

# Inside Out

35th Annual  
Toronto 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival  
In-Person and Online  
May 23 – June 1, 2025

[insideout.ca](https://insideout.ca)  
#InsideOut35



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## The magic of stories unites us.

RBC® is proud to be lead sponsor of the **2025 Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival**



**Inside  
Out**

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90780 (03/2025)

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# Welcome Letters

On behalf of Inside Out’s staff and Board of Directors, I’m thrilled to welcome you to the 35th edition of the Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival at TIFF Lightbox.

Inside Out was founded on a commitment to challenge attitudes and change lives through the exhibition, promotion, and production of Queer film. Over 35 years later, that mission remains firmly at the heart of everything we do.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we are reminded of the incredible journey we’ve taken together over the past three and a half decades. This continued legacy would not be possible without the unwavering support of our members, donors, and partners. Your belief in the power of Queer storytelling is what fuels our mission and keeps the screen—and the conversation—alive. Thank you.

For the next nine days, our team invites you to experience a vibrant celebration of Queer cinema, featuring powerful stories from across the country and around the globe. From bold features to boundary-pushing shorts and documentaries, this year’s program reflects the richness, resilience, and diversity of our communities.

We hope you enjoy the program as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you. See you at the movies.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elie Chivi'.

**Elie Chivi**  
Executive Director  
Inside Out

In 2025, our programming and industry team took on two major projects. First, curating Run It Back: a five-film series celebrating standout selections from 35 years of Inside Out. Second, creating a 35th anniversary program worthy of the Festival’s rich legacy. After digging through thousands of titles, we’re thrilled to showcase over 100 2SLGBTQ+ shorts, documentaries, and narrative films this year.

With a lineup featuring over 35 homegrown filmmakers and creators from over 20 countries, we can’t wait for you to meet each and every one of them. Among these powerful voices is *The Crowd*, a powerful Iranian film about chosen family and community. Shot in under two weeks, entirely self-funded, and made under tight security conditions in Tehran, it’s a striking testament to resilience. Alongside it, we’re screening *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance*, a documentary tracing six decades of Canadian Queer activism—a timely reminder of how far we’ve come, and what we risk losing. Though these films reflect different experiences, they share a common thread: the vital importance of Queer spaces, community, and standing up for what’s right.

Over the past 35 years, so much has changed—the Festival, the world, and how we share our stories. But one thing remains constant: the space we’ve created to gather, feel, and discover together. Thank you to everyone who’s helped shape this space—this year, and across the last three and a half decades.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenna Dufton'.

**Jenna Dufton**  
Festival Director  
Inside Out



Celebrating 35 years of the Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival!

For over three decades, the Inside Out Film Festival has been a transformative platform for 2SLGBTQ+ storytellers, driving meaningful dialogue and amplifying important stories. The Festival provides a powerful opportunity for filmmakers to showcase their unique voices and experiences.

For 17 years, RBC has been proud to be a long-standing supporter of Inside Out, a cornerstone event in Toronto's cultural landscape. Film represents more than artistic expression—it contributes to diverse perspectives that foster inclusivity and connection.

On behalf of RBC, I want to congratulate and thank the filmmakers and the Inside Out team for bringing us together to celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ cinema this spring. Also, a huge thank you to the volunteers as well who give their time and energy to make the Festival a success!

**Michelle Waite**  
Regional President,  
Greater Toronto, RBC



It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 35th annual Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival.

Congratulations and best wishes to Inside Out on the anniversary edition of your film festival.

This event brings people together to celebrate the best Queer film from Canada and around the world. As the largest festival of its kind in Canada, this film festival helps to challenge attitudes and change lives through the promotion, production, and exhibition of films made by and about 2SLGBTQ+ people of all ages, races, and abilities. It is a wonderful way to use the medium of film to tell the communities' stories and advocate for social change.

I would like to thank Inside Out for playing a vital role in the social, educational, and cultural health of 2SLGBTQ+ communities and for enriching media arts in our city. I am pleased this festival, which offers an inclusive gathering place for Canadian 2SLGBTQ+ communities and allies, is taking place in Toronto.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I offer best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable festival.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Olivia Chow'.

**Olivia Chow**  
Mayor of Toronto



# About Inside Out

What began as a grassroots collective in 1991 has grown into Canada’s largest 2SLGBTQ+ film festival and one of the most vital platforms for Queer cinema in the world.

Inside Out is a year-round hub for storytelling, industry connection, and community engagement—bringing together audiences, filmmakers, and decision-makers to champion 2SLGBTQ+ voices on screen. In addition to the annual May Festival in Toronto, Inside Out leads year-round initiatives that support emerging talent, drive industry change, and expand access to Queer stories.

**International Finance Forum** Supported by Netflix  
A one-of-a-kind global forum that connects 2SLGBTQ+ storytellers with top industry leaders to advance the financing and development of feature film projects.

**RE:Focus Fund** Supported by RBC, Netflix, NBC Universal, Shaftesbury & LCBO  
A targeted funding initiative supporting women, non-binary, and trans filmmakers telling 2SLGBTQ+ stories. Since 2018, the fund has distributed over \$300,000 in grants for travel, post-production, and professional development.

**The Library** Supported by RBC Future Launch  
A free digital collection of curated 2SLGBTQ+ short films, paired with tailored educational resources for youth, educators, and community organizations across Canada.

**Pitch, Please!**  
A short film pitch competition awarding a \$5,000 production grant.

**Queer Your Stories (in partnership with outACTRAto)**  
An annual production award empowering Queer ACTRA Toronto members to bring their short film ideas to life; offering funding, in-kind support, and a premiere screening at Inside Out.

**Queer Brunch at TIFF**  
An annual gathering during the Toronto International Film Festival that celebrates Queer filmmakers and content, bringing together local and international industry professionals.

**Outbid**  
An annual fundraising auction and party supporting Inside Out’s year-round programs.

## 2025 Board, Committees & Staff

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Polen Light

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Charlie Greenwood

**Marketing Coordinator**  
Dwayne Tang

# Ticketing & Accessibility

Inside Out is the lead organization for the Reel Access initiative that aims to improve the accessibility of film festival programming in Toronto and beyond.

For more information and accessibility updates ahead of the Festival, please visit [insideout.ca/accessibility](https://insideout.ca/accessibility).

For all ticketing FAQs, visit [insideout.ca/festival](https://insideout.ca/festival)

## In-Person & Digital Screenings

	REGULAR	REEL ACCESS (15%) (BIPOC, Students, Seniors, Underwaged Patrons, Patrons living with disabilities)
In-Person Ticket	\$15	\$12.75
Digital Ticket	\$13.50	\$11.50
Opening Night & Party	\$45	\$38.25
Closing Night & Party	\$30	\$25.50
Gala Screenings*	\$20	\$17
6-Pack Ticket Package	\$75	\$63.75
Gala Ticket Package**	\$110	\$93.50
All-Access Digital Pass***	\$125	\$106.25

*Service fees and taxes apply to non-member and member prices online, phone and in-person*

*Member discounts are applicable to screening tickets only and exclude ticket packages*

*\*ReFocus Screening & Centerpiece Screening*

*\*\*Includes one ticket to the Opening Night Film & Party, ReFocus and Centerpiece screenings plus the Closing Night Film & Party*

*\*\*\*Please note, not all films will be available digitally*

## In-Person Tickets & Box Office Info

**Pre-Festival:** To purchase memberships, ticket packages, and tickets, or to redeem a ticket package for in-person or digital screenings, visit our online box office anytime at [insideout.ca/festival](https://insideout.ca/festival), or visit us at our Inside Out office located at 401 Richmond St. - Unit 219 during Box Office hours. Our hours of operation will be posted on our website, on our social media channels, and in our weekly newsletters.

**During Festival:** Visit the Inside Out Festival Box Office at TIFF Lightbox, 350 King Street West. The Inside Out Festival Box Office is open every day of the Festival, two hours before the first screening of the day and closing 30 minutes after the last screening of the day. All major credit cards accepted. Please contact [boxoffice@insideout.ca](mailto:boxoffice@insideout.ca) for ticketing assistance.

## Digital Tickets

To purchase single digital screening tickets, ticket packages for digital screenings, or to redeem a ticket package for digital screenings, visit our online box office anytime at [insideout.ca/festival](https://insideout.ca/festival). As films premiere each day in-person, they will be added to the digital platform the following day at 12:00PM for viewers across Ontario and remain available until June 1 at 11:59PM or until the view cap is reached. All single tickets for digital screenings are valid for 48 hours after you press "Play". \*Please note, digital screenings are geo-blocked to Ontario only, as such you must be in Ontario to access digital programming. Digital screenings will be available for select films screening in-person, therefore not every Festival film will be available digitally.

## Digital All-Access Pass

The Digital All-Access Pass allows for one viewing of all films on our digital platform, for one household. Access to all digital screenings, regardless of when "Play" is pressed, will end at 11:59PM on June 1. \*Please note, digital screenings are geo-blocked to Ontario only, as such you must be in Ontario to access digital programming. Digital screenings will be available for select films screening in-person, therefore not every Festival film will be available digitally.

## Screening Accessibility

Inside Out is committed to improving accessibility for all audience members by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers. For all the most up to date accessibility information please visit the website at <https://insideout.ca/accessibility>

## Ticketing, Venue, and Box Office Accessibility

All our venues and box offices are wheelchair accessible. All our venues welcome service animals, guide dogs, and a support person accompanying anyone with a disability.

## Reel Access

Inside Out is committed to improving accessibility for all audience members by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers. The Reel Access 15% discount is available for BIPOC, students, seniors, underwaged patrons, and patrons living with disabilities. Valid for all in-person and digital tickets, and ticket packages purchased for the 2025 Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival. For more information on accessible ticketing or to inquire about the Reel Access discount, please email [boxoffice@insideout.ca](mailto:boxoffice@insideout.ca).

**Use the discount code IOREELACCESS25 at checkout to apply the 15% Reel Access Discount!**

# Donors & Members

Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival thrives on the unwavering support of our generous donors and members. Your contributions amplify our shared belief in the transformative impact of 2SLGBTQ+ cinema, uniting diverse audiences through empowerment and entertainment. Heartfelt thanks to all of our donors and members, including our Deluxe and Visionary levels listed below.

### Deluxe Members

Carl Bremner and  
Kenneth Holt  
Gebadia Haverkamp  
Dr. Richard Isaac and  
Brian Sambourne

### Visionary Members

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Chris Chin  
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William and Gary Klein  
Marcus Law  
Greg Lichti and  
Garth Norbraten  
Andrew Mainprize and  
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William and Gary Klein  
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Doug Arcand  
Andrew Mainprize and  
Philip Kocev  
Lois Kunkel  
Paul Lalonde  
Claire Lavoie and  
Lisa Landrey  
Marcus Law  
Joel Licuanan  
Donna Inch & Audrey Lobo  
Tony Markotich  
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Shannon Thompson  
Brandon Titaro  
Rick Verrette  
Paul Warder  
Sierra White  
John Yhap

We appreciate the support of all our members and donors. We apologize for any omissions. Inside Out’s Charitable Registration Number is 871515995RR0001.

