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# VICTORIA FILM FESTIVAL



FEBRUARY 5 - 14, 2016

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## END OF FESTIVAL BASH & AWARDS

**Location:** Lucky Bar • 517 Yates St.

**Sunday • February 14 • 9PM**

Several of the films that are juried and accepted to the Festival are selected to receive an award. Join us for an exciting evening as we announce the winners at the End of Festival Bash.

The Categories are:

- Best Feature Film
- Best Canadian Feature
- Best Documentary
- Best Short Animation
- Cineplex Entertainment Audience Favourite
- Metropolis Audience Favourite Short



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# FESTIVAL PERSONNEL

## Festival Team

---

Festival Director: **Kathy Kay**  
Head Programmer: **Donovan Aikman**  
Operations Manager: **Jenna Savage**  
Marketing & Graphics: **Jen Reid**  
Communications: **Fulya Ozkul**  
The Vic Theatre: **Shawna Laursen**  
Volunteer & Development Coordinator: **Andrea Intven**  
Program Guide Sales: **Al Agopsowicz**  
Program Guide Layout: **Matt Hornsby**  
ConVerge Producer: **Matthew Payne**

## Board Of Directors

---

President: **Fraser McColl**  
Vice President: **Pat Ferns**  
Secretary: **Dan McDonagh**  
Treasurer: **Byron Smith**  
Directors At Large:  
**Barbara Hager**  
**Rain Li**  
**Sheena Macdonald**  
**David Simmonds**

## Youth Programming

---

**Jacob Flower**  
**Griffin Foster**  
**Emily Fraser**  
**Michelle Martin**  
**Ellery Rose**

## Advisory Committee

---

**April Butler** is a Victoria-based documentary filmmaker with experience as a producer, director, editor, and director of photography. Her films have screened at VFF, DOXA and IDFA. In addition to Canadian broadcasts (Knowledge, Global, TVO) her films have been shown in Australia, The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Israel and Norway.

**Brian MacDonald's** video projects from *Sex and Sadness* (2001) to the *Video Art Therapy* series (2013) explore human psychology and the relationship between intimacy and solitude. His work has been presented at film festivals and art galleries internationally including *Video Art Therapy 2: Videopsychotherapy* at Open Space Arts Society in 2014.

**Connor Gaston** is an award-winning filmmaker local to Victoria. Three of his short films have screened at VFF including *'Til Death*, which won the "Audience Choice" Award in 2013. More recently, Gaston won the "BC Emerging Filmmaker" award at the Vancouver International Film Festival for his debut feature film *The Devout*.

**Richard Reeves** is an independent animated kinetic film-scratcher; traveler of time and space; light sensitive looper of film loops and projected moving images. He's an anima-monk whose projection bulbs bring total enlightenment.

**Kirk Cooper** is the founder of Film Market Access, a film consulting and PR firm. Kirk's contribution to the international film community spans over 14 years with experience in the global arts and entertainment industry. His strength lies in film programming, communications, professional development and project management of film & television.

**Arnold Lim** is a photojournalist, unit stills photographer, filmmaker and videographer. He has shot for Sports Illustrated, the Globe and Mail, the BBC, Black Press, the ITU and more. He has produced and directed narrative, commercial and documentary films that have screened at film festivals around the world including Cannes, TIFF and many more.

# Victoria Film Festival Family Day

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*see program guide for details*



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The background of the page is a vibrant pink color with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent film strips. The film strips are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some strips appearing to be in the foreground and others receding into the background. The strips have white sprocket holes along their edges.

## YOUNG FILMMAKERS

The Victoria Film Festival offers a comprehensive education program of classroom and community outreach to youth groups, youth centres, libraries, and schools. This includes:

### *Filmmakers Into Schools*

Filmmakers Into Schools brings guests of the Victoria Film Festival, including writers, directors, composers, producers and musicians that attend the Festival in February into local classrooms to talk about their trade, offering advice about careers in the film industry and inspiring a new generation of filmmakers.

### *FilmCAN*

FilmCAN is an annual online student filmmaking competition that provides mentorship to students from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, and offers aspiring young filmmakers the chance to have their great short films screen alongside a feature film at the Victoria Film Festival. For more information about the FilmCAN competition, see page 69.

### *Snapshots: 1-Hour Filmmaking Workshops*

Snapshots is a one hour, interactive introductory filmmaking workshop led by experienced, award-winning local filmmakers and artists who teach youth the fundamentals of writing, lighting, editing and camerawork through the use of smart-phones and other do-it-yourself style solutions.

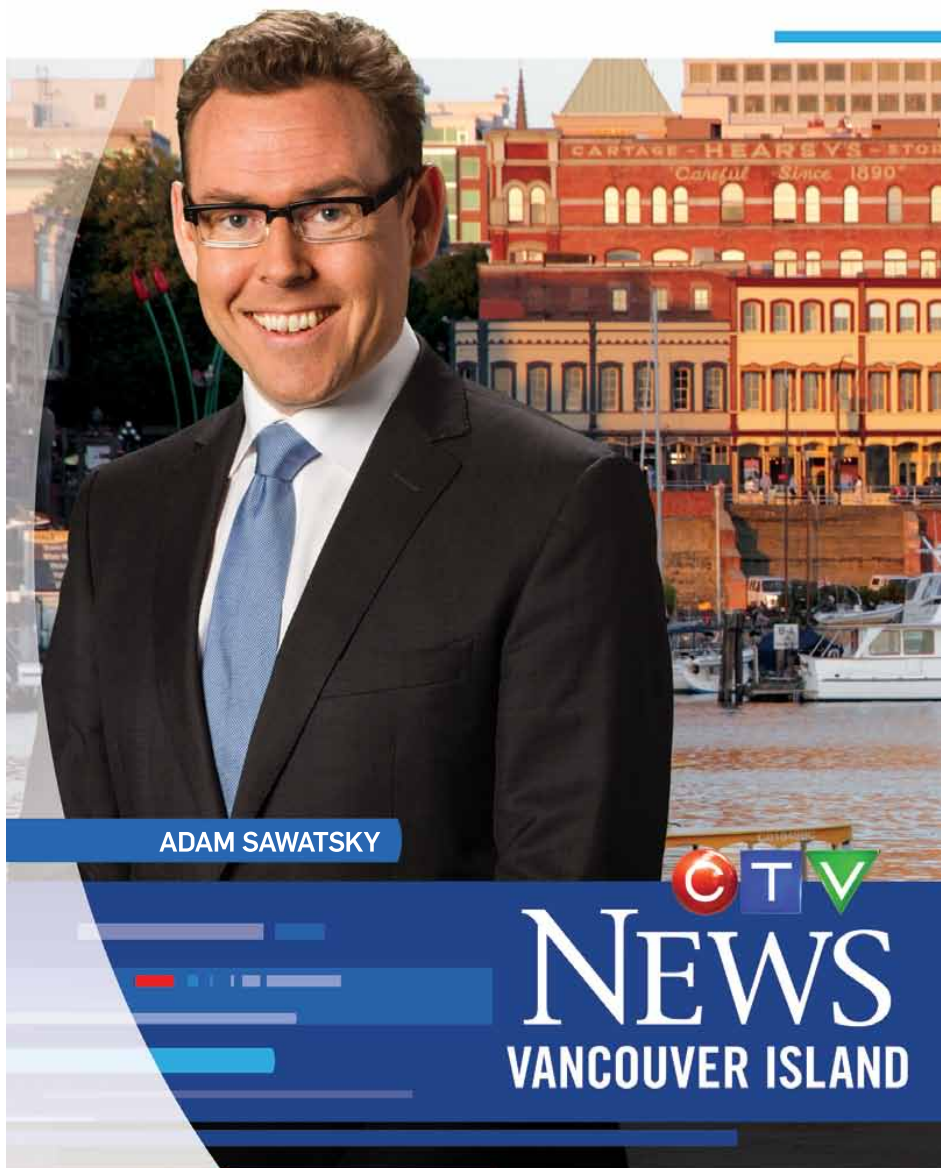
### *Shoot the Write Stuff*

Shoot the Write Stuff is a week-long summer camp program where youth take turns trying out each of the key creative roles in film production - writer, director, cinematographer, actor and editor. Mentored by experienced and award-winning filmmakers, participants leave at the end of the week with a completed documentary or drama to take home and share with the world.

### *School Screenings*

Year-round at The Vic Theatre, and during the Victoria Film Festival, the VFF offers special screenings of great independent films and documentaries for local schools, inviting filmmakers and actors involved in these films for interactive Q&A's.

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# Welcome message from **Kathy Kay**

Over the last six months, an army of VFF curators, programmers and advisors have been watching, selecting and organizing many of the films you will see. Films that are unique and powerful works that shape how we see ourselves, how we see others, and some make us stop and reflect on how we see. You will watch films by people who shape the debate by telling stories that resonate and have timely subjects – like Philippe Falardeau, and Yorgos Lanthimos – to emerging directors who have something new to say, to long established filmmakers who will not be counted out. They are all here in a comprehensive look at the world and our goal is always to bring it on home.

Unsurprisingly, the relaunch of ConVerge was an enormous undertaking. ConVerge engages the viewer in a way quite removed from the experience of sitting alone in the dark. The film presentations are scattered throughout downtown, screening in secret or unusual locations using cutting-edge technology and a wicked sense of play in how each of the screenings are set up, creating an incredibly

visceral film experience. We had some crazy starts but I'm thrilled with the result and look forward to enticing you to our free-for-all-ages street party on the last Friday of the Festival to get a taste of this extraordinary event.

There are so many people to thank and now that we have a formal donor program you will find the names of all those supportive people in this Guide. I must say a special thank you to Sheena Macdonald and Phil Schmitt who made the first donation so many years ago and continue to be the most supportive VFF backers, and to Gerald Hartwig who continues to let us tinker away on The Vic Theatre as we work to bring independent cinema to Victorians year-round.



Festival Director

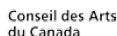
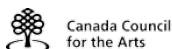
## Producer



## Director



## Government



## Media



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(Detail) Jack Shadbolt, Dog Among the Ruins, 1947, watercolour, carbon pencil on paper, Colin Graham Fund – Canada Council Matching Funds, 1980.069.001

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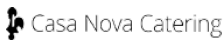
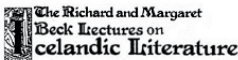
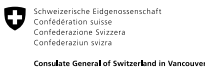
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On behalf of the City of Victoria, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 22nd annual Victoria Film Festival.

As in years past, this stimulating event will showcase over 100 feature and short films. With several local,

national and global movie premieres to its credit, the Festival will continue to introduce Victoria to fresh talent in a diverse range of filmmaking.

In 2016, we can also anticipate the reintroduction of ConVerge, an exciting program actively engaging viewers in unique locations, featuring short films exclusively by youth under the age 24.

This long-running and growing festival reflects the creativity and innovation that characterizes Victoria as the arts and culture capital. Congratulations to the committed organizers and volunteers, who not only organize year-round screenings, events, and workshops, but also coordinate the second largest film festival in the province.

Thank you for supporting the Victoria Film Festival. Enjoy the show!

Lisa Helps  
Victoria Mayor



On behalf of Premier Christy Clark and the Government of British Columbia, I am pleased to welcome you to the Victoria Film Festival, our capital city's impressive showcase of independent films from British Columbia, Canada and around

the world.

The Victoria Film Festival is a proven popular attraction for locals and in recent years has garnered international acclaim. For more than 20 years, this festival has earned well-deserved recognition and praise for its entertaining, thought-provoking portrayals of people, culture and ideas - including a selection of films highlighting our proud Indigenous, Francophone and Asian heritage.

With past audiences exceeding 24,000, this festival generates significant economic benefits and contributes to a strong and prosperous economy by helping to support local jobs and businesses. As well, this festival provides a forum where industry representatives can connect, be inspired and share ideas on the art and business of filmmaking.

I want to recognize the Victoria Film Festival for organizing this event as well as the many sponsors and volunteers whose support and contributions are vital to its success. Thank you for the work you do to support a strong and vibrant arts and culture sector in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Peter Fassbender  
Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development



Telefilm Canada joins with the 2016 Victoria Film Festival to celebrate our films and gather together the industry, creative talents and the public around stories—funny, sad or deeply moving—that shape our culture and mark our collective

imagination.

Placing the promotion of Canadian film firmly at the centre of its mission, and seeking to get more and more film lovers to experience our movies, Telefilm supports original initiatives that foster the discovery of emerging creative talents and the rediscovery of more seasoned filmmakers. Our organization works closely with the industry and with numerous partners to spur our cinema to ever-greater heights, at home and on the international scene.

Although our movies begin their careers at home in Canada, they are increasingly sought after by the world's most prestigious film festivals, winning awards as well as praise from international critics.

While this success is built primarily on talent, the international renown of our productions, for its part, is the result of the initiatives put forward by you and our supportive industry.

On behalf of Telefilm, thank you for sharing our passion and for contributing in such a wonderful way to the promotion of our film industry.

Enjoy the Festival!

Michel Roy  
Chair of the Board, Telefilm Canada



I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the Victoria Film Festival and its members.

As Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs in British Columbia, I am pleased to see that the Festival

created a program with an array of curated films including a strong Francophone film segment. This is an amazing opportunity for citizens to watch films in French that are not available otherwise. The Festival deserves to be complimented for its cinematographic choices that generate reflection and discussion.

Je vous invite à visionner plusieurs courts et longs métrages francophones pour vivre une expérience culturelle et artistique de grande valeur.

Profitez bien des films francophones qui célèbrent notre dualité linguistique canadienne.

Cordialement,  
Normand Letnick  
Ministre de l'agriculture / Minister of Agriculture  
Responsible for the Francophone Affairs Program

# Bravo to the staff, volunteers & filmmakers who make the Victoria Film Festival such a great success!



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# THANK YOU

The Victoria Film Festival extends sincere thanks to our donors. VFF is a non-profit organization that relies on the support of donors and volunteers. Contributions support the mission of the Film Festival to bring independent film to Victoria and support our year-round classroom and community outreach programs.

•

*Our thanks go out to these donors:*

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And our sincere appreciation to the Popcorn and Hot Pink members!

•

## Become a donor member!

The Victoria Film Festival donor memberships offer our supporters the opportunity to delve deeper into the Festival experience while supporting us with a tax-deductible contribution.

The Victoria Film Festival is a non-profit arts organization that relies on the support of volunteers, public funds, private donations and sponsorships.

Your contribution supports both the Victoria Film Festival's mission to inspire conversation and broaden minds through independent film as well as our Young Filmmakers program, which provides free outreach and education activities to schools, libraries, and youth groups. For more on our programs see page 5 or connect with us: [www.victoriafilmfestival.com/donate](http://www.victoriafilmfestival.com/donate).

# VICTORIA FILM FESTIVAL 2016

## 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OPENING GALA, FILM & RECEPTION

9pm, following the Opening Gala Film...

See what dreams are made of.

Come to the Cabaret, old chum, we have a few nightmares with which to seduce you. Freud, the father of dream theory, is our guide for all your urges and impulses. We'll make the unconscious conscious and we'll all have a gay old time...

Delicious treats from the up-and-coming chefs of the Camosun College Cooks Program.

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Camosun College Cooks Program and the BC Restaurant and Food Association; working together with tomorrow's chefs today.

Make your next film a night out: visit one of our many restaurants for dinner before the movie!







