

WIFTV

18TH ANNUAL
VIWFF VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN IN FILM
FESTIVAL



In Person: VIFF Centre
Online: March 12-25
www.vifff.ca

March 7-11, 2023

WIFTV and VIWFF gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We will continue to learn (and unlearn) about the ongoing legacy of colonialism, uplift Indigenous talent through our festival and programming, and support Indigenous voices in leadership positions.

We encourage all settlers to read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC): Calls to Action and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

“The manner in which we are taught to make films strips humanity from situations. It’s only about numbers, logistics and product, instead of community.”

- Two-Spirit, nonbinary filmmaker

We encourage all studios, production companies, producers, funders and decision makers in the film and television industry to reevaluate current filmmaking models. They are unethical, militaristic, and have deep ties to white supremacy.

Welcome from Staff

We’re grateful to be back in person for our biggest event of the year!

Thank you to each and every one of you for being here with us today. We are very pleased to be able to welcome those of you that have been with us for a long time now as well as those who are new to the WIFTV community.

“Overcoming” was the central theme shared by VIWFF programmers this year when curating our film selection, and it couldn’t be closer to the heart of all the planning and care that went into bringing this festival to you.

Today marks our 18th annual festival, and we are proud to be able to host it and showcase the work of these talented filmmakers.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Eli, Patrycja, and Paula

Welcome from the Board

Our warmest and most sincere welcome to our beloved community of film-watchers as you begin to explore this year's exciting selection of films at the 2023 Vancouver International Women in Film Festival.

Through thick and thin, your support means everything to our organization. We continue to strive to bring stories of equity-deserving groups to your screens, in particular as they pertain to issues of gender equity.

Effecting change isn't something that happens overnight, and WIFTV owes its 34 years of advocacy and efforts to the dedication and commitment of its members, its current and former board members, and its current and former staff. VIWFF, now in its 18th year, also owes an immense debt of gratitude to our staff, volunteers, generous sponsors and community partners.

As you celebrate this year's curation of films, we invite you to reflect on the meaning and importance of the theme, "overcoming." Each and every one of us is overcoming something. And as a collective of equity-deserving filmmakers, we are overcoming lifetimes of injustice.

Our commitment to fighting injustice is showcased through these films and the efforts of those striving to make and disseminate these stories. Likewise, your valued presence at VIWFF supports us in these efforts.

We hope you take the time to enjoy, reflect, connect, and revel in this experience. You've earned it.

Ana'isa Visser & Regina Leung | Co-Presidents, WIFTV

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Schedule

Meet VIWFF's Programmers



Tristin Greyeyes | Lead Programmer

Tristin Greyeyes is Nehiyaw, Ojibway, and Anishinaabe from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. A lifelong learner, Tristin holds a certificate in Media Arts Production, a diploma in Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking, and a bachelor's degree in motion picture arts at Capilano University. She is interested in intersectional feminism, Land Back, and is determined to empower Indigenous voices across Turtle Island through the art of filmmaking.

Tristin is a proud mom, an artist, a creator and a visual storyteller. She has worked for stop-motion animation Indigenous-led production house Spotted Fawn Productions. Tristin also produced several short films, *I'm Not Next*, and was the editing mentee on the independent feature film *The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open*.



Laura Arboleda | Shorts Programmer

Laura Arboleda is a queer Colombian-Mestizo filmmaker and programmer. She holds a BFA in Film Production from Simon Fraser University and is an alum of Vancouver International Film Festival's Mentorship Program. Her previous short films have screened in festivals and venues across North America, Asia, and Europe. She continues to expand her film practice, making short documentaries and process-based experimental films.

Her work explores themes of shared memories and spaces. Laura is the Senior Programmer with Vancouver Short Film Festival and serves on the Board of Directors for WIFT Vancouver.



Mikaela Asfour | Features Programmer

Originally from Montreal, Mikaela holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia and a B.A. in Psychology from McGill University. Her prior programming experience includes three years supporting the Vancouver International Film Festival's annual fall festival and year-round education programs, most recently in the role of Program Coordinator.

