

OFFA

**2021
Annual
Oakville
Film
Festival**

**FESTIVAL GUIDE
JUNE 23RD TO 29TH**



WELCOME TO THE

2021 Annual Oakville Film Festival Guide

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ABOUT OAKVILLE FESTIVALS OF FILM & ART

The Oakville Festivals of Film & Art (OFFA) is a registered not-for-profit organization that works to create a community of cultural and artistic diversity with the cinematic arts as a focal point. **Visit us at OFFA.ca for more information**

 **@OAKVILLEFESTIVALS**
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A Welcome Message from The Board of Directors

A VIRTUAL FESTIVAL FOR THE SOUL

Welcome to the 8th annual Oakville Film Festival! We are thrilled to be offering the biggest and longest festival ever for 2021: over 100 films, most available for seven days online. The festival is an important cultural institution in Oakville, and OFFA has once again pivoted to a digital festival, allowing you to screen our specially curated collection from the comfort of your own home, cottage, or outdoor movie night.

OFFA is thrilled to have won the 2021 Innovative New Experience Award for Virtual at Home Experience from the Hamilton Halton Brandt Regional Tourism Association, in recognition of our early adoption of a digital platform to screen our 2020 festival into the homes of Canadians virtually, demonstrating leadership in the arts during the early months of the pandemic. And a huge thank you to the Investment Readiness Program funded by the Government of Canada's SI/SF Strategy, for helping to fund our new rebranding initiative for 2021. OFFA now has a bold new visual identity that will be recognizable for years to come.

Film continues to be our passion, one that we want to share with you. This year's festival is our most multicultural and diverse festival to date: with films from Canada and around the world, with 22 countries represented. There is something for everyone: comedy, romance, thrillers, suspense, Sci Fi and the supernatural, along with world class documentaries.

Our Women Who Give event is in support of Canadian Multiculturalism Day, on Sunday 27 June. OFFA has dedicated a full day of programming highlighting inspirational, bold women from all corners of the globe, giving them a stage to share their incredible stories and the challenges they face, and overcome with grace. Our charity of choice for the 2021 Festival is Zonta International: OFFA is donating a portion of money from our Multiculturalism Day pass and All Access pass to the local Oakville Chapter.

Truly a virtual festival for the soul.

Board of Directors

Oakville Festivals of Film and Art





Message from the Executive Director at Telefilm Canada

TELEFILM
C A N A D A

A celebration of artistry in film, festivals provide an important venue to showcase Canadian creativity across the country and beyond. That is why we are proud to support the 2021 Oakville Film Festival!

This past year more than ever, Canada has shown the many innovative and resourceful ways in which we make our audiovisual sector thrive. We have given the world many reasons to take notice of Canada and why we continue to be a Partner of Choice!

Our mission to foster and elevate authentic storytelling from Canadians of all backgrounds, especially those of underrepresented communities, is more pressing than ever before. At Telefilm, our priority to create a more representative screen-based industry continues as our efforts across all our initiatives, including our funding programs, increase.

Stronger together, I want to thank and congratulate the 2021 Oakville Film Festival for continuing its work of uplifting a diversity of voices through films and celebrating the brilliance of Canadian content at home and around the world.

As always, continue to watch Canadian films wherever they are available and tell others to do the same!

Christa Dickenson
Executive Director, Telefilm Canada



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It takes an incredible amount of work, time and commitment to make this festival happen. Thank you to

Our Volunteer Board of Directors



Wendy Donnan
Executive Director,
Co-Chair &
Programming



Debra Barlow
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& Secretary



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SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!





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FESTIVAL HOSTS



ALITA ROSE

Alita Rose is a commercial actress and model and has been cast in television, print, and online commercials and campaigns in North America, Dubai, and Europe. Alita has filmed national commercials for EB Games, TSN, Hakim Optical and Stagg Chili, and has modelled for Joe Boxer, The Shopping Channel, Rogers, Canadian Tire, Air Canada, and a Levi's campaign in HOLR Magazine. Alita has also interviewed nominees and winners for the 2017 Marty Awards and has been a presenter for the Canadian International Autoshow in Toronto, Vancouver, and Ottawa for the last 5 years. Alongside her creative career, Alita is an English and French Occasional Teacher for grades 4-12.



TYLER COLLINS

Tyler Collins has been hosting the OFFA & Sheridan Alumni annual Screening series, and other special events, since 2020. He is the Oakville News publishing assistant and arts reporter, and a film lover! He started with the news in 2016 and now specializes in current and live events, film, theatre and entertainment. He comes from Campbellton, NB and has lived in Oakville more than 20 years. Tyler is also a proud Sheridan grad of Journalism and Performing Arts.



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12 FEATURE FILMS
6 DOCUMENTARIES
87 SHORT FILMS

Film Festival Line Up

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

An Overview

NOTE: All films & Documentaries are available for 7 days from the time of first broadcast. With the exception of **Nine Days** (24 hours) and **Meander** (72 hours).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23RD

Local Short Film Festival

Short films from Oakville, Sheridan College and surrounding communities
5:00PM EDT

Marlene

Oakville Festival Premiere | Canada | Drama
Dir: Wendy Hill-Tout
8:00PM EDT

THURSDAY, JUNE 24TH

First We Eat

Oakville Premiere | Canada | Documentary
Dir: Suzanne Crocker
5:00PM EDT

Lorelei

Ontario Premiere | USA | Romance, Drama
Dir: Sabrina Doyle
8:00PM EDT

FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH

DOCUMENTARY DOUBLE BILL

Coral Ghosts

Canada | Documentary
Dir: Andrew Nisker
5:00PM EDT

Bread in the Bones

Ontario Premiere | Canada | Documentary
Dir: Darrell Varga
5:00PM EDT

Nine Days

Oakville Premiere | USA | Supernatural Drama, Fantasy | Dir: Edson Oda
8:00PM EDT

