



28TH ANNUAL

VANCOUVER
ASIAN FILM
FESTIVAL

NOV
7-17
2024

HUDSON
YANG

future voices: shaping the next generation of diversity in film and tv.

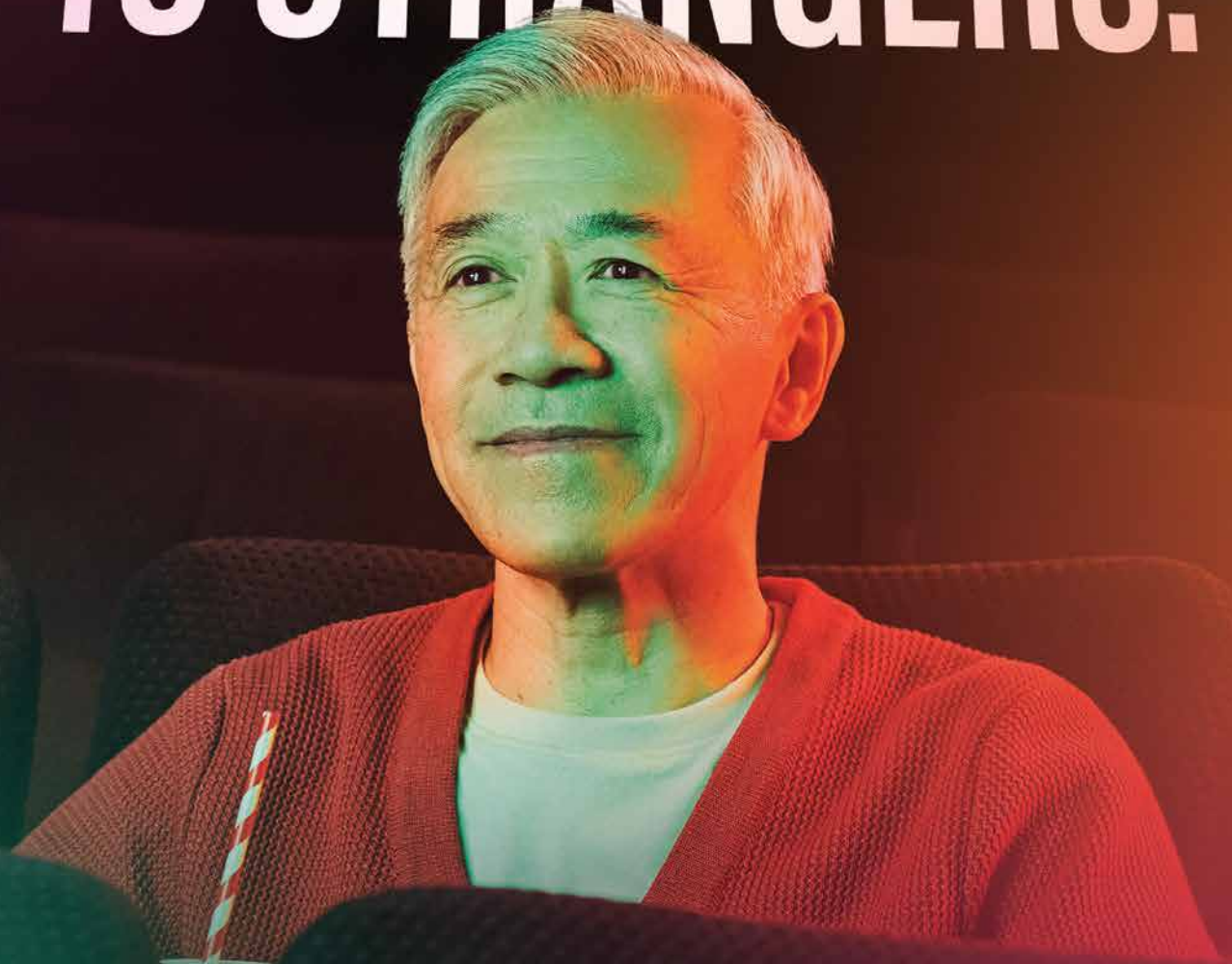
@vaffvancouver

VAFF.ORG

FUTURE Voices

PROGRAM GUIDE

**MOVIE MAGIC ISN'T
SPECIAL EFFECTS.
IT'S FEELING SOMETHING WITH
40 STRANGERS.**



TELEFILM PARTNER
C A N A D A OF CHOICE

FEEL AGAIN AT A
THEATRE NEAR YOU.



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities that have cared for Turtle Island since time immemorial. With this acknowledgment, we remind ourselves of discriminatory, racist, and colonial practices that have and continue to create barriers for Indigenous Peoples and Communities across this land.

DAILY SCHEDULE *IN-THEATRE*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

FEATURE FILMS

SHORT FILMS & WEB SERIES

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 7

Thursday

6:30 PM **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** **Extremely Unique Dynamic** | 67 min. **P. 24**
International Village
Opening Film

9:00 PM **SPECIAL EVENT** **VAFF Opening Night Party** **P. 64**
Slate, 3rd floor – 670 Smithe Street

November 8

Friday

4:00 PM **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** **Between Pictures: The Lens of Tamio Wakayama** | 70 min. **P. 24**
E8 Spotlight Film
International Village

7:15 PM **MISSIONS IMPOSSIBLE** **Operation: Stuplloyd** | 12 min. **P. 34**
WestCoast
Narrative Shorts
Astronaut | 12 min.
I Don't | 14 min.
The Official Guidebook to Lying | 12 min.
Three Ates and a Wedding | 19 min.
Anchor | 14 min.
International Village

9:00 PM **SPECIAL EVENT** **WestCoast Social Industry Party** **P. 64**
Browns Socialhouse, 675 Cambie Street

9:30 PM **COMEDY, COWBOYS, AND CURRY** **And Cut!** | 30 min. **P. 35**
Web Series Spotlight
Cinching Saddles | 8 min.
Not Your Butter Chicken | 23 min.
International Village

November 9

Saturday

<p>12:00 PM</p>	<p>DRAWING OUT THE LESSON Animated Shorts</p>	<p>Have I Swallowed Your Dreams 6 min. Amma (Hothouse) 2 min. How Do We Speak? 2 min. Luka and the Flower of the Sun 29 min. Bulbank 5 min. Ostinato 7 min. The Death of James 14 min. Entity 17 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 36</p>
<p>2:15 PM</p>	<p>SPECIAL PRESENTATION E8 Spotlight Film</p>	<p>DALE 9 min. Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement 55 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 25</p>
<p>4:00 PM</p>	<p>REALITY CHECK WestCoast Narrative Shorts</p>	<p>OBSCURA/옵스큐라 21 min. Chaturanga 8 min. Common Law 26 min. The Lost Salmon 14 min. IMPOSTER 15 min.</p>	<p>P. 38</p>
<p>6:30 PM</p>	<p>SPECIAL PRESENTATION Centrepiece Spotlight Film</p>	<p>Blue Sunshine 98 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 26</p>
<p>9:00 PM</p>	<p>THE MESS WE CALL FAMILY Canadian Shorts Narrative</p>	<p>Desync 12 min. Le Petit Panier à Roulettes (The Little Shopping Trolley) 18 min. Surviving Silence 7 min. Congratulations It's A Girl 8 min. Deadpan 5 min. Under the Kasaya 15 min. Finding Nathan Fielder 26 min. Breathe 12 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 40</p>
<p>9:00 PM</p>	<p>SPECIAL EVENT</p>	<p>Centrepiece After Party Glowbal Restaurant, 590 West Georgia Street</p>	<p>P. 64</p>

November 10

Sunday

<p>12:00 PM</p>	<p>LIFE CAN BE LAUGHABLE ... SOMETIMES US Short Narrative</p>	<p>Barely Breathing 20 min. Made in USA 15 min. Mom, Dad ... I Want to Be a Porn Star 17 min. MIKE 16 min. Hey Kiddo 8 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 42</p>
<p>2:15 PM</p>	<p>FACING INTERGENERATIONAL FEARS WestCoast Shorts Documentary</p>	<p>In Search of Mah Hang 23` min. Tsunagu 26 min. Little Miss Sleepy 23 min. Beyond the Salish 18 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 43</p>
<p>4:45 PM</p>	<p>EVERYTHING LIFE HAS TO THROW AT YOU US Short Narrative</p>	<p>With Love, Charlie. 15 min. DOSH 16 min. End of Summer 15 min. Seventeen 15 min. Lola 11 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 44</p>
<p>7:00 PM</p>	<p>FEATURE FILM WestCoast Feature Documentary</p>	<p>It Takes a Village: An East Van Story 79 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 30</p>
<p>9:15 PM</p>	<p>SPECIAL PRESENTATION E8 Spotlight Film</p>	<p>Let The Wind Blow 127 min. International Village</p>	<p>P. 26</p>

November 16

Saturday

<p>12:00 PM</p>	<p>FEATURE FILM International Narrative Feature</p>	<p>The Mimicry 83 min. Scotiabank Theatre</p>	<p>P. 30</p>
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2:00 PM — **THE SOMEONE FOR EVERYONE CAN BE UNEXPECTED**
 LGBTQ2S+ International
 Narrative Shorts

The Nape | 26 min. ————— **P. 46**
Diana | 15 min.
When the Summer Ends | 29 min.
BLUE BOY | 15 min.
Three | 15 min.
 Scotiabank Theatre

