



Amrum Silent Friend Steal This Story, Please! The Wizard of the Kremlin The Christophers Clan of the Painted Lady My Name Ain't Suzie Fiume o Morte! Bushido Chasing My Why VIFF Live: Lou Reed X Aram Bajakian Birth of the Cool Elevator to the Gallows M The Music Room Kids Club: Space Cadet AND MORE

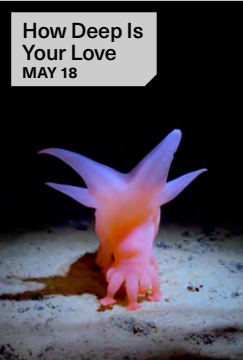
Amrum



**Blue Heron**  
MAY 15-18 & 21



**Faraway, So Close!**  
MAY 17



**How Deep Is Your Love**  
MAY 18

**15 MAY**

Amrum • VC  
2:00pm  
Holy Days • LOC  
2:20pm  
Steal This Story, Please! • VC  
4:10pm  
Palestine '36 • LOC  
5:20pm  
Wizard of the Kremlin • VC  
6:20pm  
Blue Heron • LOC  
7:45pm

**16**

Amrum • VC  
1:00pm  
Steal This Story, Please! • LOC  
1:30pm  
Wizard of the Kremlin • VC  
3:00pm  
Blue Heron • LOC  
3:45pm  
Steal This Story, Please! • LOC  
6:00pm  
Live: Berlin • VC  
8:00pm  
Amrum • LOC  
8:15pm

**17**

Pantheon: M • VC  
11:00am  
Wizard of the Kremlin • LOC  
11:30am  
Blue Heron • LOC  
2:30pm  
Faraway, So Close • VC  
3:30pm  
Steal This Story, Please! • LOC  
4:30pm  
Amrum • LOC  
6:45pm  
Live: Street Hassle • VC  
7:45pm

**18**

Wizard of the Kremlin • VC  
2:20pm  
Steal This Story, Please! • LOC  
3:00pm  
How Deep Is Your Love • LOC  
5:10pm  
Amrum • VC  
5:30pm  
Omaha • LOC  
7:15pm  
Blue Heron • VC  
7:30pm

**19**

M • VC  
5:50pm  
Wizard of the Kremlin • LOC  
6:20pm  
Amrum • VC  
8:15pm

**20**

The Spoils • VC  
6:00pm



**Omaha**  
MAY 18

**21**

Film Studies:  
Music Room • VC  
11:00am  
Everyone Is Lying to You for Money • LOC  
12:30pm  
Holy Days • VC  
2:00pm  
Steal This Story, Please! • LOC  
2:30pm  
Blue Heron • LOC  
4:45pm  
Amrum • VC  
5:10pm  
Christophers • LOC  
7:00pm  
Wizard of the Kremlin • VC  
7:15pm

**22**

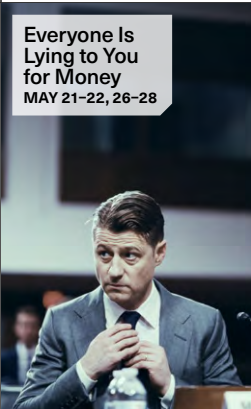
Silent Friend • VC  
2:00pm  
Christophers • LOC  
2:30pm  
Everyone Is Lying to You for Money • LOC  
4:40pm  
Fiume o Morte! • VC  
5:10pm  
Art of Adventure • LOC  
6:40pm  
Bushido • VC  
7:30pm

**23**

Clan of the Painted Lady • VC  
2:00pm  
Fiume o Morte! • LOC  
2:30pm  
Silent Friend • VC  
4:45pm  
Bushido • VC  
7:45pm

**24**

Live: Birth of the Cool • VC  
2:00pm  
Bushido • LOC  
2:20pm  
Fiume o Morte! • LOC  
5:00pm  
Live: Birth of the Cool • VC  
7:00pm  
Silent Friend • LOC  
7:30pm



