



GEM
FEST

19 YEARS
CELEBRATING
GENDER EQUITY
IN FILM

VIFF
CENTRE
MARCH
5 — 9
2024

GEMS gratefully acknowledges that we operate on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) peoples. These nations were the original stewards of these territories and have been caring for these lands and waters since time immemorial. We would also like to acknowledge the Stó:lō Nation, who use the waterways around these areas.

GEMS is dedicated to supporting and championing Indigenous voices and stories. We strive to ensure Indigenous representation on our board, in our programs and festival, on our selection committees, juries, and among selected participants and filmmakers. This year, as an increased effort, we have inaugurated the role of Indigenous Programming Coordinator at GEMFest.

We truly value equitable representation, and we pride ourselves on being an organization that does not shy away from growth and change as we continue to re-evaluate our position as advocates for equity.

As you partake in the offerings at GEMFest, we hope you will take the time to reflect on your position on these lands, and what it means to be occupying space here. We also encourage you to take in our Indigenous film offerings, as a means of supporting Indigenous filmmakers, and the communities they represent.

WELCOME TO GEMFEST 2024!

To our esteemed GEMFest attendees,

What a tremendous honour it is to share space with you once again, for our 19th annual film festival, our second back to in-person since the pandemic, and the first since our name change. A warm welcome to our returning guests who continue to support us, and a special welcome to newcomers!

We are so delighted to be showcasing a wonderful program of films in celebration of women and gender diverse creatives from around the world. Film, television, and media in a broader sense are platforms where marginalized and underrepresented voices can tell their unique stories, and we are here to champion those voices.

Every human life is shaped by the social lenses that an individual can see through, and GEMFest hopes that by intersecting various perspectives, we can help foster empathy and understanding. We strive to see a world in which differences inspire curiosity, not fear or violence, and we hope that while at GEMFest you will get to know some of the incredible people around the world whose stories are spurring change for the better in their communities.

GEMS and GEMFest would not exist without our funders, sponsors, community partners, members, board, staff, and community. We hope you have an enjoyable festival experience, and we encourage you to stay in touch with us year-round for our other offerings, via our newsletter and social media.

Sincerely,

The GEMS Staff and Board

Anaïsa Visser, Executive Director
Patrycja Mila Kamska, Programs & Events Manager
Shalyn Ferdinand, Communications & Outreach Manager

Gwen Haworth, President
Shasha McArthur, Vice President
Shaelyn Johnston, Secretary
Carmen Siegers, Treasurer
Laura Arboleda, Board Member
Alyssa Aussant, Board Member
Marena Dix, Board Member
Ghazal Elhaei, Board Member

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Dear GEMFest Sponsors,

On behalf of the Gender Equity in Media Festival (GEMFest) organizing committee, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous sponsorship of our 19th annual international film festival. Your support plays a pivotal role in advancing our mission to champion gender equity and diversity in media.

Your contribution has enabled us to amplify the voices of underrepresented filmmakers, challenge societal norms, and celebrate the richness of diversity in storytelling. Together, we are creating a platform where creativity knows no bounds and where every voice is heard and valued.

Thanks to you, GEMFest remains accessible to all, fostering meaningful dialogue and inspiring change within the industry and beyond. This year, we are able to continue to showcase an incredible array of talent from both established and emerging women and gender-diverse filmmakers worldwide.

Once again, thank you for your commitment and unwavering support to advancing gender equity in media. Your generosity has made so much possible for so many people. We look forward to collaborating again in the future as we move towards a more diverse and equitable film industry.

With gratitude,

The GEMS Team

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO, TELEFILM CANADA

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

In this ever-evolving cultural landscape, festivals continue to play an important role in the film industry, growing the talent pool, as well as allowing audiences to celebrate and connect with distinctive Canadian films and the talent behind them.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Roy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Julie' being more prominent than the last name 'Roy'.

