

OFFA10

2023
Annual
Oakville
Film
Festival

FESTIVAL GUIDE
JUNE 21ST TO 27TH



WELCOME TO THE

2023 Annual Oakville Film Festival

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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

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A Welcome Message from The Board of Directors

Ten Years of OFFA!

Welcome to the 10th annual Oakville Film Festival! In this milestone year, we are thrilled to share our love of film and the arts with our audience, and invite you to enjoy our specially curated lineup of films live in three different venues for 2023. We are also happy to be able to continue to offer some virtual screenings for those who appreciate the convenience of watching films online, and for 2023, all Q&As and special events will be livestreamed, thanks to the Trillium Resilient Communities Fund.

This amazing film and arts festival began back in 2014 as a small community-driven organization, co-founded by Oakville residents Wendy Donnan, Judah Hernandez, and Stephanie Colebrook. Ten years later, OFFA presents a full, week-long festival with over 100 films, as well as an annual screening series that presents the best Canadian and international films to audiences in Oakville and surrounding communities. We have so many people to thank for our success that we cannot list them all here. Special thanks to the current OFFA Volunteer Board, and board members from the past ten years, who have literally put their hearts and souls into supporting and growing this amazing, grass-roots organization which created the most anticipated cultural event in Oakville. And a huge thank you to our contractors and volunteers, who work tirelessly every year to make things run so seamlessly. Please take a minute to shake the hand of one of our hard-working, committed volunteers: either our board members, or any of the volunteers at our events. Look for the yellow shirts!

Our 2023 schedule includes world-class feature films, shorts, and documentaries, from local filmmakers, and auteur and emerging filmmakers from across Canada and around the world. This year's lineup focuses on family and community, in a variety of shapes and forms, with emphasis on diversity, equity for all, and resiliency of spirit. This year, we support the Indigenous community, with a special Canadian Premiere of the sci-fi thriller, *The Beehive*, for National Indigenous People's Day, June 21. This incredible event features an outdoor celebration at the Five Drive-In dedicated to Indigenous film, dance, and the arts, with free tickets offered to Indigenous families.

For over a decade, film has been our passion, one that we want to share with you. We hope that you will be as inspired and impressed as we are by the amazing stories and award-winning films that are part of our 2023 festival. A huge thank you to all of our sponsors, grant partners, and community partners for 2023, we could not have done this without you! It is your generosity and support that have helped us to build such an incredible film festival and arts organization, truly the one festival with a big heart.

CANADIAN FILMS HAVE IT ALL.

BIG HITS

BIG HITS

BIG HITS

BIG TALENTS

BIG TALENTS

BIG TALENTS



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seeitall.telefilm.ca



Message from the Executive Director & CEO, Telefilm Canada

Showcasing and celebrating the works of Canadian creators is at the heart of what we do at Telefilm. That is why we are proud to partner with the Oakville Film Festival to further boost our support for Canadian creatives at home and around the world.

At Telefilm, we are uniquely positioned to finance and support every stage of a film's career, from development and production, all the way to film festivals. In this ever-evolving audiovisual landscape, we are thankful to partner with engaging festivals such as the Oakville Film Festival to bring audiences compelling stories made and told by Canadians. The diversity of our storytelling is one that puts Canada in the forefront of a global stage and is what sets us apart.

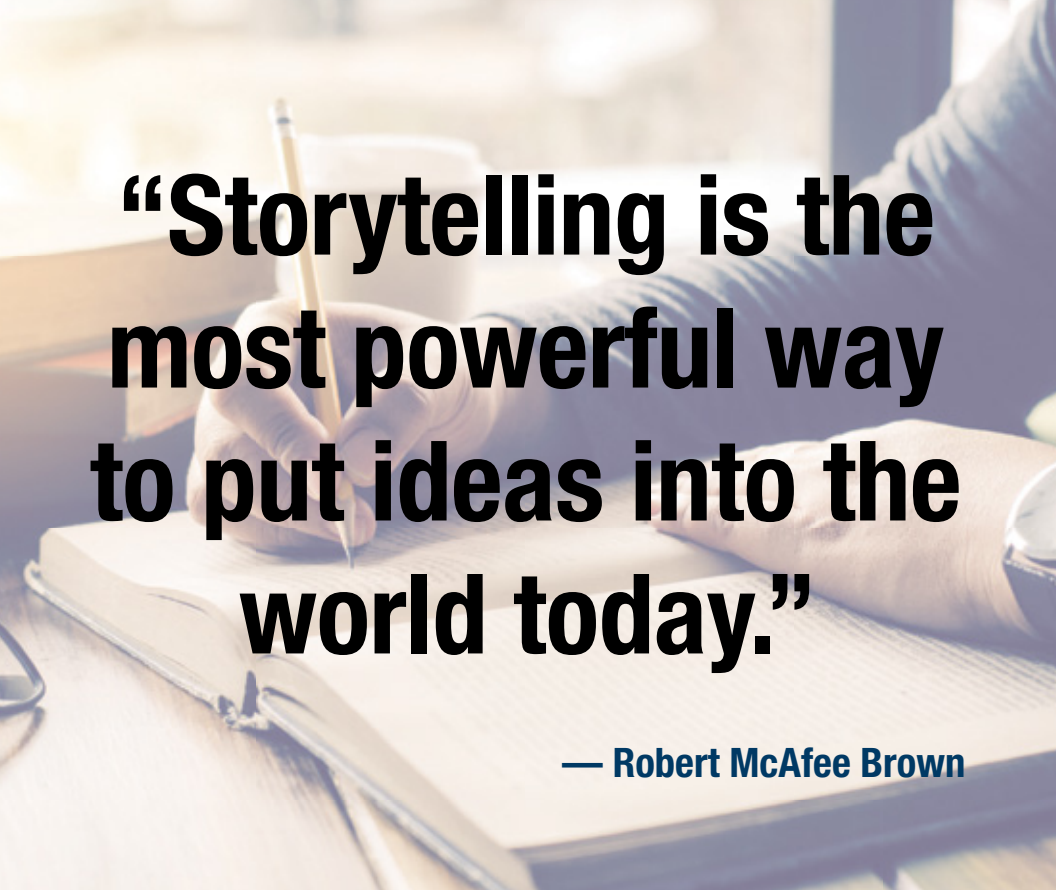
Festivals continue to play an important role in the screen-based industry, growing the talent pool as well as promoting a communal experience for audiences to celebrate and connect with distinctive Canadian films and the talent behind them.