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH

Québéxit

Oakville Premiere | Canada | Comedy
Dir: Joshua Demers
10:00 AM EDT

Woman in Car

Oakville Premiere | Canada | Drama | Dir: Vanya Rose
1:00PM EDT

Alice

Canadian Premiere | France | Comedy/Romance/Drama
Dir: Josephine Mackerras
4:00 PM EDT

French Exit

Canada, Ireland, UK, USA | Comedy/Romance
Dir: Azazel Jacobs
7:00PM EDT

Meander

Canadian Premiere | France | Horror/Sci Fi/Thriller
Dir: Mathieu Turi
10:00PM EDT

SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH

MULTICULTURALISM DAY

Women Who Give Event
Includes 3 Feature Films and 2 Documentaries
STARTS 10:00AM EDT

Gosia @ Tomek

Canadian Premiere | Germany | Documentary
Dir: Christine Jezior
10:00AM EDT

Bangla Surf Girls

Canada | Documentary
Dir: Elizabeth D. Costa
1:00PM EDT

A Girl From Mogadishu

Ontario Premiere | Ireland /Belgium | Drama
Dir: Mary McGuckian
4:00PM EDT

DOCUMENTARY DOUBLE BILL

The Names of the Flowers

Ontario Premiere | Bolivia | Drama
Dir: Bahman Tavooosi
7:00PM EDT

Her Stories

World Premiere | Syrian Arab Republic | Documentary
Dir: Abd Al-Kader Habak
7:00PM EDT

MONDAY, JUNE 28TH

Shorts in Quarantine

16 Amazing Short Films
5:00PM EDT

Between Waves

Canada | Drama/Science Fiction
Dir: Virginia Abramovich
8:00PM EDT

TUESDAY, JUNE 29TH

Animation Shorts

A collection of amazing animation short films from all over the globe
5:00PM EDT

American Desert

Canadian Premiere | USA | Drama
Director: Adrian Bartol
8:00PM EDT





Thrill different.



OFFA | 2021 ANNUAL
OAKVILLE
FILM FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23RD
5:00PM EDT TO 8:00PM EDT

Local Short Film Festival

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Sheridan | Get Creative

These short films will be available to an international audience. Short films from Oakville, Sheridan College and surrounding communities. This screening will include a Q&A to follow live with filmmakers.

- Hoodie** Sheridan, Dir. Sean Nicholas
- Masks Up** Sheridan, Dir. Huzeifa Essaji
- Woods in the Rain**
Sheridan, Dir. Jim Zou
- Passing it Down** Dir. Noah Godfrey
- Love, Lies, and other L Words**
Sheridan, Dir. Sara Marchese
- A Pandemic Between Us**
Dir. Jacob Nosan
- Words Behind Berries**
Sheridan, Dir. Andressa Priscila Back

- On the Fence**
Sheridan, Dir. Paula Ner Dormiendo
- SNAP** Sheridan, Dir. Liam Goffin
- The Birthday Party** Sheridan, Dir. Chris Haiko, Producer Beau Green
- Stroke of Fate** Dir. Aharon Jinjhashvili
- Never Alone** Dir. Jack Kukolic , Emma Pascu, and Megan Pask
- Legacy Voices** Dir. Akil Mackenzie
- The Layoff** Dir. G-Hey Kim

- ★ **Film Fact:** Over half of this year's local short films have a Sheridan College connection.
- 🗣️ **Q&A:** Huzeifa Essaji (**Masks Up**), Andressa Priscila Back (**Words Behind Berries**), Sean Nicholas (**Hoodie**) Paula Ner Dormiendo (**On the Fence**), Jack Kukolic, Emma Pascu, Megan Pask (**Never Alone**), Aharon Jinjhashvili (**Stroke of Fate**), G-Hey Kim (**The Layoff**), Sarah Marchese (**Love, Lies, and other L Words**).



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23RD
8:00PM EDT TO 11:00PM EDT

*GEOBLOCKED TO CANADA ONLY

Marlene

OAKVILLE FESTIVAL PREMIERE
| CANADA | DRAMA | 1HR 26M

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Director: Wendy Hill-Tout

Starring: Kristin Booth, Greg Bryk, Julia Sarah Stone

Synopsis: Marlene is a film inspired by Marlene Truscott, a housewife who fought to exonerate her husband from a crime he didn't commit. Marlene became involved in the fight for justice at a young age, when Steven was arrested at 14 and sentenced to be hung. When Steven was released from prison ten years later, she fell in love with him. Marlene's story is a story of hiding, living under an assumed name and protecting her children. He was free, but now she was in prison. Through it all Marlene was determined that Steven would get justice, that they would find light in the darkness, a darkness that buried the truth. Surrounded by boxes of files Marlene found a world of lies, cover-ups, and secrets. A very female story about an extraordinary woman, written and directed by women.

★ **Film Fact:** Actress Kristin Booth emailed Marlene Truscott every day during the filming of the movie to get insights, pictures, any snippet of information that could bring her closer to a truthful portrayal.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Director Wendy Hill-Tout, Greg Bryk (plays Steven Truscott), and Kristen Booth (plays Marlene), Ryan Truscott (son of Marlene and Steven), James Lockyer.

🎬 **Short Films:** **The Burglar** (Canada) Dir. Xander Copp
Tips (Toronto, Canada) Dir. Mercedes Papalia
Take Flight (Canada, Sheridan) Dir. Judy Gao

**OFFA**2021 ANNUAL
OAKVILLE
FILM FESTIVAL**THURSDAY, JUNE 24TH**
5:00PM EDT TO 8:00PM EDT

First We Eat

OAKVILLE PREMIERE | CANADA
| DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 40M**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH****Director:** Suzanne Crocker

Synopsis: Putting food sovereignty to the test in the far North of Canada, filmmaker Suzanne Crocker, living just 300 km from the Arctic Circle, removes absolutely all grocery store food from her house. For one year, she feeds her family of five, only food that can be hunted, fished, gathered, grown or raised around Dawson City, Yukon. Add three skeptical teenagers, one reluctant husband, no salt, no caffeine, no sugar and -40 temperatures. Ultimately the story becomes a celebration of community and the surprising bounty of food that even a tiny community in the far North can provide.