4:30 PM — **MAMM IT LIKE A POLAROID PICTURE**
 WestCoast
 Narrative Shorts

Lead Like You | 1 min. ————— **P. 47**
Tang Yuan | 10 min.
The Bouncer | 1 min.
Velvet Secrets | 10 min.
The Last Flight | 10 min.
SO-RI/소리 | 1 min.
Nai Nai: Need 4 Speed | 1 min.
Stand In | 10 min.
 Scotiabank Theatre

5:45 PM — **A BUFFET OF GLOBAL STORYTELLING**
 International
 Narrative Shorts

Love's Greeting | 27 min. ————— **P. 49**
Birthday Blowout | 18 min.
Juk | 14 min.
Tamagoyaki | 4 min.
Morlam | 15 min.
The Light That Painted You | 13 min.
Justice Bao | 13 min.
 Scotiabank Theatre

8:15 PM — **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
 Closing Film

Stealing Vows | 120 min. ————— **P. 27**
 Scotiabank Theatre

8:30 PM — **SPECIAL EVENT**

CanAsian Industry Party ————— **P. 64**
 Scotiabank Theatre Clubhouse, 4th floor – 900 Burrard Street

November 17 **Sunday**

6:00 PM — **OVASIAN AWARDS**

OVASIAN Awards & Closing Gala ————— **P. 65**
 Emily Carr Reliance Theatre, 577 Great Northern Way

November 11 – 17

FEATURE FILMS
Feature Documentary

Landscapes of Home | 55 min. **P. 54**
風吹布動 Stories of Pang Jai | 50 min.

**FROM
DREAMSCAPES TO
DISRUPTIONS TO
DISASSOCIATION**
Animation Shorts

Dream in the Water | 7 min. **P. 55**
Detours Ahead | 8 min.
Unblending (Hothouse) | 2 min.
Every Day Is a Good Day | 2 min.
So Be It | 5 min.
围绕这厨房桌子: Around the Kitchen Table | 18 min.
Embrace the Moon | 5 min.
In Vain | 6 min.
Pocket Princess | 10 min.
Coastal Community Centre's Fluffy Friend | 2 min.
Dragonfly | 14 min.
Detours Ahead | 8 min.

**LOVE, LIFE, AND
THE DEAD**
K-Films
Short Narrative

The Ghost Lullaby | 30 min. **P. 58**
Sally | 26 min.
Perfect Settlement | 18 min.
Great Legacy | 17 min.

**NAVIGATING
THE HUMAN
CONDITION**
International
Short Narrative

Heart-Ware | 33 min. **P. 59**
Nuzabar | 22 min.
Bright Moon Night | 20 min.

**REFLECTIONS
ON LIVED
EXPERIENCES**
International
Short Documentary

All Quiet on the Westlake | 15 min. **P. 60**
Asian Bitches Speak | 16 min.
Snack Sakura | 24 min.
The Last Mayor of Chinatown | 13 min.

**UNEXPECTED
OUTCOMES**
Canadian
Short Narrative

Dừa (Coconut) | 8 min. **P. 62**
Deep Blue | 12 min.
Lei | 12 min.
Fatal | 6 min.
It's Real to Me | 10 min.
Baby | 11 min.
Table for Three | 10 min.

LITTLE BIRD

TOKENS

YOUR STORY. YOUR TRUTH. OUR SUPPORT.



STREAMS FLOW
FROM A RIVER



PUSH

The Canada Media Fund is here to support bold, courageous voices across the audiovisual industry—from television and web series to documentaries, video games, IDM and immersive projects. Wherever there's a vision and a desire to shine a light, we're there to light the spark.



CANADA
MEDIA FUND

FONDS DES MÉDIAS
DU CANADA

cmf-fmc.ca

**28th
Annual
Vancouver
Asian Film
Festival**

ABOUT US

Since its founding in 1995 and debut in 1997, the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) has become a transformative force in Canada's cinematic landscape, championing the diversity of Asian stories within Canada and globally. As the country's longest-running Asian film festival, VAFF is more than an annual event – it is a cultural hub for creative voices that transcends boundaries and opens nuanced cultural dialogues. Each year, VAFF captivates thousands with its hybrid screenings, blending in-theatre and virtual experiences, while also fueling year-round conversations with its programming. Powered by a dedicated and passionate community of volunteers, sponsors, and donors, VAFF continues to push the envelope making space for new narratives and spotlighting underrepresented stories that reflect the complexity and richness of the Asian diaspora within a global context and a rapidly evolving entertainment landscape.

VISION

VAFF envisions a world where North American Asian talent, filmmakers, and creators have the resources and opportunities to shape mainstream culture in a powerful and positive way.

MISSION

VAFF is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the diversity and depth of Asian culture and identity in film and media, and to help North American Asian actors and filmmakers more authentically and more powerfully define and express themselves on screen. Through its annual film festival and many other programs and events hosted in Vancouver, VAFF's mission is to engage in, support, and amplify Asian presence in film and television.

VAFF FILM FUND



The VAFF Film Fund (VAFF²) was founded by VAFF Lifetime Patron Richard K. Wong to assist talented Asian Canadian filmmakers and television producers in creating projects that raise the profile of Asians in Canada.

The 2024/25 VAFF², established to address the challenges faced by Asian Canadians in the film industry, was made possible by Richard K. Wong's generous contribution of \$12,500 in 2021. VAFF aims to secure further donors and sponsors to increase the fund and thus the support of Asian creatives in Canada. To provide Asian Canadian filmmakers the opportunity to complete their works, VAFF will finance original, high-quality projects that satisfy the fund's criteria. VAFF's hope is that the funded projects will further support Asian Canadians as talented and notable filmmakers and actors.

Learn more at: vaff.org/vafffilmfund/

TEAM

Board of Directors

Barbara Lee, Founder and President
Clement Lau, Vice President
Edmond Ng, Treasurer
Andry Tanusdjaja, Member at Large
Alex Gray, Member at Large
Alex Leung, Member at Large
Jacqueline Lee, Member at Large
Jason Ding, Member at Large
Justin Park, Member at Large

Executives

Kei Baritugo, Festival Director (Interim)
Regina Leung, VAFF Industry and Managing Director
Lynne Lee, MAMM Director/Producer
Audrey Wong, Executive Director – EliminateHate

Programmers

Sidartha Murjani, Programming Director, Feature Films
William Lau, Programming Director, Short Films
Susan Hanson, Festival Consultant
Andreea Jurj, Programming Coordinator and
Festival Assistant
Henry Fieglar, Programming Coordinator

Programming Advisors

Natalie Murao
Debbie Y.J. Lin
Rosie Hsueh
Helen Liu
Anthony Lee
Kathy Leung

General Programmers and Film Liaisons

Kevin Feng
Hiromu Yamawaki
Jimmy Lo
Sijing Yang
Faly Mevamanana
Zainab Fatima
Arisa Nagayama
Candyce Xu
Shan Yam
Yilin Wang

Mao Lee-Tzu
Shuyi Yang
David Avelino
Rj. Teresa
Trevor Lim
Kathy Lam
Arisa Nagayama

Operations

Louis Poulain, Operations Director
Vincent Gan, Box Office Director
Colin Hong, Print Traffic Manager
Keyur Soyantar, Volunteer Co-Manager
Linda Shaji, Volunteer Co-Manager
Josephine Ryu, Volunteer Co-Manager
Daniil Kolesnyk, Volunteer Co-Manager
Jess Vaira, Events Coordinator
Khanh Nguyen, Events Coordinator
Anqi Ye, Events Coordinator

Marketing

Irene Chan, Marketing Director
Lana Yip, Website Director
Karli Li, Marketing Manager
Althea Alabat, Marketing Manager
Hyang Gi Lee, Marketing Coordinator
Andrew Poon, Publicist

Social Media

Roisin Abbott
Jessie Cheng
Siu (Oliver) Lee
Vyankatesh Chavan

Creative

Panda Studios
Alisha Weng
Vika Zheng
Angela Cheung
Veronika Kotyk
Giulia Guerescu
Jen Pearson
Jessica Ruiz

Copywriting

Melanie Kage
Angela Leung
Jared Yu
Gurleen Bajwa
Justin Bala

Website

Ray Ho
Hattie Xu
Kate Kang

Community Outreach

JuYoung Kim

Sponsorships

Amy Venhuizen, Co-Sponsorships Director
Cristina Low, Co-Sponsorships Director
Drew "G-Luve" Archer, Consultant
Josh Santos, Sponsorships Coordinator

VAFF Industry Program Team

Amy Tsai
Cindy Au Yeung
Aarav Kataria
Robbie Grace Tee

Special Thanks

Cindy Shi
Chef William Lew
Jax Hsu
Jen Pearson
Jheric Hizon
Jolie Chan
Mike Lai



**RBC supports
emerging
filmmakers
and their ideas.**



TICKETING & SCREENING PROTOCOLS

IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS – MULTIPASS

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
Premier Festival Pass	\$350

Includes In-Theatre access and e-passes to all In-Theatre Screenings, Virtual Screenings, VAFF Industry Insight Series, and all Special Events

In-Theatre Screening All Access Pass	\$200
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Includes access to all In-Theatre Screenings from November 7 to 10 and November 16, 2024

6-Pack In-Theatre Screening Pass	\$75
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IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS – SINGLE TICKETS

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
Single Special Presentation Screening	\$20

Base ticket per special presentation film/program

Single General Program Screening	\$15
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Base ticket per general film/program

Special Rate	\$12
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For students, youth, and seniors

Accessible	\$7
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Limited tickets for sale

VAFF INDUSTRY INSIGHT SERIES

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
All-Inclusive Pass	\$80

Live In-Theatre Industry Insight Series Sessions November 9, 10, and 16, 2024 at Vancouver Film School and Scotiabank Theatre

Live Virtual Industry Insight Series Sessions November 12 to 14, 2024

Single Ticket	\$12
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VAFF VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Only for viewers in Canada

Ticket Type	Price
Virtual All Access E-Pass	\$50

Available for viewing from November 11 to 17, 2024

Virtual Individual Program	\$12
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Base e-ticket per film/program

MEMBERSHIP NOTE: Under BC law, members of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival must be 18 years of age or above as a number of entries have not been previously classed by Consumer Protection BC. VAFF Memberships are non-transferrable and membership fee is included in all in-theatre programs. Members are required to show their passes and tickets during the festival.