**Everyone Is Lying to You for Money**  
MAY 21-22, 26-28

**26**

Other Side of Hope • VC  
11:00am  
Christophers • LOC  
1:45pm  
Silent Friend • VC  
2:00pm  
Art of Adventure • LOC  
4:00pm  
Everyone Is Lying to You for Money • LOC  
6:00pm  
Live: Elevator to the Gallows • VC  
6:30pm

**27**

Christophers • VC  
2:50pm  
Art of Adventure • LOC  
3:15pm  
Bushido • VC  
5:00pm  
Everyone Is Lying to You for Money • LOC  
5:30pm  
My Name Ain't Suzie • VC  
7:30pm  
Steal This Story, Please! • LOC  
7:45pm

**28**

Film Studies:  
Black Bag • VC  
11:00am  
Amrum • LOC  
2:00pm  
Silent Friend • VC  
2:20pm  
Everyone Is Lying to You for Money • LOC  
4:00pm  
Bushido • VC  
5:15pm  
Fiume o Morte! • LOC  
6:10pm  
Chasing My Why • VC  
8:00pm  
Christophers • LOC  
8:30pm



**The Art of Adventure**  
MAY 26-27

### Tickets and Memberships

	Adult	VIFF+	VIFF+ Premium & U25	Senior	Student	Accessible
VIFF Cinema	\$17	\$14	\$12	\$15	\$15	\$12
Lochmaddy Studio Theatre	\$15	\$12	\$10	\$13	\$13	\$10

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at [viff.org](http://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](mailto: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.



**Black Bag**  
MAY 28

# First Look Fridays

\$12

Friday matinee screenings



FRI 15 MAY, 2:00PM



FRI 22 MAY, 2:00PM

## Become a VIFF+ member.

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



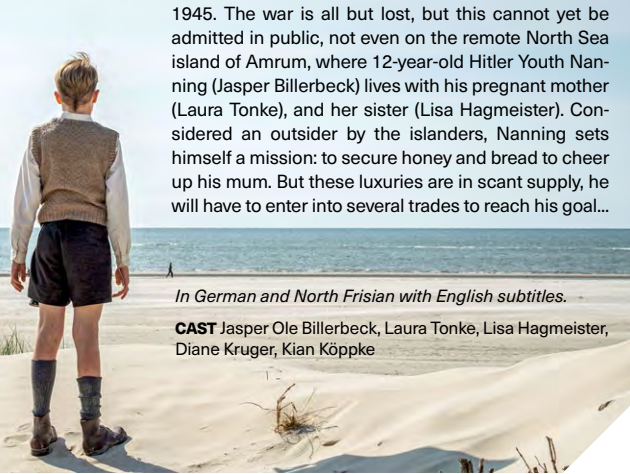
[viff.org/plus](http://viff.org/plus)

“Poetic and elegantly spare... graceful and profound.” *VARIETY*

# Amrum

FATIH AKIN, GERMANY, 2025, 93 MIN.

FRI MAY 15	2:00PM	VC
SAT MAY 16	1:00PM	VC
SAT MAY 16	8:15PM	LOC
SUN MAY 17	6:45PM	LOC
MON MAY 18	5:30PM	VC
TUE MAY 19	8:15PM	VC
THU MAY 21	5:10PM	VC
THU MAY 28	2:00PM	LOC



1945. The war is all but lost, but this cannot yet be admitted in public, not even on the remote North Sea island of Amrum, where 12-year-old Hitler Youth Nanning (Jasper Billerbeck) lives with his pregnant mother (Laura Tonke), and her sister (Lisa Hagmeister). Considered an outsider by the islanders, Nanning sets himself a mission: to secure honey and bread to cheer up his mum. But these luxuries are in scant supply, he will have to enter into several trades to reach his goal...

In German and North Frisian with English subtitles.

CAST Jasper Ole Billerbeck, Laura Tonke, Lisa Hagmeister, Diane Kruger, Kian Köppke



# Silent Friend

ILDIKÓ ENYEDI, GERMANY/FRANCE/HUNGARY, 2025, 147 MIN.

