

# Canadian films have it all.

Celebrate the richness of Canadian storytelling. Weekly updates deliver fresh releases to inspire, entertain, and immerse you in the vibrant world of Canadian cinema!

seeitall.telefilm.ca

### TELEFILM CANADA





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### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
About VAFF	03
Vision and Mission	03
Team	04
Ticketing & Screening Protocols	05
Policies and accessibility	06
Schedule	07
Welcome Letters	08
Special Greetings	09
WestCoast Tales Program	10
In-Theatre Programs	11
Virtual Programs	29
OVASIAN Awards Ceremony	43
VAFF Industry Insight Series	44
VAFF Film Fund	45
MAMM	46
Elimin8Hate	47
Film Index	49
Sponsors	51

### VISION STATEMENT

A world where Asian Canadian stories are integral to Canada's cultural narrative while boldly reshaping the media landscape and redefining what it means to be Canadian.

### MISSION STATEMENT

We champion authentic Asian Canadian and global Asian diasporia representation by showcasing, mentoring, training and nurturing storytellers at every stage of their creative journey while building a vibrant, connected ecosystem of Asian voices on all storytelling platforms.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xwmakwayam (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities that have cared for Turtle Island since time immemorial. With this acknowledgment, we remind ourselves of discriminatory, racist, and colonial practices that have and continue to create barriers for Indigenous Peoples and Communities across this land.

### **ABOUT VAFF**

Since its founding in 1995 and debut in 1997. the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) has become a transformative force in Canada's cinematic landscape, championing the diversity of Asian stories within Canada and globally. As the country's longest-running Asian film festival, VAFF is more than an annual event - it is a cultural hub for creative voices that transcends boundaries and opens nuanced cultural dialogues. Each year, VAFF captivates thousands with its hybrid screenings, blending in-theatre and virtual experiences, while also fueling year-round conversations with its programming. Powered by a dedicated and passionate community of volunteers, sponsors, and donors, VAFF continues to push the envelope making space for new narratives and spotlighting underrepresented stories that reflect the complexity and richness of the Asian diaspora within a global context and a rapidly evolving entertainment landscape.



"BEYOND ASIAN"
this year's theme,
spotlights unique
Asian filmmakers
and story
protagonists who
bravely express
bold visions beyond
every expectation

Donate to VAFF to support Diversity in Film. As VAFF is not a registered charity, we cannot issue official donation receipts.



# TEAM

#### **Board of Directors**

Barbara Lee, Founder/President Clement Lau, Vice President Jason Ding, Treasurer Edmond Ng, Past Treasurer Emily Kwan, Member at Large Jacqueline Lee, Member at Large Justin Park, Member at Large Taylor Kare, Programmer, Feature Linda Sum, Programmer, Feature James Yi, Programmer, Feature Rosie Simon, Programmer, Feature Rosie Hsueh, Programming Advisor, Feature Curtis Lum, Programming Advisor, Feature Clement Lau, Programming Advisor

#### **Executives**

Regina Leung, Director of Industry and Operations Lynne Lee, MAMM Director/Producer Special Thank You to Rick Tae

#### **Programmers**

Sidartha Murjani, Programming Director, Feature William Lau, Programming Director, Short Andreea Juri. Programming Coordinator Jane Lu, Programming Coordinator, **Programmer Short** Riav Sta.Teresa Programmer. Short Candyce Xu, Programmer, Short Lee Tzu Mao, Programmer, Short Shuyi Yang, Programmer, Short Zainab Fatima, Programmer, Short Chantele Semilla-Regan, Programmer, Short Johnson Phan, Programmer, Short Lissa Neptuno, Programmer, Short Yin Wang, Programmer, Short Nelson Wong, Programmer, Short Yasmine Ross, Programmer, Short Conor Wylie, Programmer, Short Alan Woo, Programmer, Short Walter Quan, Programmer, Short Aidan Parker, Programmer, Short Kathy Leung, Programming Advisor, Short Anthony Lee, Programming Advisor, Short Fei Ren, Programming Advisor, Short Jimmy Lo. Programmer. Feature Kevin Feng, Programmer, Feature Minerva Navasca, Programmer, Feature Amanda Wong, Programmer, Feature Abby Huang, Programmer, Feature Raugi Yu, Programmer, Feature Nico Wan, Programmer, Feature

#### **Operations**

Louis Poulain, Operations Manager Vincent Gan, Box Office Manager Colin Hong, Print Traffic Manager Josephine Ryu, Volunteer Manager Anqi Ye, Events Coordinator Linda Shaji, Project Manager Sophia Son, Events Coordinator

#### **Marketing**

Sara Ren, Marketing Manager Robbie Tee, Marketing Manager Althea Alabat, Marketing Manager MAMM Hyang Gi Lee, Marketing Coordinator Outreach Daniil Kolesnyk, Marketing Coordinator Outreach

#### Social Media

Joyce Lam, Social Media Manager Julianne Li, Social Media Specialist Jessie Cheng, Social Media Specialist

#### Creative

Jessica Ruiz, Lead Graphic Designer Vika Zheng, Graphic Designer Youjin Rachel Kim, Graphic Designer Anna Yu, Graphic Designer Sienna Yoon, Graphic Designer Roberto Wong, Graphic Designer Heron Cheung, Editor / Graphic Designer Alisha Weng, Editor / Graphic Designer

#### Copywriting

Jared Yu Karson Yee Alicia Liu

#### Website

Ray Ho Hattie Xu Luis Baptista Kevin Ou

#### **Sponsorships**

Drew "G-Luve" Archer, Consultant Josh Santos, Sponsorships Coordinator

### **VAFF Industry Program Team**

Khanh Nguyen Louis Poulain

#### **MAMM Team**

Joshua Lam, Lead Creative Producer
Moheb Jindran, Creative Producer
Panta Mosleh, Creative Producer
Shanthini Balasubramanian, Trainee Creative
Producer
Osric Chau, Vertical Series Producer
Patrick Do, Vertical Series Producer
Barbara Lee. Vertical Series Executive Producer

#### E8 Team

#### Special Thank You to Audrey Wong

Emily Leung, Social Media Strategist

### **Special Thanks to VAFF29 Festival Creatives**

Daniel Lew, Musician
Sidartha Murjani, Actor / Dancer / Filmmaker
Yin Wang, Actor
Kasha Konaka, Circus Artist
Ann Marie Fleming, Filmmaker
Gillian Lo, Lead Graphic Designer
Phillip Chin, Photographer
Brian Cheung, Videographer & Video Director
Amy Tsui, Video operations support
Louis Poulain, Editor
Heath Whitelock, Composer
Rick Tae, Creative Director
Regina Leung, Producer

### **TICKETING & SCREENING PROTOCOLS**

Purchase passes and tickets at vaff.org until the screening day.

### **PRICING**



#### IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS - MULTIPASS

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
Premier Festival Pass Includes In-Theatre access and e-passes to all In-Theatre Screenings, Virtual Screenings, VAFF Industry Insight Series, and all Special Events.	\$350
In-Theatre Screening All Access Pass Includes access to all In-Theatre Screenings from November 6 to 9 and November 15, 2025.	\$200

### IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS - SINGLE **TICKETS**

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
Single Special Presentation Screening Base ticket per special presentation film/ program	\$20
Single General Program Screening  Base ticket per general film/program	\$15
Special Rate For students, youth, and seniors	\$12
Accessible (limited tickets for sale) Base ticket per general film/program	\$7

### **VAFF INDUSTRY INSIGHT SERIES**

6-Pack In-Theatre Screening Pass

Includes VAFF Membership

**Ticket Type** Price

**All-Inclusive Pass** 

**In-person** Industry Insight Series Sessions November 8 and 15 at Hudson Pacific and Scotiabank Theatre Virtual Lunch & Learn Sessions

November 10 to 14, 2025 Industry parties November 7 and 15 \$80

**Single Ticket** \$12 - \$20

Virtual Lunch & Learn Sessions **Donation** 

### **VAFF VIRTUAL SCREENINGS**

Only for viewers in Canada

Ticket Type	Price
Virtual All Access E-Pass	
Available for viewing from November 10 - 14, 2025	\$30
11010111501 10 11, 2020	

### Virtual Individual Program

Base e-ticket per program / each day

\$8

CONSUMER )

PROTECTION BC



\$75

### **POLICIES**

- Ticket sales for In-Theatre Screenings will close daily at 10:00 am online.
   You may purchase tickets at the Box Office if any are available.
- NO REFUNDS and EXCHANGES
- The surcharge fee is charged by the ticketing system, not VAFF
- All details subject to change without notice
- Please check our website at vaff.org for the latest updates
- For more information, please email festival@vaff.org

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

### PHYSICAL SPACE

- Accessibility information is available on our website at vaff.org
- All our venues are wheelchair accessible
- Guests are encouraged to support a scent-reduced environment
- Health and Safety Protocols are subject to each venue's restrictions

### SPECIAL EVENTS & THE OVASIAN AWARDS

- Accessibility information is listed for each special event in vaff.org
- English subtitles will be provided for foreign language films, short of unforeseen technical difficulties

BEYOND NONE

 Live ASL interpretation or closed captioning can be provided if requested and with sufficient notice at info@vaff.org

### IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS

- 30 minutes before screening: Pass Holders enter the theatre
- 15 minutes before screening: Ticket Holders enter the theatre
- 10 minutes before screening: If available, Rush Tickets will be released for sale on a first-come, first-served basis to guests in the Rush Line once all Pass Holders and Ticket Holders have been seated in the theatre.
- Passholders are NOT guaranteed a seat for a screening if checking in less than 30 mins BEFORE screening is scheduled to start.

### VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

- All Virtual Passes and individual e-tickets are available to purchase at vaff.org anytime till the day of the virtual screening.
- The Virtual Program is available for online viewing from November 10 to 15, 2025
- Each program will have multiple films and changes daily from Nov. 10 - 15, 2025
- Select the daily program that you wish to purchase in the vaff.org film page
- If you purchased an e-pass, you still need to login to your account and click on the Fulfill Pass option
- If you purchased a Virtual Pass or e-ticket, the virtual access link will arrive to your email within 5 minutes of purchase
- Once you press play, you will have 24 hours to finish watching the program Only available to viewers located in Canada

### VENUES VANCOUVER LOCATIONS

1. Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 3rd floor - 88 West Pender Street, Vancouver BC. In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 6 - 9)

2. D6 Parq Hotel, 39 Smithe Street, Vancouver BC. Opening Night Gala (Nov. 6) 9:00 PM

3. Hapa Izakaya Yaletown, 1193 Hamilton St, Vancouver, BC. WestCoast Industry Social (Nov. 7) 4:30 PM

4. Coal Harbour Room at Hudson Pacific, Funk Cafe, 1025 Dunsmuir St, Vancouver, BC. VAFF Industry Insight Series - VI<sup>2</sup> (Nov. 8)

5. Parker Rooftop - Parker Hotel 1379 Howe St, 9th floor, Vancouver, BC. Centrepiece After Party (Nov. 8) 9:30 PM

6. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, 4th floor – 900 Burrard Street.
In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 15 only)
VAFF Industry Insight Series – VI<sup>2</sup> (Nov. 15)
CanAsian Party (Nov. 15)

7. BMO Newmont Theatre - 162 W 1st Ave #203, Vancouver, BC. OVASIAN Awards (Closing Night Gala, Nov. 16) 6:00 PM



### **SCHEDULE**

### **Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas**

#### OPENING NIGHT Thursday, Nov. 6 Program #1 — Be Loved 6:30 PM

Retake Rosemead

### Friday, Nov. 7 Program #2 — Be Yourself 4:00 PM

I Write, You Draw Ice Cream, Ice Queen Choose The Correct Answer A, B, C or... Lost in 2044 Loneliness can be Murder Billo Rani Tapeworm Diaries After what happened at the Library

#### Program #3 - Be Brave 6:45 PM

Without a Smile Give me Love Hatch Foreigner

### Program #4 - Be Grateful 9:00 PM

Tears Burn to Ash Jackie's Haven With Time Sanjeevani Spring After Spring

### Saturday, Nov. 8 Program #5 - Be Different 12:00 PM

Weeping Fig Song for No One Does it make me naive if I've never been part of something where I've meant more to them than they did to me? Have you heard Judi Singh?

### Program #6 - Be Mindful 2:30 PM

Chopsticks
Mama
The Prop Master's Dream
The Soccer Team from Chinatown

### Program #7 - Be Aware 4:30 PM

Clay Bird The Steak Boys on the Hill

### CENTREPIECE PROGRAM Program #8 - Be Unique 6:30 PM

The Late Shift
Te Seguiré a la Oscuridad
I'm not an Actor

#### Program #9 - Be Bold 9:15 PM

Egg Yolk Custard Bun Fissures Dinner Rush 404 Still Remain

#### Sunday, Nov 9 Program #10 - Be Respected 12:00 PM

Nono
The Drowning Fish
Willow and Wu
Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple
Brotherly
About Face

#### Program #11 - Be Heard 2:30 PM

Haru-Tsuge Fish + Fu-Rai Boy Year of the Dragon Nostalgia and Loss In the Room

#### Program #12 - Be Real 4:45 PM

Énouement Hideaway

#### Program #13 - Be Honourable 7:15 PM

Paper Trail
The Artist: A Creative Journey
Ran Som
When the Blossoms Fade

#### Program #14 - Be Mindful 9:30 PM

Once Upon a Time Mint Condition No Time for Goodbye

#### **VIRTUAL**

#### **Monday Virtual Program - Be Kind**

Flat What if Pass the Salt Dancing Home

#### **Tuesday Virtual Program - Be Remembered**

Dolly Healing Lahaina One of Ours (Surprise Screening!)

#### **Wednesday Virtual Program - Be Curious**

Surface Okurimono The Seas Between Us Attachment for Life

#### **Thursday Virtual Program - Be Expressive**

Morning Coffee
The Midnight Hour
The Cycle
Luka and the Flower of the Sun 2

### Friday Virtual Program - Be Surreal

ENA Did we wear C last night Fankaar Moth & I

#### **Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver**

### Saturday, Nov 15 Program #15 - Be Reflective 12:00 PM

Anohi Honolulu Kaiju

#### Program #16 - Be Respectful 2:30 PM

Grandma's Praying Born an Immigrant Ahon Pride and Prayer

### Program #17 - Be Compassionate 4:45 PM

Unspoken Pull Up

### Program #18 - Be Alive 6:45 PM

Grandma
Daly City
Life Support
Things We Carry
Nowhere
Mrs. Chang's Perfect Teeth
Neither Donkey Nor Horse

### CLOSING NIGHT Program #19 - Be Present 9:00 PM

One Last Walk Akashi

### and Special Greetings

### Message from the Founder Barbara Lee

As Canada's first Asian film festival and the largest racialized film festival in Western Canada, VAFF continues to be a powerful gathering place where we celebrate the vibrancy, resilience, and brilliance of Asian diaspora storytelling. For nearly three decades, VAFF has shone a light on the stories too often left in the shadows of mainstream cinema, proving that our voices belong at the center stage.

2025 is already a landmark year for representation. FX's SHOGUN continued to make history with multiple Golden Globe awards earlier in the year and Season 2 continues to be highly anticipated. Notable animations include: Ne Zha 2 broke domestic box-office records in China and is the first non-Hollywood film to cross US\$1 billion in a single market. Dominating Netflix is Squid Game 2 and the breakout hit K-POP DEMON HUNTER written by Canadian Korean, Maggie Kang who often speaks of her Canadian identity being a cornerstone of her creative endeavors. Her experiences in Toronto have shaped her worldview and continue to influence her work, allowing her to bridge cultures and tell stories that are both personal and universally relatable.

This triumph is a powerful reminder that when diverse voices are nurtured, mentored, championed and valued, they can change the face of global entertainment. VAFF remains deeply committed to being that incubator for bold new talent, ensuring that the next generation of Asian Canadian creators is ready to rise even higher.

Rick Tae has been the driving force behind this year's festival program along side Regina Leung and his concept for this year's theme "Beyond Asian" expands the celebration of Asian and Asian Canadian stories. VAFF29 program will be a reflection of his vision and guidance. We are thankful to Rick for his time with VAFF and we look forward to celebrating his contributions at the festival.

To our Sponsors, Board, Executives, volunteers, audiences, and incredible filmmakers THANK YOU so much for your passion, dedication, and belief in our mission which makes VAFF possible year after year.

If VAFF's vision inspires you, we invite you to be part of this journey - as a supporter and come watch films both weekends, volunteer, or even a future Board member. Together, we can continue to create a vibrant cultural landscape where Asian Canadian voices are heard, celebrated, and remembered. Let's Watch Some Films!



Barbara Lee Founder & President, Vancouver Asian Film Festival

### Message from the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney

I proudly send my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 29th annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival.

Canada is fortunate to be home to a vibrant and diverse Asian community that greatly enriches our nation and the fabric of our society, through a variety of ways.

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival is one of Canada's many great and cherished film festivals. It highlights the works of our incredible Asian community—helping share their stories and talents, and promoting them to television screens across our nation. This does a great service to celebrating Canada's diversity and fostering cultural understanding.

I would like to congratulate the talents featured at this year's festival. Film greatly enriches and livens the fabric of Canadian society and your works have stood out for their excellence, uniqueness and creativity. Canadians thank you for sharing your talents with us. Our government is also a proud supporter of Canada's film industry, and events like the Vancouver Asian Film Festival indeed help remind Canadians just how incredibly proud we should be of the great talent Canada is home to. Please accept my very best wishes for a memorable film festival.



Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada



# Message from the Premier David Eby

As Premier of British Columbia, I am pleased to extend my warm greetings to everyone attending the 29th annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF).