As an appreciator of arts and cultural festivals, she has worked with several local arts nonprofits including the Vancouver Writers Fest. In her screenwriting, she likes exploring intersections of physical and mental health by embracing the uncanny with a touch of dark humour.

	Tuesday March 07	Wednesday March 08	Thursday March 09	Friday March 10	Saturday March 11
10:00 AM		● Intimacy Coordinating in Hollywood North	● Cinematography Workshop	● Screenwriting Competition Panel	● Directing Panel
12:00 PM		● Advocacy Panel	● 12:30PM Table Reads Tricksters and Writers	● Feature Las Abogadas	● Shorts Program Blue
2:00 PM		● Panel + Screening She Said			
3:00 PM			○ 3:30PM Short and Feature Mistik + Expedition Reclamation	● Shorts Program Yellow	● Awards Ceremony
6:00 PM		● Shorts Program Red	● Shorts Program Green	● Feature Some Women	● Closing Night Feature Stellar
7:00 PM	● Opening Night Feature Broken Angel				
9:00 PM	● Opening Reception VIFF Centre	● Feature Among Us Women	● Feature Rosie	● 8:30PM Feature Everybody Wants to Be Loved	● Closing Gala Brass Fish

Legend:

- Shorts
- Features
- Panels / Workshops
- Events
- Film Block

All events held at **Vancity Theatre** (1181 Seymour St.) unless otherwise stated





Awards Ceremony

Saturday, March 11, 2023 3:00 PM | Free
Vancity Theatre

VIWFF is excited to present a range of awards to our filmmakers, including the following:

Features

- Best Feature *sponsored by IATSE 891*
- Best Performance *sponsored by UBCP/ACTRA*
- Best Cinematography *sponsored by SIM International*
- Best Impact *sponsored by Elevate*
- Best Direction *sponsored by DGC BC*
- Best Screenplay *sponsored by CFA Law*
- Best Documentary *sponsored by Pacific Backlot*
- Best Editing *by VPA and CCE*

Shorts

- Best Short *sponsored by MBS Equipment Canada*
- Best Performance *sponsored by Lucas Talent*
- Best Cinematography *sponsored by Keslow Camera*
- Best Impact *sponsored by Capilano*
- Best Direction *sponsored by DGC BC*
- Best Editing *sponsored by CINELEASE Vancouver*

Matrix Best of BC

- Awarded to the top 3 films from BC (shorts or features)

Screenplay Competition Awards

- Best Pilot *sponsored by LintBucket Media*
- Best Feature *sponsored by Birns & Sawyer*

Workshops, Events and Panels

CINEMATOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 9, 10:00 AM (2 hours)

Cinematographers Suzanne Friesen and Kate Smith dive into their film projects and speak about their individual trajectories, highlighting the creative opportunities and challenges of working as a cinematographer.

INTIMACY COORDINATING IN HOLLYWOOD NORTH

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:00 AM (2 hours)

Join Megan Gilron and Phay Moores as they share some of their experiences in Vancouver alongside the folks who hired them for their films. Featuring scenes from award winning *Golden Delicious* (dir. Jason Karman) and VIWFF's world premiere of *Stay* (dir. King Louie Palomo), guests will have a chance to witness intimacy scenes filmed locally, with a group discussion about the process and outcome of those scenes. Megan and Phay will be joined by *Golden Delicious*' producer Kristyn Stilling and *Stay*'s director/producer King Louie Palomo to highlight this discussion.

Content considerations: This panel will feature two isolated intimacy scenes featuring simulated sex and implied nudity. These scenes have been choreographed and coordinated by experienced and professional Intimacy Coordinators.

ADVOCACY PANEL

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 12:15 PM (1.5 hours) | Free | Online and In Person

VIWFF hosts a conversation with major government film and television funding agencies and organisations as we challenge ourselves—and the systems that support our film and television industry in Canada—to become more inclusive and representative. *ASL interpretation*

This panel is a live streamed event available both online and at Vancity Theatre.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SHE SAID SCREENING + PANEL

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:00 PM (Film: 129 minutes) | Maria Schrader, Director

New York Times reporters Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor break one of the most important stories in a generation – a story that helped launch the #MeToo movement and shattered decades of silence around the subject of sexual assault in Hollywood.