## OPENING GALA FILM

### ***My Internship in Canada / Guibord s'en va-t-en guerre***

Friday • February 5 • 7:00pm • Odeon 5

Director: Philippe Falardeau • Quebec • 2015 • 108min

A smart comedy that will have Canadians smiling from ear to ear. Whether in *The Good Lie* or *Monsieur Lazhar*, director Falardeau is taken with topics that speak to strangers in a strange land. In *My Internship in Canada* we delight in a Haitian intern (Irdens Exantus) navigating his way through the opportunistic world of Canadian politics alongside MP and former hockey player Steve Guibord (Patrick Huard) as he traverses his huge riding and becomes the deciding vote in a move to declare war. With a background in Canadian politics and international relations it's no wonder that Falardeau deals with such timely topics.

Ex-star du hockey, Steve Guibord est désormais une personnalité politique de Prescott-Makadena, à Rapides-aux-Outardes, un comté en proie à d'importants conflits sociaux et à des guerres politiques opportunistes. De sacrés défis pour Guibord, qui va heureusement recevoir le soutien d'un stagiaire originaire d'Haïti. Un sujet en or pour cette fable politique signée Philippe Falardeau. Le cinéaste se réinvente en Capra québécois pour observer avec tendresse et ironie le fonctionnement de notre "bonne vieille démocratie". Tonique, drôle, touchant, Patrick Huard excelle en Guibord face à Irdens Exantus parfait en apparent Candide, tandis que Paul Doucet rend hommage à sa façon à notre ex-premier Ministre, Stephen Harper.

**Accompanying Short: *Ariel Unraveling*** • Director: Carmen Moore • BC • 5min

16-year-old Ariel's innocent world, based on fantasy, is about to collide with reality.

Carmen Moore is the winner of the BravoFACT Winning Pitch contest from VFF 2015!

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# CANADIAN WAVE

The Victoria Film Festival is your best opportunity to experience the Canadian panorama on the big screen. Just like Canadians, each film we show has a story behind its story. If you're looking for somewhere to start, let us suggest a few of our most established voices.

*Into the Forest* is not just another wonderful performance by unabashedly Canadian Ellen Page. It's director Patricia Rozema's return to the kind of un-clichéd female-led dramas she excels so well at, which we've been missing since *Mansfield Park* and *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*.

Speaking of Canadian auteurs, Mina Shum (whose very first short *Me, Mom and Mona* played at the very first VFF) is also back on the big screen with the documentary *Ninth Floor*. Culture remains an important aspect of her work but this time it's all about culture clash and racial divide rather than home and harmony.

Independent director extraordinaire Larry Weinstein is on another evocative and absorbing trip once again with *The Devil's Horn*. Audiences fell in love with 2009's *Inside Hana's Suitcase* and 2013's *Our Man in Tehran* at VFF. For 2016, *The Devil's Horn* is a wonderful saxophonic addition to his litany of musical docs that strives to answer 'Where does the music come from?'

We're so happy to share some of the best Canada has on offer.



## ***After the Last River***

Saturday • Feb 13 • 2:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Victoria Lean • Ontario • 2015 • 87min • **Documentary**

In Attawapiskat, the arrival of the De Beers open pit diamond mine had long been touted as the best chance for local development. However, instead of improvements, we learned of the Attawapiskat First Nations crisis in Northern Ontario after a Red Cross intervention in 2011. Involving many voices such as local activist Rosie Koostachin, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, and even her own eco-toxicologist father, Victoria Lean's debut feature film lays out five years of this ongoing humanitarian crisis perpetrated by De Beers and the Harper government.

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## ***Al Purdy Was Here***

Sunday • Feb 7 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Brian D. Johnson • Ontario • 2015 • 90min • **Documentary**

Fifteen years after the death of one of Canada's iconic poets, director Johnson celebrates the life of Al Purdy and his impact on a young generation of Canadian poets, writers and singers. As a man of much complexity, Purdy was a rock star and raconteur who did not hold back or censor himself and approached poetry with his heart. Through a compilation of interviews with friends and fans (including some of Canada's best talent, including Margaret Atwood, Joseph Boyden and Sarah Harmer), you see into his life over his extensive career.



## ***Dan and Margot*** • World Premiere

Saturday • Feb 6 • 2:00pm • Odeon 1

Director: Chloe Sosa-Sims & Jake Chirico

Ontario • 2014 • 75min • **Documentary**

For years, Margot was stalked and harassed by a man she could only call "Dan" and her friends began to notice the joyful Margot grow dark and less coherent. Only with hospitalization did the real damage of her undiagnosed schizophrenia suddenly come into sharp focus. Now Margot is rebuilding her life, reaching out to others, and trying to regain her sense of self. Our understanding of schizophrenia may have come a long way but *Dan and Margot* skillfully presents how much more we need to understand what it means to be inside it, to live around it and to come back from it.



## ***The Devil's Horn***

Sunday • Feb 7 • 7:15pm • Odeon 1

Director: Larry Weinstein • Ontario • 2015 • 85min • **Documentary**

VFF favourite and director of *Inside Hana's Suitcase*, *Mozartballs*, *Our Man in Tehran*, and *Stormy Weather: The Music of Howard Arlen*, Larry Weinstein returns with his latest documentary which explores the history of the saxophone and the fate of many of history's greatest players. Weinstein explores the origins of Adolphe Sax (the creator of the saxophone) 150 years ago and the role the sax played over time and borders. *Learn more about the genesis of The Devil's Horn through Larry's In Conversation With session (see pg 73).*

**Accompanying Short: *Business Ethics*** • Director: Nick Wernham • Ontario • 24min  
Business school taught Zachary Cranston that ethical decisions are just cost-benefit analysis.



## ***The Devout*** • Hometown Premiere

Thursday • Feb 11 • 7:15pm • Odeon 1

Saturday • Feb 13 • 1:00pm • Odeon 2

Director: Connor Gaston • Victoria • 2015 • 102min

Victorian Connor Gaston isn't new to the film circuit, with many of his shorts travelling to global film festivals, including Cannes. *The Devout* is Gaston's first feature length film and explores religious beliefs and reincarnation. Jan and Darryl are coping with the diagnosis of their terminally ill four-year-old daughter Abigail. When Abigail starts talking about a fire onboard the fatal Apollo 1 mission, Darryl starts to believe that she's talking about a past life. In a small, close-knit religious community, his questions start to divide him, his wife and his friends, during an already emotionally charged and tragic time.





## **Grubstake Remix**

*British Columbia Premiere*

Thurs • Feb 11 • 7:00pm • Parkside

Director: Daniel Janke

Yukon • 2015 • 72min

From the age of silent film comes Victoria-born cinema legend Nell Shipman's 1923 *The Grubstake*, re-imagined. The *Remix* is a capture of a touring event that mixed Shipman's film with live music and quips from Shakespeare. Filled with Nell's trademarks — backwoods adventure, a strong, determined woman and a litany of melodramatic heavies and heels — it's the story of a woman who goes to Northern Canada to settle down, only to find out she's been betrayed. Comedy, romance and adventure in the Klondike!



## **He Hated Pigeons**

Tuesday • Feb 9 • 8:45pm • The Vic

Director: Ingrid Veninger

Ontario • 2015 • 80min

Elias made a promise to his lover to go to Chile one day; a promise that would take him as close to the ends of the Earth as roads allow. Presented at VFF with an improvised musical score from local band Morning Show, *He Hated Pigeons* is a story that speaks to the very beautiful and ethereal nature of human love. Director Veninger has long been Canada's DIY film queen, making small intimate movies on micro-budgets about the landscapes of our inner lives. Here, she moves that sensibility to a grander and more lovely scale than ever before.



## **Into the Forest**

Saturday • Feb 6 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Director: Patricia Rozema • BC • 2015 • 101min

Nell (Ellen Page), Eva (Evan Rachel Wood) and their widowed father (Callum Keith Rennie) have survived a series of blackouts before, but when the latest one appears permanent, they're forced to figure out how to sustain and protect themselves. Well-stocked and living a few miles from civilization gives the family a jump on disaster preparedness, but the film makes it clear that they're just as dependent on modern conveniences as anyone else. The two women convey their desire for normalcy by maintaining routines to avert falling into despair as they're forced to disconnect and improvise but still prepare for the unknown. Based on Jean Hegland's book, critically-acclaimed director Rozema avoids the mainstream fire and brimstone and shows intimate moments and real emotion between two sisters trying to survive.



Presented by



## Lost and Found

Saturday • Feb 13 • 6:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Directors: John Choi, Nicolina Lanni

Ontario • 2014 • 82min • **Documentary**

Japan's record-breaking 2011 earthquake and tsunami hit over 90 cities and took over 18,000 lives on Japan's northeast coast. It also displaced over a million tons of debris but that hardly seemed to matter at the time. Within a year, that debris began showing up in the Pacific Northwest. However this time, beachcombers knew where these floating foreign oddities came from and what had been lost. This is the story of the folks in Canada and the US who've made it their mission to reunite these items with their original owners and reflect on not only what was lost but what can be regained.



## Ninth Floor

Friday • Feb 5 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Director: Mina Shum

Quebec • 2015 • 82min • **Documentary**

In February 1968, six Caribbean students filed a grievance against their biology professor, alleging he was systematically giving them lower grades than their white peers for identical lab work. The university's stunning inadequacy dealing with the matter led to peaceful occupation of the Hall Building's ninth floor. Days later, Montreal's riot police stormed in, arresting and beating the protestors. In her first documentary, Shum (*Double Happiness*) paints a horrifying portrait of systemic racism - a conspiratorial thriller and exposé in one. Contextualizing the racism against the Montreal Expo '67 that promised a new age of diversity and multiculturalism, Shum has created an insightful, must-see film.



## O Brazen Age

Friday • Feb 12 • 7:00pm • Parkside

Director: Alexander Carson

Alberta • 2015 • 80min

From the producer of VFF 2015's *The Valley Below* and The North Country Cinema Collective comes this unusual tale of art and myth in the 21st century. In Quebec, two twenty-something back-road travelers cross paths with a modern day Virgin Mary running away from the convent. Drifting on to Toronto to their spiritually distressed artistic friends, they discover comfort is not easy to come by. Carson's script is heavy on literary influence, but he is, without a doubt, a filmmaker with strong visionary interests.



Presented by



21

Canadian Wave

## ***The Roots Remain***

Monday • Feb 8 • 7:15pm • Odeon 1

Director: Jean-Sebastien Francoeur, Andrew Marchand-Boddy

British Columbia/Quebec • 2015 • 76min • **Documentary**

In this telling memorial to the Cambodian genocide, Canadian-raised graffiti artist Fonki returns to Cambodia to paint murals commemorating his family and others lost to the Khmer Rouge regime. Fonki connects with other members of the Cambodian art and hip hop scene, many with families like Fonki's who fled during the regime. With original footage from the Pol Pot period combined with footage of Fonki creating his multiple murals around Cambodia, this beautiful documentary allows you to see graffiti as more than scribbles on the wall.



## ***The Sandwich Nazi***

Saturday • Feb 6 • 6:00pm • The Vic

**Documentary**

Director: Lewis Bennett

British Columbia • 2015 • 72min

Salam Kahil is a filthy-mouthed Surrey deli owner with a big heart as local first time feature filmmaker Lewis Bennett reveals in this comedic look that was a hit at the Vancouver Film Fest. Larger than life, Salam is one of those classic characters creating a life on their own terms. Between acts of charity and vulgarity, he reveals bits of his eye-opening personal history that began in Lebanon and ends with making the "Best Sandwiches in North America". Bennett creates a complicated portrait of a true eccentric.



Presented by



## ***The Smalls:***

### ***Forever is a Long Time***

Friday • Feb 12 • 6:00pm • The Vic

Sunday • Feb 14 • 4:00pm • The Vic

Director: Trevor Smith

Alberta • 2015 • 103min

**Documentary**

In the 1990s, The Smalls were Alberta's best and brightest unruly mixture of John Deere hats, work boots, punk, metal, country and jazz, and to know them was to love them. Now, 13 years after their Goodbye Forever tour, the band is back together one more time and it's beautiful. Filmmaker Trevor Smith has done an exemplary job of mixing live show footage with intimate storytelling and art in a way that will both intrigue old fans and entice new ones.





## **The Steps**

*British Columbia Premiere*

Tuesday • Feb 9 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Director: Andrew Currie

Ontario • 2015 • 100min

Family is a fickle thing. When Jeff (Jason Ritter) and Marla (Emmanuelle Chriqui) receive an invitation from their dad (James Brolin) to spend the weekend with his new wife and her kids, they are hesitant but need a chance to escape the city. What follows is a clashing between the two families, a drink-infused weekend, an arrest, and all-out war in this broad comedy. Director Currie (*Fido*, *Millions*) delves back into the intricacies of family behaviour with his usual mix of insight and humour.



## **Tricks on the Dead**

Sunday • Feb 7 • 4:00pm • Odeon 2

Director: Jordan Paterson

BC/China • 2015 • 95min

**Documentary**

In 1916, hoping to secure a seat at the world table, China agreed to give the Allied forces 140,000 peasant workers to help turn the tide against Germany. Thousands died. Almost all were forgotten. Almost, that is, until nearly a century later when a student named Zhang Yan undertook an epic journey of discovery, lead almost entirely from the diary of a wartime interpreter. His amazing voyage highlights not only the incredible scope of this lost chapter of WWI and Canada's surprising complicity in it but also, through gorgeous recreations, the life and times of all those who lived and died in those muddy trenches.



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[HarbourLiving.ca](http://HarbourLiving.ca)  
Vancouver Island's Events Website

## **When Elephants Were Young** • Hometown Premiere

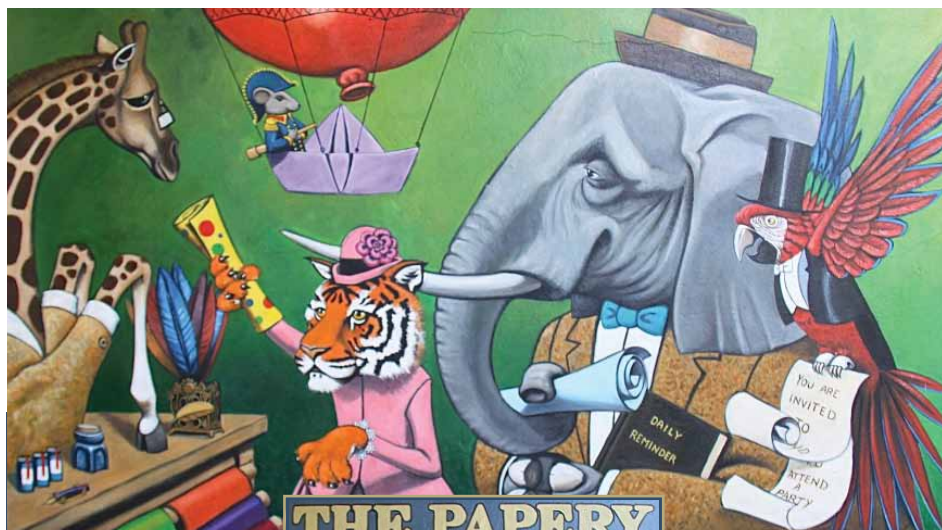
Wednesday • Feb 10 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Director: Patricia Sims • Victoria • 2015 • 86min • **Documentary**

This documentary by local director Patricia Sims, narrated by William Shatner, explores peoples' relationship with elephants in Thailand. Sims' camera follows Wok, a mahout (elephant guardian) and his elephant Nong Mai as they perform for tourists on the streets of Bangkok. Nong Mai has been in the family for a decade and the opportunity arises to release her into the wild, but the question becomes: can you afford to release your elephant when your family relies on it? With intimate footage of Wok and Nong Mai, this eye-opening story shows the efforts to save the Asian elephant population and establish self-sustaining populations.

