

2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival  
In-Person and Online  
May 24 - June 1, 2024

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

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NETFLIX

# Inside Out



# The magic of stories unites us

RBC® is proud to be lead sponsor  
of the **2024 Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+  
Film Festival.**

#speakupforinclusion



**Inside  
Out**

# **NETFLIX**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE  
2024  
INSIDE OUT  
FINANCE FORUM  
PARTICIPANTS**

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# Welcome Letters

On behalf of Inside Out's staff and Board of Directors, we are thrilled to welcome you to the 34th edition of the Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival at the TIFF Lightbox. The team has been hard at work to curate nine days of the latest in queer cinema from across the country and around the world.

As we continue to evolve and adapt to the ever-changing film and festival industries, we are proud that, over three decades on, Inside Out continues the long-standing mission at its heart to challenge attitudes and change lives through the exhibition, promotion, and production of queer film.

This year marks our 8th edition of the world's only 2SLGBTQ+ Finance Forum, where we endeavor to provide space for film projects in development to pitch to industry executives. Inside Out will also host its 3rd Industry Day, open to film industry professionals.

We are fortunate to have seen our work result in better representation for the 2SLGBTQ+ community in media and created more opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ people to be the ones to tell their own stories.

On the eve of the Festival's 35th anniversary in 2025, it's a privilege to continue to bring the community together to share in the magic of queer cinema together. We can't continue this incredible journey without our members, donors, and partners and would like to express our gratitude to each and every one of you. Your continued support is an essential part of maintaining the legacy of Inside Out, the artists it showcases, and audiences that we serve.

We hope you enjoy diving into the program as much as we've loved putting it together for you.

See you at the movies!



**Elie Chivi**  
Co-Head and Executive Director  
Inside Out

**Andrew Murphy**  
Co-Head and Artistic Director  
Inside Out

On behalf of RBC, welcome to the 2024 Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival!

For the past 34 years, Inside Out has been challenging attitudes and changing lives as an incredibly important platform for the 2SLGBTQ+ community to tell their stories. We're excited that the Festival will continue to combine in-person and online screenings for a truly inclusive experience.

At RBC, we believe that we are only as strong as the communities around us, and supporting the arts has been a longstanding priority because of the role it plays in building strong, diverse, and connected communities. We're proud to be entering our 16th year of supporting the Festival as Lead Sponsor, underscoring the important role Inside Out plays in the Toronto arts landscape.

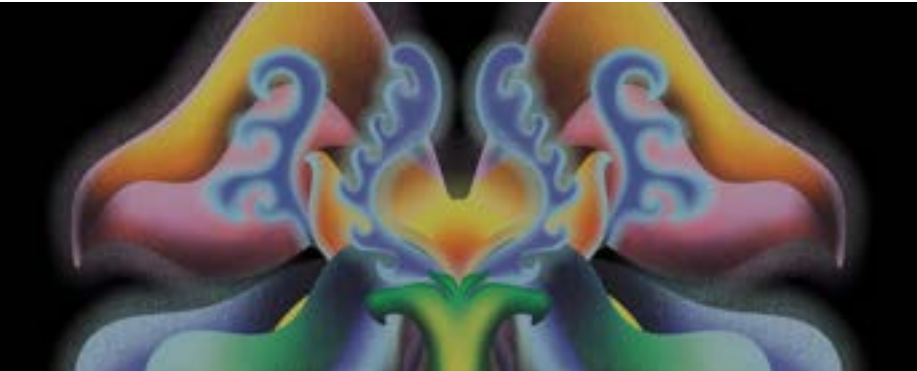
To all the filmmakers represented this year: congratulations and thank you for inspiring and connecting us all through your storytelling. We look forward to gathering together to watch and celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ cinema this spring.



To the Inside Out team of staff and volunteers, thank you all for bringing this event to life!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'K. Depencier'.

**Kris Depencier**  
Regional President, RBC Royal Bank  
Greater Toronto





I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2024 Inside Out Toronto 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival.

This annual festival provides a platform for 2SLGBTQ+ filmmakers from across Canada and around the world to share their perspectives and stories. I am sure that audiences will be entertained and inspired by the diverse selection of films being screened this year and that the accompanying panels and discussions will stimulate many meaningful exchanges.

I would like to thank the festival organizers for their hard work and dedication. You can take pride in your commitment to celebrating Canadian filmmakers and to fostering diversity and inclusion in the industry.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable experience.

Sincerely,



**The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.**  
Prime Minister of Canada



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE



Canada

Film has the power to expand our horizons and help us better understand the lived experiences of people in our communities and beyond. This festival serves as a vital platform for showcasing narratives that explore the diverse experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, fostering inclusivity and understanding. I love that this is by and for the community while bringing film lovers and the community together. Our government is proud to support this long-running event that gives members of diverse communities an opportunity to experience arts and culture that reflect who they are, and to discover the talents of both established and up-and-coming filmmakers from Canada and beyond.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I would like to thank all the organizers, volunteers and participating filmmakers who helped bring this year's Inside Out to life. Your commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices adds greatly to Toronto's cultural landscape.

Enjoy the films!



**The Honourable Pascale St-Onge**  
Minister of Canadian Heritage



It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Inside Out Toronto 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival.

This annual film festival is a wonderful opportunity to showcase and celebrate the best in queer film from Canada and around the world right here in our city.

Thank you to Inside Out for bringing Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ community together for over three decades and thank you for celebrating these great achievements in film. We are thrilled this event is taking place in our city once again.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration and continued success.

Yours truly,

**Olivia Chow**  
Mayor of Toronto

Inside Out has showcased the best in queer film for more than three decades. It continues to make an important contribution to Ontario's film festival industry by celebrating diverse voices and experiences on-screen, reinforcing our province's inclusive identity and contributing to more informed and connected communities.

Thank you to festival staff and volunteers for your tireless efforts to showcase Ontario as a premier arts and culture destination. Thank you also to the creative minds behind each featured film for entertaining, informing and inspiring audiences from near and far.

I wish you all a captivating and engaging festival.

Best regards,

**The Honourable Neil Lumsden**  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport





# About Inside Out

In addition to bringing together Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ community in celebration of the best queer film from Canada and around the world for more than three decades, Inside Out also challenges attitudes and changes lives through the following initiatives.

**International Finance Forum** | Inside Out's International Finance Forum (IFF) is the first and only 2SLGBTQ+ film financing forum of its kind in the world. Now entering its eighth edition, the Forum provides 2SLGBTQ+-identified producers, writers, and directors creating 2SLGBTQ+ content with an opportunity to move their feature projects forward through professional development and mentorship, as well as providing the platform to pitch their projects directly to top international industry executives and decision makers. The International Finance Forum is sponsored by Netflix.

**RE:Focus Fund** | Established in 2018, Inside Out's RE:Focus Fund aims to address industry inequities through the provision of direct financial support to women, non-binary, and/or trans filmmakers telling 2SLGBTQ+ stories. Founded through a lead gift from Martha McCain, the fund has distributed more than \$250,000 in festival travel grants, post-production funds, and professional development programs for filmmakers since its creation. RE:Focus fund is supported by RBC.