### Leadership Circle

The Leadership Circle brings together an exceptional group of supporters who wish to champion Inside Out’s goals of challenging attitudes and changing lives through the sharing of our communities’ unique stories on film. Inside Out is grateful to our Leadership Circle donors who are integral in maintaining Inside Out’s legacy and continued success.

Neville Austin  
Neil Betteridge  
Paul Cadiente  
David Carter  
Chris Chin  
Andy Chong  
Larry Hughsam  
Japneet Kaur  
William and Gary Klein  
Marcus Law  
Tony Markotich  
Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten  
Andrew Mainprize and Philip Kocev  
Martha LA McCain  
Keith Medley  
Adam Morrison & James Owen  
Ralph Pascht and Mark Le Messurier  
Bernardine Perreira  
Greg Taylor, Sentinel Maintenance Inc.

### Insider Circle

The Insider Circle brings together a special group of donors who wish to support the growth of Inside Out and contribute to its success for many years to come. By standing up and pledging support for Inside Out at this level, Insider Circle donors are actively declaring their support for our longevity, and enabling us to showcase the best 2SLGBTQ+ films the world has to offer.

Carolyn DiMaria-Lau  
Scott Ferguson  
Phil Gazaleh  
Dr. Richard Isaac and Brian Sambourne  
Paul Lalonde  
Mike Rudolph  
Tom Tan

### Legacy Society

Inside Out’s Legacy Society donors have generously made a lasting commitment to our future by including Inside Out in their wills and estate plans. Inside Out promises to honour their legacy by continuing the essential work of the creation, exhibition, and promotion of 2SLGBTQ+ films.

Neville Austin  
Lambert Boenders and Barry Trentham  
Dennis Findlay  
Larry Hughsam  
Karim Ladak  
Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten  
Adam Morrison & James Owen  
Russell Mathew and Scott Ferguson  
Philip Rouse  
Dr. James Stewart  
Alan Reginald Westbrook

### Monthly Donors

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Chris Chin  
Carolyn DiMaria-Lau  
Paul Lalonde  
Richard McLellan  
Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten  
Adam Morrison & James Owen  
Ralph Pascht and Mark Le Messurier  
R.L. Quade  
Mike Rudolph  
Jeff Slater  
Amy & Mich Talbert



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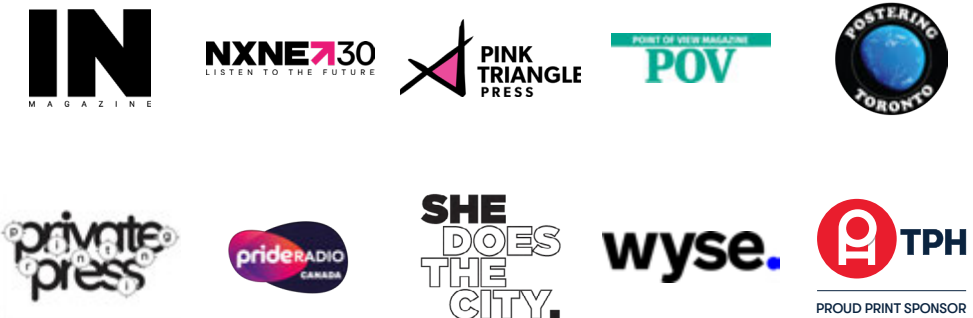
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Spotlight on Canada Sponsors



# Cinema Schedule

See individual film pages for digital exclusive programming and visit the website at [insideout.ca/festival](https://insideout.ca/festival) for the full digital schedule. **#InsideOut35**

FRIDAY MAY 23	
2:00PM	CINEMA 1
Shorts: Here's Looking at You Kid Shorts (pg. 80)	
6:45PM	CINEMA 2
Starwalker Feature (pg. 32)	
7:00PM	CINEMA 1
Outerlands Feature (pg. 20)	
9:00PM	MALAPARTE
Opening Night Gala After Party	
9:30PM	CINEMA 2
Baby Feature (pg. 58)	

SATURDAY MAY 24	
12:30PM	CINEMA 3
Shorts: 24 Flames Per Second Shorts (pg. 74)	
1:00PM	CINEMA 2
Speak. Feature (pg. 51)	
3:45PM	CINEMA 2
Flamingo Camp Feature (pg. 59)	
4:00PM	CINEMA 3
Shorts: Afternoon Delight Shorts (pg. 76)	
6:45PM	CINEMA 2
Enigma Feature (pg. 21)	
7:00PM	CINEMA 3
Sandbag Dam Feature (pg. 66)	
9:00PM	CINEMA 3
Dreams in Nightmares Feature (pg. 29)	
9:15PM	CINEMA 2
Ponyboi Feature (pg. 64)	

SUNDAY MAY 25	
12:30PM	CINEMA 3
Shorts: Real and Spectacular Shorts (pg. 53)	
1:00PM	CINEMA 2
Row of Life Feature (pg. 50)	
3:45PM	CINEMA 2
Unlabelled Feature (pg. 52)	
4:00PM	CINEMA 3
Lakeview Feature (pg. 36)	
6:45PM	CINEMA 2
Two Women Feature (pg. 39)	
7:00PM	CINEMA 3
Some Nights I Feel Like Walking Feature (pg. 68)	
9:15PM	CINEMA 2
The Nature of Invisible Things Feature (pg. 30)	
9:30PM	CINEMA 3
Sauna Feature (pg. 67)	

TUESDAY MAY 27	
6:45PM	CINEMA 2
Really Happy Someday Feature (pg. 37)	
9:15PM	CINEMA 2
Cactus Pears Feature (pg. 22)	
WEDNESDAY MAY 28	
10:30AM	GALLERY
Industry Day Welcome	
11:00AM	GALLERY
Industry Panel: Beyond the Festival Circuit	
12:15PM	GALLERY
Industry Talk: Directors on Directors	
2:00PM	GALLERY
Industry Event: Pitch, Please! Competition	
3:00PM	GALLERY
Industry Panel: Accessibility from Script to Screen	
4:00PM	GALLERY
Industry Event: Mixer	
6:45PM	CINEMA 2
Shorts: BOLD Shorts (pg. 79)	
9:15PM	CINEMA 2
Shorts: Rude, Lewd + Screwed Shorts (pg. 85)	

THURSDAY MAY 29	
6:45PM	CINEMA 2
Move Ya Body: The Birth of House Feature (pg. 48)	
7:00PM	CINEMA 1
Shorts: Local Heroes Shorts (pg. 41)	
9:15PM	CINEMA 2
Season Finale Watch Party: Hacks Episodic (pg. 60)	
9:30PM	CINEMA 1
Shorts: I Know Who You Did Last Summer Shorts (pg. 82)	
FRIDAY MAY 30	
6:45PM	CINEMA 2
Shorts: Thrive Shorts (pg. 86)	
7:00PM	CINEMA 3
The Crowd Feature (pg. 28)	
9:00PM	GALLERY
Industry Event: Spindle Films Reception	
9:00PM	CINEMA 3
Lucky, Apartment Feature (pg. 63)	
9:30PM	CINEMA 2
In Ashes Feature (pg. 62)	

SATURDAY MAY 31	
10:30AM	GALLERY
Awards Ceremony	
11:45AM	CINEMA 1
Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance Feature (pg. 49)	
2:00PM	CINEMA 2
Shorts: Stories We Tell Shorts (pg. 43)	
2:15PM	CINEMA 1
SALLY Feature (pg. 31)	
4:30PM	CINEMA 2
Sweet Angel Baby Feature (pg. 38)	
4:45PM	CINEMA 1
I'm Your Venus Feature (pg. 61)	
7:00PM	CINEMA 2
Rains Over Babel Feature (pg. 65)	
7:30PM	CINEMA 1
The Best Friend Feature (pg. 23)	
9:00PM	GALLERY
Closing Night Gala After Party	

# Events Schedule

## Opening Night Gala After Party

**Date:** Friday, May 23, 9:00PM  
**Venue:** Malaparte  
*\*Free entry with an Opening Night film ticket.*

Music by Thirdeye and Chissmiss Cherry

## Industry Day

**Date:** Wednesday, May 28, 10:30AM  
**Venue:** The Gallery at TIFF Lightbox  
*\*This is a free ticketed event.*

Welcome	10:30AM
Industry Panel: Beyond the Festival Circuit	11:00AM
Industry Talk: Directors on Directors	12:15PM
Pitch, Please! Competition	2:00PM
Industry Panel: Accessibility from Script to Screen	3:00PM
Industry Mixer	4:00PM

## Industry Event: Spindle Films Reception

**Date:** Friday, May 30, 9:00PM  
**Venue:** The Gallery at TIFF Lightbox  
*\*Free entry with a Shorts: Thrive film ticket.*

## Awards Ceremony

**Date:** Saturday, May 31, 10:30AM  
**Venue:** The Gallery at TIFF Lightbox  
*\*This is a free ticketed event.*

## Closing Night Gala After Party

**Date:** Saturday, May 31, 9:00PM  
**Venue:** The Gallery at TIFF Lightbox  
*\*Free entry with an Closing Night Gala film ticket.*

Music by DJ BIA

# LIMITED EDITION PRIDE TOTE

## Inside Out

All proceeds  
support  
Inside Out

\$12<sup>95</sup>

TOTES  
FABULOUS.

LCBO  
SPIRIT OF  
SUSTAINABILITY



LCBO SPIRIT OF  
SUSTAINABILITY  
LOVE PAIRS WITH EVERYTHING.



# GALAS



# Opening Gala: Outerlands



**Date:** Friday, May 23  
**Time:** 7:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 1  
**Canadian Premiere**

### Screening Sponsor



This emotionally resonant film follows Cass juggling multiple jobs, both legal and illegal, to keep their head above water in San Francisco. Soon after Cass hooks up with their crush, Kalli, they are asked to watch Kalli’s daughter, Ari, for a couple days. A smitten Cass agrees. But when days pass with no sign of Kalli, Cass worries that Ari has been abandoned, bringing up Cass’s unresolved feelings about their own childhood abandonment. Featuring an outstanding cast, including Asia Kate Dillon and Lea Delaria in a small but pivotal role, *Outerlands* empowers its characters to have the complex, and at times contradictory, emotions we all experience.

**Director:** Elena Oxman  
**Screenplay:** Elena Oxman  
**USA | 2025 | 100:00**

# RE:Focus Gala: Enigma



**Date:** Saturday, May 24  
**Time:** 6:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Canadian Premiere**

### Screening Sponsors



April Ashley and Amanda Lear began their journeys on strikingly similar paths in the 1950s, dazzling Paris’s cabaret scene and mingling with celebrity elites. Both were rising stars—radiant, magnetic, and seemingly unstoppable—until their trajectories suddenly diverged. April Ashley faced a wave of transphobic backlash during a highly publicized divorce, while Amanda Lear sidestepped scrutiny, reinventing herself as a disco icon known as much for her enigmatic allure as for her refusal to clarify the mysteries surrounding her past and identity. *Enigma*, true to its title, is a layered exploration of two icons, examining the delicate balance of living in the spotlight while staying true to oneself and the complexities of legacy. With sensitivity and insight, Zackary Drucker weaves a story rich with remarkable moments, guiding this journey with the care and brilliance it deserves.