FRI MAY 22	2:00PM	VC
SAT MAY 23	4:45PM	VC
SUN MAY 24	7:30PM	LOC
TUE MAY 26	2:00PM	VC
THU MAY 28	2:20PM	VC
FRI MAY 29	8:00PM	LOC

“Strange, enrapturing, simultaneously vast and minute.” *INDIEWIRE*

In this entrancing reverie from *On Body and Soul* director Ildikó Enyedi, we are invited to contemplate several human specimens from the vantage point of a mighty Ginkgo biloba tree on the grounds of a German university. Among them, the institution's first female student (Luna Wedler), admitted to the botany department in 1908; a couple of hippies circa 1972; and a neuroscientist trapped on the grounds by Covid-19 in 2020 (Tony Leung).

In German and English with English subtitles.

CAST Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, Lea Sedoux, Luna Wedler, Enzo Brumm, Sylvester Groth, Martin Wuttke



# Steal This Story, Please!

CARL DEAL, TIA LESSIN, USA, 2025, 101 MIN.

FRI MAY 15	4:10PM	VC
SAT MAY 16	1:30PM, 6:00PM	LOC
SUN MAY 17	4:30PM	LOC
MON MAY 18	3:00PM	LOC
THU MAY 21	2:30PM	LOC
WED MAY 27	7:45PM	LOC

Best known for *Democracy Now!* the progressive news show she has hosted for 30 years, Amy Goodman earned her stripes in the field, uncovering nefarious activities in East Timor in 1991. She was arrested for her reporting of the Dakota pipeline protests and detained and questioned by Canadian border agents when she came up to speak in Vancouver in 2009. Urgent, provocative and unexpectedly funny, *Steal This Story, Please!* is both a call to action and a celebration of resistance.

CAST Amy Goodman, Juan Gonzales, Jeremy Scahill, Sharif Abdel Kouddous, Nermeen Shaikh

Winner: Audience Award, Mill Valley; Audience Award, SIFF DocFest; Audience Award, Woodstock



# The Wizard of the Kremlin

OLIVIER ASSAYAS, FRANCE, 2025, 156 MIN.

FRI MAY 15	6:20PM	VC
SAT MAY 16	3:00PM	VC
SUN MAY 17	11:30AM	LOC
MON MAY 18	2:20PM	VC
TUE MAY 19	6:20PM	LOC
THU MAY 21	7:15PM	VC

Paul Dano is a “modern day Rasputin” to Jude Law’s Vladimir Putin in this smart, insightful slice of political drama from Olivier Assayas (*Carlos*) and co-writer Emmanuel Carrère. Vadim Baranov is a bohemian and intellectual turned TV executive who is approached to help persuade a KGB counterespionage expert, Putin, to stand for PM in the dying days of Boris Yeltsin’s Presidency. Baranov becomes his close advisor and spin doctor as the fledgling democracy reverts to autocracy over the next two decades.

“Essential viewing for understanding the highly sophisticated workings of a totalitarian propaganda state.” TRAVIS JEPPESEN, *SIGHT AND SOUND*

CAST Paul Dano, Jude Law, Alicia Vikander, Will Keen, Tom Sturridge, Jeffrey Wright



# Clan of the Painted Lady + Q&A

JENNIFER CHIU, CANADA, 2025, 101 MIN.

SAT MAY 23	2:00PM	VC
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In this bravely personal documentary, Jennifer Chiu reaches into her family’s history to explore the Hakka—a people, a language, and a culture that have been obscured for far too long. Chiu explores Hakka history, particularly the nomadic drift from China to India, Mauritius, Jamaica, and her home country of Canada. She addresses family secrecy, the costs of assimilation, and more in this engrossing, congenial work full of candid conversation and sharp insights. Q&A with filmmaker Jennifer Chiu

In English, Hakka, and Bengali with English subtitles.



# My Name Ain’t Suzie

ANGIE CHEN, HONG KONG, 1985, 96 MIN.