We are pleased to be hosting this special presentation of *She Said* followed by a panel discussion with Zelda Perkins, Julie Macfarlane, (Co-Founder of the *Can't Buy My Silence* campaign), Sonia Furstenau (Leader of the Green Party), and Jennifer Khor (Executive Director at SHARP Workplaces)

The panel is a live streamed event, available both online and at Vancity Theatre.

Workshops, Events and Panels (continued)

TABLE READS: TRICKSTERS AND WRITERS

Thursday, March 9, 2023 12:00 PM (2 hours) | Free

Tricksters and Writers is a screenwriting program hosted through WIFTV for Indigenous Pałki:s (wwomen, Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer) screenwriters. Since kicking off our National Edition last summer, program participants have been hard at work, crafting their stories for the screen. In this table-read event, two of the program's writers will share excerpts of their works performed live by local Indigenous actors.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION PANEL

Friday, March 10, 2023 10:00 AM (2 hours) | Free

Join us for a conversation with the ten finalists of this year's VIWFF Screenplay Competition. This panel champions English-language feature screenplays and offers screenwriters a forum for collaboration and networking.

Special thanks to the volunteer readers, jurors and VIWFF Screenplay Competition Coordinator, Joan Macbeth, and to the International Screenwriters Association (ISA), for their sponsorship.

DIRECTING PANEL

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 AM (2 hours)

Join us for a roundtable conversation with *Broken Angel* director Jules Koostachin and Victoria Bruce, director of *Las Abogadas: Attorneys on the Front Lines of the Migrant Crisis*. An in-depth look at two filmmakers as they discuss their directorial choices and processes, both in the documentary and narrative space.



Opening and Closing

Film and Events



Opening Feature

BROKEN ANGEL

Jules Arita Koostachin, Director
Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 PM (88 minutes)

Spurred into action by the unsettled spirit of her late mother, Angel flees from domestic abuse with her daughter Tanis in tow. In the safety of a women's shelter on their reservation, they find comfort by reconnecting with their Cree culture and kin. But it won't be long before their abuser tracks them down – and Angel must prepare her spirit for confrontation. A thrilling tale of survival, strength, and kinship, with an appealing genre twist.
Open Captioned

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers and the festival opening reception. *ASL Interpretation*

Opening Reception

VIWFF's opening reception will be held at VIFF Centre. Guests can enjoy music, refreshments and snacks among great company as we celebrate the beginning of our 18th annual festival.

Closing Feature

STELLAR

Darlene Naponse, Director
Saturday, March 11, 6:00 PM (87 minutes)

In a Northern Ontario bar, SHE (Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, magnificent) and HE (Braeden Clarke, soulful) wait out the apocalypse. Natural disasters are raging outside. Settlers are panicking: the world is on fire. But for those who have never known privilege, the world has always been ending. And it soon will be reborn, through the cosmic power of a lover's touch. Darlene Naponse's surreal Indigenous romance unfolds in the poetic "fluidity of time, touch, realism and reverie."

Includes English subtitles.

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers and the festival closing gala. *ASL Interpretation*

Closing Gala

VIWFF's Closing Gala will be held at Brass Fish Tavern at 385 Burdard St. Join us as we celebrate the closing night of the festival with music, food, refreshments and an exciting WIFTV announcement! *ASL Interpretation*

Telefilm Canada

Message from the Interim Executive Director and CEO

We could not be more excited to return to events that allow us to celebrate the artistry of film and showcase Canadian creatives around the world and at home. That is why we are proud to support the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival!

At Telefilm, our mission is to elevate authentic storytelling. Our priority is to reflect the diversity of our country on screen and bring representation to the forefront of our initiatives and programs.

We want to thank and congratulate Vancouver International Women in Film Festival for its continued support in building connections and collaboration in promoting and exporting Canadian content and talent for the world to see.

Francesca Accinelli
Interim Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada

TELEFILM
C A N A D A

**PARTNER
OF ▶
CHOICE**

A PROUD CHAMPION OF
CANADIAN TALENT AND STORIES,
AT HOME AND ABROAD.