**Director:** Zackary Drucker  
**USA | 2025 | 94:00**



# Centrepiece Gala: Cactus Pears (Sabar Bonda)



**Date:** Tuesday, May 27  
**Time:** 9:15PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Andrew Mainprize &  
Philip Kocev

Anand leaves his rural hometown in western India to seek a free and uncomplicated life in Mumbai. However, when his father falls ill and passes away, he reluctantly returns home to fulfill his obligations during the mourning period. He finds comfort in the presence of his mother but is quickly confronted by relatives eager to question his life choices, especially his unmarried status. When he reconnects with Balya, an old childhood friend, who, like Anand, has resisted the pressure to marry, the two bond over their shared experiences and mutual understanding. Yet, as they rekindle their relationship, they must confront a deeper question: can they set aside their families' expectations and create the lives they've always dreamed of? Rohan Parashuram Kanawade's debut feature, which won the World Cinema Dramatic Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance, is a profoundly tender exploration of love and personal freedom under the weight of familial and societal pressures.

**Director:** Rohan Parashuram Kanawade  
**Screenplay:** Rohan Parashuram Kanawade  
**India/United Kingdom/Canada | 2025 | 112:00**  
**Language:** Marathi with English subtitles

# Closing Gala: The Best Friend (O Melhor Amigo)



**Date:** Saturday, May 31  
**Time:** 7:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 1  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Screening Sponsors**

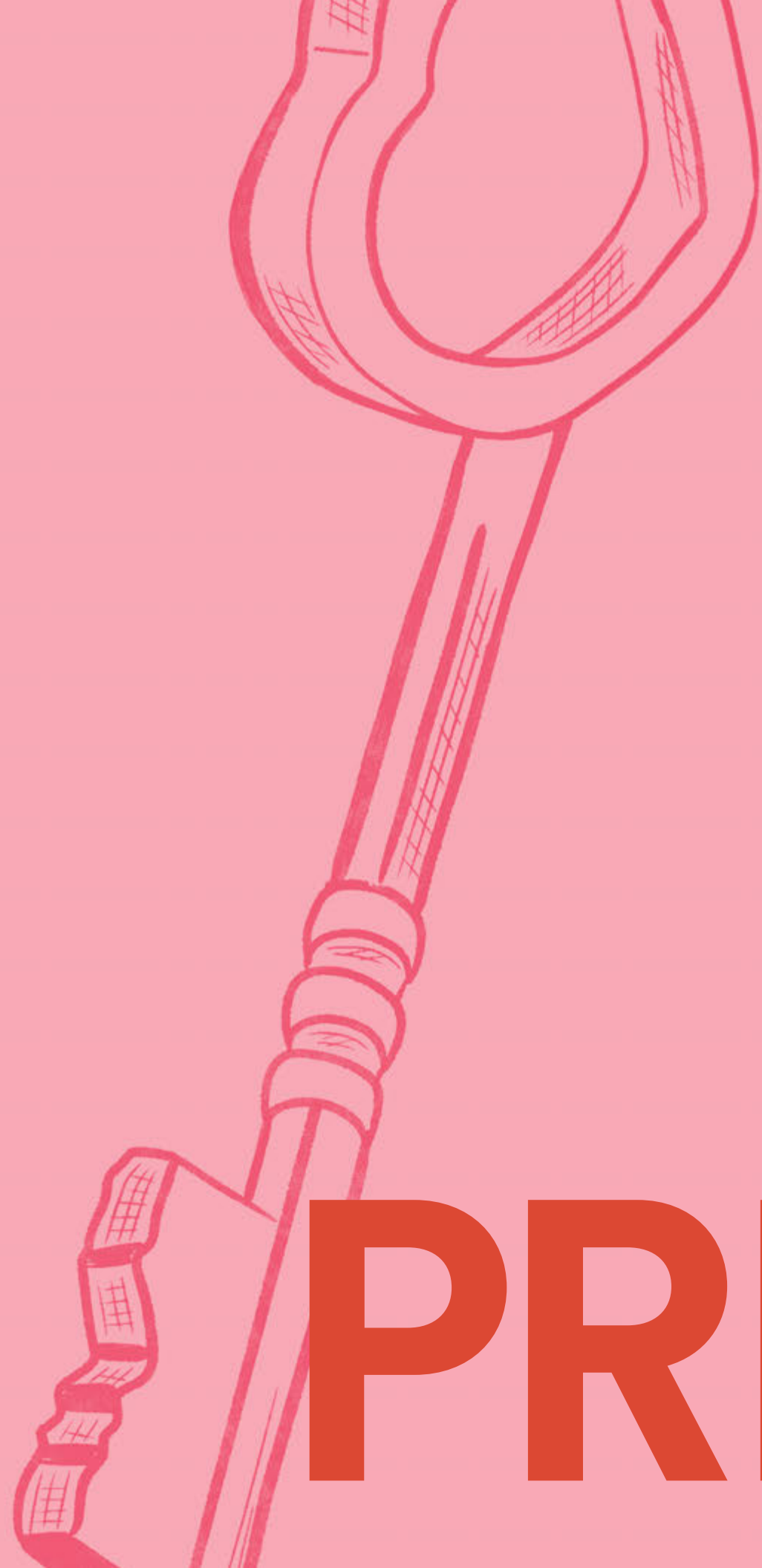
Hinge

**Leadership Circle**  
William and Gary Klein

Spooked by his long-term boyfriend's very public proposal, Lucas flees to the resort town of Canoa Quebrada. It's here, walking the white sand beaches, that he's reunited with his unrequited college crush, Felipe. The tall and tan and young and lovely Felipe, a self-proclaimed professional lover, helps the shy and timid Lucas out of his shell and reignites his feelings in the process. Lucas is forced to decide: will he continue to live life ruled by insecurities or will he succumb to his burning passions? Just like *From Justin to Kelly* and *Mamma Mia*, this campy resort musical will have you dancing in the aisles and bouncing in your seats.

**Director:** Allan Deberton  
**Brazil | 2024 | 96:00**  
**Language:** Portuguese with English subtitles





**PREMIERES**

# The Crowd



**Date:** Friday, May 30  
**Time:** 7:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 3  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Keith Medley

Throwing a party for a partner or friend may seem to many an easy task, but not in Tehran, and especially not for Hamed and his friends. As they attempt to throw good friend Raman a going-away party, they do so at the risk of their freedom. Nonetheless, they get to work cleaning out an abandoned garage owned by Hamed’s family, booking DJs, and working on a guest list, but when Hamed’s religious brother appears, they must band together and fight for their right to party. Based on the filmmaker’s own experience with his community and their fight for individual freedoms, the film was self-funded and shot independently over just 12 days. The very existence of the film is miraculous and, as a tale of the importance of the chosen Queer family, is essential viewing.

**Director:** Sahand Kabiri  
**Screenplay:** Sahand Kabiri  
**Iran | 2025 | 70:00**  
**Language:** Farsi with English subtitles

# Dreams in Nightmares



**Date:** Saturday, May 24  
**Time:** 9:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 3  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Screening Sponsor**



**Community Partner**



After losing their jobs, Z and Tasha pull in their friend Lauren to embark on a road trip searching for their missing friend, Kel. The trio begin their journey with a clear goal in mind—to find a dearest friend, a member of their chosen family. However, the road through the Midwestern landscape offers them a chance to confront what it means to be Black Queer femmes in contemporary America. Shatara Michelle Ford’s sophomore film confronts the constricting ideals of society with an overtly aspirational take that asserts that Black women have agency over their identity.

**Director:** Shatara Michelle Ford  
**Screenplay:** Shatara Michelle Ford  
**USA | 2024 | 120:00**



# The Nature of Invisible Things

(A natureza das coisas invisíveis)



**Date:** Sunday, May 25  
**Time:** 9:15PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Canadian Premiere**

During the summer holidays, 10-year-old Gloria accompanies her mother, Antônia, a dedicated nurse, to work. As Gloria wanders the sterile hallways, she meets Sofia, a spirited girl convinced that her great-grandmother, Bisa, is growing weaker because of her time in the hospital. United by a longing to escape, the two girls form a deep connection, one that soon extends to their single mothers, Antônia and Simone. As the shadow of Bisa’s passing draws near, the families retreat to the countryside, where Antônia assumes responsibility for her final care. Surrounded by nature and tradition, they find a community ready to honor Bisa’s life and guide her spirit onward. In this sacred place, where endings and beginnings intertwine, the cycle of death and rebirth gains profound meaning for Gloria, Sofia, and the women who raise them.

**Director:** Rafaela Camelo  
**Screenplay:** Rafaela Camelo  
**Brazil/Chile | 2025 | 90:00**  
**Language:** Portuguese with English subtitles

# SALLY



**Date:** Saturday, May 31  
**Time:** 2:15PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 1  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Martha LA McCain

**Community Partner**



In 1983 Sally Ride became the first American woman to blast off into space, catapulting her into the spotlight as a household name and feminist icon. Beneath her unflappable composure, however, she carried a secret. Through present day interviews and incredible archival footage, Sally’s life partner, Tam O’Shaughnessy, reveals the romance and sacrifices of their 27 years together, telling for the first time the full story behind Ride’s public journey. In addition to interviews with Tam O’ Shaughnessy, *SALLY* features acclaimed tennis star and groundbreaking advocate for women and LGBTQ+ rights, Billie Jean King, as well as celebrated astronauts from Sally Ride’s NASA class of 1978: Kathy Sullivan, Anna Fisher, John Fabian, and Steve Hawley.

**Director:** Cristina Costantini  
**USA | 2024 | 103:00**



## A man and a woman are shown in profile, facing each other and smiling. The woman, on the left, has dark hair tied back and is wearing a green quilted vest over a brown jacket. The man, on the right, is wearing a dark beanie and a dark jacket. They are standing in front of a textured, light-colored wall. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a romantic atmosphere.