★ **Film Fact:** 97% of Yukon's food is trucked in from down south. The Yukon has more moose than people! With an area larger than California, the Yukon has a total of 40,000 people. The nearest Starbucks is 550 km away!

🗣️ **Q&A:** To follow film with Director Suzanne Crocker (also the woman featured in the doc) and short filmmaker Chris Mutton (One Room: A Family of Teachers)

🎬 **Short Films:** Inverno/Timo's Winter (Italy) Dir. Giulio Mastromauro
One Room: A Family of Teachers Dir. Chris Mutton





THURSDAY, JUNE 24TH
8:00PM EDT TO 11:00PM EDT

Lorelei

ONTARIO PREMIERE | USA
| ROMANCE, DRAMA | 1HR 51M

Director: Sabrina Doyle

Starring: Pablo Schreiber, Jena Malone, Gretchen Corbett

Synopsis: A working-class fable about a biker, a mermaid and three shades of blue. Jena Malone plays a swimming star whose Olympic dreams were dashed by an unplanned pregnancy. She is reunited 15 years later with her high-school sweetheart (played by Pablo Schreiber) who is an ex-con newly released from prison trying to fit back in. The realities of working-class life, family strife, and shattered dreams make their presence felt.

★ **Film Fact:** Dir. Sabrina Doyle was drawn to setting the film in the Pacific Northwest because she is a huge fan of David Lynch and Twin Peaks, also set and often shot in the area.

🎬 **Q&A:** Dir. Sabrina Doyle, Joseph Bertót and Trish Egan (Lorelei), Tori Bennett (Downburst)

🎬 **Short Films:** **The Gift** (Canada) Dir. Pauls Dombrovskis
Pipo and Blind Love (France) Dir. Hugo Le Gourrierec
Downburst (Canada, Sheridan) Dir. Tori Bennett

FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH
5:00PM EDT TO 8:00PM EDT

DOCUMENTARY DOUBLE BILL

Coral Ghosts

CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 20M

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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Director: Andrew Niskier

Synopsis: Coral Ghosts is a 78-minute feature documentary that combines sixty years of underwater photography with the timely quest of Dr. Tom Goreau, a marine biologist who inherited the family legacy of protecting the world's coral reefs at a time when they have never faced greater threats. Told through intimate verite, never seen before archival film and photographs and stunning underwater photography, this character driven film brings viewers from a dusty attic in Cambridge to the shores of Jamaica, Bikini Atoll, and Bali on a Scientists journey to protect the coral that his father died documenting.

★ **Film Fact:** Tom Goreau's grandfather, well-known Life Magazine photographer Fritz Goreau, took pictures of coral reefs around the Bikini Atoll after the atomic bomb testing in 1946. Tom Sr (Tom's Father), who worked with Fritz, died from radiation exposure years later.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Dir. Andrew Niskier, Dr. Tom Goreau (Coral Ghosts), Dir. Darrell Varga (Bread in the Bones), and Dir. James Smith (Animals Habitat)

🎬 **Short Films:** **Animals Habitat** (Germany) Dir. James Smith

FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH
5:00PM EDT TO 8:00PM EDT

DOCUMENTARY DOUBLE BILL

Bread in the Bones

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**ONTARIO PREMIERE | CANADA (NOVA SCOTIA) |
DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 12M**

Director: Darrell Varga

Synopsis: Stories of work and play, of love and loss...and bread. Bread has been at the center of human life and creativity for at least the last ten thousand years - it is in our bones and a witness to history. This essay documentary brings bread to the front of the line and explores its relation to politics, poetry and pleasure. The loaf of bread is the vehicle through which we explore stories of sex and death, immigration and refugees, social justice and the counter-culture, and of art, work and pleasure. Love it or hate it, everyone has a relationship with bread. This simple staple food is brought to life by the wild energy of yeast, perhaps our first companion animal, and is a metaphor of transformation that mirrors life itself. And it is the only metaphor you can eat. Shot in Canada, the US and throughout Europe, this is a fun journey into a subject that has come to have profound meaning in our strange times.

★ **Film Fact:** The Director, Darrell Varga, teaches at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

🎬 **Q&A:** Dir. Andrew Nisker, Dr. Tom Goreau (Coral Ghosts), Dir. Darrell Varga (Bread in the Bones), and Dir. James Smith (Animals Habitat)

🎥 **Short Films:** **Animals Habitat** (Germany) Dir. James Smith.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH
8:00PM EDT TO 11:00PM EDT

*GEOBLOCKED TO CANADA (24 -HOUR SCREENING TIME)

Nine Days

OAKVILLE PREMIERE | USA
| SUPERNATURAL DRAMA, FANTASY | 2HR 04M

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
thrillhouse
STUDIOS


Director: Edson Oda

Starring: Winston Duke, Zazie Beetz, Benedict Wong, Bill Skarsgård, Tony Hale

Synopsis: Will spends his days in a remote outpost watching the live Point of View (POV) on TV's of people going about their lives, until one subject perishes, leaving a vacancy for a new life on earth. Soon, several candidates — unborn souls — arrive at Will's to undergo tests determining their fitness, facing oblivion when they are deemed unsuitable. But Will soon faces his own existential challenge in the form of free-spirited Emma, a candidate who is not like the others, forcing him to turn within and reckon with his own tumultuous past. Fueled by unexpected power, he discovers a bold new path forward in his own life. Making his feature-film debut after a series of highly acclaimed and award-winning short films and music videos, Japanese Brazilian director Edson Oda delivers a heartfelt and meditative vision of human souls in limbo, aching to be born against unimaginable odds, yet hindered by forces beyond their will...

★ **Film Fact:** Edson Oda received the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award for the film at the Sundance Film Festival.. Nine Days holds an 86% approval rating on review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes. The critical consensus reads, "A knockout feature directorial debut from Edson Oda, Nine Days is an ethereal and evocative film about the meaning of life – elevated by a phenomenal performance from Winston Duke."