**TELEFILM IS AT THE HEART
OF THE CANADIAN
AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRY.**

TELEFILM.CA    



2023
Program

Features



AMONG US WOMEN ስኛ ስሌቶች መካከል
Sarah Noa Bozenhardt, Director
Tuesday, March 7, 9:00 PM (92 minutes)

Hulu Ager, a soft-spoken farmer, is expecting her fourth child. Like many women in the rural village of Megendi, she is reluctant to give birth at the distant medical centre. Through intimate, slice-of-life footage, this breathtaking documentary shines a light on a young mother's hopes, concerns, and dreams as she opts for the comfort and risk of a traditional home birth. A fascinating window into questions of self-determination in Ethiopia's shifting landscape of maternity care. *Subtitled.*

Canadian premiere



EXPEDITION RECLAMATION
Erin Nash, Director
Thursday, March 9, 3:00 PM (45 minutes)

Shot in beautiful Washington, this refreshing documentary interlaces the voices of twelve BIPOC women who are reclaiming outdoor recreation spaces as a source of healing and joy. In discussing their roots, the subjects of Expedition Reclamation retrace how the legacy of colonialism has disrupted historical connections to the land. This inspiring film explores the diverse ways in which inclusive community efforts have the power to foster belonging, comfort, and body positivity in outdoor culture. *Open Captioned*

Canadian premiere



MISTIK
Jules Koostachin, Director
Thursday, March 9, 3:00 PM (26 Minutes)

MisTik is a powerful post-apocalyptic film from renowned filmmaker Dr. Jules Arita Koostachin. The story follows Cree twins (Pawaken Koostachin-Chakasim and Tapwewin Koostachin-Chakasim) who literally carry nature's last hope on their backs. In a wild and treacherous journey through an uncertain and desolate space, the twins must battle the elements with the hopes of saving what is left of the world they once knew. *Open Captioned*



ROSIE
Gail Maurice, Director
Thursday, March 9, 9:00 PM (90 minutes)

Montreal, 1984. Upon the death of her estranged Indigenous adoptive sister, Frédérique (a street-smart Francophone artist on the verge of eviction) is suddenly tasked with raising her bubbly and inquisitive niece, Rosie. Initially reluctant, Fred can't help but grow attached. But to keep Rosie in her custody, she'll need to get her life in order, first. Buoyed by a vibrant 80s-inspired soundtrack, this delightful, heartwarming dramedy explores growth through hardship, and the joys of found family. *Subtitled*

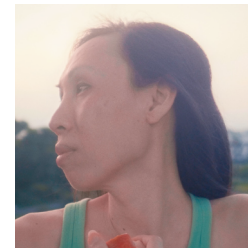
Features (continued)



LAS ABOGADAS: ATTORNEYS ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE MIGRANT CRISIS
Victoria Bruce, Director
Friday, March 10, 12:00 PM PST (95 minutes)

This powerful humanitarian documentary follows the efforts of four valiant immigration attorneys over a multi-year odyssey, starting in 2018— as the Trump administration sets up policies making it nigh-impossible for those fleeing from violence and war to seek asylum in the United States—and, into 2021, as the refugee crisis fails to improve under the Biden administration. A moving cri-de-coeur highlighting the arduous roads walked by refugees, and the urgency of combatting a broken system. This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers. *Subtitled*

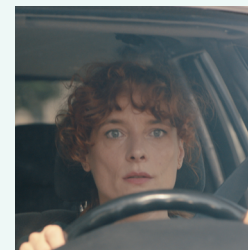
Canadian premiere



SOME WOMEN
Quen Wong, Director
Friday, March 10, 6:00 PM PST (71 minutes)

A trans filmmaker from conservative Singapore embarks on a revelatory emotional quest to love herself completely by confronting her pre-transition photographs. Through intimate footage, archival photos, and compelling voice-over narration, Quen Wong has crafted a deeply moving love letter to multiple generations of trans women: from the pioneering queer communities of the original Bugis street dating back to the 1950s-80s, to today's Singaporean youth protesting for the right to transition while in high school. *Subtitled*

BC premiere



EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LOVED (ALLE WOLLEN GELIEBT WERDEN)
Katharina Woll, Director
Friday, March 10, 9:00 PM (80 minutes)