For nearly three decades, VAFF has brought artists and audiences together to celebrate the richness of Asian culture and identity through the power of cinema. By providing a platform for diverse voices, VAFF invites audiences to engage with unique perspectives that offer new ways of seeing the world and connecting with one another. The festival's hybrid format of in-person and online screenings and events will ensure these impactful stories reach audiences throughout British Columbia and beyond.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and generous sponsors whose efforts make this festival possible each year. To all the filmmakers and artists participating in this year's festival – thank you for sharing your work and your vision. Your contributions enrich our province and remind us of the power of storytelling to foster meaningful dialogue and build bridges between communities. Whether you are attending in person or watching from home, I wish everyone a memorable experience at this year's festival. Enjoy the films!

### Honourable David Eby, KC Premier of British Columbia

### Message from MLA Anne Kang

I extend my highest regards on hosting the 29th annual celebration, showcasing an inspiring blend of emerging and established Asian Canadian and Asian American filmmakers. This innovative hybrid festival not only embraces the power of storytelling but also creates a vital platform that amplifies diverse voices in our cultural landscape.

I look forward to the continued success of VAFF in enriching our community and fostering artistic excellence for many years to come.

# COV Mayor Ken Sim On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council I would like

Message from

On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 29th Anniversary of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF).

For nearly three decades, VAFF has served as a vital cultural bridge, connecting Asian and non-Asian communities through the power of film. By showcasing the unique voices and creative talents of emerging and established Asian Canadian and Asian American filmmakers, VAFF enriches Vancouver's vibrant arts and culture scene.

As a city proud of its strong film and television industry, we value the important role VAFF plays in bringing together local and international industry professionals, further cementing Vancouver's reputation as a leading destination for film and TV production in North America.

Congratulations and thank you to the filmmakers, artists, organizers, and volunteers whose passion and dedication make VAFF such a meaningful celebration of creativity and diversity.

Best wishes for a successful festival! Sincerely,



Anne Kang Burnaby Centre MLA



Mayor Ken Sim



### WestCoast Tales Program

**Exploring the Local Asian Canadian Experience** 

As an organization, VAFF is dedicated to elevating the voices of local independent Asian Canadian filmmakers. In an effort to continuously fulfill this mission, **WestCoast Tales** was created: a special program showcasing local cultural diversity and cinematic brilliance.

WestCoast Tales is an expedition into Asian Canadian storytelling. The program includes festival entry screenings followed by Q&A sessions with filmmakers and panel discussions to provide a deep dive into their work. Designed to deepen the connection between the filmmakers and their audiences, these events are held in a dedicated space called the **WestCoast Lounge**.

WestCoast Tales, along with the rest of the 2025 Vancouver Asian Film Festival, is made possible by the generous support of Canadian Heritage, the filmmakers, volunteers, partners, and VAFF members. Together, they enable VAFF to foster greater understanding and visibility of Asian Canadian experiences through cinema.

### **WestCoast Tales Screening Program**

### Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas

Be Brave | Fri Nov. 7 | 6:45 pm Without a Smile Give me Love Hatch Foreigner

Be Grateful | Fri Nov. 7 | 9:00 pm Tears Burn to Ash Jackie's Haven With Time Sanjeevani Spring After Spring

Be Different | Sat Nov 8 | 12:00 pm Weeping Fig Song for No One Does it make me naive if I've never been part of something where I've meant more to them than they did to me? Have you heard Judi Singh? Be Mindful | Sat Nov 8 | 2:30 pm Chopsticks Mama The Prop Master's Dream The Soccer Team from Chinatown

#### Scotiabank Theatres Vancouver

Be Respectful | Sat Nov 15 | 2:30 pm Grandma's Praying Born an Immigrant Ahon Pride and Prayer

Be Present | Sat Nov 15 | 9:15 pm One Last Walk Akashi

Funded by the Government of Canada



### **WestCoast Lounge**

Meet and Mingle with filmmakers in the theatre's lobby area.

### **VAFF Industry Insights Series**

WestCoast Creators Chat | Nov. 8 | 10:00 am

## **In-Theatre Programs**

# **Opening Night**

### Thursday Nov 6

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W Pender St 3rd Floor, Vancouver, BC



OPENING PROGRAM #1
BE LOVED

### Retake



### 19 min. | Short | Drama/ Comedy | North American Premiere | Japan

A broken astronaut steps onto a surreal film set, where the line between cinema and memory blurs, and his greatest failure demands a retake.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Eisuke Ohga

### 6:30 PM

OPENING PROGRAM #1
BE LOVED

### Rosemead



### 97 min. | Feature | Drama | West Coast Premiere | USA

In a race against time, an ailing woman is stricken by the discovery of her teenage son's violent obsessions and must go to great lengths to protect him, and possibly others, in this portrait of a Chinese American family. Inspired by true events. Starring Lucy Liu.

Actors Lawrence Shou & Madison Hu in Attendance





All ticket holders will be eligible for 20% off regular walk-up rates on Small, Regular, or Large Pop & Popcorn Combos, as well as Large Candy at both of the International Village Cineplex and Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver.



### Thursday Nov 6 9:00 PM

BE SEEN
BE HEARD
BE BOLD

Venue: D6 Parq Hotel, 39 Smithe Street, Vancouver BC

**BUY YOUR TICKETS** 



RATE: \$75 General Opening Gala Ticket \$125 MEGA STAR gala ticket (inc. welcome drink) 19+ | Valid ID required

Elevators are available for wheelchair access

### **SPECIAL EVENT**



# Beyond Asian Opening Night Gala

Kick off the 2025 Vancouver Asian Film Festival with our opening gala. Meet filmmakers and local film industry guests.

> Cool Vibes with DJ iFun Complimentary hors d'oeuvres Cash bar

Dress code: Dressy / Cocktail

Be Bold, Be Brave, Be YOU

### **Friday** Nov 7

**Cineplex Odeon International Village** Cinemas, 88 W Pender St 3rd Floor. Vancouver, BC

PROGRAM #2 BE YOURSELF

INTERNATIONAL VOICES

PROGRAM #3 BE BRAVE

PROGRAM #4 BE GRATEFUL

**WESTCOAST TALES** 



### 4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2 **BE YOURSELF** 

I Write, You Draw



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

15 min. | Short | Drama | **BC Premiere | Canada** 

A talented young illustrator, who after being heartbroken by his girlfriend and creative partner, must confront his emotions and rediscover his artistic voice.



Director **Jeremy** Tianvu Chi

### 4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2 **BE YOURSELF** 

### Ice Cream, Ice Queen



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

17 min. | Short | Drama | Canadian Premiere | USA, China, New Zealand

Lost in the lonely life of New York City, a middle-aged Chinese woman wrestles with the complexities of her unexpected bond with her son's lesbian violin teacher.



4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2 **BE YOURSELF** 

### **Choose The Correct** Answer A,B,C or ...



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

### 5.50 min. | Short | Drama **Horror | Vancouver** Premiere | Canada / South Korea

Minji has a nightmare about taking the English listening test.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.



Director **Seung Yeon You** 

#### 4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2 **BE YOURSELF** 

### **Lost in 2044**



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

### 12.30 min. | Short | **Drama/Science Fiction** | Canadian Premiere | Japan

In the late stages of cancer, elderly Arken can only share quiet moments over chess with his childhood friend. abla—a digital human. As he approaches the final chapter of his life, he faces a double choice: become a digital human to fulfill his daughter's wishes, or step alone into eternal silence. In the end. Arken realizes that, whatever the choice, it is merely a new form of solitary existence.



Director Alimjan **Abdusalam** 

### 4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2 BF YOURSELF

### Loneliness can be Murder



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

### 22.22 min. | Short | Comedy. Sci-Fi. Fantasy | **Canadian Premiere | USA**

After a global catastrophe in which lonely, socially inept people around the world literally explode into colorful smoke one by one, a nerdy, introverted loner desperately fights to escape his seemingly inevitable explosive fate.



Vincent Xiaofei

### 4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2 BF YOURSELF

### **Billo Rani**



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

### 9 min. | Short | Coming of Age | Vancouver Premiere | USA

When Hafsa, a sparkly and impulsive 12-year-old girl, is made aware of her unibrow at Islamic Sunday School in a lesson on "cleanliness". her evebrows come alive and begin to speak to her.



Director Kayla Cao

### 4:00 PM PROGRAM #2 BE YOURSELF

### **Tapeworm Diaries**



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

### 10 min. | Short | Drama | Canada | MAMM

Tapeworm Diaries follows ten real-time minutes in the life of a rising Chinese-Canadian actress as she prepares to leave for her first major film premiere. It's the biggest night of her career and she's invited her mother as her plus-one. But here's the twist: The film opens and ends inside the mother's body, through the eyes of a tapeworm.



### 4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2 BE YOURSELF

### After what happened at the library



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

### 15.01 min. | Short | LGBTQ Drama | Western Canada Premiere | USA

In the wake of a terrifying encounter, an overwhelmed drag queen struggles under the weight of public attention.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



**EVENT** 



### Friday Nov 7

4:30 - 6:30 PM



WestCoast Industry Happy Hour

Venue: Hapa Izakaya Yaletown, 1193 Hamilton St. Vancouver, BC.