## 33

# SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

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# Lakeview



**Date:** Sunday, May 25  
**Time:** 4:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**  
**Toronto Premiere**

**Screening Sponsor**



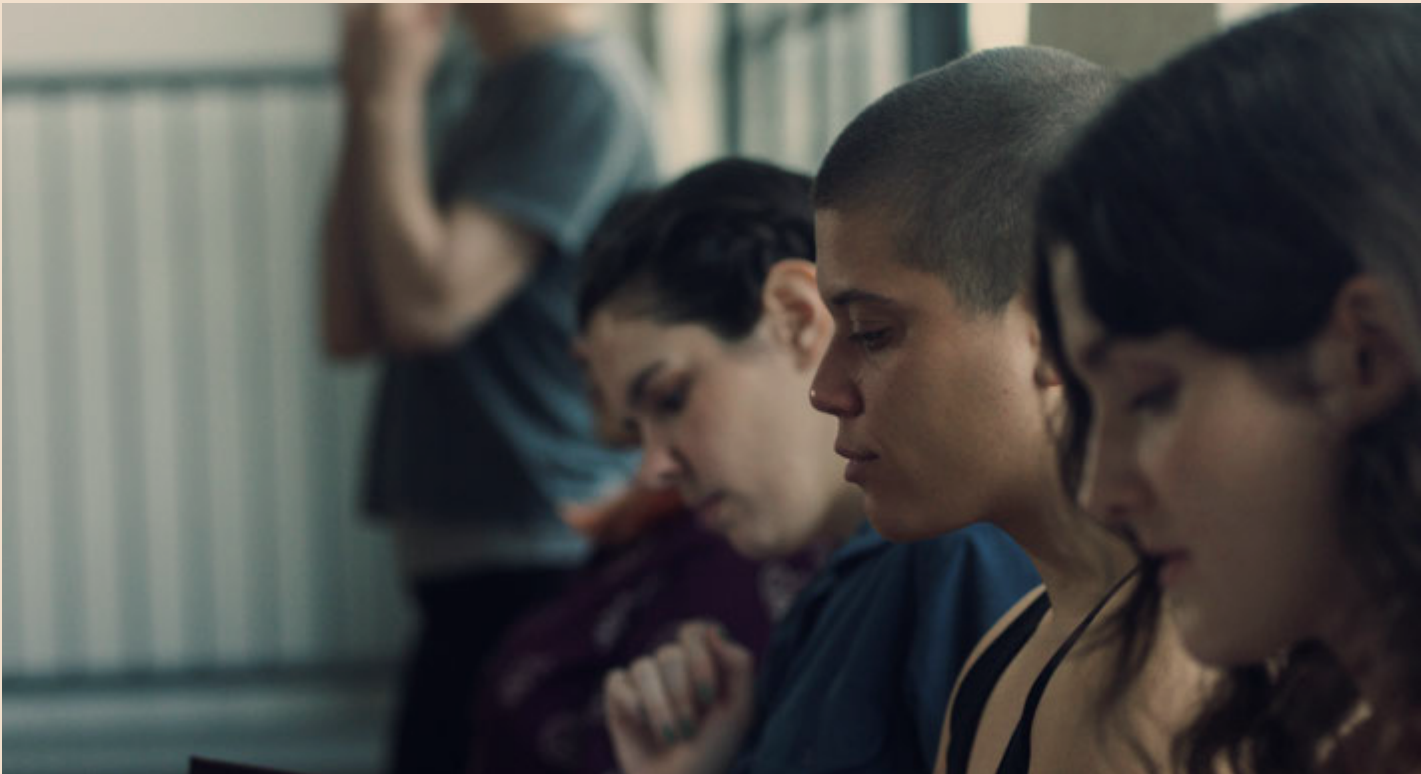
**Community Partner**



Set against Nova Scotia’s scenic eastern shore, *Lakeview* brings together a group of Queer friends, opening the doors to both fun and chaos. During a girls' weekend celebrating a divorce, old feelings, new relationships, and shifting dynamics collide in the fading glow of summer. Tara Thorne’s sophomore feature captures both the thrill of newfound freedom and the bittersweet nostalgia of letting go. *Lakeview* is a refreshing take on modern relationships, lesbian drama, and the havoc a few too many drinks can wreak on a friend group. A warm, laugh-inducing, and authentic story about friendship—the queer kind, at least.

**Director:** Tara Thorne  
**Screenplay:** Tara Thorne  
**Canada | 2024 | 100:00**

# Really Happy Someday



**Date:** Tuesday, May 27  
**Time:** 6:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2

**Screening Sponsors**



**Community Partner**



Before he transitioned, Z was a rising star in Toronto’s theatre scene. But now, with testosterone affecting his voice, he must learn to navigate his evolving body in order to return to his passion—without sacrificing his present. Along the way, Z finds support in Shelly, a vocal coach helping him reconnect with his voice, and Santi, a bar owner who offers both a barback job and a listening ear, sharing in Z’s experiences. *Really Happy Someday* is a labour of love and community. Director J Stevens and lead actor Breton Lalama, who stars as Z, collaborated at every stage of the film’s production, drawing from their own experiences. The result is a deeply authentic and tender work, rich with understanding in both its performances and visuals.

**Director:** J Stevens  
**Screenplay:** Breton Lalama, J Stevens  
**Canada | 2024 | 90:00**



# Sweet Angel Baby



**Date:** Saturday, May 31  
**Time:** 4:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsors**



**Leadership Circle**  
Greg Lichti and  
Garth Norbraaten

**Community Partner**



Life in Eliza’s small Newfoundland fishing community is simple and tranquil. She participates in church activities, organizes fundraisers, and appears to be fully integrated into her tight-knit town. Yet, beneath this peaceful exterior, Eliza harbors a secret: a social media alter ego who wears a ski mask and poses provocatively amidst the rugged landscape. In addition to this, she is involved in a clandestine relationship with Toni, the town’s only openly lesbian resident. Eliza’s life teeters on a delicate balance, as she strives to keep her two worlds from colliding. When her secrets are inevitably exposed, Eliza is forced to confront how she is now seen by her community, and decide what she is willing to sacrifice in order to live the life she truly desires.

**Director:** Melanie Oates  
**Screenplay:** Melanie Oates  
**Canada | 2024 | 96:00**

# Two Women



**Date:** Sunday, May 25  
**Time:** 6:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2

**Community Partner**



When Violette invites her neighbour Florence over for tea, they realize they have a lot in common. They’re both mothers, they both feel trapped in their apartments, and they’re both not having sex. Their shared dissatisfaction unites them, creating a duo that sits somewhere between *Thelma & Louise* and *Dumb and Dumber*. After Florence has an eye-opening affair with the cable guy, Violette decides to follow suit, booking an exterminator, a painter, and a cleaning service. With each fling their to-do lists get shorter, but their relationships are still in disrepair. Chloé Robichaud’s playful remake of Claude Fournier’s comedy classic, *Two Women in Gold*, explores how to exist in a world when your realities don’t align with your expectations.

**Director:** Chloé Robichaud  
**Screenplay:** Catherine Léger  
**Canada | 2025 | 100:00**  
**Language:** French with English subtitles

# Shorts: Local Heroes

Toronto takes over the screen! From healing journeys and tender friendships to zombie apocalypses and cat-sitting gone wrong, this program represents Toronto at its best... And worst? Grab your tickets before it sells out—this city doesn’t play when it comes to supporting its filmmakers.



**Last Call**  
**Director:** Tricia Hagoriles  
**Canada | 2025 | 10:00**  
**Language:** English and Spanish with English subtitles

A lesbian couple must rely on a jaded bartender to work through their recent-breakup bubble to survive a sudden zombie attack inside a dying Queer bar.



**baby fat**  
**Director:** Iris Kim  
**Canada | 2025 | 14:00**

Kitty, a disillusioned 20-something searching for meaning amidst societal pressures and personal insecurities, must navigate an existential crisis after her best friend reveals she’s skipping town to chase her dreams.



**Bodyrebuilding**  
**Director:** Vivek Shraya  
**Canada | 2025 | 10:00**

How diversity work led to chronic pain and a journey to healing through weightlifting.



**Cat Sitters**  
**Director:** Claren Grosz  
**Canada | 2025 | 11:00**

Four friends reunite to watch scary movies while cat sitting, but a power outage and the nagging suspicion that they’re not alone threatens to kill the vibe.

**Date:** Thursday, May 29, 7:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 1  
**Digital Screening Available**

Total program runtime: 100:00



**GIRL (THIỆU, NỮ)**  
**Director:** Cà Rốt Thái  
**Canada, Vietnam | 2025 | 14:00**  
**Language:** English and Vietnamese with English subtitles

A trans Vietnamese woman's letter to herself and her family before secretly starting hormone replacement therapy.



**MOON & BACK**  
**Director:** Pony Nicole Herauf  
**Canada | 2024 | 13:00**

Two young people spend a weekend memorializing their friendship before one of them permanently moves to the moon.

**Screening Sponsor**



**Leadership Circle**  
Ralph Pascht and  
Mark Le Messurier

**Community Partner**





**fastLOVE**  
**Director:** Wayne Burns  
**Canada | 2025 | 16:00**

A young man falls prey to an elusive hustler.



**I've Heard a Siren Calling**  
**Director:** Dylan Mitro  
**Canada | 2025 | 12:00**

Nev is a young trans woman in the early stages of her transition. In her small fishing town, she grapples with isolation and managing her fears of reintegrating back into the world she loves... Surfing.



# Shorts: Stories We Tell

We're back for our annual journey across Canada to offer up the best of the best from 2SLGBTQ+ filmmakers from coast to coast to coast. A love letter to the work created here and an exploration of love stories themselves, this program is Made in Canada and proud of it.



**Lovin' Her**  
Director: day  
Canada, USA | 2024 | 15:00

A mature trans woman navigates the complexities of a fading memory, delving into the intricacies of love and the burgeoning evolution of her gender identity.



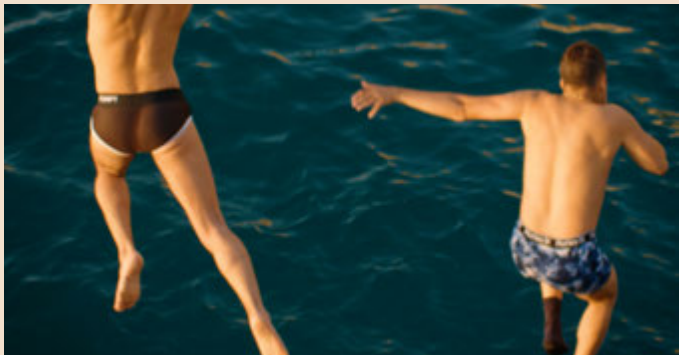
**Hello Stranger**  
Director: Amélie Hardy  
Canada | 2024 | 17:00

Between loads of laundry at the corner laundromat, Cooper shares the tumultuous story of her gender reassignment journey.



**Place d'Armes**  
Director: Drew Lint  
Canada | 2024 | 19:00  
Language: English and French with English subtitles

Jean-Paul, recently injured at work, spends his days praying at churches and his nights performing as a dancer at a strip club. He copes with his pain and continues to find faith in the beauty of life.



**Aliens in Beirut**  
Director: Raghed Charabaty  
Canada | 2024 | 17:00  
Language: Arabic and English with English subtitles

A Lebanese immigrant's search for belonging and love in Beirut is shattered by the 2020 Port Explosion, forcing them to confront desire beyond survival.