**Pitch, Please!** | Competitors present a two minute short film pitch to a jury and audience, with one winner taking home a \$5,000 production grant. The competition takes place during Inside Out's Toronto Festival and includes presentations from filmmakers from around the world. Pitch, Please! is supported by Netflix.

**Programs and Initiatives** | Inside Out joins forces with partners to strategically support filmmakers and the communities their films represent. In 2024, Inside Out featured a series of concurrent programs uplifting community, made possible by the invaluable support of these partners:

- Emerging Artist Program (Sponsored by RBC)
- Festival Experience Program (Sponsored by NBCUniversal Launch)
- Community Partners Program (Sponsored by Amazon MGM Studios)

**outACTRAto: Queer Your Stories** | Presented in partnership with outACTRAto, the annual Queer Your Stories: Short Film Competition is open to queer ACTRA Toronto members and provides one winning team with financial and in-kind production support, as well as an Inside Out screening of the completed work.

**Year-Round Screenings** | Outside of our flagship May Film Festival, Inside Out partners with key community groups, film festivals, and film distributors across Greater Toronto and Ontario whenever possible to present exclusive film screenings, panels, and celebrations of our stories on screen. Past examples include: festival screenings in Ottawa; annual co-presentations with Hot Docs, Reel Asian, and imagineNATIVE film festivals; and preview screenings with partners such as Paramount+, Netflix, and Crave.

**The Library** | The Library is a digital resource for youth, educators, and community organizations across Canada to access 2SLGBTQ+ short films and accompanying customized educational materials. The Library is sponsored by RBC.

**Queer Brunch at TIFF** | Since 2017, Inside Out has partnered with the Toronto International Film Festival to host a Queer Brunch at TIFF. A celebration of queer content at TIFF, the brunch gathers local and international queer filmmakers and industry participating in and attending the September festival.

# 2024 Board, Committees & Staff

## Board

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Aisha Fairclough  
Aleia Gland  
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Andrew Murphy  
Alex Lalonde  
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Michael McNeely  
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Will Zang  
Oliver Irrgang Colato  
Luke Bandara  
Patrick Pfeiffer  
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Matthew Grace  
Siqi Wang

### **Program Note Writers**

Allen Braude  
Jenna Dufton  
Paul Gallant  
Lu Linares  
Claire Jarvis  
Andrew Murphy

### Staff

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**Co-Head and Artistic Director**  
Andrew Murphy

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**Grants Consultant**  
Steen Starr

**Grants Writer**  
Steven Greenwood

**Finance Forum Producer**  
Jan Nathanson

**Copy Writer**  
Suze Ingold

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	\$15	\$12.75
Opening Night & Party	\$40	\$34
Gala Screening	\$25	\$21.25
Closing Night Film	\$20	\$17
Closing Night Party*	\$20 (\$15 with purchase of film ticket)	\$17
6-Pack Ticket Package	\$75	\$63.75

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

\*Member discounts are applicable to individual tickets only

\*A Closing Night Film ticket includes an access code to purchase a ticket to the Closing Night Party at TD Music Hall through Massey Hall's box office. Complimentary access for Patron, Visionary and Deluxe members with film ticket.

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.

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, under-waged patrons, and patrons living with disabilities. Valid for all in-person and digital tickets, and ticket packages purchased for the 2024 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).

### **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/boxoffice](https://insideout.ca/boxoffice), 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 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 fifteen 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 box office anytime at [insideout.ca/boxoffice](https://insideout.ca/boxoffice). 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 5th 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. 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 the most up to date accessibility information please visit <https://insideout.ca/accessibility>.

### **Program Guide Accessibility**

Visit [insideout.ca/accessibility](https://insideout.ca/accessibility) to review the content of the program guide with a range of accessibility features including increased text size, enlarged cursor, smart contrast, screen reader compatibility, and more.

# 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 our Donors and Members, including our 2024 Deluxe and Visionary Members.

## Deluxe Members

Carl Bremner and  
Kenneth Holt  
Gebadia Haverkamp  
Dr. Richard Issac and  
Brian Sambourne  
Tony Markotich

## Visionary Members

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Michael Smith  
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**A Special Thank You to Martha LA McCain** | We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from Martha LA McCain. Martha's support and commitment of Inside Out and the Re:Focus Fund has enabled the festival to bring the 2SLGBTQ+ community together in celebration of the best queer film from Canada and around the world.

### **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 enormously grateful to our Leadership Circle donors who are integral to maintaining Inside Out's legacy and continued success.

Jill Andrew & Aisha Fairclough, Body Confidence Canada  
Neville Austin  
Neil Betteridge  
David Carter  
Chris Chin  
Andy Chong  
Gebadia Haverkamp  
Larry Hughsam  
Japneet Kaur  
Gary and William Klein  
Tony Markotich  
Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten  
Andrew Mainprize and Philip Koccev  
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 the Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival and contribute to its success for many years to come. By standing up and pledging support for Inside Out at the 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  
Scott Ferguson  
Phil Gazaleh  
Dr. Richard Issac and Brian Sambourne  
Paul Lalonde  
Thomas Park  
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**

Tarilyn Meredith Bartels  
Rachel E. Beattie  
Chris Chin  
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Paul Lalonde  
Richard McLellan  
Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten  
Adam Morrison & James Owen  
Ralph Pascht and Mark Le Messurier  
Nik Redman  
Mike Rudolph  
Jeff Slater  
Amy & Mich Talbert