Julie Roy
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



Celebrating gender equity with GEMFest

TELEFILM PARTNER
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CHOICE

TELEFILM.CA X f o in

MEET GEMFEST'S PROGRAMMERS



SADIE BARKER

Lead Programmer

Sadie Barker (she/her) is a cultural studies PhD student and the co-editor of *Refractions: A Journal of Postcolonial Cultural Criticism*. Currently, her research thinks about how ideas of “the frontier” (such as in the western genre or representations of wilderness) are transformed through anticolonial art and imagination. She has also, over the past years, worked in various arts and social sector nonprofits in Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto, and Berlin, and been enriched and enlightened by these communities. Today, she is grateful to have returned to the unceded territories of the *xwməθkwəy̓ əm*, *Sḵw̓xwú7mesh*, and *səlilwətał* Nations, and to here, continue to learn and strive to unlearn, play, and explore.

LAURA ARBOLEDA

Features 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.

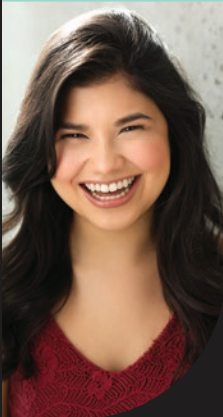
Her work explores themes of shared memories and spaces. Laura is the Senior Programmer with Vancouver Short Film Festival and serves on the Board of Directors for GEMS Vancouver.



FALY MEVAMANA

Shorts Programmer

Faly is an award nominated actor, writer, and creator who has worked in seven provinces across Canada. She has extensive experience both in front of and behind the camera, from being a production assistant, to acting in CBC’s *Moonshine*, to being the Director’s Assistant on *The Queen And Me*, which premiered at TIFF in September 2023. Last year, she was a writing shadow on *This hour Has 22 Minutes* and received a Canada Arts Council grant to mentor in screenwriting with Allana Roech. As a queer mixed race creator, Faly is driven to tell stories which showcase marginalized voices in a joyful way.



SCHEDULE

	FEATURES		PANELS/WORKSHOPS
	SHORTS		EVENTS

TUE March 5					6:30pm	9:00pm
					Opening Feature: Analogue Revolution	Opening Reception at VIFF Atrium
WED March 6		10:30am	1:00pm	3:30pm	6:00pm	8:30pm
		Meet the Directors Panel	Shorts: DAWN	Cinematic Visions Panel	Feature: The Tuba Thieves	Feature: I Have Electric Dreams
THURS March 7		10:30am	1:00pm	3:30pm	6:00pm	8:30pm
		Making Magic in Post Panel	Feature: Blue ID	Shorts: DAY	Feature: Swing and Sway	Feature: Labor
FRI March 8	9:30am	10:00am	12:30pm	3:00pm	6:00pm	8:30pm
	Pitch Forum	Screenplay Competition Panel	Advocacy Panel	Shorts: DUSK	Feature: Tautuk-tavuk (What We See)	Filmmaker Event: Offsite
SAT March 9		10:00am	12:30pm	3:00pm	6:00pm	9:00pm
		Producing in BC Panel	Shorts: NIGHT	Awards Ceremony	Closing Feature: The Love Stories of Liv S.	Closing Gala: Offsite

All events held at VIFF Centre (1181 Seymour St.) unless otherwise stated.

ANCILLARY PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

MEET THE DIRECTORS PANEL

Wed. March 6, 10:30am

The GEMFest Meet the Directors Panel brings together visionary filmmakers from our 2024 festival for a captivating discussion on the creative process. Delve into the intricacies of filmmaking as directors share their distinct perspectives and empowering storytelling that resonates across diverse audiences.

Moderated by Dr. Jules Koostachin, the award-winning filmmaker behind *Broken Angel*, the panel features Janessa St. Pierre of *Hair or No Hair*, Jaime Gianopoulos and Kayah George, directors of *Our Grandmother the Inlet*, and Mariam Barry, director of *Yaye*.