Before the film, enter for a chance to win a \$100 gift card for a delicious Thai dinner, brought to you by [HarbourLiving.ca](http://HarbourLiving.ca) - Vancouver Island's Events Website!





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# FRENCH CANADIAN WAVE

This is going to be another year of strong emotions and great talent! With this panorama, Québec Cinéma is proud to present a diverse sampling of Quebec-made films, each one a true work of art. Our second annual collaboration with the Victoria Film Festival is an important event for us, and we're thrilled to meet and share these stories with you before and after the screenings. I would like to extend sincere thanks to the Victoria Film Festival team and all the volunteers who are so dedicated to giving you the best possible cinema experience!

Les émotions et les talents sont au rendez-vous cette année encore! Avec cet important panorama, Québec Cinéma est fier de vous présenter une grande diversité de films québécois, de véritables pièces d'art! Notre deuxième collaboration avec le Victoria Film Festival est une date importante pour nous et nous sommes très contents de pouvoir vous rencontrer et d'échanger avec vous avant ou après les films pour partager ces histoires. Je tiens à remercier chaleureusement l'équipe du Victoria Film festival et tous les bénévoles qui sont dédiés à vous offrir la meilleure expérience de cinéma!

Bon festival!

*François Lemieux*

**François Lemieux**

Directeur de la Tournée du cinéma québécois

## *Presented by Québec Cinéma*

### *About Québec Cinéma*

Québec Cinéma's mission is to promote Québec's cinema and its artists and professionals, and to contribute to the advancement of Québec's film community. The organization is focused on improving access, education and awareness, and it reaches more than one million people in Canada and around the world every year. Québec Cinéma produces the Jutra Awards, the Tournée du cinéma québécois and the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois, and has an extensive program for educational institutions.

### *À propos de Québec Cinéma*

Québec Cinéma a pour mission de promouvoir le cinéma québécois, ses artistes, artisans et professionnels, et de contribuer au développement de la cinématographie québécoise. Accès aux œuvres, éducation et sensibilisation sont au cœur des préoccupations de l'organisme, qui rejoint annuellement plus d'un million de personnes au Canada et ailleurs dans le monde. Québec Cinéma produit notamment les Jutra, la Tournée et les Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois, en plus d'offrir une riche programmation scolaire.



## CANADIAN OPENING FILM

### ***The Heart of Mrs. Sabali*** ***Le coeur de Madame Sabali***

Saturday • Feb 6 • 7:15pm • Odeon 1

Director: Ryan McKenna

Québec • 2015 • 79min

A tender, tragicomic award-winning film with touches of the surreal and the fantastic. Centered on the strange, beautiful story of Jeannette, we learn of her

severe heart condition keeping her trapped in a suburb of Montreal, and of her romantic connections which spark and stumble. When she receives a new heart, she is befriended by her donor's son, a Malian teenager who believes Jeannette to be his mother reincarnated, holding on to old memories.

Jeannette (l'attachante Marie Brassard) n'a plus fait l'amour avec son conjoint depuis 2 ans. Après avoir tout essayé, elle se décide à le quitter et cède aux avances d'un collègue de la gare routière où elle travaille. Mais rapidement, la vie va lui jouer des tours. Elle apprend en effet que le collègue n'est autre que son demi-frère et reçoit dans le même temps, cet appel tant espéré pour que lui soit greffé un nouveau coeur. Ce sera celui d'une Malienne, sauvagement assassinée, dont le fils va se mettre en tête que Jeannette est la réincarnation. Entre l'humour à froid d'un certain cinéma scandinave et la fantaisie pimpante d'un Wes Anderson, Ryan McKenna (*The First Winter*) tisse la toile d'une tragi-comédie tendre et singulière aux accents fantastiques, justement primée au dernier Festival du Nouveau Cinéma.



## **There Where Atilla Passes**

### **Là où Atilla passé**

Friday • Feb 5 • 9:45pm

Odeon 1

Director/Réalisateur:

Onur Karaman

Québec • 2015 • 89min

Adopted long ago by Quebec couple Michael and Julie, Atilla is a reclusive young man displaced from his own past and finding it difficult to connect in the present. In this bittersweet story, Atilla finds Asya, a Turkish student who brings a new understanding and reminder of Atilla's native culture and lost childhood. Told with immense elegance and finesse, director Karaman takes us exploring through individual character and the ways we touch the lives of those around us.

Atilla, Turc d'origine, a été adopté il y a longtemps par Michel et Julie, un couple québécois. Désormais jeune homme, il "vivote" entre son boulot d'assistant-cuisinier, les maquettes d'avion qu'il construit dans le sous-sol et les joints qu'il allume un peu trop régulièrement. Dépassée autant par son attitude que par sa relation avec son policier de mari, Julie baisse les bras et décide de partir. C'est alors qu'Atilla fait la connaissance d'Asya, une étudiante turque de passage dans le coin, dont la charmante présence lui rappelle sa culture natale. Pour son second long-métrage, Onur Karaman (La ferme des humains), plonge dans une réflexion sur la quête identitaire, observant avec beaucoup d'élégance et de finesse les errements de ce personnage touchant, interprété par le solide Emile Schneider face au non moins puissant Roy Dupuis.

## **Our Loved Ones**

### **Les êtres chers**

Monday • Feb 8 • 6:00pm

The Vic Theatre

Director: Anne Émond

Québec • 2015 • 102min

The film follows the lives of David and his daughter Laurence. The story begins in 1978 in a small village on the Lower St. Lawrence, as the Leblanc family is rocked by the tragic death of Guy. Husband to Aline and father to five children, Guy is found dead in the basement of the family home. For many years, the real cause of his death is hidden from certain members of the family, his son David among them. In turn, David starts his own family with his wife Marie. He lovingly raises his children, Laurence and Frédéric, but deep down he still carries with him a kind of unhappiness. *Les êtres chers* is a film of filial love, family secrets, redemption and what is passed down.

Le film suit la vie de David et de sa fille Laurence. L'histoire commence en 1978 dans le petit village St. Lawrence, à la mort brutale de Guy, marié à Aline et père de cinq enfants. La réelle cause de la mort de Guy est cachée à certains membres de la famille pendant plusieurs années. C'est le cas de David, qui fonde, malgré cette terrible histoire, sa propre famille. Il élève avec amour ses deux enfants, Laurence et Frédéric, aux côtés de sa femme Marie, mais il n'arrive pas à se débarrasser d'une certaine mélancolie. *Les êtres chers* est un film sur l'amour filial, les secrets de famille, la rédemption et le poids du passé.

## **Ville-Marie**

Sunday • Feb 7 • 8:45pm

The Vic Theatre

Director: Guy Édoin

Québec • 2015 • 101min

While filming in Montreal, a European actress (Monica Bellucci) tries to reconcile with her son (Aliocha Schneider), who is a student in the city. But he witnesses a disturbing incident, reigniting his desire to learn who his father is. On his birthday, he is determined to get answers by confronting his mother. What he doesn't know is that the film his mother is making was specifically designed to answer his questions. Meanwhile, a paramedic haunted by his past (Patrick Hivon) tries to hold himself together as a kindhearted nurse (Pascale Bussi res) watches over him from a distance, while keeping a chaotic emergency room running. At Ville-Marie Hospital, these four lives will collide and change forever.

L'h pital Ville-Marie de Montr al abrite un tas d'histoires troublantes. L'infirmi re Marie (Monica Bellucci) travaille sans tr ve, mais elle aimerait se rapprocher de son fils. L'ambulancier Pierre fuit la r alit  en s'acharnant   la t che. Thomas vient d' tre t moin d'un accident qui risque de marquer sa vie   jamais. Sophie, la m re de Thomas, arrive tout juste   Montr al pour tenir un r le dans un film, qui ressemble  trangement   sa propre vie. Tous les quatre vont se rapprocher, tentant de faire face   leurs situations difficiles.

# INDIGENOUS PROGRAM

Presented by Michelle Latimer

I hope you enjoy the Victoria Film Festival's second annual spotlight on contemporary Indigenous cinema. All five of these films are directed by First Nations, Inuit or Métis artists, and speak to a new wave of filmmakers who are expressing their stories from the inside out. Raw, honest, and unapologetic, this work exemplifies an undeniable resurgence happening within global Indigenous cinema.

This year's selections include two exciting feature film debuts by directors Adam Garnet-Jones (Cree/Métis) and Sonia Boileau (Mohawk), as well as a powerful documentary by Nahuatl (Mexico) artist Omar Osiris Ponce Nava. Hot off the heels from premiering at Toronto International Film Festival, award-winning filmmaker Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Muscogee) brings us his gritty drama *Mekko*, while masterful Inuk director Zacharias Kunuk (*Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*) celebrates language and history in his new, heart-wrenching documentary chronicling a group of Elders returning to their homelands.

While each of these films embodies a spirit unique unto itself, a central theme binds them together: all circle around loss, relocation and/or displacement.

We live in an era when Indigenous people all over the world are asserting land stewardship in the face of increasing corporate encroachment. It is no coincidence that the films presented here articulate what it means to have a fundamental connection to land and the personal consequences experienced when those ties are threatened.



Michelle Latimer



## Angirattut

Friday • February 5 • 6:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Zacharias Kunuk • Nunavut • 2014 • 85min

Relocated some 50 years before, a group of Inuit Elders and their families return once again to their birthplace home sites. Told entirely in Inuktitut without the help of English subtitles, filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk (*Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*) deeply immerses his audience in the captivating, rugged, and starkly beautiful world of his people, the Inuit. Emotional and uplifting, Kunuk expertly crafts a poetic tale that is both a celebration of Indigenous culture and a painful remembrance of the past. *Angirattut* exemplifies the power of language and oral tradition while honouring the ancestral ties that have anchored generations.





## ***Fire Song***

Tuesday • February 9 • 6:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Adam Garnet Jones • Ontario • 2015 • 96min

Struggling to come to terms with his sister's recent suicide, Shane, a young, two-spirited Anishinaabe man, tries to figure out what to do with the rest of his life. Longing to get out of his First Nations community, Shane dreams of a new life in Toronto where he can go to school and also be free to express his true nature. However, with a despondent mother who's still unable to cope with the loss of her daughter, and poverty that seem to leak from the very roof under which Shane and his family live, the odds are stacked against him. Shane's spirit continues to be torn by two loves and his hunt for acceptance. In a moment of anguish, Shane explains that nothing will ever change unless Shane can finally accept who he really is. Evocative and hard-hitting, Jones' feature directorial debut *Fire Song* asks brave questions while tackling issues that face many of our country's First Nations communities.



## ***Le Dep***

Saturday • February 6 • 4:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Sonia Bonspille Boileau • Quebec • 2015 • 77min

When her co-worker fails to show up for her shift at Le Dep (the family-run convenience store), young Innu woman Lydia agrees to stay on until closing at the request of her father, Serge. As a consequence, Serge entrusts his daughter with \$50,000 and the task of prepping envelopes in exchange for customers' welfare cheques the following day. The night goes smoothly until a masked intruder enters the store just as Lydia is about to close, demanding money and setting the stage for a claustrophobic psychological thriller. All contained within the confines of the convenience store, the action in *Le Dep* plays out like an intense one-act play, complete with suspense, drama and shocking character revelation. Most clever, though, is filmmaker Sonia Bonspille Boileau's ability to underscore the very important social issues of addiction, violence and child neglect in the midst of the action.



**Mekko** • *British Columbia Premiere*

Wednesday • February 10 • 6:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Sterlin Harjo • USA • 2015 • 87min

Newly released from a 19-year prison term, a Muscogee man, Mekko, returns to the gritty streets of Tulsa in an effort to reclaim the remnants of his broken life. However, once there, he realizes that time has not eased his family's resentments, and he finds himself living amongst the poor and the homeless. Burdened by addiction and regret, Mekko finds comfort in an old friend, Bunnie, and in the generosity of a young waitress at a diner he often frequents. Yet the darkness is never far behind, as one night Mekko and Bunnie are viciously attacked by a local thug. Mekko is reminded of the stories his grandmother used to tell, offering him a possible solution towards deliverance. Stark and violently realistic, Sterlin Harjo's *Mekko* mixes Indigenous legend with the contemporary, providing a truthful glimpse into one lost man's rediscovery.



**Stories of the Sierra Madre / Historias de la Sierra Madre**

Sunday • February 7 • 6:00pm • The Vic Theatre • *British Columbia Premiere*

Director: Omar Osiris Ponce Nava • Mexico • 2014 • 75min • **Documentary**

"We are the Earth and the Earth is us" is an underlying theme in filmmaker Nava's evocative and cinematic film. Set against the stunning backdrop of western Mexico's Sierra Madres, Ponce Nava presents the plight of the Wixerika and Nayeri Indigenous peoples who live near the San Pedro River as they come to terms with the possible construction of a hydroelectric dam. For these deeply spiritual people, such an intrusion on their traditional waters and sacred lands would mean a certain end to their culture and their way of life. Sensitive, majestic, and poignantly told, *Historias De La Sierra Madre* seeks to show the magnificence of the natural world as well as the fine balance that exists between Mother Earth and its people.

**Short: The Re-naming of PKOLS** • Steven Davies • Victoria • 4min

The story of WSÁNEĆ's efforts to re-instate the original place name on a sacred mountain.



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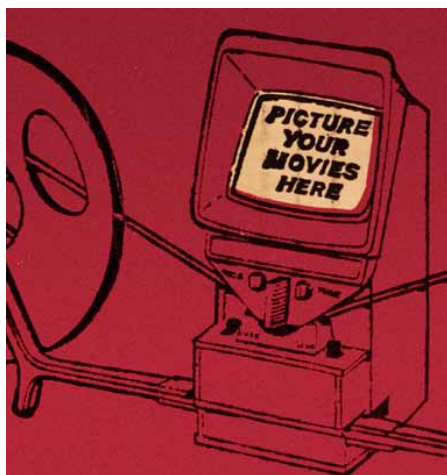
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# WORLD PERSPECTIVE

Every year the Victoria Film Festival scours the globe to find the films you will come to love. Indulge in new thoughts, authentic characters and realistic stories as you discover the best of world cinema!

This year, we're thrilled to see Attila Szász follow up his breakthrough *The Ambassador to Bern* with *Demimonde*. The critic-turned-filmmaker continues to show he has a talented hand for bringing Hungary's more salacious historical moments to life.

Speaking of follow ups, catch Yorgos Lanthimos' *The Lobster*. His English-language premiere is a great way to get to know this unusual auteur if you haven't been lucky enough to see his other masterpieces of dark absurdism, *Alps* and *Dogtooth*.

If it's raw talent you're after, then watch *Wonderland*. Featuring ten different directors, it's not just a wild ride, it's a veritable buffet of talent on display. This is your chance to discover the next Léa Pool or Alain Tanner.

Can we mention how Japanese master Kore-eda is still a delight after all these years? The director of last year's *Like Father, Like Son* is still handily carrying on Ozu's grand tradition of the family drama into modern age. This year's *Our Little Sister* is definitely a more light-hearted joy.