We encourage you to keep supporting Canadian talent in theatres and on digital platforms!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Roy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Julie Roy

Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



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

— Robert McAfee Brown

Proud supporter of the Oakville Film Festival
and partner in storytelling.



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

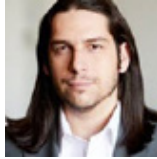
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Executive
Director,
Co-Chair &
Programming



Debra Barlow
Co-Chair &
Treasurer



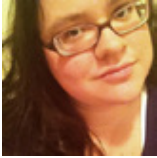
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Shawna Salvo
Director



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Director, Shorts
Programmer



Shane Cullis
Director



**Justin Monaco-
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**Cathleen
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FESTIVAL HOSTS



TYLER COLLINS

Journalist

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.



CYNTHIA CROFOOT

Screenplay Writer and Actress

Cynthia Crofoot is a multi-award winning, produced screenplay writer and multi-award winning actor. As a filmmaker, her short films have won numerous awards including three "Best Canadian Short Film" Awards for "Obdurate"; two "Best Canadian Short Film" Awards for "Compliant" and her short film "Promises" won three awards and was aired on the SUPERCHANNEL as part of their Halloween line up. As a writer, her screenplays have won awards in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto. Her feature screenplay "Bracewater" has been a semi-finalist in several competitions and has won four awards. Her short Screenplay "Savior" has won three awards including Best Sci-Fi screenplay. As an actor, she has been working steadily in film, television and theatre for more than 25 years, with lead and principle roles in over 60 productions. Her captivating and realistic performances have garnered her eight Best Actress and four Acting Excellence Awards. "Made in the USA, but born in Toronto" she has dual Canadian and American Citizenship with Scottish, Irish, English and Slovak ancestry. Cynthia is a member of ACTRA and is SAG-Eligible.

VIRTUAL ONLY SCREENINGS

AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF JUNE

Everybody Wants To Be Loved

Germany | Dram

Cover Your Ears

Canada | Documentary

ID

USA | Thriller/Crime

VIRTUAL SORTS:

A Slice of Life Drama and Thrills

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH

12:00PM EDT

Local Shorts Showcase

Various Short Films

12:30PM EDT

Lancaster

UK | Documentary

3:00PM EDT

Dr. Cliff - Worldwide Vet

Canada | Documentary

STARTS 3:30PM EDT

DOUBLE DOCS

Broken Courage

Canada/Cambodia |

Documentary

The Address On The Wall

Ukraine | Documentary

6:00PM EDT

Jurassic Punk

USA | Documentary

6:30PM EDT

BlackBerry

Canada | Comedy/Drama

9:00PM EDT

A Little Prayer

USA | Drama

9:30PM EDT

Notre Dame De Moncton

Canada (New Brunswick) | Drama

SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH

STARTS 11:30AM EDT

DOUBLE INDIGENOUS DOCS

Gchi-Jimaan-Jiime:

Completing The Vision Of Marshall Nadjiwon

Canada | Documentary

Our Teacher

Canada | Documentary

12:00PM EDT

Shorts for All Sorts

Various Short Films

2:30PM EDT

The Family Of The Forest

Canada | Documentary

3:30PM EDT

Coven

Canada | Documentary

5:30PM EDT

This Place

Canada/Drama

6:00PM EDT

Scrappier

UK | Comedy/Drama

8:30PM EDT

Exile

Canada | Drama/Thriller

9:00PM EDT

Master Gardener

USA | Thriller/Drama

GALAS & SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST

Opening Night At The Five Drive-In Oakville

6:30PM EDT

The Beehive

Canada | SciFi / Drama

THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND

Red Carpet Gala At The Oakville Centre For The Performing Arts

7:30PM EDT

The Year of the Dog

USA | Drama

FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD

Red Carpet Gala At The Oakville Centre For The Performing Arts

7:30PM EDT

Polarized

Canada | Drama





Thrill different.