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



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# Screening Schedule

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

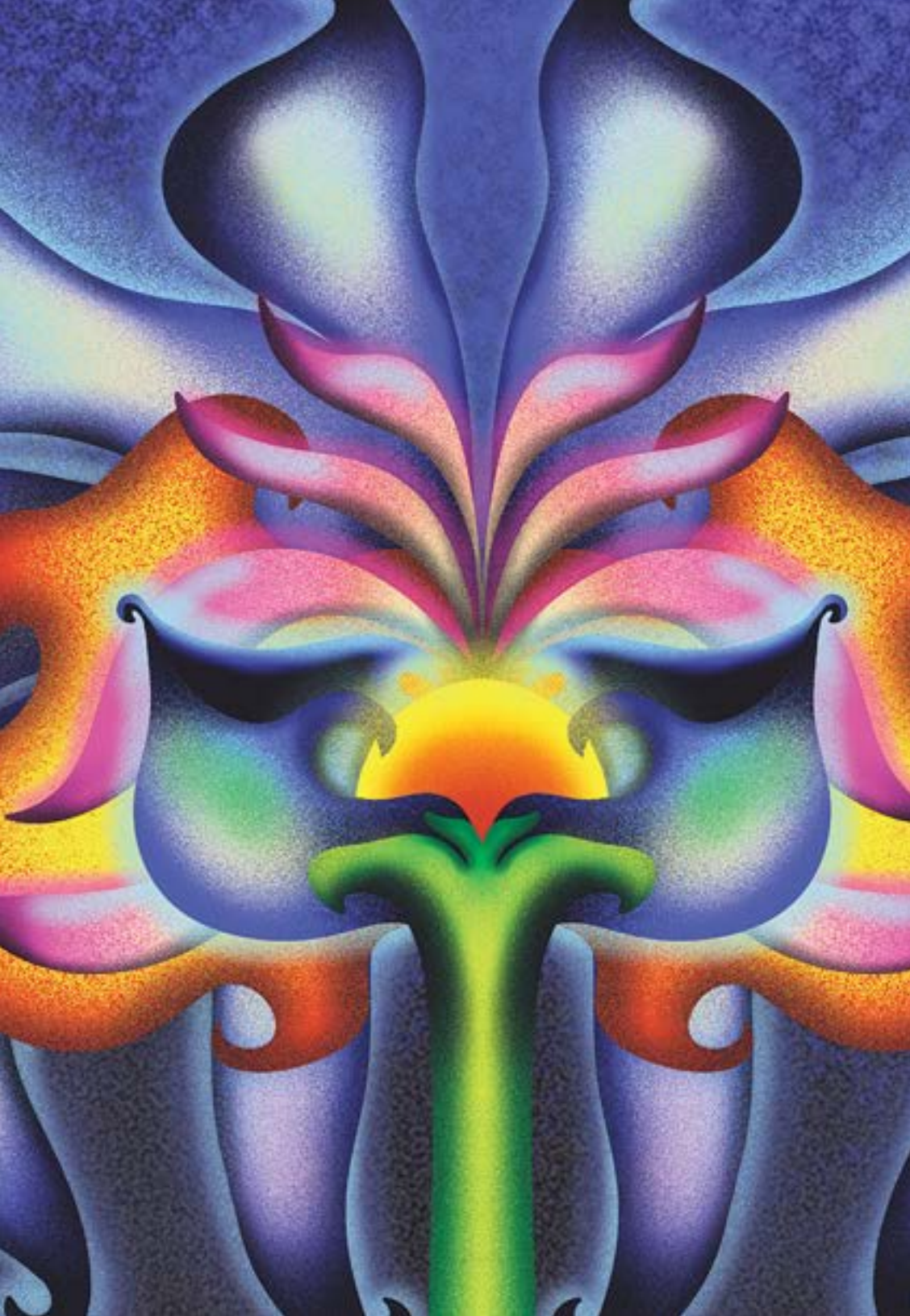
	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM
FRI. MAY 24	Shorts: High School Confidential 1:30p   TLB1   pg.78					
SAT. MAY 25	Teaches of Peaches 1:45p   TLB2   pg.48			Dalton's Dream 4:00p   TLB2   pg.47		
SUN. MAY 26	Bulletproof: A Lesbian's Guide to Surviving the Plot   11:45a   TLB3   pg.34		Join the Club 2:30p   TLB3   pg.28		Shorts: I U She 4:45p   TLB3   pg.80	
MON. MAY 27	Unusually Normal 11:45a   TLB2   pg.50		nanekawâsis 2:30p   TLB2   pg.36		The First Women 4:45p   TLB2   pg.49	
TUE. MAY 28	Shorts: Stories We Tell 12:00p   TLB3   pg.40		Rookie 2:00p   TLB3   pg.65		Shorts: Show Stopper 4:30p   TLB3   pg.82	
WED. MAY 29						
THU. MAY 30						
FRI. MAY 31						
SAT. JUNE 01	Shorts: Icons 11:45a   TLB2   pg.51		A Mother Apart 1:30p   TLB1   pg.46		A House is Not a Disco 4:00p   TLB1   pg.57	
			Shorts: Talk to Me 2:00p   TLB2   pg.84		Close to You 4:15p   TLB2   pg.60	

6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM
	Opening Gala: My Old Ass 7:30p   TLB1   pg.18				
	A Big Gay Hairly Hit! 7:00p   TLB2   pg.56		Spark 9:30p   TLB2   pg.30		
	RE:Focus Gala: Sisters 6:45p   TLB2   pg.19		Desire Lines 9:15p   TLB2   pg.62		
	Extremely Unique Dynamic 7:00p   TLB3   pg.63		Mother Father Sister Brother Frank 9:30p   TLB3   pg.35		
	All Shall Be Well 6:45p   TLB2   pg.26		Bonus Track 9:15p   TLB2   pg.58		
	Shorts: F*ck the Pain Away 7:00p   TLB3   pg.76		Carnage for Christmas 9:30p   TLB3   pg.27		
	Shorts: Boys Wanna Be Her 6:45p   TLB2   pg.74		Centrepiece Gala: Young Hearts 9:15p   TLB2   pg.20		
	Stories from my Gay Grandparents 6:45p   TLB2   pg.37		Shorts: BOLD 9:00p   TLB2   pg.72		
	Shorts: Local Heroes 6:45p   TLB1   pg.38		Leon 9:15p   TLB1   pg.64		
	Chuck Chuck Baby 7:00p   TLB2   pg.59		Toll 9:30p   TLB2   pg.67		
	Shorts: Thrive 7:00p   TLB2   pg.86		Sebastian 9:15p   TLB2   pg.66		
	Cora Bora 6:45p   TLB3   pg.61		Langue étrangère 9:00p   TLB3   pg.29		
	Closing Gala: We Forgot to Break Up 7:00p   TLB1   pg.21				

# GALAS









# Opening Gala: My Old Ass



**Date:** Fri. May 24, 7:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 1

**Screening Sponsor**



In this fresh coming-of-age story, an 18th birthday mushroom trip brings free-spirited Elliott face-to-face with her wisecracking 39-year-old self. But when Elliott's "old ass" starts handing out warnings about what her younger self should and shouldn't do, Elliott realizes she has to rethink everything about family, love, and what's becoming a transformative summer.

**Director:** Megan Park  
**Screenplay:** Megan Park  
**USA | 2024 | 88:00**

# RE:Focus Gala: Sisters



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

Lou and Esther are the best of friends. They do absolutely everything together, speak their own language through inside jokes and code words, and share a dreamy curiosity about what their lives would be like had they grown up with a sister. When Lou's father unexpectedly passes away, she discovers that she has a very real, and very chic, long-lost half-sister, Priya. As Lou begins to explore her relationship with Priya, her and Esther's codependent bliss is rudely interrupted, creating a rift between them. As the rift threatens to grow beyond repair, Lou must learn to redefine what family is, or risk losing Esther for good.

**Director:** Susie Yankou  
**Screenplay:** Susie Yankou  
**USA | 2024 | 88:00**

# Centrepiece Gala: Young Hearts



**Date:** Tues. May 28, 9:15p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

When Alexander moves in next door, Elias is intrigued. Their budding friendship blossoms amidst after-school escapades, exploring abandoned homes and hidden swimming spots, but when Alexander reveals his romantic past a revelation is triggered in Elias. Despite the incredible feeling of falling in love for the first time, Elias is fearful of the judgment of family and friends, leading him to push Alexander away. A heartfelt conversation with his grandfather illuminates the true value of what he has found, prompting Elias to embark on a journey to reclaim what he has lost. Can Elias overcome his fears and prove himself worthy of his first love?

**Director:** Anthony Schattelman

**Screenplay:** Anthony Schattelman

**Belgium/Netherlands | 2024 | 97:00**

**Language:** English, German, French, and Dutch with English subtitles

# Closing Gala: We Forgot to Break Up



**Date:** Sat. June 1, 7:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 1

## Screening Sponsor

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Within Toronto's vibrant bar scene, a diverse group of musicians come together to form a band with a mission: to ignite a musical revolution. As they channel their individual struggles and experiences into their music, The New Normals create a dynamic rock sound that transcends gender and sexuality. But as they rise to fame, personal and romantic entanglements complicate their journey. A who's-who of Canadian music featuring original songs from Torquil Campbell of Stars fame, the soundtrack also includes Peaches, Gentleman Reg, and The Hidden Cameras.

