



Universal Language

Universal Language The Seed of the Sacred Fig MENA 2025 Festival Film
Studies: Pride & Prejudice Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat LIZA: A Truly Terrific
Absolutely True Story Broken Social Scene: It's All Gonna Break Bribe, Inc.
VIFF+ Premium Pick: To Kill a Mockingbird Lunar New Year Screenings **AND MORE**

Tickets and Memberships

	Adult	VIFF+	VIFF+ Premium & U25	Senior	Student	Accessible	Group Rate (10+)
VIFF Cinema	\$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 (up to 60 minutes before showtime) and also in person at our box office. 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.

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.

24 JAN
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • VC
 1:30pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • VC
 5:00pm
Bribe, Inc. • LOC
 6:30pm
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • VC
 8:00pm
Bribe, Inc. • LOC
 8:30pm

25
MENA 2025: Opening Ceremony: One day • VC
 3:00pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • LOC
 4:30pm
MENA 2025: Elbow • VC
 6:30pm
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • LOC
 7:30pm
MENA 2025: Aspirations • VC
 8:45pm

26
MENA 2025: Town Hall: Creatives in the Current Political Climate • VC
 11:30am
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • LOC
 1:00pm
MENA 2025: Tezeta • VC
 1:45pm
MENA 2025: PM Trances • LOC
 4:30pm
MENA 2025: HAIYU • VC
 5:00pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • VC
 7:00pm
MENA 2025: Strange Realities • LOC
 7:00pm

27
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • VC
 1:00pm
VIFF+ Premium Pick: To Kill a Mockingbird • VC
 7:30pm

28
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • VC
 2:00pm
MENA 2025: Take My Breath • VC
 6:00pm
MENA 2025: A toi Jeddī • LOC
 6:15pm
MENA 2025: The Pasha, My Mother and I • LOC
 8:00pm
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • VC
 8:30pm

29
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • VC
 2:30pm
MENA 2025: Nightmares • LOC
 4:30pm
MENA 2025: DESERT PHOSfate • VC
 6:30pm
MENA 2025: Revolutions • LOC
 6:45pm
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • VC
 8:30pm

30
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • VC
 12:30pm
MENA 2025: Marketing and Distribution Workshop • VC
 4:00pm
MENA 2025: No Other Land • VC
 6:30pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • VC
 8:30pm

31
Universal Language • VC
 1:30pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • LOC
 2:00pm
LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story • VC
 3:45pm
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • LOC
 5:00pm
Universal Language • VC
 6:00pm
Broken Social Scene: It's All Gonna Break • VC
 8:00pm
Arthur Erickson: Beauty Between the Lines • LOC
 8:20pm

1 FEB
Universal Language • VC
 4:30pm
LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story • LOC
 5:00pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • LOC
 7:15pm
VIFF Live: Feven Kidane & Tiny Pyramids Play the music of Sun Ra + Space is the Place film • VC
 8:00pm



MENA 2025 Film Festival JAN 25-30



Arthur Erickson: Beauty Between the Lines JAN 31 & FEB 2, 4, 6



All We Imagine as Light FEB 3 & 4

2
Universal Language • VC
 2:00pm
LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story • LOC
 2:30pm
The Seed of the Sacred Fig • VC
 4:00pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • LOC
 5:00pm
Universal Language • VC
 7:30pm
Arthur Erickson: Beauty Between the Lines • LOC
 8:00pm
Broken Social Scene: It's All Gonna Break • VC
 9:30pm

3
Film Studies: Adaptation, Innovation & Evolution — Pride & Prejudice • VC
 2:00pm
LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story • LOC
 3:00pm
Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat • LOC
 5:30pm
Universal Language • VC
 6:30pm
All We Imagine as Light • LOC
 8:20pm
Broken Social Scene: It's All Gonna Break • VC
 8:30pm

4
LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story • LOC
 6:00pm
Universal Language • VC
 6:30pm
Arthur Erickson: Beauty Between the Lines • LOC
 8:10pm
All We Imagine as Light • VC
 8:30pm

5
Universal Language • VC
 5:00pm
Universal Language • VC
 7:00pm

6
Universal Language • VC
 4:20pm
LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story • LOC
 5:00pm
Universal Language • VC
 6:20pm
Arthur Erickson: Beauty Between the Lines • LOC
 7:15pm



Quincy Mayes Brazilian Soul Experience + City of God FEB 22

First Look Fridays

Friday matinee screenings for \$10



FRI 24 JAN, 1:30PM



FRI 31 JAN, 1:30PM

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viff.org/plus

FILM STUDIES

Adaptation, Innovation & Evolution — Pride & Prejudice

JOE WRIGHT, UK, 2005, 128 MIN.