POLICIES

- Ticket sales for In-Theatre Screenings will close daily at 10:00 am. You may purchase tickets at the Box Office if any are available.
 - NO REFUNDS and EXCHANGES
 - The surcharge fee is charged by the ticketing system, not VAFF
 - All details subject to change without notice
 - Please check our website at vaff.org for the latest updates
 - For more information, please email boxoffice@vaff.org
-

IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS

- 30 minutes before screening: Pass Holders enter the theatre
 - 15 minutes before screening: Ticket Holders enter the theatre
 - 10 minutes before screening: If available, Rush Tickets will be released for sale on a first-come, first-served basis to guests in the Rush Line once all Pass Holders and Ticket Holders have been seated in the theatre
-

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

- All Virtual Passes and individual e-tickets are available to purchase at vaff.org
- The Virtual Program is available for online viewing from November 11 to 17, 2024
- Select the films or programs that you wish to purchase in the vaff.org Film page
- If you purchased an e-pass, you still need to login to your account and click on the Fulfill Pass option
- If you purchased a Virtual Pass or e-ticket, the virtual access link will arrive to your email within 5 minutes of purchase
- Once you press play, you will have 24 hours to finish watching the film
- Only available to viewers located in Canada

VENUES

VANCOUVER LOCATIONS

1. Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas

3rd floor – 88 West Pender Street
• In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 7–10)

2. Slate

670 Smithe Street
• Opening Party (Nov. 7)

3. Browns Socialhouse at QE

675 Cambie Street
WestCoast Industry Social (Nov. 8)

4. Vancouver Film School, School of Animation

151 West Cordova Street
• VAFF Industry Insight Series – VI² (Nov. 9–10)

5. Glowbal Restaurant

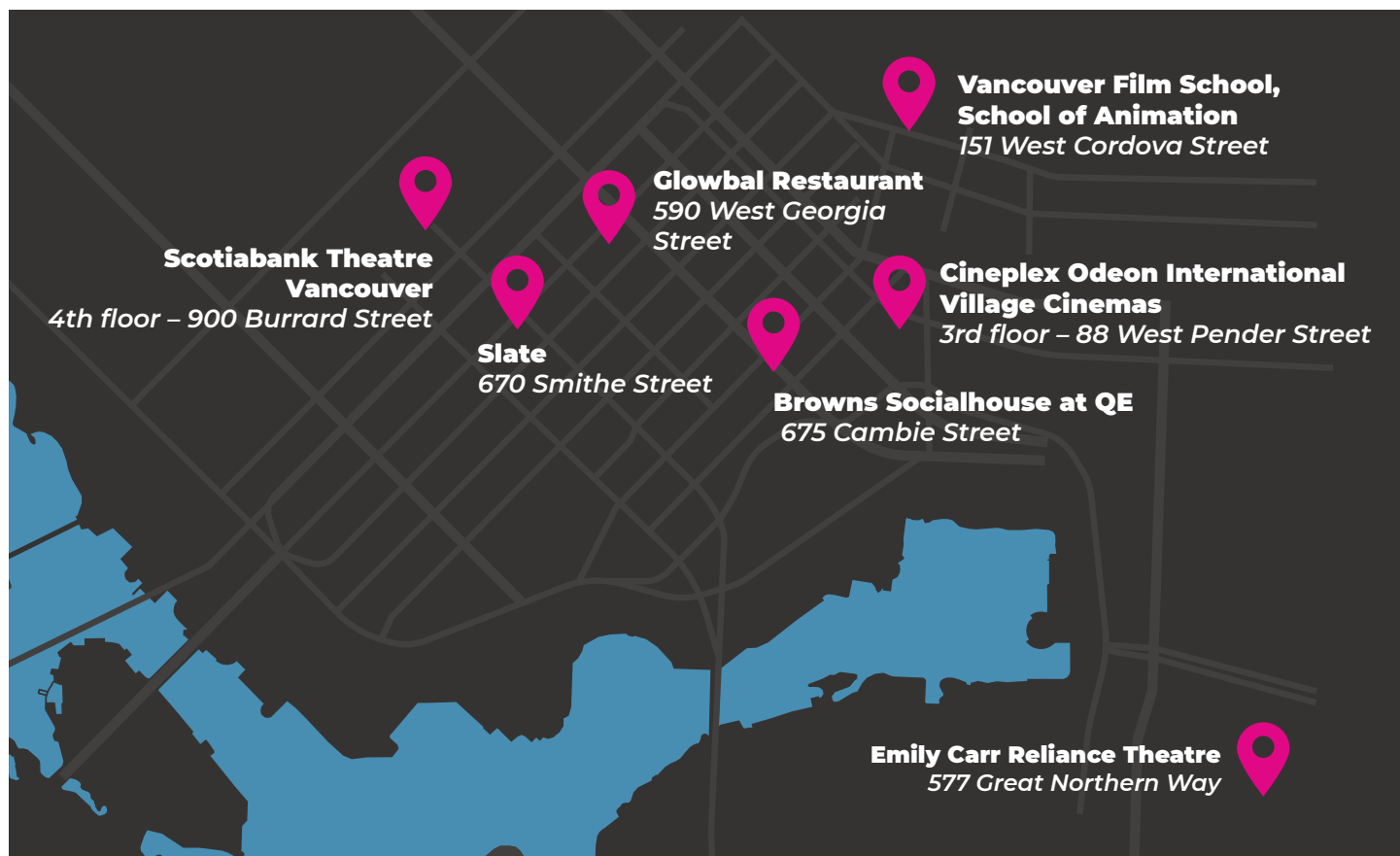
590 West Georgia Street
• Centrepiece After Party (Nov. 9)

6. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver

4th floor – 900 Burrard Street
• In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 16 only)
• VAFF Industry Insight Series – VI² (Nov. 16)
• CanAsian Party (Nov. 16)

7. Emily Carr Reliance Theatre

577 Great Northern Way
• OVASIAN Awards (Closing Night Gala, Nov. 17)



ACCESSIBILITY

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Accessibility information is available at vaff.org
- All our venues are wheelchair accessible
- Guests are encouraged to support a scent-reduced environment
- Health and Safety Protocols are subject to each venue's restriction

SPECIAL EVENTS & THE OVASIAN AWARDS

- Accessibility information is listed for each special event
- English subtitles will be provided for foreign language films, short of unforeseen technical difficulties
- Live ASL interpretation or closed captioning can be provided if requested at info@vaff.org
- cineplex.com/theatres/accessibility



VAFF INDUSTRY INSIGHT (VI²) SERIES EMPOWERING FUTURE VOICES THROUGH CREATIVITY



The series will be geared toward providing insight and insider perspectives for aspiring and current filmmakers of diverse backgrounds, and those in the industry who aim to work with diverse representation both in front of and behind the camera.

Our topics include WestCoast Directors Chats, fireside chat with Hudson Yang, music composing workshop with Chan's Brother, Level up Producing for Film and TV, and Shōgun Showdown case study talks plus two industry networking events.

Nov. 9–10 | 11:00 am–3:00 pm

Vancouver Film School, School of Animation
151 West Cordova Street

Nov. 12–15 | Virtual Program

Nov. 16 | 11:00 am–6:00 pm

Scotiabank Theatre Clubhouse
4th floor – 900 Burrard Street

LEARN MORE:



WELCOME LETTERS



A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Welcome to the 28th edition of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF), Canada's longest-running Asian film festival and the largest racialized festival in Western Canada where we gather to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of Asian diaspora storytelling, shining a spotlight on the stories often left in the shadows of mainstream cinema.

This year's festival begins with yet another historic moment in entertainment history with FX's *Shōgun* winning 18 Emmys, the most for any television series in a single year and the first non-English-language show to win best drama. However, to reach these heights, diverse talent must be nurtured, incubated, and mentored to reach their full potential which makes VAFF's unwavering commitment to provide these opportunities to our creative community more important than ever.

As reinvention and growth is necessary to ensure the world of cinema and the stories we tell evolve, so too must organizations. Therefore, please join me in welcoming Kei Baritugo as our Festival Director (Interim) as she brings her bold artistic visions to VAFF. To everyone who has made this festival possible—our Board, Executives, volunteers, audiences and the incredible filmmakers—thank you for your passion and dedication.

If VAFF's mission resonates with you, we invite you to join us, whether as a supporter, volunteer, or new Board member. Together, let's continue to shape a vibrant cultural landscape that uplifts Asian Canadian stories and creators.

See you at the festival!

Barbara Lee (she/her)
Founder and President

A MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Films transcend borders, foster understanding, and spark vital conversations. Each film in this year's program represents the lived experiences, dreams, and challenges of our diverse community. As we navigate through a world that often feels divided, VAFF serves as a reminder that through our shared experiences, we can build bridges and celebrate the beauty in our differences.

