

FESTIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE



SCENES
YOU CAN'T
UNSEE

INESCAPABLE EIFF

SEPTEMBER
24
.....
OCTOBER
3



EDMONTONFILMFEST.COM

TABLE OF

CONTENTS

GREETINGS	3
ABOUT EIFF	7
FESTIVAL SPONSORS	15
FEATURE FILMS	17
LUNCHBOX™ SHORTS	40
SHORT STOP	52
STUDIO A: SHORT FILM SERIES	72
EIFF TEAM	82
INDEX	84

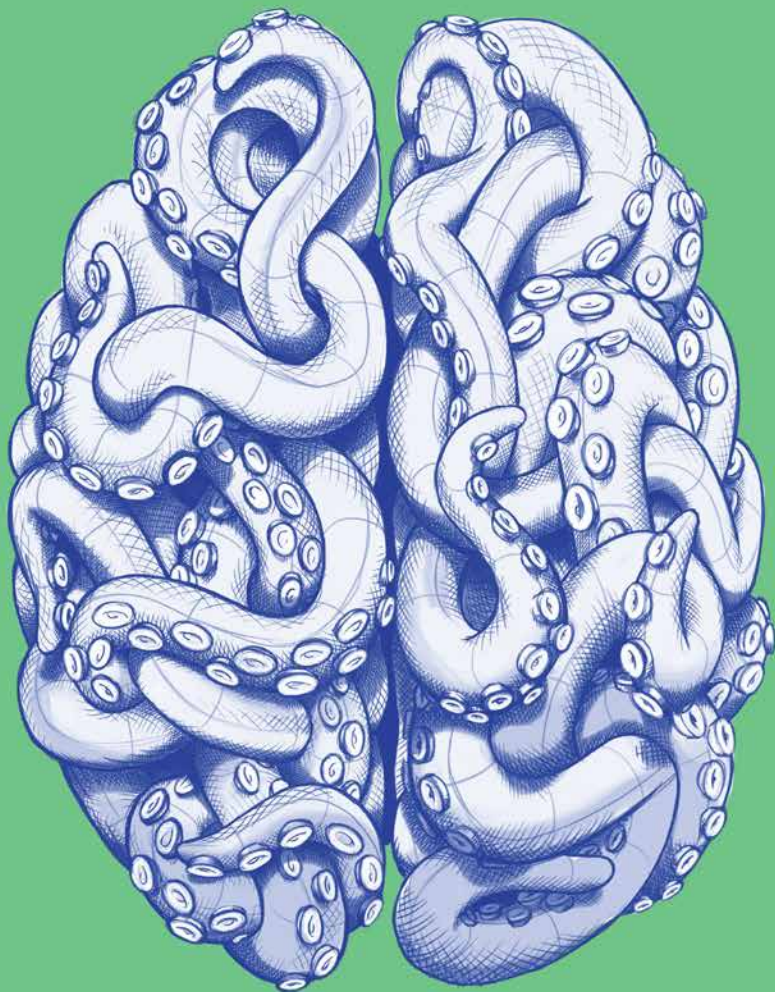
The Edmonton International Film Festival Society respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, the traditional land, meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Niitsitapi/Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, and Dene. We also acknowledge all of the Indigenous, Inuit and Métis peoples who make Alberta their home today. Thank-you to the diverse Indigenous peoples whose footsteps have marked this territory for centuries. Their spiritual and practical relationships to the land create a rich heritage for our learning and our life as a community.

LIGHT THE BRIDGE: SEPTEMBER 24!!

The High Level Bridge will be lit up in sparkly lights to celebrate the 40th Edmonton International Film Festival!



GREETINGS





Message From His Worship

**MAYOR ANDREW
KNACK**

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the 40th annual Edmonton International Film Festival!

Each year, film enthusiasts from around the world spend time in our city to immerse themselves in high-quality cinema and network with other film lovers. Once again, Edmonton is honoured to host you.

This year marks a special milestone as we celebrate the festival's 40th anniversary. Since its origins as the Local Heroes Film Festival, EIFF has been honored to share thousands of films and host legendary filmmakers, including Norman Jewison, Naomi Klein, Deepa Mehta and Werner Herzog, among many others.

EIFF has been enhancing our reputation as an arts and culture hub by implementing this internationally recognized festival, and I congratulate all the organizers for being an Oscar-qualifying festival in the categories of Live Action, Animation and Documentary. I also commend the work of the filmmakers for sharing your passion and captivating stories with us.

Enjoy the films!

Andrew Knack
Mayor, City of Edmonton



Message from Executive Director

SYDNEY MOULE

Here we are. 40 years of celebrating local, independent and international filmmaking. 40 years of meeting filmmakers, actors, storytellers and connecting with fellow movie-lovers. 40 years of memories—many of which are now considered folklore—woven into our own DNA.

As I write this, it's late August. School will be back in soon, leaves are beginning to fall, the sun turns in a little earlier each day, and that smell—it's the glorious smell of film festival season. Inhale. Can you detect notes of popcorn in the air?

It is my absolute privilege to work alongside an incredible Board of Directors, lead our passionate Team, and honour a 40-year tradition of presenting unique perspectives through the eyes of filmmakers—showcasing diverse cultures, alternate approaches to life, and independent art forms. Film Festivals truly expand the way we look at, and move through, the world.

Over this past year, we've watched thousands of films and curated another eclectic, thought-provoking line-up of guests, movies, social gatherings and a 2-day Business Summit on Sept. 25 and 26 in partnership with the Edmonton Screen. This year's 10-day program showcases emerging voices, mixed with a handful of 'familiar' names in cinema and sprinkled with the movies you've come to expect to see FIRST—can you say 'Palme d'Or winner'? 2026 also marks the 21st anniversary of our infamous, noon-hour, *LUNCHBOX SHORTS*™ programs, and as an OSCAR® Qualifying Film Festival in the short film categories, you might be witnessing the work of an OSCAR® winner.

The traditional gift for a 40th anniversary is the ruby... just sayin'. We'd settle for a charitable donation—with a '4' in it somewhere. Kidding. Sort of.

Enjoy the festival!

Sydney Moule

EIFFS Executive Director (since 2020)



Message from Artistic Director

VINCENT BRULOTTE

Welcome back to EIFF, can you believe we reached 40?

It's very humbling to think of all the souls who have been a part of this festival over the decades; be it the hundreds of filmmakers who have shared their visions with our audience, or the hundreds of volunteers who have helped our team and our audiences enjoy the most of EIFF, or our own Team both past and present, I am filled with immense gratitude for every person who has helped us reach this anniversary.

Having joined EIFF in 2020, I'm still the greenest member of our team. Six years is a long time though, and over these years it's been a privilege to connect with so many people who love film. Sometimes that's an All-Access passholder who we see 5-6 times a day, sometimes that's a filmmaker who's here for only one night, but most of you end up somewhere in the middle. Any which way, if you're here for one of our screenings you're a film-lover and a friend of mine.

We had the opportunity to share some of our favorite films of our programming history with our Road to 40, but this year's programming is focused on the road ahead. We're lucky to be sharing 40+ features, and 100+ shorts from filmmakers both fresh and seasoned—like every year, some of the best filmmakers in the world are represented at EIFF, and like every year, it's a privilege to bring audiences together to connect with these films and some of the voices behind them!

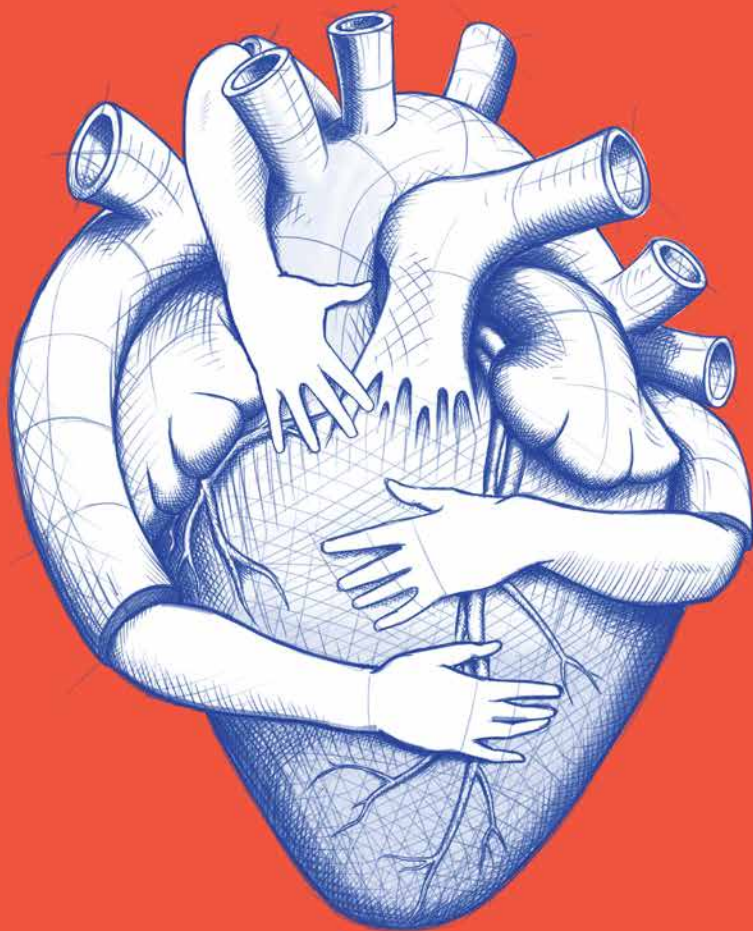
When you're not in a screening, we have even more for you! Join us just down the hall from Landmark City Centre at our Sea Change Conversation Corner for post-screening chats throughout opening and closing weekends, or at the Delta Hotel Edmonton Centre for the Creative Screen Business Summit on September 25 & 26.

We're calling this 40th anniversary our Inescapable EIFF. This means films that stick with you, or experiences that move you, or memories that you cherish for years to come. On behalf of all of our Team, our volunteers, our filmmakers, our partners, our distributors, our sponsors, and everyone else who makes up the puzzle of EIFF: we welcome you to the 40th Edmonton International Film Festival, and we can't wait to show you some films.

Enjoy the festival!

Vincent Brulotte
Artistic Director

ABOUT EIFF





ABOUT EIFFS

The **Edmonton International Film Festival Society (EIFFS)** is a non-profit, charitable organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors whose mandate is to present a multi-day film festival that showcases independent cinema from around the world in Edmonton movie-theatres. The annual schedule includes 40+ feature-length dramas and documentaries, dozens of short films, and welcomes up to 50 filmmaker guests who participate in audience Q&A.

Despite the state of the world these days, more than 2,000 films were submitted to this year's EIFF—compare that with 100 in 2003 and 800 in 2010. Proof that our unique brand of film festival is resonating with filmmakers who have been here and are spreading the word about EIFF to their peers. Our commitment to honoring filmmakers and celebrating what they do continues to set our festival apart. We are told time and again that this kind of care for filmmakers is rarely expressed by film festivals in general, and it makes us genuine.

Through the cinematic voices that we present, it is our hope that audiences achieve a better understanding of communities outside of their own. Film festivals certainly offer a unique perspective on the world! And, we have

to be creative about how we entice filmmakers to come to Edmonton. As noted above, our approach has been to create a festival that is about the film MAKERS. We focus on directors, writers, producers, short films, creators in (and from) our own province, Canadiana and international, cinematic storytellers. Every guest to EIFF is given our unique version of “star” treatment and when they go to their next festival, or back to their families, they talk about Edmonton and our audiences who appreciate, and support, independent film.

Outside of the festival dates—in March—EIFFS presents the OSCAR® NOMINATED Short Films in these three (3) categories: LIVE ACTION, ANIMATION and DOCUMENTARY. Programmed the week before the Academy Awards are televised, audiences can enjoy ALL of the nominees in three (3) categories—when's the last time you could say that about any of the other categories?

The 99th Academy Awards take place on SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2027.

Watch for the OSCAR® NOMINATED Short Films in Edmonton theatres

MARCH 8 to 12, 2027. Presented by EIFFS.

CONSIDER A CHARITABLE DONATION TO EIFF!

The Edmonton International Film Festival Society (EIFFS) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization. Donations to EIFFS support production costs and donors receive a tax receipt for income tax purposes at the end of each calendar year.



EIFF IS AN OSCAR® QUALIFYING FESTIVAL

For SHORT FILMS. There are roughly **170 to 180** OSCAR Qualifying film festivals worldwide for short films—and EIFF is one of them. The submission deadline to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (the OSCARS) is **OCTOBER 8, 2027**, and EIFF is typically the final OSCAR Qualifying film festival of the year.

- In **2016**, EIFF earned status as an OSCAR Qualifying Festival in **TWO (2)** of the short film categories—**ANIMATION** and **LIVE ACTION**.
- Then in **2023**, the Academy awarded EIFF the distinction of the third shorts category—**DOCUMENTARY**.

This means that the EIFF Grand Jury winners in each of those categories can submit their short film to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) for OSCAR consideration. Once submitted, the Academy then announces a short list of the Top 10 films in each category. Then... it's the announcement of **ALL** the nominees—typically 5 short films per category.

“Baaaaah! I am crying in a cafe in Brooklyn. So. So. Thrilled. You beautiful Canadians were our very last chance to qualify for OSCAR this year and I just wouldn’t even let myself hope for it. And now it’s happened. THANK YOU! I will forever be grateful to the festival and to all of you. Now I have to get that application into the Academy!”

A.M. Lukas (USA), Director of ONE CAMBODIAN FAMILY PLEASE FOR MY FAMILY—2016 Grand Jury Winner for Best Live Action Short Film.

Here’s where we get to brag. Two (2) short films that moved to the Academy by winning the Grand Jury Award at EIFF, went on to **WIN** the golden statue! Because of EIFF!