Virtual only Screening
Starts Wednesday, June 21st

AVAILABLE ACROSS CANADA UNTIL END OF JUNE
REGIONAL PREMIERE


Everybody Wants To Be Loved

GERMANY | DRAMA | 1HR 20M

Director: Katharina Woll

Starring: Anne Ratte-Polle, Lea Drinda, Ulrike Willenbacher

Synopsis: A blisteringly hot summer day. Psychotherapist Ina notices something is wrong with her. But she doesn't have time to worry about it: Patients are waiting at the practice, her daughter is threatening to move in with her father, her boyfriend wants to emigrate to Finland, and her self-centered mother is celebrating her 70th birthday. Ina wants to please everyone. But then everything changes.

 **Film Fact:** Katharina Woll's feature directorial debut won the best screenplay award at the 39th annual Munich Film Festival in 2022.

 **Q&A:** Virtual pre recorded Q&A with Director Katharina Woll.

 **Short Films:** **The Re-Membering** (dir. Eunice Hau)

Virtual only Screening
Starts Wednesday, June 21st

AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF JUNE


Cover Your Ears


CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 44M

Director: Sean Patrick Shaul

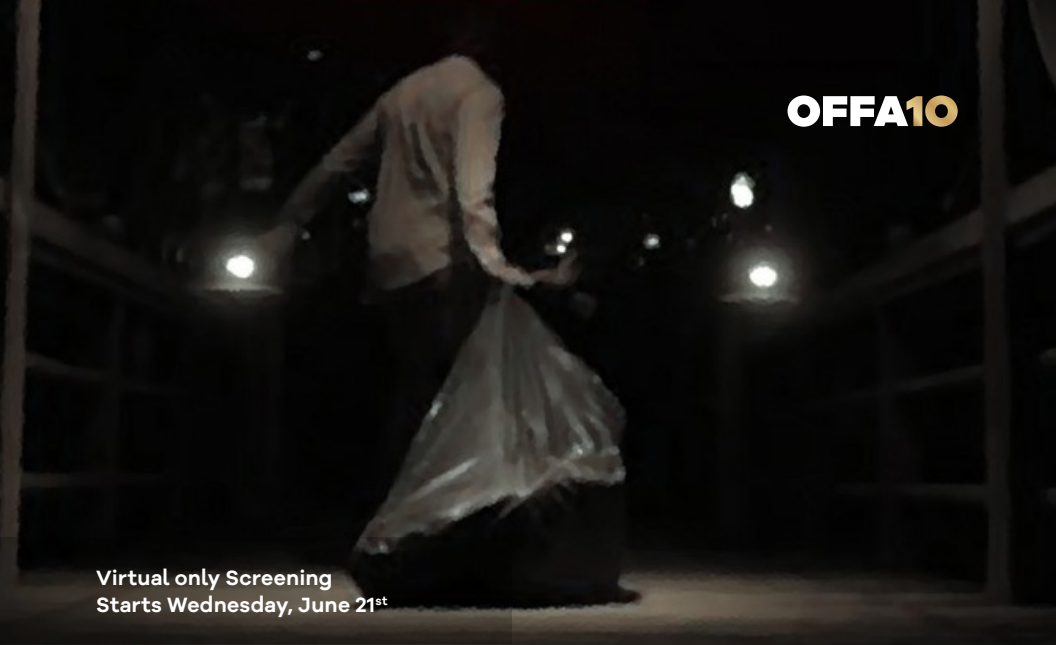
Starring: Chuck D, Dee Snider, Ian MacKaye, Rhiannon Giddens

Synopsis: From poignant protest songs to fluffy Top 40 hits, music has always defined our culture. With such a powerful influence on all aspects of society, the messages and themes portrayed by musicians have long been considered dangerous to some. This film looks at how the censorship of music has shaped not only how we view art and how it's made, but who we are as consumers and free-thinkers.

 **Film Fact:** The documentary covers 100 years of material relating to film censorship, in just 104 minutes.

 **Q&A:** Virtual pre recorded Q&A with Director Sean Patrick Shaul + Oakville-born Producer Kayvon Saremi.

 **Short Films:** **Lanterns Flicker** (dir. Yoni Collins)



Virtual only Screening
Starts Wednesday, June 21st

AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF JUNE

ID

USA | THRILLER/CRIME | 1HR 54 MIN

(TELUGA/ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Director: Kiran Kondamadugula

Starring: Rakesh Galebhe

Synopsis: A pregnant Priya wants to move back to India, her husband Sid obliges as he sees this an opportunity to escape his dark past. The couple throws a party before they leave, and Sid wakes up in the morning completely naked with the entire house empty and Priya is nowhere to be seen. Sid is detained and learns in a shocking twist that he has no government records. He tries to prove his existence but loses the battle because he cannot provide any ID, or any reason to believe that he is who he is. Sid becomes a fugitive, going on a quest to learn the truth. He meets a smart, yet broke attorney, Dev, who tries to help him as the situation takes a dark, twisted turn.