**Director:** Karen Knox

**Screenplay:** Noel S. Baker, Pat Mills, Zoe Whittall

**Canada | 2024 | 94:00**



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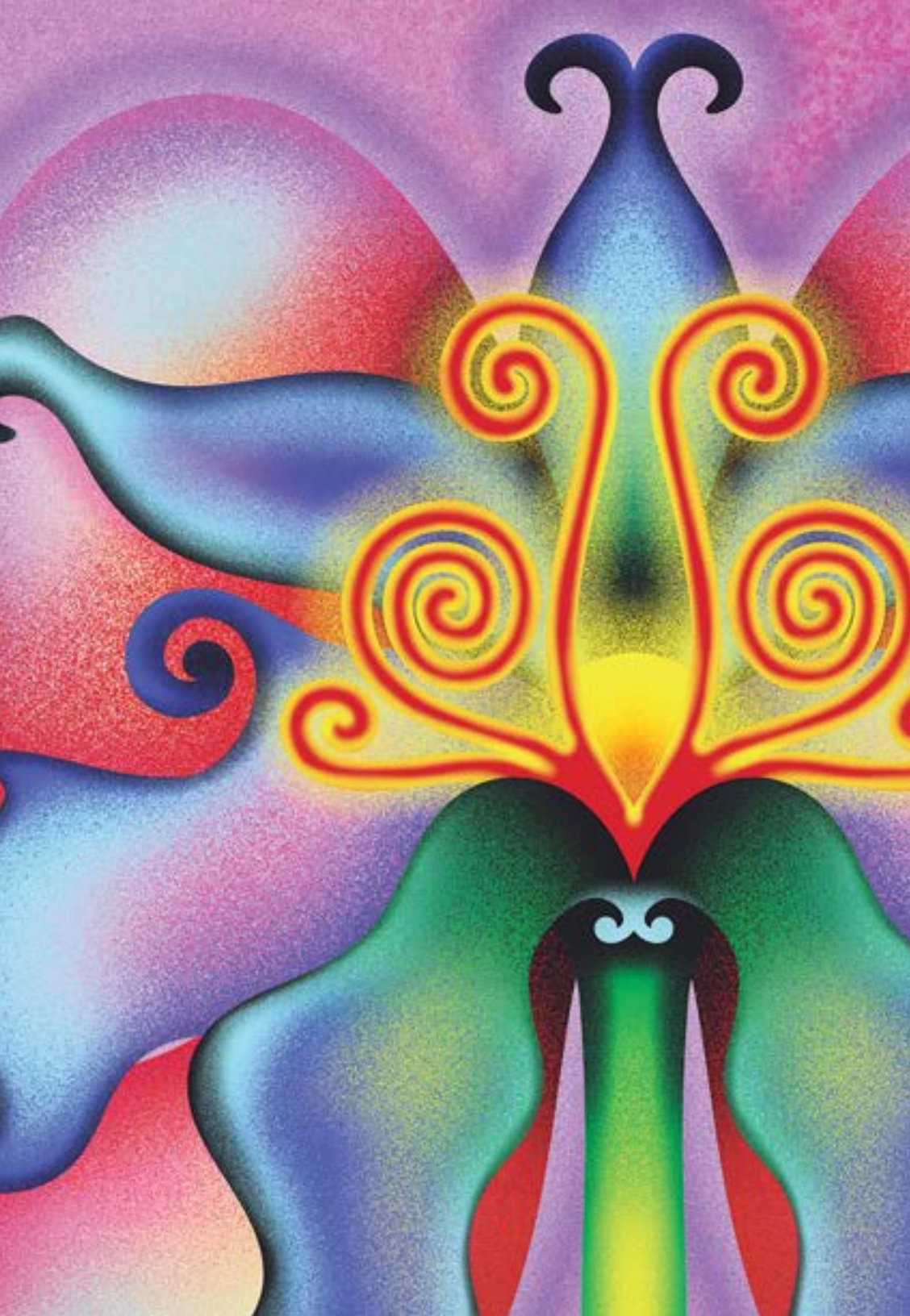
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PREMIERES





# All Shall Be Well



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 6:45p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

## Screening Sponsors

Leadership Circle

Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten

Angie and Pat have lived together for over three decades in their flat in Hong Kong, a flat that often hosts friends and family for dinners and get togethers. When Pat unexpectedly passes away without a will, Angie learns that she has no legal right to the home they shared, and finds herself at the mercy of a once supportive family displaying dwindling goodwill toward her. Supported by the group of queer women that make up her chosen family, Angie embarks on a later in life journey toward independence. Inspired by shocking true stories, director Ray Yeung explores the often precarious life of aging members of LGBTQ+ communities.

**Director:** Ray Yeung

**Screenplay:** Ray Yeung

**Hong Kong/China | 2024 | 93:00**

**Language:** Cantonese with English subtitles

# Carnage for Christmas



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 9:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 3

**Digital Screening Available**

When true-crime podcaster and sleuth Lola visits her hometown for the first time since running away and transitioning, the local urban legend, The Toymaker, is the least of her worries. But when the vengeful ghost of the historical murderer seemingly rises again, Lola must fight against not only a psychotic killer, but also a town haunted by secrets. Can Lola and her band of unexpected allies save Christmas? A transgender holiday film by prolific teenaged filmmaker Alice Maio Mackay and edited by *The People's Joker* filmmaker, Vera Drew, *Carnage for Christmas* is destined to be a queer horror classic.

**Director:** Alice Maio Mackay

**Screenplay:** Alice Maio Mackay and Ben Pahl Robinson  
**Australia | 2024 | 70:00**

# Join the Club



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 2:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 3

**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsor



Dennis Peron is San Francisco's biggest pot dealer. But when the AIDS epidemic sweeps through his community, Peron realizes that marijuana is more than a good time – it's medicine. In the wake of his lover's death, Peron opens the Cannabis Buyers' Club, a five-storey dispensary complete with rainbow murals, drag shows, and onsite doctors. Even as law enforcement launch a multimillion-dollar investigation into the club, Peron has larger aspirations, writing a landmark political initiative and leading the fight for change. Following the life of Dennis Peron, *Join the Club* uncovers the queer history of marijuana legalization in America.

**Directors:** Kip Andersen, Chris O'Connell

**USA | 2024 | 87:00**

# Langue étrangère



**Date:** Fri. May 31, 9:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 3

Fanny, a 17-year-old student from France, goes on a language exchange trip to Germany where she will stay with her pen pal, Lena. Lena is cool, easygoing, seems to make friends with ease, and is extremely politically active. Fanny is troubled, shy, lonely, and dreams of a life like Lena's. Willing to do anything to impress Lena, Fanny sees her time in Germany as an opportunity to invent a different life for herself but as her and Lena grow closer, she runs the risk of becoming caught up in her own web of lies.

