



May 16–29

2025



Balloon

Compassionate Light: Stories of Tibet by Pema Tseden Queering Cinema
Magic Farm VIFF Live: BC's Blue Note Legacy Quartet + Blue Note Records:
Beyond the Notes Vulcanizadora The True Story of Tamara De Lempicka &
The Art of Survival VIFF Kids Club: Finding Dory Talking Pictures: Karaoke AND MORE



A Desert
MAY 16, 17, 19-21



**First Steps:
Pema Tseden
Short Films**
MAY 18 & 19



**Pantheon:
Bicycle Thieves**
MAY 18 & 20

16 MAY
Magic Farm • VC
 2:00pm
Caught by the Tides • LOC
 2:20pm
Vulcanizadora • VC
 4:00pm
The Penguin Lessons • LOC
 4:30pm
Jinpa • VC
 6:30pm
A Desert • LOC
 7:00pm
The Search • VC
 8:45pm
The Encampments • LOC
 9:00pm

17
Marcella • LOC
 4:00pm
The Silent Holy Stones • VC
 4:30pm
Magic Farm • LOC
 6:20pm
Snow Leopard • VC
 7:00pm
Vulcanizadora • LOC
 8:15pm
A Desert • VC
 9:30pm

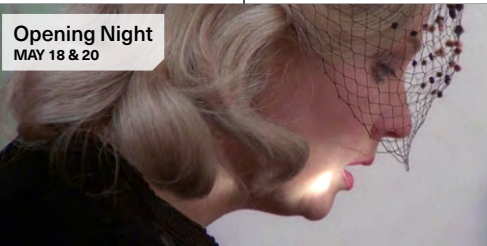
18
**Pantheon:
Bicycle Thieves • VC**
 11:00am
The Penguin Lessons • LOC
 12:00pm
Magic Farm • VC
 2:00pm
No Other Land • LOC
 2:20pm
Tharlo • VC
 4:00pm
The Encampments • LOC
 4:30pm
**First Steps:
Pema Tseden
Short Films • LOC**
 6:45pm
Opening Night • VC
 7:20pm
Vulcanizadora • LOC
 8:00pm

19
Magic Farm • VC
 5:50pm
**First Steps:
Pema Tseden
Short Films • LOC**
 6:30pm
Old Dog • VC
 7:45pm
A Desert • LOC
 8:00pm

20
Opening Night • VC
 3:30pm
**Pantheon:
Bicycle Thieves • VC**
 6:30pm
Vulcanizadora • LOC
 7:00pm
The Silent Holy Stones • VC
 8:30pm
A Desert • LOC
 8:45pm

21
The Search • VC
 5:30pm
A Desert • LOC
 6:10pm
Magic Farm • VC
 7:50pm
Vulcanizadora • LOC
 8:15pm

22
Vulcanizadora • LOC
 5:55pm
**Hedwig and the
Angry Inch • LOC**
 7:45pm



Opening Night
MAY 18 & 20

23
**The True Story of
Tamara De Lempicka
& The Art of Survival • VC**
 2:00pm
Magic Farm • LOC
 3:30pm
Amiko • LOC
 5:30pm
Balloon • VC
 5:50pm
**Hedwig and the
Angry Inch • LOC**
 7:00pm
Desert of Namibia • VC
 8:00pm

24
**The True Story of
Tamara De Lempicka
& The Art of Survival • LOC**
 5:00pm
The Sacred Arrow • LOC
 7:00pm
**VIFF Live: BC's Blue
Note Legacy Quartet +
Blue Note Records:
Beyond the Notes • VC**
 7:30pm
**Hedwig and the
Angry Inch • LOC**
 9:00pm

25
**Kids Club:
Finding Dory • VC**
 11:00am
Amiko • LOC
 1:15pm
Snow Leopard • VC
 2:20pm
**The True Story of
Tamara De Lempicka
& The Art of Survival • LOC**
 2:50pm
Old Dog • LOC
 5:00pm
Love Streams • VC
 7:00pm
Desert of Namibia • LOC
 7:15pm

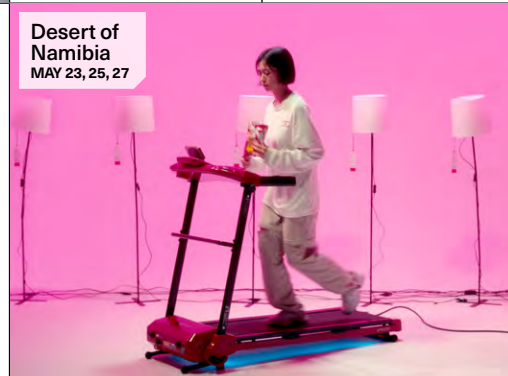
26
The Sacred Arrow • VC
 5:30pm
**The True Story of
Tamara De Lempicka
& The Art of Survival • LOC**
 6:00pm
Tharlo • VC
 7:45pm
Amiko • LOC
 8:00pm