Date: Saturday, May 31, 2:00PM  
Venue: TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
Digital Screening Available

Total program runtime: 94:00

Screening Sponsors

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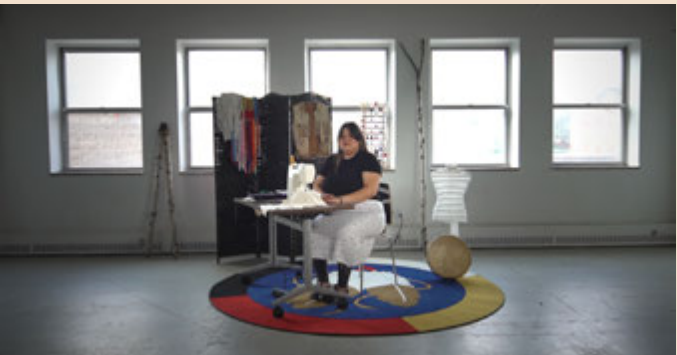
**Forest Echoes**  
Director: Eva Grant  
Canada | 2024 | 18:00

A love story set against the backdrop of the climate crisis and the opioid epidemic, *Forest Echoes* follows Echo and Wild, two urban Indigenous land defenders.



**Everything's Great, You?**  
Director: Kristoffer Bradley Cruz  
Canada | 2024 | 4:00

When her ex-girlfriend calls asking to meet up, Sofia leaves her a voicemail to talk about how great her life is going.



**Yesterday, today, see you tomorrow**  
Director: Irène-Kimberley Valin-Awashish  
Canada | 2024 | 4:00  
Language: French with English subtitles

Braiding, sewing, and singing, a young woman passes on the richness of her cultural heritage to the next generation. To the rhythm of the teueikan, she also tells of the trials of the past and present.





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# ICONS





# Move Ya Body: The Birth of House



**Date:** Thursday, May 29  
**Time:** 6:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Ontario Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Marcus Law

**Community Partner**  
**FOMO**

In the 1970s, disco democratized the dancefloor, putting Black, Brown, and Queer music at the top of the charts. When the industry and some of the white public turned against the genre (“disco sucks”), that talent, energy, and feeling of community had to go somewhere. House music, born in a Chicago gay club, answered the call. Director Elegance Bratton tells the story of house—the parties, the feuds, the exploitation, and the legacy—through the story of Vince Lawrence. As a teenager, Lawrence was at the infamous 1979 Disco Demolition Night and went on to be one of the forces behind influential house label Trax Records. With commentary from Kevin Aviance, Lena Waithe, and other Queer cultural figures, this documentary argues that, “house history is queer history.”

**Director:** Elegance Bratton  
**USA | 2025 | 92:00**

# Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance



**Date:** Saturday, May 31  
**Time:** 11:45AM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 1

**Screening Sponsors**



**Community Partner**



If there was ever a necessary time for an authoritative no-more-shit documentary about the history of Canadian 2SLGBTQI+ activism, it’s right now. *Parade* is that documentary. Featuring interviews with the who’s who of six decades of Canadian Queer activism, along with astonishing archival footage—including crowds at the 1970s drag balls on Yonge Street—it’s a far-reaching and thoughtful film that should be taught in schools (sorry, not sorry, Anita Bryant). But its heft doesn’t make *Parade* any less inspiring for casual viewers. If history is repeating, this documentary will give audiences the hope (and ideas and anger and empathy) to carry them through whatever comes next.

**Director:** Noam Gonick  
**Canada | 2025 | 96:00**  
**Language:** English and French with English subtitles



# Row of Life



**Date:** Sunday, May 25  
**Time:** 1:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**  
**International Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Bernardine Perreira

*Row of Life* tells the story of one woman’s irrepressible ambition to defy all odds, a journey that led her from the Marine Corps to three Paralympic Games and 14 Guinness World Records. In 2020, at the age of 60, Angela Madsen embarked on her most ambitious challenge yet: rowing 2,400 miles across the Pacific Ocean from Los Angeles to Hawaii. As if this feat weren’t already remarkable, Madsen became the first paraplegic and the oldest woman to attempt this solo, unassisted ocean row. As we follow her journey, we discover a poetic tale of bravery, resilience, and—perhaps most importantly—love. Throughout her quest, Madsen and her wife, Deb, support each other’s dreams, despite being separated by the vast expanse of the ocean and risking what would ultimately become the greatest cost.

**Director:** Soraya Simi  
**USA | 2025 | 82:00**

# SPEAK.



**Date:** Saturday, May 24  
**Time:** 1:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**  
**Ontario Premiere**

**Screening Sponsor**



*SPEAK.* follows five of the nation’s top teenage speech competitors, capturing the euphoria of victory and the devastation of defeat as they craft and perform original oratories over the course of a nine-month season. Their dream is simple: to win the Super Bowl of public speaking, the NSDA Nationals. We witness these five competitors, their coaches and their parents as they fight to keep school speech programs alive amid budget cuts, book bans, and censorship efforts that reach a fevered pitch during the 2024 election year. *SPEAK.* captures the passion, joy, and courage of unforgettable teens using their voices to change hearts and minds. This film is the perfect antidote for these fraught times—intense, funny, and most of all, hopeful.

**Directors:** Jennifer Tiexiera, Guy Mossman  
**USA | 2025 | 103:00**



# Unlabelled



**Date:** Sunday, May 25  
**Time:** 3:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**  
**World Premiere**

Screening Sponsor



**Leadership Circle**  
Neil Betteridge

*Unlabelled* follows the lives of three members of the trans community in Toronto—Lucah, Emery, and Lucy—who graciously take us on a journey through their experiences, both joyful and painful, as they navigate their own paths in the world. This documentary thoughtfully explores the diversity of trans experiences, the importance of community, and the power of being patient with yourself in a society that often rejects your identity. With care and honesty, Johnson-Vosberg presents *Unlabelled* as a moving portrait of extraordinary individuals who too often go unnoticed in everyday life. The film invites us to reflect on the role of identity and poses a bold question: what if we imagined a future without labels?

**Director:** Colette Johnson-Vosberg  
**USA | 2025 | 83:00**

# Shorts: Real and Spectacular

Some of the most powerful stories aren’t written, they are lived. This collection of documentary shorts unveils the extraordinary journeys of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals who sparked change through action, not words. These stories are real, and they are spectacular.

**Date:** Sunday, May 25, 12:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Leadership Circle**  
David Carter

Total program runtime: 105:00



**Lloyd Wong, Unfinished**  
**Director:** Lesley Loksi Chan  
**Canada | 2025 | 29:00**

A filmmaker unearths and completes an unfinished 1990s video project by a Chinese-Canadian artist who documented his life with HIV. The work bridges three decades, offering a unique perspective on art, identity, and legacy.



**Two Travelling Aunties**  
**Director:** Christine Seow  
**United Kingdom | 2025 | 22:00**

Two spirited Singaporean seniors ditch years of conventional living for van life, embracing adventure, newfound freedom, and the joy of living on their terms.



**Because of You:**  
**A History of Kilawin Kolektibo**  
**Directors:** Barbara Malaran, Desireena Almoradie  
**USA | 2024 | 39:00**  
**Language:** English and Tagalog with English subtitles

Joyful, raw, revolutionary: once upon a time in the 1990s, against a racist and lesbophobic backdrop, queer Filipnxs came together for the first time in NYC to create a safe and loving community.



**While We Still Have Time**  
**Director:** Ava Grimshaw-Hall  
**Australia | 2024 | 15:00**

A daughter reconciles with her distant sperm-donor father as he manages an aggressive prostate cancer, with little indication of how much time there is left to find out who he really is.

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# INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

# Baby



**Date:** Friday, May 23  
**Time:** 9:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Toronto Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Adam Morrison & James Owen

São Paulo's streets can offer both danger and opportunity. For Wellington, they deliver both. After being released from a juvenile detention center, he finds himself alone and adrift, with no contact from his parents. While wandering the city, he encounters Ronaldo, an experienced and charming older man who takes him under his wing, teaching him new ways to survive. Their romance is fiery, vibrant, dizzying, and tumultuous—turning from a fairytale to a nightmare in the blink of an eye. Nominated for the Queer Palm at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, *Baby* is an exhilarating exploration of self-discovery, desire, and the precarious nature of love and survival in an unforgiving city.

**Director:** Marcelo Caetano  
**Screenplay:** Gabriel Domingues, Marcelo Caetano  
**Brazil | 2024 | 106:00**

# Flamingo Camp



**Date:** Saturday, May 24  
**Time:** 3:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**  
**International Premiere**

On the edge of the Sonoran Desert sits Slab City, an off-the-grid community that's home to nomads, travellers, and snowbirds. Amidst the cacti and anarchy is a Queer oasis: Flamingo camp. Founded by Nova, an experienced traveller from Canada, Flamingo camp has become a refuge to Queer and trans youth from across North America. When the sweltering heat of the summer sets in and Nova departs for cooler climates, the camp is left without their de facto leader. As the temperature and tensions rise, an unimaginable tragedy ruptures the once-thriving safe space and divides the residents. *Flamingo Camp* explores how race, mental health, and class intersect in our communities and asks what it really takes to create safe spaces.

**Director:** Chris Coats  
**USA/Mexico | 2025 | 80:00**



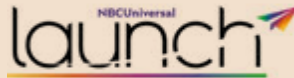
# Season Finale Watch Party: Hacks



**Date:** Thursday, May 29  
**Time:** 9:15PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2

In Season 4 of the multiple Emmy and Golden Globe® Award-winning Max Original comedy series *Hacks*, tensions rise as Deborah (Jean Smart) and Ava (Hannah Einbinder) endeavor to get their late night show off the ground and make history doing it.

**Screening Sponsors**



Stream Season 4 of *Hacks* Thursdays at 9:00PM ET on Crave, then join Inside Out for an unforgettable Season Finale Watch Party on May 29. There’s nothing like experiencing a finale in a room full of people so come laugh, gasp, and cheer as *Hacks* closes out the season in style.

**Director:** Lucia Aniello  
**Writers:** Lucia Aniello, Paul Downs, Jen Statsky  
**USA | 2025 | 30:00**

# I'm Your Venus



**Date:** Saturday, May 31  
**Time:** 4:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 1  
**Ontario Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Greg Taylor,  
Sentinel Maintenance Inc.

One of the most memorable real-life characters in *Paris Is Burning*, the monumental 1990 documentary about New York’s drag ball scene, was aspiring model and complete spitfire, Venus Xtravaganza. In 1988, before the film was finished, Venus was found dead in a hotel room. Now, almost 35 years later, three of her biological brothers are working with members of her ballroom family to honour Venus’s legacy, in part by trying to have her murder case reopened. Mixing new and archival footage, award-winning director Kimberly Reed touchingly captures what made Venus so magical and the emotional journey of two families.

**Director:** Kimberly Reed  
**USA | 2024 | 86:00**

# In Ashes (Se Gennem Aske)



**Date:** Friday, May 30  
**Time:** 9:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Neville Austin

After getting dumped by his first love, Christian is spiraling. The breakup was brutal, one-sided, and he’s still stuck—mentally replaying every moment of their romance. Desperate for connection, he dives headfirst into hookup apps, but finds himself caught in a cycle of fleeting, awkward encounters that only leave him feeling emptier. In the chaos of heartbreak, sex, and self-sabotage, he’s forced to ask: can he finally let go of the past, or is he too far gone to find something real? Director Ludvig C. Poulsen’s striking debut feature is raw, unapologetically intimate, and an emotionally resonant portrait of what it takes to crawl out from under heartbreak, and start again.