MAKING MAGIC IN POST

Thurs. March 7, 10:30am

GEMFest brings together a panel of post-production filmmakers for a dynamic discussion on the unique challenges and creative opportunities in the post-production process. From the final cut to colour correction, explore the cinematic craftsmanship in shaping compelling narratives.

Join Moderator Julia Niendorf, Editor and Post Production Producer in conversation with Coline Debray, Film Editor and Post Production Consultant, Sasha Tomasky, Film Editor and Post-Production Coordinator, and Anne Boyle, Online Editor and Colourist.

CINEMATIC VISIONS: A DISCUSSION ON VISUAL STORYTELLING

Wed. March 6, 3:30pm

GEMFest invites you to a panel celebrating women and gender-diverse perspectives in cinematography. Explore their insightful journey in a discussion on visual storytelling and diverse experiences in the industry.

Join Moderator Polly Pierce, the award-winning cinematographer behind *Where Everyone Lives* in conversation with Kaayla Whachell, Associate Member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers, Karina Jesson, whose work has been featured in TIFF Next Wave and Sundance Asia, and Belen Garcia, who was selected for the 2022-2023 ASC Vision Mentorship program.

PITCH FORUM

Fri. Mar 8, 9:30am

GEMFest Pitch Forum serves as a dedicated platform for filmmakers to present their projects to production companies, broadcasters, and distributors within the industry. Designed to empower and propel Canadian talent, this event offers a distinctive space for project development, networking, and exposure to influential figures in the film and television industry.

This year, GEMS is proud to welcome representatives from Anaid Productions, Boldly, Crystal Mountain Films, Knowledge Network, NFB, Omnifilm, Pink Buffalo, Resonance Films, and Telefilm.

Advance registration required.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION PANEL

Fri. March 8, 10:00am

GEMFest presents a panel of talented screenwriters whose screenplays reached the finals in our International Screenplay Competition. Join us for a captivating discussion as our panelists share insights into their storytelling journeys, illuminating the power of diverse narratives in cinema. Moderated by Joan Macbeth, Coordinator of the GEMFest Screenplay Competition.

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Feature Screenplay:

Della Haddock (Canada) - *Half Of Everything*

Alexis Krasilovsky (USA) & Shameem Akhtar (Bangladesh) - *Tuki The Tiger*

Chris Vautour (Canada) - *Dear Joan Jett*

TV Pilot:

Andrea Feltrin (Canada) - *Natural Habitat*

Meghan Hemingway (Canada) - *Addendum*

Lily Mercer (USA) - *Pocahontas: The Other Story*

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

Free Event

ADVOCACY PANEL

Fri. Mar 8, 12:30pm

Join us for our annual Advocacy Panel discussion focused on breaking down barriers to equity in the film and television industries. Engage in a conversation with influential funders, equity advocates and educators within the industry as they share insights into their efforts to further equity in the Canadian film and television landscape.

GEMFest is proud to welcome panelists Mehernaz Lentin (Telefilm Canada), Prem Gill (Creative BC), Kadon Douglas (BIPOC TV & Film), Tanvi Bhatia (Women in View), Sheila Peacock (CBC) and Tash Naveau (Indigenous Screen Office). Moderated by Anaïsa Visser (GEMS).

This panel is a live streamed event available both online and at VIFF Centre.

Free Event

PRODUCING IN BC PANEL

Fri. March 9 at 10:00am

GEMFest proudly presents a panel of accomplished B.C. producers, delving into the nuances of filmmaking in the region with a focus on ethical and inclusive practices. Gain valuable insights into fostering diversity and integrity in the production process, and shaping the future of filmmaking.

Join Moderator Liz Shorten, COO of the CMPA, in conversation with Sara Blake, acclaimed for *Seagrass* and *Until Branches Bend*, lori lozinski, award-winning filmmaker of *Little Bird* and more, Angelica Stirpe from Boldly, known for her work on major studio networks, Shelby Manton, Co-Founder and EP at Boldly, and Priyanka Desai, an award-winning TV producer.