MON FEB 3 2:00PM VC

Filmmaker and educator Patricia Gruben—founder of the Praxis Centre for Screenwriters—unpacks different approaches to writing for the screen, focussing here on adaptation from literary sources. In this six week course, combining 30-minute talks, clips, screenings and group discussion, Patricia examines how Jane Austen, Shakespeare, Virginia Woolf et al have been translated to the screen by the likes of Atom Egoyan, Kubrick and Kurosawa. Week 1: Joe Wright's 2005 version of *Pride and Prejudice* is a prime example of the spunky updated heroine who gets both her man and her independence.



Adapting Shakespeare — Throne of Blood

AKIRA KUROSAWA, JAPAN, 1957, 109 MIN.

MON FEB 10 2:00PM VC

Shakespeare's primal conflicts have expanded into a cultural spectrum ranging from faithful British transcriptions to American musicals and Bollywood gangster dramas. Shakespeare himself adapted earlier sources to the social and political concerns of his day. Kurosawa's 1957 epic homage to *Macbeth* draws on the style of Noh drama in place of Shakespeare's language-based drama, while alluding to the Buddhist doctrine of impermanence. For contrast we'll view clips from Vishal Bhardwaj's *Haider*, an adaptation of *Hamlet* set in occupied Kashmir, and consider other international versions.

Talk at 2pm. Screening 2.30pm

In Japanese with English subtitles.

CAST Toshiro Mifune, Isuzu Yamada, Minoru Chiaki, Akira Kubo, Takamaru Sasaki, Yoichi Tachikawa



Interior Monologue — The Hours

STEPHEN DALDRY, USA, 2002, 115 MIN.

MON FEB 17 2:00PM VC

Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925) was a milestone in the development of stream of consciousness narrative; difficult to translate into cinema for obvious reasons. Working with playwright David Hare on the screenplay for Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours*, Stephen Daldry approaches the subject by focusing not on Woolf's novel itself but on its impact; cycling through the last days of the author Woolf (Nicole Kidman), a desperate, devoted reader in the 1950s (Julianne Moore) and a contemporary literary agent (Meryl Streep).

Talk at 2pm. Screening 2.30pm

CAST Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Meryl Streep, Eileen Atkins, Toni Collette, Claire Danes, Stephen Dillane, Ed Harris, Allison Janney



Transcript of a Tragedy — The Sweet Hereafter (4K restoration)

ATOM EGOYAN, CANADA, 1997, 112 MIN.

MON FEB 24 2:00PM VC

Atom Egoyan's most admired film is based on Russell Banks's novel of the same name, which in turn is based on the transcript of an inquest into a fatal school bus crash. Banks fictionalized the deadpan testimony of the original source into contradictory first-person accounts by survivors and witnesses to the accident. Egoyan refined this device and added an element of myth to deconstruct the narrative, leaving us wondering not which account is truest, but which will serve best to heal the community.

Talk at 2pm. Screening 2.30pm

CAST Ian Holm, Maury Chaykin, Peter Donaldson, Bruce Greenwood, Sarah Polley, Arsinee Khanjian, Gabrielle Rose



Based on a True Story — Full Metal Jacket

STANLEY KUBRICK, USA/UK, 1987, 116 MIN.

MON MAR 3 2:00PM VC

In our latest Film Studies series, filmmaker and educator Patricia Gruben—founder of the Praxis Centre for Screenwriters—unpacks different approaches to writing for the screen, focussing here on adaptation from literary sources. Stanley Kubrick's war film is based on two sources—Gustav Hasford's novella *The Short-Timers*, which reads like a tortured diary of his dehumanizing stint as a military correspondent in Vietnam, and *Dispatches*, a nonfiction account by Michael Herr of his own trauma as a war journalist.

CAST Matthew Modine, Adam Baldwin, Vincent D'Onofrio

VIFF | Live: Feven Kidane & Tiny Pyramids Play the music of Sun Ra + Space is the Place film

JOHN CONEY, USA, 1974, 160 MIN.

SAT FEB 1 8:00PM VC

To celebrate the music of Sun Ra, two of Vancouver's strongest creative voices join forces for a one-night only performance, along with a rare screening of the revolutionary 1974 Afro-Futurist film *Space is the Place*, featuring Sun Ra. For this show, legendary local trumpeter Feven Kidane will be collaborating with Tiny Pyramids, a group of interstellar travellers who perform the music of Sun Ra, featuring Dan Gaucher on drums, Colin Cowan on bass, Mary Ancheta on keyboards, and Tom Wherrett on guitar.

CAST Sun Ra



The Seed of the Sacred Fig

MOHAMMAD RASOULOF, IRAN/France/GERMANY, 2024, 167 MIN.