To our filmmakers, thank you for your courage and creativity, for daring to tell stories that challenge, inspire, and unite us. To our industry colleagues and partners, your support ensures that these voices are

heard, and your commitment to the arts empowers us to keep pushing boundaries. And to our audiences and volunteers, both loyal and new, you are the heartbeat of this festival, and your presence amplifies the power of these stories.

It is my absolute honor to welcome you to the 28th annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival! Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Kei Baritugo (she/her)
Festival Director (Interim)

SPECIAL GREETINGS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

It is with great honour that I send my warmest greetings for the 28th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival.

In Canada, where our diversity is our greatest strength, the contributions that Asian Canadians have made – and continue to make every day – to our beloved country, are truly invaluable. Canadian film content has many voices and a unique voice, in the global industry. It represents our great diversity, and the strength through which we realize that different cultures, perspectives, and ways of life, enrich our society and our understanding of the world. Canadians are deeply proud of its ability to foster inclusivity, and to create positive action. The spirit of this event, which highlights Canada's many distinct voices and builds unity, makes our country stronger, and it is worthy of the utmost praise.

It is my great honour to also recognize the talented filmmakers, directors, and performers, that are being highlighted in this festival. You inspire us with your great talents, creativity, and depth, and the story, its messages, and the work that you are sharing with us, leaves an indelible impact on us.

Please accept my very best wishes for an excellent film festival.

The Rt.Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF VANCOUVER

On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 28th Anniversary of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF).

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival is a not-for-profit organization that provides a cultural bridge between the Asian and non-Asian communities. The festival will highlight the unique and creative film talents of emerging and established Asian Canadian and Asian American writers, producers, and directors by providing a venue to showcase their works.

As a city with deep roots in the film and TV industry, VAFF is an important event that brings together international and local industry professionals, strengthening Vancouver as a destination for film and TV production in North America.

Thank you and congratulations to the filmmakers, artists, organizers, and volunteers for another successful year of VAFF!

Sincerely,
Mayor Ken Sim
Mayor of Vancouver

A MESSAGE FROM PREM GILL, CEO, CREATIVE BC

On behalf of Creative BC, we are thrilled to celebrate 28 years of VAFF, Canada's longest-running Asian film festival. VAFF is more than just a platform for films—it's a champion for Asian communities and creatives, and we are incredibly proud to support it year after year.

At Creative BC, we work to elevate the diverse and vibrant creative industries through leadership, collaboration, and investment. VAFF exemplifies these values. Its strategic vision amplifies the voices of local Asian storytellers and opens doors for talent both in front of and behind the camera.

We're especially pleased to fund VAFF's Industry Insight Series this year, an initiative that plays a key role in fostering growth and career development for Asian creatives. Programs like these build pathways for talent to thrive and make meaningful contributions to the industry.

We also want to commend VAFF's steadfast commitment to anti-racism and inclusion. Representation within the creative sector isn't just a priority—it's vital for the industry's sustainability and future success, and it's a core value we share.

To the VAFF team and its dedicated volunteers, thank you for your passion and hard work in creating a space that uplifts and advocates for Asian creatives. We're excited to be part of this year's festival and to celebrate the richness of Asian culture and identity in film and media.

Sincerely,
Prem Gill
CEO Creative BC

Sponsored by



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

British Columbia's Creative Industry Catalyst

creativebc.com | [@creativebcs](https://twitter.com/creativebcs)

Spe
Pre
tati

Official

Season

2015



Nov. 7, Thursday | 6:30 pm

International Village

OPENING FILM

Extremely Unique Dynamic

**Dirs. Harrison Xu, Ivan Leung,
Katherine Dudas | Canada/USA | 67 min.
Narrative Feature**

Extremely Unique Dynamic tells the story of two best friends testing the limits of their friendship while making a triple-meta movie during their final weekend together.

About the Filmmakers

Harrison Xu and Ivan Leung are an extremely unique directing, writing, producing, and acting duo. Together, they have guest-starred in dozens of network shows and are excited to be making their feature filmmaking debut with *Extremely Unique Dynamic*.



Nov. 8, Friday | 4:00 pm

International Village

ELIMIN8HATE SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Between Pictures: The Lens of Tamio Wakayama

**Dir. Cindy Mochizuki | Canada | 71 min.
WestCoast Documentary Feature**

A filmic journey about a Japanese-Canadian photographer who joins the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the American civil rights movement that transforms him enough to return “home” to the West Coast of Canada to begin a body of photographic work on the annual Powell Street Festival.

About the Filmmaker

Cindy Mochizuki creates multimedia installations, animation, performance, public art works, and community-engaged projects. She has exhibited her work in Canada, the US, Australia, and Japan. She received the Vancouver’s Mayor’s Arts Award in New Media and Film and the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts’ VIVA Award.



Nov. 9, Saturday | 2:15 pm
International Village

E8 SPOTLIGHT FILMS

DALE

Dir. Justin Streichman | USA | 9 min.
Short Narrative | Western Canadian Premiere

In a field dominated by white men, Dale Hikawa was the first Asian woman to join the Los Angeles Philharmonic, becoming acting principal of the viola section, paving new roads as a Japanese-American musician. Looking back on her career, this trailblazing violist reflects on the meaning of her life's work.



Nov. 9, Saturday | 2:15 pm
International Village

E8 SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement

Dirs. Tadashi Nakamura, Quyên Nguyen Le
USA | 60 min. | Documentary Feature
Canadian Premiere

After decades of cultural work uniting communities and setting the bar for Asian-American storytelling, Miyamoto reflects on a life that bridged coasts, industries, families, and history. Featuring rare archival footage, *Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement* is a community story told through the life of one of its beloved storytellers.

About the Filmmakers

Tadashi Nakamura is an Emmy-award winning filmmaker, Director of the Watase Media Arts Center, and has over 20 years of filmmaking experience. Quyên Nguyen-Le is a queer Vietnamese filmmaker born to refugee parents where Chumash and Tongva lands meet. Their work focuses on how histories are felt in everyday life.



Nov. 10, Sunday | 9:15 pm
International Village

E8 SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Let the Wind Blow

Dir. Tsuyoshi Yanagawa | Japan | 127 min.
Narrative Feature | World Premiere

Ito Noe was a women's rights activist in early 20th century Japan. Her writing challenged the marriage system and social inequality. She was uninhibited in her life and autobiographical writing until she was killed by police in 1923. Her resolute opposition to social and gender discrimination reverberates still today.

About the Filmmaker

Tsuyoshi Yanagawa was born in 1964 and joined NHK in 1988. He worked as a director or assistant director on television drama sets. His most notable works include *Kitaro ga Mita Gyokusai: Mizuki Shigeru no Senso*, *The Last War Criminal*, *Hanako to Anne*, *Eien no Nishipa*, *Ryukokanbo*, and *Yasashii Neko*.



Nov. 9, Saturday | 6:30 pm
International Village

CENTREPIECE SPOTLIGHT FILM

Blue Sunshine

Dir. Samyuktha Vijayan | India | 98 min.
Narrative Feature | Canadian Premiere

Aravind, a high school teacher in South India, wants to transition from male to female. Aravind's parents do not know that Aravind is transitioning and force a marriage upon him. Aravind starts to live as a woman named Bhanu and deals with post-transition issues.

About the Filmmaker

Samyuktha Vijayan is a dancer and techie who also happens to be a transgender woman. *Blue Sunshine* is her debut movie, in which she also plays the lead role. She is currently based out of San Francisco.



Nov. 16, Saturday | 8:15 pm

Scotiabank Theatre

CLOSING FILM

Stealing Vows

**Dir. Bobby Singh Brown | Canada | 120 min.
Narrative Feature | BC Premiere**

Set in the heart of the South Asian wedding industry in the 90s, four disgruntled wedding vendors (an emcee, a photographer, a decorator and a caterer) embark on an immoral yet clever heist spree by robbing their wealthy clients' homes, during the wedding receptions, in hopes of buying their own happily ever afters.

About the Filmmaker

Bobby Singh Brown, a Toronto-based filmmaker, grew up a Hollywood kid in a Bollywood home. After a decade as a DJ and music producer, he spent over 20 years creating award-winning documentaries, shorts, music videos, and commercials. *Stealing Vows* marks his debut in full-length features.

WestCoast Tales Program

Exploring the Local Asian Canadian Experience

As an organization, VAFF is dedicated to elevating the voices of local independent Asian Canadian filmmakers. In an effort to continuously fulfill this mission, WestCoast Tales was created – a special program showcasing local cultural diversity and cinematic brilliance.

WestCoast Tales is an expedition into Asian Canadian storytelling. The program includes festival entry screenings followed by Q&A sessions with filmmakers and panel discussions to provide a deep dive into their work. Designed to deepen the connection between the filmmakers and their audiences, these events are held in a dedicated space called the WestCoast Lounge.

WestCoast Tales, along with the rest of the 2024 Vancouver Asian Film Festival, is made possible by the generous support of Canadian Heritage, the filmmakers, volunteers, partners, and VAFF members. Together, they enable VAFF to foster greater understanding and visibility of Asian Canadian experiences through cinema.