**Director:** Ludvig Christian Næsted Poulsen  
**Screenplay:** Ludvig Christian Næsted Poulsen  
**Denmark | 2025 | 82:00**  
**Language:** Danish with English subtitles

# Lucky, Apartment (Leogki, apateu)



**Date:** Friday, May 30  
**Time:** 9:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**  
**North American Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Chris Chin

**Community Partner**

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Seonwoo and Heeseo’s dream of safe and secure housing becomes a reality when they put everything they have into purchasing a small apartment. The shine quickly comes off of their newly renovated apartment when Seonwoo loses her job and breaks her leg, leaving Heeseo solely responsible for paying their mortgage. Unable to find work and confined to their apartment, Seonwoo becomes obsessed with finding the source of a foul odour coming from downstairs. When it’s discovered that their elderly neighbour has passed, Seonwoo takes it upon herself to find their estranged family. Seonwoo’s investigation into the life of their solitary neighbour brings light to the cracks forming in her own relationship with Heeseo. Will they be able to weather this storm together, or will outside forces push them apart?

**Director:** Garam Kangyu  
**Screenplay:** Kim Hyun-jin, Garam Kangyu  
**South Korea | 2024 | 95:00**  
**Language:** Korean with English subtitles



# Ponyboi



**Date:** Saturday, May 24  
**Time:** 9:15PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Community Partner**



Based on River Gallo’s award-winning short film, *Ponyboi* takes audiences on a wild, neon-lit ride through the underbelly of New Jersey. Unfolding over the course of Valentine’s Day, *Ponyboi* is just trying to get through the day when a drug deal goes horribly wrong. As chaos and violence erupt, *Ponyboi* is forced to confront both personal and existential trials. Laundromats, handsome cowboys, 24-hour diners, and neon lights all come together in this exhilarating tale that asks: how far can one go when their life is at stake? Director Esteban Arango brings this extraordinary story to life with an outstanding ensemble cast, including Dylan O’Brien, Indya Moore, Victoria Pedretti, and Murray Bartlett. Thrilling and unrelenting, *Ponyboi* mesmerizes with its fearless storytelling, blending suspense, sensuality, high-stakes conflict, and nonstop action.

**Director:** Esteban Arango  
**Screenplay:** River Gallo  
**USA | 2024 | 103:00**

# Rains Over Babel (Llueve Sobre Babel)



**Date:** Saturday, May 31  
**Time:** 7:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 2  
**Canadian Premiere**

Step into a world where the living and the dead share the stage for one unforgettable night at Babel, a mythical bar pulsing with secrets, spirits, and second chances. This darkly imaginative riff on Dante’s *Inferno* blends the surreal with the spiritual, the sacred with the profane, and the tragic with the transcendent. As drag queens, fallen angels, and restless souls collide with Death herself, stories of love, identity, and transformation emerge from the shadows. Gala del Sol brings a genre-bending journey into the afterlife that’s infused with dark humor, unspoken truths, and flashes of defiant, Queer joy. Through grief, desire, and glitter-stained resistance, *Babel* becomes more than a bar—a portal to what we’re willing to risk for the people, passions, and parts of ourselves we refuse to let die.

**Director:** Gala del Sol  
**Screenplay:** Gala del Sol  
**Colomna/USA/Spain | 2025 | 113:00**  
**Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

# Sandbag Dam (Zecji nasip)



**Date:** Saturday, May 24  
**Time:** 7:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 3  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Tony Markotich

As the river running through a small Croatian village looks set to rise and flood the area, two teenagers are holding back their own flood of emotions. After three years of living in Berlin, Slaven has come back for his father’s funeral. His return unsettles not only the tightknit community, but also Marko, a cheerful, athletic guy who spends much of his time hanging out with his brother, fixing cars with his father, and trying to have sex with his girlfriend. Director Čejen Černić Čanak's feature debut is a poignant portrait of forbidden love—a love that the audience will be rooting for.

**Director:** Čejen Černić Čanak  
**Screenplay:** Tomislav Zajec  
**Croatia | 2025 | 88:00**  
**Language:** Croatian with English subtitles

# Sauna



**Date:** Sunday, May 25  
**Time:** 9:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 3  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Screening Sponsor**



**Leadership Circle**  
Paul Cadiente

**Community Partner**



Johan has been living a carefree life—bars, parties, Grindr hookups, and steamy bathhouse encounters. But when William, a transgender man, enters his world, everything shifts. *Sauna* explores the transformative power of love, revealing both its tenderness and its madness. Based on the novel of the same name by Mads Ananda Lodahl, the film delves deep into the complexities of desire, identity, and community. Through Johan and William’s relationship, director Mathias Broe crafts an intimate and raw portrayal of contemporary Queer romance. With striking visuals and an unflinching gaze, *Sauna* immerses us in a world where passion and vulnerability collide.

**Director:** Mathias Broe  
**Screenplay:** William Lippert, Mathias Brae  
**Denmark | 2025 | 105:00**  
**Language:** English, Danish, and Swedish with English subtitles



# Some Nights I Feel Like Walking



**Date:** Sunday, May 25  
**Time:** 7:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**  
**Canadian Premiere**

**Leadership Circle**  
Andy Chong

**Community Partner**



Manila at night is teeming with possibility—of danger but also of tenderness. Uno meets distressed teenager Zion in a bus terminal and they bond in their brief encounter. Two years later, they meet again as hustlers booked by the same client. The night turns sour when Uno’s friend, Miguelito, is found overdosing after being with a client. Zion reveals to Uno and his buddies, Bayani and Rush, Miguelito’s dying wish: to take him home. Together, they lug Miguelito’s body around the city and into the countryside, via buses and highways. With each step, the conclusion becomes clearer: there is no place in the world for these kids, except with each other. Despite their differences, they have been forged into a singular pack of brothers.


**Director:** Petersen Vargas  
**Screenplay:** Petersen Vargas  
**Philippines | 2024 | 103:00**  
**Language:** Tagalog with English subtitles




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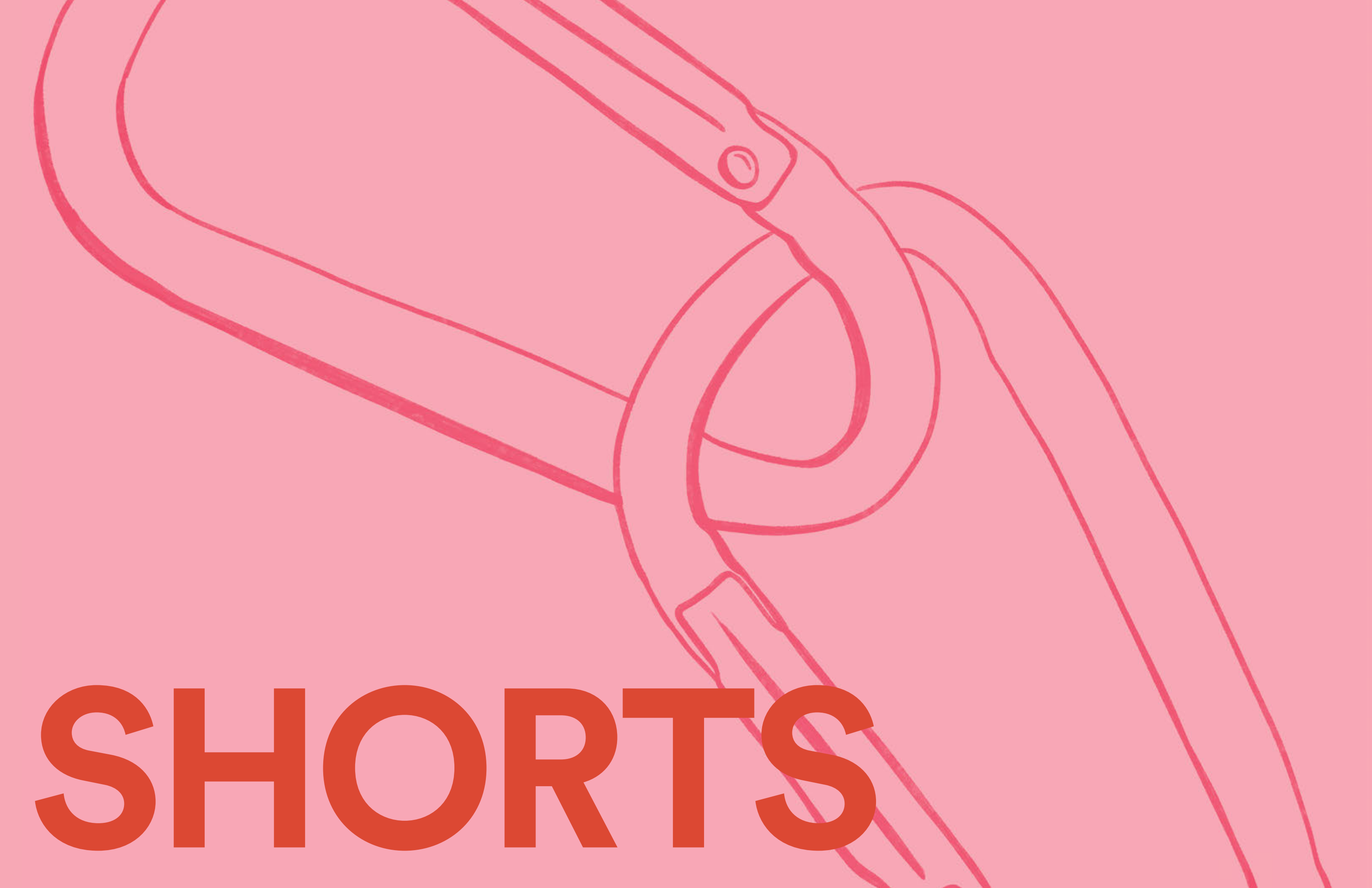
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**SHORTS**

# Shorts: 24 Flames Per Second

Like the Saturday morning cartoon lineup from your childhood only much weirder and much, much gayer. 24 Flames Per Second delivers love stories, bird funerals, high stakes video games, produce-based erotica, and some light drug use. Not recommended for children but ideal for the young at heart.



## A Bird Hit My Window and Now I'm a Lesbian

**Directors:** Carmela Murphy, AJ Dubler  
**USA | 2024 | 8:00**

After a mysterious girl shows up at Gray's doorstep holding the corpse of a bird that just cracked her window, an impromptu bird funeral changes the way Gray views herself and her lesbian identity.



## HOMUNCULUS

**Director:** Bonheur Suprême  
**France/Italy | 2025 | 18:00**  
**Language:** English, French, and Russian with English subtitles

*HOMUNCULUS* displays the wandering of a man on a quest for other men.