WED MAY 27	7:30PM	VC
SUN MAY 31	2:30PM	VC

Leaving behind her fishing village, Shui-Mei is sent to Hong Kong to earn money as a prostitute. Set between the mid 1950s and 1980, *My Name Ain’t Suzie* is an ambitious and surprising feminist film to come from the Shaw Brothers studio in 1985. Director Angie Chen, making only her second feature, set out to make as accurate a portrait of the HK bargirl trade as possible, and even cast several of them in bit parts. She also hit paydirt with her two leads, Pat Ha and Anthony Wong (in his first film). Director Angie Chen will join us for a Q&A, May 27

“A film that fascinates on so many levels: as a work of a brilliant film auteur; as a sign of the shift in local cinema; as a feminist statement; as a cinematic image of Hong Kong in the past; as a critique of Orientalism and generalized representation of the Far East reproduced in Hollywood films.” MAJIA KORBECKA, *EASTERN KICKS*

In Cantonese with English subtitles.

CAST Pat Ha, Anthony Wong, Deanie Ip, Angela Yu



# The Christophers

STEVEN SODERBERGH, USA, 2025, 100 MIN.

THU MAY 21	7:00PM	LOC
FRI MAY 22	2:30PM	LOC
TUE MAY 26	1:45PM	LOC
WED MAY 27	2:50PM	VC
THU MAY 28	8:30PM	LOC

Ian McKellen is at his imperious best as a toxic, burned out artist whose new assistant (the equally striking Michaela Coel) has a secret agenda: to get her hands on his famously abandoned series, *The Christophers*, and complete the canvases for discovery when the old man finally expires. This two-hander brims with energy and erudition as it explores what makes an artist pick up a brush, and what makes a painting worth a second look.

“Sparkling, funny, wise... it could have gone on forever and not been long enough.” ALISSA WILKINSON, *NEW YORK TIMES*

CAST Michaela Coel, Ian McKellen, Jessica Gunning, James Corden



# Fiume o Morte!

IGOR BEZINOVIĆ, CROATIA/ITALY/SLOVENIA, 2025, 112 MIN.

FRI MAY 22	5:10PM	VC
SAT MAY 23	2:30PM	LOC
SUN MAY 24	5:00PM	LOC
THU MAY 28	6:10PM	LOC

The Croatian city of Rijeka rediscovers its own past in this delightfully unconventional hybrid documentary about Italian poet and proto-fascist Gabriele D’Annunzio, who seized the city known in Italian as Fiume in 1919. Igor Bezinović’s shifting, protean film moves from whimsical sight gags to sobering examinations of fascism, blending absurdist re-enactments with documented record and inviting viewers in on the joke. Endlessly inventive, *Fiume o Morte!* brings a forgotten piece of history to life.

In Croatian and Italian with English subtitles.

FEAT Izet Medošević, Čenan Beljuli, Albano Vučetić, Tihomir Buterin, Andrea Marsanich, Massimo Ronzani



# Bushido

KAZUYA SHIRAIISHI, JAPAN, 2024, 129 MIN.

FRI MAY 22	7:30PM	VC
SAT MAY 23	7:45PM	VC
SUN MAY 24	2:20PM	LOC
WED MAY 27	5:00PM	VC
THU MAY 28	5:15PM	VC

Board games and patience are not typically associated with the samurai film, but these are key components in Kazuya Shiraishi’s gripping Edo period drama. Taciturn Kakunoshin, renowned for his formidable skills both with a sword and in the game of Go, embodies the purest ideals of the samurai code. Framed by his own clan for a theft he did not commit, he is disgraced and forced into exile, surviving as a humble seal maker—until many years later he discovers the reason behind his betrayal...

In Japanese with English subtitles.

CAST Tsuyoshi Kusanagi, Jun Kunimura, Kaya Kiyohara, Taishi Nakagawa, Kyoko Koizumi, Takumi Saitoh



# Chasing My Why: The Mammoth 200

JEFF PELLETIER, CANADA, 2026, 90 MIN.