**Director:** Claire Burger

**Screenplay:** Claire Burger, Léa Mysius

**France/Belgium/Germany | 2024 | 105:00**

**Language:** English, German, and French with English subtitles



# Spark



**Date:** Fri. May 24, 9:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 2

**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsor



Aaron, a hopeless romantic, finds himself reliving the same day after an awkward but intense encounter with the mysterious Trevor. His excitement at the opportunity for a do-over soon turns sour as Aaron suspects Trevor may be the cause of his time loop. Aaron's relentless pursuit of love forces him to confront his own insecurities and the blurred boundaries between infatuation and self-destruction. *Groundhog Day* meets *Vertigo* in this cyclical tale of cosmic fuckery. Nicholas Giurich's first feature delves into the desire for connection and the heady allure of toxic relationships. Can Aaron break out of this cycle, or is he destined to live out his life stuck in the same patterns?

**Director:** Nicholas Giurich

**Screenplay:** Nicholas Giurich

**USA | 2024 | 87:00**

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# SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

This program is presented by







# Bulletproof: A Lesbian's Guide to Surviving the Plot



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 11:45a

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 3

**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsor**



Filmmaker Regan Latimer takes an insightful, immersive, and deeply personal look at queer representation in television, and the power of the media to shape how we see ourselves. Witty, fast-paced, and laced with pop culture references, Regan journeys across North America and beyond in her quest to understand the forces that influence the stories we see on our screens. Original animation and personal anecdotes are interwoven with wide-ranging conversations with television insiders, LGBTQ+ community advocates, and people who just love to watch TV. As Latimer navigates an ever-evolving media landscape, the filmmaker learns firsthand that representation done well has the power to transform.

**Director:** Regan Latimer

**Canada | 2024 | 105:00**

# Mother Father Sister Brother Frank



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 9:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 3

**Screening Sponsor**



The Jennings family are having a regular suburban Sunday dinner. Mother wants everything to be perfect. Father wants everyone to drink, which Sister refuses to do. And Brother keeps texting his husband, even though no phones are allowed at the table. Just as tensions reach a boiling point, an unwanted guest arrives: Frank, Father's wayward brother. To what ends will Mother, Father, Sister, and Brother go to get rid of Frank? With a great cast, including Mindy Cohn and Enrico Colantoni as Mother and Father, this over-the-top comedy thriller shows that when parents and children work together, they can overcome any obstacle.

**Director:** Caden Douglas

**Screenplay:** Caden Douglas

**Canada | 2024 | 85:00**



# nanekawâsis



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 2:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 2

**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsor



## Leadership Circle

Greg Taylor,

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*nanekawâsis* follows the acclaimed nêhiyaw artist George Littlechild as he invites audiences into his storied career spanning over four decades. Using archival footage and newly filmed 16mm interviews, the film provides previously unheard insights about his life and work. As a two-spirit person and '60s scoop survivor, Littlechild's artwork draws from a unique perspective of pain, joy, and exemplary merit. This crucial documentary gives viewers the opportunity to get to know a major player in the Indigenous art world, while highlighting the impacts of colonialism in Canada on both art and artist.

**Director:** Conor McNally

**Canada | 2024 | 80:00**



# Stories from my Gay Grandparents



**Date:** Wed. May 29, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsors



After a near-death experience lights a flame within both Grandma and Grandpa, they decide to grab life by the reins and tell the world their deepest secret: they're gay. Having lived under the guise of a straight relationship for decades, they're coming out of the closet, ditching their small-town life, and going after their big gay dreams. First stop, the big city, to learn "how to be gay" from the best gay people they know – their grandchildren. Navigating the queer dating scene, dating apps, queer fashion, and even a gay dodgeball league, this late-in-life coming out story is all about being empowered to love authentically no matter your age.

Screening episodes one through six.

**Director:** J Stevens  
**Screenplay:** Perrie Voss, Scott Farley  
**Canada | 2024 | 58:00**

# Shorts: Local Heroes

Total program runtime: 92:00



## being queer here

Director: Chloë Gordon

Canada | 2023 | 7:00

A portrait of Toronto, as defined by the spaces its queer residents inhabit and the memories they've created there.



## Ernesto's Bag

Directors: Isabelle Deluce, Giulia De Vita

Canada | 2024 | 17:00

Ruth's skepticism of marriage clashes with her best friend's engagement plans but a psychedelic journey on dress-fitting day forces her to reevaluate her deeply held beliefs.



## Custard

Director: Sania Khan

Canada | 2024 | 7:00

Inside the lives of five artists and creatives in Toronto as they come together over a shared meal and reflect upon their lived experiences.



## Something's Phishy

Director: Chase Lo

Canada | 2024 | 12:00

Bex impersonates her heartbroken bestie, Danny on a dating app to prove their irresistibility but this backfires, causing chaos.

**Date:** Thurs. May 30, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 1  
**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsors



### Leadership Circle

Ralph Pascht and Mark Le Messurier



## How'd You Sleep?

**Director:** Spencer Glassman  
**Canada | 2023 | 15:00**

A comedic slice-of-life exploration of one person's battle with chronic insomnia.



## This Light is My Birthplace

**Director:** Shaun Soutar  
**Canada | 2024 | 14:00**

Two opposing TV signals compete for airtime. The usual narratives of trans identity touted by dominant media are disrupted by authentic stories from trans people.



## I Never Promised You a Jasmine Garden

**Director:** Teyama Alkamli  
**Canada | 2023 | 20:00**  
**Language:** Arabic and English with subtitles

Tara, a queer Palestinian woman in her late 20s, attempts to suppress her internal emotional turbulence during a phone call with her best friend.

# Shorts: Stories We Tell

Total program runtime: 94:00



## I Was Here

**Directors:** Alyson Margaret Richards  
**Canada | 2023 | 8:00**

*I Was Here* follows Emma's journey as she gets a tattoo and prepares for a photo shoot post mastectomy.



## Passiflora

**Directors:** Gabriel Souza Nunes  
**Canada | 2023 | 14:00**

In a modern retelling of Brazilian folklore, nervous and insecure Theo discovers love for the first time at a fantastical, avant-garde party.



## FuReality

**Director:** Aly Labbé-Hervieux  
**Canada | 2023 | 4:00**  
**Language:** French with English subtitles

A journey into Aly's world and their personal growth through the eyes of their new furry, Eden.



## Potpourri (Fleurs séchées)

**Director:** Marie-Michèle Wayland  
**Canada | 2024 | 13:00**  
**Language:** French with English subtitles

A bittersweet collection of moments between three roommates faced with an imminent move.

**Date:** Sun. May 26, 12:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsors**



## **I'll Tell You When I'm Ready**

**Director:** Hayley Morin  
**Canada | 2023 | 13:00**

Critically acclaimed poet Jaye Simpson strives to write their next book amidst a career gaining momentum in a literary industry that doesn't always know what to do with them.



## **a tangled web drowning in honey**

**Directors:** Tara Hakim, Hannah Hull  
**Canada | 2023 | 10:00**

This experiential and textural film invites viewers into the inner workings of a mind to ponder the ways in which we love and unlove ourselves, rooted in solidarity and joy.



## **Dairy Boy**

**Director:** Hana Jooose  
**Canada | 2024 | 15:00**

A young trans man returns to his family's farm in rural southern Ontario following his grandfather's death where he must navigate the discomforts of familial rural life with his father.