WestCoast Tales Documentary Program

Nov. 8 | 4:00 pm

Between Pictures: The Lens of Tamio Wakayama

Nov. 10 | 7:00 pm

It Takes a Village: An East Van Story

WestCoast Tales Narrative Shorts Program

Nov. 8 | 7:15 pm

Missions Impossible

Nov. 9 | 4:00 pm

Reality Check

Nov 16 | 4:30 pm

MAMM It Like a Polaroid Picture

WestCoast Tales Short Documentary Program

Nov. 10 | 2:15 pm

Facing Intergenerational Fears

VAFF Industry Insights Series

Nov 9 | 11:00 am

WestCoast Directors Chat

Feat
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Nov. 10, Thursday | 7:00 pm
International Village

WESTCOAST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

It Takes a Village: An East Van Story

Dir. Christopher Cho | Canada | 82 min.
Feature Documentary | Vancouver Premiere

It Takes a Village is a documentary about the strong sense of community in East Vancouver. It shares immigrant stories and the role of basketball coaches in helping newcomers. The film shows how mentorship, sports, and cultural exchanges bring people together, making the community more resilient and inclusive.

About the Filmmaker

Christopher Cho is a filmmaker who's worked on a mix of media, corporate, and narrative projects. He got into filmmaking because he sees stories everywhere, and making videos is his outlet. Lately, he's done projects for Amazon, Motorola, and more. Right now, he's working on short films and a documentary.



Nov. 16, Saturday | 12:00 pm
Scotiabank Theatre

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE NARRATIVE

The Mimicry

Dir. Yu-Lin Chung | Taiwan | 83 min.

This film is an adaptation of a short story by Kao Yi-feng and follows Vitamin, a green scarab beetle who has transformed into human form. Vitamin enters people's apartments and observes and imitates human behaviour. Through Vitamin's perspective, the audience gets to explore the unknown stories of various residents.

About the Filmmaker

Yu-lin Chung graduated from the Department of Film at Shih Hsin University, and received an MA in Filmmaking by the London Film School. His first film, a short film titled *The Angler*, was selected for screening at Taipei Film Festival in 2019.

Shaping the Industry One Story at a Time

We proudly support VAFF in their mission to promote and celebrate the diversity and depth of Asian culture. Congratulations to all those selected for this year's edition.



Short

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Nov. 8, Friday | 7:15 pm

International Village

WESTCOAST NARRATIVE SHORTS

MISSIONS IMPOSSIBLE



Operation: Stuplloyd

Dir. Vincenté Kabo Baker | Canada | 12 min.
Vancouver Premiere

To defeat Stuplloyd, the evil stepfather, Jaz joins forces with her friends to execute her meticulously planned mission ... only to be thwarted at every turn.



Astronaut

Dir. Kevin Cheng | Canada | 12 min.
BC Premiere

A young Chinese-Canadian boy is visited by his absent father who builds him a spaceship out of cardboard and launches him on a fantastical mission to connect with the neighbourhood kids.



I Don't

Dir. Aubrey Arnason | Canada | 14 min.
Canadian Premiere

Marty Langston, a sour wedding photographer, learns to look at the subject of love from a different angle with the help of her best friend Max.



The Official Guidebook to Lying

Dir. Corinne Langmuir | Canada | 11 min.
BC Premiere

A lifetime of abusing his natural talent for making up stories has led a serial liar to quit his deceiving ways forever. As a final hurrah, he shares an epic 11-minute masterclass on how to execute the perfect lie.



Three Ates and a Wedding

Dir. Kevin Ang | Canada | 17 min.
World Premiere

Three Filipino-Canadian sisters try to make it through their younger brother's chaotic wedding. When one of them steals a family heirloom, they must put it back without their overbearing mother noticing.



Anchor

Dir. Gilbert Onggara | Canada | 14 min.
World Premiere

Kelly and Sean, both working parents, are forced to reexamine their relationship and priorities when a tragic furniture tip-over accident suddenly hospitalizes their three-year-old son.

Nov. 8, Friday | 9:30 pm

International Village

WEB SERIES SPOTLIGHT

COMEDY, COWBOYS, AND CURRY



And Cut!

Dir. Arjun Chatterjee | India | 30 min.
Vancouver Premiere

A tiny film production house in the heart of Bollywood navigates everyday challenges while struggling under the leadership of an excitable, eccentric director, and a sharp-tongued, openly queer producer. All while being filmed by a documentary crew.



Cinching Saddles

Dirs. Kevin Sengara, Aman Pannu | Canada | 8 min.

In the mockumentary *Cinching Saddles*, we follow the wild journey of Calvinder, aka Cinch, who adopts a fake Texas accent. The series captures Cinch's comedic attempts to fit into a ranch's cowboy culture.



Not Your Butter Chicken

Dir. Priyanka Desai | Canada | 22 min.

Not Your Butter Chicken is a four-part docuseries celebrating the untold stories of South Asians in Western Canada through the eyes of food and wine expert Shiva Reddy.

Nov. 9, Saturday | 12:00 pm

International Village

ANIMATED SHORTS

DRAWING OUT THE LESSON



Have I Swallowed Your Dreams

Dir. Clara Chan | Canada | 6 min.

A reflective, poetic afternoon tea conversation between an immigrant daughter, Amy, and her mother about all the sacrifices she made and the dreams she gave up.



Amma

Dir. Akash Jones | Canada | 2 min.

Having fun with comic book motifs and plasticine, Akash Jones honours the no-nonsense second-generation immigrant mother who raised him, instilling habits that guide him to this day.



How Do We Speak?

Dir. Julianne Li | Canada | 2 min.
Vancouver Premiere

A young child quickly loses her ability to speak her native language when she starts school in North America, but discovers there's more to communicating than just words.



Luka and the Flower of the Sun

Dir. Tomoyasu Murata | Japan | 29 min.
North American Premiere

A story depicting the bond between childhood friends Luka, a musician, and Rosa, a girl with the power of the sun, set in a village beset by icy cold temperatures caused by immovable clouds.



Bulbank

Dirs. Mengyuan Guo (Cherry), Naicheng Liu,
Vicky Zi Wang | USA | 5 min. | World Premiere

Star employee Carl is determined to save his career when a new state-of-the-art robot begins to outshine him with its efficiency in a battle between Man and Machine.



Ostinato

Dir. Sonia Furier | Canada | 7 min.

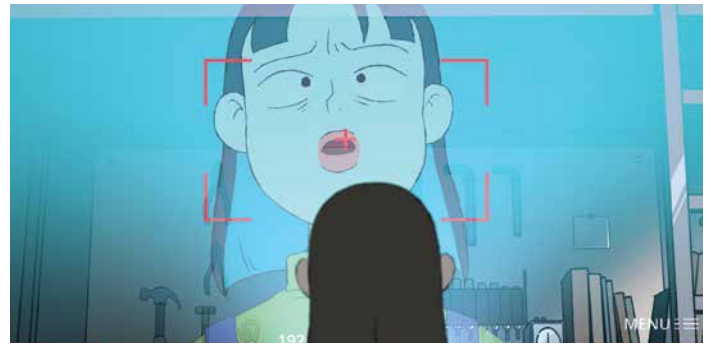
Composer Nuha is confused and infuriated by a mysterious tone imposing itself on her work. But as her anger won't banish it, she'll try working with the tone instead.



The Death of James

Dir. Sam Chou | Canada | 13 min.
For Mature Audiences

Two young friends grapple with mortality when faced with the impending loss of their beloved pet ferret. This film offers an unflinching look at mortality, loss, and euthanasia, as they navigate these challenges for the first time.



Entity

Dir. Hui-bin Chung | South Korea | 17 min.
Canadian Premiere | For Mature Audiences

After making eye contact with the murderer next door, Kim Young challenges and breaks the final societal taboos in the metaverse of 2050 Seoul to survive.

Nov. 9, Saturday | 4:00 pm

International Village

WESTCOAST NARRATIVE SHORTS

REALITY CHECK



OBSCURA/옵스큐라

Dir. Arnold Lim | Canada | 20 min.
World Premiere

Sang-Ook, a hikikomori (shut-in) who has locked himself in his room for a year, builds a camera obscura from his room as a conduit to the outside world.



Chaturanga

Dir. Sidartha Murjani | Canada | 8 min.
World Premiere

In a future where AI and human consciousness intersect, a young girl must unlock her late father's final message by beating a humanoid AI in a game of chess, learning life lessons along the way.



Common Law

**Dir. Kagan Goh | Canada | 26 min.
World Premiere**

A new bipolar diagnosis puts tremendous strain on a young man's relationship within his Chinese-Canadian family, dramatically challenging his belief that love is always enough.



The Lost Salmon

**Dir. Amir Arab | Canada | 15 min.
Western Canadian Premiere**

After his sister's death in Iran, Ali, a student in Vancouver, must return home to support his mother. Struggling to find funds for the journey, he risks losing his family and future if he doesn't make it back in time.



IMPOSTER

**Dir. Rafael Millán | Canada | 15 min.
Vancouver Premiere**

Isaac Maffoud, a psychiatrist, confronts patient Frederick's dangerous delusion, testing his notion of reality. As Frederick becomes violent, Isaac saves the boy, at the cost of his reality becoming forever tarnished.

Nov. 9, Saturday | 9:00 pm

International Village

CANADIAN SHORT NARRATIVE

THE MESS WE CALL FAMILY



Desync

Dir. Minerva Navasca | Canada | 12 min.
BC Premiere

Ana, a young Filipina filmmaker attempts to overwrite a painful memory of her mother with a perfect narrative. Ana rewrites every painful exchange into a perfect one.