**Date:** Saturday, May 24, 12:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**

Total program runtime: 93:00



## Carrotica

**Director:** Daniel Sterlin-Altman  
**Canada | 2024 | 13:00**

A teenage boy is writing an explicit gay erotica in secret in his bedroom and his mother is falling in love with a carrot. They're doing okay...



## Stoned For Christmas

**Director:** Morgan Young  
**USA | 2024 | 14:00**

A multimedia whirlwind and a love letter to weed, *Stoned for Christmas* follows the adventures of one cannabis courier delivering at Christmastime.



## 27

**Director:** Flóra Anna Buda  
**France/Hungary | 2024 | 11:00**  
**Language:** Hungarian with English subtitles

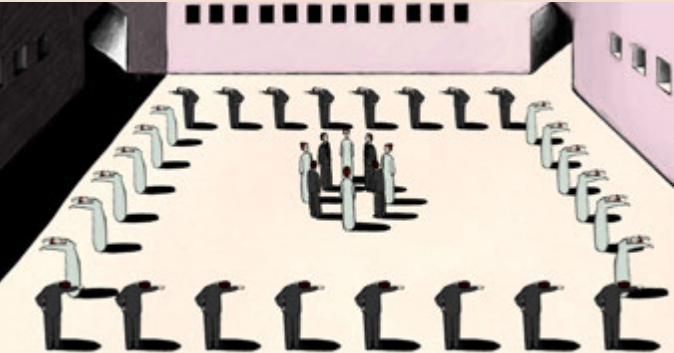
Alice is 27 years old today and even though she is suffocating under her parents' roof, she still finds a way to live in her dreams and escape her dreary everyday life.



## PIETRA

**Director:** Cynthia Levitan  
**Portugal | 2024 | 13:00**  
**Language:** Portuguese with English subtitles

In daydreaming about unlikely relationships, the flower—as delicate as it is revolutionary—represents an act of love amidst the suffocation and embrace of a classic Portuguese neighborhood.



## The Eating of an Orange

**Director:** May Kindred-Boothby  
**United Kingdom | 2024 | 7:00**

A juicy and surreal exploration of convention and sexuality told through slugs, rituals, and the eating of an orange.



## Two Black Boys in Paradise

**Director:** Baz Sells  
**United Kingdom | 2024 | 9:00**

A movingly tender animation, based on Dean Atta's eponymous poem, sees two boys on a journey of self-acceptance and love—for each other and themselves.

Community Partners





# Shorts: Afternoon Delight

Home is where the heart is but the journey to find it isn't always easy. Whether guided by a guardian angel, a loyal partner, a dirt track, or an unexpected stranger, this collection of shorts offers the roadmap you need to reach it.

Date: Saturday, May 24, 4:00PM  
Venue: TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 3  
Digital Screening Available

Leadership Circle  
Japneet Kaur

Total program runtime: 95:00

Community Partner



**SPITI**  
Director: Sofia Sfyri  
Greece/Cyprus | 2024 | 25:00  
Language: Greek with English subtitles

A house with nerves, a coughing A/C, two girls in love. A personal guide on love and loss.



**Divine Intervention**  
Director: Ravenna Tran  
United Kingdom | 2024 | 17:00

To get the promotion of their dreams, a mischievous earth-bound angel must get two ex-best friends to finally admit their love for each other.



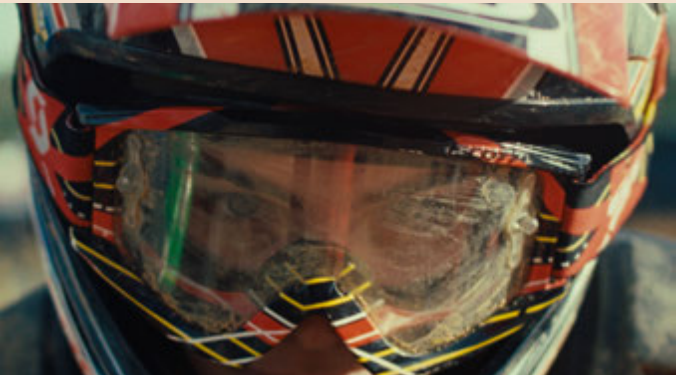
**Hold Me Close**  
Directors: Aurora Brachman, LaTajh Weaver  
USA | 2024 | 19:00

A study of a Black Queer couple told through intimate voice recordings documented over the course of a season.



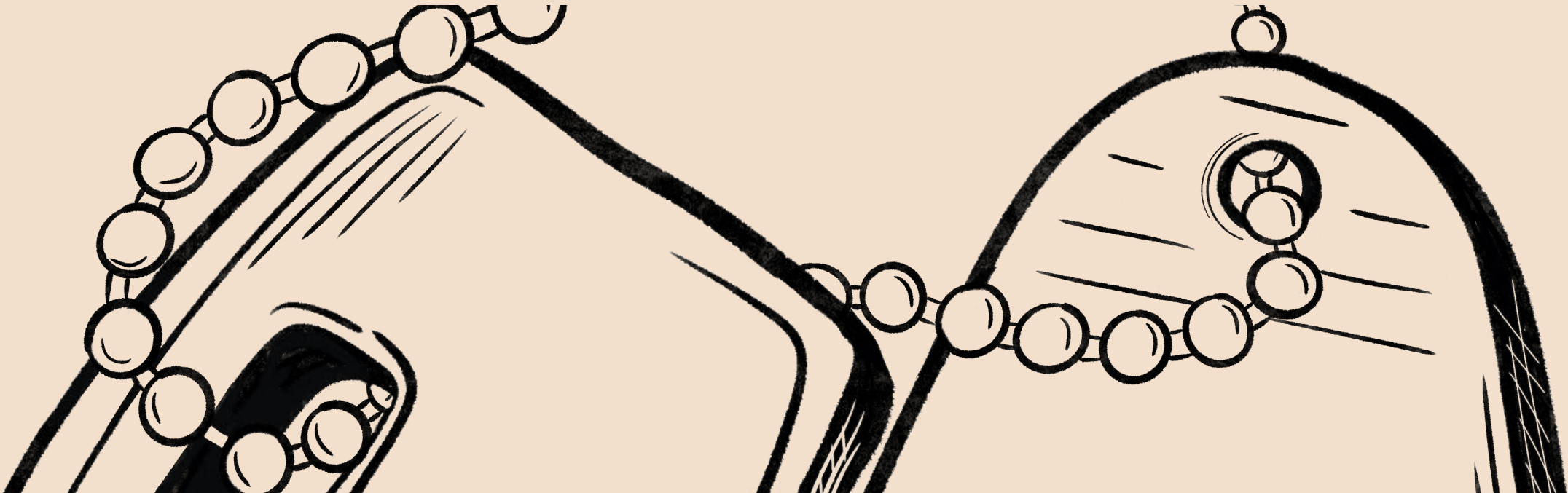
**Dandelion**  
Director: Fiona Obertinca  
USA | 2025 | 20:00

In 1970s Los Angeles, a rebellious Queer teen gets thrown out of a foster placement and finds herself in the company of a mysterious social worker who's tasked with finding her a new home before dawn.



**Ragamuffin**  
Director: Kaitlyn Mikayla  
USA | 2024 | 14:00

A 12-year-old motocross racer spends an average race weekend at the track with her father but, as things unfold, she's faced with her identity, her deafness, and what it means to be a girl.





# Shorts: BOLD

This series of shorts takes you on a mesmerizing exploration of the Black Queer experience. It's a testament to the power of storytelling to illuminate the human condition in all its complexity and beauty. From laughter to tears, from cultural exploration to personal revelations, these films invite us to connect, reflect, and celebrate the diversity of experiences within the Black community.



**Caribbean Queen**  
Director: Sekiya Dorsett  
USA | 2024 | 22:00

Follow the journey of Q, a young Caribbean boy, who wants to become the Queen of the West Indian Day Carnival Parade.



**YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIKE ME**  
Director: Safiyah Chiniere  
USA | 2024 | 10:00

A woman struggling with societal norms and her insecurities as a masc-presenting Caribbean woman.

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 6:45PM  
Venue: TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
Digital Screening Available

Total program runtime: 89:00

Community Partner



**Newbies**  
Directors: Kimiko Matsuda-Lawrence, Megan Trufant Tillman  
USA | 2025 | 17:00

Two broken strangers wrestling with their queer identities meet on the subway just after midnight. A poetic journey through their night reveals how they got here, and what broke them.



**Ancestor (Dédé)**  
Director: Yasmine Djedje-Fisher-Azoume  
United Kingdom | 2025 | 3:00

Examining the divine female figure in West African sculpture through an exploration of the director/ animator's Bété ancestry, drawing upon the spiritual iconography of the Bété people.



**If We Met Now**  
Director: Halen King  
Canada | 2024 | 9:00

*If We Met Now* has a transgender man confront his cisgender boyfriend's disapproval toward a gender-affirming procedure.



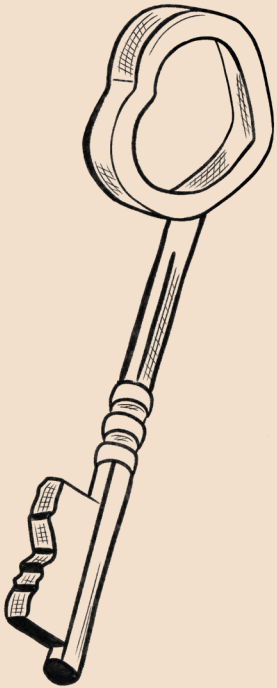
**All My Niggas Surround Me And I'm Surrounded By All My Niggas**  
Director: Jai Stephenson  
USA | 2024 | 17:00

On a Sunday morning, Jai converses with older and younger versions of themselves, exploring the transcendence of the Queer Black experience.



**Munchies**  
Director: Brittany Alexia Young  
USA | 2024 | 11:00

After lighting up and getting the munchies, a group of vulgar teenage girls stumble into a botched robbery at their local convenience store.





# Shorts: Here's Looking At You, Kid

Whether it be an artist, a princess, a witch, or a drag star, this collection of shorts shows that you can be anything you want to be when you grow up, just so long as you don't grow up too fast, and you have fun doing it.



**PRINCIPESSA 2**  
**Director:** Alessandra Francesca Coratella  
**Italy | 2024 | 7:00**  
**Language:** Italian with English subtitles

Once upon a time there was a princess, a prince, and a wicked witch. In short, a fairy tale like many others where the prince may be nice, but our princess prefers his sister.



**A KIN SIN**  
**Director:** Gulzar  
**Canada | 2025 | 6:00**

While giving an oiled scalp massage to a friend, filmmaker Gulzar seeks to understand their gender amidst their familial and cultural wishes.

**Date:** Friday, May 23, 2:00PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 1  
**Digital Screening Available**

Total program runtime: 89:00

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**Zari**  
**Director:** Shruti Parekh  
**USA | 2024 | 19:00**  
**Language:** English and Hindi with English subtitles

American teen Neelu feels like a fish out of water amidst preparations for her sister's wedding in Delhi until she forges a brief and unexpected connection.



