11**

Screening with the short film *Violet Gave Willingly* (Claire Sanford, 2022, 23 mins)





### VIFF | Live

### A Page of Madness: Live Score by SOMNUS featuring Anju Singh and Harlow MacFarlane

TEINOSUKE KINUGASA, JAPAN, 1926, 73 MIN

SUN JUN 16	7:30PM	VCT
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An asylum janitor tries to persuade his wife—an inmate—to escape with him, but she doesn't want to go. This Expressionist horror film was directed by former kabuki female impersonator Teinosuke Kinugasa, co-written with Nobel prize-winner Yasunari Kawabata, and performed by Kinugasa's avant-garde experimental group. Experimental musical duo SOMNUS will deepen the cathartic and reflective experience of the film using percussion, strings, synthesizers, electronics and world instruments to echo the irrational extremes, dissonances and nuances conjured by this unique cinematic masterpiece.

**\$18** Early Bird (to May 31) **\$25**







## July Rhapsody

ANN HUI, HONG KONG, 2002, 103 MIN.

FRI MAY 24	4:30PM	LOC
TUE MAY 28	8:00PM	LOC

Jacky Cheung plays Lam Yiu-kwok, a high school teacher facing a midlife crisis. Relations with his wife (Anita Mui in her last screen performance) are strained—not least when an ex-lover, the father of her first child—reaches out from his sick bed, wanting to reconcile before he dies. And then there's Choi-lam (Karen Lam), a precocious student who has a crush on him and won't let him forget it. (A Vancouverite by birth, Lam won multiple awards at both the Hong Kong and Golden Horse Awards for her performance.)

New 4K Restoration

"There's a serenity and quiet beauty about this small but impressive film." DAVID STRATTON, *VARIETY*

In Cantonese with English subtitles.

**CAST** Jacky Cheung, Anita Mui, Karen Lam



## Wilfred Buck

LISA JACKSON, CANADA, 2024, 96 MIN.

SAT MAY 25	2:15PM	LOC
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"The star guy", Wilfred Buck is our guide to the ancient astrology of the First Nations, who have their own constellations and associated myths and legends. The film is also an account of his own deeply troubled youth, as recounted in his memoir, *I Have Lived Four Lives* (and staged in re-enactments here). But it's the force of his generosity, curiosity and community spirit which makes this such an uplifting movie, as well as a fascinating glimpse into a whole new (old) way of understanding the cosmos.

In English and Cree with English subtitles.

**FEAT** Brandon Alexis, Raymond Chartrand, Ed Azure, Ethan Neckoway, Caine Robinson, Moe McGillivray



Relaxed Screening  
May 25 by Donation

## The Great Salish Heist

DARRELL DENNIS, CANADA, 2024, 96 MIN.

SAT MAY 25	12:00PM	LOC
SUN MAY 26	4:45PM	LOC
MON MAY 27	5:50PM	LOC

Shuswap actor Darrell Dennis makes his feature debut as writer-director in this Vancouver Island-made caper comedy about the theft of Indigenous artifacts. Steve (Dennis) is a traditional archeologist intent on liberating sacred objects from Western Canadian museums. Enlisting the help of a ragtag bunch of Rez rebels, he gets mixed up with the Russian mafia along the way. *The Great Salish Heist* is a scrappy indie *Ocean's 11* with bags of charm and some authentic things to say about cultural colonialism.

*Relaxed screenings welcome audiences across the sensitivity spectrum to a safe and comfortable theatre experience with muted playback volume, dimmed lighting, and other environmental accommodations.*

**CAST** Darrell Dennis, Tricia Helfer, Graham Greene, Ashley Callingbull, Andrea Menard, Craig Lauzon



## La Chimera

ALICE ROHRWACHER, ITALY/FRANCE/SWITZERLAND, 2023, 130 MIN.

TUE JUN 4	1:30PM	LOC
THU JUN 6	5:50PM	LOC

Rohrwacher's first feature since *Happy As Lazzaro* is an exhilaratingly wild, mysterious, rough and tumble tale of a disheveled English tomb raider living with a roisterous group of Italian bohemians. Arthur (Josh O'Connor) has the gift of divination: he sniffs out ancient Etruscan graves and the treasures within. This spirited movie is rooted in the rude, earthy traditions of Pasolini and Rossellini; it's an authentic film of the land and the people who live on it, not to mention those buried underneath.

In Italian and English with English subtitles.

**CAST** Josh O'Connor, Isabella Rossellini, Alba Rohrwacher, Carol Duarte, Vincenzo Nemolato

Best Screenplay, Grand Prize of the Jury Cannes 2023