In this exquisitely written dramedy, psycho-therapist Ina notices that something is wrong with her health— but on the day of her high-maintenance mother's 70th birthday party, she doesn't have time to worry about herself. Her partner wants her to move to Finland for his career, much to her moody teen daughter's dismay. Ina wants to please everyone, but something has to give. A new revelation prompts her to rethink her priorities. *Subtitled*

Canadian premiere

Shorts Program: Red

Wednesday, March 8, 6:00PM



IT'S WHAT EACH PERSON NEEDS

Sophy Romvari, Director (11 minutes)

In this intimate documentary we follow a caretaker and the two juxtaposing worlds she inhabits.

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



MY EYES ARE UP HERE

Nathan Morris, Director (13 minutes)

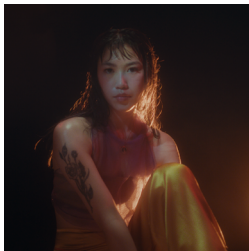
Sonya is a super-busy, sought-after model, and dating doesn't really fit her lifestyle. However, a one-night stand with a clumsy but considerate man forces her to change perspective and calls to attention her ableist surroundings. *Subtitled.*



YOUNG PEOPLE, OLD PEOPLE & NOTHING IN BETWEEN

Parida Tantiwasadakran, Director (20 minutes)

It's a grand world for 7-year-old Juice when her best friend, Grandma Lovely, is around. But their days of happiness begin getting interrupted by Grandma's bizarre behaviour. Juice goes on a mission to help Grandma Lovely retain as many memories as possible before she is forgotten. *Subtitled.*

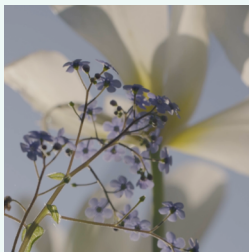


LÉ

Solara Thanh-Binh Dâng & Ella Nguyen, Directors (1 minute)

A dark, feminine short film about a young Vietnamese woman who reclaims her name and ponders a violent revenge on her controlling in-law family. Using sensual hallucinations, this experimental film draws you in and highlights body reclamation. *Subtitled.*

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



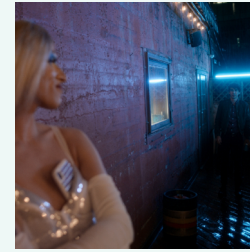
TELL YOU ABOUT: THE BIRDS AND THE BEES, SAGITTARIUS RISING

Pollyanna Popermâjer, Director (15 minutes)

To the images of awakening spring, a woman reflects on her own identity, birth and the blooming season. By saying goodbye to what once was, she accepts her altered new self after trauma. But with anger of what was taken from her, she's determined to seek justice. *Subtitled.*

Shorts Program: Red

Wednesday, March 8, 6:00PM

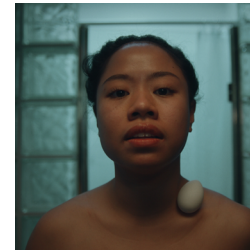


STAY

King Louie Palomo, Director (22 minutes)

On her last night in town, drag queen Ivy Diamonds (played by Kendall Gender) has a chance encounter with Ryan, a local artist. Over the course of the night the two find comfort and clarity in each other in this intimate Vancouver story. *Open Captioned*

Q&A after screening with King Louie Palomo (director/writer), Stephanie Cardona (writer), Kenneth Wyse aka Kendall Gender (lead cast), and Riley Davis (lead cast)



SHALLOTS AND GARLIC

Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto, Director (18 minutes)

When polar opposite sisters Nur and Karina reunite for their grandparents' wedding anniversary dinner, Karina starts itching and blames Nur for putting garlic in her food. *Subtitled.*

Shorts Program: Green

Thursday, March 9, 6:00 PM

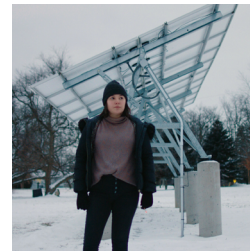


THE RETRIEVAL

Aree Kapa, Director (13 minutes)

A young man is faced with the decision of whether to risk the most important thing in his life to fulfil a promise to his elders. After all, if it's already yours, it's not stealing, right?