FRI JAN 24 1:30PM VC

FRI JAN 24 8:00PM VC

SAT JAN 25 7:30PM LOC

SUN JAN 26 1:00PM LOC

JAN 27-FEB 2 ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS VC

Set during the Women, Life, Freedom rebellion, Mohammad Rasoulouf's film stars Misagh Zare as Iman, a government investigator and the only male member of his family. His handgun has gone missing, and it could only have been taken by someone in the household. With each passing moment, the women in his life grow more afraid—yet none will confess! This film triumphs as a mystery, as a portrait of family division, and as a radical act of protest—one which has sent Rasoulouf (*There Is No Evil*) into exile.

In Farsi with English subtitles.

CAST Misagh Zare, Soheila Golestani, Mahsa Rostami, Setareh Maleki, Niousha Akhshi, Reza Akhlaghi



Universal Language

MATTHEW RANKIN, CANADA, 2024, 89 MIN.

FRI JAN 31 1:30PM VC

FRI JAN 31 6:00PM VC

SAT FEB 1 4:30PM VC

SUN FEB 2 2:00PM, 7:30PM VC

MON FEB 3 6:30PM VC

FEB 4-10 ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS VC

In a wintry, Farsi-speaking city that's equal measures Winnipeg and Tehran, schoolchildren are tormented by cash encased in ice, a tour guide shepherds visitors to bizarre attractions, and Matthew Rankin (the film's director) returns after enduring soul-crushing bureaucratic life in Quebec. As these storylines become comically entangled, the concepts of space, time, and identity grow increasingly opaque. Visually inventive and wantonly absurd, Rankin's poetic fable reminds us that Winnipeg is a wonderland.

In Farsi and French with English subtitles.

CAST Rojina Esmaeili, Saba Vahedousefi, Pirouz Nemat, Mani Soleymanlou, Matthew Rankin, Ila Firouzabadi



Soundtrack to a Coup D'Etat

JOHAN GRIMONPREZ, BELGIUM/France/NETHERLANDS, 2024, 150 MIN.

FRI JAN 24 5:00PM VC

SAT JAN 25 4:30PM LOC

SUN JAN 26 7:00PM VC

MON JAN 27 1:00PM VC

TUE JAN 28 2:00PM VC

THU JAN 30 8:30PM VC

JAN 31-FEB 3 ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS LOC

On January 17, 1961, seven months after Congolese independence, Patrice Lumumba, the nation's first democratically elected prime minister, is assassinated. Recounting the events leading up to this political murder, this riveting essay-film traces the complex and unlikely intersections of American jazz, Cold War geopolitics, and the decolonial movements then sweeping across Africa. Pulsing with anti-colonialist fervor, it spotlights a dark chapter of history that has lost none of its urgency or import today.

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



Hao Are You?

DIEU HAO DO, GERMANY/VIETNAM, 2023, 93 MIN.

SAT FEB 8 2:00PM VC

In this emotional documentary, director Dieu Hao Do explores the fragmentation of his family. The American War in Vietnam scattered them across three continents. Nearly 50 years after their escape, contact between the seven family members has all but broken down. Dieu Hao Do visits relatives in Vietnam, Hong Kong, California and Germany. It's a road trip into the history of Vietnam after the withdrawal of the Americans: emotional, sobering, insightful, sad and uplifting.

In German, Vietnamese, and Cantonese with English subtitles.

CAST Dieu Hao Do



Stand Up Story

CHEUK MAN AU, HONG KONG, 2023, 104 MIN.

SAT FEB 8 5:00PM VC

This gentle Hong Kong comedy drama teases humour out of hardship with heartfelt performances from the leads, while steering away from sentimentality." "Siu-hin Ng and Ben Suen star as a graduate hoping to become a stand-up comedian, and his father who has a mild intellectual disability. This gentle Hong Kong comedy drama teases humour out of hardship with heartfelt performances from the leads, while steering away from sentimentality." EDMUND LEE, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

In Cantonese with English and Chinese subtitles.

CAST Ben Yuen, Siu Hin Ng, Wing-Sze Ng



Granny Must Die

YI-JUNG CHEN, TAIWAN, 2024, 87 MIN.

SAT FEB 8 7:30PM VC

An absurd comedy about the daily life of a three-generational Hakka household in Taipei. Huichiao, her grandmother Chunmei, Chunmei's son Fusang, and daughter-in-law Lichun live together in a three-generational household in Taipei. The story begins on a stormy night when Huichiao quietly approaches and kills the sleeping Chunmei: "Granny, just die!"

In Mandarin, Hakka, and Taiwanese with English and Chinese subtitles.

CAST Yang Li-Yin, Winnie Chang, Tammy Lin, Ning Chang, Lan Wei-Hua



Come Home My Child

JASMINE CHINGHUI LEE, TAIWAN, 2023, 91 MIN.