 **Q&A:** Director/Writer Edson Oda

 **Short Films:** Liv (Canada, Sheridan) Dir. Page McMorrow

The System (Turkey – Canadian Premiere) Dir. Ramazan Demir



SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH
10:00AM EDT TO 1:00PM EDT

Québexit

MULTILINGUAL: ENGLISH, FRENCH, CREE (SUBTITLES)

OAKVILLE PREMIERE | CANADA
| COMEDY | 1HR 23M

Director: Joshua Demers

Starring: Gail Maurice, Alison Louder, Xavier Yuvens, Nicole Joy-Fraser

Synopsis: Québexit is a multi-lingual (English, French, Cree) ensemble political comedy: when a transnational pipeline leads to a successful third Québec sovereignty referendum, a small road at the Québec-New Brunswick border becomes a lightning rod of conflict between the new Québec military, the Canadian Armed Forces and two indigenous women who traverse the border frequently.

★ **Film Fact:** Although set in Québec, the movie was filmed in Pickering.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Dir. Joshua Demers and other cast and crew TBC, Matthew Horvat (Charlie) and Findlay Brown (The Flexed Arm Hang)

🎬 **Short Films:** **Bankrupt** (Orangeville, ON – Canadian Premiere) Dir. Nick Rose
Charlie (Canada – Canadian Premiere) Dir. Matthew Horvat
The Flexed Arm Hang (Winnipeg, MB) Dir. Findlay Brown
Ouroboros (Guelph, ON) Dir. David Clarke

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH
1:00PM EDT TO 4:00PM EDT

Woman in Car

OAKVILLE PREMIERE | CANADA
| DRAMA | 1HR 49M

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Director: Vanya Rose

Starring: H el ene Joy, Liane Balaban, Gabrielle Lazure

Synopsis: Anne seems to have it all – wealth, sophistication, an upcoming wedding to the ideal man. But when her stepson returns to Montreal with a mysterious woman, Anne develops an obsession with the stranger whom she fears could destroy her privileged life. In a story about a woman who struggles to keep her secrets hidden in a society that is full of expectations, director Vanya Rose explores issues of class, family, desire and deception. Inspired by an Edith Wharton novel, this is Vanya Rose’s feature film debut.

★ **Film Fact:** *Woman in Car* is based on a novel by American writer/designer Edith Wharton, who in 1921, became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in Literature, for her novel *The Age of Innocence*. Our Q&A will include a discussion of her work, as well as participation by the administrators and patrons of Edith Wharton House (built by the novelist in 1902) in Lenox, MA (USA).

🗣️ **Q&A:** Dir. Vanya Rose, Gabrielle Lazure (Charlotte) Aidan Ritchie (Owen) and Director Jim Morrison IV (Obdurate)

🎬 **Short Films:** *Obdurate* (Canada) Dir. Jim Morrison IV, Producer/Writer/Actor Cynthia Crofoot
Red Balloon (Canada) Dir. Avi Federgreen



SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH
4:00PM EDT TO 7:00PM EDT

*GEOBLOCKED TO CANADA

Alice

CANADIAN PREMIERE | FRANCE
I COMEDY/ROMANCE/DRAMA | 1HR 20M
(FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Director: Josephine Mackerras

Starring: Emilie Piponnier, Martin Swabey, Chloé Boreham

Synopsis: When her husband steals her money and abandons her and her son, Alice finds herself broke, desperate, and on the verge of losing her house. With time running out, she realizes that the only way to make good money fast is to become a prostitute.

★ **Film Fact:** Alice won the Grand Jury Award at the SXSW Film Festival.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Dir. Josephine Mackerras, actress Emilie Piponnier (Alice), Martin Swabey (Francois) and Gloria Mercer (Hekademia), Michelle Love Santoro and Dale Andrews (The Long Way)

🎬 **Short Films:** Hekademia (Canada) Dir. Gloria Mercer
The Long Way (USA) Dir. Michelle Love Santoro

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH
7:00PM EDT TO 10:00PM EDT

*GEOBLOCKED TO CANADA

French Exit

CANADA, IRELAND, UK, USA
| COMEDY/ROMANCE | 1HR 53M

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



**CAPSTICK
McCOLLUM**
ASSOCIATES

Director: Azazel Jacobs

Starring: Michelle Pfeiffer, Lucas Hedges, Tracy Letts

Synopsis: An aging Manhattan socialite (Michelle Pfeiffer) living on what's barely left of her inheritance moves to a small apartment in Paris with her son and her cat, with her plan being "to die before the money ran out," Michelle Pfeiffer plays Manhattan socialite Frances Price, but things didn't go as planned. Her husband Franklin has been dead for 12 years and with his vast inheritance gone, she cashes in the last of her possessions and resolves to live out her twilight days anonymously in a borrowed apartment in Paris, accompanied by her directionless son Malcolm (Lucas Hedges) and a cat named Small Frank—who may or may not embody the spirit of Frances's dead husband.

★ **Film Fact:** Michelle Pfeiffer won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Actress for her role in the film, and was nominated for a Golden Globe award. The film was nominated for two other CSAS including best adapted screenplay. Slant Magazine voted Michelle Pfeiffer's performance in French Exit among the top 20 acting performances of the year (Dec 2020)

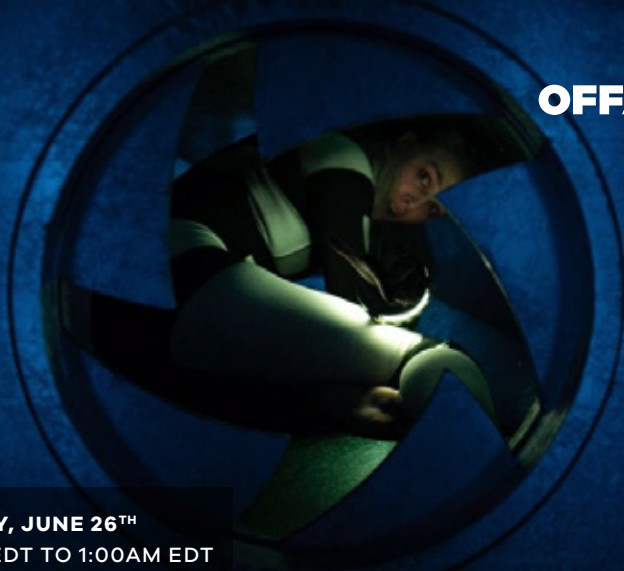
🎬 **Q&A:** Patrick DeWitt, novelist, Natalie Theriault (The Tailor) Cate Carson (The Plumber)