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



MEET THE SKY

KJ Edwards, Director (14 minutes)

Two sisters who grew up in foster care make a trip together to a reservation to learn about Kanien'kehá:ka culture. As the stark reality of a terminal illness bubbles to the surface, the sisters struggle to see eye to eye on how to proceed with treatment. *Subtitled*

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.

Shorts Program: **Green**

Thursday, March 9, 6:00 PM



FIFTY-FOUR DAYS

Cat White and Phoebe Torrance, Directors (18 minutes)

When tragedy strikes, a spirited young woman turns to extraordinary lengths in search of answers. By swimming each day at dawn and forming an unlikely friendship, she learns to accept her grief and the grief of those around her. *Open Captioned*

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



THREE

Amelia Sears, Director (15 minutes)

A weekend away at the seaside is Ellie's first family holiday since she and her husband Nick had Harry. But holidays are not like they used to be. Neither is her marriage or her body. *Open Captioned*



AHU

Mahsa Razavi, Director (14 minutes)

In a bedbug infested apartment, graduate student Ahu attempts to overcome insomnia and stay afloat as her life becomes increasingly entangled with her troubled neighbour. Through this relationship the women begin a process of self-discovery and healing. *Open Captioned*

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



THE SKY IS VERY PRETTY

Aracely Méndez, Director (17 minutes)

This touching documentary immerses us in the lives of mothers and daughters who are forced to flee their country of origin and pass through Mexico. We intimately explore their varying viewpoints and the ways they carry their fears, dreams and a future of hope.

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



THE POLITICS OF TOHEROA SOUP

Tiana Trego Hall, Director (9 minutes)

The Politics of Toheroa Soup is Tiana Trego Hall's personal story of her whānau and their traditional kai, the protected giant surf clam, toheroa.

Once a plentiful food source for iwi across New Zealand, toheroa were gathered to near collapse after word of their deliciousness spread around the world. *Open Captioned*

Shorts Program: **Yellow**

Friday, March 10, 3:00 PM



GLASS DOLL

Omorose Osagie, Director (5.5 minutes)

In this evocative animated piece, we meet a less than perfect porcelain doll who roams a post-apocalyptic world repairing other broken toys. One day she is forced to decide between giving up her closest friend and fixing herself. *Open Captioned*

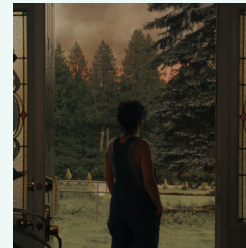
This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



AS STARS OUT THERE

Einav Nitzani, Director (12 minutes)

A civil defence siren during the Gulf War forces four women to shelter together for several hours. Adding to this already stressful situation, family tensions and grudges emerge, forcing everyone to confront the fears and anxiety that their daily routines had previously kept under the surface. *Subtitled*



SEND THE RAIN

Hayley Gray, Director (13 minutes)

Set against the backdrop of destructive wildfires in British Columbia, Alice is forced to choose between staying at the family farm and risking her life, or following an evacuation order and leaving everything she has ever known. *Subtitled*

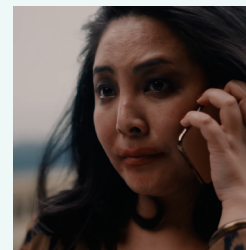
This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



THE MIDWIFE (LA VENTRIERE)

Anne-Sophie Bailly, Director (29 minutes)

In the French Jura mountains, at the end of the fictitious Middle Ages, Else is an herbalist and a midwife. Her daily practice with her young apprentice, Nicole, is met with a disturbance: a stranger rides in on a horse, demanding that all the women of the village gather in its small church. *Subtitled*



CALLS FROM A BRIDGE

Ali Liebert, Director (5 minutes)

Alone on an empty bridge, and dressed in last night's party dress, Jules makes a series of rambling phone calls in a desperate attempt to keep the party going. As the messages go unanswered, she is forced to face her inner demons and reach out for help. *Open Captioned*