SUN FEB 9 5:00PM VC

Filmed over ten years, *Come Home, My Child* narrates the American Dream through the lens of three women and their bond with prison inmates in America. Grandma Yang, Taiwanese, experienced the tragic loss of her son and husband, and for two decades has been corresponding with long-term prisoners. Mrs. Zheng, Chinese, works relentlessly to file an appeal for her son, serving an 84 sentence. Barbara Hust, American, suffers from multiple sclerosis disease. She teaches piano to bring comfort to the prisoners and herself.

In English and Mandarin with English and Chinese subtitles.

FEAT Mama Yang



Picnic

KIM YONG-GYUN, SOUTH KOREA, 2024, 114 MIN.

SUN FEB 9 7:00PM VC

After a surprise visit from her friend Geum-sun, Eun-sim is headed to her hometown with Geum-sun for the first time in 60 years. There, she catches up with Tae-ho who had feelings for her when they were teenagers. Her long-lost memories come to life one by one and they decide to go for a picnic—after all, it may be their last...

In Korean with English subtitles.

CAST Na Moon-hee, KIM Yeong-ok, PARK Keun-hyong



Bribe, Inc. + Q&A

PETER W KLEIN, AUSTRALIA, 2024, 93 MIN.

FRI JAN 24 **6:30PM, 8:30PM** **VC**

Bribe, Inc. tells the true-crime tale of one of the most audacious bribery schemes in modern history. In the shadows of the global oil industry, the Ahsani family ran their small Monaco-based company with jet-set style and total impunity. Unaoil helped many of the world's best-known companies secure lucrative deals throughout the Middle East—until a company insider came forward with hundreds of thousands of pages of damning information that he leaked to investigative reporter Nick McKenzie.

Q&A with the film's producers and with Alexandra Wrage, the founder of TRACE International, a leading anti-corruption organization.

FEAT "Figaro", Nick McKenzie, Alexandra Wrage



Broken Social Scene: It's All Gonna Break

STEPHEN CHUNG, CANADA, 2024, 89 MIN.

FRI JAN 31 **8:00PM** **VC**
SUN FEB 2 **9:30PM** **VC**
MON FEB 3 **8:30PM** **VC**

Cited by *Pitchfork* as "one of the most important artists of the last 25 years", Broken Social Scene is an unusual band, in that it began as a duo and mutated into a loose collective with as many as 19 regular or semi-regular contributors over the years. Also unusual: cameraman Stephen Chung was right there with them right from the start, picking up live shows, studio sessions, parties, hangouts, just because... *It's All Gonna Break* is a candid record of BSS's genesis and evolution from the turn of the millennium. What a Scene this was!

FEAT Kevin Drew, Brendan Canning, Justin Peroff, Leslie Feist, Emily Haines, Stuart Berman, Stephen Chung, Maggie Drew, Jason Collett, Ohad Benchrit



VIFF+ Premium Pick: To Kill a Mockingbird

ROBERT MULLIGAN, USA, 1962, 129 MIN.

MON JAN 27 **7:30PM** **VC**

This is the first in a new regular series in which we invite our VIFF+ Premium Members to nominate a favourite movie to share. This month, Margot Pratt has chosen Robert Mulligan's beloved film adaptation of Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the tale of a white lawyer, Atticus Finch, defending an innocent black man accused of rape in a small southern town in the 1930s.

Margot says, "It's a timeless film that hasn't seen a big screen in years. The story is told through the memories of a 9 or 10-year old girl. Perfectly written, cast, shot... Everything!"

CAST Gregory Peck, Mary Badham, Phillip Alford, Brock Peters, Robert Duvall

WINNER 3 Academy Awards (Best Actor, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Art Direction)



LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story

BRUCE DAVID KLEIN, USA, 2024, 104 MIN.

FRI JAN 31 **3:45PM** **VC**
SAT FEB 1 **5:00PM** **LOC**
SUN FEB 2 **2:30PM** **LOC**
MON FEB 3 **3:00PM** **LOC**
TUE FEB 4 **6:00PM** **LOC**
THU FEB 6 **5:00PM** **LOC**

Life is a cabaret, old chum... Certainly Liza Minnelli's life fits the bill. The daughter of Judy Garland and director Vincent Minnelli, she was born into Hollywood royalty: Money, divorce, addiction, breakdown, ego... These were her birthrights, along with oodles of talent and the mentors to guide her. Pizzazz personified, she's won Oscars, Tonys, Emmys and Grammys, worked her way through four husbands and multiple love affairs, done her share of drinking, but comes across here as more of a mensch than a diva.

FEAT Liza Minnelli, Michael Feinstein, Mia Farrow, Ben Vereen, Chita Rivera, John Kander, Lorna Luft, Joel Grey