An event to network and mingle with WestCoast filmmakers, creators, and industry guests.
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
Cash bar
Dress code: Casual

**BUY YOUR TICKET** 



RATE: \$35 19+ | Valid ID required

### 6:45 PM

PROGRAM #3 BE BRAVE

### Without a Smile



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 1 min | Short | Drama Comedy | Canada | MAMM

Mona, an Iranian in Canada, can't stop smiling during the photo session, mocking Iran's strict passport photo rules.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



### 6:45 PM

PROGRAM #3 BE BRAVE

### Give me Love



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 6.54 min. | Short | Drama, Dance Film, Narrative | Canada

A young man confronts inherited ideals of masculinity as tensions erupt between him and those shaped by a world of forced stoicism.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.



Director William Yao

### **6:45 PM**PROGRAM #3 BE BRAVE

### Hatch



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 10.57 min. | Short | Drama | Canada

After losing his mother during their escape, a young Afghan refugee boy searches for a way to relive their final memory together.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.





Directors Alireza Kazemipour / Panta Mosleh

### 6:45 PM

PROGRAM #3 BE BRAVE

### **Foreigner**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 82 min.| Feature | Horror, coming-of-age | Canada

In the age of low-rise jeans and flip phones, a Persian teen trying to fit in with her new Canadian clique dyes her hair blonde -- and invites a monstrous force into her life.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.



Director Ava Maria Safai

#### PROGRAM #4 BE GRATEFUL

### 9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4
BE GRATEFUL

### **Tears Burn to Ash**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 15 min. | Short | Drama | Canada

With only one night in Tokyo, a grieving Japanese Canadian woman is haunted by her doppelganger.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Mimi Dejene

### Jackie's Haven



9:00 PM

**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 9.12 min. | Short | Drama, Animation | Canada

In an exploration of grief, a young girl's world shifts between reality and a vibrant underwater fantasy as she navigates the depths of her loss, using her imagination.



### 9:00 PM PROGRAM #4 BE GRATEFUL

### With Time



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 10 min. | Short | Drama | Western Canada Premiere | Canada

Alice must confront her unresolved past when her estranged mother, who has dementia, moves in, forcing her to provide the care she never received in her childhood while juggling her own responsibilities as a mother.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.



**Director Jenny** Lee-Gilmore

### 9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4 BF GRATFFUL

### Sanieevani



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 10.1 min. | Short | Drama | Canada

After delivering a stillborn child. Saritha is consumed by silence, shame, and isolation. Her body continues to produce breast milk with no child to feed, until a friend's plea for help sparks something in her. In secretly donating her milk, Saritha transforms her grief into healing for others, and ultimately, herself.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Neetha John

### 9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4 BE GRATEFUL

### **Spring After Spring**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 75 min. | Feature | Documentary | WORLD PREMIERE I Canada

After their mother's death. three sisters reunite to lead Vancouver's Chinatown Parade, forced to choose between honouring their past and letting it go.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Co-presented by



BRITISH MEDIA FUND COLUMBIA'S

Knowledge Network:







### Saturday Nov 8

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 88 W Pender St 3rd Floor, Vancouver, BC

PROGRAM #5 BE DIFFERENT

PROGRAM #6 BE MINDFUL

PROGRAM #7 BE AWARE

**WESTCOAST TALES** 

PROGRAM #8
BE UNIQUE
CENTREPIECE PROGRAM

PROGRAM #9 BE BOLD



### **EVENT**



### Saturday Nov 8

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM



See Venue 4 on page 6

### WestCoast Creator Chat

by CMF and DGC BC Share their journey from shorts to features & TV series. Join us with Ava Maria Safai, Milton Ng and Steph Song

Moderated by Jeremy Xu, producer & Actor BUY YOUR TICKET



**RATE: \$12** 

### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5
BE DIFFERENT

### **Weeping Fig**



#### **WESTCOAST TALES**

### 17.36 min. | Short | Psychological Drama | Canada

Weeping Fig short film is a reverse fairytale that centers on a fragile father-daughter relationship during a time of emotional upheaval.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5
BE DIFFERENT

### Song for No One



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 6.23 min. | Short | Experimental | BC Premiere | Canada

From his apartment in Brooklyn, Gene hosts an independent radio show to platform his music in hopes of one day finding a dedicated audience. Instead, his radio show reaches his recently deceased mother Sook-Ja in the after life, through a radio powered by the stationary bikes that Sook-Ja and her interpreter Han Sol, ride each day.



Director Liam Ma

#### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5 BE DIFFERENT

Does it make me naive if I've never been part of something where I've meant more to them than they did to me?



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 19.20 min. | Short | Romance, Comedy, Visual Album | WORLD PREMIERE I Canada

Sharing the title of EP suite, thirteen Vancouver directors, including Amanda Sum herself, bring eighteen moments of her love life to the screen in a playful, multistyle short film.

#### Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director Amanda Sum. Sam Tudor, Sam Lynch, Jenny Lee-Gilmore. Miranda MacDougall, Maiko Yamamoto, Derek Kwan. Jamie King. Mavumi Yoshida. Shana Wolfe. Emma Pollard. Sophia Wolfe, Jo Hirabavashi



#### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5 BE DIFFERENT

### Have you heard **Judi Singh?**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 79 min. | Feature | **Documentary | Canada**

The story of Judi Singh, an unwitting trailblazer who, as a Puniabi-Black singer. steps onto jazz stages during tumultuous times and leaves a musical imprint to be discovered.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

### Co-presented by

BRITISH | Knowledge COLUMBIA'S Network:



**EVENT** 



### **Saturday** Nov 8

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM



See Venue 4 on page 6

### Fireside Chat with **UBCP/ACTRA** members

Elena Banares, Osric Chau and Jennifer Khoe, moderated by Fei Ren. Actor, Producer, Acting Coach.

#### **BUY YOUR TICKET**



**RATF: \$12** 

#### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #6 BE MINDFUL

### **Chopsticks**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 1.10 min. | Short | Drama Comedy | Canada | MAMM

During a team dinner filled with cultural expectations and etiquette, a young intern must impress his co-workers by proving that he is 'Asian' enough to fit in.



Director Josephine Ryu

### 2:30 PM PROGRAM #6 **BE MINDFUL** Mama



8.30 min. | Short |

**Documentary | WORLD** PREMIERE | Canada

A filmmaker learns about talent and perseverance through an examination of his grandmother and her operatic hobby.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #6 BF MINDFUL

### The Prop Master's Dream



WESTCOAST TALES

### 30 min. | Short | Documentary short | WORLD PREMIERE I Canada

In a rapidly changing Vancouver Chinatown. master performer Rosa Cheng launches a groundbreaking project to revive the magical, centuries-old art of Cantonese Opera.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.



Director **April Liu** 

### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #6 BE MINDFUL

### The Soccer Team from Chinatown



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

### 52.21 min. | Feature | **Documentary | WORLD** PREMIERE | Canada

In the early 20th century, the Chinese Students Football Team overcame prejudice and adversity to win British Columbia's top men's soccer prize, the Mainland Cup, leaving an enduring legacy of resilience and unity.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



4:30 PM

PROGRAM #7 **BE AWARE** 

### **Clay Bird**



### 13.43 min. | Short | Animation - Family | Vancouver Premiere Nepal

Mocked for her potter grandfather's simplicity, a nine-year-old girl turns away from him - until heartbreak and memory gently guide her back to the hands that molded her heart.



Director Kiran Bhakta Joshi

### 4:30 PM PROGRAM #7 BE AWARE

### The Steak



8 min. | Short | Drama, War | Canada/Iran

A birthday party preparation is thrown into chaos by an awful event.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



4:30 PM

PROGRAM #7 BE AWARE

### **Boys on the Hill**



### 78 min. | Feature | Documentary | North American Premiere | Korea

90 year-old Korean war veterans share their stories and things they shouldn't have seen at 19 years-old from the war.

Filmmaker in Attendance.





Director Mijin Lee / Semee Kim



### 6:30 PM

PROGRAM #8 BE UNIQUE

### The Late Shift



CENTREPIECE PROGRAM

### 1 min. | Short | Drama | Canada | MAMM

A six-year-old boy makes mac and cheese guided only by his mother's voicemail, revealing the resilience and tenderness of immigrant family love



### 6:30 PM

PROGRAM #8
BE UNIQUE

### Te Seguiré a la Oscuridad



**CENTREPIECE PROGRAM** 

### 10.19 min. | Short | Comedy, coming of age | Western Canada Premiere | USA

Set in 2005, a driven high school sophomore obsessively studies Spanish all year so she can test up a level into her crush's class.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Nicholas Luciano

### 6:30 PM

PROGRAM #8 BE UNIQUE

### I'm Not An Actor



CENTREPIECE PROGRAM

### 120 min. | Feature | Drama Comedy | North American Premiere | India

Mouni, a 35 year old frustrated but puritanical actor in Mumbai meets Adnan Baig, a 55 year old depressed, recently retired banker in Frankfurt over an online film audition and spends the rest of the day teaching him acting over live video calls.