 **Q&A:** Virtual Q&A with Director Kiran Kondamadugula

 **Short Films:** *Naked Island Part I* (dir. Jim Yufei Zou)



Virtual only Screening
Starts Wednesday, June 21st

AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF JUNE

Virtual Shorts

A Slice of Life

Enjoy a selection of shorts exclusively available in an online screening from around the world. This programme highlights human stories, whimsical worlds, laughs and character-driven works.

Tiny, dir. Ritchie Hemphill, Ryan Haché (Canada)

Instant Noodle, dir. Michelle Sastraatmadja (USA)

Corvine, dir. Sean McCarron (Canada)

First Time, dir. Nicolas Block (New Zealand)

Bégan, dir. Maria Jorge (Portugal)

Lights, dir. Jitka Nemikinsová (Czech Republic)

Panic Attack, dir. Anthony Assad (Ireland)

Say My Name, dir. Roxanne Stam (Netherlands)

Pondwater, dir. Emma Scarth (Canada)

All Year Round, dir. Gabrielle Edmiston (Canada)

Q&A: Virtual pre-recorded Q&A with filmmakers from around the world.





OFFA10

Virtual only Screening
Starts Wednesday, June 21st

AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF JUNE

Virtual Shorts Drama & Thrills

Enjoy a selection of shorts exclusively available in an online screening from around the world. This programme highlights hard-hitting drama, reflections on life and death, thrillers and important issues.

Presence, dir. Vincent Tang (Canada)

Happy Birthday, dir. Haoyu Xue (China)

Eleven Twelve, dir. Cyril Masson (France)

Txotxongiloa, dir. Sonia Estévez (Spain)


Our Males and Females, dir. Ahmad Alyaseer (Jordan)

One Never Kills for Love, dir. Manon Testud (Canada)

Pale Blue Dot, dir. Mitko Stafidov (Bulgaria)

Going Diaspora, dir. Damir Mehić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

My Name is Arnold, dir. Arnold Lim (Canada)

 **Q&A:** Virtual pre-recorded Q&A with short filmmakers from around the world.





YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD CINEMA

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



We are proud to sponsor the Oakville Film Festival once again. As your local independent cinema, we strive to be Oakville's favourite movie theatre. When it comes to movies, we not only love to screen films but we also support filmmakers of all ages. From our popular kid's programs, to providing set rentals for small- to large-tier productions, to producing our own content, we are very passionate about our role in the film industry.

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.

We'll see YOU at the movies!

Jeff Knoll,
CEO of Film.Ca Cinemas Inc.



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OFFA10

Saturday, June 24th
12:00pm EDT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Local Shorts Showcase



A selection of short films from Oakville and Halton-area filmmakers, including students from Sheridan College's Film & Television and Animation programs.

Legacy Voices II (Dir. Akil Mackenzie)

On the Haunt (dir. Joy Zhou)

The Perfect Game (dir. David Cartwright)

Mon Ami (dir. Michelle Chen)

Boba (dir. Jasmine Bournes)

CNTRL (dir. Marco Ciardullo, Alex Laframboise)

Eye to Eye (dir. Violet Elliot, Katie Sawatzky)

The Waves of Yesterday (dir. Clara Gehl)

Blood of Ghent (dir. Erich Allan Foerster)

Spin Over (dir. Shazia Javed)

Billy's Boring Ballad (dir. Kezia Angelica)

Mothership (dir. Lydia Ramsey)

Working Hard or Hardly Working (dir. Rin Jiang)

One Happy Van (dir. Eden Wassermann)

Q&A: live Q&A to follow screening with filmmakers.



Saturday, June 24th
12:30pm EDT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH




Lancaster

UK | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 50M

Director: David Fairhead, Ant Palmer

Synopsis: From the team behind *Spitfire* comes *Lancaster*, the story of the iconic WW2 bomber told through the words of the last surviving crew members, re-mastered archive material and extraordinary aerial footage of the RAF's last airworthy Lancaster. Responsible for some of the most famous and infamous missions in WW2 history, from the dambuster raids to the controversial bombing of Dresden, the Lancaster would help turn the tide of war. But there was a deadly price to be paid. 55,000 young men - half of all bomber command's aircrew - died over Nazi occupied Europe. Their average age was just 22. *Lancaster* is an epic and poignant story of courage, fear, friendship and the moral complexities of war.

 **Film Fact:** The Lancaster Bomber was designed and manufactured by Avro and was produced in Canada. There are two planes left that can fly, one is in Hamilton, the other in the UK.

 **Q&A:** Live Q&A on Zoom with David Fairhead and Ant Palmer from the UK.

 **Short Films:** *Open Waters* (dir. Santiago Belalcázar)



Saturday, June 24th
3:00pm EDT

WORLD PREMIERE

Dr. Cliff Worldwide Vet

CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 5M

Director: Diego A. Garcia

Synopsis: Meet globe-trotting veterinarian, Dr. Cliff, and his daughter, Emily, who fight for animals' lives, anywhere in the world. After a young fox fights for its life in the surgery room, flat-lining, not once but twice, Emily and her father long for wildlife rescue work and travel abroad. After two years of waiting, the Redford's finally head back to India, where dogs, birds and monkeys, struggle with their lives, terrified by the fireworks of Diwali - The Festival of Lights.

Special Event: The Oakville and Milton Humane Society will be in the lobby during the screening.