Pick a film and jump in. There's much more to discover in our World Perspective.



## ***A Month of Sundays*** • British Columbia Premiere

Saturday • Feb 6 • 4:00pm • Odeon 2

Director: Matthew Saville • Australia • 2015 • 109min

A phone call from his dead mother sends recently divorced Frank Mollard (Anthony LaPaglia) down a new path when it turns out to be a wrong number. The call leads to a friendship with caller Sarah, in a wryly observed and funny tale. Throw in the subtext of Frank as a realtor and Sarah's suspicious son and we are in for a quirky ride. Director Matthew Saville (*Felony*, *Noise*) once again has an assured hand as he builds this warm-hearted character study with strong performances by Anthony LaPaglia and Julia Blake (remember her elegant work in Paul Cox's *Innocence*).





## **Almost Holy**

Saturday • Feb 13 • 4:00pm

The Vic Theatre

Director: Steve Hoover

USA • 2015 • 97min • **Documentary**

In the year 2000 in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, Pastor Gennadiy Mokhnenko founded the Pilgrim's Republic to save the street kids who suffered most from the fall of the Soviet Union. Its positive attributes may seem undeniable but its methods are the subject of much controversy: Gennadiy himself freely admits to abduction and prison-like tactics to get the job done. He is a man facing stark realities every day in the modern Ukraine, which is still poised for conflict and racked with drug abuse. Narrated primarily by Gennadiy's own confessions and explanations, the question of ends and means has never been so thought-provoking.



Presented by



## **Blood of My Blood**

## **Sangue Del Mio Sangue**

British Columbia Premiere

Saturday • Feb 6 • 9:45pm • Odeon 1

Director: Marco Bellocchio

Italy • 2015 • 106min

*Blood of My Blood* is unclassifiable; it's funny, it's creepy and it's beautiful. A young nun's affair with a priest leads to trial by water, fire, and questioning in order to prove herself not a witch. The best proof — she shouldn't be able to live through the trials. The story of this cursed monastery moves from the 17th century to modern times and touches upon the undead and the punishment for women the church needs to believe are evil. Whether knowingly or not, Bellocchio deals with themes that build a treatise for his switch from being raised a strict Catholic yet choosing atheism. Master filmmaker Bellocchio retains the ability to surprise that we've seen in his earlier works.



## **The Brand New Testament / Le tout nouveau testament**

British Columbia Premiere

Friday • Feb 12 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Saturday • Feb 13 • 4:00pm • Odeon 2

Director: Jaco Van Dormael • Belgium/France/Luxembourg • 2015 • 113min

Jaco Van Dormael's original comedy suggests that God lives in Brussels with his wife and ten-year-old daughter Ea, who shares the story of her nasty father and the misery he inflicts on the world with his laws of 'Universal Annoyances'. Fed up with his awful behaviour, Ea sends out texts with everyone's death date and creates havoc. This fresh, funny Belgian approach to religion has an all-star cast lead by Benoît Poelvoorde, Pili Groyne (*Two Days, One Night*), Catherine Deneuve, and Johan Heldenbergh (*Broken Circle Breakdown*).



## Demimonde

Wed • Feb 10 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Sunday • Feb 14 • 2:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Attila Szász • Hungary • 2015 • 88min

The director of VFF 2015's surprise hit *The Ambassador to Bern* is back and he's brought his eagle eye to period drama once again. The year is 1914. It's the last days of Budapest pre-WWI's golden age, and Elza Mágnás is the city's most famous and most intriguing courtesan. Entertaining the elite of the city in both the bedroom and the dining room is full-time work, and she relies on her housekeeper and her new, naïve maid Kató to keep everything running properly. In four days, Elza will be dead. However, it is the bizarre relationships of these women and the men around them that will surprise you the most.



## Five Nights in Maine

British Columbia Premiere

Thurs • Feb 11 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Maris Curran

USA • 2015 • 82min

Director Maris Curran's debut feature explores grief with wide-open eyes and a true gift for character-driven storytelling. After Sherwin (David Oyelowo, *Selma*) loses his wife in a car crash, he decides to go to his mother-in-law, Lucinda (Dianne Wiest) with whom his wife recently reconciled and whose last wish was that they meet. As Sherwin reaches out, the two develop an unspoken competition as to who has the greater loss. Oyelowo and Wiest are, at turns, arresting and profoundly sympathetic.



## Foodies

Sunday • Feb 14 • 1:00pm • Odeon 2

Directors: Charlotte Landelius, Henrik Stockare, Thomas Jackson

Sweden • 2015 • 98min • **Documentary**

What if you could dine at *all* the Michelin three star restaurants? Would you? Globetrotting culinary bloggers are changing the critical landscape of the food world, in their mission to find mouthwatering and aesthetically pleasing cuisine. From Hong Kong-based newbie blogger Katie Keiko Tan and Lithuanian model Aiste Liseviute, to Londoner Andy Hayler (who has visited every Michelin three-star restaurant), they are all clearly lovers of food and fine dining. *Foodies* gains its edge when it comes time for the chefs and owners to have their say about the bloggers.



Presented by



## Francofonia

Saturday • Feb 6 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Alexander Sokurov  
France/Germany/Netherlands •

2015 • 87min • **Documentary**

It's the Louvre's turn to be lovingly captured in this portrait of one of the world's top art museums. This time, Sokurov presents a country's art alongside its history. A monumental canvas tracing France's role as a dedicated supporter of the arts since the Middle Ages is on display, including the heroes of World War II who saved the collection. Sokurov addresses themes from earlier works such as close ups of artists he has favoured before, creating a free-wheeling poetic essay with a rich and varied palette of textures and tones, making for renewed visual pleasures.



## The Grand Song

World Premiere

Monday • Feb 8 • 2:00pm • Odeon 1

Director: Chouchou Ou  
China • 2015 • 146min

While leaving the city to visit his family in the countryside, the wealthy Natu meets the outspoken, yet beautiful Alian. Nafu becomes infatuated with Alian and is determined to marry her. However, Alian has her eye on the singer Qianshu. Set deep in the Western Chinese province of Guizhou, The Grand Song is a love story between members of the Dong ethnic minority, a group of people with no written language, yet who view song as their way of life.



## Hand Made With Love in France

*Le temps suspendeau*

Sunday • Feb 7 • 4:30pm • Odeon 1

Tuesday • Feb 9 • 9:45pm • Odeon 1

Director: Julie Georgia Bernard

France • 2014 • 70min • **Documentary**

Behind the luxurious haute couture houses are artisans who follow the same processes developed as far back as the 16th century. Productivity steamrolls tradition these days but not in these houses of craft and quality. This is the Paris that romantics dream about as we meet the suppliers of custom elements to Chanel, Dior and many others. Director Bernard shows a promising start with her debut film, going beyond the care, precision and remarkable beauty to make us feel the loss of these genuine treasures.



## Hermits

Canadian Premiere

Wed • Feb 10 • 7:00pm • Parkside

Directors: He Shiping, Fu Peng,

Zhou Chengyu

China • 2015 • 88min • **Documentary**

Twenty-five years ago, American author Bill Porter (a.k.a. Red Pine) went to the Zhongnan Mountains to seek out modern Chinese hermits. His resulting book, *Road to Heaven*, was a touchstone for many westerners wondering what remained of Buddhist asceticism in China. Among them was Edward Burger, who would go on to direct the international documentary hit *Amongst White Clouds*. Now, for the first time, Bill Porter revisits Zhongnan to seek out those who seek from within, living quiet lives of deep devotion in some of the world's most stunning locales. A knowledgeable scholar, Porter's quest offers humble insights for the novice or the initiated Buddhist to enjoy.



## **Honor Thy Father**

*British Columbia Premiere*

Sunday • Feb 7 • 9:45pm • Odeon 1

Director: Erik Matti

Philippines • 2015 • 115min

The immersion in Filipino culture is all-encompassing, giving this suspenseful drama a distinct flavour. Kaye (Meryll Soriano) and Edgar (J.L. Cruz) reached success working for her father's investment company until the old man goes missing and investors turn on the couple. Acclaimed director Erik Matti is known for his perceptive looks at social issues in a wide range of genres. *Honor Thy Father* is no exception as white collar crime and Christianity get the lens on them, in turn.



## **Let's Dance to the Rhythm Nachom-ia Kumpasar**

*Canadian Premiere*

Saturday • Feb 13 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Bardroy Barretto

India • 2014 • 156min

It's a little bit Rock Hudson/Doris Day and a little bit DeNiro/Minelli when a manager-musician named Lawry (Vijay Maurya) returns to his rural roots to find a singer for his band. He picks Dona (Palomi Ghosh) whose voice might take them all the way – but what will he do to her heart? For a brief time in the '50s and '60s, American jazz and Hindustani music mingled freely in the clubs of Bombay, creating a unique sound. A love letter to a time long past and the Goan musicians who fostered it, this film relives the glory days with gorgeous sets, swinging dance moves and toe-tapping numbers.



## **The Husband Factor Kocan Kadar Konus**

*Canadian Premiere*

Sunday • Feb 14 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Kivanç Baruönü

Turkey • 2015 • 108min

As a 30-year-old Turkish woman living at home, Efsun always has her nose in a book. Once her younger cousin gets engaged, the female contingent of the family rallies to turn her into an eligible bachelorette 'before it's too late'. When her teenage former flame and friend Sinan returns from living abroad, Efsun decides to put what she's learned into practice. Director Baruönü captures the pulse of Turkish culture with wry humour in his second feature comedy.



## **The Lobster**

Thursday • Feb 11 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Director: Yorgos Lanthimos

Ireland/UK/France • 2015 • 119min

Winner: Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival

A wickedly absurd film from Greek auteur Yorgos Lanthimos (*Dogtooth*, *ALPS*) about a dystopian future where single people have 45 days to find a partner before being transformed into animals. Recently left by his wife, David (Colin Farrell) must report to The Hotel for partnering. Trying to abide by the rigid rules and sterile atmosphere, he soon escapes to the woods where he meets other rebel singles and is drawn to a new woman played by Rachel Weisz. Director Lanthimos continues to tell dark, deadpan, existential stories and one can see hints of Bunuel and Renoir at their most surreal.





Presented by



Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment

## Magicarena

Thursday • Feb 11 • 6:00pm • The Vic  
Directors: Andrea Prandstraller,  
Nicolò Bruna

Italy • 2014 • 95min • **Documentary**

The 2,000-year-old Verona amphitheatre is the setting for a compelling fly-on-the-wall portrait that should prove catnip to opera lovers. Verdi's most famous opera, *Aida*, is being performed on the 200th anniversary of Verdi's birth, adding a heightened sense of pressure for Spanish avant-garde theatre troupe *La Fura Dels Baus*. Backstage there exists exhilaration, stress, and the thrill of realized dreams. Prandstraller and Bruna capture a balance between life on stage and behind; a visual feast for the eyes and an opera lover's delight.



## Mazar-e Sharif

Tuesday • Feb 9 • 7:00pm • Parkside  
Director: Hassan Barzide  
Iran • 2015 • 86min

Three years before September 11th, Taliban militia seized the northern Afghanistan city of Mazar-e Sharif in a swift attack and wrought a horrible massacre upon its innocent civilians. As many as 8,000 people may have died, but it seems no one will ever know for sure. Based upon the true story of the Iranian diplomats who were there at the time, *Mazar-e Sharif* reconstructs the chaos of those hours from the point of view of the lone survivor in the embassy. Part political thriller and part human tragedy, this film resounds with a depth and intensity not seen since *The Killing Fields*.



## Men & Chicken / Mænd & høns • British Columbia Premiere

Saturday • February 6 • 1:00pm • Odeon 2

Monday • February 8 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Anders Thomas Jensen • Denmark • 2015 • 104min

Hold on to your hats! Boundary-pushing filmmaker Anders Thomas Jensen is following up *Green Butchers* and *Adam's Apples* with another outrageous satire on family. Sad-sack brothers Gabriel and Elias receive unsettling news: after burying their father, they discover they were actually sired by another man. En route to meet their real father, they encounter their brothers who make Gabriel and Elias look well-adjusted. This film is sure to offend delicate sensibilities, but Jensen always has a more profound message at the core.



Presented by



## ***Our Last Tango / Un Tango Más***

Sunday • Feb 14 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2 • **Documentary**

Director: German Kral • Germany/Argentina • 2015 • 85min

We have a love affair... and then we have a love affair – human and art. The relationship of the two most famous dancers in the history of tango plays out alongside the love of the dance in documentarian German Kral's latest work. The interviews with Juan Carlos Copes and Maria Nieves Rego are like tango: two people with different goals trying to synchronize to achieve an end. Failing in their private lives, they took the world by storm and brought tango to the mainstream. Fantastic dance recreations bring youthful vigor to the piece and add layers of complexity.



## ***Our Little Sister Umimachi Diary***

Saturday • Feb 13 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Director: Hirokazu Kore-eda

Japan • 2014 • 128min

From the director of last year's VFF hit *Like Father Like Son* comes this more lighthearted take on the modern family. This time, it's the girls who rule the screen. For 15 years, the three Koda sisters have cared for each other in the drafty old home of their departed grandmother. At their father's funeral, they meet their half-sister Suzu. As they wholeheartedly welcome her in, the shy and awkward teenager brings a wind of change in the lives of her new-found siblings. Kore-eda's unflagging commitment to examining the intricacies of family is delightfully done; this master filmmaker has created an intelligent, quiet work.



## ***The Pearl Button El Botón De Nácar***

Friday • Feb 5 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Patricio Guzmán

Chile/France/Spain • 2015 • 82min

**Documentary**

Water is the longest border in Chile. *The Pearl Button* is rich with crystallizing moments as it charts a course through the origins and power of water, to anthropological consideration of the ancient nomadic Kaweskar of Patagonia, to first-person oral history, then to a shockingly apt consideration of Pinochet's genocidal policies. The director of *Nostalgia for the Light*, a breathtaking film about the Atacama Desert and the cosmos, Guzmán has launched himself into the stratosphere of the great moving-image essayists.