VIRTUAL REALITY ART

Presented in partnership with Basically Good Media
Lab, Emily Carr University of Art & Design



THE LOCKDOWN

Mana Saei

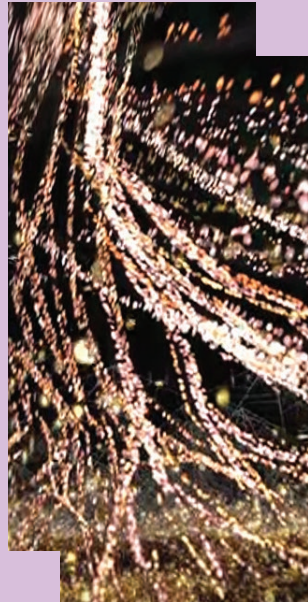
The Lockdown is a virtual gallery representing the COVID-19 era and the lockdown as a sonic and visual memory. The artist narrates the story from her perspective as an Iranian woman living in Canada, and through the patterns of Persian carpets. Carpets have witnessed all the challenges and emotions people have been through during the lockdown and represent a home space and the memories of those stay-at-home days. The main components of this installation include vocals in English and Farsi languages, field recordings from Vancouver, photographs of historical Persian carpets, and 3D visuals. This project is meant to be online-only, and is exceptionally presented in this format at GEMFest.

TREE EARTH SKY

Julie Andreyev, Maria Lantin

Tree Earth Sky is a VR experience that invites visitors to look and listen to an old-growth grove of trees. Old-growth forests are a living network of trees, plants, animals, below ground fungi and other lifeforms. These forest residents depend on one another, providing each other with water and nutrients. Humans also depend on intact forests and old trees who remove carbon from the atmosphere, contribute to precipitation, moderate weather for inland ecosystems, support our watersheds, and are wonderful to behold. The intention of Tree Earth Sky is to raise public awareness about these ancient beings and their complex ecosystems, with the hope to save the remaining stands in our region.

People who are prone to motion sickness have a risk of experiencing discomfort when using Virtual Reality.



AWARDS CEREMONY

SAT. MARCH 9, 3PM

GEMFest will proudly announce the nominees and winners of the festival awards, including:

FEATURES

- Best Feature
- Best Performance
- Best Cinematography
- Best Screenplay (Festival)
- Best Documentary
- Impact - Feature
- Best Direction

SHORTS

- Best Short
- Best Performance
- Best Cinematography
- Best Editing
- Impact - Short
- Best Direction

BEST OF BC

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

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION AWARDS

Meet the six finalists of this year's GEMFest Screenplay Competition, generously supported by International Screenwriters' Association (ISA). We will be announcing the winners for the categories of Best Pilot and Best Feature.

The GEMFest Awards Ceremony is a free event and open to all.

OPENING FEATURE



ANALOGUE REVOLUTION

Marusya Bociurkiw

Documentary, Canada (90 min)

Tues. March 5, 6:30pm

This feature-length documentary explores the rise and decline of an impactful feminist media movement in Canada, spanning the 1970s to the 90s. Faced with cutbacks, racism, and technological shifts, feminist storytellers from Halifax to Vancouver utilized cutting-edge media to address issues ranging from violence against women to reproductive health. *Analogue Revolution* highlights pioneers like Bonnie Sherr Klein and Sylvia D. Hamilton, alongside collectives such as Press Gang and *Our Lives: Black Women's Newspaper*. The film delves into Canada's first women of colour film festival, the inception of *Pedestal* (Canada's first feminist newspaper), and the impact of media during cutbacks and the 1989 *École Polytechnique* massacre. Emphasizing continuity, the documentary showcases contemporary BIPOC feminists employing analogue strategies for feminist digital networks, showcasing their ongoing contributions to the movement.

