



Megalopolis Agent of Happiness Porcelain War Come and See The Chef & the Daruma Meanwhile On Earth Inay (Mama) Union Winter Kills (35mm) Manchurian Candidate Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers VIFF Live: Live Concert + Film Screenings Film Studies: Hollywood Through the Looking Glass AND MORE

# Ignite

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### Free Film Series for High Schools

In Cinema + Online

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# 1 NOV

**Agent of Happiness** • VCT  
12:30pm  
**Inay (Mama)** • LOC  
1:00pm

## 4

**The Chef & the Daruma** • LOC  
12:30pm  
**Megalopolis** • VCT  
1:30pm  
**Physician, Heal Thyself** • LOC  
2:30pm  
**Foundations for Social Change/Bit Happier Inc** • VCT  
4:00pm

**Monkey on a Stick**  
NOV 6

## 5

**Inay (Mama)** • LOC  
4:30pm  
**The Manchurian Candidate** • VCT  
5:20pm  
**Adrianne & the Castle** • LOC  
6:15pm  
**Winter Kills (35mm print)** • VCT  
8:00pm  
**Inay (Mama)** • LOC  
8:15pm

## 6

**Winter Kills (35mm print)** • VCT  
4:00pm  
**Monkey on a Stick** • LOC  
4:30pm  
**The Manchurian Candidate** • VCT  
6:10pm  
**Inay (Mama)** • LOC  
6:45pm  
**Sugarcane** • LOC  
8:20pm  
**Winter Kills (35mm print)** • VCT  
8:45pm

## 7

**The Chef & the Daruma** • LOC  
12:30pm  
**Megalopolis** • VCT  
1:30pm  
**Physician, Heal Thyself** • LOC  
2:30pm

## 8

**Union** • LOC  
1:45pm  
**Exhibition on Screen: Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers** • VCT  
2:00pm

**Physician, Heal Thyself**  
NOV 4 & 7

**Adrianne & the Castle**  
NOV 5

## 11

**Film Studies: Hollywood Through the Looking Glass – What Price Hollywood?** • VCT  
10:30am  
**Exhibition on Screen: Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers** • VCT  
3:00pm  
**Meanwhile On Earth** • LOC  
3:30pm  
**Union** • LOC  
5:30pm  
**Porcelain War** • VCT  
6:00pm  
**Exhibition on Screen: Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers** • LOC  
7:40pm  
**Come and See** • VCT  
8:00pm

**Sugarcane**  
NOV 6

## 12

**Come and See** • VCT  
4:00pm  
**Exhibition on Screen: Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers** • LOC  
4:30pm  
**What Price Hollywood?** • LOC  
6:30pm  
**VIFF Live Reprise: A Page of Madness - Live Score by Anju Singh / The Nausea** • VCT  
8:00pm  
**Meanwhile On Earth** • LOC  
8:30pm

## 13

**Captioned Screening: Meanwhile On Earth** • VCT  
3:30pm  
**Meanwhile On Earth** • LOC  
6:30pm  
**Come and See** • VCT  
8:00pm  
**Union** • LOC  
8:30pm

**What Price Hollywood?**  
NOV 11 & 12

## Tickets and Memberships

	Adult	VIFF+	VIFF+ Premium & U25	Senior	Student	Accessible	Group Rate (10+)
Vancity Theatre	\$16	\$13	\$11	\$14	\$11	\$11	\$13
Lochmaddy Studio Theatre	\$14	\$11	\$9	\$12	\$9	\$9	\$11

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.

**Free Entry to VIFF Centre screenings for Self-Identifying Indigenous Peoples. Call to book your tickets or visit our box office.**

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

## Captioned Screenings

Join us on Wednesday afternoons for a new pilot series of captioned screenings for Deaf and hard of hearing audiences, along with anyone who benefits from captions.