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OPENING GALA FILM  
***My Internship in Canada*** ★  
 Odeon 5  
 7:00pm • 108min • Pg 15



## 2016 FILM SCHEDULE

	The Vic Theatre 808 Douglas St	Parkside 810 Humboldt St	Cineplex Odeon 1 780 Yates St	Cineplex Odeon 2 780 Yates St
Friday • February 5				
	Angirattut 6:00pm • 85min Pg26			Ninth Floor 6:30pm • 82min Pg20
	Speed Sisters 8:45pm • 80min Pg43		There Where Atilla Passes 9:45pm • 89min Pg25	The Pearl Button 9:15pm • 82min Pg36
Saturday • February 6				
			Dan and Margot 2:00pm • 86min Pg17	Men & Chicken 1:00pm • 104min Pg35
	Le Dep 4:00pm • 77min Pg27		Valley of Love 4:30pm • 91min Pg46	A Month of Sundays 4:00pm • 109min Pg30
	The Sandwich Nazi 6:00pm • 72min Pg21	The Sea & the Flying Fish 7:00pm • 78min Pg42	Le coeur de madame Sabali 7:15pm • 79min Pg24	Into The Forest 6:30pm • 101min Pg19
	Virgin Mountain 8:45pm • 94min Pg44		Blood of My Blood 9:45pm • 106min Pg31	Francofonia 9:15pm • 87min Pg33



	The Vic Theatre 808 Douglas St	Parkside 810 Humboldt St	Cineplex Odeon 1 780 Yates St	Cineplex Odeon 2 780 Yates St
Sunday • February 7				McDull: Me & My Mum 1:00pm • 81min Pg49
			Summertime 2:00pm • 105min Pg46	
	Risky Plays Risky Places 4:00pm • 85min Pg56		Hand Made with Love in France 4:30pm • 70min Pg33	Tricks on the Dead 4:00pm • 95min Pg22
	Stories of the Sierra Madre 6:00pm • 75min Pg28			
			The Devil's Horn 7:15pm • 85min Pg18	CineVic Retrospective 6:30pm Pg73
Monday • February 8	Ville-Marie 8:45pm • 101min Pg25		Honor Thy Father 9:45pm • 115min Pg34	Al Purdy Was Here 9:15pm • 90min Pg17
	The Amazing Wipala 11:00am • 100min Pg67			
	Oddball 2:00pm • 95min Pg67		The Grand Song 2:00pm • 146min Pg33	
	Our Loved Ones 6:00pm • 102min Pg25	Ten Years in the Sun 7:00pm • 148min Pg44	The Roots Remain 7:15pm • 76min Pg21	Rams 6:30pm • 93min Pg42
Tuesday • February 9	Techlandia 8:45pm • 85min Pg57		Summertime 9:45pm • 105min Pg46	Men & Chicken 9:15pm • 104min Pg35
	Fire Song 6:00pm • 96min Pg27	Mazar-e Sharif 7:00pm • 86min Pg35	Tanna 7:15pm • 100min Pg43	The Steps 6:30pm • 100min Pg22
	He Hated Pigeons 8:45pm • 80min Pg19		Hand Made with Love in France 9:45pm • 70min Pg33	Miss India America 9:15pm • 95min Pg49

# Film Festival Schedule

40

Wednesday • February 10

**The Vic Theatre**  
808 Douglas St

**Parkside**  
810 Humboldt St

**Cineplex Odeon 1**  
780 Yates St

**Cineplex Odeon 2**  
780 Yates St

*Mekko*  
6:00pm • 87min  
Pg28

*When Elephants Were Young*  
6:30pm • 86min  
Pg22

*Hermits*  
7:00pm • 88min  
Pg33

*Wonderland*  
7:15pm • 99min  
Pg44

*That Ain't Me!*  
8:45pm • 95min  
Pg59

*Valley of Love*  
9:45pm • 91min  
Pg46

*Demimonde*  
9:15pm • 88min  
Pg32

Thursday • February 11

*Magicarena*  
6:00pm • 95min  
Pg35

*Grubstake Remix*  
7:00pm • 72min  
Pg19

*The Devout*  
7:15pm • 102min  
Pg18

*The Lobster*  
6:30pm • 119min  
Pg34

*Visions & Voices*  
8:45pm • 95min  
Pg58

*Kirumi*  
9:45pm • 97min  
Pg49

*Five Nights in Maine*  
9:15pm • 82min  
Pg32

Friday • February 12

*The Smalls: Forever is a Long Time*  
6:00pm • 103min  
Pg21

*O Brazen Age*  
7:00pm • 80min  
Pg20

*The Brand New Testament*  
6:30pm • 113min  
Pg31

*The Girl in the Photographs*  
8:45pm • 95min  
Pg50

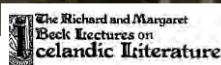
*In the Shadow of Women*  
9:15pm • 73min  
Pg45

	The Vic Theatre 808 Douglas St	Parkside 810 Humboldt St	Cineplex Odeon 1 780 Yates St	Cineplex Odeon 2 780 Yates St
Saturday • February 13				
	<i>After the Last River</i> 2:00pm • 87min Pg16			<i>The Devout</i> 1:00pm • 85min Pg18
	<i>Almost Holy</i> 4:00pm • 97min Pg31			<i>The Brand New Testament</i> 4:00pm • 113min Pg31
	<i>Lost and Found</i> 6:00pm • 82min Pg20	<i>Project Itoh: The Empire of Corpses</i> 7:00pm • 120min Pg50		<i>Our Little Sister</i> 6:30pm • 128min Pg36
	<i>Sergio Herman: Fucking Perfect</i> 8:45pm • 80min Pg42			<i>Let's Dance to the Rhythm</i> 9:15pm • 156min Pg34
Sunday • February 14				
	<i>Driving with Selvi</i> 12:00pm • 74min Pg48			<i>Foodies</i> 1:00pm • 98min Pg32
	<i>Demimonde</i> 2:00pm • 88min Pg32			
	<i>The Smalls: Forever is a Long Time</i> 4:00pm • 103min Pg21			<i>Sky</i> 4:00pm • 100min Pg43
	<i>Sexy French Shorts</i> 6:00pm • 95min Pg59			<i>Our Last Tango</i> 6:30pm • 85min Pg36
				<i>Husband Factor</i> 9:15pm • 108min Pg34





Presented by



## **Rams / Hrútar**

Monday • Feb 8 • 6:30pm • Odeon 2

Director: Grímur Hákonarson • Iceland • 2015 • 93min

Winner: *Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival*

On an isolated sheep farm in Iceland, two brothers, Gummi and Kiddi have not spoken in 40 years even though they occupy the same farmland with houses only 100 feet apart. When disaster strikes in the form of a deadly disease infecting the sheep, the government steps in and provokes one brother to defy the authorities in order to save their rare breed. While a film about sheep could seem a little sleepy, *Rams* proves otherwise, offering an enjoyable, often poignant, thought-provoking look at the absurdity of men.



## **The Sea and The Flying Fish**

Saturday • Feb 6 • 7:00pm • Parkside

Director: Mehrdad Ghafarzadeh

Iran • 2014 • 78min

There's an inspection coming to The Centre, a boys' juvenile detention facility. Naturally, management is eager to put on a good face by cleaning up the walls... and the boys. However, the young deaf-mute Eshan has been secretly painting pictures of fish on the walls as the only way he knows how to express his inner life. When Eshan learns that his beloved sister is to be married off to pay his father's debts, he becomes increasingly anxious to flee The Centre and see her. What The Centre wants and what Eshan needs may seem to be at odds, but in this heartwarming story, there may be a place where a muse can meet both in the middle.



## **Sergio Herman: FUCKING PERFECT**

Saturday • Feb 13 • 8:45pm • The Vic

Director: Willemiek Kluijfhout

Netherlands • 2015 • 80min

### **Documentary**

Michelin 3-star chef Sergio Herman is perfect: okay, fucking perfect. He's going to close his world-class restaurant at the height of his perfection in order to realize a family life. Filmmaker Kluijfhout, clearly infatuated with Herman, documents the daily grind of the restaurant and the toll it takes. The intriguing idea of opening an eatery in Antwerp, now that he has all this time on his hands, reveals a man obsessed with culinary perfection and willing to sacrifice much in his life to achieve it. The film is remarkable for the passion and emotion captured by Kluijfhout in this revealing peek at perfection.





## **Sky** • *British Columbia Premiere*

Sunday • Feb 14 • 4:00pm • Odeon 2

Director: Fabienne Berthaud

France/Germany • 2015 • 100min

Romy (Diane Kruger) and Richard (Gilles Lellouche) are a French couple on a vacation in America. After an unforgivable altercation in a bar, Romy ends their relationship and heads out to experience the country alone. Director Berthaud evokes one woman's emancipation as the unique Southwest provides the backdrop and odd characters that cross Romy's path, including an encounter with a perennially pregnant woman (played by Lena Dunham). Sky is a relationship exploration, a crime film, a road movie and a romantic drama in one; poetic and personal, but never sentimental.



## **Speed Sisters**

*British Columbia Premiere*

Friday • Feb 5 • 8:45pm • The Vic

Director: Amber Fares • Palestine/  
USA/Qatar/Denmark/UK/Canada

2015 • 80min • **Documentary**

In the Palestinian West Bank, it's hard enough to race cars professionally, yet Marah, Mona, Betty, Noor and manager Maysoon go full-throttle every day as the Middle East's first all-female race team. Overcoming expectations, community politics and family dynamics—not to mention movement restrictions and checkpoints from the Israeli military—these women shatter stereotypes. Director Amber Fares' first feature is a refreshing illustration of the diversity of the Palestinian experience and a source of inspiration.



Presented by: Victoria-Vanuatu Physician Project

## **Tanna** • *Canadian Premiere*

Tuesday • Feb 9 • 7:15pm • Odeon 1

Directors: Bentley Dean, Martin Butler • Australia • 2015 • 100min

Tanna is a small island located in the South Pacific province of Vanuatu, home to the Yakel tribes who have held onto their traditions in spite of their exposure to western culture. Filmmakers Bentley Dean and Martin Butler spent seven months living with the inhabitants of Tanna while making the film. The result is unique. A young girl, Wawa (Marie Wawa), falls in love with the chief's grandson, Dain (Mungau Dain). When an inter-tribal war escalates, Wawa is betrothed as part of a peace deal. The young lovers elope, with enraged warriors following in pursuit. Both sides question their traditions in this rare film that explores their lives without patronizing them.

*Tanna will be preceded by the winning short film from our FilmCAN youth film contest, Senior category! (pg 69)*



Presented by

The Richard and Margaret  
Beck Lectures on  
celandic Literature


## Virgin Mountain / Fúsi

Canadian Premiere

Sat • Feb 6 • 8:45pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Dagur Kári • Iceland • 2015 • 94min

Winner: Best Feature, Tribeca Film Festival

Love, even for the apparently unlovable, is a funny thing in Dagur Kári's brilliant and subtle film. At 43 years old, shy, introverted and massive, Fúsi is a man just pacing away the days of his life forever alone. One night at a country dance lesson (his desperate mom's idea), he meets the vivacious single-mom Sjöfn. Their unlikely romance is not just something he wasn't prepared for. It's something you can't prepare for. It's clear that the film owes gratitude to early Judd Apatow movies, but its sensibilities are definitely all its own. Lead actor and comedian Gunnar Jónsson in particular brings a layered humanity and deadpan humour to our hero.



## Ten Years in the Sun

Canadian Premiere

Monday • Feb 8 • 7:00pm • Parkside

Director: Rouzbeh Rashidi

Ireland • 2015 • 148min

Self-described as both "a film to help you remember to forget" and a "demented science-fiction epic", there's no easy way for outsiders to explain *Ten Years in the Sun*. Director Rouzbeh Rashidi is a man well-versed in the styles and structures of classic experimental and surrealist film, and it shows. *Ten Years* is not a film with narrative structure in the traditional sense, but it does offer its own advancing logic of images. It's a set of obsessions that serves well to guide you down its paths. For those willing to try the journey, it offers unique sublimity from the edges of coherence.



Presented by

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Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver

## Wonderland

Canadian Premiere

Wed • Feb 10 • 7:15pm • Odeon 1

Directors: Lisa Blatter, Gregor Frei, Jan Gassmann, Benny Jaberg, Carmen Jaquier, Michael Krummenacher, Jonas Meier, Tobias Nölle, Lionel Rupp, Mike Scheiwiller

Switzerland/Germany • 2015 • 99min

Who sows the wind, reaps the whirlwind... and what a whirlwind it is! This unique film imagines Switzerland in preparation for a catastrophic hurricane. With only days to prepare, ever-neutral Switzerland must focus on its worst nightmare: depending on foreign countries. Through the lens of the next-gen of up-and-coming Swiss filmmaking talent, we follow ten different stories around the country as everyone prepares for the coming apocalypse. Although this is a distinctly Swiss film, it carries in it the very universal message of how we come together when it really matters.



## ***In the Shadow of Women / L'Ombre des Femmes***

*British Columbia Premiere / première britanno-colombienne*

Friday • Feb 12 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Réalisateur : Philippe Garrel • France • 2015 • 73min

In a Paris of side streets, bars and tiny apartments where people live and love, we find Pierre and Manon shooting a documentary. Poor but together, that is, until Pierre takes up with a young archivist. The pulse of desire, jealousy and resentment found in long-term relationships takes centre stage. It is an adulterer's dream to have an adoring, maternal, lifelong companion and a happy, commitment-free nubile young woman just across town. Watching Pierre one can feel his need and rationalization of the affair. Director Garrel, working in the Nouvelle Vague style as he has for almost 30 films, shoots in high contrast black and white on streets with a verité sensibility.

Paris, ville-lumière, regorgeant de ruelles, de bars et de petits appartements, est le décor idéal de tant d'histoires d'amour. On suit un jeune couple de documentaristes, Pierre et Manon. Pauvres mais fusionnels, le couple survit ainsi jusqu'à ce que Pierre rencontre une jeune archiviste. L'impulsion du désir, la jalousie et le mépris, tant de maux qui gangrènent les relations à long terme, font leur apparition. Le cinéma du réalisateur Philippe Garrel s'apparente fortement au style "Nouvelle Vague". Le film est tourné en noir et blanc, dans des contrastes qui magnifient les personnages et les rues de Paris.



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## **Summertime La Belle Saison**

*British Columbia premiere  
première britanno-colombienne*  
Sunday • Feb 7 • 2:00pm • Odeon 1  
Monday • Feb 8 • 9:45pm • Odeon 1  
Réalisatrice : Caroline Corsini  
France • 2015 • 105min

What could possibly be more charmingly French than a drama about life, love and liberty under a warm country sun? The young Delphine has finally escaped her town and her family's marriage expectations and has begun a new life in Paris. Meanwhile, the feminist-activist Carole has been shifting away from her Parisian boyfriend, too. Naturally, love is in the air for these young women and for a while life is wild and good. That is, until Delphine's father falls ill and she must return to the farm to help. Carole follows suit but living life as undercover lovers is a hard and delicate balance for these women, even in the most beautiful scenic countryside.

Qu'est-ce qui pourrait bien être plus joliment français qu'un drame ayant comme thème la vie, l'amour et la liberté dans la chaleur du soleil de la campagne? La très jeune Delphine s'est enfin évadée de sa ville et des attentes de mariage de sa famille pour entamer une belle vie débridée à Paris. Entre-temps, l'activiste-féministe Carole s'est éloignée, elle aussi, de son copain. Bien entendu, l'amour est dans l'air pour ces jeunes dames, qui mènent d'ailleurs une belle vie débridée pendant quelque temps. La vie est ainsi jusqu'à ce que le père de Delphine tombe malade, ce qui force Delphine à retourner à la ferme pour offrir de l'aide. Carole en fait autant, mais, pour ces dames, il est à la fois difficile et délicat de vivre comme des amantes secrètes, même dans la campagne la plus pittoresque qui soit.



## **Valley of Love**

*British Columbia premiere  
première britanno-colombienne*  
Saturday • Feb 6 • 4:30pm  
Wednesday • Feb 10 • 9:45pm  
Odeon 1  
Réalisateur : Guillaume Nicloux  
France/Belgique • 2015 • 91min

A divorced couple (Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu) unites when their son sends them instructions to go to Death Valley, California on a specific date to see him. Overcoming rational thinking (their son committed suicide six months earlier), they set off for the desert. Watching these two immensely talented actors, combined with the beautiful, sweeping views of Death Valley, it's easy to see how it was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival. Depardieu and Huppert give deep, thought-provoking performances in their first on-screen reunion since *Loulou* in 1980.