27
Karaoke • VC
 11:00am
**The True Story of
Tamara De Lempicka
& The Art of Survival • LOC**
 12:00pm
Desert of Namibia • LOC
 2:00pm
Love Streams • VC
 3:30pm
Balloon • VC
 6:30pm



Amiko
MAY 23, 26

29
Desert of Namibia • VC
 3:30pm
Amiko • LOC
 6:15pm
Jinpa • VC
 6:30pm
Moonlight • LOC
 8:00pm



Desert of Namibia
MAY 23, 25, 27

First Look Fridays

Friday matinee screenings for \$10



FRI 16 MAY, 2:00PM



FRI 23 MAY, 2:00PM

Tickets and Memberships

	Adult	VIFF+	VIFF+ Premium & U25	Senior	Student	Accessible	Group Rate (10+)
VIFF Cinema	\$16	\$13	\$11	\$14	\$12	\$11	\$13
Lochmaddy Studio Theatre	\$14	\$11	\$9	\$12	\$10	\$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. **Some events may carry special pricing.**

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.

Become a VIFF+ member.

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



viff.org/plus

Magic Farm

AMALIA ULMAN, ARGENTINA/USA, 2025, 93 MIN.

FRI MAY 16	2:00PM	VC
SAT MAY 17	6:20PM	LOC
SUN MAY 18	2:00PM	VC
MON MAY 19	5:50PM	VC
WED MAY 21	7:50PM	VC
FRI MAY 23	3:30PM	LOC

A *Vice*-like camera crew arrive in San Cristóbal, Argentina, to break a cutting edge story about a viral musician. Only they're in the wrong country, and with the travel budget already spent, they need to dig up a new, equally juicy tale. The film's big, sly joke is that they remain oblivious to the scoop right under their noses. Chloe Sevigny headlines Amalia Ulman's quirky culture clash comedy, a playful slow burner about oddballs kicking around on the margins, while the Argentine cast cheerfully steal every scene and every cent.

In English, Spanish, and French with English subtitles.

CAST Chloe Sevigny, Alex Wolff, Simon Rex, Amalia Ulman, Joe Apollo, Camila del Campo



VIFF | Live: BC's Blue Note Legacy Quartet + Blue Note Records: Beyond the Notes

SOPHIE HUBER, SWITZERLAND/USA/UK, 2018, 150 MIN.

For 85 years, Blue Note Records has been the gold standard for recorded jazz music all over the world, with icons like John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, Lee Morgan, Wayne Shorter, Ornette Coleman among their iconic recording artists. On May 24, four of Vancouver's best jazz musicians (Chris Fraser on guitar, Ben Sigerson on keyboards, Piyotr Kao on bass, and Todd Stewart on drums) come together as BC's Blue Note Legacy Quartet with a very special performance of some of Blue Note's greatest tunes, followed by Sophie Huber's acclaimed 2018 documentary, *Blue Note Records: Beyond the Notes*.



Presented with
THE INFIDELS JAZZ

Special Pricing with limited early bird discount tickets available.

FEAT Lou Donaldson, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Robert Glasper, Norah Jones

COMPASSIONATE LIGHT: STORIES OF TIBET BY PEMA TSEDEN



Jinpa

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2018, 87 MIN.

FRI MAY 16	6:30PM	VC
THU MAY 29	6:30PM	VC

Produced by Wong Kar-wai, Pema Tseden's offbeat fable is part road movie, part Tibetan western. Two men named Jinpa meet on a mountain road in the Kekexili highlands near Tibet. One Jinpa, never without his sunglasses, is a truck driver (and Neapolitan song fancier), upset he has struck and killed a sheep. He picks up the other, brooding, Jinpa, who announces he is on a search for the killer of his father. Eventually the two men's stories, dreams, and fates intertwine, as weighty moral questions of karma and compassion hang in the balance.

In Tibetan with English subtitles.

CAST Jinpa, Genden Phuntsok, Sonam Wangmo



The Search

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2009, 111 MIN.