Film Fact: On the second day of Diwali, when the fireworks were at their grandest, Dr. Cliff stepped too close and an errant ember burnt the top of his head. His daughter Emily used her vet assistant training to treat her father's wound right there on the streets of Hyderabad, India. Diwali fireworks apparently are dangerous for both stray animals and stray veterinarians alike.

Q&A: Includes Dr. Cliff, his daughter Emily and Director Diego Garcia.

Short Films: **Oasis in the Suburbs** (dir. Marlon Porter), **Application Denied** (dir. Shayla Rowsell), **The Pest** (dir. Jungwoo Choi), **Starry-Eyed Duckling** (dir. Britney Luc)

Saturday, June 24th
3:30pm EDT

DOUBLE DOCS | WORLD PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Broken Courage

film.ca
cinemas

CANADA/CAMBODIA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 15M

Director: David Peck, Nathanael Draper

Synopsis: Broken Courage is a film about memory, history and reconciliation. It's about how trauma has touched us all, the interconnectivity of stories and their power to heal. Meet Suon Rottana, a teenage Khmer Rouge rebel, a soldier with the Cambodian army, a prisoner of war and a landmine amputee. Suon is a wounded man looking for redemption and reconciliation. His journey of reflection led him to share his story as a tour guide at several memorial war museums just outside the majestic temples of Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Film Fact: Director David Peck is from Oakville and is the director of social enterprise So Change, has a Masters Degree in Philosophy and is a published author.

Q&A: Live with directors/writers David Peck and Nathaniel Draper.

Short Films: **New Beginnings** (dir. Evine Abbasy)

Saturday, June 24th
3:30pm EDT


DOUBLE DOCS | CANADIAN PREMIERE


The Address On The Wall

UKRAINE | DOCUMENTARY | 1 HR

Director: Serge Krutsenko

Synopsis: They say that truth is stranger than fiction and that fate writes the script better than any author. "The Address on the Wall" was finalized only after being altered by Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine. This changed the lives of many European countries and radically destroyed the romantic imagination of what could happen to humanity in the beginning of the twenty-first century. Connecting the Babyn Yar massacre with the current tragedy, the film is a reflection on the past, and, at the same time, evidence of what is happening now in Ukraine.

 **Film Fact:** Director Serge Krutsenko passed away in the war on Ukraine in January of 2023, and was a composer, performer, and music producer in Ukraine, as well as a specialist in 3D shooting.

 **Q&A:** Pre-taped intro from the Producer of The Address on the Wall Valeria Demianenko.

Saturday, June 24th
6:00pm EDT



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Jurassic Punk

Sheridan | Get Creative

USA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 21M

Director: Scott Leberecht

Starring: Steve "Spaz" Williams

Synopsis: Steve 'Spaz' Williams is a pioneer in computer animation. His digital dinosaurs of *Jurassic Park* transformed Hollywood in 1993, but an appetite for anarchy and reckless disregard for authority may have cost him the recognition he deserved.

Film Fact: Steve graduated from Sheridan's School of Animation in 1984, and is currently living and working in the USA.

Q&A: live virtual Q&A on Zoom with Steve SPAZ Williams and Scott Leberecht.

Short Films: **Karam Camera** (dir. Liam LoPinto, Shaimaa Al Sabti, Hana Barhum),
Artist's Alley (dir. Jenna Grace Defacendis)

Saturday, June 24th
6:30pm EDT

BlackBerry

CANADA | DRAMA/COMEDY | 2HR 1M

Director: Matt Johnson

Starring: Jay Baruchel, Glenn Howerton, Matt Johnson

Synopsis: A company that toppled global giants before succumbing to the ruthlessly competitive forces of Silicon Valley. This is not a conventional tale of modern business failure by fraud and greed. The rise and fall of BlackBerry reveals the dangerous speed at which innovators race along the information superhighway.

Film Fact: Even though their project was named after the Waterloo, Ont., invention that forever changed how we communicate, both the director and co-writer say they were less interested in the device itself than the story of the three men who were successful globally with Research in Motion.

Q&A: Live with Writer Matt Miller and others from the film.

Short Films: **Psychosomatic** (dir. Mia Corlett)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





OFFA19

Saturday, June 24th
9:00pm EDT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

A Little Prayer





USA | DRAMA | 1HR 31M


Director: Angus MacLaughlan

Starring: Jane Levy, Will Pullen, David Strathairn

Synopsis: Tammy (Jane Levy) and husband David (Will Pullen) lead a quiet life in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, sharing a home with David's parents, Bill (David Strathairn) and Venida (Celia Weston). David and Bill work together and have always been closely involved in each other's lives. When Bill begins to suspect that David is straying in his marriage, he is drawn into a relationship minefield, caught between wanting to protect his amicable daughter-in-law and trying to understand his impulsive son. As Bill confronts the limits of patriarchal influence, he is also forced to reckon with disheartening behavioral patterns that may be transcending generations.

 **Film Fact:** The film has a 92% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes and is generating early Oscar buzz for 2024.

 **Q&A:** Pre-recorded Q&A with Writer/Director Angus MacLaughlan, actors Jane Levy - Evil Dead (2013), Will Pullen - The Unforgivable (2021).