🎬 **Short Films:** **The Plumber** (USA) Canadian Premiere Dir. Cate Carson

The Tailor (Canada – Canadian Premiere) Dir. Natalie Theriault

Bye Luna (USA) Dir. Alexis Duran





SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH
10:00PM EDT TO 1:00AM EDT

*GEOBLOCKED TO CANADA (72 HOUR SCREENING TIME)

Meander

CANADIAN PREMIERE | FRANCE
| HORROR/SCI FI/THRILLER | 1HR 33M

Director: Mathieu Turi

Starring: Gaia Weiss, Peter Franzen

Synopsis: After getting a car ride from an unknown man, Lisa wakes up in a tube. On her arm is strapped a bracelet with a countdown. She quickly understands that every 8 minutes, fire burns an occupied section. She has no choice but to crawl into safe sections to survive. To know why she's there and how to get out, Lisa will have to face the memories of her dead daughter...

★ **Film Fact:** Gaia Weiss's powerful performance as Lisa carries this film which will have you on the edge of your seat. Spoiler alert!- she is almost singlehandedly onscreen throughout the film.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Pre-taped Q&A with Meander Director Mathieu Turi, Molly Sheers (Middle of Nowhere), Amy Coop (Annabel Lee)

📺 **Short Films:** Middle of Nowhere (Canada), Dir. Molly Sheers
Annabel Lee (UK), Canadian Premiere, Dir. Amy Coop.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH
10:00AM EDT TO 1:00PM EDT

MULTICULTURALISM DAY (WOMEN WHO GIVE EVENT)

Gosia @ Tomek

CANADIAN PREMIERE | GERMANY
| DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 30M

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CHARITABLE DONATION TO ZONTA
FOR MULTICULTURALISM DAY PASS

Director: Christine Jezior

Synopsis: What happens to a relationship if a partner suddenly becomes severely disabled after an accident? For Gosia it is clear that she will stand by her boyfriend Tomek no matter what in order to let him live as normal and fulfilled a life as possible. But time and again she becomes painfully aware of her own limits, as well as of those of a society that talks a lot about inclusion but often does not seem to be ready for it.

★ **Film Fact:** The documentary is based on more than 3000 emails that Gosia has been writing to Tomek every day since his accident. The cause of his affliction will astonish everyone.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Gosia and Dir. Christine Jezior, Al J. Moran (Walks).

🎬 **Short Films:** Walks (Sudbury, ON – Canadian Premiere) Dir. Al J. Moran
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (USA / China- Canadian Premiere) Dir. Shiyue Xu
Dance or Die (France- Canadian Premiere) Dir. Nathalie de Loptz
Man with a Movie Projector (Canada) Dir. Derrick Glen.



SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH
1:00PM EDT TO 4:00PM EDT

MULTICULTURALISM DAY (WOMEN WHO GIVE EVENT)
*GEOBLOCKED TO CANADA

Bangla Surf Girls

CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 26M

Director: Elizabeth D. Costa (Bangladesh)

Synopsis: Three young teenage girls break away from their daily lives of domestic drudgery and familial abuse by joining a local surf club in the town of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Under the wing of a devoted coach invested in seeing the girls excel at their sport, they discover a rare and precious avenue of freedom as they fearlessly ride the tallest of waves with unimaginable skill and dexterity. Navigating daily hardships, stifling families and the oppressive judgments of their community, the girls coax and cajole their way to a few hours on their surfboards every chance they get. But when their coach makes the decision to leave the club and the girls are left to advocate for themselves, their odds start to seem insurmountable. A touching coming-of-age story of resistance, Bangla Surf Girls will have you cheering for every wave and hurdle these young women overcome.

★ **Film Fact:** Producer/Writer Lalita Krishna was awarded the Don Haig Award for her work on Bangla Surf Girls at Hot Docs 2021.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Lalita Krishna (Producer/Writer) and Dir. Elizabeth D. Costa, Dir. Paula Ner Dormiengo (On the Fence).

🎬 **Short Films:** The School Bell (Canada – Sheridan animation) Dir. Delaram Majdzadeh
On the Fence (Canada- Sheridan) Dir. Paula Ner Dormiengo.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CHARITABLE DONATION TO ZONTA
FOR MULTICULTURALISM DAY PASS



SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH
4:00PM EDT TO 7:00PM EDT

MULTICULTURALISM DAY (WOMEN WHO GIVE EVENT)

A Girl From Mogadishu

ONTARIO PREMIERE | IRELAND/BELGIUM
| DRAMA | 1HR 53M

Director: Mary McGuckian

Starring: Aja Naomi King, Martha Cango Antonio, Barkhad Abdi, Orla Brady

Synopsis: Fleeing war-torn Somalia in 2006, Ifrah Ahmed is trafficked to Ireland where a traumatic medical examination when seeking asylum reveals the extent of her mutilation as a child. Traumatized by the memory, she channels the experience into a force for change and emerges as a formidable campaigner against Female Genital Mutilation at the highest political echelons.

★ **Film Fact:** Aja Naomi King who plays Ifrah Ahmed is American. She spent six months learning Somali and perfecting her African accent. When the film was screened for the Somali ministers in Kenya last year, they couldn't believe she was American and not part of the Somali diaspora.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Director Mary McGuckian, Ifrah Ahmed.