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

OPENING RECEPTION

The opening reception of GEMFest will take place at the VIFF Centre, located at 1181 Seymour St. Join us in extending a warm welcome to the filmmakers participating in GEMFest 2024.

CLOSING FEATURE



THE LOVE STORIES OF LIV S.

Anna Luif

Narrative, Switzerland (73 min)

Sat. March 9, 6:00pm

Liv Sandor, 38, following an argument with her boyfriend, sets off to wander the city, observing passers-by and reminiscing about her past loves. In all her relationships, there was always a turning point, when things started going downhill. On the streets of Zurich Liv faces her fears, joys and demons. In her third feature film, Swiss director Anna Luif tells the tragi-comical trajectory of an independent woman who learns to love on life's emotional rollercoaster. A rhythmic, colourful, collage-like journey into the mind and soul of modern women.

This screening is presented in partnership with the Consulate General of Switzerland.

Includes English subtitles.

This screening will be followed by the festival closing gala.

CLOSING GALA

The GEMFest Closing Gala is taking place at Earls Loft, located on the second floor at 1095 Mainland St. Join us in commemorating the final night of the festival with an evening of culinary delights, refreshments, and music, as we honour the talented filmmakers of GEMFest 2024.

FEATURES

THE TUBA THIEVES

Alison O'Daniel

Narrative, United States (92 min)

Wed. March 6, 6:00pm

A spate of robberies in Southern California schools had an oddly specific target: tubas. In this work of creative nonfiction, d/Deaf first-time feature director Alison O'Daniel presents the impact of these crimes from an unexpected angle. The film unfolds mimicking a game of telephone, where sound's feeble transmissibility is proven as the story bends and weaves to human interpretation and miscommunication. The result is a stunning contribution to cinematic language. O'Daniel has developed a syntax of deafness that offers a complex, overlaid, surprising new texture, which offers a dimensional experience of deafness and reorients the audience auditorily in an unfamiliar and exhilarating way.



I HAVE ELECTRIC DREAMS

Valentina Maurel

Narrative, Belgium, France & Costa Rica (103 min)

Wed. March 6, 8:30pm

Eva is a strong-willed, restless 16-year-old girl who lives with her mother, her younger sister and their cat, but desperately wants to move in with her estranged father. Clinging onto him as he goes through a second adolescence, she balances between the tenderness and sensitivity of teenage life and the ruthlessness of the adult world. Battered in a richly textured imagery and soaked in raw sensitivity, *I Have Electric Dreams* captures the thin line between love and hate, in a world where aggression and rage are intertwined with the vertigo of female sexual awakening.



FEATURES



BLUE ID

Burcu Melekoglu, Vuslat Karan

Documentary, Turkey (85 min)

Thurs. March 7, 1:00pm

On October 4, 2012, a beaming Rüzgar Erkoçlar received his first testosterone injection, a joyous occasion in his gender affirmation. Formerly a well-known actor throughout Turkey, Rüzgar embarks on this journey with the hope of leading a private life as a trans man. With a new job at a bakery and a supportive family and friends, things looked positive at first. However, upon being outed on Twitter, Rüzgar's journey is thrust onto the front pages. A media frenzy ensues, and the question of trans rights grip Turkey with Rüzgar the reluctant figure-head. It is against this backdrop that we join Rüzgar, and come to witness his experience as a trans man in the public eye, striving to live an authentic life.

SWING AND SWAY

Fernanda Pessoa, Adriana Barbosa

Narrative, Brazil (82 min)

Thurs. March 7, 6:00pm

The year in which everything radically changed, where real and invisible borders took on another dimension, is the root of this filmic provocation. Two girlfriends, separated by the North and South hemispheres of America, intend to dance in the tumult of images, violence, frustrations, and desires of the moment. They do it through correspondence, communicating through a blend of documentary, reflection, and experimentation, producing together a filmic archive of the present.