 **Short Films:** **Laundry** (dir. Victoria Zubick, Sarah Gonyea), **Claire** (dir. Brooke Morgan)



Saturday, June 24th
9:30pm EDT

ONTARIO PREMIERE

Notre Dame De Moncton

CANADA (NEW BRUNSWICK) | DRAMA | 1HR 30M

Director: Denise Bouchard

Starring: Laurie Gagné, Louise Turcot, Thomas Lapointe

Synopsis: Anna (Laurie Gagné) is about to reconnect with Jason (Thomas Lapointe), the son she was forced to place for adoption almost 20 years ago. Stressed and unable to complete this meeting, she finds refuge hiding in the basement of an elderly couple. A dramatic event brings Anna to forge an impromptu relationship with Victorine (Louise Turcot). The strange cohabitation of these two women will help them find the courage to face their trials.

Film Fact: This is the first role for Laurie Gagner, who plays Anna. Louise Turcot, who plays Victorine, and Gilles Renaud, who plays her husband Herge, are actually a couple. This movie is number 78 for Gilles Renaud. Denis Bouchard voluntarily limited dialogue in the movie to accentuate action, to allow the spectator to think about what is going on. The movie was shot in one month.

Q&A: Live Q&A with Director Denise Bouchard.

Short Films: **Housewife in the Daytime** (dir. Shelby Hotson), **Smoke Eater** (dir. Gloria Mercer)



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GCHI - JIMAAN - JIIME

COMPLETING THE VISION OF MARSHALL NADJIWON

Sunday, June 25th
11:30am EDT

DOUBLE INDIGENOUS DOCS | CANADIAN PREMIERE

Gchi-Jimaan-Jiime: Completing The Vision Of Marshall Nadjiwon

CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 22M

Director: Christopher Douglas Akiwenzie

Synopsis: Last summer, Elder Justin Johnston asked Christopher and Natasha Akiwenzie to help honour his dear friend's vision. The Bagida'waad Alliance undertook organizing this sacred journey to raise awareness about the collapse of whitefish in Georgian Bay - a big canoe, family, friends, and community members came together with friendship and laughter to share this story with you.

Q&A: Will include Elder Justin Johnston, and Christopher, Victoria Serda, and Natasha Akiwenzie.



Sunday, June 25th
11:30am EDT

DOUBLE INDIGENOUS DOCS

Our Teacher

CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 59M

Director: Phillip Vannini

Synopsis: Witness a cedar tree give life, transforming the world around it. "Our Teacher" focuses on Coast Salish carver Beau Wagner. Beau was mentored by late Stz'uminus First Nation Master Carver Elmer Sampson. It was Elmer's wish that one day his traditional teachings could be passed on in hope of bringing understanding and respect for Coast Salish knowledge and revitalizing Coast Salish canoe culture. In September of 2021 Beau set out on a path to honour his teacher's wishes by carving a canoe on Gabriola Island, British Columbia (Canada) with the students at the local elementary school. As the children began to carve along with him, the cedar began releasing its life force, spreading waves of kindness, love, joy, and belonging.

Film Fact: The subject of the film, Coast Salish carver Beau Wagner, was mentored by late Stz'uminus First Nation Master Carver Elmer Sampson. It was Elmer's wish that one day his traditional teachings could be passed on in hope of bringing understanding and respect for Coast Salish knowledge and revitalizing Coast Salish canoe culture.

Q&A: The subject of the film Our Teacher, Beau Wagner, will attend for the Q&A.

Short Films: **Kokum, With Love** (dir. Kim Stadfeld)



Sunday, June 25th
12:00pm EDT

Shorts for All Sorts

Selection of short films from Canada and beyond.

Slam Dunk, Sehaj! (Canada, dir. Asis Sethi)

Latchkey (Canada, dir. Nathalie Therriault)

On Track (Canada, dir. Rachel Shen)

Feeding Alaska (USA, dir. Liam Abbott, Collin Gaja, Calista Kirk, Isabella Miller)

Tokens - Episode 202 (Canada, dir. Winnifred Jong)

Negative Space (South Korea, dir. Jeonghui An)

Who Is Downstairs on Christmas Day? (Canada, dir. Joshua Valente)

INTRUDr (Canada, dir. Alex Darling)

Begin Again (Canada, dir. Gabriel Venneri)

The Moviegoer (Canada, dir. Ross Munro)

The Cuban Way (Colombia, dir. David Alejandro Ospina)

Past Bedtime (Canada, dir. Steven Ross)

Under the Weather (Canada, dir. Saul Benavides)

Q&A: Virtual pre-recorded Q&A with filmmakers from around the world.





Sunday, June 25th
2:30pm EDT

VIRTUAL SCREENING ALSO AVAILABLE ACROSS CANADA

The Family Of The Forest

CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 25M

Director: Laura Rietveld

Synopsis: Gérard Mathar and Catherine Jacob left family, friends and homeland for a life of self-sufficiency in the boreal forest of the Gaspé Peninsula, Québec. Now as their sons become adults, will the next generation also commit to a life bound to forest, land and sea? What makes the intense demands and sacrifices of this life worth it? What does it mean to truly appreciate and live with nature? And what can we learn from this inspiring family? The Family of the Forest ponders these questions with a poetic sensitivity while joining the Jacob-Mathar family at a pivotal time: as Côme, Ossyane, and Jonas emerge into adulthood and Gérard and Catherine complete an ambitious plan to keep sons close to family and forest.

