

VIFF ANNOUNCES AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS

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

VANCOUVER, BC (OCTOBER 16, 2026) Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) proudly announces the winners of this year's Audience Awards, following the successful close of the 45th edition on Sunday, October 11. The awards recognize fan favourites across 11 of VIFF's feature film sections, with winners selected by more than 37,800 post-screening votes cast throughout the festival's 11 days. Nearly 100,000 attendees engaged with roughly 525 screenings, industry sessions, talks, live shows, and events at this year's VIFF.

"The 45th annual festival was a historic milestone for VIFF," says Kyle Fostner, VIFF Executive Director."This landmark year saw the birth of our Institute for the Moving Image to support year-round talent development. We significantly expanded partnerships with international film agencies and doubled the scale and breadth of our dynamic, immersive VIFF Live program — all while staying true to our core values of being a festival that celebrates cinema's extraordinary power to create connection and community. Seeing the hundreds of happy filmmakers and thousands of passionate audiences pack out cinemas for 11 days, we feel profoundly embraced and inspired by Vancouver. We're so grateful to our many artists, volunteers, funders, and partners for helping us make our city a global destination for film and film culture."

VIFF AUDIENCE AWARDS

Galas & Special Presentations
***I Play Rocky*, dir. Peter Farrelly**

Showcase
***Ceremony*, dir. Banchi Hanuse**

Panorama
***Iron Boy*, dir. Louis Clichy**

Vanguard
***Ana, En Passant*, dir. Fernanda Salgado**

Northern Lights
***Smudge the Blades*, dir. Cody Lightning**

Insights
***Concrete Land*, dir. Asmahan Bkerat**

Spectrum
***Daughters of the Forest*, dir. Otilia Portillo Padua**

Portraits
***Tenor: My Name Is Pati*, dir. Rebecca Tansley**

Altered States
***Jim Queen*, dirs. Marco Nguyen, Nicolas Athané**

Focus on New German Cinema: Extreme Tension
***Prosecution*, dir. Faraz Shariat**

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

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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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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