Un couple divorcé (Isabelle Huppert et Gérard Depardieu) se réunit sur les instructions de leur fils, qui s'est suicidé six mois plus tôt. Ils se rencontrent à Death Valley, en Californie. En contemplant le jeu de ces deux acteurs hautement talentueux, et les belles images panoramiques de Death Valley, on comprend pourquoi le film a été nommé pour le prix de la Palme d'Or au Festival de Cannes de 2015. Il s'agit de la première réunion à l'écran de Gérard Depardieu et d'Isabelle Huppert depuis le film *Loulou*, de Maurice Pialat, en 1980.





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# TORONTO reel asian INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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## Asian Program Presented by Reel Asian

The program showcases highlights from Reel Asian's 19th edition, held in November 2015. Featuring icons from the region; South India's first female taxi driver, Hong Kong's beloved cartoon pig, Tamil anti-heroes, and beauty pageant contestants, this selection offers a range to entertain, inform, and enjoy.

-Kristine Estorninos

### ABOUT REEL ASIAN

Founded in 1997 by producer Anita Lee and journalist Andrew Sun, the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival® is a unique showcase of contemporary Asian cinema and work from the Asian diaspora.

Reel Asian is Canada's largest pan-Asian film festival attracting over 14,000 attendees to two weeks of galas, screenings, forums, workshops and parties every November in Toronto. Works include films and videos by East, South and Southeast Asian artists from Canada, Asia and around the world. In response to the rapidly changing cultural landscape of Canada and increasing demand from the local community, Reel Asian has expanded its programming to include works from South Asia and the South Asian diaspora.

This special program for the Victoria Film Festival is curated by the Reel Asian International Film Festival's programmers, featuring works from South and East Asia, and reflecting the initiative to fuel growing appreciation for Asian cinema in Canada.



### ***Driving With Selvi***

*British Columbia Premiere*

Sunday • Feb 14 • 12:00pm • The Vic Theatre

Director: Elisa Paloschi • Ontario • 2015 • 74min • **Documentary**

As a young girl, Selvi had her childhood stolen from her as a result of gender violence and poverty. In deep despair, she escapes with the intention of throwing herself under a bus on the highway. Instead, she gets on the bus, choosing to live, and goes on to become Karnataka's first female taxi driver. Documentarian Elisa Paloschi follows Selvi as she navigates through the harsh realities that millions of women and girls in India face. In a society where women are often considered expendable or worthless, Selvi refuses to accept this estimation. Sincerely charming, remarkably strong, and utterly courageous, Selvi shares important, hard-won secrets about happiness and life. Her refusal to surrender offers hope and the clear message that real change is possible.



## **McDull: Me And My Mum**

Sunday • Feb 7 • 1:00pm • Odeon 2

Director: Brian Tse • Hong Kong • 2014 • 81min

It's the return of McDull, Hong Kong's most beloved cartoon pig! Narrated by the now-adult McDull, this is the story of his childhood and how his mother made him into who he is now—Bobby Mak, a renowned detective and star in his own popular cartoon show. As a child, McDull watched as Mrs. Mak tried to make ends meet by working countless jobs, including appearing as a superheroine in a traveling roadshow where she dispensed handy lifehacks. Occasionally, Mrs. Mak made suspicious trips to 'astronaut training' which took her away from McDull for a time. Of course, Mrs. Mak wasn't really slated for a space flight. It was a bit-sweet game of pretend. *Me and My Mum* is a charming, nostalgic look into the strength of maternal love.



## **Kirumi**

British Columbia Premiere

Thursday • Feb 11 • 9:45pm • Odeon 1

Director: Anucharan Murugaiyan

India • 2015 • 97min

Combining elements of a commercial Indian action flick with a surprisingly deplorable protagonist and rare narrative on the hush-hush world of police informants, *Kirumi* is a complex, gritty and refreshing entertainer. Chock full of get-rich-quick ideas with little follow through, Kathir is an irresponsible young man, scheming and ratting on others until it lands him and his loved ones in danger in Chennai's underworld. Filmmaker Anucharan has shunned conformity and chosen to show you the grey area beyond conventional villains and heroes. *Kirumi* embodies the new wave of South Indian independent cinema that is attracting international audiences and expanding notions of archetypal Tamil movies.



## **Miss India America**

British Columbia Premiere

Tuesday • Feb 9 • 9:15pm • Odeon 2

Director: Ravi Kapoor

USA • 2014 • 95min

Lily Prasad's ambitious life plans are thrown into confusion when her boyfriend Karim becomes smitten and runs off with the reigning Miss India Golden State beauty queen. Determined not to lose, Lily decides that she must become the new queen; however, she'll have to do more than simply outsmart the other girls. To demonstrate her commitment to tradition, talents must be learned, dresses must be stolen, lies must be told and the competition must be crushed! *Miss India America* is a tale of ambition, and what it means to win in both the South Asian community and at large. Lily will discover you're not always a winner when you win, and there may be more to learn when you lose.

# THRILL CHILL

Looking for something beyond the norm? Our Thrill Chill program is a double-shot of the bizarre you may be looking for. If you were one of the lucky ones who saw *It Follows* last year before it went big, you know what we mean.

We couldn't be prouder to be the North American premiere of *The Empire of Corpses*. Lush steam-punky goodness gets a grand anime treatment by one of the biggest names in the anime game: Production I.G. of *Ghost in the Shell* and *Attack on Titan* fame. You'll see it here first!

This year, we lost the truly original Wes Craven. In tribute to the giant of the macabre, we present his final project: *The Girl in the Photographs* - more than your usual bit of gory fun, with a made-in-Victoria backdrop to boot.

Dare to be different. Go beyond the pale.  
Those who see different can see farther.



## ***The Girl in the Photographs***

*British Columbia Premiere*

Friday • Feb 12 • 8:45pm • The Vic

Director: Nick Simon

Victoria/USA • 2015 • 95min

Horror-legend Wes Craven may not have sat in the director's chair for his final film, but as executive producer to Nick Simon's shot-in-Victoria slasher flick, his legacy is very well served. Spearfish, South Dakota is as unlikely a place as any for hometown serial killers tormenting a young woman with photos of their crimes. Instead of attracting the cops it attracts the attention of a celebrity fashion photographer Peter Hemmings (played deliciously by Kal Penn) who moves back home to exploit the opportunity. Add in Hemmings' clueless entourage, a budding romantic interest and a "cabin by the lake" and you've got all the best ingredients for things to go oh-so bloody wrong.

### **Short: *Night of the Slasher***

Shant Hamassian • USA • 11min

A teenage girl must commit all the horror movie sins to lure a masked killer and exact revenge.



## ***The Empire of Corpses***

*North American Premiere*

Saturday • Feb 13 • 7:00pm • Parkside

Director: Ryotaro Makihara

Japan • 2015 • 120min

From WIT Studio behind the mega-hit anime series *Attack on Titan* and the pen of one of Japan's modern masters of sci-fi comes an unusual mix of steampunk and Mary Shelley. In an alternate 19th Century Europe, Victor Frankenstein wasn't just a story, he was a pioneer; in this world, the dead walk among us as necrotic servants, warriors and weapons. The government has just recruited John Watson — a maker of "Frankensteins" — for a very special mission. Not only will new enemies and friends beset him on all sides, but also the lost soul of his very own personal Frankenstein.





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## 2016 SIDNEY FILM SCHEDULE

Friday • February 5

***Into The Forest*** • 7:00pm

Saturday • February 6

***Le Coeur de Madame Sabali*** • 3:00pm

***Al Purdy Was Here*** • 7:00pm

Sunday • February 7

***Oddball*** • 3:00pm

***My Internship in Canada*** • 7:00pm

Monday • February 8

***When Elephants Were Young*** • Hometown Premiere • 7:00pm

Tuesday • February 9

***Five Nights in Maine*** • British Columbia Premiere • 3:00pm

***The Lobster*** • Winner: Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival • 7:00pm

Wednesday • February 10

***Miss India America*** • British Columbia Premiere • 3:00pm

***A Month of Sundays*** • British Columbia Premiere • 7:00pm

Thursday • February 11

***The Steps*** • British Columbia Premiere • 3:00pm

***Lost and Found*** • 7:00pm



### ***Into the Forest***

Friday • Feb 5 • 7:00pm • Star Cinema

Director: Patricia Rozema • BC • 2015 • 101min

Nell (Ellen Page), Eva (Evan Rachel Wood) and their widowed father (Callum Keith Rennie) have survived a series of blackouts before, but when the latest one appears permanent, they're forced to figure out how to sustain and protect themselves. Well-stocked and living a few miles from civilization gives the family a jump on disaster preparedness, but the film makes it clear that they're just as dependent on modern conveniences as anyone else. The two women convey their desire for normalcy by maintaining routines to avert falling into despair as they're forced to disconnect and improvise but still prepare for the unknown. Based on Jean Hegland's book, critically-acclaimed director Rozema avoids the mainstream fire and brimstone and shows intimate moments and real emotion between two sisters trying to survive.



## ***The Heart of Mrs. Sabali* *Le coeur de Madame Sabali***

Saturday • February 6 • 3:00pm

Star Cinema

Director: Ryan McKenna

Québec • 2015 • 79min

A tender, tragicomic award-winning film with touches of the surreal and the fantastic. Centered on the strange, beautiful and emotional story of Jeannette, we learn of her severe heart condition keeping her trapped in a suburb of Montreal, and whose romantic connections spark and stumble. When she receives a new heart, she is befriended by her donor's son, a Malian teenager who believes Jeannette to be his mother reincarnated, holding on to old memories.



## ***Oddball***

Sunday • February 7

Star Cinema • 3:00pm

Stuart McDonald

Australia • 2015 • 95min

The true story of Swampy (Shane Jacobson), an eccentric chicken farmer who, with the help of his granddaughter Olivia (Coco Jack Gillies), trains his mischievous dog Oddball to protect a wild penguin sanctuary from fox attacks in an attempt to reunite his family, keep his daughter (Emily Sarah Snook) close by, and save their seaside town. Director McDonald gets the tone just right with a clear sense of comic timing, alongside Damian Wyvill's beautiful cinematography. It's a genuinely sweet and funny film with a positive message.



## ***My Internship in Canada***

Sunday • February 7

Star Cinema • 7:00pm

Philippe Falardeau

Quebec • 2015 • 108min

A smart comedy that will have Canadians smiling from ear to ear. In *My Internship* we delight in a Haitian intern (Irdens Exantus) navigating his way through the opportunistic world of Canadian politics alongside MP and former hockey player Steve Guibord (Patrick Huard) as he traverses his huge riding and becomes the deciding vote in a move to declare war. With a background in Canadian politics and international relations it's no wonder that Falardeau deals with such timely topics.



## ***Al Purdy Was Here***

Saturday • February 6 • 7:00pm

Star Cinema

Director: Brian D. Johnson

Ontario • 2015 • 90min • **Documentary**

Fifteen years after the death of one of Canada's iconic poets, director Johnson celebrates the life of Al Purdy and his impact on a young generation of Canadian poets, writers and singers. As a man of many contrasts, Purdy was a rock star and raconteur who did not hold back or censor himself and approached poetry with his heart. Through compilation of interviews with his friends and fans that range from some of Canada's best talent, including Margaret Atwood, Joseph Boyden and Sarah Harmer, this documentary allows you to see into his life over his extensive career.



## ***When Elephants Were Young***

Monday • February 8

Star Cinema • 7:00pm

Patricia Sims

Victoria • 2015 • 86min

**Documentary**

By local director Patricia Sims and narrated by William Shatner, explores relationships with elephants in Thailand. Follow Wok, an elephant guardian and his elephant Nong Mai as they perform for tourists in Bangkok. The opportunity arises to release Nong Mai into the wild, pushing Wok to choose between supporting his family and efforts to save the Asian elephant. This eye-opening story relates the efforts to save the Asian elephant population and establish self-sustaining populations.




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## **Five Nights in Maine**

Tuesday • Feb 9

Star Cinema • 3:00pm

Maris Curran

USA • 2015 • 82min

Director Maris Curran's debut feature explores grief with wide-open eyes and a gift for character-driven storytelling. After Sherwin (David Oyelowo, *Selma*) loses his wife in a car crash, he decides to go to his mother-in-law, Lucinda (Dianne Wiest) with whom his wife recently reconciled and whose last wish was that they meet. As he reaches out, the two develop an unspoken competition as to who has the greater loss. Oyelowo and Wiest are, at turns, arresting and profoundly sympathetic.

## **The Lobster**

Tuesday • Feb 9

Star Cinema • 7:00pm

Yorgos Lanthimos

Ireland/UK/France

2015 • 119min

A wickedly absurd film from Greek auteur Yorgos Lanthimos (*Dogtooth*, *ALPS*) about a dystopian future where single people have 45 days to find a partner before being transformed into animals. Recently left by his wife, David (Colin Farrell) must report to The Hotel for partnering. Trying to abide, at first, by the rigid rules and sterile atmosphere, he soon escapes to the woods where he meets other rebel singles and is drawn to a unique new woman.

## **Miss India America**

Wednesday • Feb 10

Star Cinema • 3:00pm

Ravi Kapoor

USA • 2015 • 95min

Lily Prasad's life plans are thrown into confusion when her boyfriend Karim runs off with the reigning Miss India Golden State beauty queen. Determined not to lose, Lily decides that she herself must become the new queen; however, she'll have to do more than simply outsmart the other girls. This is a tale of ambition, and what it means to win in the South Asian community and at large. In the end, Lily will discover you're not always a winner when you win, and there may be more to learn when you lose.



## **A Month of Sundays**

Wednesday • Feb 10

Star Cinema • 7:00pm

Matthew Saville

Australia • 2015 • 109min

A phone call from his dead mother sends recently divorced Frank Mollard (Anthony LaPaglia) down a new path when it turns out to be a wrong number. The call leads to a friendship with Sarah, the dial-er, in a wryly observed and funny tale. Throw in the subtext of Frank as a realtor and Sarah's suspicious son and we are in for a quirky ride. Director Matthew Saville (*Felony*, *Noise*) once again has an assured hand as he builds this warm hearted character study with strong performances by Anthony LaPaglia and Julia Blake.

## **The Steps**

Thursday • Feb 11

Star Cinema • 3:00pm

Andrew Currie

Ontario • 2015 • 100min

Family is a fickle thing. When Jeff (Jason Ritter) and Marla (Emmanuelle Chriqui) receive an invitation from their dad (James Brolin) to spend the weekend with his new wife and her kids, they are hesitant but need a chance to escape the city. What follows is a clashing between the two families, a drink-infused weekend, an arrest, and all-out war in this broad comedy. Director Currie (*Fido*, *Millie Zero*) delves back into the intricacies of family behaviour with his usual mix of drama and laughs.

## **Lost and Found**

Thursday • Feb 11

Star Cinema • 7:00pm

John Choi & Nicolina Lanni

Ontario • 2014 • 82min

### **Documentary**

Japan's 2011 earthquake and tsunami hit over 90 cities and took over 18,000 lives on Japan's northeast coast. It also displaced over a million tons of debris. Within a year, that debris began showing up in the Pacific Northwest. This is the story of the folks in Canada and the US who've made it their mission to reunite these big and small items to their original owners, and to reflect on not only what was lost but what can be regained.

Presented by



# Shorts Program: Risky Plays, Risky Places

Sunday • February 7 • 4:00pm • The Vic Theatre



## *Still*

Yin Liu • USA • 5min

A young child goes on a short journey of discovery and experiences loss and a reunion.



## *Anxiety #5*

Jesse Foster • Alberta • 6min

A man's fate is sealed within a Brooklyn tenement housing bathroom in 1983.