As they both walk around Mumbai and Frankfurt respectively, the acting class forces them both to be emotionally naked and vulnerable; and confront things about themselves that they've both swept under the rug for years.



Director Aditya Kripalani

### **EVENT**



# Nov 8

## **Centrepiece After Party**

Venue: Parker Rooftop - Parker Hotel 1379 Howe St 9th floor, Vancouver, BC

An intimate reception in Downtown Vancouver to celebrate the Centrepiece films.
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres Cash bar

Dress code: Casual



**BUY YOUR TICKET** 

RATE: \$35 All ages | Valid ID required

Elevators are available for wheelchair access

### 9:15 PM PROGRAM #9 BE BOLD

### Egg Yolk Custard Bun



1.10 min. | Short | Queer | Canada | MAMM

At a dimsum table where food meets kink, three friends push playfulness and intimacy to its sticky, steamy edges—until a sudden interruption challenges who gets to claim pleasure.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Diector Maya Mazuki Peters

### 9:15 PM

PROGRAM #9 BE BOLD

### **Fissures**



### 12.41 min. | Short | Horror/Thriller | WORLD PREMIERE | USA

When a young Asian woman models for a celebrated White artist, her desire to meet his expectations spirals into a nightmarish reality, where she uncovers the disturbing fates of the women who came before her



### 9:15 PM

PROGRAM #9 BE BOLD

### **Dinner Rush**



### 15.36 min. | Short | Horror/Comedy | Canadian Premiere | Canada

When Aaron Chan, the oldest son, is expected to take over his dad's small-town Chinese restaurant, a sudden zombie virus outbreak forces him to give up his hockey dreams and step up to protect his chaotic family.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



9:15 PM

PROGRAM #9 BE BOLD

### 404 Still Remain



### 100.15 min. | Feature | Drama, Music, LGBTQ | North American Premiere | Korea

In 2001, South Korea entered into an open-minded era, with growing acceptance towards Japanese culture.

But was it truly an open era? In reality, discourse surrounding the queer community remained limited. Meanwhile, political tensions between South Korea and Japan — such as Dokdo, referring to it as a Japanese island in textbooks, and shrine visits — meant that fans of Japanese culture were subtly ostracized.

The director addresses the story of joys and sorrows of Gyeonghwan who has an unrequited love for Jaemin.



Director Uhm Ha Neul

### Sunday Nov 9

**Cineplex Odeon** International Village Cinemas, 88 W Pender St 3rd Floor. Vancouver, BC

PROGRAM #10 BE RESPECTED

PROGRAM #11 BE HEARD

PROGRAM #12 BE REAL

PROGRAM #13 BE **HONOUARBLE** 

**VAFF FILM FUND NIGHT** 

PROGRAM #14 BE MINDFUL

HONG KONG STORIES



#### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10 BE RESPECTED

### Nono



### 4.24 min. | Short | Animation, thriller | BC Premiere | USA

As his 10th birthday party wraps up, a boy understands that his childhood is fading away with the end of the celebration.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Aerin Wu

### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10 BE RESPECTED

### The Drowning **Fish**



### 14.11 min. | Short | Drama Mystery | Canadian Premiere | China

A voung man, who seemed to be involved in a drug deal, was actually trying to circumvent China's dinein restrictions during the pandemic just to have a bowl of rice noodles. However, in the process, he accidentally bumps into a patrolling security guard. To get through the situation, he has no choice but to disquise himself as a chef from the noodle shop...

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Kathy Meng Director

#### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10 BE RESPECTED

### Willow and Wu



### 13 min. | Short | Drama | Canadian Premiere | USA

Finally receiving a day-off after being dumped, young assistant Willow is ordered to aid the elusive husband of her high-powered boss with an unusual task.



### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10 BE RESPECTED

### **Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple**



### 10.59 min. | Short | Drama Comedy | Canada | MAMM

When a proud Chinese grandma tries to reconcile with her granddaughter the only way she knows how—by cutting her an apple—she ends up in an all-out Kung Fu brawl at the market over the last one.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Directors William Yao / Andrew Ha

### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10 BE RESPECTED

### **Brotherly**



8.43 min. | Short | Drama | BC Premiere | Canada

Nabil learns his mentally ill brother has ordered for euthanasia and is forced to decide whether or not to respect his wishes.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Gavin Seal

### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10 BE RESPECTED

### **About Face**



### 60 min. | Feature | Documentary| Canadian Premiere | USA

Two NYC dancers challenge the dance world to rid ballet of offensive Asian stereotypes—and succeed.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Jennifer Rita Lin

### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11 BE HEARD

### Haru-Tsuge Fish + Fu-Rai Boy



### 5 min. | Short | Stop-motion Animation | Japan

A little wandering dwarf hears a beautiful melody carried by the wind.



Director Takeshi Yashiro

### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11 **BE HEARD** 

### Year of the **Dragon**



### 12.34 min. | Short | Drama | Western Canada Premiere | Canada

A devoted immigrant mother sets out to deliver a cake for her son's birthday, but as the day unravels, she is forced to confront the reality of her son's situation.



Director **Giran Findlay-Liu** 

### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11 BF HFARD

### **Nostalgia and** Loss



### 12.03 min. | Short | Drama | WORLD PREMIERE | Canada / China

After the COVID lockdowns. a Chinese businessman living in Canada returns home, only to confront the painful truth of infidelity, alienation, and emotional separation.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Yilin Evan Zhu

### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11 **BE HEARD** 

### In the Room



### 75 min. | Feature | Drama Comedy | Canada

Through a series of honest conversations, five extraordinary Afghan women reveal how their commitment to freedom and equality empowered them to take the world stage and reclaim their homeland.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



4:45 PM

PROGRAM #12 BE REAL

### Énouement



### 14.55 min. | Short | Drama, Family, Short | **Canadian Premiere | USA**

A career-driven film industry amateur grapples with the demands of her job and caring for her grandfather with dementia, only to discover a heartfelt letter that forces her to reevaluate her priorities and redefine the essence of love and time.



Director Angel Lu

### 4:45 PM

PROGRAM #12 BE REAL

### **Hideaway**



### 108 min. | Feature | Drama | International/ North American Premiere | Korea

No matter how hard I try, there is always a hole in my heart.



Director Han Ji-Su

### 7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13 BE HONOURABLE

### **Paper Trail**

**VAFF FILM FUND RECIPIENT** 



### 20 min. | Short | Documentary | WORLD PREMIERE | Canada

A second-generation Chinese Canadian retraces her mother's boat people refugee journey, uncovering the mysteries that started with one paper and four names.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Vivian Cheung

### 7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13 BE HONOURABLE

### The Artist: A Creative Journey



### 25 min. | Short | Documentary | Canada

The Artist: A Creative Journey explores the impact of the creative arts on one's well being. Local artists share stories of overcoming adversity, and creating powerful connections to the community through the arts.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Anne Mueller

### 7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13 BE HONOURABLE

### **Ran Som**



### 12.16 min. | Short | Drama Comedy | Western Canada Premiere | Canada

Two small-time burglars kidnap a wealthy businessman's son for ransom, only to discover his abusive home life and face a choice between cashing in or becoming his protectors.



Director Richard Dang

### 7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13 BE HONOURABLE

### When the Blossoms Fade



### 40 min. | Feature | Documentary | North American Premiere | Canada

Retracing their mother's WWII internment, a Japanese Canadian filmmaker uncovers hidden trauma and the enduring impact of displacement on family and identity.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Tomiko Potts

### 9:30 PM

PROGRAM #14 BE MINDFUL

### Once Upon a Time there was a Mountain



HONG KONG STORIES

### 17.17 min. | Short | Drama | Canadian Premiere | Hong Kong

As summer fades, a group of boys chase one last game of football through a city slipping out of their reach—dodging time, territory, and farewell, in a quiet rebellion against growing up.



Director Chun Him To

### 9:30 PM

PROGRAM #14 BE MINDFUL

### **Mint Condition**



HONG KONG STORIES

### 24.30 min. | Short | Sci-fi | Canadian Premiere | Hong Kong

A primary school student strives to survive a system that will modify those who fail to perform to perfection.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Don Ng

### 9:30 PM

PROGRAM #14 BE MINDFUL

### No Time for Goodbye



HONG KONG STORIES

### 106 min. | Feature | Drama | North American Premiere | Hong Kong

The lives of two asylum seekers fleeing post-social unrest in their home city intertwine in Britain, starting a romance that tests their resilience and adversity.



# Virtual Programs

## **Monday Nov 10**

Available for one day only

**Virtual** 

MONDAY PROGRAM BE KIND



### **VIRTUAL 1**

MONDAY PROGRAM BE KIND

Flat



### 5.27 min. | Short | Documentary | BC Premiere | Canada

In which filmmaker Suri Parmar discusses her struggles with breast cancer, gender, and body image as she heals from a double mastectomy without reconstruction and reclaims her identity.



