

# Canadian Film Week Champions Local Artists, Diversity & Resistance

Vancouver Premieres, Returning Classics, Free Screenings and Tribute to Tracey Friesen on National Canadian Film Day

**26 March 2025 (VANCOUVER, BC)** - This April, VIFF celebrates exceptional Canadian and Indigenous cinema with a special Canadian Film Week, running from April 11 to April 17 at the VIFF Centre.

Canadian Film Week features 18 compelling feature films, including six Vancouver premieres, and four brand new films from BC filmmakers, many of whom will be present for audience Q&As.



The week kicks off with Darrell Dennis' ***Sweet Summer Pow Wow***, a charming love story about two young people who meet on BC's Pow Wow circuit. Veteran non-fiction filmmakers Nova Ami and Velcrow Ripper will present ***Incandescence***, a mesmerizing cinematic contemplation of the power of wildfires. Carl Bessai brings his plaintive mid-life crisis film ***Field Sketches*** starring Vincent Gale. And ***Down River*** director Ben Immanuel returns with ***Are We Done Now?*** a wry, self-aware Covid comedy set in a sparsely populated Vancouver.



VIFF will also screen a diverse selection of new titles from across Canada. Ingrid Veninger draws on home movies and her immediate family relations in ***Crocodile Eyes***, an experimental film comprising 100 “real moments”, from birth to death to everything in-between. Sarah Galea-Davis’ intense semi-autobiographical debut feature ***The Players*** follows teenager Emily (Stefani Kimber), who joins an experimental theatre troupe led by the charismatic Reinhardt (Eric Johnson). And Karen Chapman’s sensitive debut feature ***Village Keeper***, which premiered at last year’s Vancouver International Film Festival, traces the valiant efforts of mother Beverly-Jean (Olunike Adeliyi) to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma, and her heartwarming quest to rediscover what brings her joy in life.



On April 16, VIFF presents two free screenings as part of National Canadian Film Day. Velcrow Ripper and Cari Green join VIFF for the 20th anniversary screening of their non-fiction film ***ScaredSacred***, a special tribute screening to producer Tracey Friesen. And director Sandy Wilson will introduce her coming of age classic ***My American Cousin***, which marks its 40th anniversary this year.



Other classics, old and new, complete the program, including a double helping of Denys Arcand’s ***The Decline of the American Empire*** and ***The Barbarian Invasions***; Atom Egoyan’s ***Seven Veils***, and recent highlights ***Universal Language***, ***Matt and Mara***, and ***Who By Fire***.

## **VIFF Centre Year-Round Programmer Tom Charity said:**

"VIFF is proud to champion and showcase Canadian and Indigenous filmmaking. The VIFF Centre is a vital hub for this storytelling, presenting over 60 Canadian features in 2024 alone. Today, this commitment is more important than ever.

Our Canadian Film Week provides the perfect platform to highlight exceptional new work from talented filmmakers here in BC, alongside classics new and old from across the country. It's also an opportunity to honour the late Tracey Friesen, a tireless advocate in our industry who believed in the transformative power of art and culture.

It's Canadian filmmakers who truly illuminate the values, experiences, and stories that define the special character of this place we proudly call home."

Tickets are available now at [viff.org/series/canadian-film-week](https://viff.org/series/canadian-film-week), with a special three film pack available for \$42.

## **Media Interviews**

Interviews can be requested via [press@viff.org](mailto:press@viff.org) with the following:

- Sandy Wilson, director, *My American Cousin*
- Margaret Langrick, actor, *My American Cousin*
- Velcrow Ripper, director, *ScaredSacred* and co-director *Incandescence*
- Nova Ami, co-director, *Incandescence*
- Carl Bessai, director, *Field Sketches*
- Ben Immanuel, director, *Are We Done Now?*
- Tom Charity, VIFF Centre Year-Round Programmer

## **Media Kit**

[Download Film Images](#)

## **Vancouver Premieres of New Films**

*Sweet Summer Pow Wow*

April 11 - Filmmaker Q&A with director Darrell Dennis

*Incandescence*

April 11 - Filmmaker Q&A with directors Nova Ami & Velcrow Ripper

*Crocodile Eyes*

*The Players*

*Field Sketches*

April 11 and 14 - Filmmaker Q&A with director Carl Bessai

*Are We Done Now?*

April 12 and 13 - Filmmaker Q&A with director Ben Immanuel

**Also Screening**

*The Decline of the American Empire*

*The Barbarian Invasions*

*Village Keeper*

*Universal Language*

*Tea Creek*

*Young Werther*

*Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story*

*Seven Veils*

*Who By Fire*

*Matt and Mara*

**National Canadian Film Day, April 16 - Free Screenings**

*ScaredSacred*

A Tribute to Tracey Friesen

April 16 - Velcrow Ripper and other special guests in attendance

*My American Cousin*

April 16 - Filmmaker Q&A with director Sandy Wilson