**The Human Under the Bed**  
**Director:** Euan O'Leary  
**Canada | 2024 | 10:00**

AJ, a little monster awake past their bedtime, has made a terrifying discovery: there's a human under their bed!



**Phranc: The Butch Closet**  
**Director:** Paige Gratland  
**Canada | 2025 | 21:00**

Follow artist and musician Phranc as she reflects on her recent exhibition, *The Butch Closet*, a memoir in the form of an art installation featuring painted paper and cardboard sculptures.



**Wait, Wait, Now!**  
**Director:** Ramon Te Wake  
**New Zealand, Aotearoa | 2024 | 13:00**

When best friends are left at home for the night, they do what all teenage boys do.



**Pinocchio**  
**Director:** Silas Howse  
**Canada | 2024 | 6:00**

*Pinocchio* is the story of a young trans man, Silas, who shares his life story in hopes of adding a new perspective to the trans experience.



**Brim Broome Boulevard**  
**Director:** PJ Magerko-Liquorice  
**USA | 2024 | 7:00**

In need of some retail therapy? Welcome to Brim Broome Boulevard! When a child wanders through a set of mysterious doors, they embark on a journey of self-discovery where fear and fashion intertwine.

# Shorts: I Know Who You Did Last Summer

Hidden fetishes, pretend boyfriends, and forbidden crushes, this collection of shorts unravels the raw and often messy world of desire, and the lengths people will go to chase it. What are you waiting for, huh?



**Simon at the nightshop**  
**Director:** Thanasis Tsimpinis  
**Belgium | 2024 | 15:00**  
**Language:** Arabic, Dutch, and French with English subtitles

Simon, a lonely gay man in his 40s, feels noticed by a young cashier at a local nightshop. At first more spontaneously, but then more methodically, he sets his mind to winning him over.



**Coming & Going**  
**Director:** Andy Johnston  
**Australia/Canada | 2024 | 23:00**

Two men playfully agree to be “boyfriends” for a week but when lust unexpectedly turns into love, their broken hearts are given a chance to heal and their lives an opportunity to change.



**Palindrome**  
**Director:** Krit Komkrichwarakool  
**Canada | 2024 | 15:00**

A man fervently seeks the truth behind his partner’s disappearance after his mysterious return.



**The Job**  
**Director:** Frédéric Moffet  
**Canada | 2024 | 15:00**

An exploration of the erotic archive of Canadian photographer and entrepreneur John Phillips who worked in the 1990s for gay male magazines in the USA.

**Date:** Thursday, May 29, 9:30PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 1  
**Digital Screening Available**

Total program runtime: 98:00



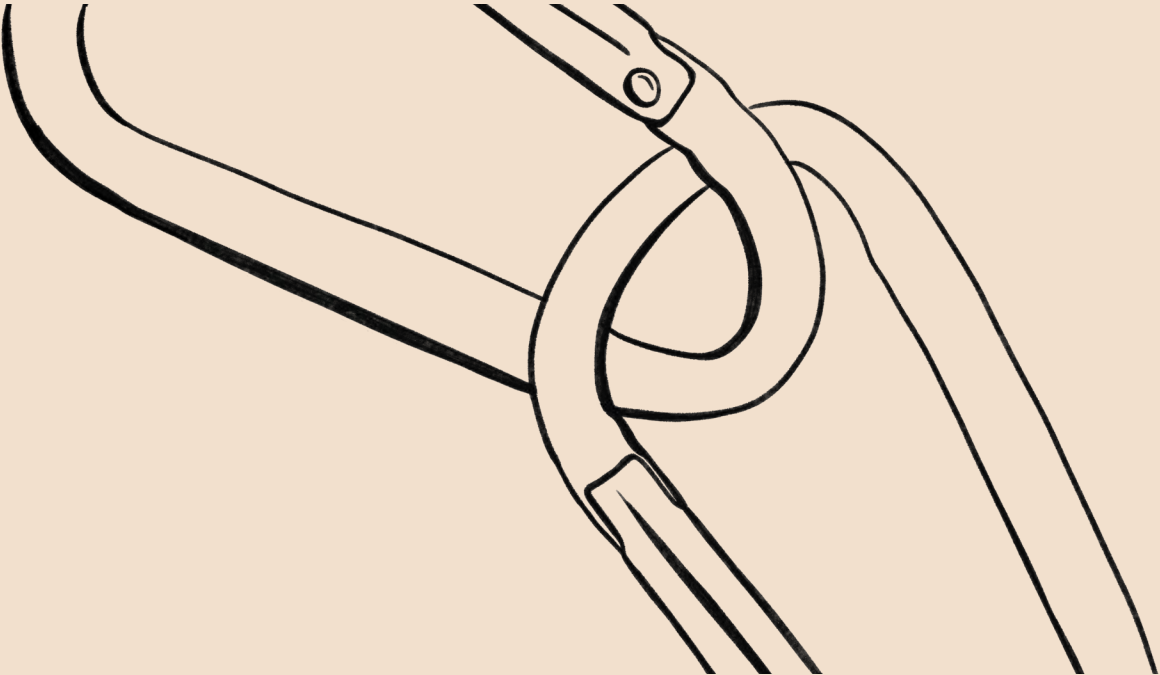
**To Pee or Not to Pee**  
**Director:** Yen Chu Chen  
**Taiwan | 2024 | 23:00**  
**Language:** Chinese with English subtitles

Becoming popular forces a gay doctor couple to confront challenges regarding their acceptance of each other and their hidden fetish.



**Therapist Crush**  
**Director:** MJ Kaufman  
**USA | 2024 | 7:00**

Soul-searching transmasculine Frankie has a crush on his hot, new therapist, until one day things get too real.





# Shorts: Rude, Lewd, + Screwed

Space travel, meaty fantasies, and inopportune allergic reactions, this collection of shorts has one goal and one goal only: to make you laugh. Let’s face it, with so much going on in the world, we could all use it.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 28, 9:15PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

Total program runtime: 105:00

**Screening Sponsor**  
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**Time Capsule**  
**Director:** Constanze Brodbeck  
**USA | 2024 | 5:00**

Through interactions with a self who has yet to exist, Constanze creates a time capsule for herself exploring themes of aging, transition, and consciousness.



**Die Bully Die**  
**Directors:** Nathan Lacey, Nick Lacey  
**Australia | 2024 | 16:00**

17 years after high-school, Max catches up with his former bully, Adam, in a fancy restaurant, where Max’s grudge against Adam begins to manifest in horrific ways.



**In The Flesh**  
**Director:** Emily Frances Kaplan  
**USA | 2024 | 16:00**

A woman's infatuation with her local butcher exposes the cracks in her seemingly perfect marriage.



**Three Minutes**  
**Director:** Annika Chavez  
**USA, Canada | 2024 | 6:00**

Daria waits a pregnant three minutes for her test results.



**Organza's Revenge**  
**Director:** Walter Scott  
**Canada | 2024 | 20:00**

Organza, a broke artist in a distant galaxy, travels across the stars to seek revenge on her ex-lover in an attempt to cure her mysterious illness.



**PORELESS**  
**Director:** Harris Doran  
**USA | 2025 | 13:00**

A fabulous Queer Muslim beauty entrepreneur competes in a Shark Tank-like contest after suffering an untimely allergic reaction.



**Hot Young Geek Seeks Blood-Sucking Freak**  
**Director:** Heath Virgoe  
**United Kingdom | 2024 | 12:00**

Fighting off a vampire is hard but coming out is harder. In the midst of pre-party dress-up, Max finds himself the online target of an angry vampire bent on drinking his blood.



**RAT!**  
**Director:** Neal Suresh Mulani  
**USA | 2024 | 17:00**

When a disgruntled music journalist accuses a global pop star of queerbaiting, the singer’s devoted fans seek retribution.



# Shorts: Thrive

Cementing roots, loving yourself, trying to love others, making history, holding each other, chasing dreams, and simple misunderstandings. Thrive celebrates the otherworldly talent of trans and nonbinary filmmakers. Always here, always together, always thriving.



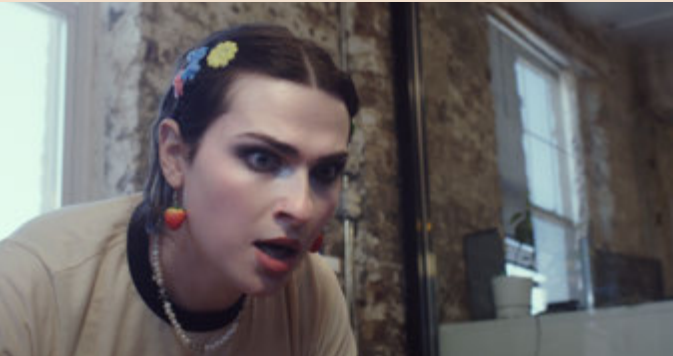
**IYKYK**  
**Director:** Bonita Rajpurohit  
**India | 2024 | 18:00**  
**Language:** English and Hindi with English subtitles

*IYKYK* follows Kusum, a trans girl on a series of dates with boys trying to straddle the line of respecting her boundaries and expressing themselves.



**Roots That Reach Toward The Sky**  
**Director:** Jess X. Snow  
**Canada, USA | 2024 | 15:00**  
**Language:** English and Mandarin with English subtitles

When her mother’s Chinese Traditional Medicine shop gets vandalized, Kai, a young botanist, is thrust between her immigrant mother’s avoidance and her partner’s quest for community mutual aid.



**Egg**  
**Director:** Jamie Kiernan O'Brien  
**USA | 2024 | 7:00**  
**Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

In a job interview, a young trans woman becomes convinced that the elderly man interviewing her is a closeted trans woman himself—and that she's the only one who can help him.



**Dreams of Sunlight Through Trees**  
**Director:** Theo Cuthand  
**Canada | 2024 | 16:00**

The trans joy of early transition competes with anti-trans legislation headlines.

**Date:** Friday, May 30, 6:45PM  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

Total program runtime: 100:00



**Witness**  
**Directors:** Radha Mehta, Saif Jaan  
**USA | 2024 | 14:00**  
**Language:** Arabic, English and Urdu with English subtitles

A revered small-town imam faces a crisis of faith when he must choose between upholding the values of his mosque or protecting the safety and spiritual belonging of a trans man congregant.



**Cowboy Billi (Billi il Cowboy)**  
**Director:** Fede Gianni  
**Italy | 2024 | 15:00**  
**Language:** Italian with English subtitles

Billi is 12 years old: she rides horses and dreams of being a cowboy. When a casting agent shows up looking for young extras to do some stunt work, Billi knows this is her big chance.



**Chimera**  
**Directors:** Gael Jara, Martín André  
**Chile | 2025 | 11:00**  
**Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

A non-binary person watches the handover of the first non-binary ID in the history of Chile. A poetic exploration of transition and fluidity in the face of rigid bureaucracy.



**Lost Bois**  
**Director:** Devyn Galindo  
**USA | 2024 | 4:00**

A hedonistic and gritty exploration into the lives of three rebellious trans bois. Buckle up and embrace chaos.



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