THU MAY 28	8:00PM	VC
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Trailrunner and filmmaker Jeff Pelletier sets out to run the inaugural Mammoth 200, a 215-mile ultramarathon through California’s Sierra Nevada. But beyond the distance, the race becomes a search for something else: an answer to why he keeps returning to events like this. As he documents the journey along the way, the answer is something that must be earned, over time.

World Premiere with filmmaker Q&A

## VIFF Live



# Lou Reed’s Metal Machine Music as realized by Aram Bajakian, Stefan Maier and Anju Singh + BERLIN film

JULIAN SCHNABEL, USA, 2007, BAND: 60 MIN., FILM: 81 MIN.

SAT MAY 16	8:00PM	VC
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# Street Hassle: Songs by Lou Reed played by Aram Bajakian with Aiden Ayers, Stevan Oostenberg

BAND: 60 MIN.

SUN MAY 17	7:45PM	VC
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Guitarist Aram Bajakian pays tribute to his friend Lou Reed across two live shows—*Metal Machine Music* and *Street Hassle*—paired with the films *Berlin* (Sat 8:00pm) and *Faraway, So Close!* (Sun 3:30pm).



# Miles Davis 100! Vince Mai plays Miles + Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool film

STANLEY NELSON, USA/UK, 2019, BAND: 60 MIN., FILM: 114 MIN.

SUN MAY 24	2:00PM, 7:00PM	VC
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As part of the centenary celebrations for Miles Davis, local trumpet legend Vince Mai will be performing music from some of Miles’ most memorable 1950s albums, including *Kind of Blue*, *Walkin’*, *Relaxin’* and more. After his live set, enjoy Stanley Nelson’s definitive documentary.

Vince Mai – trumpet  
Steve Kaldestad – Saxophone  
Laurence Mollerup – Bass

Miles Black – Piano  
Bernie Arai – Drums

“A tantalizing portrait: rich, probing, mournful, romantic, triumphant, tragic, exhilarating, and blisteringly honest... Immensely gratifying.” *VARIETY*

FEAT Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Quincy Jones, Marcus Miller, Francis Taylor Davis, Juliette Greco



# Miles Davis 100! Elevator to the Gallows + Julian Borkowski plays Miles

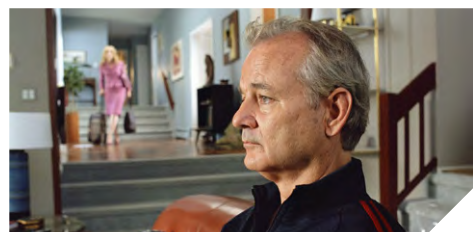
LOUIS MALLE, FRANCE, 1958, BAND: 60 MIN., FILM: 91 MIN.

TUE MAY 26	6:30PM	VC
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On May 26, Miles Davis’s 100th birthday, trumpet firebrand Julian Borkowski leads a sextet through one of Miles Davis’ first musical projects...music recorded in the late 40s and early 50’s that would eventually be known as the *Birth of the Cool!* After Julian’s set, enjoy Louis Malle’s cool 1958 thriller about a perfect murder gone horribly wrong. Henri Decae’s monochrome images of nocturnal Paris paired with the famous Miles Davis trumpet score, improvised over one night... It’s the birth of the *nouvelle vague*.

“Married a new kind of jazz to a new kind of cinema, and created something altogether sublime.” *VILLAGE VOICE*

In French with English subtitles.  
CAST Jeanne Moreau, Maurice Ronet, Georges Poujouly, Yori Bertin, Jean Wall, Lino Ventura



# The Kidannes Ethio-Jazz Ensemble + Broken Flowers film

JIM JARMUSCH, USA, 2005, BAND: 60 MIN., FILM: 106 MIN.

SUN MAY 31	7:00PM	VC
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Feven Kidane & Nebyu Yohannes are two of Vancouver’s most exciting and versatile musicians. On May 31 they’ll be returning to the VIFF stage to co-lead The Kidannes Ethio-Jazz Ensemble, a dynamic ensemble that will be performing a unique blend of traditional Ethiopian & Eritrean music, combined with a healthy dollop of Western Jazz. Jim Jarmusch’s movie *Broken Flowers* did much to popularize Ethiopian jazz in the west with a mixtape of the music of Mulatu Astatke featuring prominently in the film.