## *A King's Betrayal*

David A. Bornstein • USA • 8.5min

The final 24 hours in the life of a Piñata, as told from the Piñata's perspective.



## *I Said I Would Never Talk About Politics*

Aitor Oñederra • Spain • 10min

Mariano travels by plane and dines at a prestigious restaurant which specialises in natural, quality red meat that is low in fat and cholesterol.



## *No Breath Play*

Stacey Ashworth • Victoria • 13.5min

A reclusive young woman struggles to free herself when an experiment with BDSM mistakenly leaves her bound and alone in her home.



## *Last Base*

Aslak Danbolt • Norway, UK • 15min

When his good friend Roger is killed in a BASE jumping accident, Joachim promises his girlfriend he'll give up base-jumping for good. But one last time...



## *Ron Taylor: Dr. Baseball*

Drew Taylor • Ontario • 17min

Ron Taylor was a world championship winning MLB pitcher for 11 years. From the first scout to notice him through Vietnam and many varied classrooms, right back to the Blue Jays as team doctor, we chart his storied career.

# Shorts Program: Techlandia

Monday • February 8 • 8:45pm • The Vic Theatre



## *Son In The Barbershop*

Nathan Douglas • BC • 8min

A teenager overhears a phone call and finds himself drawn into the story behind it.



## *Quiet Zone*

David Bryant, Karl Lemieux • Canada • 14min

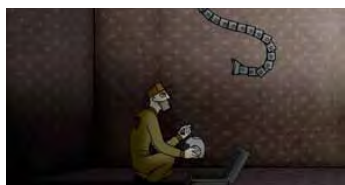
A deep dive into the world of those who suffer from electromagnetic hypersensitivity.



## *Bionic Girl*

Stéphanie Cabdevila • France • 14min

A scientist has created her own android clone to replace her in the outside world so that it can face it for her.



## *Employee of the Day*

Alexander Isert, Christoph J Kellner

Germany • 15min

In a world of mass consumption, only one can become EMPLOYEE OF THE DAY.



## *Reset*

Jeremy Lutter • Victoria • 15.5min

A female android discovers she has feelings for her owner and must put her life on the line to gain a human connection.



## *Not A Stranger*

Kate Green • BC • 14min

As a social media buff, Colin Easton was feeling disconnected. Soon after being diagnosed with severe clinical depression, he decided to take matters into his own hands with a project to ensure he left his house every day.

# Shorts Program: Visions & Voices

Thursday • February 11 • 8:45pm • The Vic Theatre



## And Then

Livia Ungur, Sherng-Lee Huang • USA • 1min  
A playful take on the passing of time.



## Mirror in Mind

SeungHee Kim • South Korea • 3min  
A woman looks into her mind, chasing her ideals on a tightrope. Every imperfect piece of her mind completes herself.



**Walls** • Miguel López Beraza • Hungary • 10min  
If walls could speak, what would they say about their neighbours.



## Mother

Juha-Sakari Hippi • Finland • 6min  
A family tragedy comes alive every Mother's Day.



## Animation Hotline 2015

Dustin Grella • USA • 7min  
From a series of over 150 crowd-sourced telephone answering machine messages animated since 2011.



## Mia'

Amanda Strong, Bracken Hanuse Corlett  
BC • 8min

A young Indigenous street artist named Mia' walks through the city streets painting scenes rooted in the supernatural history of her people.



## Chamber Music - Audiovisual Building Sound Portrait of the Robert Schumann School of Music in Düsseldorf

Katharina Blanken • Germany • 8.5min  
Looking at the infrasonic backside, the place where the windows should be closed and the curtains drawn, anonymously rehearsing for a concert.



## Luz

Jacqueline Lentzou • Greece • 15min  
On an early autumn morning, a blind teenager is given her sight, among fire and steaming pots. In order to maintain her new-found gift she has to complete a mission: recognize her mother.



## The Complete Works

Justin Stephenson • Ontario • 42min  
Fifteen years in the making, The Complete Works adapts the work of internationally acclaimed avant-garde poet bpNichol. From comic book detective stories and westerns to documentary and magic realism, and from hand-drawn animation to computer generated images, *The Complete Works* wrestles Nichol's writing off the page and onto the screen.



## Shorts Program: That Ain't Me!

Wednesday • February 10 • 8:45pm • The Vic Theatre



### *We Regret to Inform You*

Eva Colmers, Heidi Jantz • Quebec • 11min

Acutely aware of the limitations posed by her uncooperative body, Dr. Heidi Jantz navigates the world in her wheelchair and works very hard to make her speech comprehensible to others.



### *Paris, Don't Bury Your Dreams*

Ross Domoney • France, UK • 26min

One family's journey of social exclusion in the communist district of Nanterre, Paris. The Usaris are not welcomed in France, battling the district authorities with the help of locals and foreigners for the chance to get a roof over their heads.



### *Sanskriti*

Melissa Balan • USA • 55min

Titled from the ancient Sanskrit word for "culture", *Sanskriti* is a documentary filmed around the world, capturing the human experience in today's digital age. Following the lives of four young adults from China, Kenya, Finland, and the USA, the film chronicles the day-to-day experiences of Millennials coming of age in the digital era. Acting as a portrait of a generation, the film celebrates human progress and encourages re-examination of our relationships with each other, and our iPhones.

## Shorts Program:

### Sexy French Shorts

Sunday • February 14 • 6:00pm • The Vic Theatre



### *Who to Love / Qui J'Ose Aimer*

Hugo Frassetto, Laurence Deydier • France • 7min  
Primo and Jeanne are playing tennis in the sun beside the sea, but Jeanne's mind is not on the game.



### *Tram*

Michaela Pavlatova • France • 7min

A streetcar named Desire, or phallic surrealist fantasy?



### *Make Love! Faites l'amour!*

Tomer Sisley • France • 10.5min

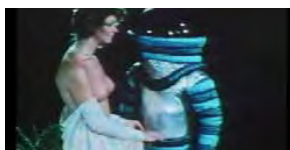
For actors in a love scene, it's a fine line between acting and reality; between love and getting off.



### *Eau Forte*

Lucie Duchêne • France • 15min

Louise and Benoit are going to get married, and the families are overjoyed! But despite expectations, subversive flows may be unleashed on the wedding.



### *In Search of the Ultra-Sex*

### *A La Recherche de L'Ultrasex*

Nicolas Charlet, Bruno Lavaine • France • 55min

From recently declassified FBI files comes the weird true story like you've never seen before. Cut from porn archives, now it can be told!



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## Art Exhibit: Arabian Nights

Location: Bay Centre Bottom Floor • Douglas Street Escalators  
February 5 to 14 • 11am to 5pm

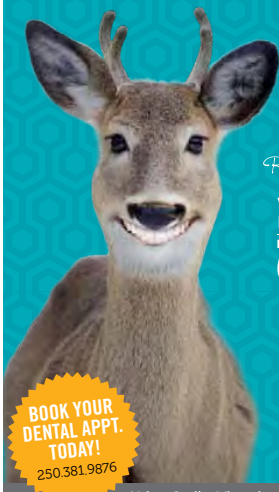
The Istituto Italiano di Cultura presents the photographic exhibit Pasolini's *l'Oriente: Arabian Nights* by Italian photographer Roberto Villa. The exhibit features 64 photographs by Roberto Villa on the set of *Arabian Nights* in 1974, documenting the director's work in the Middle East (Yemen and Iran).

Villa's images not only capture some great moments in the making of the film but also the faces of the locals, as well as the mystical locations where the poet/director set his version of the Arabic folk tale.

61

Art Exhibit

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locals smiling.



*Rachel Staples*  
Dr. Rachel Staples

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# ConVerge

## Where do you like to watch?

**City Hall Clock Tower?**  
**During spin the bottle?**  
**In the doghouse?**

The VFF has created an afternoon of play to demonstrate the explosion of change in what, where and how we're watching. We solicited a young jury to sift through hundreds of short films submitted by youth ages 9 – 24. The result is 50 of the best short films in the most unconventional spaces we can find. We're taking you out of a darkened cinema and turning you on your head for the social experience and experiment of your year.

So we ask again:  
 Where do you like to watch?

## Free ConVerge!

Get a little taste of ConVerge at a free street party on Friday, or immerse yourself fully with the ticketed event on Saturday.

## Friday • Feb 12 • 4:30 - 7pm

We're shutting down Broad St. between Yates and View and pulling out the stops for your TGIF party time. You'll be chanting from the street as we offer a taste of our playful-ist ConVerge ever. Featuring films on the big screen, visual artists, fun time with the new Virtual Reality technology, and live music by Bučan Bučan. And, of course, the spunky and crazy ways we like to show you films by today's youth.

Outdoor screen:

*Faunethic* by Véronique Girard, Montreal  
*Alternate World* by Dylan Derek, US

Indoor screen:

*Quest for the Hesperides III* by Evalida Taillefer, Victoria



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# CONERGE

**Saturday • February 13**  
**11:00 am - 1:30 pm • \$20**  
**2:00 - 5:00 pm with After Party • \$30**

## How to ConVerge

**Starting Point:** Go to our Box Office(s) 30 minutes before your time slot to turn in your ticket for a wristband and a map to the venues. The wristband will identify you as a ConVerge patron, giving you access to all the venues.

Capacity at the venues varies from 1 to 20 – if a venue is full, there's another one around the corner! Remember to keep a sharp eye out because we've also got some surprises along the streets as you go between venues. You may even need to be kidnapped to see a film!

## Box Office 1

Bay Centre, Bottom floor VFF storefront  
 (near Douglas St. escalators)  
 Cash only.

## Box Office 2

Victoria Public Market @ The Hudson  
 Cash only.

## The After Party

Yep, for those who purchase tickets to the 2:00pm time slot, we've got a little thing called a "party" going on after ConVerge is over.

Meet up with other ConVergers at Box Office 1 in the Bay Centre at 5:00pm to enjoy a complimentary beverage and appetizers to build your strength up after all your wanderings.

50 short films in unique venues

**Ready, Set, ConVerge.**



### Bay Centre Fountain exterior

*Agos, the Manila Dream*  
Ma. Angelica Gonzalez  
Phillipines • 10min

### Bay Centre VFF Box Office

*Printer*  
Ji-Rung Yang • Taiwan • 4min

*Brothers*  
Cameron Brunt  
Australia • 12min

### Car (Broad at View)

*Blue Spring*  
Andreea Cristina Bortun  
Romania • 16min

### Trounce Alley (3 stations)

*Shuffle*  
Natalie Sutton • UK • 3min

*The Chalk Circle*  
Soheyl Seraji • Iran • 3min

*Jacqueline*  
Hee-Woo Goh, Sonhee Kong  
South Korea • 5min

*Shoe Knows?*  
Udruga Dignitas  
Croatia • 8min

### Wolf Sheep Arthouse (Trounce Alley)

*I am Under Construction*  
Ennya Larmit  
Netherlands • 5min

*Submerge*  
Evangeline Brooks  
USA • 3min

*Liv*  
Gwyneth Christoffel  
USA • 6min

### Victoria Academy of Dramatic Arts (3 stations)

*Tehila*  
Eilat Ben Eliyahu • Israel • 17m

*Rejection*  
Demet Sever • Turkey • 11min

*Beauty*  
Aline Boyen • Belgium • 14min

*The Old Hat Hair Shoppe*  
Katherine • Anand Prahash  
USA • 15min

*Runaway Train*  
Sho Schrock-Manabe  
USA • 7min

### Old Vic Fish And Chips

*Alia*  
Raghd Charabaty  
Nova Scotia • 5min

*The Blowout*  
Liam Sanderson • UK • 4min

### Legends Comics and Books

*#Lingo*  
Daniel Roque  
Portugal • 10min

### Locker (Cherry Bomb Toys entry)

*Love Locker*  
Andreea Cristina Bortun  
France, Romania • 11min

### Broad Street Cycle

*Cycle*  
Jisu Choi • South Korea • 3min

*Sad Snowman*  
Lisa Schantz • USA • 3min

### Postbox outside City Hall

*Postal*  
Anneliese Scheck • USA • 15min

### City Hall Attic

*#99*  
Fabio Landi • Italy • 15min

### City Hall Clock Tower

*Cupid*  
Maria De Sanctis  
Ontario • 14min

*To Heaven*  
Inkyoung Kip  
South Korea • 7min

### Centennial Square (4 stations)

*Blur*  
Pedro Araujo • USA • 12min

*Last Leg*  
Ella Bennett • UK • 13min

*Sam*  
Lauren Arthur • Australia • 4min

*Michi*  
Kaho Yoshida • BC • 4min

*Glyn*  
Yann Gorris • UK • 12min

*Absence*  
Rob Savage • UK • 3min

*Violet*  
Brig Wigintton • UK • 11min

### Limousine @ McPherson Theatre

*To New Beginnings*  
Macy Armstrong  
Ontario • 2min

*Summer Dragons*  
Rebecca Celsi  
USA • 4min

*Blink in Dragon Alley*  
*Flower of Carnage*  
Kandise Adams, Megan Horton  
UK • 3min

*Knots*  
Kristina Wong  
Ontario • 13min

*Milkman's Daughter*  
*Danny Dynamite*  
Henry Drayton • USA • 14min

### Fisgard Parkade (3 Stations)

*La Colina*  
Kapitolina Tcvetkova  
UK • 2min

*Space With No Borders*  
Roman Trofimov  
Russian Federation • 11min

*Asteroid*  
Kristina Mileska  
Ontario • 11min

*We Are All Dying To Live*  
Roberto Costa • Venezuela  
20min

*Roast @ Victoria Public Market*  
*Ma Munggu*  
Ji-won Oh, Leah wee, Da-hae  
Oh, Yu-rim Choi  
South Korea • 7min

*Roast Chicken*  
Javier Gómez Sánchez  
Spain • 3min

*\*flash your wristband and get  
25% off Feb 13 at Roast*

*Keep your eyes peeled and you  
might catch these quickies in the  
most unusual of places:*

*The Cereal Killer*  
Britney Ngaw • Canada • 1min

*Gaze*  
Ekin Levent • Turkey • 2min

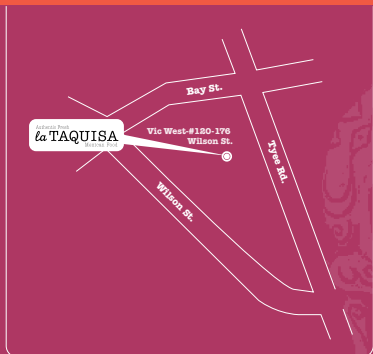
*TLC: Tough Lovin' Care*  
Meghan Cook • USA • 1min

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A triple-treat of scrumptious food, delicious libations and captivating film come together during this engaging event designed for those who love the best of life. At Sips 'n' Cinema you will enjoy animated talk and discussion on the film presented with the Victoria Film Festival's very own Head Programmer, Donovan Aikman.

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY. Ticket price includes the film, drinks and appetizers. Must be 19 years or older.

**Sunday • February 7 • 2pm • Odeon 1**

## **Sips 'n' Cinema – Cocktail**

Enjoy a screening of *Summertime* followed by mouth-watering appetizers and a cocktail tasting led by an expert craft bartender at The Churchill (1140 Government Street).