## **I Only Kiss in the Dark**

**Director:** Kelly Paoli  
**Canada | 2023 | 17:00**

When her roommate is outed, Margot is forced to spend the evening with his disgruntled sister, discovering just how deep the family's internalized homophobia runs.

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ICONS





# A Mother Apart



**Date:** Sat. June 1, 1:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 1

How do you raise a child when your own mother abandoned you? In a remarkable story of healing and forgiveness, Jamaican-American poet and LGBTQ+ activist Staceyann Chin, renowned for performances in Def Poetry Jam and hit solo shows like *MotherStruck!*, radically re-imagines the essential art of mothering. In seeking her elusive mother—a trail that leads to Brooklyn, Montreal, Cologne and, finally, Jamaica—Staceyann and her daughter forge a new sense of home.

**Director:** Laurie Townshend

**Canada | 2024 | 89:00**

**Language:** English and German with English subtitles

# Dalton's Dream



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 4:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 2

**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsor

**Leadership Circle**

Andy Chong

Singer Dalton Harris's dreams came true when he won The X Factor UK in 2018. But the joy of winning was mixed with pain when people back home in Jamaica threatened boycotts and violence against him, perceiving Dalton to be gay after seeing a photo of him sitting on a man's lap. This compelling and honest documentary looks at a talented artist working to overcome a childhood filled with poverty and violence and find success in the face of mental health challenges.

**Director:** Kim Longinotto, Franky Murray Brown  
**UK | 2023 | 90:00**

**Language:** English and Jamaican Patois with English subtitles

# Teaches of Peaches



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 1:45p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

Filed during The Teaches of Peaches anniversary tour in 2022, this documentary seamlessly weaves together exclusive archival gems with dynamic tour footage, capturing the transformative journey of local superstar Merrill Nisker into the internationally acclaimed cultural powerhouse Peaches. From the inception of the stage show to the rigorous rehearsals and riveting performances, the film provides an intimate look at the inner workings of a tour led by this beloved and globally celebrated icon. Her fearless originality has challenged social norms, dismantled stereotypes, and confronted patriarchal power structures. Through biting wit, she advocates for LGBTQIA+ rights and tackles issues of gender and sexual identity, leaving an indelible mark on popular culture.

**Directors:** Philipp Fussenegger, Judy Landkammer

**Germany | 2024 | 102:00**

**Language:** English and German with English subtitles

# The First Women (As Primeiras)



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 4:45p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 2

**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsor

Leadership Circle

David Carter

*The First Women* follows a group of women nearing their 60s who live in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro and share a common past: they were a part of the first ever women's soccer team in Brazil. However, travelling around the world playing football in the 1980s and '90s did not guarantee them any notoriety. Today, most of them make their living from informal jobs, such as street vendors, Uber drivers, chefs, and construction workers. The film intimately reflects on the past, while following present day routines alongside consecutive matches played by the Brazilian men's team in the World Cup. What is revealed is the incredible, and previously ignored, history of the first female national team to represent the country of football.

**Director:** Adriana Yañez

**Brazil | 2024 | 78:00**

**Language:** Portuguese with English subtitles

# Unusually Normal



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 11:45a

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

**Digital Screening Available**

Have you had the pleasure of meeting Canada's gayest family? *Unusually Normal* follows three generations of women in one family who, get this, are all gay. Set against the backdrop of their loving and wholly authentic household, this family, with a mass of devoted TikTok followers, invites you into their world – a world where normal takes on a whole new meaning. As we traverse through three distinct eras alongside these extraordinary women, we witness their unwavering resilience in the face of adversity. From navigating the tumultuous waters of homophobia to grappling with profound family loss and navigating the complexities of clandestine love, theirs is a story of triumph against all odds.

**Director:** Colette Johnson-Vosberg  
**Canada | 2024 | 99:00**



# Shorts: Icons

Total program runtime: 91:00

Date: Sat. June 1, 11:45a

Venue: TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2

Digital Screening Available



## The History of the Carabiner

Director: Gianna Mazzeo  
Netherlands | 2024 | 7:00

A tongue-in-cheek, historical documentary that takes viewers on a journey through queer history to trace the origins of the carabiner as a lesbian symbol.



## One Night at Babes

Director: Angelo Madsen  
Minax  
United States | 2023 | 29:00

At a rural Vermont dive bar called Babes, cribbage tournaments overlap with afternoons of karaoke and nights of raucous dance parties.



## Jardines

Director: Alfredo Torres  
Costa Rica | 2024 | 26:00

While waiting in limbo, displaced LGBTQ folks hoping to cross into the United States find support and healing with one another.



## Sultana's Reign

Director: Hadi Moussally  
France | 2023 | 10:00

Palestinian drag queen, performer, and artist, Sultana of New York, reflects on her journey from Jordan, to Egypt, Lebanon, and New York.



## Jamie

Director: Darcy Hennessey  
United States | 2024 | 19:00

Alpinist Jamie Logan has taken on some of the most dangerous climbs in the world but nothing felt as life-threatening as admitting that she wanted to begin a new life as a woman.

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# INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

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# A Big Gay Hairy Hit! Where the Bears Are: The Documentary



**Date:** Fri. May 24, 7:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

**Screening Sponsor**

MUBI 

This hilarious and touching documentary tells the story of three older, gay "bears" working in Hollywood, who, tired of having their gay-themed ideas rejected by the mainstream, decide to self-produce their own web series. Infused with humour and warmth, and best described as *Golden Girls* meets *Murder, She Wrote*, the series followed the misadventures of three endearing roommates and grew to become one of the most successful web series of all time. Through the tale of how this group of friends built their big hairy following, what unfolds is a story about the power of seeing yourself reflected on screen, a life changing experience for both the creators and their audience.

**Director:** Eduardo Aquino  
**USA | 2023 | 91:00**



# A House is Not a Disco



**Date:** Sat. June 1, 4:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 1

**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsors**

**MUBI** 

**Leadership Circle**  
Larry Hughson

A year in the life within the world's most iconic homonormative community: Fire Island Pines. Situated 50 miles from New York City, this storied queer beach town finds itself in the midst of a renaissance, as a new generation of millennial homeowners reimagine The Pines for a new, more inclusive era. Filmed like a Frederick Wiseman movie on magic mushrooms, a large cast of unforgettable eccentrics, activists, drifters, and first timers reflect on the legacy of The Pines, while preparing their beloved village for the biggest challenge it has faced since the AIDS crisis: rising sea levels caused by climate change.

**Director:** Brian J. Smith  
**USA | 2024 | 90:00**

# Bonus Track



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 9:15p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

**Screening Sponsors**

**MUBI** 

**Leadership Circle**

Gary and William Klein

The year is 2006 and George, a small-town sixteen-year-old who's convinced he's a gifted musician, can't seem to get anyone's attention long enough to prove it. When the son of a famous rock star enrolls in his school, George experiences a clarity of passion and a road to success. But what exactly is the measure of success: collaborating on the next smash pop hit, or winning the heart of the son of one half of a mega-famous musical duo? Set against a soundtrack of 2000s indie bangers, with an original song by Ollie Alexander, *Bonus Track* will have your heart soaring up the charts.