“A movie that creates a gentle cloud of happiness...” PETER BRADSHAW, *THE GUARDIAN*

CAST Bill Murray, Sharon Stone, Jessica Lange, Jeffrey Wright, Tilda Swinton, Frances Conroy, Julie Delpy

Winner: Grand Prix, Cannes Film Festival



## Pantheon: M

FRITZ LANG, GERMANY, 1931, 110 MIN.

<b>SUN MAY 17</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>VC</b>
<b>TUE MAY 19</b>	<b>5:50PM</b>	<b>VC</b>

Although Fritz Lang is more famous today for his silent sci-fi epic *Metropolis*, he considered *M* his masterpiece. A sophisticated and gripping suspense drama about the hunt for a child murderer, played with disturbing compassion by the great Peter Lorre. *M* was Lang's first sound film, and it's thrilling to experience how he embraced the creative possibilities of the medium. It's also a very early police procedural, and his first psychological film. 95 years later, it still stands as one of the great films of the criminal mind.

Sunday's Pantheon screening will feature a 15 minute introduction by a local film scholar and be followed by an audience talkback.

"A film from 1931 whose power and originality seem startling and fresh today—a film that has not dated." PATRICK MCGILLIGAN

*In German with English subtitles.*

**CAST** Peter Lorre, Ellen Widmann, Inge Landgut



Film Studies

## The Music Room

SATYAJIT RAY, INDIA, 1958, 99 MIN.

<b>THU MAY 21</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>VC</b>
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Cinematographer Devan Scott continues his journey through the history of lighting in cinema. This week, he credits Satyajit Ray's director of photography Subrata Mitra for profound innovations that laid the foundation for ideas of motivated lighting that dominated the latter half of the twentieth century. Devan's workshop (approx 50 min) will be followed by a screening of *The Music Room* (1958), for many critics, Ray's finest film.

"It is the kind of cinema that flows with the serenity and nobility of a big river." AKIRA KUROSAWA ON SATYAJIT RAY

*In Bengali with English subtitles.*

**CAST** Chhabi Biswas



Talking Pictures

## The Other Side of Hope

AKI KAURISMÄKI, FINLAND, 2017, 98 MIN.

<b>TUE MAY 26</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>VC</b>
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The Finnish master of the droll and the deadpan, Aki Kaurismäki makes a characteristically heartening contribution concerning the European refugee crisis. Khaled, a Syrian, washes up on Finland's glum shores and becomes an unlikely friend to a middle-aged Finnish shirt salesman in the midst of remaking his life. Compassionate and wryly funny by turns.

*Talking Pictures is a monthly matinee series catering to the 55+ community. Patrons are encouraged to stay and chat about the movie and enjoy coffee and cookies on the house. Tickets are only \$10, or two for \$16.*

"The guiding ethic of *The Other Side of Hope* is as much topical as it universal: that altruism is not especially brave or courageous, but just the basic principle governing relations between human beings." JOHN SEMLEY, *GLOBE AND MAIL*

*In Finnish, English, and Arabic with English subtitles.*

**CAST** Sherwan Haji, Sakari Kuosmanen, Janne Hyytiäinen, Ilkka Koivula, Nuppu Koivu, Simon Hussein Al-Bazoon

**Winner:** Best Director, Berlin 17; FIPRESCI Grand Prix 17



## Kids Club: Space Cadet

KID KOALA, CANADA, 2025, 146 MIN.

<b>SUN MAY 31</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>VC</b>
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Join us for VIFF Kids Club—our monthly family matinee series with film-inspired crafts and special snacks before the show! Activities begin at 11 am and the film screens at noon.

Raised by her devoted robot guardian, Celeste grows up to become an astronaut, off on her first solo mission. Back on Earth, Robot finds comfort in their shared memories. Told without dialogue, this tender animated story blends gentle humour, and a rich musical score to explore connection and distance, childhood and growing up.

*No Dialogue*