*Summertime / La Belle Saison*

**Director/Réalisatrice: Caroline Corsini • France • 2015 • 105min**

What could possibly be more charmingly French than a drama about life, love and liberty under a warm country sun? The young Delphine has finally escaped her town and her family's marriage expectations and has begun a new life in Paris. Meanwhile, the feminist-activist Carole has been shifting away from her Parisian boyfriend, too. Naturally, love is in the air for these young women and for a while life is wild and good. That is, until Delphine's father falls ill and she must return to the farm to help. Carole follows suit but living life as undercover lovers is a hard and delicate balance for these women, even in the most beautiful scenic countryside.

**Sunday • February 14 • 2pm • The Vic Theatre**

## **Sips 'n' Cinema – Wine**

Enjoy a screening of *Demimonde* followed by mouth-watering appetizers and a wine-tasting led by an expert sommelier at the charming 10 Acres Bistro (611 Courtney Street).

*Demimonde*

**Director: Attila Szász • Hungary • 2015 • 88min**

The director of VFF 2015's surprise hit *The Ambassador to Bern* is back and he's brought his eagle eye to period drama once again. The year is 1914. It's the last days of Budapest pre-WWI's golden age, and Elza Mágnás is the city's most famous and most intriguing courtesan. Entertaining the elite of the city in both the bedroom and the dining room is full-time work, and she relies on her housekeeper and her new, naïve maid Kató to keep everything running properly. In four days, Elza will be dead. However, it is the bizarre relationships of these women and the men around them that will surprise you the most.

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**FAMILY DAY**

## FUN FAMILY FILMS

Remember waking up at the crack of dawn to sneak downstairs for Saturday morning shows in your PJs and munching on your favourite cereal? For one day only, the Victoria Film Festival presents great kid-friendly films on Family Day, Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Perfect for kids of any age: wear your favourite pyjamas and get a bowl of cereal at our morning screening of *The Amazing Wipala*.**



### ***The Amazing Wipala***

*British Columbia Premiere*

Monday • February 8 • 11:00am

The Vic Theatre

Director: Tim Oliehoek

Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg

2014 • 100min • Dubbed in English

From a popular Dutch book comes this charming family tale that's part *The Borrowers* and *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*! Nine-year old Johannes is having a bit of a family crisis. His older sister and widowed father just don't seem to pay attention anymore. One night, he meets the impish Wipala hiding in the family kitchen. His new friend might be kind-hearted but hasn't quite mastered his magic powers yet. Johannes' whole family is caught up in Wipala's spell - his shrinking spell. The imp must return everyone to the right size, but first he must believe in himself.

*Before the Amazing Wipala, we'll show the winning short film entry (junior category) from our amazing FilmCAN project for youth! (For more information, see page 69)*



### ***Oddball***

*British Columbia Premiere*

Monday • February 8 • 2:00pm

The Vic Theatre

Director: Stuart McDonald

Australia

2015 • 95min

A true story about Swampy (Shane Jacobson), an eccentric chicken farmer who, with the help of his granddaughter Olivia (Coco Jack Gillies), trains his mischievous dog Oddball to protect a wild penguin sanctuary from fox attacks in an attempt to reunite his family, keep his daughter (Emily Sarah Snook) close by, and save their seaside town. Director McDonald gets the tone just right, along with great comic timing, while Damian Wyvill's cinematography captures the beautiful landscape. It's a genuinely sweet and funny film with a positive message about the environment.



Celebrate with us

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season

February 2 – 28, 2016

## **The Valley**

by Joan MacLeod, Directed by Roy Surette

*"Relentlessly topical – and deeply empathetic"*

GLOBE AND MAIL

2016

## **SPARK Festival**

March 11–12

### **Betroffenheit**

Created by Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young  
(Kidd Pivot and Electric Company Theatre  
presented in partnership with Dance Victoria)

★★★★ *"Betroffenheit is rare and staggering..."*

GLOBE AND MAIL

March 15–19

### **Iceland**

By Nicolas Billon (Why Not Theatre)

2013 Governor General's Award for Drama

March 15–19

### **Huff**

Written and performed by Cliff Cardinal  
(Native Earth Performing Arts)

*"veering from hilarious to harrowing..."*

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March 22–26

### **The Gay Heritage Project**

Written and performed by Damien Atkins,  
Paul Dunn and Andrew Kushnir  
(Buddies In Bad Times Theatre)

*"celebratory, upbeat and deeply moving"*

TORONTO STAR

March 22–26

### **21 Ways to Make the World Last Longer**

By James Fagan Tait and Cathy Stubington  
(Runaway Moon Theatre)

*The premiere of a beautiful piece of puppet theatre*

April 12 – May 8, 2016

## **Puttin' on the Ritz**

The music and lyrics of Irving Berlin

Conceived by Don Shipley

Directed by Glynis Leyshon

*"first rate...romance and humour*

*...sometimes you can please everyone."*

MONDAY MAGAZINE 1977

# Belfry Theatre

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## An Online Video Competition for Students

### WHAT'S FILMCAN?

Make a short... Load it online...  
Win great prizes...  
Win a chance to screen at the Victoria Film Festival... Easy peasy!



FilmCAN has evolved into an exciting film competition that invites budding young filmmakers from Vancouver Island-based middle and high schools to make a short film on a subject of their choice.

There are two categories, one for Grade 8 and under (Junior) and one for high schools (Senior). The winner of each category receives a great prize package and they get their films screened alongside a feature film at the 2016 Victoria Film Festival!

The Victoria Film Festival aims to encourage and motivate students to express themselves creatively by making a great short film. To assist in this endeavour, students had access to a professional filmmaker as a resource to offer suggestions and feedback.

### FilmCAN Prizes & Screenings

Grade 9-12: a prize package worth \$2,300, including a 1-year subscription to the Adobe Creative Cloud service and a Canon RF600 HD camcorder with case and 8GB memory card, courtesy of Japan Camera.

Grade 8 & under: a prize package worth \$595, including a gift certificate to the Gulf Island Film & Television School.

The Junior category (grade 8 and under) winning film will be screened with:

### ***The Amazing Wipala***

#### ***British Columbia Premiere***

**Monday • FEB 8 • 11:00am • The Vic Theatre**  
**Tim Oliehoek • Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg**  
**2014 • 100min • Dubbed English**

From a popular Dutch book, comes this wonderfully charming family tale that's a little bit *The Borrowers* and a little bit *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids!* Nine-year old Johannes is having a bit of a family crisis. His older sister and widowed father just don't seem to pay attention anymore. However, one night, he meets the impish Wipala hiding out in the family kitchen. His new friend might be kind-hearted but he hasn't quite mastered his magic powers yet. Before you know it, Johannes' whole family is caught up in Wipala's spell, his shrinking spell that is. The imp must return everyone to the right size but not before he learns to believe in himself.

The Senior category (grade 9-12) winning film will be screened with:

### ***Tanna***

#### ***Canadian Premiere***

**Tuesday • Feb 9 • 7:15pm • Odeon 1**  
**Directors: Bentley Dean, Martin Butler • Australia • 2015 • 100min**

Tanna is a small island located in the South Pacific province of Vanuatu, home to the Yakel tribes who have held onto their traditions in spite of their exposure to western culture. Filmmakers Bentley Dean and Martin Butler spent seven months living with the inhabitants of Tanna while making the film. The result is unique. A young girl, Wawa (Marie Wawa), falls in love with the chief's grandson, Dain (Mungau Dain). When an inter-tribal war escalates, Wawa is betrothed as part of a peace deal. The young lovers elope, with enraged warriors following in pursuit. Both sides question their traditions in this rare film that explores their lives without patronizing them.

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## Friday • February 5 • The Vic Theatre • 808 Douglas Street

### 11:00am • Media Worldview Round-Up • 60min

Join the VFF for the annual review of what's new, forecasted and unpredictable in the world of media. Gain insights into how changes impact the projects you create and understand new opportunities.



Harold Gronenthal serves as Executive Vice-President of Programming and Operations – AMC/Sundance Channel Global at AMC Networks Inc. and served as its Senior Vice-President and General Manager of AMC/Sundance Channel Global since March 2007. He continues to lead content acquisitions for AMC, IFC, Sundance Channel, and WE TV.

### 12:30pm • Getting Your Start • 90min

A panel of commissioning editors will provide tips on what a career looks like for an emerging filmmaker. Topics will include commissioning priorities, preferences on approach and pitch, and what to expect working in the field. Moderator: Harold Gronenthal

Commissioning Editors: Tania Koenig-Gauchier, APTN; Tara Ellis, CBC; Robin Neinstein, Shaw Media

Tania Koenig-Gauchier is a television producer who brings almost 20 years of experience in broadcasting and independent production to APTN's Programming department. She has worked as a producer for CTV, APTN and CBC, and has a background in business, marketing and promotions for television.



As Executive Director, Scripted Content, Tara leads CBC's scripted content teams that include comedy and drama, kids programming and digital originals. The Globe & Mail has named Tara as one of the 40 Most Influential People in Canadian television for her efforts in bringing new talent to Canadian airwaves.

Robin Neinstein, as Production Executive, Original Drama Content for Shaw Media, oversees the development and production of various scripted series and co-productions for Shaw channels including Global, History and Showcase.



### 2:30pm • The Winning Pitch • 30 min

Mary Galloway won the BravoFACT \$35,000 pitch competition in 2015 to create her short film *Ariel Unravelling*. Mary returns to discuss making her film and working with BravoFact!



Mary Galloway is a young First Nations actor, producer and writer. She has dedicated her career to telling stories with dynamic female leads, as well as being an advocate for equality for Aboriginal (and non-Aboriginal) women. Mary graduated from a two-year full time intensive acting program at New Image College of Fine Arts with a 98% average. She has led three feature films, can be seen on TV shows such as The CW's *Supernatural*. [Photo courtesy Karolina Turek Photography]

### 3:30pm • Pitch Tips • 60 min

The nuts and bolts of what to say and how to say it when pitching your project.

Pat Ferns is President of Ferns Productions Inc. specializing in blue-chip documentary-drama mini-series, working with his son Andrew, President of Ferns Entertainment Inc., whose principal focus is drama. Major series Pat and Andrew have produced together include the award-winning *Captain Cook: Obsession and Discovery* and *Darwin's Brave New World*, both Australia-Canada co-productions.





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# In Conversation With...



**Saturday, February 6 • 11:00am • 90min**

**The Vic Theatre**

**In Conversation With...**

## Semi Chellas

Semi Chellas discusses writing for film and television – and what credentials she has for that! Chellas was Co-Executive Producer and writer for *Mad Men*, running the room for the final two seasons.

Garnering six Emmy nominations she has shared the WGA award with Matthew Weiner for co-writing the episode *The Other Woman*. Chellas has written for indie features, kids movies, television movies and directed several award-winning short films. Chellas is currently working as an Executive Producer of Steve McQueen's HBO miniseries *Codes of Conduct*.



**Sunday, February 7 • 11:00am • 90min**

**The Vic Theatre**

**In Conversation With...**

## Larry Weinstein

Welcome to the wonderfully inventive world of Larry Weinstein, a unique documentary filmmaker whose 25 films captured the lives of great composers, the former Ambassador to Iran Ken Taylor, and the mystery of Hana's Suitcase.

Weinstein will look at the anatomy of a documentary from inception to completion while expanding on his thoughts by screening raw and completed footage of his recently completed project *Devil's Horn*.



### Interviewer:

Richard Crouse is the regular film critic for CTV's Canada AM, the 24-hour news source CTV's News Channel and CP24. His syndicated Saturday afternoon radio show, The Richard Crouse Show originates on News Talk 1010 in Toronto. He is also the author of six books on pop culture history including *Who Wrote the Book of Love*.



## CineVic Retrospective

**Sunday, February 7 • 6:30 PM • Odeon 2**

Join us as we launch the 25th Anniversary of CineVic Society of Filmmakers, presenting a retrospective showcase of short films made by CineVic's award-winning members over the past quarter-century, from celluloid to videotape to HD to 4K!

The showcase will be followed by a reception and Anniversary launch party - for details contact: [office@cinevic.ca](mailto:office@cinevic.ca) or (250) 389-1590, or [www.cinevic.ca](http://www.cinevic.ca).

In 1991, a small group of filmmakers decided that Victoria needed a resource for production and exhibition of their films. CineVic has facilitated countless productions and numerous film programs such as Scrapshots, Film Slam, Reel 2 Reel, Scene & Heard, the Auteur Series, and even the original incarnation of the Victoria Film Festival.

*CineVic is an artist-run Society providing independent filmmakers and media artists with affordable and accessible equipment, programming and development opportunities. We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia, Canada Council for the Arts, British Columbia Arts Council, and Capital Regional District.*

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In Conversation With.... & CineVic 25th Anniversary

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# Tickets, Events & Information

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1. Online: [boxoffice.victoriafilmfestival.com](http://boxoffice.victoriafilmfestival.com)  
Jan 6-Feb14

2. In Person: 1215 Blanshard Street

January 11 to February 4:

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm

February 5 to 14:

10am to 10pm

3. At the door. Cash Only.

## Box Office

Prices subject to GST.

Advance tickets can be purchased until three (3) hours before the show.

Remaining tickets will be on sale at the door (cash only) 30 minutes before the show begins.

No exchanges. No refunds.

Program subject to change.

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## Films

Film Festival Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$2

Feature Film/Short Film Programs \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.50

5 Feature Film Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$50

10 Feature Film Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$99

## Special Events

Art Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_ FREE

ConVerge Saturday, February 13

11am - 1:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ \$20

2-5pm (includes afterparty) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30

ConVerge Friday Street Party \_\_\_\_\_ FREE

End of Festival Bash \_\_\_\_\_ \$15

Family Day Films \_\_\_\_\_ \$7

In Conversation With... \_\_\_\_\_ \$20

Opening Gala (All Inclusive) \_\_\_\_\_ \$69

Sips 'n' Cinema \_\_\_\_\_ \$25

SpringBoard Talk & Panel \_\_\_\_\_ \$20

## Passes

**Film Pass** \_\_\_\_\_ \$149

Admits holder to regular film screenings (excludes Opening Gala & special event films)

**Gold Pass** \_\_\_\_\_ \$299

Admits holder to regular film screenings, Opening Gala, End of Festival Bash, all *In Conversation With*, ConVerge (with party).

**Platinum Pass** \_\_\_\_\_ \$519

Admits holder to all regular film screenings, Opening Gala, End of Festival Bash, SpringBoard Industry Pass Access, Sips 'n Cinema. Pass provides reserve seating up to 20 minutes before screening.

**SpringBoard Industry Pass** \_\_\_\_\_ \$99

Admits holder to Friday Opening Talks and panel, three Networking Receptions, all *In Conversation With*...

**Sidney Pass** \_\_\_\_\_ \$109

Admits holder to all regular screenings in Sidney. *Cannot be used at any screenings in Victoria.*

**Note:** A generous allotment of seats are reserved for pass holders who are seated on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is not guaranteed. Recommended arrival time is 30 minutes prior to screening.

## Film Festival Membership Information

*Membership has its privileges.*

In British Columbia, the only way to view unclassified films is to be a member of the Society showing the films, and be over the age of 18—that's the law, even if the film would only get a G rating.

The Victoria Film Festival screens unclassified films. That's why you have to have a membership — which costs just \$2.

Once you're a member of the Victoria Film Festival Society, you can attend the 2016 Victoria Film Festival and see films year-round at The Vic Theatre at 808 Douglas Street; film listings at [www.thevic.ca](http://www.thevic.ca).

# VICTORIA

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