#### Director Suri Parmar

### VIRTUAL 1

MONDAY PROGRAM BE KIND

What if



### 18.30 min. | Short | Drama | WORLD PREMIERE | China

Years apart, Liu and Chen meet again with lingering regrets. What if a parallel reality rewrote their story?



### Director Ziyu Wang

### VIRTUAL 1

MONDAY PROGRAM BF KIND

**Pass the Salt** 



### 11 min. | Short | Psychological Drama | Canadian Premiere | Canada

Pass the Salt is an intimate psychological piece that explores the quiet warfare of a mother-son relationship set within the suffocating confines of a single dining table, where the son struggles to reclaim his version of 'normal' from his ailing mother.



Director Karan Archana Singh

MONDAY PROGRAM BE KIND

### **Dancing Home**



### 89 min. | Feature | Documentary | Taiwan

A choreographer who left his Indigenous community at a young age to pursue dance returns home to create with Indigenous dancers—rekindling his lost sense of belonging and rediscovering himself through movement.



Director Wang Cheng Yi

### **EVENT**



### Monday Nov 10

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM



### VIRTUAL 1 Lunch and Learn

Virtual Filmmakers Talkback
- Canadian & International
films (official selections)
A selection of Canadian &
International filmmakers
share their impactful and
challenging parts of their
film.

Moderated by Regina Leung

**REGISTER NOW** 



BY DONATION

### Tuesday Nov 11

REMEMBERANCE DAY

Available for one day only

Virtual

TUESDAY PROGRAM BE REMEMBERED



TUESDAY PROGRAM BE REMEMBERED

### VIRTUAL 2

TUESDAY PROGRAM BE REMEMBERED

### **Dolly**



12.32 min. | Short | Drama, Historical Drama, Romance | Western Canada Premiere | Canada

A young Indian woman finds herself alone in a new country, trying to create a home away from home.



Director Maya Rikhi

### **VIRTUAL 2**

TUESDAY PROGRAM BE REMEMBERED

### **Healing Lahaina**



35.30 min. | Short | Documentary | Canadian Premiere | USA

Director Laurel Tamayo shares her family's story through this personal glimpse into the hours, days, and year after the 2023 Lahaina wildfire.





TUESDAY PROGRAM BE REMEMBERED

### One of Ours



### 39.57 min. | Short | Documentary | Vancouver Premiere | Canada

A soldier vanished with no known grave. Who was Fred Lee?



### **EVENT**



### Tuesday Nov 11

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM



### VIRTUAL 2 Lunch and Learn

Virtual one-on-one meeting with producers, distributors, sales, financial institutions (National Bank, RBC, BDC) and private investors.

Facilitated by VAFF Industry
Team

**REGISTER NOW** 



BY DONATION

### Wednesday Nov 12

Available for one day only

#### **Virtual**

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM BE CURIOUS



### **VIRTUAL 3**

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM BE CURIOUS

### **Surface**



### 2 min. | Short | Drama, Thriller| WORLD PREMIERE | Canada

Mysteriously submerged underwater, a woman admires her floating belongings until panic launches her into a desperate scramble for air.



Director Katherine Wong

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM **BE CURIOUS** 

### Okurimono



### 96.30 min. | Feature | Documentary | BC Premiere | Canada

Noriko returns to Japan, her native land, in the hopes of reviving her mother's memories, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bomb, while preparing for her childhood home's sale.



### **VIRTUAL 3** WEDNESDAY PROGRAM **BE CURIOUS**

### The Seas Between us



### 13.44 min. | Short | **Drama | Vancouver** Premiere | Canada

In the mid 1960s a young girl who has never seen anything but rural Trinidad has her eyes opened to the world when her adventurous Auntie from India comes to visit.



### Director **Faisal**

### VIRTUAL 3

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM **BE CURIOUS** 

### **Attachment for** Life



### 25 min. | Short | Drama | WORLD PREMIERE | China

A lonely old man on the edge of the city takes in a patient who escaped from a mental hospital. The two wander in the gray area, iust to satisfy the old man's paranoid desire to keep his wife's body.



### Director Jingbo Sha

### **EVENT**



### Wednesday **Nov 12**

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM



### **VIRTUAL 3 Lunch and** Learn

Presented by RESO Go Global: Unlocking Co-Production & Streaming Opportunities for Canadian Producers Presented by Barbara Lee and Akeena Legall



**REGISTER NOW** 



BY DONATION

### Thursday Nov 13

Available for one day only

### **Virtual**

THURSDAY PROGRAM BE EXPRESSIVE



### **VIRTUAL 4**

THURSDAY PROGRAM BE EXPRESSIVE

### **Morning Coffee**



### 12.40 min. | Short | Drama | Canadian Premiere | Canada

After the end of a deeply emotional yet tumultuous relationship, a queer woman grapples with grief, self-discovery, and the bittersweet memories of love that linger, as she learns to navigate the space between loss and healing.

Directors Nolan Manio Begley / Kyla Mah



### **VIRTUAL 4**

THURSDAY PROGRAM BE EXPRESSIVE

### **The Midnight Hour**



### 14.58 min. | Short | Drama | Vancouver Premiere | Canada

A grieving woman, whose hope for marriage is reignited when the ghost of her dead fiancé, appears. As he attempts to fulfill his unfinished business to passover, she is determined to rebook their wedding.



Director Anita Yung

### VIRTUAL 4 RSDAY PROG

THURSDAY PROGRAM
BE EXPRESSIVE

### The Cycle



### 15.20 min. | Short | Drama | Canadian Premiere | India

THE CYCLE tracks a day in the life of a young Punjabi housewife in Chandigarh, India who is obsessed with losing weight as she joins a cycling club and grapples with the cost of individuality and freedom.





THURSDAY PROGRAM
BE EXPRESSIVE

## Luka and the Flower of the Sun 2



29 min. | Short | Fantasy Animation | North American Premiere | Japan

To bring back his childhood friend Rosa, who had transformed into the flower of the sun, Luka sets out on a journey to find a legendary white bird said to grant any wish.



### **EVENT**



### Thursday Nov 13

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM



VIRTUAL 4 Lunch and Learn

Virtual lunch & Learn with Funders

CMF, Telefilm, Creative BC, Ontario creative, Manitoba commissioner, Rogers & Bell

Facilitated by the VAFF Industry Team

**REGISTER NOW** 



BY DONATION

### Friday Nov 14

Available for one day only

### **Virtual**

FRIDAY PROGRAM BE SURREAL



#### **VIRTUAL 5**

FRIDAY PROGRAM BE SURREAL

### **ENA**



### 29.57 min. | Short | Thriller | WORLD PREMIERE | Japan

Two men capture and torture Nomoto, who stole important confidential information. They find a creepy hidden room and end up opening the door. From the door, a frightening monster that Nomoto calls "mom" appears. What is the only the only option for survival...



Director Takashi Satoh

FRIDAY PROGRAM BE SURREAL

### Did we wear C last night



13.10 min. | Short | Fiction, Comedy, Romance | North American Premiere | South Korea

Yoon-hye and Yong-hoon shared a passionate one-night stand last night. Despite the awkwardness, they exchange shy greetings and decide to grab a meal together. But wait... something important is missing!



**VIRTUAL 5** 

FRIDAY PROGRAM BE SURREAL

### **Fankaar**



14.58 min. | Short | Drama/Thriller | Pakistan

Trapped in a nightmarish room, a John Doe confronts cryptic messages and societal realities in a psychological journey to reveal a new reality he lives in.



Director Ahsan Minhas

### **VIRTUAL 5**

FRIDAY PROGRAM BE SURREAL

### Moth & I



22.16 min. | Short | Fantasy, Black Comedy | WORLD PREMIERE | Hong Kong

An anxious real estate agent loses his human form while forcing sales during an economic downturn.



### Saturday Nov 15

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, 4th floor - 900 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC.