# First Look Fridays

Friday matinee screenings for \$10

**AGENT OF HAPPINESS**

FRI 01 NOV, 12:30PM

**Van Gogh Poets & Lovers**

FRI 08 NOV, 2:00PM

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**Premium**

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# Film Studies: Hollywood Through the Looking Glass

Hollywood has always had an inherently self-absorbed quality that continues to fascinate us, so perhaps it comes as no surprise that many film directors choose to explore their own artistic obsessions via the vehicle of Hollywood mythology itself, past and present. This series explores some of the movie industry's own reflections on itself as a dream factory, from one of the earliest examples, George Cukor's pre-code examination of the seductive pitfalls of an actress's hungry aspirations, to one of the latest, Damien Chazelle's mesmerizing trip through a director's looking glass world. Along the way, our guided tour makes memorable stops that ask us all what makes our never ending appetite for screen dreams so tantalizing. Could it be that in the end it's something as simple as the deft observation once made by songwriter Van Dyke Parks? "Movies are magic." No matter how weird and challenging our daily lives might be, we'll always have the welcome escape of a dark cinema, where we can sit with complete strangers and dream together with our eyes wide open.

Scheduled across five successive Monday mornings, our latest Film Studies adult education series will feature short, 25-minute introductions by film historian and curator Donald Brackett, followed by the screening and a brief audience talkback.

Introduction 10.30am with Film at 11am.

Adult Ticket	Series Pass	Senior/ Student Pass	VIFF+ Pass
\$18	\$80	\$75	\$70

## What Price Hollywood? Curated and Presented by film critic/historian Donald Brackett

GEORGE CUKOR, USA, 1932, 120 MIN.

MON NOV 11	10:30AM	VCT
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The movie screen is a magic mirror in which we all like to see reflections of our better selves. Filmmakers are not immune to the attraction, and Hollywood has been mythologizing itself since before movies could talk. In our latest Film Studies series film critic and historian Donald Brackett gives us a whistle stop studio tour taking us from the Golden Age to the C21st, beginning with George Cukor's seminal 1932 film, *What Price Hollywood*—the inspiration for *A Star Is Born*.

## Sullivan's Travels

PRESTON STURGES, USA, 1941, 120 MIN.

MON NOV 18	10:30AM	VCT
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Continuing his exploration of Hollywood's fascination with itself, critic and historian Donald Brackett introduces one of the great satires of the Golden Age, Preston Sturges' *Sullivan's Travels*. Joel McCrea stars as an earnest would-be artistic filmmaker who disguises himself as a hobo to get to know the real America... Sturges was a genius, and this is probably his masterpiece.

## The Bad and the Beautiful

VINCENTE MINNELLI, USA, 1952, 150 MIN.

MON NOV 25	10:30AM	VCT
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Cynical but not, Vincente Minnelli's Tinsel Town melodrama is really a love letter to the dynamism of the Dream Factory, made just as the studio system was at its peak. Kirk Douglas is the epitome of the unscrupulous movie producer, a manipulative hustler who nevertheless has the drive to make good things happen.

## The Day of the Locust

JOHN SCHLESINGER, USA, 1975, 170 MINS

MON DEC 2	10:30AM	VCT
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In the midst of the Depression of the 1930s, Hollywood shines like a beacon to all the helpless people scattered across the city. In one crumbling apartment block, a blond bombshell (Karen Black) aspires to be an actress, an artist (William Atherton) looks for legitimacy, and a child actor performs a gross homage to Mae West. Cockfights and poverty prevail out of the glow of show business. Introverted accountant "Homer Simpson" (Donald Sutherland) watches as society collapses under greed and ambition.

## Babylon

DAMIEN CHAZELLE, USA, 2022, 220 MIN.

MON DEC 9	10:30AM	VCT
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Damien Chazelle's second Hollywood on Hollywood movie (after *La La Land*) follows Margot Robbie as a starlet on the make at the tail end of the silent film era in the late 1920s, and a couple of friends she makes along the way, Manny (Diego Calva), who becomes a studio executive, trumpet player Sidney (Jovan Adepo) and established heartthrob Jack (Brad Pitt).

