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VIFF Announces Canadian Film Showcase, Including DIY: Making Movies No Matter What - Curated by Sook-Yin Lee

Running April 10-19, this celebration of bold, independent Canadian cinema features premieres, guests in attendance, and free National Canadian Film Day screenings

Vancouver, BC — The Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) is proud to present its annual **Canadian Film Showcase** from **April 10–19** at the year-round VIFF Centre. This year's showcase features **DIY: Making Movies No Matter What**, a special program curated by acclaimed filmmaker and artist **Sook-Yin Lee** (*Paying for It*).

“Encompassing free screenings on National Canadian Film Day and Sook-Yin Lee’s guest curation, our annual Canadian Film Showcase expands in scope and ambition this year,” says Tom Charity, VIFF Centre Programmer. “It’s a space where distinct voices, bold perspectives, and independent spirit take centre stage as we highlight the enduring importance of independent cinema in Canada.”

Filmmakers and special guests will be in attendance throughout the program, including Sook-Yin Lee, Bruce Sweeney, Carl Bessai, Corey Payette, Brendan Prost, Amelie Atkins, Nicole Bazuin, and Andrea Warehum.

Sook-Yin Lee Celebrates Canadian Cinema’s DIY Spirit - April 17-19

Multihyphenate filmmaker, musician, and artist **Sook-Yin Lee** returns to her old stomping grounds to present **DIY: Making Movies No Matter What**. Featuring seven feature films and six shorts, the series highlights filmmakers who have embraced resourcefulness, community, and creative independence to create extraordinary cinema outside traditional systems.

“Thanks to VIFF for inviting me to share some of my favourite movies for the Canadian Film Showcase,” says Sook-Yin Lee. “I’m presenting a program of both older and more recent films that are bold, personal, and fiercely independent — made with a D.I.Y. ethos that connects eras, aesthetics, genres, and communities across Canada.”

DIY: Making Movies No Matter What program

- *Paying for It*, dir Sook-Yin Lee, 2025
- *Dead Lover*, dir Grace Glowicki, 2025 (Special “Stink-O-Vision” screening on April 17)
- *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, dir Zacharias Kunuk, 2001
- *Parsley Days*, dir Andre Dorfman, 2000

- ***Outrageous!***, dir Richard Benner, 1977
- ***Love & Independence*** (shorts program), dirs Lea Rose Sebastianis, Daphné Xu, Kalil Haddad, JL Whitecrow
- ***Boxcutter***, dir Reza Dahya, 2024
- ***Endless Cookie***, dirs. Seth Scriver & Peter Scriver, 2025

National Canadian Film Day Highlights – Wednesday, April 15

On **National Canadian Film Day**, presented in partnership with REEL CANADA, VIFF offers **free screenings** that celebrate the country’s cinematic heritage and platform exciting new voices.

- ***Intimate Moments***, a program of short films by Brendan Prost, who will be in attendance and shooting footage for his upcoming hybrid documentary, *Performance of a Lifetime* - 5:00 pm
- A newly restored presentation of David Secter’s ***Winter Kept Us Warm*** (1965), widely recognized as the first Canadian queer film - 6:30 pm
- A Jubilee screening of ***Last Wedding*** (2001), with Bruce Sweeney, cast, and crew in attendance - 7:30 pm

A Showcase of Canadian Voices

“VIFF continues our unparalleled commitment to championing Canadian filmmakers by playing more Canadian productions in these 10 days than many cinemas will in a calendar year,” says Curtis Woloschuk, Director of Programming. “We’re excited to present these films in Western Canada’s premier arthouse cinema and host so many of the filmmakers responsible for these distinctive works.”

The 2026 lineup features world premieres from Vancouver filmmakers, a number of Vancouver premieres, and encore presentations of standout titles from the 2025 edition of VIFF.

World Premieres

- ***Love and Money***, an improvised comedy from David Ray (Q&A with David Ray and cast/crew)
- ***4 or 5 Things I Want You to Know About Me***, Carl Bessai’s reflection on the art of acting (Q&A with Carl Bessai)

Vancouver Premieres

- ***Monica’s News***, dir Pamela Gallant, 2024
- ***Castration Movie Anthology 1: Traps***, dir Louis Weard, 2025
- ***Lunatic: the Luna Vachon Story***, dir Kate Kroll (Q&A with director Kate Kroll)

Program

- ***Agatha's Almanac***, dir Amelie Atkins, 2025 (Q&A with director Amelie Atkins)
- ***Modern Whore***, dir Nicole Bazuin, 2025 (Q&A with director Nicole Bazuin and star Andrea Werhun)
- ***Starwalker***, dir Corey Payette, 2025 (Q&A with Corey Payette and collaborators)
- ***The Art of Adventure***, dir Alison Reid, 2025
- ***Follies***, dir Erick K. Boulianne, 2025
- ***Kensington Market: Heart of the City***, dir Stuart Clarfield, 2024

Special Event

VIFF LIVE: I Am the Blues + Robert Connely Farr Live

Sunday, April 12, 1:30 pm

This VIFF Live event brings together Robert Connely Farr, performing an hour-long set of authentic Mississippi blues, followed by Daniel Cross's documentary *I Am the Blues* (106 min.) about the old-time Delta Blues.

Canadian Film Showcase at VIFF

April 10–19, 2026

VIFF Centre, Vancouver

For tickets and full program details, visit: [VIFF - Canadian Film Showcase](#)

[See the nationwide National Canadian Film Day Events.](#)

ABOUT VIFF

The Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) is one of Canada's leading film organizations and an internationally recognized cultural institution. VIFF presents the annual Vancouver International Film Festival, operates the VIFF Centre, Vancouver's premier arthouse cinema, and leads artist development initiatives through the Institute for the Moving Image. Together, these initiatives nurture filmmakers, strengthen the screen-based arts sector, and bring the joy of bold, original cinema to audiences year-round. Learn more at viff.org.

Founded in 1982, the Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society is a not-for-profit cultural society and federally registered charitable organization. VIFF is presented on the traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səłílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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Media Inquiries

Lainé Slater, Vancouver International Film Festival

press@viff.org | [Press Kit](#)