**Director:** Julia Jackman

**Screenplay:** Mike Gilbert

**UK | 2023 | 98:00**

# Chuck Chuck Baby



**Date:** Thurs. May 30, 7:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

## Screening Sponsors



**Leadership Circle**  
Bernardine Perreira

Helen lives with her ex-husband, his girlfriend, their new baby, and her ex-mother-in-law, who luckily remains her trusted ally. As she goes back and forth between working at the chicken factory and taking care of everyone at home, her dreary routine begins to take its toll. A bright spot appears in her otherwise mundane life when her high school crush, Joanne, returns to town. A musical drama set in northern Wales, *Chuck Chuck Baby* follows one woman as she finds the courage to stand up for herself and finally go after the life she deserves.

**Director:** Janis Pugh  
**Screenplay:** Janis Pugh  
**UK | 2023 | 101:00**

# Close to You



**Date:** Sat. June 1, 4:15p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

## Screening Sponsors

**MUBI** 

**Leadership Circle**  
Gebadia Haverkamp

Trans activist & New York Times bestseller, Elliot Page delivers an emotionally resonant performance in this honest and moving drama that follows Sam as he decides to visit his childhood home in Cobourg for the first time since his transition. Sam isn't sure he's making the right decision to return to a place that holds painful memories, and if his decision to live life authentically will be compromised. But a chance encounter with his high school best friend, Katherine brings up long-dormant feelings for each other. Could their reconnection lead to a new and brighter chapter in their lives?

**Director:** Dominic Savage  
**Screenplay:** Dominic Savage  
**USA/UK | 2023 | 100:00**

# Cora Bora



**Date:** Fri. May 31, 6:45p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 3

**Screening Sponsor**

**MUBI** 

A few things about Cora: she is a budding musician trying to make it in Los Angeles, she is determined to make her long-distance open relationship work, and she is extremely chaotic. In a moment of desperation, she heads back to her hometown of Portland, Oregon on a mission to fix her shaky relationship. Embarking on a wild journey, she confronts many self-induced roadblocks including a new woman living in her girlfriend's house, a lost pet, and a pansexual orgy. When a chance at romance with a good guy presents itself, can Cora get out of her own way in time to secure the bag?

**Director:** Hannah Pearl Utt

**Screenplay:** Rhianon Jones

**USA | 2023 | 92:00**

# Desire Lines



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 9:15p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 2

**Digital Screening Available**

## Screening Sponsors



Leadership Circle  
Neil Betteridge

Past and present collide as an Iranian American trans man time-travels through an LGBTQ+ archive on a dizzying quest to unravel his own sexual desires. Director Jules Roskam blends reality and imagination to bring to life a documentary like no other. Through an erotic and caring lens, Roskam delves into an exploration of transmasculine sexuality throughout history. Lead performers Theo Germaine and Aden Hakimi's undeniable chemistry leaps off the screen, adding a new layer to this already enriching story. *Desire Lines* is an awe-inspiring journey through trans history that deserves to be preserved.

**Director:** Jules Roskam

**Screenplay:** Jules Roskam, Nate Gualtieri

**USA | 2024 | 81:00**



# Extremely Unique Dynamic



**Date:** Sat. May 25, 7:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 3

## Screening Sponsors



**Leadership Circle**  
Chris Chin

In the (likely) first-ever and (possibly) award-winning meta-Asian-stoner-coming-of-age-bromantic-dramedy, two best friends who will soon be living in different countries decide to make a movie about two best friends making a movie about two best friends making a movie. Through this meta conceit directors/actors/writers/producers Harrison Xu and Ivan Leung, explore a friendship that has more tensions than may first appear. When the cameras start rolling, secrets and half-truths about their friendship, crushes, sexuality, and every other insecurity imaginable are revealed. Is their friendship in danger, or can *Fresh Off the Boat*'s Hudson Yang and a ton of weed save a lifelong bond?

**Directors:** Harrison Xu, Ivan Leung, Katherine Dudas

**Screenplay:** Harrison Xu, Ivan Leung, Katherine Dudas

**USA | 2024 | 73:00**

**Language:** English and Cantonese with English subtitles

# León



**Date:** Thurs. May 30, 9:15p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 1

## Screening Sponsors



For Julia, facing life after the loss of her partner seems like an impossible task. But León, their son, is the fuel to keep going. Nothing is easy after Barby's death, between the return of León's biological father, Barby's mother's distant attitude, and the struggle to keep their restaurant open. Outstanding performances by a talented ensemble of actors add complexity and honesty to their roles, enhancing a well-crafted narrative. Directing duo Andi Nachon and Papu Curotto bring us a story about love, grief, and a little bit of family chaos. *León* is a tale about the joyous and difficult task of loving and understanding one another.

**Director:** Andi Nachon, Papu Curotto

**Screenplay:** Andi Nachon

**Argentina | 2023 | 80:00**

**Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

# Rookie



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 2:00p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox

Cinema 3

**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsor**

**MUBI** 

Ace's first day at her new school starts out on the wrong foot and ends up with her becoming the newest member of the volleyball team against her will. Jana, the team captain, sees Ace as a threat, and a rivalry is born. But love and hate are two sides of the same coin, and little by little, they will discover their feelings for each other. But just when everything seems to shine brighter, a black shadow returns. *Rookie* is a charming coming-of-age story where love, in all forms, takes centre stage. No matter the obstacles and challenges one might face, believing in yourself and protecting the ones you love is always the right choice.

**Director:** Samantha Lee

**Screenplay:** Samantha Lee

**Philippines | 2023 | 95:00**

**Language:** Tagalog with English subtitles

# Sebastian



**Date:** Fri. May 31, 9:15p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

## Screening Sponsors

MUBI 

### Leadership Circle

Adam Morrison & James Owen

Young Max is determined to make a name for himself in London's literary circles, but his work as a freelance writer isn't quite getting him there fast enough. In order to gain on the job experience to inspire his first novel, he poses as Sebastian, an online sex worker. These experiences jump from bedroom to page, catching the attention of an editor, and as the pressure increases to find his happy ending, the lines begin to blur between where Max ends and Sebastian begins.

**Director:** Mikko Makela

**Screenplay:** Mikko Makela

**UK/Finland/Belgium | 2024 | 110:00**

**Language:** English and French with English Subtitles

# Toll (Pedágio)



**Date:** Thurs. May 30, 9:30p

**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox  
Cinema 2

## Screening Sponsors



**Leadership Circle**

Keith Medley

Suellen, a Brazilian toll booth attendant and mother, is willing to do almost anything to keep her family afloat. When the opportunity to case drivers passing by her toll booth presents itself, she falls in with a gang of thieves promising a chance at a better life. Suellen's idea of a better life, however, does not align with that of her very assured teenage son, Antonio. Convinced she is doing what is right for her family, she invests in an expensive gay conversion workshop led by a renowned priest; an investment that threatens both her relationship with her son, as well as her freedom.

**Director:** Carolina Markowicz

**Screenplay:** Carolina Markowicz

**Brazil/Portugal | 2023 | 102:00**

**Language:** Portuguese with English subtitles





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# SHORTS







# Shorts: BOLD

Total program runtime: 100:00



## MAN>CODE

**Director:** Adrian Gardner  
**United Kingdom | 2023 | 14:00**

Computer techie Lucas invites Theo around for what he thought would be no-strings-attached fun, but things take an odd turn when his ex-girlfriend returns home early.