# Agent of Happiness

ARUN BHATTARAI, DOROTTYA ZURBÓ, BHUTAN/HUNGARY, 2024, 94 MIN.

FRI NOV 1	12:30PM	VCT
FRI NOV 15	4:00PM	VCT
SAT NOV 16	2:30PM	LOC
SUN NOV 17	4:30PM	VCT
MON NOV 18	2:00PM	VCT
TUE NOV 19	6:15PM	LOC

How is happiness measured? Can satisfaction with one's life be rated from one to ten? Would a goat help? The Kingdom of Bhutan's famous government policy measuring its nation's Gross National Happiness operates on the idea that the basic tenets of fulfillment can and should be quantified when calculating their nation's development. Happiness Agent Amber Gurung treks throughout the Himalayas to survey citizens, and is forced to confront his own struggles with fulfillment, and question what makes him happy.

In Nepali, Dzongkha, and English with English subtitles.

CAST Amber Kumar Gurung, Sarita Chettri, Guna Raj Kuikel, Hemlata Gurung, Yangka Lhamo, Wangmo Lhamo



## Inay (Mama)

THEA LOO, CANADA/PHILIPPINES, 2024, 56 MIN.

FRI NOV 1	1:00PM	LOC
TUE NOV 5	4:30PM, 8:15PM	LOC
WED NOV 6	6:45PM	LOC

From the 1990s, the Live-In Caregiver Program attracted thousands of Filipino women to Canada as migrant workers, enabling them to send money back home and gain permanent residency. Director Thea Loo and cinematographer Jeremiah Reyes, a married couple, explore the psychological impact on the children who were left behind by their mothers due to economic necessity. Deeply personal, *Inay* reveals the hidden pain behind the lives of women who sacrificed themselves to take care of Canada's children and elderly.

+ *Dear Watsonville* (Sondra Lucille, USA, 2024, 18 mins)

In English and Kapampangan with English subtitles.

FEAT Thea Loo, Jeremiah Reyes, Shirley Lagman, Rowena Loo, Patrick Loo, Elvira Gangte



## The Manchurian Candidate

JONATHAN DEMME, USA, 2004, 130 MIN.

TUE NOV 5	5:20PM	VCT
WED NOV 6	6:10PM	VCT

Gulf War hero Raymond Shaw (Liev Schreiber) is picked for the VP slot through the influence of his mother (Meryl Streep). Meanwhile comrades from Shaw's former unit are having nightmares about the operation for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Major Marco (Denzel Washington) is determined to find the truth... This smart update on Richard Condon's classic paranoia novel feels weirdly prescient in its anxieties around global corporate brainwashing, war profiteering, assassination and election fixing.

CAST Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep, Liev Schreiber, Jon Voight, Jeffrey Wright, Kimberly Elise, Vera Farmiga, Simon McBurney, Bruno Ganz



## Meanwhile On Earth

JÉRÉMY CLAPIN, FRANCE, 2024, 88 MIN.

MON NOV 11	3:30PM	LOC
TUE NOV 12	8:30PM	LOC
WED NOV 13	3:30PM	VCT
WED NOV 13	6:30PM	LOC

Franck is lost in space. Literally. Which leaves his sister Elsa (Megan Northan) struggling with grief and susceptible to making a deal when contacted by an alien voice offering to trade her brother for a few fresh human bodies. But is this all in her head? Jérémy Clapin's arresting second feature, his first live action film after the inventive animation *I Lost My Body*, explores loss and disaffection, and the sci-fi trappings allow him to invest introspection with a cosmic existentialism.

In French with Eng subtitles.

CAST Megan Northam, Sam Louwyck, Catherine Salée



## The Chef & the Daruma

MADS K. BAEKKEVOLD, CANADA, 2024, 90 MIN.