PROGRAM #15
BE REFLECTIVE

JAPAN FOUNDATION

PROGRAM #16
BE RESPECTFUL
WESTCOAST TALES

PROGRAM #17
BE COMPASSIONATE

KOREAN HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM #18 BF ALIVE

CLOSING PROGRAM #19
BE PRESENT

WESTCOAST TALES
CLOSING NIGHT FILM



#### **EVENT**



## Nov 15 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

**Scotiabank Theatre** 



Master Hands-on Workshop with Zarga Nawaz



the creator of the Canadian TV show "Little Mosque on the Prairie" Co-presented by





**BUY YOUR TICKET** 



**RATE: \$20** 

#### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #15 BE REFLECTIVE

#### **Anohi**



JAPAN FOUNDATION

#### 1 min. | Short | Drama | Canada | MAMM

A fleeting encounter on a train forces a carefree teenage boy to confront what he never expected to feel at fifteen: the quiet fear of a forgotten life.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Lilia Miki

#### 12:00 PM

PROGRAM #15 BE REFLECTIVE

#### Honolulu



JAPAN FOUNDATION

#### 19.37 min. | Short | Drama | North American Premiere | Japan

A terminally ill wife begins filming her husband's life without her, desperate to glimpse the world that will go on after she's gone.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



12:00 PM

PROGRAM #15 BE REFLECTIVE

#### Kaiju



JAPAN FOUNDATION

#### 101 min. | Feature | Documentary | International/North American Premiere | Japan

This documentary captures a year in the life of Japanese painter Issei Nishimura, nicknamed "Kaiju" (meaning "creature"). At 19, after developing a serious mental illness, he taught himself to paint. For 26 years, no one outside his family had ever seen him paint—until this film.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Tomoya Ise

#### **EVENT**



Saturday Nov 15

2:30 PM to 4:00 PM



GO BEHIND
THE SCENE ON
HOLLYWOOD
NORTH
PRODUCTION

Presented by IATSE 891

**BUY YOUR TICKET** 



**RATE: \$12** 

#### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #16 BE RESPECTFUL

#### Grandma's **Praying**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

#### 1 min. | Short | Drama | Canada | MAMM

What begins as an interruption to a grandmother's prayer becomes a quiet act of love and unexpected connection with her interfaith grandson.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Mathew Jin

#### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #16 BE RESPECTFUL

#### Born an Immigrant



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

#### 22.42 min. | Short | Documentary | WORLD PREMIERE | Canada

A Canadian-born Chinese woman supports her family by becoming a dressmaker in Victoria, British Columbia during the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



2:30 PM

PROGRAM #16 BE RESPECTFUL

#### **Ahon**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

#### 20 min. | Short | Documentary, Mountain Culture, Adventure | Canada

In Filipino, "ahon" means to rise, emerge, or break through a surface. "Ahon" recounts the rise of the K8 Mountaineering Club of Alberta, drawing parallels between climbing and the obstacles immigrants must overcome.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Trixie Pacis

#### 2:30 PM

PROGRAM #16 BE RESPECTFUL

#### **Pride and Prayer**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

#### 62.15 min. | Feature | Documentary | Canada

Amid the intersection of faith and identity, Panta embarks on a deeply personal journey to explore whether a space exists within the Muslim community for someone who is both queer and seeking to reconnect with their faith.

#### Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Panta Mosleh

#### 4:45 PM

PROGRAM #17
BE COMPASSIONATE

#### Unspoken



KOREAN HIGHLIGHTS

#### 20 min. | Short | Drama | North American Premiere | Korea

Sujin, class president, accidentally hurts deaf classmate Juyeon. Sujin visits Juyeon at home with her friends to apologize, but Juyeon refuses to accept her apology and Sujin's friends turn out to be of no help, either.



Director Jaewook Oh

#### 4:45 PM

PROGRAM #17 BE COMPASSIONATE

#### **Pull Up**



**KOREAN HIGHLIGHTS** 

#### 60.53 min. | Feature | Drama Comedy | North American Premiere | Korea

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when social distancing was mandatory, Seok-joo, who was working part-time reviewing the correctness of online lectures, met Maeng-ji, the instructor of the lecture she was editing, and they became friends.



Director Chun Hun Mok

#### **EVENT**



#### Saturday Nov 15

4:30 PM to 6:00 PM



## THE VERTICAL ECONOMY: VANCOUVER'S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT SHIFT

Come hear about the insights from Andy Chu, Julie Bruns, Monika Dalman and Sijing Yang plus the screening of MAMM20 Vertical Series winner – The Summer I Found Myself by Director, Justin F. Lee

#### **BUY YOUR TICKET**



RATE: \$12



**6:45 PM**PROGRAM #18
BE ALIVE

#### Grandma



1.30 min. | Short | Animation / Experimental | Canadian Premiere | US

A charcoal-animated film on a single sheet of paper on memory, time and death.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director Yang Hu

#### 6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18 BE ALIVE

#### **Daly City**



#### 16 min. | Short | Drama, Comedy, Food, Coming of Age, Family | Western Canada Premiere | USA

An Indonesian boy and his mother attend a church potluck and lie about their dish.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18 BE ALIVE

#### **Life Support**



#### 10.32 min. | Short | Drama | Western Canada Premiere | USA

Inspired by true stories, an emergency doctor struggling under the weight of lifeand-death decisions must confront his own hidden traumas as he teaches a young medical student what it truly means to save a life.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director Jamon Tolbert

#### 6:45 PM PROGRAM #18 BF ALIVE

#### **Things We Carry**



18.43 min. | Short | Drama | Canadian Premiere | Australia

A young Chinese mother discovers that her child could one day become a cultural stranger in their new-found home in Australia.



**Director** Yifan Zhang

#### 6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18 **BE ALIVE** 

#### **Nowhere**



#### 25.03 min. | Short | Drama | North American Premiere | China

While working at a construction site, Lao Lin stumbles upon a statue and sees it as a chance to improve his life by selling it. However, his plan catches the eye of Zhang Liwei, the company manager, who asserts ownership of the statue, citing land rights. Faced with the clash between authority and ethics, Lao Lin finds himself torn in a gripping battle between greed and dignity.



Ze Wang

#### 6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18 **BE ALIVE** 

#### Mrs. Chang's **Perfect Teeth**



#### 15.50 min. | Short | Horror | Canada

When Siu Yee, a young Chinese immigrant, is hired at Mrs. Chang's foot massage parlour, she learns that success in her new country will require a perverse sacrifice in this surrealist horror short film.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



6:45 PM PROGRAM #18 **BE ALIVE** 

#### **Neither Donkey Nor Horse**



28.29 min. | Short | Drama, History, Biography, Thriller | Canadian Premiere | USA

Amidst the outbreak of the 1910 Manchurian Plaque, a young Chinese doctor makes a historic discovery.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director **Robin Wang** 

#### **EVENT**



#### Saturday Nov 15

7:30 PM



#### **Closing CanAsian Industry Reception**

Venue: Scotiabank Theatre Clubhouse, 4th floor - 900 Burrard Street

Celebrate VAFF's Closing Film Program with Filmmakers, cast & crew while mixing with the Industry Insight Series speakers. Come network and chill with the VAFF community. Music and light refreshments will be offered.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres + Cash bar



BUY YOUR TICKET

RATE: \$35 All ages | Valid ID required

Elevators are available for wheelchair access

#### 9:00 PM

CLOSING PROGRAM #19
BE PRESENT

#### **One Last Walk**



**WESTCOAST TALES** 

#### 10 min. | Short | Drama | Canada | MAMM

Two lonely, non-english speaking grandmas from two different cultures connect on their daily walks around the neighbourhood. Today is their last walk before one of them flies back home to Korea.

Filmmakers in Attendance.





Directors Andrea Bang / Diana Bang

#### 9:00 PM

CLOSING PROGRAM #19
BE PRESENT

#### Akashi



**CLOSING NIGHT FILM** 

#### 120.09min. | Feature | Drama | Canada

When 35-year-old artist Kana returns to Tokyo for her grandmother's funeral, she uncovers a family secret that challenges her idea of love and forces her to rethink her future.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Co-presented by





Director Mayumi Yoshida

#### Sunday Nov 16 6:00 PM

**BMO Newmont Theatre** 

162 W 1st Ave #203, Vancouver, BC

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres Cash bar

Dress code: Stylish/Cocktail



**BUY YOUR TICKET** 

RATE: \$100 limited tickets for sale 19+ | Valid ID required

Elevators are available for wheelchair access



### **OVASIAN AWARDS CEREMONY & GALA**

#### **SPECIAL EVENT**



The **VAFF OVASIAN AWARDS** celebrates VAFF with a final night gala celebration honouring filmmakers and industry changemakers at their very best.

Doors at 6:00 pm. Awards ceremony starts at 6:30 pm.



VAFF to acknowledge "Zarqa Nawaz" in this year's Lifetime Diversity in Film Award to celebrate an individual's achievement in contributing to the fight for making underrepresented voices heard and pushing forward the culture of diversity through their actions or work.



Check out who's nominated for VAFF 2025!

#### **FILM JURY**

VAFF 2025 Jury for Canadian short awards



Ann Marie Fleming



Jason Furukawa



Judy Lee



Aaron Au

feature awards



VAFF 2025 Jury for Canadian

Alice Shin



**Terry Woo** 

VAFF 2025 Jury for International short award



Agam Darshi



Chris Lee



Joe Pascual

VAFF 2025 Jury for SHER VANCOUVER AWARD for Best 2SLGBTQ+ short film award



**Amie Song** 



King Louie Palomo



Valerie Raghoebier

# VAFF Industry

#### Insight (VI<sup>2</sup>)Series

VAFF Industry Insight Series and Filmmaker Talks Series provides insight and insider perspectives for aspiring and seasoned filmmakers / creators of diverse backgrounds, and those in the industry who aim to work with diverse representation both in front of and behind the camera. Plus, connecting and fostering the film community for the next generation of storytellers. The Series occurs during Spring - Asian Heritage Month (May) and Fall - Film Festival (November).