FRI MAY 16	8:45PM	VC
WED MAY 21	5:30PM	VC

The Search is a road movie wrapped around three love stories. A director and crew are looking for local cast to star in their film version of the classic Tibetan opera *Prince Drime Kundun*. They encounter a woman who agrees to play the prince's wife, Mande Zangmo, only if the crew helps her to find her ex-lover. Along the way, a businessman companion recounts his own sad love story. Shot in exquisite long takes, this brilliant film explores how stories can be told and how love can be articulated, in a culture whose traditions are under great stress.

In Tibetan with English subtitles.

CAST Manla Kyab, Tsondrey, Lumo Tso



The Silent Holy Stones

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2006, 102 MIN.

SAT MAY 17	4:30PM	VC
TUE MAY 20	8:30PM	VC

In Pema Tseden's first feature, a very young Tibetan lama living in a monastery in Qinghai discovers the delights of binge-watching a Chinese TV serial, *The Tan-sen Lama*. He shuttles between watching the shows at home and in his monastery with his friend the Tulku (a seven-year-old living Buddha), and attends—and hilariously, interrupts—a live traditional Tibetan opera. The little monk starts to explore various parts of his identity, as he's pulled by traditional and contemporary society, by folk opera and modern media, by a life apart from and one that flows through the secular world.

In Tibetan with English subtitles.

CAST Luosang Danpai, Quesai, Quhuancang Buddha, Samu-dan, Puri-wa, Limajia



Snow Leopard

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2023, 109 MIN.

SAT MAY 17	7:00PM	VC
SUN MAY 25	2:20PM	VC

The last film Pema Tseden finished before his death at age 53 is an enthralling, semi-mystical fable about the deep spiritual connection between a young Tibetan priest and a snow leopard. This rare animal has killed nine rams belonging to the monk's brother, Jinpa, who threatens to kill it unless he receives compensation. Local officials and the police try to mediate, leading to a tense standoff, as tensions between state power, traditional ways of life, contemporary media, and migrating souls play out in ways both troubling and deeply moving.

In Tibetan and Mandarin with English subtitles.

CAST Jinpa, Genden Phuntsok, Xiong Ziqi, Tseten Tashi



Tharlo

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2015, 123 MIN.

SUN MAY 18	4:00PM	VC
MON MAY 26	7:45PM	VC

In Pema Tseden's most sublime film, *Tharlo* is a Tibetan shepherd with a phenomenal memory. Needing to wash his long, braided hair for his ID photo, Tharlo meets beautiful hairstylist Yangtso, who takes him out for a wild and disorienting night on the town. Highlighted by DP Lu Songye's mesmerizing black-and-white long takes, this fable about the agonizing clash of two Tibetan cultures—traditional and contemporary, pastoral and urban—is a penetrating psychosexual study of masculinity in crisis, and a riveting exploration of social change.

In Mandarin and Tibetan with English subtitles.

CAST Shide Nyima, Yangshik Tso, Jinpa



Old Dog

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2010, 89 MIN.

MON MAY 19	7:45PM	VC
SUN MAY 25	5:00PM	LOC

An elderly Tibetan shepherd lives with his son Gonbo and Gonbo's wife, Rikso. They own an old Tibetan mastiff, a sheepdog whose breed has become a prized possession for Chinese buyers. Their own old dog is sold, recovered, resold, stolen, and recovered again, passing through the hands of a Chinese dealer, the local police, and Tibetan dog rustlers. In what may be Pema Tseden's darkest film, crises of identity and masculinity collide as vultures circle overhead.

In Tibetan with English subtitles.

CAST Lochey, Drolma Kyab, Tamdrin Tso, Yanbum Gyal, Chokyong Gyal, Demchok Gyamtso



Balloon

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2019, 103 MIN.

FRI MAY 23	5:50PM	VC
TUE MAY 27	6:30PM	VC

The two little sons of virile Tibetan shepherd Dargye mistake their parents' condoms for balloons. Their mother, Drolkar, puts up with her husband's robust sex drive. Drolkar's sister, an enigmatic nun, visits while Dargye is looking for a ram to impregnate his flock of ewes. *Balloon* is fascinated with ideas of potency, pregnancy, and the possibilities for female autonomy in a patriarchal traditional Tibetan family. The dead, the reincarnated, and the living interweave while this family's world slowly catches emotional fire.

In Tibetan with English subtitles.

CAST Sonam Wangmo, Jinpa, Yangshik Tso



The Sacred Arrow

PEMA TSEDEN, CHINA, 2014, 96 MIN.