Le Petit Panier à Roulettes (The Little Shopping Trolley)

Dir. Laurence Ly | Canada | 18 min.
Western Canadian Premiere

Living on a shoestring in Montreal, a Vietnamese mother must act in bad faith to assert her right to buy 12 discount laundry detergents that she's been refused at a grocery store.



Surviving Silence

Dir. Ian Simon | Canada | 6 min.
Vancouver Premiere

Surviving Silence is a short film that explores the link between depression and movement. It finds the intersection of one's own painful hope – a journey into joyful thriving – and an invaluable tool of perseverance: dance.



Congratulations It's A Girl

Dir. Han Liu | Canada/China | 8 min.
Western Canadian Premiere

In 1990, during China's strict One Child policy, Hong, a young mother must prevent her own family from swapping her newborn daughter for a boy.



Deadpan

**Dir. Aidan Cheeatow | Canada | 4 min.
Western Canadian Premiere**

A family bids farewell to their beloved dog. A veterinarian named Alison arrives at her client's house to euthanize their family dog, but an unexpected glitch in the routine procedure leaves everyone confused and in tears.



Under the Kasaya

**Dir. Jennifer Fan Jiang | Canada | 15 min.
Canadian Premiere**

After an unexpected interaction with her Buddhist mentor, 14-year-old Jean faces a terrifying dilemma: to stay silent or to risk it all by confessing the ugly truth to her deeply devout Buddhist mother.



Finding Nathan Fielder (With Jen Zhao)

**Dir. Jen Zhao | Canada | 27 min.
BC Premiere**

With her dreams and visa on the line, an unsuccessful but determined Canadian filmmaker sets out on a quest to find her idol, Nathan Fielder, believing he holds the key to her salvation.



Breathe

**Dir. Andrew Chiu | Canada | 12 min.
Western Canadian Premiere**

Myla, a defecting soldier is faced with caring for an orphan girl she encounters as they try to escape the dictatorship in their country together.

Nov. 10, Sunday | 12:00 pm

International Village

US SHORT NARRATIVE

LIFE CAN BE LAUGHABLE ... SOMETIMES



Barely Breathing

Dir. Derek Evans | USA | 20 min.
Western Canadian Premiere

After an awkward masturbation accident, Sai is guilted into moving back in with his father, forcing them to bridge the chasm left by the death of Sai's mother years prior.



Made in USA

Dir. Desdemona Chiang | USA | 15 min.
Canadian Premiere

After getting abruptly fired from her job of over 20 years, a dutiful Chinese-American casino host turns her home into a birth hotel to regain control of her life.



Mom, Dad ... I Want to Be a Porn Star

Dirs. Matthew Goriachkovsky, Corey Cao Nguyen
USA | 17 min. | Canadian Premiere

On Thanksgiving, perfect daughter Mary returns from college and tells her Vietnamese Catholic family about her secret dream: to become a porn star. Is Thanksgiving ruined?



MIKE

Dir. Duc Anh Nguyen | USA | 16 min.
Canadian Premiere

On his first day of school, a Vietnamese exchange student is determined to make friends at an all-white Christian high school in South Dakota, USA.



Hey Kiddo

Dir. Melissa Kong | USA | 8 min.
Canadian Premiere

It's the 2000s, when Margot stumbles upon a VHS video tape that her dying mother has left behind for her, and she discovers something truly unexpected.

Nov. 10, Sunday | 2:15 pm

International Village

WESTCOAST SHORTS DOCUMENTARY

FACING INTERGENERATIONAL FEARS



In Search of Mah Hang

Dir. Victoria So | Canada | 24 min.
World Premiere

During the Great Depression in 1931, a young Chinese-Canadian woman bravely goes to battle against the powerful, male-dominated Wong Clan Association to save herself and her children.



Tsunagu

Dir. Lucy Komori | Canada | 26 min.
World Premiere

Tsunagu explores family stories, values, and traditions passed from one generation to next amongst Canadians of Japanese descent. Many families have not shared these experiences with their children and grandchildren.



Little Miss Sleepy

**Dir. Jenny Lee-Gilmore | Canada | 23 min.
World Premiere**

A filmmaker explores her journey of being diagnosed with narcolepsy at age 21 and documents her participation in a scientific research study to help raise awareness for the condition that currently has no known cure.



Beyond the Salish

**Dirs. Richard Chen, William Chong
Canada | 17 min. | World Premiere**

Two kayakers take on a once-in-a-lifetime journey along the Pacific coast of Vancouver Island, paddling into relentless waves, unpredictable weather, and the uncharted depths of their fears.

Nov. 10, Sunday | 4:45 pm

International Village

US SHORT NARRATIVE

EVERYTHING LIFE HAS TO THROW AT YOU



With Love, Charlie.

**Dir. Jaren Hayman | Canada/USA | 16 min.
Canadian Premiere**

An American and Korean soldier are forced to leave their pregnant wives to serve during the Korean War, the destinies of their four lives becoming forever intertwined.



DOSH

Dir. Radha Mehta | USA | 16 min.

When her son's life is put at risk at their family's pre-wedding ritual, a hard-of-hearing mother must decide how to seek help for her husband in order to keep her family safe.



End of Summer

Dir. Weiqi Cai | USA | 15 min.
North American Premiere

This story is about a boy whose grandmother has died. When the boy can see her ghost while preparing for the funeral with his mother, he fears that his grandmother's spirit will disappear at the end of the funeral ceremony.



Seventeen

Dir. Geqi Li | USA/China | 15 min.
Western Canadian Premiere

A Chinese American teenage girl, Jasmine (17), gets pregnant and wants to keep the baby, while her porn star mother, Yan (35), insists on an abortion.



Lola

Dir. Grace Hanna | USA | 11 min.
Canadian Premiere

Tessie, a 13-year-old science prodigy journeys on a mission into her grandma Lola's deteriorating dementia mind with a machine to save one precious memory they have together.

Nov. 16, Saturday | 2:00 pm

Scotiabank Theatre

LGBTQ2S+ INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE SHORTS

THE SOMEONE FOR EVERYONE CAN BE UNEXPECTED



The Nape

Dir. Yura Kim | South Korea | 25 min.
Canadian Premiere

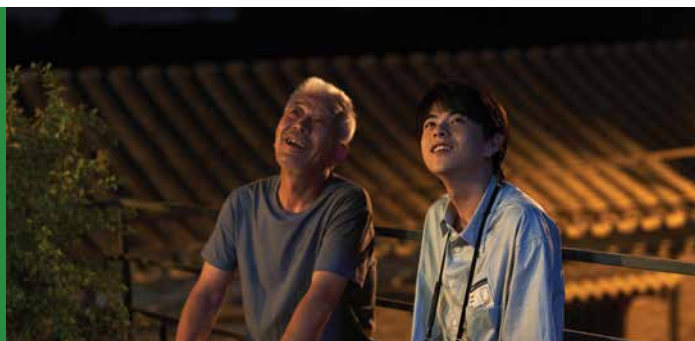
Da-ye quits her job as a teacher and returns to her hometown. She begins to help her mother, when she comes across a student who is two months behind in his payments.



Diana

Dir. Luo-Bing Pan | USA | 15 min.
Western Canadian Premiere

A young Chinese trans woman navigates through a fraudulent marriage and a very turbulent friendship as a recent immigrant in the United States of America.



When the Summer Ends

Dir. Tianyuan He | China | 29 min.
World Premiere

An old man saves a troubled teenager from a suicide attempt, leading them to form an unexpected bond. As they share secrets, they embark on a journey of self-discovery that empowers them to confront their fears and pursue their desires.



BLUE BOY

Dir. Nik Dodani | USA | 15 min.
Canadian Premiere

After experiencing an otherworldly vision, an inquisitive Indian-American boy convinces himself that he's the reincarnation of the Hindu god Krishna. Turns out he's just gay.



Three

Dir. Amie Song | USA | 15 min.
Canadian Premiere

At a home gathering, a Chinese woman who has recently moved to the United States to live with her daughter tries to keep her daughter's secrets from her new friends.

Nov. 16, Saturday | 4:30 pm

Scotiabank Theatre

WESTCOAST NARRATIVE SHORTS

MAMM IT LIKE A POLAROID PICTURE



Lead Like You

Dir. Meng Li | Canada | 1 min.

While entering a very crucial interview in her career, Lily suddenly dives into a tunnel of memories undertaking a search for the power to lead.



Tang Yuan

Dir. Willan Leung | Canada | 10 min.

During World War II, a Chinese-Canadian mother fakes an injury to prevent her son from going to the battlefield, fearing his sacrifice would not be appreciated by a country that discriminates against them.



The Bouncer

Dir. Justin Soliven Villarosa | Canada | 1 min.

A stoic nightclub bouncer's tough exterior hides an unexpected passion for dance that ignites during a heated altercation and explores a world of dreams.



Velvet Secrets

Dir. Shanthini Balasubramanian | Canada | 10 min.

Asha's life takes an unexpected turn when she discovers a revealing red velvet dress in her daughter's room. Her curiosity leads her to try it on, sparking a journey of self-exploration and empathy.



The Last Flight

Dirs. Amy Tsai, Brian Cheung | Canada | 10 min.

Faced with her beloved dying father's choice to pursue a medically assisted death, caregiver Lily must find the emotional strength to honour his last request.



SO-RI/소리

Dir. Sue Yeong Baek | Canada | 1 min.

A sensitive, neurodivergent young Korean girl in a new school and country is overwhelmed by the sheer cacophony of the classroom until her father arrives to comfort her.