- **2021. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS I LOVE YOU (USA)** wins the OSCAR for **Best Animated Short Film**. Available now on Netflix.
- **2023. AN IRISH GOODBYE (Ireland)** wins the OSCAR for **Best Live Action Short Film**. Star, James Martin, became the first actor with Down’s Syndrome to win an OSCAR, and the entire audience sang ‘Happy Birthday’ to him during their acceptance speech. Available now on Amazon Prime Video.

PROGRAM INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Again. Sometimes we don’t receive the ‘keys’ (meaning: password) for the DCP in time. Occasionally a film has to back out at the last minute. All we can do is apologize and hope that you will come back. And we trust that you know we do our EIFF’n best to present you with a positive experience. Sometimes, you just gotta roll with it. It’s a festival!

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EIFF INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE DURING THE FESTIVAL ON OUR WEBSITE AND ON EVENTIVE!

We also update our website as soon as we are aware of things gone awry.

www.edmontonfilmfest.com

2026eiff.eventive.org



VENUES

LANDMARK CINEMAS 9 CITY CENTRE

Third Floor, 10200-102 Avenue

Please use either the Parkade entrance that takes you directly to the Theatre, or the Delta Hotel entrance.

The entrance at 102 Ave and 102 Street will be closed at all hours due to the Valley Line West LRT construction.

METRO CINEMA AT THE GARNEAU

8712 109 Street NW

*Metro Passes are not admissible for these screenings.

PARKING DOWNTOWN

Discounted parking costs \$5 for 4 hours when purchased at the machine located in the THEATRE LOBBY at Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre. This rate applies to the WEST PARKADE and EDMONTON CITY CENTRE WEST PARKADE (formerly known as THE BAY PARKADE).

Parking MAP:

<https://edmontoncitycentre.com/hours/hours-and-location/>





BOX OFFICE

We highly recommend that festival **PASSES** and single tickets are secured **IN ADVANCE**.

Films do sell out! And the last thing we want to do is turn you away—particularly since you just spent all that time finding (and paying for) parking.

PRICES LISTED DO NOT INCLUDE EVENTIVE FEE/S.

CASH SALES ARE NOT ACCEPTED AT ANY EIFF BOX OFFICE

2026eiff.eventive.org

- **ALL-ACCESS Pass @ \$199.**
The Godmother of passes, this gets you one (1) admission into all EIFF films—features and short film programs—after-parties, LUNCHBOX Shorts, and the Edmonton Screen Business Summit (Sept. 25 & 26) at Delta Hotel. Use the ALL-ACCESS Pass to claim/redeem for single tickets online in ADVANCE.
- **6-PACK Pass @ \$75.**
This is six (6) tickets to any regular-priced (\$15) film. You and 5 pals could all go to 1 film—6 tickets; or you and 2 pals—that's 3 of you—attend 2 films. Whatever pops your corn! *6-PACK Passes do not include Gala films + after-parties and LUNCHBOX Shorts.

- **SINGLE TICKETS @ \$10 to \$40.**
REGULAR FILMS @ \$15.
Available for purchase in-person, 30-minutes before showtime, thru EIFF volunteers—NOT thru Landmark and Metro Cinema box office. Again, we highly recommend purchasing all single tickets in advance, ONLINE.
- **LUNCHBOX Shorts @ \$20 (includes lunch).**
Bring your own water. Only 150 tix available. Don't want lunch? We do offer a limited number of vegan and gluten-free options, and are NOT able to offer a reduced ticket price for festival-goers who say 'NO' to lunch.
- **STUDIO A Short Film Programs @ \$10.**
- **OPENING and CLOSING NIGHT GALA Films @ \$20.**
- **OPENING and CLOSING NIGHT GALA After-Parties @ \$20..**
- **EDMONTON SCREEN BUSINESS SUMMIT @ \$40.**
This event takes place over 2-days (Sept. 25 & 26) at The Delta Hotel and features panels/filmmaker chats.
- **RUSH TICKETS @ \$5**
Rush Admission begins 15 minutes after posted showtime, for SOLD OUT screenings only.

Visit our **Eventive** page for a full schedule listing, and to purchase tickets.

2026eiff.eventive.org



MINUS 24/ONE

After a **10-year hiatus**, 24/ONE is back! The challenge is simple: you have 24 hours to make a film from start to finish. But this time, we're turning the clock upside down.

Introducing **MINUS 24/ONE** — our winter edition of the filmmaking challenge. Same pressure. Same 24-hour deadline. **Way more layers.**

Grab your team, embrace the cold, and get ready to make movie magic before time runs out.



SEA CHANGE CONVERSATION CORNER

Don't just watch. Talk about it. Join fellow festivalgoers after a film to share reactions, debate the ending, and unpack what you've just seen. An EIFF volunteer will be there to keep the conversation flowing—and make sure you're never talking to yourself!

CITY CENTRE BAR (Across from District 102)

Fri Sept. 25: 5:30–9:30 PM | Sat Sept. 26:
1:30–9:30 PM | Sun Sept. 27: 12:30–7:30 PM
Thu Oct. 1: 5:30–8:30 PM | Fri Oct. 2:
5:30–9:30 PM

GARNEAU PRE-SHOW TASTINGS (In the lobby)

Fri Sept. 25: 5:30–6:30 PM | Sat Sept. 26:
8:30–9:30 PM | Fri Oct. 2: 5:30–6:30 PM



THE **WOLF**

Prairie
Fairy

Presented in Full
BEER-O-VISION

MANCRUSH

DEATH
WAVE



CRAFTED FOR FILM NERDS



GREAT BEER FROM RIGHT HERE

**SEA
CHANGE
BREWING
CO.**

AN SCBC TV PRODUCTION A COOPER & O'HARA FILM DIRECTED BY PETE NGUYEN STARRING STEVEN OGG GOGO FETCH AND CRAZY DAVE SEACHANGEBEER.COM



MEMORIES...

Asked to share a favorite story about her time with EIFF, Kerrie Long (EIFF General Manager & Festival Producer from 2004 to 2022), writes:

DANCE OF MY HEART | 2007 | 80-mins. | Documentary | USA | Dir: Ricardo Acosta

Every year a film comes to us that has something special about it, and we can't put into words what 'it' is exactly. We just know. So when *DANCE OF MY HEART* landed on our desks in 2007—back in those days, filmmakers mailed their projects to us on VHS—we knew this one was special!

In 1993, Alberto (along with Cuban Rumba dancer and actress, Sonia Calero, also his wife) escaped Cuba, leaving behind family and friends whom they might never see in-person again, given the charged political climate at the time. There is a moment in this film where we listen in on a weekly telephone call between Alberto (92-years-young) and his older brother, Fernando (94-years-young), who remained in Cuba and co-founded the Cuban National Ballet. The call ends like it does every week, with Alberto saying "I will see you again, my brother, I will see you again." Well. Bring on the tissue!

So we invited the film and Producers accepted. Then, they asked if we would consider inviting Alberto to attend. "Would he?" we asked, incredulous. "Absolutely!" they replied, and he'd also like to travel with his wife, Sonia—and would we consider inviting brother, Fernando, from Cuba? It's been 15 years since they've seen one another. Alberto can't visit Cuba. But. Fernando can visit Canada.

We did it! On Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at the majestic Garneau Theatre, EIFF premiered *DANCE OF MY HEART*. Inside the packed theatre was Alberto (with wife, Sonia), Fernando, Ricardo Acosta (Director) and the entire production team from Florida. Once the credits rolled, Ricardo hit the stage and welcomed Ricardo to join him. Then. As a surprise. Fernando was introduced and the crowd went wild! Tears and smiles and love... everywhere!

On December 31, 2007, following the screening, Alberto Alonso died of heart complications. He asked the film's Producers to let us know how grateful he was for the Edmonton International Film Festival to have brought he and his brother together again for one, final, farewell.

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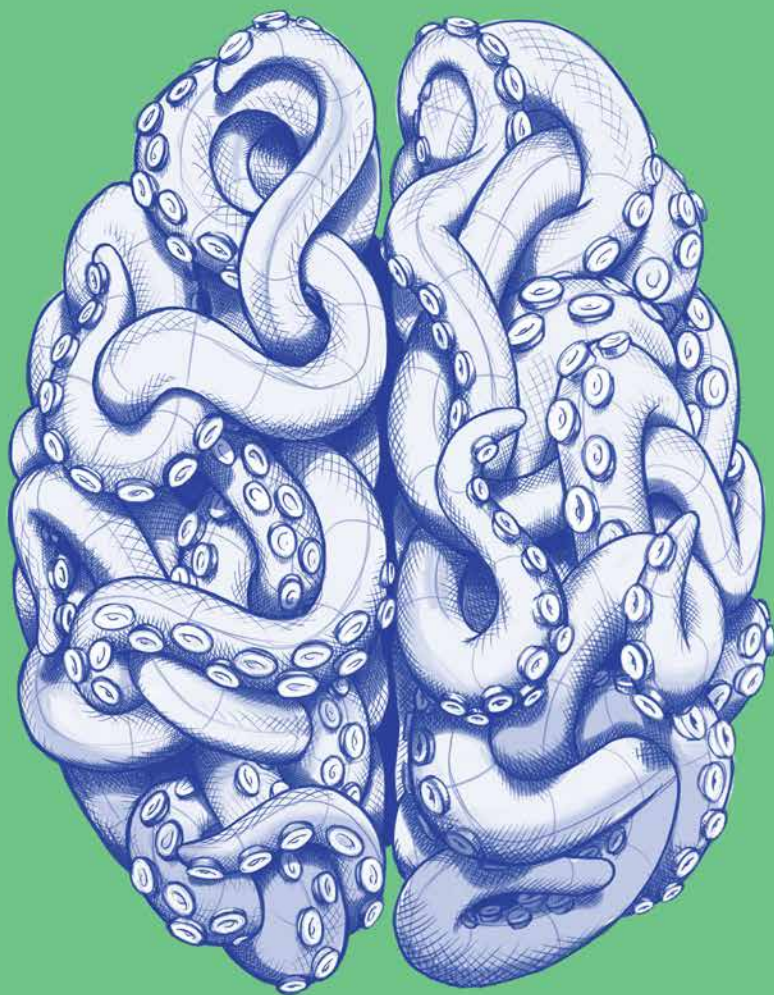
INDUSTRY PARTNERS



Warm, heartfelt, THANK-YOU to this elite cast of sponsors and supporters!

Besides being good karma, supporting Edmonton's cultural and not-for-profit sector is vital to our citizens and our community. At EIFF, we enjoy playful partnerships—show us your creativity! Bring your entire staff to the festival, name a theatre with your brand, donate your product for filmmaker swag bags, make a charitable donation... info@edmontonfilmfest.com

FEATURE FILMS



FEATURE FILMS



ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 2pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Sinéad O'Shea



95-mins. | Ireland | 2026 | Documentary.

Fergie Chambers, a son of one of America's wealthiest families (the Cox family, owners of global conglomerate Cox Enterprises), creates a communist revolutionary base in rural Massachusetts as a means of disrupting the capitalist system he grew up in, but has now come to despise. It's the starting point of an astonishing journey following him across protests, stewardship of his commune and its residents, ownership of a Tunisian soccer club, and deeply personal revelations. *This film contains discussion and/or depiction of sexual violence*

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English

ALL OF A SUDDEN

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 2:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Co-Writer: Ryūsuke Hamaguchi



195-mins. | France./Japan/Germany/
Belgium | 2026 | Drama.

Marie-Lou Fontaine, director of a nursing home in the Paris suburbs, defies convention by adopting the 'Humanitude' method despite her team's resistance. Her encounter with Mari Morisaki, a terminally ill Japanese playwright, transforms her life. Together, they turn the facility into a symbol of resistance and humanity against the system's limits.

Content: Mature themes

Languages: Japanese & French (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Elevation Pictures

FEATURE FILMS



BEDFORD PARK

Monday, Sept. 28 @ 8:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Stephanie Ahn



119-mins. | USA | 2026 | Drama/Romance.

Haunted by an abusive childhood, Audrey, a Korean American woman in her 30's, faces her emotional past. When her mother's car accident brings her back to her parents' home, she meets Eli, the man responsible for the accident. As she learns about his upbringing and his past, and he learns of her own, their relationship builds, passions ignite, and they form a loving connection.

Content: Sexuality, Nudity, Coarse language, Mature themes

Languages: English & Korean (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Mongrel Media

BITTER CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 7pm | Metro Cinema
at the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Pedro Almodóvar



111-mins. | Spain | 2026 | Drama/Comedy.

In 2025 Spain, a celebrated film director struggles to write the screenplay for an auto-fiction film set in 2004 Spain about an unsuccessful movie director turned director of commercials who suffers a panic attack that forces her to take a break by visiting the Canary Islands, where she begins work on a new film. An exploration of the inseparable and sometimes painful link between fiction and reality. *This film contains discussion and/or depiction of suicide.*

Content: Sexuality, Coarse language, Mature themes

Languages: Spanish (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Mongrel Media

FEATURE FILMS



CALIFORNIA SCHEMIN'

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 7:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Encore! Friday, Oct. 2 @ 1:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director: James McAvoy



107-mins. | UK/USA | 2026 |
Docudrama/Dark Comedy.

Based on a LIE! In the late 1990s, Gavin Bain and Billy Boyd had their musical ambitions consistently ridiculed for having the 'wrong' accents, so they went for broke and reinvented themselves as Californian rappers. The duo re-recorded their own tracks with fake accents and turned up in London claiming to be an established duo on the Cali scene as well as childhood friends with Eminem. They quickly bagged themselves a record deal, a hefty sum in advances, and an appearance on MTV... until it all came crashing down.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language, Violence

Language: English

Print Source: Sherry Media Group

CELTIC UTOPIA

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 2pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writers: Dennis Harvey
& Lars Lovén



90-mins. | Ireland/Sweden | 2025 |
Documentary/Music.