🎬 **Short Films:** **Leaving to Live** (France – Canadian Premiere) Dir. David Rodrigues
Pick (Canada) Dir. Alicia Harris.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CHARITABLE DONATION TO ZONTA
FOR MULTICULTURALISM DAY PASS

SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH
7:00PM EDT TO 10:00PM EDT

MULTICULTURALISM DAY (WOMEN WHO GIVE EVENT)

MULTICULTURAL DOUBLE BILL - WOMEN'S STORIES

The Names of the Flowers

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CHARITABLE DONATION TO ZONTA
FOR MULTICULTURALISM DAY PASS

ONTARIO PREMIERE | BOLIVIA | DRAMA | 1HR 19M

Director: Bahman Tavooosi

Starring: Jorge Hidalgo, Barbara Flore, Jose Duran

Synopsis: As Bolivia stages the 50th anniversary of Ernesto "Che" Guevara's death, Julia, an old countryside teacher is invited to share her historical story with the world: Giving a bowl of soup to the captured guerrilla in her classroom, while he recited a poem about flowers to her a few hours before his death. The invitation is withdrawn soon after, as other women step forward claiming the story of "the soup and the flower" as their own.

★ **Film Fact:** Editor Lucas Villegas, editor on *The Names of the Flowers*, is also co-editor on the film *Woman in Car* (with Jacqueline Mills), also screening at OFFA 2021.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Bahman Tavooosi (Dir. *The Names of the Flowers*) + Abd Al-Kader Habak (*Her Stories*)

SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH
7:00PM EDT TO 10:00PM EDT

MULTICULTURALISM DAY (WOMEN WHO GIVE EVENT)

MULTICULTURAL DOUBLE BILL - WOMEN'S STORIES

Her Stories

WORLD PREMIERE | SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
| DOCUMENTARY | 54M

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY
CHARITABLE DONATION TO ZONTA
FOR MULTICULTURALISM DAY PASS

Director: Abd Al-Kader Habak

Synopsis: Women uphold the burden of the war the most. In the absence of security, family, and support, they become responsible caregivers and fight for their rights in a society that sidelines their role.

"Her Stories" narrates the struggles, successes, and dreams of three women from Syria. The unique storytelling technique delves into the challenges Fatma, Weam, and Malake had to face and the hard choices they were forced to take for their family, self, and land.

From motherhood to abandoning families, disability and immigration, "Her Stories" discusses how the war moulded these women into revolutionary beings who defied cultural and societal barriers to build strength and independence after living for ten years in a warzone.

The film is the first feature documentary by Syrian filmmaker Abd Al-Kader Habak.

★ **Film Fact:** The director worked as a cameraman in Syria during the conflict, and his films is a record of how the role of women changed during the revolution and how many women have become key players in the civil uprising and the liberation of women in Syria.

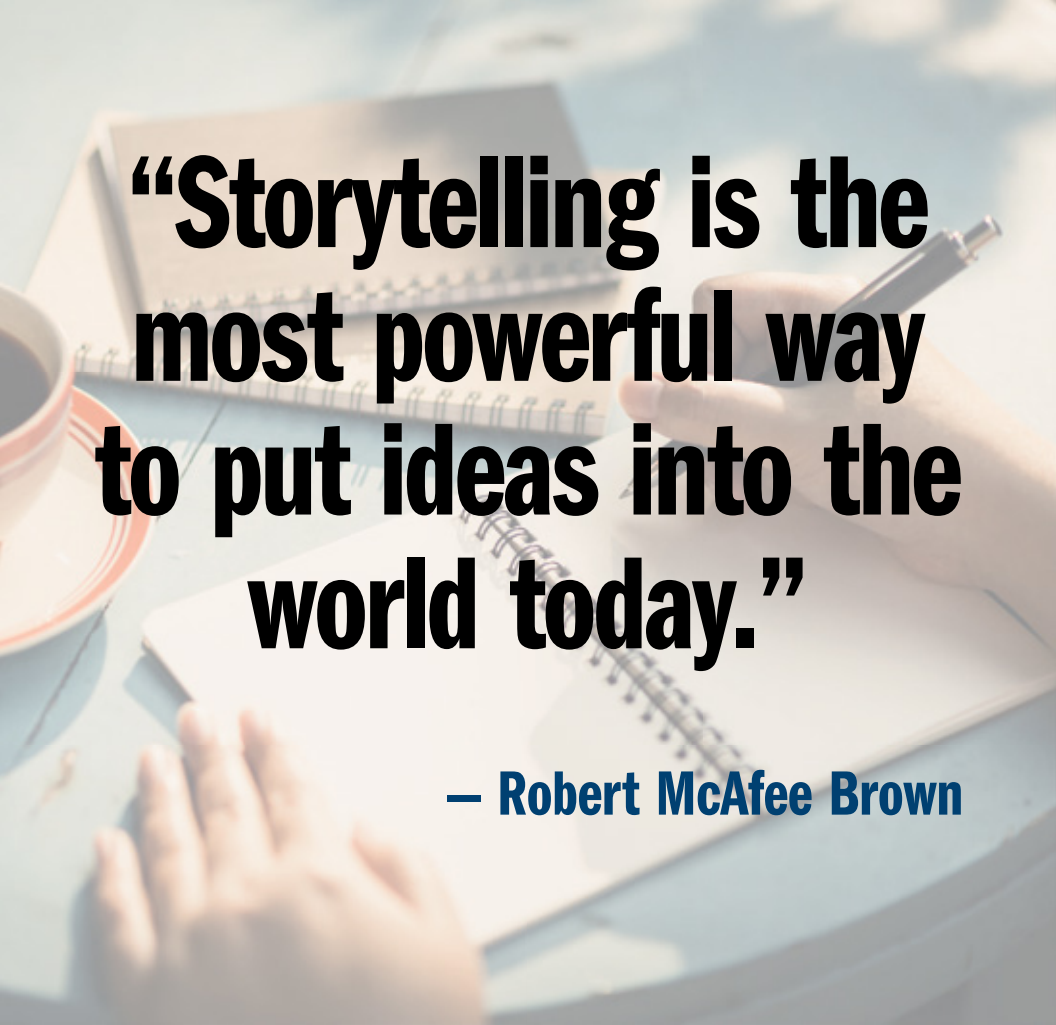
🗣️ **Q&A:** Bahman Tavoosi (Dir. The Names of the Flowers) + Abd Al-Kader Habak (Her Stories)