Nai Nai: Need 4 Speed

Dir. Brooke Fusick | Canada | 1 min.

Nai Nai: Need 4 Speed follows Nai Nai, an elderly Chinese woman working for a ride-share company. In order to keep her perfect five-star rating, she must find the speed within her to get her customers to their final destination.



Stand In

Dir. Hiromu Yamawaki | Canada | 10 min.

Record. Drive. Repeat. Kenji, a Japanese actor by day and Uber driver by night, finds himself standing in for his more successful rival, Chris, an Asian actor. One evening, Kenji picks up Chris, and their ride takes an unexpected turn.

Nov. 16, Saturday | 5:45 pm

Scotiabank Theatre

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE SHORTS

A BUFFET OF GLOBAL STORYTELLING



Love's Greeting

Dir. Akira Iwamatsu | Japan | 27 min.
World Premiere

A woman's bizarre confession at a police station blurs the line between reality and delusion, and soon her true motives and strange love story are revealed.



Birthday Blowout

Dir. Jaehoon Chung | South Korea | 18 min.
North American Premiere

On her son's 21st birthday, a mother sets up a birthday table and persuades him to leave the room. However, the son refuses to go out today, saying it is the day when a meteorite falls and everyone dies.



Juk

Dir. Nadine Jin | USA | 15 min.
North American Premiere

As her grandmother returns from the nursing home, nine-year-old Kaya begins to resent her for being cruel to her mother. Through Kaya's perspective, the film explores the unspoken tensions within a Korean immigrant family.



Tamagoyaki

Dir. Meg Igarashi | UK | 4 min.
North American Premiere

When Aya moves to the UK from Japan, she slowly starts to realize the cultural differences in love and affection that make her start to question if she is loved by her mom.



Morlam

Dir. Tanaseth Tulyathani | Thailand | 15 min.
Canadian Premiere

A blind child singer is suddenly thrust onto the streets of Bangkok where he must sing to liberate himself from the gang that controls him.



The Light That Painted You

Dir. Jonathan Berlin | Germany | 12 min.
North American Premiere

On the desk of a young journalist is a photo film canister whose contents do not seem to let him go. When he wants to have the film developed, worlds collide.



Justice Bao/ 青天白日

Dir. Chang Xuefei | China | 13 min.
World Premiere

A performance of the traditional Chinese opera *The Execution of Chen Shimei* unveils a murder case, with the character Bao Gong revealing the truth. The clues behind the case become increasingly intricate and perplexing.

The Directors Guild of Canada, British Columbia is a proud supporter of the 2024 Vancouver Asian Film Festival

Congratulations to the talented
Filmmakers showcased in this year's festival!

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Program

Nov. 11-17



FEATURE

Landscapes of Home

**Dir. Alice Il Shin | Canada | 55 min.
Feature Documentary | Western
Canadian Premiere**

Two doctors recount their journeys between Canada and Japan during World War II. Despite their circumstances, these memories of displacement, imprisonment, and the horrors of atomic destruction vividly uncover a history of hope and home abroad.

About the Filmmaker

Alice Il Shin is a Korean filmmaker who received her formal film training at Nihon University, Japan. Since then, she has worked as a director, producer, and editor on film and drama projects in Japan, Korea, and Canada. She is currently in production for her short animation film, *Pearl* (2025).



FEATURE

風吹布動 Stories of Pang Jai

**Dir. Jimmy Lo | Hong Kong | 50 min.
Feature Documentary | Western
Canadian Premiere**

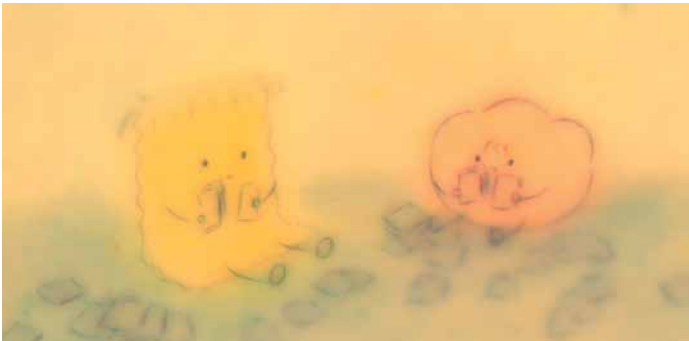
Stories of Pang Jai documents the daily lives of vendors at a four-decade-old fabric market and chronicles their struggle to save Pang Jai from demolition to make way for public housing.

About the Filmmaker

Jimmy Lo is a filmmaker and educator from Hong Kong. His debut documentary *Stories of Pang Jai* was nominated for the Human Rights Award at the South Taiwan Film Festival and screened internationally. Jimmy teaches Documentary Production and has an MFA in Film Production from the University of British Columbia.

VIRTUAL ANIMATION PROGRAM

FROM DREAMSCAPES TO DISRUPTIONS TO DISASSOCIATION



Dream in the Water

Dir. Yifan Jiang | China | 7 min.
North American Premiere

Memories of the past. No matter how many times I draw it, I still can't recreate the original view. I long to touch it, but it remains out of reach. Biscuit and Gyoza are in the water, in a dream.



Detours Ahead

Dir. Esther Cheung | Canada | 8 min.
BC Premiere

A road trip traces a transition of grief to acceptance through valleys, junctions, and detours. It is a meditation on solitude and articulates my shifting relationship with place.



Unblending

Dir. Michelle Ku | Canada | 2 min.

For people living with structural dissociation, falling asleep can be a greatly challenging experience – a time when multiple contradictory thoughts conspire to keep you awake.



Every Day Is a Good Day

Dirs. Kimberley Yip, Sonia Yau, Wendi Ma
Canada | 2 min.

A hand-drawn animation about the cultural similarities amongst people of different Chinese backgrounds and upbringings in the East and West, taking place in Vancouver's Chinese community.



So Be It

Dir. Pritty Wang | Canada | 5 min.
Online Premiere

Sera does not really want a relationship, but with loneliness seeming like the only other option, she feels she does not have much of a choice.



围绕这厨房桌子: Around the Kitchen Table

Dir. Wen Wen Lu | Canada | 18 min.
World Premiere

围绕这厨房桌子: *Around the Kitchen Table* highlights the beauty of everyday rituals and moments in the life of an intergenerational family with their hands moving around a circular table.



Embrace the Moon

Dirs. Kimberley Yip, Sonia Yau, Wendi Ma
Canada | 5 min. | Vancouver Premiere

Magic and music unite the Moon Goddess who falls in love with a human farmer. They both live in different worlds, but powerfully come together.



In Vain

Dir. Heron Cheung | Canada | 6 min.
Canadian Premiere

Zach, a programmer, tries to broadcast evidence that proves his city needs liberation from a parasitic hivemind entity that has overtaken it. His ally Mandy, who he had lost on the way, reunites with him – but something's not right.



Pocket Princess

**Dir. Olivia Loccisano | Canada | 10 min.
BC Premiere**

In this dark stop-motion fairytale, a young girl must take part in a dangerous task through her imagination in order to complete her doll collection.



Coastal Community Centre's Fluffy Friend

**Dir. Hannah Sy | Canada | 2 min.
BC Premiere**

The Coastal Community Centre is a very cozy and peaceful place until the day suddenly erupts when an adorable fluffy creature appears on the doorstep.



Dragonfly

**Dir. Julia Morizawa | USA | 14 min.
Canadian Premiere**

A young girl learns of her mother's survival of the Tokyo Firebombing on March 9 to 10, 1945, seen through the eyes of her brother's spirit.

Nov. 11-17

K-FILMS SHORT NARRATIVE

LOVE, LIFE, AND THE DEAD



The Ghost Lullaby

Dir. Jihyeong Lee | South Korea | 30 min.
North American Premiere

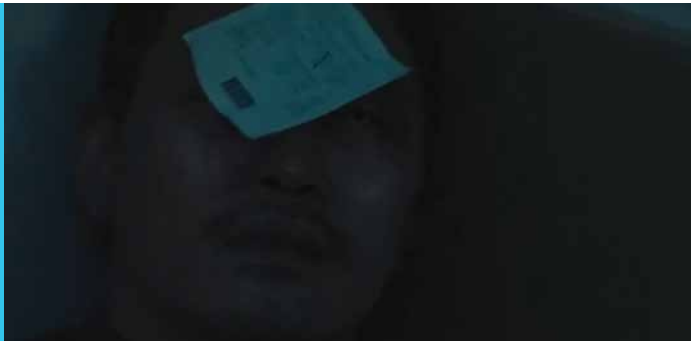
Amidst an emotional reunion of grandmother, daughter, and granddaughter, a lullaby is sung that night, leaving uncertainty about the singer's identity. Who was that night's lullaby for?



Sally

Dir. Jeongju Lee | South Korea | 26 min.
North American Premiere

He loves Sally. However, sometimes he finds colours in others that Sally doesn't have and unwittingly shows curiosity towards them. Sally notices this and struggles to change her appearance to win his attention. In that way, we're all like Sally.



Perfect Settlement

Dir. Indeok Park | South Korea | 18 min.
North American Premiere

There are coworkers who take money for granted. Then there is Youngsook, who gets teased by her coworkers. Forced to accept a false settlement, Youngsook is tested: Will she stick to her morals or become one of them?



Great Legacy

Dir. Dongeun Kim | South Korea | 17 min.
North American Premiere

On the day of the funeral, a son, who has become the new head of the household, spends the night creating fake remains with his father.