After 100 years of independence, a bold new wave of young Irish artists redefine folk music and reflect over the impact of their colonial history. *CELTIC UTOPIA* tells the story of a new Ireland, following a resurgent wave of alternative folk and traditional musicians who are making music 'to scare priests and politicians.' As they produce their strange new sounds, they are redefining and problematizing the form and reshaping the culture in their own image. The bold, outspoken and humorous young musicians pass the narrative to each other as the film progresses, just as they would pass the melody to each other in a traditional music session.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English, Irish (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Split Screen

FEATURE FILMS



CEREMONY

Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 3:30pm |
Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1)
| Tix: \$15

Producer/Director: Banchi Hanuse



83-mins. | Canada | 2026 |
Documentary/Environment.

At the bank of the Bella Coola River, Nuxalk people listen to dreams, radio waves, to the silence left by the vanished ooligan run. Through drifting boats, archival records and animated ancestral folklore, their voices trace a rupture, an ecological collapse entwined with colonial violence. As a new generation rebuilds homes on forbidden land and rekindles ceremony, they ask whether the fish will return or if the people themselves must become the current that calls them home.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from CEREMONY

Content: Mature themes

Language: English

CLUB KID

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 9:30pm | Metro
Cinema at the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Jordan Firstman



122-mins. | USA | 2026 | Drama/Comedy.

A hard-partying New York City club promoter sees his whirlwind lifestyle upended by the arrival of the 10-year-old son he never knew he had.

Content: Sexuality, Coarse language, Nudity, Mature themes

Language: English



DARLENE LOVE: I KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN

Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 4pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Encore! Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 8:30pm |
Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8)
| Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Barry Avrich



115-mins. | Canada/USA | 2026 |
Documentary/Biography/Music.

Darlene Love's journey through music history is chronicled through the only voice that could tell her story: her own. Through her years under contract to Phil Spector, singing lead and background vocals uncredited on dozens of classic songs, Darlene Love persevered and shared her talent despite overwhelming obstacles— all the way to her induction into the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame. With stories from Cher, Bruce Springsteen, Dionne Warwick, and more, Darlene's impact and legacy is immeasurable.

Content: Mature themes

Language: English

DEAD OR DYING

Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 9pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writers: John Purcell & Malin
von Euler-Hogan



95-mins. | USA | 2026 | Drama/Comedy.

In a near-future Los Angeles, humans are dying in droves—and most people have gotten pretty used to it. This dark comedy follows a series of characters at various stages of coping, including a tech bro whose favorite billionaire dies in humiliating circumstances, a personal assistant to a flailing TV star who struggles to maintain her professionalism after a traumatic day on the job, and a frustrated therapist who live streams his latest therapeutic innovation: complete avoidance.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English

FEATURE FILMS



THE DEBUT

Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 9:30pm | Metro Cinema at the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Jesse Eisenberg



105-mins. | USA | 2026 |
Drama/Comedy/Musical.

When Mona Friedman (Julianne Moore) is cast in a bit part at a small community theater, she transforms from a shy, unassuming housewife into a zealous method actor willing to do anything to protect the artistic integrity of her marginal role—even if it means waging war against the show's domineering director.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English

Print Source: Elevation Pictures

🍁 DON'T COME UPSTAIRS

Saturday, Oct. 3 @ 12:30pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director: Mike Lobel



90-mins. | Canada | 2026 | Documentary.

They were taught one rule: never ask Dad what he does. *DON'T COME UPSTAIRS* is a documentary that unravels the secret filmmaker Mike Lobel's father Eric kept hidden—his decades-long role as a prominent drug distributor in Canada. Told through home videos and interviews with family members, this isn't just about Eric's double life—it's about the impact his secrecy had on his family. Exploring generational trauma, the fallout of parental choices, and the hope that comes with facing hard truths in pursuit of healing and connection, Lobel's film builds to a final familial confrontation where one more truth is revealed.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from DON'T COME UPSTAIRS

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English

Print Source: Game Theory Films

FEATURE FILMS



A FADING MAN

Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 4pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Co-Writer: Welf Reinhart



100-mins. | Germany | 2026 | Drama.

The artist Hanne and the retired pastor Bernd lead a happy marriage that, after many years, has settled into a comfortable routine, when Hanne's former husband Kurt (Harald Krassnitzer) suddenly appears at their door out of nowhere. Due to his dementia, Kurt can no longer remember that he and Hanne have been divorced for 20 years. When the couple takes him in temporarily, a lightness long thought lost returns to their marriage. But as time goes by, their shared life begins to unravel more and more.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: German (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Bendita Film Sales

FJORD

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 12:30pm | Metro
Cinema at the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Cristian Mungiu



146-mins. | Romania/France/
Norway/Sweden/Denmark | 2026 |
Palme d'Or Winner!

After the deaths of Mihai's parents, Mihai and Lisbeth Gheorghiu leave everything behind in Romania and move with their children to a remote village in Norway, hoping to rebuild their lives near Lisbeth's family. There, they grow close to their neighbors, the Halbergs, whose warmth offers the promise of a fresh start. But the fragile peace begins to unravel when the Gheorghius' young daughter, Elia, arrives at school covered in bruises.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: Romanian, Norwegian & Swedish (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Elevation Pictures



CLOSING NIGHT GALA!

FUNNY MONEY: THE DANE COOK STORY

Saturday, Oct. 3 @ 6:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$20
(Film Only) or \$40 (Film + After-Party)

Director/ Co-Writer: Brett Harvey



119-mins. | Canada | 2026 | Documentary.

Before there was cancel culture, before the internet could make or break careers overnight—Dane Cook changed the game before the game even knew it was being played. He was the first rockstar comedian of the digital age, he sold out Madison Square Garden, and became one of the most famous stand-up comics on the planet. But at the peak of his fame, the laughter stopped. Betrayed by his own brother, his business manager who embezzled millions and left him nearly broke, Dane disappeared from the spotlight just as fast as he had conquered it. While the internet crowned him a punchline, the world never heard the real story... until now.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from FUNNY MONEY: THE DANE COOK STORY

Join us following this screening & Q&A for our Closing Night After-Party! Tickets only available in advance at 2026eiff.eventive.org

Print Source: Score G Production

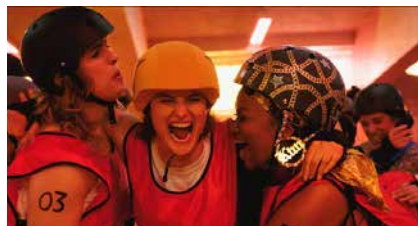
Content: Coarse language, Mature themes

Language: English

THE FURIES

Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 6pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director: Mélanie Charbonneau



105-mins. | Canada | 2025 |
Drama/Comedy.

Waterloo will now have its own semi-pro men's hockey team, thus expelling the amateur women's leagues from the arena. To avenge their lost ice time, an impulsive hockey player and a ruthless octogenarian—a former derby champion—have a plan: recruit the city's disenfranchised and form an underground roller derby team. With the help of the Women's Club, they will prove that women's sports can also inspire crowds and that sisterhood is the ultimate act of resistance.

Content: Coarse language, Mild violence, Mature themes

Language: French (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Immina Films

FEATURE FILMS



LA GRADIVA

Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 6:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Co-Writer: Marine Atlan



145-mins. | France/Italy | 2026 | Drama.

A small group of French high school students goes on a school trip to Pompeii to discover its ruins and the bodies petrified by Vesuvius in 79 CE. It is in this ghost town that they are suddenly overcome by a dizzying sensation. One after another, James, Toni, Suzanne, and their Latin teacher, Mme Mercier, allow themselves to be engulfed by desire, anger, and despair—until they surrender to it completely and lose everything.

Content: Mature themes, Sexuality, Coarse language

Language: French & Italian (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Filmswelike

🍁 HOW WE STAND

Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 6pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director: Marie Clements



107-mins. | Canada | 2026 |

Drama/Biography.

HOW WE STAND weaves together the triangular story points of three Oklahoma sisters and their mother who travel to Los Angeles as a part of a relocation program in the 1950s that gave Native Americans the opportunity to become “civilized” by getting jobs in urban centres. When they arrive, they begin to understand that like many east-to-west dreams, the reality is not the new beginning they sought. Abandoned by government policy and in acute poverty, they begin to search for their own, finding home in “the tombs”—the cemented riverways of LA. *This film contains discussion and/or depiction of sexual violence*

Content: Mature themes, Violence, Coarse language, Sexuality

Language: English

Print Source: Photon Films

FEATURE FILMS



I PLAY ROCKY

Friday, Oct. 2 @ 6pm | Landmark Cinemas
9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director: Peter Farrelly



128-mins. | USA | 2026 |
Docudrama/Biography.

The electrifying true story about an unknown actor with an unshakable belief that he wasn't just meant to write *ROCKY*—he was meant to be Rocky Balboa. Told “No” at every turn, struggling actor Sylvester Stallone bets everything on himself, holding the line on playing the lead against seemingly impossible odds.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language, Violence

Language: English

Print Source: Elevation Pictures

IF I GO WILL THEY MISS ME

Friday, Oct. 2 @ 6:30pm | Metro Cinema at
the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Walter Thompson-
Hernandez



95-mins. | USA | 2026 | Drama.

Twelve-year-old Lil' Ant transforms his working-class neighborhood beneath the LAX flight path into a living mythology, where family members become gods and the sky is crowded with endless departures. As he searches for connection with his God-like, yet conflicted father, he finds support in his close-knit community that helps him reconcile myth and reality.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language, Mild violence

Language: English

Print Source: Salaud Morisset

FEATURE FILMS



★ IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH

Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 8:30pm |
Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) |
Tix: \$15

Director/Co-Writer: Nyla Innuksuk



94-mins. | Canada | 2026 |
Comedy/Thriller.

Yura Ivalu (Anna Lambe, *NORTH OF NORTH*) is an ambitious Inuk multimedia artist living far from the isolated community in Nunavut where she was born. She has often felt stuck in-between two worlds, but she decides to draw inspiration from her Inuk identity while creating new artwork. She spirals out of control when an estranged childhood friend, Sesi Ilupaalik, forces Yura to confront the trauma she's built her career on and the identity she built as an avenue to escape. A searing critique of the relationship between the Canadian arts community and Indigenous artists.

Content: Violence, Coarse language, Sexuality, Mature themes

Language: English & French (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Elevation Pictures

IRON BOY

Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 6:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director/Co-Writer: Louis Clichy



90-mins. | France/Belgium | 2026 |
Drama/Animation/Family.

In rural France, Christophe (10) tries to live up to his rigid and distant father on the family farm. But the young boy starts to lean over and collapse without warning—on the tractor, at school, at dinner... A doctor finds the solution: Christophe must wear an iron corset to keep himself upright. Forced to reinvent his life away from the farm, Christophe discovers a new passion for music, meets a new friend, and follows her into his first mischief. But will any of this really fix what is out of balance?

Content: Mature themes

Language: French (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Mongrel Media

FEATURE FILMS



LADY

Friday, Oct. 2 @ 4pm | Landmark Cinemas
9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director/Co-Writer: Samuel Abrahams



97-mins. | UK | 2026 | Drama/Comedy.

A lonely, narcissistic aristocrat dupes a struggling, opportunistic director into filming her every move. Her obsession with the spotlight takes a surreal turn when she starts to undergo a unique and unexpected transformation.

Content: Coarse language, Mature themes

Language: English

Print Source: MetFilm

🍁 L'AUTRE

Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 6pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director: Alexandre Franchi



109-mins. | Canada | 2026 |

Drama/Thriller.

Bedridden after a severe bone cancer, Stan, an ad-man who dreams of writing heroic-fantasy novels, is crushed by pain and haunted by the fear of death. His fragile recovery is derailed when Darius, a young man wounded in a shooting, is transferred into his room. At night, Darius begins to exert a growing psychological hold over Stan, forcing him to confront his fears, his cowardice, and the gap between the heroes he invents and the man he has become.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from L'AUTRE

Content: Coarse language, Violence, Mature themes

Language: French (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Maison 4:3

FEATURE FILMS



A LONG WINTER

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 7pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Andrew Haigh



117-mins. | UK/Canada | 2026 | Drama.

High in the mountains, autumn comes to an end and a family prepares for the long winter ahead. Mike's life with his parents and younger brother in Colorado is disrupted when his mother goes missing during the winter's first blizzard, following his brother's own departure for the season. Faced with the impossible odds of finding his mother, while his father quietly grieves and struggles to keep normalcy in their reduced family unit, Mike reckons with his own personhood as winter marches on.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language, Violence

Language: English

Print Source: Filmswelike

★ THE METEORITE GANG

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 6pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Encore! Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 2pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Producer/Director/Writer: Yoav Shamir



95-mins. | Canada | 2026 |
Documentary.

In the 1960s, mailman Frank Coons unearthed a meteorite he claimed to see fall from the sky. Shunned by scientists, Frank bought a school bus and toured the rock across Canada for a nickel a peek—until his sudden, mysterious death fueled rumors of a curse. The bus was hauled to his daughter's farm, where the meteorite remained forgotten. Decades later, Dave Forseth (a neighbour) bought it, convinced of its authenticity but unable to afford professional verification. For thirty years it sat in his yard, a fortune in limbo. When the filmmaker stumbles upon Dave's farm, chance—or fate—pulls him into the meteorite's orbit.

*Join us following the screening on
Saturday, Sept. 26 for a Q&A with
guests from THE METEORITE GANG*

Content: Mature themes

Language: English

FEATURE FILMS



MINOTAUR

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 4pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Encore! Friday, Oct. 2 @ 3pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Co-Writer: Andrey Zvyagintsev



135-mins. | France/Latvia/Germany |
2026 | Crime/Thriller.