FEATURES

LABOR

Tove Pils

Documentary, Sweden (95 min)

Thurs. March 7, 8:30pm

A Swedish woman goes to San Francisco and becomes a sex worker in the city's lively underground scene. Narrated as a cinematic diary with a raw, honest and unfiltered authenticity.



TAUTUKTAVUK (WHAT WE SEE)

Lucy Tulugarjuk, Carol Kunnuk

Hybrid, Canada (82 min)

Fri. March 8, 6:00pm

Uyarak leaves her community in Nunavut for Montréal after a traumatic event in Igloolik. COVID-19 lockdowns exacerbate her separation from her sister, Saqpinak, blurring the lines between their fictional and real lives in the film directed by Lucy Tulugarjuk and Carol Kunnuk. Through Zoom calls, Uyarak discusses her healing journey from trauma and abuse, while Saqpinak navigates raising a family amidst domestic violence. When COVID-19 restrictions ease, Uyarak returns to Igloolik, where she reconnects with family and embarks on a healing journey. She and Saqpinak share stories and support before Uyarak heads back to Montréal. The film showcases vignettes of heartache and healing, blending the dramatic narrative with the lived reality of the characters and creators.



MESSAGE FROM THE HON. LANA POPHAM: MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORT

On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, welcome to the 19th Annual Gender Equity in Media Festival (GEMFest).

GEMFest spotlights and promotes the incredible value and importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion. This festival features an admirable selection of creative works by established and emerging female and gender diverse filmmakers from around the globe, including Indigenous, Canadian and B.C. creators. It harnesses the power of film to amplify voices and uplift perspectives that expand our collective point of view.

The B.C. government values diversity and we view it as a key strength of our province. We applaud the motion picture community in its efforts to do more and contribute to the creation of a welcoming and inclusive society. This is why innovative and aspirational events, such as GEMFest, are proudly supported by the Province through Creative BC.

Thank you to Gender Equity in Media Society Vancouver (GEMS), for their dedication to hosting this annual film festival. I applaud your determination and hard work. It is not an easy task to stage a successful, multi-day event every year. I commend your contributions to B.C.'s creative sector and for being such a positive agent for change in the province.

Sincerely,

**Hon. Lana Popham,
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport**

SHORTS — DAWN

WED. MARCH 6, 1:00PM



NISIKKASON LEX

Kaayla Whachell

Documentary, Canada (9 min)

Alexa navigates the world around her as a young Indigenous woman, actively building a safe space for herself and her friends to speak about life's hardships.



HAIR OR NO HAIR

*Janessa St. Pierre,
Courtenay Mayes*

Narrative, Canada (15 min)

A young Black woman has been hiding behind wigs for years until her Alopecia is exposed publicly. She uses this experience as a catalyst to break free of the shame she feels towards her baldness.



HEMATOMA

Babetida Sadjó

Narrative, Belgium &
Guinea-Bissau (18 min)

A woman breaks her silence on the abuse she suffers as a child, and in turn, experiences the systemic legal injustices facing victims. She decides to take action, herself.



SKIN

Leo Behrens

Experimental, United States
(7 min)

A poetic exploration of identity and self-discovery, using visual symbolism to depict a woman's transformation into a man. With the help of her inner manifestation, the ice man, she sheds her old skin and embraces her true identity.

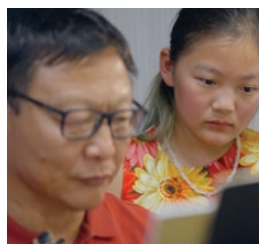


SWEATSHOP GIRL

Selma Cervantes

Narrative, Columbia (16 min)

Inés works as a seamstress in a sweatshop where pregnancy tests are periodically administered. When she becomes pregnant, she is sure that her condition will get her fired. She does everything she can to keep it a secret.