Film Fact: The film Family of the Forest was selected for First Pitch, Forum RIDM (2018), workshopped with Sundance Collab (2021), and has been 7 years in the making. Laura holds an MBA from the Ivey school of Business and a BA in History.

Q&A: Live virtual on ZOOM with Director Laura Rietveld.

Short Films: **Rooted in Art** (dir. Makayla Hidalgo), **In the Forest** (dir. Poppi Fella Pellegrino, Harlow Castillo)

Sunday, June 25th
3:30pm EDT

Coven





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STUDIOS

CANADA | DOCUMENTARY | 1HR 28M

Director: Rama Rau

Synopsis: For centuries, witchcraft has been seen as suspicious, harmful and even evil, but millennials Laura, Andra and Ayo are part of a growing trend of reviving the practice and reclaiming & re-owning the term witch. Although they each came to this part of their identity in different ways, all three embrace the powers of sorcery and magic in their lives. For these young witches, it's part of a feminist effort to de-stigmatize the craft and step into their own powers. Coven follows the women to Romania, Scotland and the southern United States as they learn more about their own wicca ancestors. Along the way, they discover surprising histories and connections that help them understand and channel their gifts. A film that attempts to undo a fraught view of witches and shines a light on a modern retake of an ancient worldwide practice

-  **Special Event:** Laura and Andra will perform Tarot card readings for attendees one hour before the film begins. Andra's Band Willow Switch to perform before screening.
-  **Film Fact:** Laura Hokstad, one of 3 witches profiled in the documentary, discovers through travels to Scotland and Salem, Massachusetts, that two of her ancestors were women actually accused of witchcraft.
-  **Q&A:** Q&A includes Laura Hokstad and Andra Zlatescu the subjects of the film. With an introduction from Director Rama Rau.
-  **Short Films:** **Not Yet** (dir. Jeffrey Jones), **Snake Sneak!** (dir. Yaeseul (Ethel) Cho)

Sunday, June 25th
5:30pm EDT

REGIONAL PREMIERE

This Place


CANADA/DRAMA


Director: V.T. Nayani


Writers: Golshan Abdmoulaie, Devery Jacobs, V.T. Nayani

Starring: Devery Jacobs (Blood Quantum), Priya Guns (Tide Of Lies)

Synopsis: A coming-of-adulthood story about two women falling in love for the first time. As they grow closer, each is forced to confront their family histories in unexpected ways, while navigating multiple legacies of grief and love.

 **Film Fact:** This Place is the feature film debut for V.T. Nayani.

 **Q&A:** Virtual pre-recorded Q&A with Dir. V.T. Nayani, Devery Jacobs, and Priya Guns.

 **Short Films:** **N'xaxaitkw** (dir. Asia Youngman), **To the Beyond** (dir. Angie He)

Sunday, June 25th
6:00pm EDT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Scrapper

UK | COMEDY/DRAMA | 1HR 24M

Director: Charlotte Regan

Starring: Harris Dickinson, Lola Campbell, Alin Uzun

Synopsis: In this vibrant and inventive father-daughter comedy, Georgie (Lola Campbell) is a dreamy 12-year-old girl who lives alone in her London flat, filling it with magic after the death of her mother. Out of nowhere, her estranged father Jason (Harris Dickinson) arrives and forces her to confront reality. Uninterested in this sudden new parental figure, Georgie is stubbornly resistant to his efforts. As they adjust to their new circumstances, Georgie and Jason find that both father and daughter still have a lot of growing up to do.



Film Fact: Scrapper earned the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic at the 2023 Sundance awards. This is Charlotte Reagan's debut feature.

Q&A: Virtual pre-recorded Q&A with Director/Writer Charlotte Regan.

Short Films: **Little Bird** (dir. Tee Schneider), **Through the Attic's Eye** (dir. Lily Zhang)

Sunday, June 25th
8:30pm EDT

EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Exile



CANADA | DRAMA/THRILLER | 1HR 47M

Director: Jason James

Starring: Adam Beach, Camille Sullivan, Frances Flanagan, Ecstasia Sanders

Synopsis: Just prior to his release from prison, Ted Evans receives a threat from the man whose family he killed in a DUI - 'if you make contact with your family, I'll kill them'. Believing that the danger is real, Ted exiles himself to a reclusive life to protect his family. However, Ted's wife Sara knows the threat is merely a manifestation of her husband's profound guilt. Determined to rebuild their family, Sara tracks Ted down to confront him with hard evidence that the threat is imagined. But she has no idea just how unhinged he has become - or how real the threat may be.

Film Fact: From Manitoba, Anishinaabe actor Adam Beach has won many awards (Flags of our Fathers, Wind Talker, Cowboys and Aliens, the Power of the Dog) has been on an OFFA Q&A before, for the film Percy, from 2021. He showed up unexpectedly on the Q&A.

Q&A: Director Jason James and Adam Beach.