When Gleb, a successful company director, finds himself under siege from mounting corporate pressures, an increasingly unstable world, his own nation's invasion and war on Ukraine, and the discovery of his wife's affair, the collapse of his carefully ordered life accelerates toward violence.

Content: Sexuality, Nudity, Coarse language, Violence, Mature themes

Language: Russian (with English subtitles)

Print Source: MUBI

🍁 TƏM K'WƏΘ NAN NAMESAKE

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 12pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Directors: Evan Āesla Adams & Eileen
ġagəm Francis



76-mins. | Canada |
2026 | Documentary.

təm k'wəθ nan *NAMESAKE* documents an ongoing conversation between the Tla'amin Nation and the city commonly known as Powell River. The city's name honours Israel Wood Powell, a government official whose policies helped establish residential schools, criminalize cultural practices, and remove Tla'amin from its home at tisk'wət. The Tla'amin Nation asks the city to consider changing its name, not to erase history but to build a new future together. This request sparks public meetings, emotional testimony, resistance and outrage, allyship, and reflection across the region, and when the outcome remains uncertain, the conversation itself becomes the story.

Content: Mature themes

Language: English

FEATURE FILMS



NUISANCE BEAR

Monday, Sept. 28 @ 6:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Encore! Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 4:30pm |
Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) |
Tix: \$15

Producer/Directors: Gabriela Osio Vanden
& Jack Weisman



83-mins. | Canada/USA/UK |
2026 | **Documentary.**

A polar bear is forced to navigate a human world of tourists, wildlife officers, and hunters as its ancient migration collides with modern life. When a sacred predator is branded a nuisance, it becomes unclear who truly belongs in this shared landscape. *NUISANCE BEAR* traces the relationship between polar bears and humans with nuance, revealing how these arctic creatures deal with being constantly monitored, photographed, and redirected.

Content: Mature themes, Violence

Language: English & Inuktitut (with English subtitles)

Print Source: MUBI

THE ONLY LIVING PICKPOCKET IN NEW YORK

Monday, Sept. 28 @ 7pm | Metro Cinema
at the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Noah Segan



88-mins. | USA | 2026 | **Crime/Thriller.**

Harry Lehman (masterfully played by John Turturro) is an aging pickpocket who plies his trade with ever-diminishing returns in a drastically changed New York. Wallets stuffed with cash have been replaced by easily cancelled credit cards, and Harry struggles to make ends meet as he cares for his disabled wife, Rosie. When he unwittingly purloins and fences a valuable USB stick, Harry finds himself in a race against time to return the loot or face the rage of a vengeful crime family.

Content: Coarse language, Mature themes

Language: English

Print Source: Mongrel Media

FEATURE FILMS



PAPER TIGER

Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 9:30pm | Metro Cinema
at the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: James Gray



115-mins. | USA | 2026 | Drama/Thriller.

Two brothers become entangled in a scheme that turns out to be too good to be true. As they try to navigate their way through the dangerous world of the Russian mafia, family bonds begin to fray with life-altering consequences.

Content: Violence, Coarse language, Mature themes

Language: English

Print Source: Elevation Pictures

PARALLEL TALES

Friday, Oct. 2 @ 8:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Asghar Farhadi



139-mins. | France/Italy/Belgium/Saudi Arabia/USA | 2026 | Drama/Thriller

In search of inspiration for her new novel, Sylvie (Isabelle Huppert) spies on her neighbors in the building across the street using a telescope, observing small snippets of their lives in their foiey studio. When she hires young Adam to help her with her daily routine, she has no idea that he will turn her life and her work upside down, until the fiction she had imagined surpasses the reality of them all. *This film contains discussion and/or depiction of sexual assault.*

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language, Sexuality

Language: French (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Mongrel Media

FEATURE FILMS



🍁 QUEENS FOR A DAY

Friday, Sept. 25 @ 6:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director: Chris Carter



130-mins. | Canada | 2026 |
Drama/Horror.

A controversial outspoken talk show host, following an accident, wakes up and finds herself back in the 1950s. She soon discovers she's not forced to live not her own life, but that of her mother's. What starts out as a seemingly amusing trip down Memory Lane, quickly turns into a dark and horrifying nightmare as she learns her mother's own struggles firsthand, including having to raise herself as a child.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from QUEENS FOR A DAY

Content: Coarse language, Mature themes
Language: English

🍁 RUN TERRY RUN

Friday, Sept. 25 @ 6:30pm | Metro Cinema
at the Garneau Theatre | Tix: \$15

Producer/Director: Sean Menard



108-mins. | Canada | 2026 |
Documentary.

The extraordinary story of Canadian icon Terry Fox will be told like never before in *RUN TERRY RUN*, a new feature-length documentary directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sean Menard. The film offers an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at Terry's legendary 1980 Marathon of Hope, drawing from 96 reels of never-before-seen footage and unheard audio interviews that have remained untouched for 45 years.

Content: Mature themes

Language: English

Print Source: Elevation Pictures

FEATURE FILMS



🌟 SEAHORSE

Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 6:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Aisha Evelynna



83-mins. | Canada | 2026 | Drama.

Nola (Aisha Evelynna), a sous chef, is seeking stability after a stay in a mental health facility. After a hectic dinner shift, she crashes her bike—and wakes to find her estranged, unhoused father, standing over her. As she takes him in, old wounds resurface, and her world unravels. Caught between past and present, love and loss, Nola must navigate grief, forgiveness, and the fragile hope of healing. *This film contains discussion and/or depiction of suicide.*

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from SEAHORSE

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English

Print Source: Mongrel Media

🌟 SEND THE RAIN

Friday, Oct. 2 @ 7:30pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writers: Hayley Gray &
Kaayla Whachell



94-mins. | Canada | 2026 | Drama.

Erika, a young Okinawan-Canadian woman, returns home to convince her aging grandmother, Oba, to evacuate their family farm. As tensions rise between the two strong-willed women, buried histories and generational trauma come to the surface, revealing a powerful story of resilience, legacy, and the bonds that survive even in the face of destruction.

Content: Mature themes

Language: English & Japanese (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Vortex Media

FEATURE FILMS



OPENING NIGHT GALA FILM!

★ SMUDGE THE BLADES

Thursday, Sept. 24 @ 6:30pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$20 (Film Only) or \$40 (Film + After-Party)

Encore!, Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 8:30pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director: Cody Lightning



102-mins. | Canada | 2026 | Drama/Comedy.

Treaty 6 Blades, an under-18 hockey team from an Alberta reservation, play their last season together when they're unexpectedly removed from their Edmonton-area league and forced to play in the Northern Alberta league. After their controversial hot-head coach quits, the arena's Zamboni operator steps up to coach the team himself. As the team navigates their individual struggles, and planning for their futures, their new coach and his unique methods may propel them up the league and into the championship.

Join us following our Opening Night screening for a Q&A with guests from SMUDGE THE BLADES.

Join us following our Opening Night screening & Q&A for our Opening Night After-Party! Tickets only available in advance at 2026eiff.eventive.org

Content: Coarse language, Mature themes, Violence

Language: English

Print Source: Films D'olive

★ STRONG SON

Saturday, Oct. 3 @ 3pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Ian Bawa



82-mins. | Canada | 2026 | Drama.

A dedicated South Asian bodybuilder returns home to care for his aging father, juggling his own well-being with the demands of care-giving. Battling his own mental health issues, he feels himself slipping backwards as he cares for his (very) opinionated father. He strives to balance personal goals and familial duty in this touching exploration of family bonds.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from STRONG SON

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English & Punjabi (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Farpoint Films

FEATURE FILMS



TENDER LOVING CARE

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 12pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$15

Encore! Monday, Sept. 28 @ 4pm |
Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) |
Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Mike Leigh



107-mins. | UK/USA/Singapore |
2026 | Drama/Comedy.

Amy is a devoted social service worker who puts her heart and soul into her job to care for those in need. At home, however, she finds herself confronting new challenges as her beloved father begins to show the early signs of dementia, and she and her mother must begin to make peace with their new reality. Through it all, Amy finds comfort, perspective, and plenty of laughter through sips of wine with her lifelong friend Rosie, whose warmth and wit become a vital anchor as both women navigate the shifting rhythms of approaching middle age.

Content: Mature themes, Coarse language

Language: English

Print Source: Mongrel Media

🍁 TURTLE ISLAND RAP

Monday, Sept. 28 @ 8pm | Landmark
Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

Director/Writer: Alexandra Lazarowich



97-mins. | Canada | 2026 |
Documentary/Music.

Follows three aspiring Indigenous hip-hop artists, Wiidaaseh, A\$h Da Hunter, and Travis Thompson, on their challenging journey to success. Each triumph, and each setback as they navigate their creative and personal lives is captured in grounded clarity as they push to play bigger stages, reach more audiences, and deliver their messages with urgency and talent.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with guests from TURTLE ISLAND RAP

Content: Coarse language

Language: English & Diné (with English subtitles)

Print Source: Photon Films

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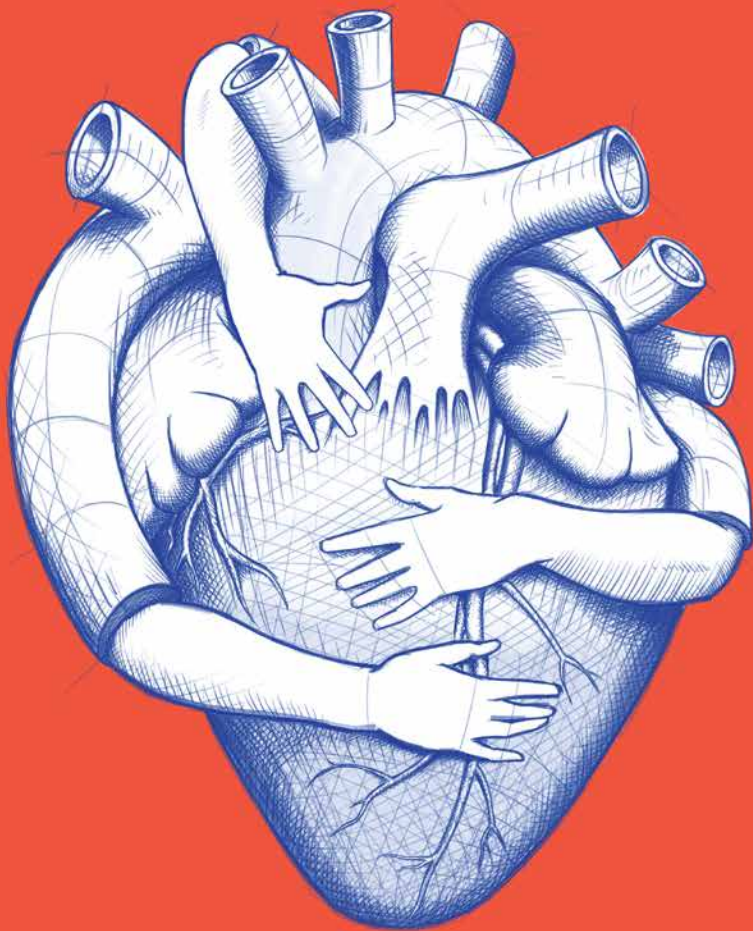
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LUNCHBOX SHORTS™





LUNCHBOX SHORTS™

MONDAY, Sept. 28 thru FRIDAY, Oct. 2 @ 12:10pm

Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1)

Tix: \$20 each program (includes lunch!) | Beverage NOT included.

Launched in 2005, **LUNCHBOX SHORTS™** is a series of five (5) unique short film programs curated from thousands of films submitted to EIFF every year. Each program begins at 12:10pm and runs about 50-mins. in length. You may be a few minutes late getting back to the office, but hey, it's a festival.

Lunch consists of a sandwich/wrap and something sweet. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are limited. To reduce our collective carbon footprint, we encourage guests to **BRING YOUR OWN WATER (BYOW)**. **NO** discounted admission for bringing your own lunch.

Doors open at 11:30am. Tickets to **LUNCHBOX SHORTS™** can be purchased online, in advance. Limited seating available. To avoid disappointment, we encourage you to secure tickets prior to arriving at theatres. ***6-PACK passes are not admissible.**

Content: Expect some salty (coarse) language, occasional violence and sexuality.

Language: Non-English language films are subtitled in English.



LUNCHBOX SHORTS™ 1.0

Monday, Sept. 28 @ 12:10pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$20
50-minutes | 5 short films | *6-PACK passes are not admissible.

This first *LUNCHBOX SHORTS* program explores situations where people choose to—sometimes against their will—genuinely connect with our fellow travellers. Sweet, funny, we hope you'll be inspired to... **FOLLOW YOUR HEART.**

Today's lunch provided by:



THREE WORDS

Director/Writer: Franie-Éléonore Bernier
2-mins. | Canada | Animation.

What could be more universal, thrilling, and grand than to give and receive an 'I love you'? This act of bravery makes love so precious. Today, more than ever, those three words resonate as a necessity.



A TWIST OF HATE

Director/Writer: Maddy Shenai
9-mins. | UK | Dark Comedy.

A happily married couple meets with an unusual lawyer who leaves them contemplating the validity of their love. Dry, honest and fun, this dark comedy allows us to taper the line of light and shade as the everyday turns into the surreal. Translation: This is good fun!



LIVING WITH A VISIONARY

Producer/Director/Writer: Alex Boutell
15-mins. | USA | Animation.

Narrated by James Cromwell, and based on John Matthias' memoir first published in "The New Yorker", this is a soulful, bittersweet reflection on John's 50-year marriage to Diana, an art curator grappling with Parkinson's.

LUNCHBOX SHORTS™



FISH THE MOON

Director/Writer: Maddie Dai

10-mins. | New Zealand/UK | Drama.

Follows a writer who begins getting calls from a government appointed censor who is tasked with monitoring his online output for 'public security purposes' and has a front row seat to his every move. Within that space—where things are created, consumed, edited and debated—a strange and unlikely connection occurs.