DUET

Lyuwei Chen

Documentary, China (30 min)

A parallel story about World-renowned musician Bright Sheng and his young daughter, a talented musician also. Duet explores how trauma and creative inspiration circulate intergenerationally through families.

SHORTS — DAY

THURS. MARCH 7, 3:30PM

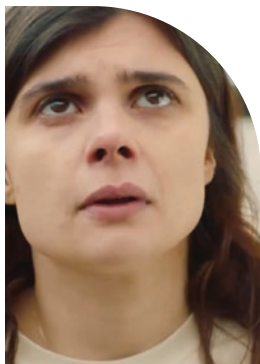


ROADSIDE BANQUET

Peiqi Peng

Narrative, China & United States (16 min)

An eleven-year-old girl turns into a feather duster at her baby brother's first birthday party, soon after learning her parents only ever wanted a boy.



BLUE

Sophie Rose Worger

Narrative, United Kingdom (10 min)

A father daughter relationship is tested as Dad drives Lucy to have her abortion and the two dance around what her future might hold.



YAYE

Mariam Barry

Narrative, Canada (14 min)

A young woman collides with the spirit world as she journeys towards her right to bodily autonomy.

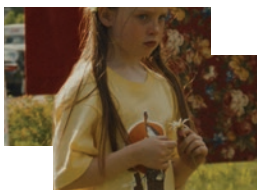


SISTERHOOD SOFTBALL

Farhiya Ahmed

Documentary, Canada (10 min)

On the softball pitch, surrounded by spectators, a community of Muslim women find joy and connection through play.



HEAT SPELL

Marie-Pier Dupuis

Narrative, Canada (14 min)

On a sweltering summer day, Maxime's irritation with her little sister Fred reaches feverish heights.



FÁR

Gunnur Martinsdóttir Schlüter

Narrative, Iceland (5 min)

A scheduled meeting is disrupted by a chance encounter with nature and the difficult choice it brings.



CHERRY

Laurence Gagné-Frégeau

Documentary, Canada (23 min)

An intimate encounter with Marie-Lise Chouinard, a radiant woman imbued with contagious liveliness, who has been given only a few months left to live. Cherry is the epitome of resilience, friendship, and hope.

SHORTS — DUSK

FRI. MARCH 8, 3:00PM



OUR GRANDMOTHER THE INLET

*Jaime Gianopoulos,
Kayah George*
Hybrid, Canada (9 min)

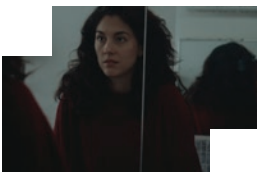
A poetic ode to the intergenerational connection, an interrogation of colonial industries, and a reclamation of water and land as kin.



MY DEAR

Hsin-Hui Huangt
Narrative, Taiwan (16 min)

Jia-Lin, a transgender theatre actress, finds herself bridging spaces when she performs a role on stage and is reunited with her adopted son.



STREETCAR

*Patrycja Mila Kamska,
Jasmine Bedingfield*
Narrative, Canada (15 min)

An acting class, a monologue performed, and a deep dive into the politics of both art and the classroom.



THIS LIGHT IS MY BIRTHPLACE

Shaun Soutar
Experimental, Canada (14 min)

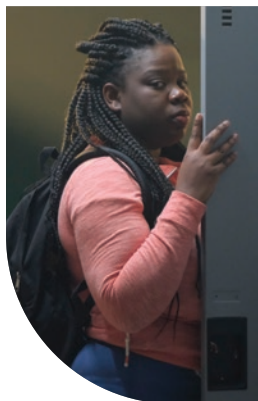
In this experimental doc, the transphobic narratives touted by dominant media are disrupted by authentic stories of experience, truth, and resilience, from the trans community.



YOU'RE SMART

Suri Parmar
Experimental, Canada (4 min)

An experimental meditation on the #MeToo movement, from the perspective of a woman of colour.