INTERNATIONAL SHORT NARRATIVE

NAVIGATING THE HUMAN CONDITION



Heart-Ware

Dir. Jii Zhang | Japan | 33 min.
Canadian Premiere

In a near-future world where AI has replaced most human jobs, a game developer teams up with an AI to create a game that bridges human emotion and technology in an effort to help his niece.



Nuzabar

Dir. DGGYANG | South Korea | 22 min.
Canadian Premiere

Nuzabar from Kazakhstan has a guilty conscience because of his son's death. When he moves to Korea, he starts to have thoughts of suicide. One day, he encounters a man who helps him find the courage to face his trauma.



Bright Moon Night

Dir. Louise Yanxi Yang | China | 20 min.
North American Premiere

In 1941 Shanghai, amidst the turmoil of the French Concession, a courtesan's unexpected pregnancy with an elusive man sets off a desperate quest for freedom, as she and her female companion navigate war, societal constraints, and their own desires

Nov. 11-17

INTERNATIONAL SHORT DOC

REFLECTIONS ON LIVED EXPERIENCES



All Quiet on the Westlake

Dir. Wei Zishuo | China/UK | 15 min.
Canadian Premiere

The film conveys the theme of love through the life story of a blind-deaf couple. Facing all kinds of dilemmas, the couple maintain each other between light and darkness.



Asian Bitches Speak

Dir. Janet Chen (Ma) | USA | 16 min.
Canadian Premiere

After generations of cultural silence, years of pandemic anxiety, and one anti-Asian hate crime, Janet takes her mom Diana on a road trip. Along the way, they spill the tea about their family history, and start the journey to healing.



Snack Sakura

Dirs. Jia Li, Joshua Frank
USA/Canada | 24 min.

Snack Sakura follows acclaimed Canadian photographer Greg Girard across Japan in search of a woman he once knew, meditating on memory, art, and life between cultures as he journeys from town to town, obsessively photographing bars with the same name.



The Last Mayor of Chinatown

Dir. Lena Chen | USA | 13 min.
Canadian Premiere

Yuen Yee, together with his daughter, looks back on his life in Pittsburgh, where he had been the last honorary mayor of a declining Chinatown.

CANADIAN SHORT NARRATIVE

UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES



Dừa (Coconut)

**Dir. Carthy Ngo | Canada | 8 min.
Western Canadian Premiere**

A young woman tending to her ailing father's needs, attempts to chop a coconut for the first time, in hopes that the refreshing treat will lift his spirits.



Deep Blue

**Dir. Yijie (Viktor) Bai | Canada | 12 min.
Canadian Premiere**

Jay, an aspiring actor, faces a heart-wrenching choice between his career or his family, between achieving his life-long dream and being with his critically ill grandfather.



Lei

**Dir. Huiru Shi | Canada | 12 min.
Western Canadian Premiere**

Haunted by a moth called Yokai (an Asian monster) in her dreams, a seamstress wakes up to a home tangled in red yarn. Guided by one red yarn, she must free herself from the nightmare.



Fatal

Dir. Jacquile Singh Kambo | Canada | 6 min.

Tired and done for the night, Sara comes home to her apartment that has been broken into, when she learns that the burglar has planted a trap for her.



It's Real to Me

**Dir. Ruben Harjono | Canada | 10 min.
Canadian Premiere**

Plagued by nightmares that become reality 24 hours after they are dreamed, a young woman must convince her friend to believe her visions to prevent a life-altering event.



Baby

**Dir. Clark Cameron Marcelo | Canada | 11 min.
World Premiere**

Expecting mother Janice takes a late-night shift at the call centre, unaware that she's about to get an unexpected visitor from her past bringing tragic news.



Table for Three

**Dir. Joseph Chung | Canada | 10 min.
Western Canadian Premiere**

A young man who is confident he was living the perfect life uncovers a mysterious life blueprint and finds that he has been living a life not designed for him.

**Special
Events &
OVASIAN
Awards**

Nov. 7, Thursday | 9:00 pm

Slate, 3rd floor – 670 Smithe Street

\$45, limited tickets for sale | 19+ | ID required

VAFF Opening Night Party

See you on the dance floor? We're changing things up with a fun evening that gathers our community of filmmakers and industry guests at the heart of Downtown Vancouver's entertainment district.

- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and welcome drink
- Cash bar
- Dress code: Dressy Casual

Wheelchair Accessibility Info

Elevator for wheelchair access through Par-Tee Putt entrance

Nov. 8, Friday | 9:00 pm

Browns Socialhouse, 675 Cambie Street

\$35 | 19+ | Valid ID required

WestCoast Social Industry Party

A night to network and mingle with WestCoast filmmakers, creators, and industry guests.

- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
- Cash bar
- Dress code: Casual

Wheelchair Accessibility Info

Elevators are available for wheelchair access

Nov. 9, Saturday | 9:00 pm

Glowbal Restaurant,
590 West Georgia Street

\$35 | All ages | Valid ID required at the bar

Centrepiece After Party

An intimate reception in Downtown Vancouver to meet the Centrepiece filmmakers.

- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
- Cash bar
- Dress code: Casual

Wheelchair Accessibility Info

Event takes place on ground floor and is wheelchair accessible

Nov. 16, Saturday | 8:30 pm

Scotiabank Theatre Clubhouse,
4th floor – 900 Burrard Street

\$35 | All ages | Valid ID required at the bar

CanAsian Industry Party

Wrap up this year's VAFF V12 Series and unwind with filmmakers, creators, and industry guests with music and food.

- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
- Cash bar
- Dress code: Casual

Wheelchair Accessibility Info

Elevators are available for wheelchair access



Nov. 17, Sunday | 6:00 pm

Emily Carr Reliance Theatre, 577 Great Northern Way

\$100, limited tickets for sale | 19+ | ID required at the bar

OVASIAN AWARDS & CLOSING GALA

Wear your most stylish outfit and clink glasses with our award winners! The OVASIAN Awards ends the festival with a gala celebration honouring filmmakers, and industry changemakers for their achievements in pushing forward the culture of diversity.

- Doors at 6:00 pm
- Awards ceremony starts at 6:30 pm
- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and welcome drink
- Cash bar
- Dress code: Stylish/Cocktail

Accessibility Info

- Please contact Emily Carr's Facilities Office at 604-844-3800 in advance of your visit to arrange for an accessible visitor spot
- The main public entrance is located at the southwest corner of the building
- The main entrance is an outward-swinging double door with hand-height buttons for automated opening, giving access to the building's 2nd floor.
- The elevators are located down the hall to the right, approximately 80 steps from the entrance.
- Live ASL interpretation or closed captioning can be provided if requested at info@vaff.org



FILM JURY

Short Film Jury

Johnny Tesoro
Kevin Jin Kwan Kim
Tony Ma
Trixie Pacis
Winnifred Jong

Canadian Feature Film Jury

Ben Lu
ZhiMin Hu
Mel D'Souza

WAFF
Year
Round



The 19th Mighty Asian Movie Making Marathon (MAMM19) was another successful, record-breaking year that concluded with 16 films premiering at the MAMM19 Gala Screening and Awards Presentation at the Vancouver Playhouse on August 31, 2024. It has been exciting to witness the MAMM community grow as we saw more pitches from new filmmakers, more submissions, and more audience demand as we sold out in just four days. The distinctive stories that came out of the filmmakers and the creativity and craft of storytelling impressed all in attendance, in person and online. We are so proud of the MAMMers of MAMM19 and are honoured that we could help tell your unique stories.

MAMM aims to foster and showcase emerging Asian and mixed Asian filmmakers through a 10-day moviemaking marathon preceded by a masterclass-level MAMMentorship program and culminating in a premiere screening and awards presentation.

Catch the award-winning Shorts and Ultra Shorts at VAFF28. Be sure to follow us on Instagram @mamm_vaff for the latest news from MAMM and our alumni.

Lynne Lee
MAMM Director/Producer

MAMM Team

Joshua Lam
Moheb Jindran
Panta Mosleh
Vivian Cheung
Helen Liu



#Elimin8Hate



As one of the pre-eminent racial advocacy groups in Canada, our social change arm, Elimin8Hate continues leading the way in promoting quality representation and dismantling structural inequities that impact the Asian diaspora in Canada.

In 2024 Elimin8Hate focused on:

Connecting the greater Asian diaspora through organization and hosting Deconstructing the Monolith, a symposium that brought together diverse Asian Canadian groups to collectively align on overarching priorities.

Combatting the growing issue of online hate through creating materials and providing workplace training to combat this and other workplace issues.

Highlighting the media's integral role in shaping and influencing Canadians' understanding of the Asian narrative. Our Stories: News & Media Roundtable was our first step towards generating dialogue about opportunities in news and media for showcasing

richer and more diverse Asian Canadian stories while being aware of the harms that can be created through stories that typecast Asians into stereotypes.

Elimin8Hate also built upon our prior work that created an avenue to report hate incidences for the Asian Canadian community during COVID19, by focusing on outreach and promotional opportunities to create awareness and understanding on why reporting hate incidents against our community continues to be crucial.

As we wrap up this year, we are excited to once again support the Vancouver Asian Film Festival by showcasing films that celebrate and highlight the Asian Canadian diaspora.

And most importantly, to our individual contributors and donors whose support strengthens our ability to continue uplifting the voice of Asian Canadians. We look forward to another impactful upcoming year.

Audrey Wong

Executive Director, Elimin8Hate

Special thanks and appreciation to our amazing partners and grantors:



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