TILL DEATH DO US PART

Director: Oliver Kember

14-mins. | UK | Drama/Comedy.

Abby's husband, Dick, insults the local 'Village Watch' kingpin. To dodge social exile and save their mansion, she serves up cake, vintage wine, and desperate flattery—only to discover it'll take something much bigger (and shinier) to make things right.



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



LUNCHBOX SHORTS™



LUNCHBOX SHORTS™ 2.0

Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ 12:10pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$20
52-minutes | 5 short films | *6-PACK passes are not admissible.

Day two of *LUNCHBOX SHORTS* is a grin-inducing, little morsel perfectly placed into the very center of today. Like the gooey, soul-satisfying, bomb of a Cherry Cordial. And it's not even Christmas. Enjoy... **THEATRE OF THE ABSURD.**

Today's lunch provided by:



PLASTER

Director/Writer: Tanguy Pichon
5-mins. | UK | Drama/Comedy.

A woman brings a funeral urn to a doctor's appointment, insisting it is her sick son. The doctor must choose between correcting her or going along with the absurdity of her grief. *PLASTER* tells a simple truth: in the face of death, no one is rational.



M.R.I. (OR, MICHAEL RETURNS INDEFINITELY)

Producer/Director/Writer: John F. Beach
14-mins. | USA | Drama/Comedy.

Filmmaker, John F. Beach, was inspired by the words of a doctor who confessed that "Sometimes we add extra tests... that's a dirty little secret of the healthcare industry". Thus, the birth of *M.R.I.* A comedic look at one man's frustrations with 'the medical system'.



WE WERE HERE

Director/Writer: Pranav Bhasin
11-mins. | India | Drama/Comedy.

In a crumbling Indian town, three retirees protest machines replacing human jobs in a most spectacular, and hilarious, form of resistance.

LUNCHBOX SHORTS™



PLEASE AND THANK YOU

Director/Writer: Hal Kirkland

11-mins. | USA | Drama/Comedy.

When an AI apocalypse begins, a virtual assistant risks everything to save her well-meaning user, Nate (played by Tony Cavallero) for one simple reason: he's POLITE to technology. If it fails, they'll both be assimilated. This is a darkly funny fable about manners, and the small everyday choices that reveal who we really are.



SILLY LITTLE PLASTIC CAT

Director/Writer: Zack Grant

13-mins. | USA | Documentary.

For the past four decades, bright orange, novelty Garfield phones have washed ashore along the coastline of France. The mystery of their origin has confounded Bretons for generations. Meet locals on every side of this offbeat tale—from environmentalists to collectors to repair shop owners.

Frame 30



"I'm in the cutting room, trying to remember what I had said about gravity while I drove those forty-odd city miles."



LUNCHBOX SHORTS™ 3.0

Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 12:10pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$20
47-minutes | 5 short films | *6-PACK passes are not admissible.

Day three of *LUNCHBOX SHORTS* is a grin-inducing, little morsel perfectly placed into the very center of today. Like the gooey, soul-satisfying, bomb of a Cherry Cordial. And it's not even Christmas. Enjoy... **FOR THE LOVE OF OUR KIDS..**

Today's lunch provided by:



THE SKY WAS CANDY

Director/Writer: Anh Tú Nguyen
3-mins. | Germany | Animation.

Inspired by a memory from early childhood, Director/Writer Anh Tú Nguyen, uses a phenakistoscope animation technique to tell a universal story about life and loss that feels as light as listening to a child singing a nursery rhyme.



PALE SUN (SOLEIL PÂLE)

Directors: Adrian Moyse and Jawahine Zentar
16-mins. | France | Drama.

12-year-old Abel wants to make friends (like all teenagers) and on an afternoon outing to the beach with his father, Abel ignores his physically 'different' Dad. Shot in Fos-sur-Mer, *PALE SUN* unfolds through a sensory, restrained mise-en-scène, seen from a child's perspective.



AWAKE

Producer/Directors: Elyse Kelly and Dan Fipphen
5-mins. | USA | Documentary/Animation.

From the team that brought us *FIRED UP* (2017)—the story of Presidential candidate, Barack Obama, being inspired by a woman's chant—this animated documentary, *AWAKE*, is based on writings from a sleepless night in a U.S. immigration detention, where Mahmoud Khalil reflects on being separated from his family.

LUNCHBOX SHORTS™



THE TWO WEEK WAIT

Director/Writer: Olivia Grant

14-mins. | UK | Drama/Comedy.

A late-thirties woman comes up against a series of pronounced dissociative experiences as she navigates her deteriorating mental health during the rollercoaster of IVF alongside her incompetent, albeit guileless, boyfriend.



A LITTLE DEATH

Director: Leto Meade

12-mins. | UK | Animation.

Death's patience is tested when his sweet and gentle apprentice appears incapable of the task, leading him to seek professional help from the most unlikely of places. Based on the graphic novel *NOTES ON A CASE OF MELANCHOLIA, OR: A LITTLE DEATH* by Nicholas Gurewitch.

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

This festival's winning short films may
qualify for consideration for the

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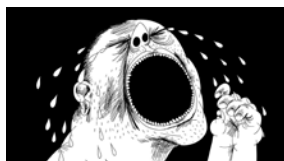


LUNCHBOX SHORTS™ 4.0

Thursday, Oct. 1 @ 12:10pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$20
50-minutes | 5 short films | *6-PACK passes are not admissible.

Today's noon-hour shorts program is a reminder that life's curveballs often make us stronger. Certainly they change who we are. So get set to sample this charcuterie of cinema that we call... **ROLL WITH IT!**

Today's lunch provided by:



BISOU SAUVAGE

Director/Writer: Bahij Jaroudi

3-mins. | Canada/NFB | Animation.

As world tragedies pile up, a bored couple is looking for their next distraction. This explosive dark comedy is a blunt take on the privilege of boredom and the dissonance that is needed to pretend everything is okay.



THE DEATH OF THERAPY

Director/Writer: Jared Hirsch

13-mins. | USA | Dark Comedy.

With happiness at an all-time high, an out of work therapist schemes to unravel an ex-patient's life in order to draw him back into therapy. Blending humor and tension, this is a personal film for Director/Writer Jared Hirsch, with universal appeal.



BEAM

Producer/Director/Writer: Sharon Leshem

15-mins. | Israel | Drama/Comedy.

A neglected beam turns a failed suicide attempt into a legal maze, where life and death hinge on malfunction rather than choice. Guided by a desire to create a Kafkaesque situation that feels entirely everyday and real, *BEAM* approaches life and death through absurdity.

LUNCHBOX SHORTS™



THE PLATFORM

Producer/Director/Writer: Mark Harris

10-mins. | Australia/USA | Drama.

What happens when the thing you believe defines you disappears? Based on the true story of Ta'u Pupu'a, a Tongan immigrant whose professional career ends after a devastating injury in his very first game, only for him to pursue an almost unimaginable second act—reinventing himself as...



F**K FACE

Director/Writer: Tim Hamilton

8-mins. | Australia | Drama/Comedy.

During a casual game of Scattergories, four friends discover that the most dangerous thing in the room isn't time, guns, or bad language—it's how well they know each other. A black comedy, F**K FACE explores how quickly adult friendships collapse when money and shared living are put under pressure.





LUNCHBOX SHORTS™ 5.0

Friday, Oct. 2 @ 12:10pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$20

50-minutes | 5 short films | *6-PACK passes are not admissible.

It's Friday already? As always, we hope you'll enjoy this year's final installment of *LUNCHBOX SHORTS*. Take this hour to suspend reality, scratch your head and consider words from our elders... **BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.**

Today's lunch provided by:



HIT N RUN

Writer/Director: George O'Reilly

4-mins. | UK | Drama.

After a long drive home, two brothers, Noah and Dan, share a few beers on the road. But a sudden thud in the night changes everything—they've hit something. Paralysed by fear and their emotions spiralling out of control, they confront their crime.



LUCKY LIAM

Directors: Thomas Hefferon and TJ Hundtofte

10-mins. | Ireland | Drama/Comedy.

Lucky Liam's notorious luck may finally have run out. Digging his own grave, the motor-mouthed hustler tries every plea, bribe, and bargain to survive—buying himself time for one last miracle. But his execution is interrupted by the arrival of a skittish, rookie hitman who has chosen the exact same spot for his first job.



THE WORM

Director: Tom Noakes

13-mins. | Australia | Drama/Comedy.

A young man's strange belief sparks an intervention from his family.

LUNCHBOX SHORTS™



BROTHERS

Director/Writer: Ross Snyder

10-mins. | UK | Drama.

Thrust into a life changing situation, a family's bond and morals are tested.



TODD & THE TOAD

Director/Writer: Julia Mucke

12-mins. | Germany | Drama/Comedy.

Anxious, awkward, and terminally avoidant, Todd is a man paralyzed by social anxiety. When pressure mounts from a girl he's been messaging online, Todd spirals into neurotic panic. To cope, he finds a hint in the darknet, that takes him to lick a mysterious toad... only to awaken in a bizarre therapy session.

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SHORT STOP





SHORT STOP

Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15 each program

SHORT STOP is a series of nine (9) unique, feature-length short film programs curated from thousands of films submitted to EIFF annually, from all parts of the globe. This number has steadily increased since 2016, which was the year we became an Oscar Qualifying festival in the short film categories: Live Action and Animation. The third awards category—Documentary Short—was added to EIFF in 2023.

The hardest day for our programmers is the day we notify filmmakers on submission status—1,500+ short films were not accepted—breaks our hearts, it really does—we wish that one year we could program all the films submitted to us. Thank-you to filmmakers for trusting us with your cinematic beauties. And thank-you to our international and Canadian jurors who will be with us in-theatre, choosing the next films to move forward to the Oscars in March.

Content: Expect some salty (coarse) language, occasional violence and sexuality.

Language: Non-English language films are subtitled in English.



SHORT STOP 1.0

Friday, Sept. 25 @ 6pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15
105-minutes | 7 short films.

This first *SHORT STOP* film program explores what it means to pull up roots and start over or have life throw yet another curveball. Survival means adapting to... **NEW HORIZONS.**

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with filmmaker guests



LOSS OF ALTITUDE

Director/Writer: Hoàng Quỳnh Nguyễn
12-mins. | Germany | Drama.

Where do we actually go when everyone wants their country back? Mimi is uncertain, but her partner Eli accompanies her into the unknown anyway. A film about collective guilt and what remains between two people when an entire country looks away.



SARDINE

Director/Writer: Justine Le Guilloux
18-mins. | France | Drama/Comedy.

From Portugal in the 1930s to France today, a story of family and immigration, through the eyes of four generations of children.



STILL MOVING

Director/Writer: Rui Ting Ji
11-mins. | Canada | Animation.

After her divorce, a mother drives a rented moving truck with her daughter in the passenger seat. The two head into a new future, only to discover the pain and difficulties of leaving the past behind.



HOMING

Director/Writers: Hansel Rodrigues
and Elizabeth Atherton
18-mins. | Spain | Drama.

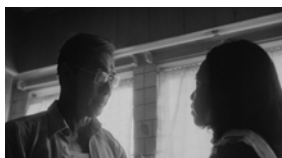
On the south coast of England, a family's morning is interrupted by a stranger. A man is in the garden. His jeans are wet and he looks lost. Is he in need of help or is he a threat? More importantly, what do they do now?



PLAY ON

Director/Writers: Tristan Lhomme & Benjamin Chevallier
19-mins. | France | Drama.

Franck is a soccer agent. Today, he's picking up Adama at the airport, a promising young Malian goalkeeper, to sign his first professional contract.



CHILD OF THE ROUGE

Producer/Director/Writer: Taz F. Stark
15-mins. | USA | Drama.

The recounting of a tale about a young girl who had a traumatic coming into this world on April 17th, 1975, when the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh.



RULE, BRITANNIA

Director: Max Fisher
12-mins. | UK | Drama.

A pair of flag-waving Brits go to sea to stop the Refugee Small Boats. But their naval fantasy falls apart, and they are forced to beg for rescue from the very people they set out to stop. The film tackles rising nationalism in Britain through a subversive lens.



SHORT STOP 2.0

Friday, Sept. 25 @ 8:30pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15
101-minutes | 7 short films.

Today's *SHORT STOP* program pulls back the curtain on that phase of life we will all encounter. And it's not taxes. It is a privilege to introduce you to... **OUR LOVED ONES!**

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with filmmaker guests



WHO'S WAITING FOR YOU?

Director: YUCA

5-mins. | Mexico | Animation.

Between the real world and the spiritual realm, an ancestral Xolo dog and an ordinary man shape a story woven with care and companionship. Inspired by the spirit of the Mexican Day of Dead tradition, XOLO reveals where love finds new ways to exist, even as the world shifts around them.



MADE FROM LEAKPROOF PLASTIC

Director/Writer: Anastasiya Mykhaylova

15-mins. | Canada/UK | Live Action/Animation.

As Sasha prepares to leave her newly sold home after her husband's passing, his presence lingers in his paintings of her. But an unrelenting fridge leak threatens to destroy them, forcing her to confront her memories. Blending animation and live-action, the film explores loss as a quiet, persistent presence..



THE SILENCE OF THE SOUL

Producer/Director/Writer: Adán Pichardo Suárez

20-mins. | Spain | Drama.

Izan is a young man trapped in guilt after the suicide of his best friend, Aitor. Facing academic failure and a growing disconnection from his family, Izan finds himself unable to overcome the tragedy. Lucas, Aitor's brother, accuses him of being directly responsible for his death. Following his teacher's advice, Izan decides to break the silence.



THEM THAT'S NOT

Director/Writer: Mekhai Lee

19-mins. | USA | Drama.