SAT MAY 24	7:00PM	LOC
MON MAY 26	5:30PM	VC

A fascinating departure from Pema Tseden's usual style, this experiment in commercial ethnic cinema is a full-blown, gorgeously shot, widescreen modern fable with professional actors and a largely Chinese crew. Handsome Nyima and brooding Dradon are two ace archers from rival villages who vie in an annual contest for the ultimate prize, the Sacred Arrow. *The Sacred Arrow* offers something like a utopian vision of how Tibetan culture might thrive, revivifying the strength of its roots to face the future.

In Chinese with English subtitles.

CAST Deji, Renqing Dunzhu, Duobujie

QUEERING CINEMA



Hedwig and the Angry Inch + The Human Voice

JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL, CANADA/USA, 2001, 93 MIN.

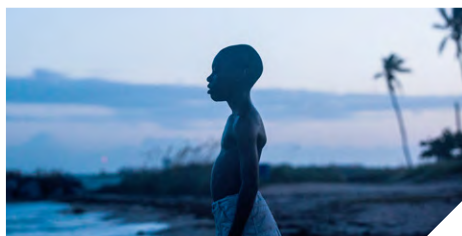
THU MAY 22	7:45PM	LOC
FRI MAY 23	7:00PM	LOC
SAT MAY 24	9:00PM	LOC

John Cameron Mitchell's groundbreaking queer film unflinchingly explores themes of love, identity, and the struggle for acceptance through the lens of a rock musical. Hedwig (Mitchell) is a gender-queer punk rock singer from East Berlin who develops a relationship with a younger man, Tommy, becoming his mentor and musical collaborator, only to have Tommy steal her music and become a rock star. The film follows Hedwig and her backing band, the Angry Inch, as they shadow Tommy's tour, while exploring Hedwig's past through song and flashback.

Preceded by the short film *The Human Voice* (Pedro Almodóvar, 2020, 30 min) with Tilda Swinton.

In English and German with English subtitles.

CAST John Cameron Mitchell, Miriam Shor, Stephen Trask, Theodore Liscinski, Rob Campbell, Michael Aronov



Moonlight + Strange Way of Life

BARRY JENKINS, USA, 2017, 111 MIN.

THU MAY 29	8:00PM	LOC
SAT MAY 31	2:30PM	VC

Three chapters in the life of Chiron, a young black man grappling with his identity and sexuality in a rough Miami neighborhood. The film beautifully captures the complexities of coming of age as Chiron navigates his childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, intertwined with themes of love, longing, and self-discovery. It delves deeply into the intersections of race, class, and queerness, making a powerful statement about what it means to be a black man in today's society.

Preceded by the short film *Strange Way of Life* (Pedro Almodóvar, 2023, 31 min) with Ethan Hawke, Pedro Pascal.

"The best film I've seen in a long time and the best take on black masculinity... ever." TA-NEHISI COATES

CAST Mahershala Ali, Naomi Harris, Trevante Rhodes, André Holland, Janelle Monáe, Ashton Sanders



Fire

DEEPA MEHTA, CANADA, 1996, 104 MIN.

THU JUN 5	8:00PM	LOC
SUN JUN 8	4:00PM	LOC

In the realm of Indian cinema, few films have dared tackle the intricacies of desire within the constraints of tradition quite like Deepa Mehta's *Fire*.

Two women, Sadiya and Radha, played with nuance and depth by Shabana Azmi and Nandita Das, find solace and love in spite of the oppressive patriarchal confines of their lives. The film's presentation of their emotional and sexual awakening is both tender and tumultuous; the use of fire as a motif symbolizes both the destructive and transformative power of love.

"Funny, poignant, and sensual, *Fire* is a beautiful, painful experience." GUINEVERE TURNER, *THE ADVOCATE*

In Hindi and English with English subtitles.

CAST Shabana Azmi, Nandita Das, Ranjit Chowdhry, Jaaved Jaaferi, Kulbushan Kharbanda



Close-Knit

NAOKO OGIGAMI, JAPAN, 2017, 127 MIN.

THU JUN 12	7:30PM	VC
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A young girl, Tomo, unexpectedly finds herself living with her uncle and his transgender partner, a woman named Tetsu. The unconventional family arrangement serves as a backdrop for exploring the challenges and joys of living authentically. Taking a gentle approach to serious topics, the film does not sensationalize the struggles faced by transgender individuals or the complexities of non-traditional family structures. Instead, it promotes an atmosphere of warmth and acceptance, and makes for a thoughtful viewing experience.

"One might find the tremendous emotional swells of *Close-Knit* so moving at times that one can barely hear the sound of fresh ground being broken in Japanese cinema." RORY O'CONNOR, *THE FILM STAGE*

In Japanese with English subtitles.