Short Films: **Hamartia** (dir. Nicole Sofia)

Sunday, June 25th
9:00pm EDT


Master Gardener


USA | THRILLER/DRAMA | 1HR 50M

Director: Paul Schrader

Starring: Sigourney Weaver, Joel Edgerton, Quintessa Swindell

Synopsis: Directed by Academy Award® nominee Paul Schrader based on his original screenplay, **Master Gardener** follows Narvel Roth (award-winner Joel Edgerton), the meticulous horticulturist of Gracewood Gardens. He is as much devoted to tending the grounds of this beautiful and historic estate, to pandering to his employer, the wealthy dowager Mrs. Haverhill (three-time Academy Award® nominee Sigourney Weaver). When Mrs. Haverhill demands that he take on her wayward and troubled great-niece Maya (Quintessa Swindell) as a new apprentice, chaos enters Narvel's spartan existence, unlocking dark secrets from a buried violent past that threaten them all.

 **Film Fact:** Paul Schrader was nominated for an Oscar for best writer for *First Reformed* in 2017. His strict, Calvinist parents did not allow him to watch a movie until he was 18.

 **Short Films:** *Cartography of a Woman* (dir. Andressa Back)

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Wednesday, June 21st
6:30pm EDT

CANADIAN PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Beehive

CANADA | SCIFI / DRAMA | 1HR 26M



OAKVILLE



Director: Alexander Lasheras

Starring: Meadow Kingfisher, Kaydin Gibson, Stephen JF Walker, Tina Giorgieva, Todd Hann

Synopsis: The Beehive tells the story of an inquisitive young girl, her angsty teenage brother, and her self-righteous father who put their family conflicts aside in the face of a pandemic alien invasion. A series of unexplainable comets explode in the skies above the Piers family farm where widowed father, Frank, lives with his two children, Arron and Rosemary. The next morning, Rosemary discovers an unusual nest growing on a Big Leaf Maple tree and documents its rapid growth with her handycam, naming the hive 'B'.

- Special Event:** Event will include a Traditional Opening Ceremony, Indigenous Film, food, shopping, drumming, lacrosse, volleyball and more.
- Film Fact:** The Beehive was selected for support in the first round of Game Theory Films' Black, Indigenous and People of Colour Distribution Fund, receiving service support for visual effects from MARZ and an in-kind equipment package from William F. White.
- Q&A:** Includes Director/Writer Alexander Lasheras, Producers Mike Johnston, Arun Fryer & Actors Meadow Kingfisher (Rosemary) and Kaydin Gibson (Arron Piers).
- Short Films:** **101 Deweguns** (dir. Jarrod Stark, Jess Boulay), **P.S. Stop Crying** (dir. Makayla Nott), **Follow** (dir. Brent Beauchamp)

Thursday, June 22nd
7:30pm EDT

EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Year Of The Dog

USA | DRAMA | 1HR 37M



Director: Robert Grabow, Michael Peterson, Andrew McGinn

Starring: Robert Grabow, Michael Spears, Jon Proudstar

Synopsis: Matt, a loner alcoholic at rock bottom, struggles to maintain sobriety for 30 days so he can honor his mother's dying wish, to visit her in hospice, sober. His book-thumping AA sponsor, Fred, offers him refuge at his farm, where Matt meets Yup'ik, a stray dog -- played by a real-life Husky rescue -- with a unique athletic talent. The man and dog relationship is challenging at first, but with the help of a close-knit Montana community, the two strays find a connection and discover what it takes to pull through to the finish line.

Special Event: The Dog Rescuers Inc. will be on site before the screening with a rescue puppy. Oakville's own Intrada Brass will perform a Hollywood Through the Years musical medley, and Oakville's Canada's Got Talent 10-year old sensation, Cydnee Abbott, will present a never-before seen dance number.

Film Fact: The dog in the film is a Siberian husky named Caleb, who was rescued in partnership with an organization in California where he lives now. At the end credits the movie details "In Memory of Lulu", in tribute to Tatum's late dog Lulu. This movie is in celebration of his last road trip with Lulu before she died from cancer.

Q&A: Live with Rob Grabow, Actor, Dir/Producer/actor (plays Matt) & others from the film.

Short Films: **The Adventures of Marg - New Wheels** (dir. Chloë Clune), **Demon Box** (dir. Sean Wainstein)

Friday, June 23rd
7:30pm EDT

CANADIAN THEATRICAL PREMIERE

Polarized

CANADA | DRAMA | 1HR 44M

Director: Shamim Sarif

Starring: Holly Deveaux, Maxine Denis

Synopsis: Lisa, an aspiring songwriter, whose farming family has suffered foreclosure is forced to work at a new, 'urban farm' where she meets Dalia. Her casual racism leads her to be fired but the women end up drawn into a passionate affair.

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Special Event: Singer/Songwriter Brooke Palsson will perform before the screening. Livestream also available for this full event. Available for 72 hours.

Film Fact: Brooke Pallson is a singer/songwriter, and wrote much of the music for the film, and will perform at the Gala.

Q&A: Includes Writer/Director Shamim Sarif, actresses Holly Deveaux, Maxine Denis, Producer Hanan Kattan, and actor/ singer/songwriter Brooke Palsson

Short Films: **If You Were Me** (dir. Ingrid Veninger)

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