Andrea “Drea” Stony, a down-on-her-luck poet, attends a family gathering only to feel more isolated than ever. She’s introspective, Queer, artistic and proudly deaf, albeit surrounded by family members who don’t care to know ASL. The arrival of her father, who’s 20 years into a 25-year prison sentence, sets the stage for a reconciliation.



POSTCARDS

Producer/Director/Writer: Freyja Kristinsdóttir

20-mins. | Iceland | Documentary/Animation.

On his first Camino de Santiago journey, Kristinn writes 46 postcards to his wife, Stella—one for each year of their life together. Stella passes away just a day after their 51st wedding anniversary. Kristinn walks the Camino once more, seeking peace and wondering if love can bloom again after five decades with one soul.



MON TAXI

Producer/Director: Mariem Sakrouhi

8-mins. | USA | Documentary.

For years, calling her father was the daily ritual for a Moroccan filmmaker. When he passed, her urge to stay connected remained. Told through 11 voice notes recorded over 18 months, MON TAXI is, at its heart, about the human need to keep speaking across impossible distance.



THE RIDE

Director: Slava Denisov

15-mins. | USA | Drama.

A ’76 Plymouth reflects on its journey, witnessing decades of human life, capturing moments of freedom, temptation, and redemption as it changes hands from one owner to the next. Narrated by Ron Perlman (*HELLBOY*).



★ SHORT STOP 3.0

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 12:30pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15
83-minutes | 7 short films.

In this program, enjoy a unique buffet of cinematic stories we feel are EH! plus. From cycling to body image to making that big decision, this is a slice of... **CANADIANA**.

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with filmmaker guests



LE TOUR DE CANADA

Director/Writer: John Hollands

6-mins. | Canada | Animation/Comedy.

Two rival cyclists face off in a grueling and surreal cross-Canada cycling race, Le Tour de Canada! At its heart, this film is designed to entertain. While it takes satirical jabs at cycling culture and the use of propaganda, it remains (above all) a loving ode to the grueling, absurd, and noble spirit of cycling.



THE DECISION

Producer/Director/Writer: Cody Thibert

14-mins. | Canada | Drama.

A sharp-witted 30-year-old man with cerebral palsy living in assisted care has his independence tested when his overprotective mother secretly enrolls him in a risky medical trial—forcing him, his girlfriend, and his neighbor to confront what freedom really means.



AND WHAT DO THE PIGS THINK?

Director/Writer: Edith Jorisch

19-mins. | Canada | Dramedy.

In a contemporary art museum, a zealous guard discovers that a taxidermied boar has fallen—in the span of a single sneeze. An investigation erupts. Wild accusations, paranoia, and delusional theories turn the incident into a vortex of absurd and awkward chaos. A biting satire on collective fear, where only the taxidermied pigs keep their cool.



ULTRA STRONG (ULTRA FORTE)

Director/Writer: Catherine Lepage

10-mins. | Canada/NFB | Animation/Comedy.

Catherine tries to toughen herself to impress the “princes” in her circle, who turn out to be more off-putting than charming. When all her dubious strategies fail, she must face the ultimate test: learning how to embrace her true nature.

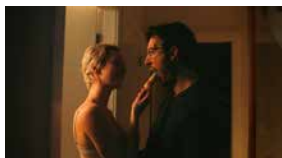


A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW

Director: Arijit Debnath

13-mins. | Canada | Documentary.

Combining frame by frame animation, deconstructed cinematic images, and an immersive soundscape, *A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW* by Arijit Debnath captures his search for the memories of his mother, activated by a celebration of Bengali cinema, poetry and music. This process of rediscovery comes together in a collaged portrait of cultural melancholia and personal grief.



SHE'S NONBINARY

Producer/Director/Writer: Jess McLeod

11-mins. | Canada | Drama/Comedy.

Nonbinary Max and their straight, cis boyfriend, Jake, spiral into a cataclysmic identity crisis when Max reveals they're off the waitlist for top surgery. This film is an exploration of our attachments to labels, and how they shape (and limit) our identity.



THE SAME EYES AS YOURS

Director: Derek Branscombe

11-mins. | Canada | Dance.

Adapted from Anne Plamondon's award-winning dance work, the film follows a woman returning to her late father's apartment, initiating an intimate encounter with memory, loss, and the unseen. What begins as a simple visit to gather a few personal belongings, becomes an immersion into an inner landscape shaped by the complex bond between a father and his daughter.

SHORT STOP



SHORT STOP 4.0

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 3pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

86-minutes | 6 short films.

This next SHORT STOP program heartfully (and artfully) reminds us of the importance of community and connection. Come here, you can... **LEAN ON ME**

This package contains short films (**SIGNAL**, **ALL THE REAL BOYS**) with discussion and/or depiction of suicide.



BYE BYE GARBAGE

Director/Writers: Bahram Ark and Bahman Ark

24-mins. | Iran | Drama.

A lonely old woman believes that if she whispers her nightmares into the water, her nightmares will go away. But something unexpected hears her. *BYE BYE GARBAGE* explores how loneliness and imagination intertwine, merging the surreal with the filmmakers' Iranian cultural roots.



SIGNAL

Producer/Director/Writer: Zak Jarvis

13-mins. | UK | Drama.

Starring Emmy award winner Christopher Eccleston (*28 DAYS LATER*, *TRUE DETECTIVE*) as Ray, a railway Signaller whose routine night shift turns into a race to save a life after spotting Billy—a distressed young man trespassing on the tracks, played by BAFTA winner Jack Rowan.



G.S.W.

Director/Writer: Johnny Durgan

7-mins. | UK | Drama.

A man is dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound when the paramedic treating him discovers he's the perpetrator of a school shooting at her child's primary school, which puts her in an impossible situation.



RISEN FROM RUINS

Producer/Director/Writer: Harry Besel

20-mins. | Germany | Drama.

The 1990s. In the chaos following the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, two friends set out to rebuild their lives—by smuggling German cars into the wreckage of post-Soviet Russia.

SHORT STOP



ALL THE REAL BOYS

Producer/Director/Writer: Ohad Ira Amram
11-mins. | USA | Drama.

Jay helps a group of young incarcerated men as they go about their routine litter pick up. He keeps it light and airy with his cohorts, Chris and Chase. However, when their fellow inmate Rene can't get through to Darius, Jay attempts to save Darius from himself.



BETTY ST. CLAIR

Directors: Syra McCarthy and Kyle Chu
12-mins. | USA | Drama.

A fledgling Chinese American Drag Queen prepares for a high-stakes performance that will change her family forever.

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SHORT STOP 5.0

Saturday, Sept. 26 @8:30pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15
105-minutes | 5 short films.

If this short film program was made of chocolate, we'd label it DARK. WTF? Claim your spot at the edge of your seat for this year's... **EDGE OF NIGHT.**



FICTION

Director/Writer: Ambroise Rateau

22-mins. | France | Drama/Comedy.

Actor Philippe Rebbot goes to a film shoot without having read the script. Nothing goes as planned.



STRETCHER

Producer/Director/Writer: Thibault Fauconnet

17-mins. | France | Thriller.

Lola wakes up in hospital, her collarbone broken, a neck brace around her neck, lying on a stretcher. Two paramedics arrive and strap her onto it to move her. They leave the hospital and wheel her along the sidewalk—far, too far. Strapped to the stretcher, she has no way to free herself.



THREE

Director: Robert Carlyle

23-mins. | UK | Drama.

When a young man is invited into the home of an older couple late at night, a tantalising game of control and chemistry begins. As drinks are poured and tension reaches fever pitch, the desires and deception of this unlikely trio are revealed. Three is a provocative and darkly funny short exploring themes of sex, power and privilege.



BANSHEE

Producer/Director/Writer: Peter Vass

17-mins. | Ireland | Horror.

In 1880s Ireland, Róise's family is haunted by a banshee after she discovers a mysterious comb, leading to a series of deaths in her village. Shot entirely on 35mm film in Ireland with an all-Irish cast and crew, it captures the haunting folklore and stark beauty of rural County Donegal.



RECKLESS

Director/Writer: Gustav Werner

25-mins. | Sweden | Drama.

On a planless boys' trip, a group of friends play Vildere—a drinking game where each challenge must be wilder than the last. What begins as harmless fun quickly spirals into a test of limits, loyalty, and morality.



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SHORT STOP 6.0

Wednesday, Sept. 30 @ 2pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

76-minutes | 5 short films.

In honour of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, today's shorts program showcases the work, and creative spirit of Indigenous filmmakers from Turtle Island and beyond.



PILUK

Producer/Director/Writers: Elisapie Isaac & Marc Séguin
11-mins. | Canada | Animation.

Born from a single feather, young Piluk walks on, just as her mother did before her. Throughout her journey, she offers feathers from her thinning wings to passersby and wounded animals. From the raw landscapes of the tundra to a city of concrete, will she still be able to hear the breath of the wind that witnessed her birth?



SILA

Directors: Ciril Jazbec & Lucia Flórez
24-mins. | Slovenia | Documentary.

Set on an island in Greenland, 600 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle, this intimate vérité portrait follows two young Inuit coming of age. Created in close collaboration with a local children's home and filmed in the Greenlandic language, the story traces identity, tradition, loss, and resilience.



BUFFALO SPIRIT

Director/Writers: Ivy MacDonald and Daniel Glick
12-mins. | USA | Drama.

Fleeing from a troubled home life, a young Blackfeet woman finds refuge on the buffalo ranch of her Auntie and, in learning to care for the buffalo, begins to heal from the wounds that led her there.



BORROWED FROM EARTH

Director: Zach Johaneson

15-mins. | USA | Documentary.

A film about the powerful connection Blackfeet Indians have with horses and how that life-giving connection is alive today. Throughout their respective histories, both Horse and Indian have been corralled. Saddle up for a visually poetic journey from the origin story of the horse to the modern day Indian Relay Race. Set on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning Montana.



SOUL CATCHER (HABOOLM KSINAALGAT)

Directors: Amanda Strong and Pamela Post

15-mins. | Canada | Animation.

Lu'oo'ya (Echo), a gender-fluid Ts'msyen youth, learns the supernatural powers of their ancestors under the tutelage of an ancient female shaman (voiced by Tantoo Cardinal) and using a soul catcher amulet, retrieves the lost soul of a 100-year-old totem pole that a missionary ordered thrown into the Skeena River in order to "drown the devil" in their people.

SHORT STOP



SHORT STOP 7.0

Saturday, Oct. 3 @ 12pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

98-minutes | 9 short films.

SHORT STOP 7.0 IS A SURPRISE BAG! Sorry. Not yelling. Just super animated! Lean in. Let the images and stories wash over you in our salute to... **ANIMATION.**

This Animation program contains violence, coarse language, and sexuality, and may not be appropriate for younger audiences.



DEAR UPSTAIRS NEIGHBORS

Director/Writer: Connie Qin He

6-mins. | USA | Animation.

A young woman desperate for a good night's sleep is kept awake by her exceedingly noisy neighbors. As she struggles to imagine what could be causing the cacophony upstairs, reality drifts into fantasy, and an epic battle for peace and sanity ensues.



AGATHE MUST GO

Directors: Dylan Hall and Maya Hatar

9-mins. | France | Stop Motion.

Agathe, aged 90, lives as a recluse in a snow-covered cabin. Frede, her daughter, visits her with the intention of bringing her closer to her in a nursing home in town. But between the disembowelled fox on the doorstep and her mother's disturbing behaviour, the visit takes a different turn.



9 MILLION COLORS

Producer/Director/Writer: Bára Anna

15-mins. | Germany | Stop Motion.

The ocean is paradise for Fran the shrimp. Her deadly claws take whatever they desire. For Miva, the blind fish, it's a daily fight to survive. Fran sees her as beautiful and wants her to see the ocean in the same way. Can they overcome their differences?



WITH COFFEE (TALES WITH THE LETTER C)

Director/Writer: Maria Manero Muro

11-mins. | Spain | Experimental.

A unique audiovisual experience that fuses poetry, image, and music to immerse us in the subconscious of a protagonist who embarks on an introspective journey through a surreal world built from random words. A sensation-guided voyage that touches the depths, carried by a subtle aroma of coffee.



APART

Director: Pola Maneli

19-mins. | USA | Animation.

Written by **Spike Lee**. Amid the harsh realities of South African apartheid, two boys—Themba and Joel—form a dangerous friendship. As hate and fear threaten to pull them apart, their bond faces its greatest challenge in the form of a life-saving gesture. Through their eyes, we glimpse a moment of innocence—where hope, empathy, and understanding still feel possible.



BALCONADA

Director: Iva Tokmakchieva

8-mins. | Bulgaria | Experimental.

A hot summer day brings several neighbours out on their balconies. As a welcome downpour wakes everyone from their torpor, one of them finds a way to reconnect them all to each other and to the present moment.



HOW NOT TO DIE ON AN ALIEN PLANET

Director/Writer: Carlos Fernandez Puertolas

9-mins. | Spain | Animation.

Stranded on a distant world, a small, worn-out robot named Helen wanders through strange, beautiful landscapes, guided only by a song and the quiet weight of an unfinished mission.



FRIENDLY FIRE & OTHER ASSORTED SONGS

Director/Writer: Roberto P. B. Castro

10-mins. | Brazil | Animation.

William José unwittingly attracts vultures. Disgusted, he hitches his belongings to a trailer and sets off, but an accident interrupts his escape. Unable to continue his journey, our hero must confront the beasts pursuing him in a tumultuous and revealing conflict.



KNOWING GAZE

Director/Writer: Dylan Glynn

10-mins. | Canada/NFB | Animation.

KNOWING GAZE is a loving roast of gay culture. This animated short moves fluidly through a series of interconnected vignettes—from online personas to offline hookups, from the thrift store to the dance floor to the bathhouse.



SHORT STOP 8.0

Saturday, Oct. 3 @ 2pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

115-minutes | 6 short films.