#### Summary of Spring & Summer VAFF Industry Insight Series 2025

Thank you to Helen Yagi, PR Consultant for joining us as part of our "How to pitch Hands-on Workshop", leading the 10 selected participants in partnering with Elimin8Hate's My Stories are Our Stories campaign on June 6, 2025

Key Takeaways:

- Discover techniques for making your unique story stand up to the media
- How to write a news release, or what information should be in a news release
- How to work with a publicist
- PR strategy and finding different story ideas for different media outlets and outreach

Celebration with National Canadian Film Day on VAFF Filmmaker Talks Series, showcase "Can I Get A Witness?" by Ann Marie Fleming.

#### Fall Series 2025 during VAFF29 Film Festival

Our topics include Master workshop with Zarqa Nawaz, the creator of the Canadian TV show "Little Mosque on the Prairie", WestCoast Creator chat, Landscape of Vertical Series and Virtual Production case study, Go Behind the scene of Wedding Banquet, case study, next level of world building film & series round table discussion, virtual lunch & learn with Canadian, international filmmakers, funders, distributors and sales agents and two industry networking events.

Interested in exploring more about the filming industry? Follow industry news at VAFF on LinkedIn! https://www.linkedin.com/company/vaff





Helen Yagi and group



Ins Choi and group

Thank you to Ins Choi, creator / writer of Kim's Convenience who led the 12 selected participants to #VAFFINDUSTRY Insight Summer Series two-day TV writing workshop in partnering with Elimin8Hate. My stories are Our stories campaign this year on July 15-16, 2025.

This workshop is intended for screenwriters, playwrights or other kinds of writers (sketch, standup, improv, etc) who want to learn about writing sitcoms. The purpose is to demystify the TV writing process in this fun, hands on writing workshop. It's a real hands-on workshop where Ins takes the participants through the nuts and bolts of writing.

Scan the QR code to learn more:



BEYON

# Film Fund

VAFF Film Fund (VAFF<sup>2</sup>) established in 2021 — founded by VAFF Lifetime Benefactor Mr. Richard K. Wong who has enduringly contributed close to \$80,000 to the fund assists talented Asian Canadian filmmakers and TV producers to create projects that raise the storytelling profiles of Asians across Canada.

In providing artists the opportunity to complete their works, VAFF<sup>2</sup> this year has generously supported Vivian Cheung's documentary short "Paper Trail", making its World Premiere at VAFF29!

With the blessing and continued generous support of Mr. Richard K. Wong, VAFF hopes to further champion Asian Canadians as notable and talented filmmakers and actors. VAFF aspires to secure additional donors and sponsors to contribute to this fund to be able to support more Asian Canadian creatives.

Learn more at https://vaff.org/vafffilmfund/



# lighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon

#### MAMM20

The 20th Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM20) was another successful, record-breaking vear that concluded with 21 films premiering at the MAMM19 Gala Screening and Awards Presentation at the Vancouver Playhouse on August 30, 2025. It has been exciting to witness the MAMM community grow as we saw more pitches from new filmmakers, more submissions, and more audience demand as we sold out in just four days. We launched an inaugural "Vertical Series" category at this year's competition that was led by our Founder. Barbara Lee.

The distinctive stories that came out of the filmmakers and the creativity and craft of storytelling impressed all in attendance, in person and online. We are so proud of the MAMMers of MAMM20 and are honoured that we could help tell your unique stories.



MAMM aims to foster and showcase emerging Asian and mixed Asian filmmakers through a 10-day moviemaking marathon preceded by a masterclass-level MAMMentorship program and culminating in a premiere screening and awards presentation.

Catch the award-winning Shorts, Ultra Shorts and Vertical Series at VAFF29. Be sure to follow us on Instagram @mamm\_ vaff for the latest news from MAMM and our alumni.

Lynne Lee
MAMM Director/Producer



This past year, Elimin8Hate advanced its mission to combat anti-Asian racism through education, advocacy, concerts, workshops, media guide and community engagement.

See US Hear Us 2.0 Concert & Music Sync Workshop (May 23, 2025) - Elimin8Hate, in honour of Asian Heritage Month celebrated with live music showcasing the rich talent and vibrant spirit of Asian-Canadian artists. From intimate ballads to genre-defying anthems, the evening used music's storytelling power to challenge stereotypes, foster belonging, and build bridges between communities.

See Us Hear Us: Stand Up for Your Community – Elimin8Hate delivered Report Hate workshops in Punjabi, English, Mandarin, and Cantonese, making vital resources accessible across diverse communities. Throughout the year, trained facilitators partnered with local groups to build awareness, encourage reporting, and provide tools to respond to racism safely and effectively. These workshops not only equipped participants with knowledge but also fostered

solidarity, empowering community members to stand together, speak out, and take action against hate.

See Us Hear Us: A guide to tellling your story in media. With the help of Journalist and Media consultant Hannah Sung, Elimin8Hate created the Media Guide to empower you, and especially Asian Canadians, to speak up and share. We know you have a story that will help, inspire or inform your community and beyond. Our stories matter. (Fall 2025)

Through these initiatives, Elimin8Hate not only responded to hate but also empowered communities and built long-term cultural change. Partnerships with other justice organizations further amplified intersectional solidarity.

#### Elimin8Hate

Special thanks and appreciation to our amazing partners and grantors including:















# Backing BC's Creative Vision

Proud Sponsor of Vancouver Asian Film Festival

Creative BC supports film, tv, music, and interactive through leadership, collaboration, and investment. Access grants, film commission services, motion picture tax credits, and more.

creativebc.com | @creativebcs

- # 404 Still Remain P23
- A About Face P25

After what happened at the library - P15

Ahon - P38 Akashi - P42

Anohi - P37 Attachment for Life - P33

- B Billo Rani P14 Born an Immigrant - P38 Boys on the Hill - P21 Brotherly - P25
- C Choose The Correct Answer A,B,C or ...-P13 Chopsticks - P19 Clay Bird - P20

Clay Bird - P20 Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple -P25

- D Daly City P40
  Dancing Home P30
  Did we wear C last night P36
  Dinner Rush P23
  Does it make me naive if I've never been part of something where I've meant more to them than they did to me? P19
  Dolly P31
- **E** Egg Yolk Custard Bun P23

ENA - P35

- Énouement P26
- F Fankaar P36 Fissures - P23 Flat - P29 Foreigner - P16
- **G** Give me Love P15 Grandma - P40 Grandma's Praying - P38
- H Haru-Tsuge Fish + Fu-Rai Boy P25 Hatch - P16 Have you heard Judi Singh? - P19 Healing Lahaina - P31 Hideaway - P27 Honolulu - P37
- I Write, You Draw P13 Ice Cream, Ice Queen - P13 I'm Not An Actor - P22 In the Room - P26
- J Jackie's Haven P16
- K Kaiiu P37
- L Life Support P40
  Loneliness can be Murder P14
  Lost in 2044 P14
  Luka & Flower of the Sun 2 P35
- M Mama P20 Mint Condition - P28 Morning Coffee - P34

Moth & I - P36

Mrs. Chang's Perfect Teeth - P41

N Neither Donkey Nor Horse - P41 No Time for Goodbye - P28 Nono - P24

Nostalgia and Loss - P26 Nowhere - P41

- O Okurimono P33 Once Upon a Time - P28 One Last Walk - P42
- One of Ours P32

  P Paper Trail P27
  Pass the Salt P29
  Pride and Prayer P39
- Pull Up P39 **R** Ran Som - P27 Retake - P11
  - Rosemead P11
- S Sanjeevani P17 Song for No One - P18 Spring After Spring - P17 Surface - P32
- T Tapeworm Diaries P14
  Te Seguiré a la Oscuridad P22
  Tears Burn to Ash P16
  The Artist: A Creative Journey P27
  The Cycle P34
  The Drowning Fish P24

The Late Shift - P21
The Midnight Hour - P34
The Prop Master's Dream - P20
The Seas Between us - P33
The Soccer Team from
Chinatown - P20
The Steak - P21
Things We Carry - P41

U Unspoken - P39

- W Weeping Fig P18
  What if P29
  When the Blossoms Fade P28
  Willow and Wu P24
  With Time P17
  Without a Smile P15
- Y Year of the Dragon P26

The Directors Guild of Canada, British Columbia is a proud supporter of the 2025 Vancouver Asian Film Festival

Congratulations to the talented Filmmakers showcased in this year's festival!



**BRITISH COLUMBIA** 

Representing key creative and logistical personnel in the film and television industries of British Columbia and the Yukon. www.dgcbc.com



The Canada Media Fund is here to support bold, courageous voices across the audiovisual industry—from television and web series to documentaries, video games, IDM and immersive projects. Wherever there's a vision and a desire to shine a light, we're there to light the spark.



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RICHARD K. WONG **VAFF** Lifetime Patron

**LEON NG** VAFF Lifetime Patron

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