Shorts Program: **Yellow**

Friday, March 10, 3:00 PM



WE ARE NOT SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE Danika St-Laurent, Director (8 minutes)

Thinking back on her only phone call with her maternal grandmother, Danika explains her connection to her Indigenous identity (and her grandmother) through beadwork. *Subtitled*



GOOD GRIEF Stefany Mathias, Director (15 minutes)

After receiving news that her grandmother has died, an Indigenous woman returns to her childhood home. Anxious to face relatives after a long absence, she tries to bring in her newly recovered Indigenous identities and practices to her Caucasian family. *Open Captioned*

Shorts Program: **Blue**

Saturday, March 11, 12:00 PM



FOR HEIDI Lucy Campbell, Director (10 minutes)

Thirteen-year-old Heidi is sent home from school for breaking the rules with a giant blue and black mohawk. Furious and upset, she gathers the support of her friend Dee and her father and prepares for battle.



MOTHER'S SKIN Leah Johnston, Director (19 minutes)

Newfoundland, 1971. A neglected six-year-old girl struggles to cope with a chaotic home life. Her vivid imagination serves as a tool to protect her from the difficulty of her reality and leads her to uncover a secret from her mother's past. *Open Captioned*

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.

Shorts Program: **Blue**

Saturday, March 11, 12:00 PM



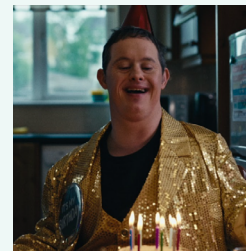
BERTIE WROTE ME A POEM Vittoria Rizzardi Penalosa, Director (18 minutes)

Fifteen-year-old Vittoria skips school one day and secretly goes to the hospital to take the morning-after pill. As she manoeuvres the long and tedious hospital process, Vittoria struggles to keep a difficult secret. *Subtitled*



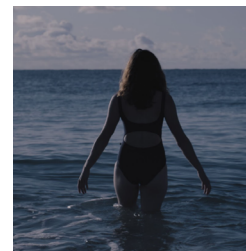
N'XAXAITK' Asia Youngman, Director (12 minutes)

After moving to a new town, a teenager must navigate peer pressure when her next-door neighbour convinces her to explore a nearby island in search of a legendary lake monster. However, she quickly learns that her new friends might be harbouring some secrets and ulterior motives of their own. *Open Captioned*



HEADSPACE Aisling Byrne, Director (16 minutes)

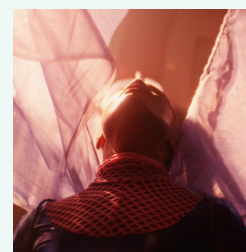
As the tensions and frustrations of life in a community house start to close in on him, a young man with Down Syndrome realises he may have to cross a line to end a nightly disturbance. *Subtitled*



TIDAL Chloe Van Landschoot and Niamh Wilson, Directors (10 minutes)

In a visceral exploration of mental health, an overwhelmed bedside nurse is forced to navigate increasing waves of disconnect from her outside world. To survive, she must find a way to exit her increasingly turbulent mind and re-enter her body.

This screening will be followed by a Q&A panel with the filmmakers.



TABANCA Lauren Marsden, Director (12 minutes)

Dampened by office life during a wet Vancouver winter, a gender-queer Trinidadian woman, Marlinn, misses out on the chance to celebrate Carnival season back home. Until, one night, they discover that the power of masquerade is within them no matter where they are.

Thank you to our WIFTV plus members!

Alexandra La Roche
Alexandra Raffe
Amanda Tapping
Andria Spring
Annette Reilly
Aren X. Tulchinsky
Barbara Schoemaker
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Cat Girczyc
Cheryl Nex
Christine Willes
Crisanta Sampang
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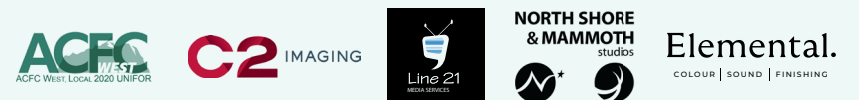
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The background features a diagonal split between a vibrant pink upper section and a light teal lower section, with a white central area where the text is located.

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