MON NOV 4	12:30PM	LOC
THU NOV 7	12:30PM	LOC
FRI NOV 15	6:30PM	LOC

For 36 years, Tojo's has been a mainstay in the Vancouver food scene, beloved by critics, foodies, and a plethora of celebrities. A pioneer of Japanese cuisine in the West, chef Hidekazu Tojo helped bring sushi to the mainstream, and is known as the inventor of the California Roll. Shot in Vancouver, Vancouver Island, and Japan, *The Chef & the Daruma* is a mouth-watering film, taking us on a journey of immigration, identity, and reinvention.

FEAT Hidekazu Tojo



## Winter Kills (35mm print)

WILLIAM RICHERT, USA, 1979, 97 MIN.

TUE NOV 5	8:00PM	VCT
WED NOV 6	4:00PM, 8:45PM	VCT

Assembling one of the weirdest casts ever, and a heavy hitting crew too, first time director William Richert pulled off an inspired black comic adaptation of the ultimate conspiracy theory, based on a 1974 novel by Richard (Manchurian Candidate) Condon. It's a lunatic riff on the Kennedy assassination(s), with Jeff Bridges trying to find out who really killed his brother, the President. If this isn't RFK's favourite movie, it probably should be.

Screening here on a newly restored 35mm print, presented by Quentin Tarantino

CAST Jeff Bridges, John Huston, Belinda Bauer, Anthony Perkins, Eli Wallach, Elizabeth Taylor



## Porcelain War

BRENDAN BELLOMQ, SLAVA LEONTYEV, UKRAINE/USA/AUSTRALIA, 2024, 87 MIN.

MON NOV 11	6:00PM	VCT
FRI NOV 29	7:45PM	VCT

This Remembrance Day, we're juxtaposing a Soviet anti-fascist masterpiece (Elem Klimov's *Come and See*) and a preview of an award-winning documentary from Ukraine. In Canada we cannot truly comprehend a scenario in which our country is invaded and civilians compelled to take up arms. Yet for Ukrainians, this is the reality. Mixing intense conflict footage and moments of deliberation and intimacy, *Porcelain War* is a vivid reminder of perilous times conveyed on a human scale.

Grand Jury Prize, Best Documentary, Sundance Film Festival



## Megalopolis

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA, USA, 2024, 138 MIN.

MON NOV 4	1:30PM	VCT
THU NOV 7	1:30PM	VCT

Francis Coppola's self-funded, self-styled new Roman epic—set in a futuristic city that looks a lot like New York—has garnered pans, raves and everything in-between. And it deserves them all. It's a crazily ambitious folly, a wildly audacious swing, unlike anything else you might have seen before. *Megalopolis* is a movie about the present moment—about a decadent Establishment on the verge of eating itself—that dares to imagine a brighter future. It's a film of ideas, and sentiment, satire and play. Go with it, see where it takes you.



## Union

BRETT STORY, STEPHEN MAING, USA, 2024, 104 MIN.

FRI NOV 8	1:45PM	LOC
MON NOV 11	5:30PM	LOC
WED NOV 13	8:30PM	LOC

The latest observational doc from Canadian filmmaker Brett Story (*The Prison in 12 Landscapes; The Hottest August*) follows the campaign of a group of Staten Island factory workers to become the first unionized Amazon workplace in the USA. They have no official backing, no experience, no budget (save for \$120,000 raised on GoFundMe) and the company tries everything in its power to tip the scales against them, but they know their workmates and figure out several unconventional tactics of their own (free weed!).

US Documentary Special Jury Award for the Art of Change (Sundance)



## Exhibition on Screen: Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers

DAVID BICKERSTAFF, UK, 2024, 90 MIN.

