



VIFF ANNOUNCES TALKS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Inside the Creative Process: The Forces Behind *Obsession* and *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma*, Plus DEVO Co-Founder and Composer Mark Mothersbaugh

45th Vancouver International Film Festival
October 1–11, 2026

VANCOUVER, BC (SEPTEMBER 17, 2026) The Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) unveils the official program for this year's VIFF Talks, bringing an elite group of world-class professionals to Vancouver to share industry insights, creative strategies, and behind-the-scenes stories of their craft. Running October 3–7 as part of the festival's programming, the dynamic Talks series offers audiences and emerging creators rare, direct access to master technicians and storytellers across key cinematic disciplines.

This year's series features intimate, in-depth conversations with acclaimed film editor Matthew Hannam (*The Iron Claw*, *Babygirl*), blockbuster independent producer Haley Johnson (*Obsession*), visionary production designers Brandon Toller and Matt Hyland (*I Saw the TV Glow*, *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma*), and iconic DEVO co-founder and composer Mark Mothersbaugh (*The Royal Tenenbaums*, *A Minecraft Movie*).

"This year's VIFF Talks lineup shines a light across the cinematic landscape of today, from indie break-out hits to massive cultural moments," says Kyle Fostner, Executive Director. "This year's program is focused on the key creatives and decision-makers who power cinema's artistic engine, hearing firsthand how they helped harmonize and propel contemporary film's most exciting new work. At a time when the film industry is rapidly evolving, hearing directly from these boundary-pushing creators isn't just inspiring — it's essential."

In addition, VIFF announces two Special Events that coincide with this year's film program: a special post-screening Q&A with the legendary Rick Hansen for the hometown premiere of *Man in Motion: The Rick Hansen Story*, and with *School for Defectors* director Jeremy Workman and producer Daniel Dae Kim.

For more details, visit viff.org/talks and viff.org/festival/special-events.

VIFF TALKS

Community Broadcast Partner: Telus

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The world's leading creators share expertise on their craft

Art of the Cut: Matthew Hannam

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2pm
Venue: VIFF Centre
Tickets: \$32

From cutting his teeth as an assistant editor in Winnipeg, working with Canadian auteurs like Guy Maddin, to becoming one of the more sought after film editors, Matthew Hannam has built a career as a longtime collaborator with some of the most exciting filmmakers working today. Whether it's Sean Durkin's *The Iron Claw*, Halina Reijn's *Babygirl*, and Noah Baumbach's *White Noise*, Hannam is on a run of ambitious, striking films that has cemented him with a reputation as an editor with a singular talent for rhythm, tension and tone. He returns to VIFF to discuss his body of work, revisiting his process and collaborative approach on his most iconic films.

Wish Come True: The Making of *Obsession* with Producer Haley Johnson

Supported by InFocus Film School

Sunday, Oct. 4, 6:15pm
Venue: VIFF Centre
Tickets: \$32

Made independently on a shoestring budget, *Obsession* has defied expectations, surging past half a billion dollars at the global box office and emerging as a cultural flashpoint that is reshaping the conversation in Hollywood. Almost overnight, Haley Johnson went from an ambitious young producer to one of the most sought-after names in the industry.

Nearly a year after its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival ignited a frenzied studio bidding war, Johnson reflects on the whirlwind journey. She takes us behind the making of *Obsession* with a scrappy independent crew that set out to make a film originally destined for YouTube and the meteoric rise to become one of the most successful theatrical films of 2026.

Worlds Within Worlds: Brandon Toller & Matt Hyland, Production Designers, *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma*

Monday, Oct. 5, 6:30pm
Venue: Annex
Tickets: \$32

Brandon Toller and Matt Hyland are frequent collaborators, bringing bold, immersive worlds to celebrated projects including *Reservation Dogs*, *I Saw the TV Glow*, and their latest collaboration with Jane Schoenbrun, *Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma* to life. From resurrecting old-school film techniques to surreal cabin sets, Toller and Hyland have pulled out all the stops to make one of the year's most visually vibrant and surreal films. For their VIFF Talk, the creative duo pull back the curtain on their process. They'll dive into their approach to collaboration and how they work with directors like Schoenbrun to build worlds within worlds.

Stories Behind the Music: Mark Mothersbaugh, Composer & Musician

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6:15pm
Venue: Rio Theatre
Tickets: \$32

From DEVO to *Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Thor: Ragnarok* and *A Minecraft Movie*, Mark Mothersbaugh has forged one of music and film's most distinctive careers. Join the legendary musician and composer in conversation with award-winning songwriter, composer, and former studio executive Robert Kraft for an intimate look at Mothersbaugh's creative process, collaborations, and stories behind the music.

VIFF SPECIAL EVENTS

Man in Motion: Celebrating Rick Hansen

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2:45pm
Venue: Vancouver Playhouse
Tickets: \$32

Join Rick Hansen for the hometown premiere of *Man in Motion: The Rick Hansen Story* featuring an extended Q&A with the legend himself after the screening. 26 months, 34 countries, 40,075kms traversed in a wheelchair, and more than \$26 million generated for accessibility initiatives. *Man in Motion: The Rick Hansen Story*, is an inspiring portrait directed by Adrian Buitenhuis celebrating one of B.C.'s greatest athletes and activists.

ReFrame: *School for Defectors*

Sunday, Oct. 4, 6pm

Venue: Lindsay Family Stage at Granville Island

Tickets: \$22

Screening and extended Q&A. A quietly uplifting documentary, *School for Defectors* sheds light on the lives of people from North Korea who made the difficult and courageous decision to escape. The film provides access to a world rarely spoken of, while offering a glimpse into the next generation that will shape South Korea. Extended Q&A after the screening with director Jeremy Workman and producer Daniel Dae Kim, exploring the development of the project, and the impact they hope to achieve.

Ticket details at viff.org/ticket-info.

To explore VIFF's complete 2026 programming, visit viff.org.

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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 xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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