

44th Vancouver International Film Festival



VIFF ANNOUNCES AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS FOR LANDMARK EDITION OF FESTIVAL

44th Vancouver International Film Festival
October 2 – 12, 2025

VANCOUVER, BC (OCTOBER 17, 2025) Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) announces the winners of this year's Audience Awards, following the successful close of the 44th edition on Sunday, October 12. Presented by Peliplat, the awards recognize fan favourites across 11 of VIFF's feature film sections, with winners selected by more than 50,000 ballots cast throughout the festival's 11 days. More than 106,000 attendees engaged with almost 590 screenings, industry sessions, talks, live shows, and events at this year's VIFF.

"This was a monumental year for VIFF — 2025 was our largest festival in many years, with more screenings and venues, larger audiences, and exciting new international partnerships," says Kyle Fostner, Executive Director of VIFF. "It was a beautiful study of the unifying power of cinema, emanating a sense of warmth and community throughout. I think we hit on something truly special this year. The 44th edition of VIFF felt poignantly defiant and celebratory, in spite of the timbre of this moment. A positive affirmation that art, culture and creative stories are needed now more than ever. Not only did the festival reach new corners of the city, but our amazing team of more than 180 staff and 900 volunteers worked magic behind the scenes to make it one of the most expansive and seamless festivals in memory. VIFF has always been a festival for the people, and it was heartening to see that reaffirmed again and again throughout 11 packed days of full theatres and enthusiastic audiences."

"Peliplat is honoured to present the VIFF Audience Awards," says Ariel Wang, Peliplat CEO. "As a platform dedicated to supporting meaningful conversation around film, we believe that connecting audiences with creators is the purest way to experience film. Congratulations to all the winners who left a mark on their audience this year!"

VIFF AUDIENCE AWARDS

Galas & Special Presentations
***Kokuho*, dir. Sang-il Lee**

Showcase
***In the Room*, dir. Brishkay Ahmed**

Panorama

***Meadowlarks*, dir. Tasha Hubbard**

Vanguard

***Gazelle*, dirs. Nadir Saribacak, Samy Pioneer (Selman)**

Northern Lights

***Akashi*, dir. Mayumi Yoshida**

Insights

***Free Leonard Peltier*, dirs. Jesse Short Bull, David France**

Spectrum

***Khartoum*, dirs. Anas Saeed, Rawia Alhag, Ibrahim Snoopy, Timeea Mohamed Ahmed, Phil Cox**

Portraits

***The Essence of Eva*, dirs. Alex Fegan, Malcolm Willis**

Altered States

***Fucktoys*, dir. Annapurna Sriram**

Spotlight on Korea: The New Breed

***3670*, dir. Park Joon Ho**

Focus: Edges of Belonging - Tales of Grit and Grace from India

***Bad Girl*, dir. Varsha Bharath**

Visit viff.org for all of this year's award winners or for information about year-round programming.

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About VIFF | viff.org

Beyond film exhibitions, VIFF strives to engage and empower communities, encourage dialogue and champion local artists. With decades of experience and an unwavering commitment to creating exceptional programs, VIFF has transformed into a highly esteemed annual festival and a premier arthouse cinema.

Founded in 1982, the Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society is a not-for-profit cultural society and federally registered charitable organization that operates the internationally acclaimed Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) and the year-round programming at the VIFF Centre. All year, VIFF produces screenings, talks, conferences and events that act as a catalyst for the community to discover the creativity and craft of storytelling on screen.

VIFF is presented on the traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔt/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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