OFFA Multiculturalism Day

COMMUNITY RESOURCE LIST FOR HALTON, ONTARIO

- **Achēv Connections** | www.achev.ca/about
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton - Cultural Mentoring** |
www.haltonhamilton.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/story/welcoming-syrian-newcomer-children-and-youth
- **Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton**
www.ccah.ca
- **Canadian Women & Sport** | www.womenandsport.ca
- **Halton Multicultural Council Inc**
www.hmcconnections.com
- **Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY Halton)** | www.hippyhalton.org
- **March of Dimes** | www.marchofdimes.ca
- **Oakville Parent-Child Centre** | www.op-cc.ca
- **Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS)** | www.savisofhalton.org
- **United Way Halton/Hamilton** | www.uwhh.ca
- **Zonta International - Oakville Club**
www.zontaokville.org

****The agencies listed above have been spotlighted due to the community supports and/or programs they provide in connection with a "theme" of at least one film being screened on Multiculturalism Day.*



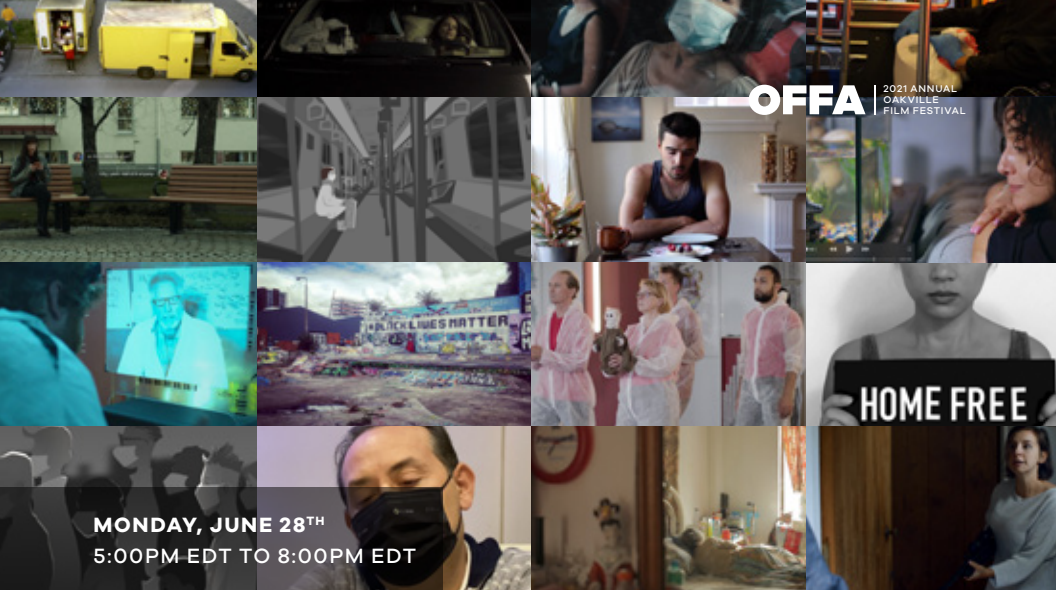
“Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today.”

— Robert McAfee Brown

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OFFA

2021 ANNUAL
OAKVILLE
FILM FESTIVAL

MONDAY, JUNE 28TH
5:00PM EDT TO 8:00PM EDT

Shorts in Quarantine

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



First Month – USA, Dirs. John Crowther, Curtis Whitear

More Than Time – UK, Dir. Carl Hunter

Shift – Canada (Sheridan) Dir. Chen Sing Yap

Home Free – USA, Dir. Eddie Shieh

I am Not an Angel – Canada/China, Dir. Joe Chang

#StayHome – Germany, Dir. Kai Sitter

The Doorway – UK, Dir. Vamsi Tiguti

In the Fishbowl – Canada, Dir. Christina Katsiadakis

Hell In a Handbasket – Canada, Canadian Premiere, Dir. Lee Chambers

Hear Us, Sweet Freedom! – Germany, Dir. Helen Ispirian

The Days of March – Finland, Dir. Samuli Kuusisto


Saving the Caretakers – Mexico, Dir. Mar Gomez

Simple Sense – Canada, Dir. Mark Datuin

In Want of a Mask – Hong Kong, China, Dir. Sam Tsang

As Our Sun Sets – Philippines, Dirs. Arby Mari Laraño, Christine Laraño

Sunset Over the Thames – UK, Dir. Boyuan Li

 **Q&A:** Chen Sing Yap (Shift), Christina Katsiadakis (In the Fishbowl), Lee Chambers (Hell in a Handbasket), Carl Hunter (More Than Time), and others tbc.



MONDAY, JUNE 28TH
8:00PM EDT TO 11:00PM EDT

Between Waves

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CANADA | DRAMA/SCIENCE FICTION
| 1HR 40M

Director: Virginia Abramovich

Starring: Fiona Graham, Luke Robinson, Sebastian Deery

Synopsis: a science fiction drama about a woman's pursuit to join her missing lover by crossing into a parallel dimension. Even after his presumed death, Jamie continues to be visited by her lover Isaac, a quantum physicist, who pleads for her to join him in a parallel plane. Jamie follows a map and notebook Isaac's left behind and embarks on a journey to the island of São Miguel in the Azores. At the centre of the Atlantic Ocean, Jamie begins to untangle the truth of what really happened the night Isaac disappeared, learning that she had a greater part in it than she cares to remember. Straddling a fine line between enlightenment and madness, how far will Jamie go before she's in too deep?