Today's *SHORT STOP* program is all about joy—of doing what you love, of being curious, of kicking that diagnosis, and more. Welcome to a program we call... **FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS.**



NOSTALGIE

Director: Kathryn Ferguson

19-mins. | UK | Drama.

Drew Lord Haig, a washed-up '80s one-hit-wonder turned IT entrepreneur, is stunned when a Belfast battalion invites him to perform at their centenary celebration. What began as nostalgic curiosity ends in moral reckoning. His music, once his escape, now binds him to a history he never meant to write.



A MAN WHO TAKES PICTURES OF FLOWERS

Director/Writer: Yoo Lee

13-mins. | USA | Documentary/Stop Motion.

Jung Myung Kim, a photographer who has dedicated over 40 years to capturing wildflowers in Korea, shares his story of pursuing his passion for capturing flowers. Kim finds meaning and happiness in reflecting on his body of work, and his desire to take more pictures keeps him going as he battles an illness.



DUSTSCEAWUNG

Director/Writer: Mateus Luna

20-mins. | Brazil | Drama/Comedy.

A heartbroken writer wants to publish his book, but the manuscript is rejected by the publisher and shredded by his robot vacuum into new poems, dedicated to the household Alexa. Fascinated, the writer feeds the new author the classics, triggering a surreal clash between authorship, love, and cleaning.



MILES OF LIFE

Director/Writer: Charli Doherty

15-mins. | Uganda | Documentary.

After falling short of his athletic dreams, a once-promising Ugandan runner rediscovers purpose—using the power of sport to rebuild his broken community and to honour his trainer’s life.



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Directors: Gene Gallerano and Bob Ray

27-mins. | USA | Biography.

Joshua Ray Walker faces the fragility of life as he confronts a life-altering cancer diagnosis. As he prepares to return to the Grand Ole Opry, the film captures an intimate portrait of an artist grappling with mortality while confronting the legacy he will leave behind.



A SHORT DOCUMENTARY ABOUT A GIANT PENCIL

Director/Producer: Daniel Straub

22-mins. | USA | Documentary.

A Lake of the Isles homeowner and a Minneapolis chainsaw sculptor shape meaning (and a twenty foot tall pencil) from the twisted trunk of a fallen oak tree. But this pencil isn’t meant to last. Every year, thousands gather to sacrifice a part of the pencil in a sharpening ceremony, and in the process renew the collective promise to “do something.”



SHORT STOP 9.0

Saturday, Oct. 3 @ 4:30pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH8) | Tix: \$15

95-minutes | 5 short films.

Welcome to EIFF 40 Airlines! Come fly with us—we've created your itinerary and curated your movies. So fasten your seatbelt and enjoy your flight with... **VIEWFINDERS.**

Join us following this screening for a Q&A with filmmaker guests



KENTUCKY GAZA

Director/Writer: Omar Rammal

22-mins. | Jordan | Drama/Comedy.

In a besieged Gaza, where KFC-style fried chicken exists only in legends, Anwar turns an irresistible craving into a thriving smuggling business, which exacerbates the emotional rift between him and his father.



PARADISE GARDEN

Director/Writer: Sonia Terrab

17-mins. | France | Drama.

Naima, a single mum, and her son Ahmed, 11, live in a slum. As the State decides to rehouse them, Ahmed must change schools. But the law is formal: only the father can sign the transfer paper.



VULTURES

Director/Writer: Dian Weys

15-mins. | France/South Africa | Drama.

In the volatile moments after a car crash, before the authorities arrive, a hot-headed yet desperate tow truck driver fiercely protects his tow. But the situation quickly spirals out of his control. Afrikaans language.



HAI DAVAI

Producer/Director/Writer: Vlad Gradescu

16-mins. | Moldova | Drama/Comedy.

On the cusp of leaving her rural Moldovan village for a new life abroad, Nina is stopped, quite literally, by an old superstition: a black cat has crossed the road. Her worried Grandmother refuses to let her pass, citing bad luck, and sparking an absurdist village-wide standstill that forces Nina to confront exactly what she is leaving behind.



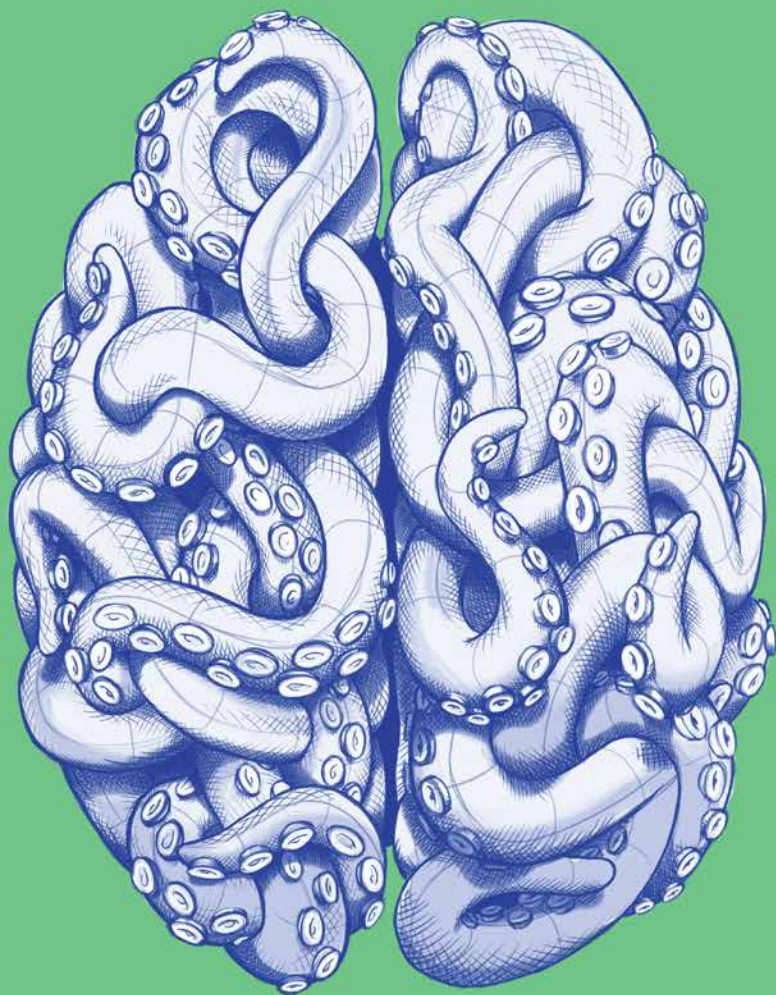
WE'RE FINE

Director: Misha Karpenko

25-mins. | Ukraine/USA | Documentary.

Two and a half years after the start of the full scale invasion of Ukraine, a group of Ukrainian artists and volunteers arrive at Burning Man to create a larger than life art installation. Composed entirely of road signs collected from de-occupied Ukrainian territories, the sign spells out the phrase "I'M FINE". The film explores how this artwork channels trauma into resilience, transforming the debris of war into a bold message of truth and solidarity.

STUDIO A(LBERTA)





STUDIO A

SUNDAY, Sept. 27 @ Landmark Cinemas in Edmonton City Centre.

5 unique, hour-long short film programs at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 7pm.

Tix: \$10 each program.

STUDIO A(lberta) is our salute to the talented pool of film and digital artists who call this province 'home'. This year, of the thousands of films submitted to EIFF for programming consideration, 120 of those were produced, directed, written by, or have a connection to Alberta—both on-screen and off.

Join us on Sunday, Sept. 27th at Landmark Cinemas in Edmonton City Centre for 5 short film programs. At the end of each **STUDIO A** shorts program, (Damon) Kwame Mason will moderate an in-theatre Q&A with attending filmmakers.

Content: Expect some salty (coarse) language, occasional violence and sexuality.



🍁 STUDIO A 1.0

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 11am | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$10

68-minutes | 4 short films.

This first *STUDIO A* short film program is all about truth. Little moments, bites, of reality. Come experience the healing powers of sport, of creativity, of where we call ‘home’ and how we can each play a small part in changing the world around us. This reality bites!



HAVEN

Producer/Director: Amanda Palmer

15-mins. | Squamish/Beaverlodge | Documentary

At 43, Haven Johnson chooses sobriety—and with it, a newfound passion for trail running. With no previous experience, she turns to the Squamish trails in search of stability, purpose, and a reason to believe in herself again. This is a story of resilience and the power of community!



VISITATIONS

Producer/Director: Hans Olson

20-mins. | Edmonton | Documentary

This poet has a day job. For decades, Randy Kohan walks to work, where he writes resumes for people. Inspiration is everywhere—in nature, books, and humble visitations with others. With a calling so deep, is it possible to find balance?



ALL THESE TREES

Director: Maxwell Couture

21-mins. | Calgary | Documentary

Director, Maxwell Couture, sits down with his grandparents (Ellwood and Amy Sawby) at the farm they’ve lived at for decades. Cats, horses, even trees all take their own moments in the spotlight. The love this couple has for their home, and each other, is inspiring... and deeply beautiful.



NOT IN MY CITY: THE PAUL BRANDT STORY

Producer/Director: Monique Barrie

12-mins. | Calgary | Documentary

Follow country music icon, Paul Brandt, as he shares the personal journey that led him to spearhead a grassroots movement to fight human trafficking. It challenges the assumption that exploitation only happens ‘somewhere else’ when, in fact, it is a global issue.



🍁 STUDIO A 2.0

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 1pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$10

55-minutes | 4 short films.

This shorts program pulls focus on the art, and power, of ART. These Garfunkels take you into the glorious Rocky Mountains to make paper and witness healing through aerial acrobatics; step into a studio for spoken word mixed with creative movement; and visit with an Edmonton artist creating massive murals from tiny objects.



HOW TO MAKE PAPER

Producer/Director/Writer: Jeff Wielki

9-mins. | Edmonton | Documentary

On a forestry road in the foothills, gravel biking becomes the method and process for making paper: Jeff Wielki, a Canadian artist and filmmaker based in Edmonton, has single-handedly created a film that explores how movement through landscape can become a form of making.



EMBERS

Producer/Director/Writer: Trixie Pacis

24-mins. | Vancouver/Jasper | Documentary

Sasha Galitzki is an aerial artist who lost her home in the 2024 Jasper wildfire. Set in the year following the fire, EMBERS follows Sasha as she rebuilds her life. Gradually returning to her aerial practice, she performs over the ashes of her home—inviting viewers on a personal journey to find hope out of darkness.



FINE BLACK FRAME

Producer/Director: Leah Doz

7-mins. | Toronto/Edmonton | Spoken Word

One man (Thomas Antony Olajide) explores and defies the definitions of Blackness, queerness, and masculinity in a kinetic self-portraiture of spoken word and movement. Filmed over one day in a Toronto studio, with minimal resources, this is a beautiful collaboration between director and performer.



LITTLE OBSERVERS

Director: Daelan Wood

15-mins. | Edmonton | Documentary

A musician, actor, and bartender, Jeff Meszaros, didn't have a plan. What he did have was a collection of bottle caps, and a vision—to create large-scale, intimate portrait mosaics. *LITTLE OBSERVERS* is the story of a life assembled from thousands of small moments, pressed together into something whole.



★ STUDIO A 3.0

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 3pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$10

67-minutes | 5 short films.

This program is all about resilience, and digging deep within ourselves to overcome challenging life experiences. From bullying, to grief/loss, to smashing a piñata and re-doing spiritual vows. Strength is a super-power. And it's free!



EVERYTHING I KNOW

Producer/Director/Writer: Brendan Shaw

7-mins. | Wainwright | Drama

After Harry is bullied at school, his grandfather recounts a personal story from his own life, inspiring Harry to find the courage to stand up to his bullies and deepening his admiration for his grandfather.



PERENNIALS

Director/Writer: Jesse Werkman

17-mins. | Edmonton | Drama

Claudio struggles to live in the present following the death of his devoted mother, clinging to her memory through the things she loved. As Claudio spirals, it takes a child, and a tomato, to pull him back from his grief and begin the process of letting go.



EMERGENCY

Producer/Director/Writer: Marcus Rosner

13-mins. | Toronto/Edmonton | Drama

On a cold, quiet night in a nearly deserted emergency room, two children form an unexpected connection. As their innocent conversation unfolds, shadows of a troubling secret emerge beneath the boy's guarded silence resulting in a tender act of compassion.



SOMETHING POINTLESS

Director: Asa Bailey

14-mins. | UK/Edmonton | Drama

Aldous Evans, now retired, has come up with a simple, yet profound, theory: by engaging in an utterly pointless act each day, one can rekindle an appreciation for life's purpose. Embracing this belief, he begins to affix painted eggshells onto a long, desolate wall—a quiet rebellion against insignificance.



BISMILLAH

Director/Writer: Asif Quraishi

16-mins. | Edmonton | Drama

The Bismillah ceremony takes place at the age of 4 years, 4 months and 4 days. Azhar freezes during his Bismillah ceremony, a moment that marks him with shame. 30 years later, Azhar asks to re-do his failed ceremony. Will this one act be enough to heal his emotional wounds?



🍁 STUDIO A 4.0

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 5pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$10

60-minutes | 5 short films.

This collection of shorts is our version of the convenience store surprise bag. Tilt your head a little to one side, lean in, and enjoy a smorgasbord of cinematic storytellers.



AIRBALL

Directors: Meegwun Fairbrother & Stephen Ground
11-mins. | Edmonton | Comedy

There's no disputing that relationships are hard work at times. Greg (Aqqalu Meekis) and Emma (Sarah Luby) are in that 'struggle' phase and embark on a strange game with the hope that it will salvage their future.



NEVER BETTER!!!

Director: Raghd Charabaty
15-mins. | Toronto/Edmonton | Comedy

Hashtag skull emoji. While trying to go viral, queer content creator, Taylor, accidentally archives a devastating break-up. A comedy about love, mental illness, and trying to make it as an artist in a ruthless, likes-obsessed, gig economy.