CAST Toma Ikuta, Rinka Kakiyama, Kenta Kiritani, Mimura, Eiko Koike, Mugi Kadowaki



Vulcanizadora

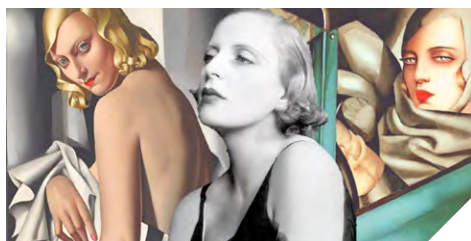
JOEL POTRYKUS, USA, 2024, 85 MIN.

FRI MAY 16	4:00PM	VC
SAT MAY 17	8:15PM	LOC
SUN MAY 18	8:00PM	LOC
TUE MAY 20	7:00PM	LOC
WED MAY 21	8:15PM	LOC
THU MAY 22	5:55PM	LOC

Based on his screen personality in a string of edgy self-directed indie comedies (including *Buzzard* and *Ape*), you might want to keep Joel Potrykus at arm's length. He's one of those men for whom adolescence remains a high water mark. Here he is again, walking into the woods with his mournful sidekick (the ever arresting Joshe Burge) on a mission to unleash fireworks and fulfill a secret pact. (A secret to us, at any rate.) The movie is artfully paced, always intriguing, and packs a surprising punch.

"Spasmodically funny, though hardly a comedy, *Vulcanizadora* is raw, moving and, briefly, horrifying." JEANNETTE CATSOULIS, *NEW YORK TIMES*

CAST Joshua Burge, Joel Potrykus, Solo Potrykus, Scott Aytotte



The True Story of Tamara De Lempicka & The Art of Survival

JULIE RUBIO, USA, 2024, 96 MIN.

FRI MAY 23	2:00PM	VC
SAT MAY 24	5:00PM	LOC
SUN MAY 25	2:50PM	LOC
MON MAY 26	6:00PM	LOC
TUE MAY 27	12:00PM	LOC
FRI MAY 30	2:30PM	LOC

If Art Deco had a face, it was surely Tamara De Lempicka, giving us the side-eye at the wheel of a green Bugati in her famous self-portrait. Julie Rubio's documentary traces her tumultuous life and times: born to a wealthy Jewish family in Poland, she married a Russian aristocrat who lost everything in the Revolution. They fled to Paris, where Tamara made a name for herself as an artist and as a hedonist. Rubio's invaluable doc teases out the truths behind the myths, shedding light De Lempicka's still underrated art.

FEAT Eden Espinosa, Matt Gould, Victoria De Lempicka



VIFF | Kids Club Finding Dory

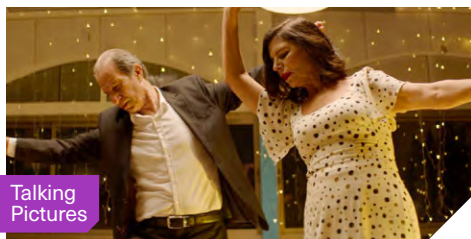
ANDREW STANTON, USA, 2016, 157 MIN.

SUN MAY 25	11:00AM	VC
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Join us for VIFF Kids Club—our monthly family matinee series with film-inspired crafts and special concession snacks before the show! Doors open at 11 am for activities, with the film screening at 12 noon.

By popular request: *Finding Dory* follows everyone's favorite forgetful blue tang as she sets out to reunite with her family in this fun, heartfelt adventure. Alongside Nemo and Marlin and a few new friends, Dory dives back into the stunning underwater world we all love, discovering the true meaning of family along the way.

CAST Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Hayden Rolence



Karaoke

MOSHE ROSENTHAL, ISRAEL, 2022, 103 MIN.

TUE MAY 27	11:00AM	VC
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Talking Pictures offers audience-friendly festival films, refreshments, and an open invitation to chat about our shared experience of the movie. Tickets \$10 (2-for-\$16).

Meir (Sasson Gabay) is slumping towards retirement and no longer has any fight in him. When the new guy in the penthouse suite double parks in front of Meir's car, well, it just sums up the kind of day/week/life he's having. But Itsik (Lior Ashkenazi) apologizes profusely and insists Meir and his wife Tova (Rita Shukrun) come up for a glass of wine. Turns out Itsik isn't just rich and successful, he's also charming and gregarious. Under the bright wattage of his attentive smile, Meir and Tova start to feel better about themselves and imagine a new chapter is possible.