LOUD & HERE

Josiane Blanc
Documentary, Canada (12 min)

After noticing too many cases of sexual violence going unreported or unpunished within their own schools, 23 teen girls decide to take matters into their own hands.



AMANDINE FOR REAL

Salomé Richard
Narrative, Belgium (25 min)

Salomé embarks with Amandine and her team on the shooting of her film. Torn between her hidden ambitions and real contingencies, Salomé struggles with her story.

SHORTS — NIGHT

SAT. MARCH 9, 12:30PM



REDLIGHTS

Eva Thomas

Narrative, Canada (14 min)

An innocent evening out at a local bar takes a life and death turn for two Indigenous women.

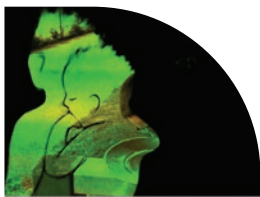


ANY PLACE

Minerva Rivera Bolaños

Narrative, Mexico (13 min)

A sexually abused 5-year-old girl decides to go after the guilty.



TWO ONE TWO

Shira Avni

Animation, Canada (4 min)

Two One Two combines shimmering clay on glass animation. It's a story about the personal and the familial: a love letter to motherhood, parenting on the spectrum, and two headed monsters everywhere.



OF(F)LOVE

Alba Pino

Narrative, Spain (12 min)

Carina hates love, but she can't help looking for it. Maybe today, when she has a date after a long time, will be her lucky day. Or maybe not.



INNER DEMONS

Jasmine J. Johnson

Narrative, United States (11 min)

A young woman living with depression is forced to confront the darkness lurking within.



PECCADILLO

Sofia Garza-Barba

Narrative, Mexico & United States (25 min)

Lorenzo's desire to explore his feminine side is a secret, and according to his religious family, secrets belong to the devil. With a choice to make, he'll either live a lie, or come out to his loved ones by killing his secret and the devil himself.

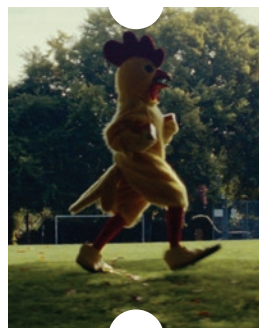


PISS ON PATRIARCHY

Lena Fakler

Narrative, Germany (9 min)

Marie is driving on the highway and needs to pee urgently. But the toilet at the rest stop is broken. And an increasingly absurd odyssey through this toxic male biotope begins for Marie—and ends in blood.



CHICKEN

Lucy McNulty, Emma Pollard

Narrative, Canada (14 min)

A down-on-her-luck, recently single 30-something is forced to move back into her childhood home. As she reconnects with her brother who has Down syndrome, will their differences drive them apart? Or will they see they're more similar than either of them thought?

THANK YOU TO OUR GEMS MEMBERS!

Dear GEMS Members

On behalf of Gender Equity in Media Society (GEMS) Vancouver, we extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your invaluable support and commitment to our cause. Your decision to join our community signifies not only a personal investment but also a powerful endorsement of our collective mission for gender equity in media.

With your generous support, you are not merely sustaining our organisation; you are fueling a movement. Your contributions directly enable us to spearhead advocacy initiatives, develop impactful programming, host engaging events, and curate an inclusive festival that amplifies marginalised voices.

Your membership and continued support symbolises a shared commitment to effecting tangible change. Together, we are rewriting the narrative and reshaping the industry for the better.

As we embark on this journey together, please know that your support is truly appreciated and deeply valued. Your dedication inspires us to continue pushing boundaries and striving for a future where equity and inclusivity are not aspirations, but realities.

Once again, thank you for joining us!

With heartfelt appreciation,

The GEMS Team

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The success of the Gender Equity in Media Festival is made possible by a large community of dedicated and generous volunteers. We remain deeply grateful for the unwavering support and tireless efforts of these volunteers, including our evaluation and selection committee, and our event volunteers!

GEMFEST GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF

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