FRI NOV 8	2:00PM	VCT
MON NOV 11	3:00PM	VCT
MON NOV 11	7:40PM	LOC
TUE NOV 12	4:30PM	LOC
SUN NOV 17	12:00PM	LOC

200 years after its opening and a century after acquiring its first Van Gogh works, London's National Gallery hosts the UK's biggest ever Van Gogh exhibition. This film is a chance to reexamine and better understand this iconic artist, focussing on the artist's years in the south of France, where he revolutionised his style. Van Gogh became consumed with a passion for storytelling in his art, turning the world around him into vibrant, idealised spaces and symbolic characters. Poets and lovers filled his imagination.



## Come and See

ELEM KLIMOV, SOVIET UNION, 1985, 142 MIN.

MON NOV 11	8:00PM	VCT
TUE NOV 12	4:00PM	VCT
WED NOV 13	8:00PM	VCT

As Nazi forces encroach on his small village in present-day Belarus, teenage Fyora (Aleksei Kravchenko) eagerly joins the Soviet resistance. Rather than the adventure and glory he envisioned, what he finds is a waking nightmare of unimaginable carnage and cruelty—rendered with a feverish, otherworldly intensity by Klimov's subjective camerawork and expressionistic sound design. Perhaps the most visceral, impossible-to-forget antiwar film ever made.

In Russian with English subtitles.

CAST Aleksei Kravchenko, Olga Mironova, Liubomiras Laucevicius, Vladas Bagdonas





**\$17** Early Bird | Live Score

## Reprise: A Page of Madness

### Live Score by Anju Singh/The Nausea

TEINOSUKE KINUGASA, JAPAN, 1926, 73 MIN.

**TUE NOV 12 8:00PM VCT**

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. Performer, composer and sound artist Anju Singh 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.

**CAST** Masuo Inoue, Yoshie Nakagawa, Ayako Iijima, Hiroshi Nemoto, Misao Seki



**\$35** Early Bird | Music & Film

## Vince Mai plays Chet Baker & Bruce Weber's Let's Get Lost

BRUCE WEBER, USA, 1988, 150 MIN.

**SUN NOV 24 6:00PM VCT**

A set of smooth, sublime, and smoky jazz from trumpeter Vince Mai backed up by a stellar band with Steve Maddock on vocals. The set will feature many beloved Chet Baker standards and more in the same vein, followed by the first local screening of the restored version of Bruce Weber's documentary about Baker, one of essential films about jazz.

**CAST** Chet Baker, William Claxton



**\$35** Early Bird | Music & Film

## Feven Kidane Quartet

### Music Inspired by the Film Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat

JOHAN GRIMONPREZ, BELGIUM/FRANCE/NETHERLANDS, 100 MIN.

**SAT NOV 16 7:00PM VCT**

Juxtaposing archival news reports, interviews, and jazz, Johan Grimonprez's brilliant essay film takes a fresh look at the notorious events in the wake of Congo's independence in the early 1960s, culminating in the assassination of the country's first democratically-elected leader, Patrice Lumumba. It's a film about the deceit at the heart of colonialism, and about how jazz (Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Max Roach) figured into the politics of the Cold War and Black Liberation. **Before the screening, trumpeter Feven Kidane presents a special set of original music inspired by the film, with Quincy Mayes on keys, Bernie Arai on drums, and Milo Johnson on bass.**

*In English, French, Russian, and Dutch with English subtitles.*

**CAST** Marie Daulne, In Koli Jean Bofane, Patrick Cruise O'Brien



**\$26** Music, Film & Poetry

## Brandon Wint: Moving for Love

BRANDON WINT, CANADA, 2024, 120 MIN.

**SUN DEC 1 6:30PM VCT**

Poet and filmmaker Brandon Wint presents two new shorts, *Moving for Love* and *Backbone*, alongside live jazz with collaborators Feven Kidane, Yoro Noukoussi, and Quincy Mayes, and poetry. In *Moving For Love* Brandon explores his family's migration from the Caribbean to Canada in the 1970s. *Backbone* examines how cerebral palsy, the visible disability with which Brandon lives, complicates the notion and practical realities of health and self-care.