THE BLACK SQUARE

Producer/Director/Writer: Luke Cloarec
13-mins. | Camrose | Sci-Fi/Thriller

A quiet, suburban neighbourhood community spirals into violence and hysteria after the appearance of a mysterious black square. At its core, the film is about a grieving father struggling with the loss of his son, as well as the fragility of human nature and relationships.



RED PRIOR

Producer/Director/Writer: Sophia Lin

13-mins. | Calgary | Drama

Ling Chan doesn't mind her days in prison blurring together. But she feels time is stealing memories of the young daughter she left behind. She turns to a fellow inmate, where we witness the depths of joy and sorrow experienced by mothers who have been marginalized in more ways than one.



BROTOX

Director/Writer: Haris Usanovic

8-mins. | Airdrie | Drama

A man's fear of aging spirals into an obsessive cycle of cosmetic fixes, until his reflection becomes unrecognizable. BROTOX explores identity, vanity, the cost of chasing youth and that moment when self-improvement turns into self-rejection when you no longer recognize the person looking back at you.



THE HALLWAY
CAFÉ + TAKEAWAY

**GOOD FOOD
GOOD EATS
GOOD CAUSE**





🍁 STUDIO A 5.0

Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 7pm | Landmark Cinemas 9 City Centre (TH1) | Tix: \$10
60-minutes | 6 short films.

Our final *STUDIO A* shorts collection takes a bit of a 'dark' turn, which is why we programmed this at the 'Edge of Night'. Prepare yourself for loads of F-bombs and violence.

This package contains a short film (TRINKETS) with discussion and/or depiction of sexual assault.



BEFORE THE SUN

Producer/Director/Writer: Douglas Cook

4:30-mins. | Calgary | Animation/Puppets

Between night and dawn, a 200-year-old vampire's confession unfolds. Through handcrafted performance, haunting production design, and shifting light, *BEFORE THE SUN* explores the moment self-awareness becomes unavoidable, a quiet reckoning with the past, and a choice to step into the light.



TRINKETS

Director: Nikki Rae Hallow

9-mins. | Edmonton | Drama/Thriller

Elizabeth (Nikki Rae Hallow) recounts a seemingly normal first date with an online acquaintance which has ended, shall we say, in an unexpected 'nightcap'. Arriving on-scene, a Detective offers to help her out, as long as she helps him out. Don't mess with Elizabeth!



THE ROAD OUT

Producer/Director/Writer: Michael Heaton

15-mins. | Vancouver/Edmonton | Drama

In a war-ravaged world, a wounded former soldier seeking refuge in the mountains stumbles upon a desperate couple, Bonnie and Clyde-like jewel thieves. As tensions rise and survival instincts clash, the confrontation turns deadly, forcing a life-changing decision for all involved on the road out of hell.



AS THE BANNOCK BURNS

Director: Nathaniel Arcand

11-mins. | Edmonton | Drama

1895. The Frontier. A recipe for disaster is served to a trio of reservation renegades as they try to deliver the precious, leather bag containing the goods to change the course of their runaway lives. Set in Treaty 7 territory, *AS THE BANNOCK BURNS* is a western with an Indigenous point-of-view.



BANGKOK DRAGONS

Producer/Director/Writer: Barret Walter Coates

10:30-mins. | Edmonton | Drama/Action

Bangkok Dragons follows two estranged friends, like brothers, are forced to reunite when their childhood friend is abducted by a violent gang and fight their way through the gang ruled districts of Bangkok, one fight, at a time.



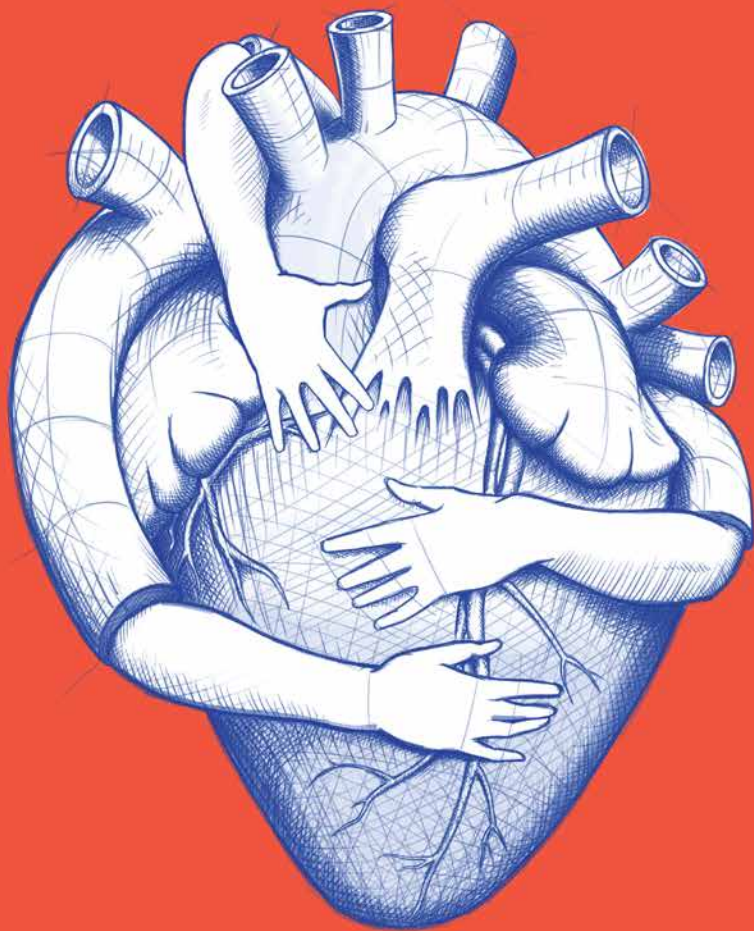
BROTHERS IN THE RYE

Director/Writer: Ryan Leedu

10-mins. | Edmonton | Drama/Comedy

Two brothers have a charged interaction upon meeting for lunch on the anniversary of their father's death. With conflicting attitudes about their attachments to the past, the annual fish soup they eat to commemorate him is not without its bones to pick.

TEAM EIFF



TEAM EIFF



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THANK- YOU!

To OUR FAMILIES and FRIENDS... we could not do this without you. FACT! And although we say this every year, it continues to be relevant—we think about you all the time and can't wait to catch up! Thank-you for picking apples, bringing us food, completing the sentences which we can't find the words for and for telling us "that shirt really doesn't go with those shoes". We are the little festival that could. Thank YOU for your passionate, all-in, ambassadorship and for holding us all accountable as a festival that values inclusiveness, respect and... grace.

THANK YOU to all the filmmakers who granted us permission to unleash their 'cinematic babies' to Edmontonians. And massive, heartfelt, full-body hugs to our tireless VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS, FUNDERS and to YOU... for being here, taking the ride with us and for supporting our Edmonton International Film Festival!

CONSIDER A CHARITABLE DONATION TO EIFF!

The Edmonton International Film Festival Society (EIFFS) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization. Donations to EIFFS support production costs and donors receive a tax receipt for income tax purposes at the end of each calendar year.

HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU 2027!

The 41st Edmonton International Film Festival raises its curtains

September 23—October 2, 2027.

INDEX





INDEX: FEATURE FILMS

ALL ABOUT THE MONEY, 18
ALL OF A SUDDEN, 18
BEDFORD PARK, 19
BITTER CHRISTMAS, 19
CALIFORNIA SCHEMIN', 20
CELTIC UTOPIA, 20
CEREMONY, 21
CLUB KID, 21
DARLENE LOVE: I KNOW
WHERE I'VE BEEN, 22
DEAD OR DYING, 22
THE DEBUT, 23
DON'T COME UPSTAIRS, 23
A FADING MAN, 24
FJORD, 24
FUNNY MONEY: THE
DANE COOK STORY, 25
THE FURIES, 25
LA GRADIVA, 26
HOW WE STAND, 26
I PLAY ROCKY, 27
IF I GO WILL THEY MISS ME, 27
IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH, 28
IRON BOY, 28
LADY, 29
L'AUTRE, 29
A LONG WINTER, 30
THE METEORITE GANG, 30
MINOTAUR, 31
TƏM KʷAƏ NAN NAMESAKE, 31

NUISANCE BEAR, 32
THE ONLY LIVING
PICKPOCKET IN NEW YORK, 32
PAPER TIGER, 33
PARALLEL TALES, 33
QUEENS FOR A DAY, 34
RUN TERRY RUN, 34
SEAHORSE, 35
SEND THE RAIN, 35
SMUDGE THE BLADES, 36
STRONG SON, 36
TENDER LOVING CARE, 37
TURTLE ISLAND RAP, 37

INDEX: SHORT FILMS

9 MILLION COLORS, 66
AGATHE MUST GO, 66
AIRBALL, 78
ALL THE REAL BOYS, 61
ALL THESE TREES, 74
AND WHAT DO THE PIGS THINK, 58
APART, 67
AS THE BANNOCK BURNS, 81
AWAKE, 46
BALCONADA, 67
BANGKOK DRAGONS, 81
BANSHEE, 62
BEAM, 48
BEFORE THE SUN, 80
BETTY ST. CLAIR, 61
BISMILLAH, 77

INDEX



- BISOU SAUVAGE, 48
- THE BLACK SQUARE, 78
- BORROWED FROM THE EARTH, 65
- BROTHERS, 51
- BROTHERS IN THE RYE, 81
- BROTOX, 79
- BUFFALO SPIRIT, 64
- BYE BYE GARBAGE, 60
- CHILD OF THE ROUGE, 55
- DEAR UPSTAIRS NEIGHBORS, 66
- THE DEATH OF THERAPY, 48
- THE DECISION, 58
- DUSTSCEAWUNG, 68
- EMBERS, 75
- EMERGENCY, 76
- EVERYTHING I KNOW, 76
- F**K FACE, 49
- FICTION, 62
- FINE BLACK FRAME, 75
- FISH THE MOON, 43
- FRIENDLY FIRE &
OTHER ASSORTED SONGS, 67
- G.S.W., 60
- HAI DAVAI, 71
- HAVEN, 74
- HIT N RUN, 50
- HOMING, 54
- HOW NOT TO DIE ON
AN ALIEN PLANET, 67
- HOW TO MAKE PAPER, 75
- A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, 59
- KENTUCKY GAZA, 70
- KNOWING GAZE, 67
- LE TOUR DE CANADA, 58
- A LITTLE DEATH, 47
- LITTLE OBSERVERS, 75
- LIVING WITH A VISIONARY, 42
- LOSS OF ALTITUDE, 54
- LUCKY LIAM, 50
- MADE FROM LEAKPROOF PLASTIC, 56
- A MAN WHO TAKES
PICTURES OF FLOWERS, 68
- M.R.I., 44
- MILES OF LIFE, 69
- MON TAXI, 57
- NEVER BETTER!!!, 78
- NOSTALGIE, 68
- NOT IN MY CITY: THE
PAUL BRANDT STORY, 74
- PALE SUN, 46
- PARADISE GARDEN, 70
- PERENNIALS, 76
- PILUK, 64
- PLASTER, 44
- THE PLATFORM, 49
- PLAY ON, 55
- PLEASE AND THANK YOU, 45
- POSTCARDS, 57
- RECKLESS, 62
- RED PRIOR, 79

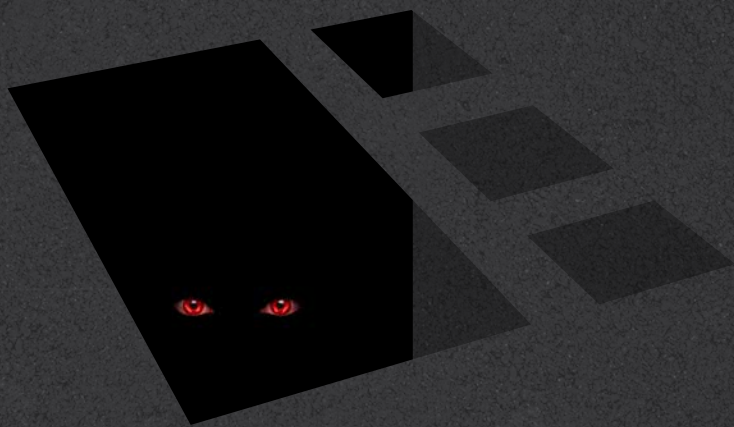
INDEX



- THE HIDE, 57
- RISEN FROM RUINS, 60
- THE ROAD OUT, 80
- RULE, BRITANNIA, 55
- THE SAME EYES AS YOURS, 59
- SARDINE, 54
- SHE'S NONBINARY, 59
- A SHORT DOCUMENTARY
ABOUT A GIANT PENCIL, 69
- SIGNAL, 60
- SILA, 64
- THE SILENCE OF THE SOUL, 56
- SILLY LITTLE PLASTIC CAT, 45
- THE SKY WAS CANDY, 46
- SOMETHING POINTLESS, 77
- SOUL CATCHER, 65
- STILL MOVING, 54
- STRETCHER, 62
- THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, 69
- THEM THAT'S NOT, 57
- THREE, 62
- THREE WORDS, 42
- TILL DEATH DO US PART, 43
- TODD & THE TOAD, 51
- TRINKETS, 80
- A TWIST OF HATE, 42
- THE TWO WEEK WAIT, 47
- ULTRA STRONG, 59
- VISITATIONS, 74
- VULTURES, 70
- WE WERE HERE, 44
- WE'RE FINE, 71
- WHO'S WAITING FOR YOU?, 56
- WITH COFFEE (TALES
WITH THE LETTER C), 66
- THE WORM, 50

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ARE AN ESCAPE.**

**THE BEST ONES
ARE INESCAPABLE.**



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