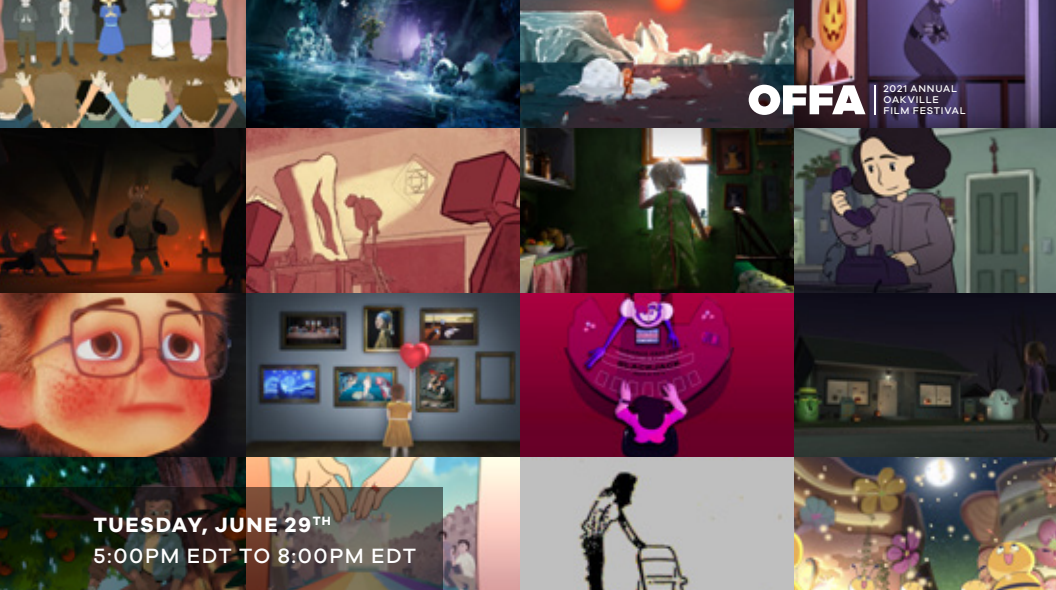
★ **Film Fact:** The film was shot in Toronto, as well as in São Miguel, Azores, Portugal

🎬 **Q&A:** Dir. Virginia Abramovich, and actor Luke Robinson, Dir. Andy Alvarez (Sol) Dir. Julia Beney (The Uncanny Valley), Dir. Wei Lin Chen (Connection)

🎥 **Short Films:** Sol (Canada) Dir. Andy Alvarez (Note: Andy won the OFFA best Canadian short film award for the 2020 festival),

The Uncanny Valley (Canada - Mississauga) Dir. Julia Beney,
Connection (Canada - Sheridan Animation) Dir. Wei Lin Chen.





Animation Shorts

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Dancarina - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Monica Santos

High Roller - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Ekaterina Gretskaia

Painting By Numbers - Australia, Dir. Radheya Jegatheva

Long-Distance - Canada, Sheridan Animation Dir. Sammi Zhang

Trick & Treat - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Wade Hyatt

Your Hand in Mine - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Sheryl Au

Fallow - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Maria Cepeda

Justin and the Werloobee - USA, Dir. Ellen Weisberg

Ryori - Japan, Dir. Brian Yulo Ng

The Abandoned Block - BC Canada, Dir. James Bourne

Metamorphosis - USA, Dir. Xi Wang

★ **Film Fact:** Almost half of this year's animated short films came from the Sheridan College animation programme, and most are World Premieres.

🗣️ **Q&A:** Many of the short filmmakers will be on hand for a Q&A after the screening

A Poem by Alba - Canadian Premiere, USA, Yoo Lee

The Chair - USA, Dir. Ronnie Cramer

The Rhino and the Redbill - Hamilton, Ont. Canada, Dir. Alexander Henderson

Footsteps on the Wind - U.S.A., U.K., Brazil, Dirs. Gustavo Leal, Faga Melo, Maya Sanbar

Big Little Show - Canada, Dir. Gemma Eva

Burr - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Thomas Boyce

Bloom - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Sora Yi

Bee Happy - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Mark Anthony Quiban


Annabelle - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Saniya Baig

Eternal Igloo - Vancouver, BC, Canada, Dir. Mostafa Keshvari

A New Melody - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Megan Babchuk

Liv - Canada, Sheridan Animation, Dir. Paige McMorrow





TUESDAY, JUNE 29TH
8:00PM EDT TO 11:00PM EDT

American Desert

CANADIAN PREMIERE | USA | DRAMA | 1HR 20M

Director: Adrian Bartol

Starring: Will Brandt, Ruby Modine, Michael Ironside, Amber Viera

Synopsis: It's 2010, Matt Benning 24, has returned from Afghanistan to a wrecked economy. Demons of war haunt him, a romance blossoms, all as he drags his unwilling soul to normalcy. But for him, destiny is no cookie cutter house. A vortex of drug use and violence corners him into working for a psychopathic meth dealer. His only escape then becomes surrendering to the majestic and unforgiving isolation of the American Desert.

★ **Film Fact:** Michael Ironside is a well-known actor and playwright, and lives in Toronto but few know that he is Canadian. Best known for films such as David Cronenberg's *Scanners* (1981), *Total Recall* (1990), *Starship Troopers* (1997), *Highlander 2: the Quickening* (1991).

📺 **Q&A:** Dir. Adrian Bartol, Will Brandt, others TBC.

🎬 **Short Films:** *Blackwater* (USA) Dir. Boise Esquerra
Receiver (Canada) Dir. Cavan Campbell



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On behalf of the entire Film.Ca Cinemas team, hello!



We are proud once again to be the Supporting Sponsor of the Wilson Oakville Film Festival. As your local independent cinema, we work hard to be Oakville's favourite movie theatre. When it comes to movies, we not only love to exhibit films but we also support filmmakers of all ages. From our popular kid's programs, to our new video-on-demand service called ZUZU VOD, to being a set rental for independent productions, we take our role in the film industry very seriously.

To our long-time guests, thank you for making Film.Ca Cinemas your theatre of choice. And, if this is your first time hearing about us, we would love to welcome you to the Film.Ca family and we hope to see you at our cinema when we open again for screenings.

We'll see YOU at the movies!

Jeff Knoll,
CEO of Film.Ca Cinemas Inc



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