## Grace

**Director:** Natalie Jasmine Harris  
**United States | 2023 | 14:00**

16-year-old Grace prepares for her baptism in the 1950s rural South. When she learns she must repent before the ritual, Grace contemplates her romantic feelings toward her best friend, Louise.



## Black Trans Miracle

**Director:** Tinaye Nyathi  
**Australia | 2023 | 18:00**

Lindani, a neurotic young trans man, struggles to tell his partner, Tam, that he loves them after a random encounter with a stranger shakes his self-confidence.



## The Way She Sounds

**Director:** Halen Llewellyn King  
**Canada | 2024 | 3:00**

A love letter to oneself and the journey to becoming who you are.



**Date:** Wed. May 29, 9:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

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### Leadership Circle

Jill Andrew & Aisha Fairclough,  
Body Confidence Canada



## MnM

**Director:** Twiggy Pucci Garçon  
**USA | 2023 | 15:00**

An exuberant portrait of chosen sisters Mermaid and Milan, two emerging runway divas in the drag ballroom community.



## Bathsheba

**Director:** Myah Jeffers  
**United Kingdom | 2024 | 13:00**

A widow struggling to readjust to a life of grief unexpectedly meets a woman whose presence is transformative.



## La Última Ascensión

**Director:** Kevin Osepa  
**Netherlands | 2024 | 23:00**  
**Language:** Papiamentu with English subtitles

Rowin, a 22-year-old fisherman from Banda Abou, Curaçao has little luck catching fish until he encounters a mysterious young man who will change everything.

# Shorts: Boys Wanna Be Her

Total program runtime: 102:00



## Keep it Open

Director: Lucy Teitler

USA | 2023 | 10:00

A couple is tested when a mystery man comes to town.



## The Robbers (Die Räuberinnen)

Director: Isa Schieche

Austria | 2023 | 16:00

Language: German with English subtitles

Three trans women meet in a country house to plan a robbery that requires them to disguise themselves as men.



## Is Gay Marriage Next?

Director: Emily Clark

USA | 2024 | 16:00

In 2003, history was made when a Newsweek cover asked: Is Gay Marriage Next? Now in a post-Roe world, the question resurfaces with a haunting twist: is gay marriage next – to go?



## To The Edge of Our Sleepless Nights (Au bord de nos nuits blanches)

Director: Elsa Aloisio

France | 2023 | 29:00

Language: French with English subtitles

When a trans woman she works with is murdered, social worker Reb must find the strength to keep fighting.

**Date:** Tues. May 28, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsor**

**Leadership Circle**  
Japneet Kaur



## **all the words but the one**

**Director:** Nava Mau  
**USA | 2024 | 18:00**

Maya and Santiago haven't seen each other since their explosive relationship ended years ago, so neither is expecting to see the other at a dinner with their new partners.



## **Neo Nahda**

**Director:** May Ziadé  
**UK | 2023 | 13:00**

Mona, a young woman in London, finds archived photographs of Arab women cross-dressing in the 1920s.

# Shorts: F\*ck the Pain Away

Total program runtime: 93:00



## Body of Christ (Mi primera comunión)

**Director:** Ángel Villahermosa

**Spain | 2023 | 11:00**

**Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

After receiving his first communion, Pablo can't stop thinking about Sebastián, the beautiful altar boy.



## Honey To The Moon

**Director:** Rob Woodcox

**Mexico | 2023 | 9:00**

**Language:** English and Spanish with English subtitles

Through surrealistic visuals and flowing dance, twin flames bend and grow together in nature.



## Absent Bodies (Corps Absent)

**Director:** Antonius Ghosn

**Lebanon | 2023 | 26:00**

**Language:** Arabic with English subtitles

N returns to his hometown of Beirut after years of absence but remains invisible to his loved ones, who can only feel his presence.



## Friend of a Friend (Ami d'ami)

**Director:** Simon Gualtieri

**Canada | 2023 | 15:00**

**Language:** French with English subtitles

Jules is bisexual and ready for his first experience with Samuel, a friend of a friend.

**Date:** Sun. May 26, 7:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsor**

**Leadership Circle**  
Neville Austin



## **Pillow Chocolate**

**Director:** Charlie Tidmas  
**UK | 2023 | 9:00**

Following a one-night stand with a celebrity, trans man Jamie is forced to choose between a relationship and his own self-worth.



## **Merman**

**Director:** Sterling Hampton IV  
**USA | 2023 | 12:00**

A 58-year-old Black man speaks the truth about his life as an emergency nurse, a leather enthusiast, husband, and civil rights advocate.



## **Foraging**

**Director:** Matthew Jacobs Morgan  
**UK | 2023 | 11:00**

A bored gay couple go cruising for the first time but, when they get lost in the woods, the cracks in their relationship become chasms.



# Shorts: High School Confidential

Total program runtime: 88:00



## The Tweetations Revue

**Director:** Fraser Collins

**Canada | 2023 | 21:00**

A charismatic cast of songbirds take flight on a musical journey through a vibrant variety show, creating a fantastical celebration of cultural heritage and artistic brilliance.



## Gigi

**Director:** Cynthia Calvi

**France | 2023 | 14:00**

**Language:** French with English subtitles

From the tormented little mermaid to the fulfilled woman she is today, Gigi tells the story of her transition with humour and sensitivity.



## i'm in love with edgar allan poe

**Director:** Andrea A. Walter

**United States | 2023 | 13:00**

**Language:** English and Tagalog with English subtitles

Two goth teens face an ingredient supply issue as they prepare to resurrect the soul of Edgar Allan Poe.



## Forza, Rea!

**Directors:** Isabel Pahud, Isabel Clerici, Laura Zimmermann, Polina Tyrsa

**Switzerland | 2023 | 3:00**

Rea embarks on a breakneck tumble to catch a flyaway letter to her crush, dodging countless obstacles on the bumpy terrain of the old town streets.

**Date:** Fri. May 24, 1:30p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 1  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsor**



**Future Launch**



## **We Met at Camp**

**Director:** MC Plaschke  
**United States | 2023 | 16:00**

Hayden is new to camp and doesn't fit in with the other girls. She'd rather spend time with her counselor, Alison, who makes her feel special in a way that she doesn't quite understand.



## **THE NAME**

**Director:** Alexander Aguilar  
**France | 2023 | 2:00**

Conflicted and alienated by his given name, a young kid struggles to live a double life in secret, fearing that coming out might affect his relationship with his mother.



## **ALOK**

**Director:** Alex Hedison  
**USA | 2023 | 19:00**

A compelling portrait of Alok Vaid-Menon, the internationally acclaimed, non-binary author, poet, comedian, and public speaker.

# Shorts: I U She

Total program runtime: 95:00



## Baby Gay

**Director:** Arielle Frances Bagood

**USA | 2023 | 9:00**

**Language:** English and Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles

Desperate to finally prove her bisexuality, Stevie Lee bluffs her way into a lesbian threesome, assuming she'll "figure it out". She does not figure it out.



## Honeymoon

**Director:** Alkis Papastathopoulos

**Greece | 2023 | 23:00**

**Language:** Greek with English subtitles

While traveling across the country by bus, a transphobic attack by two passengers leaves Fay and Sandra stranded on a highway in the middle of nowhere.



## CCTV

**Director:** Samira Karimi

**Iran | 2023 | 10:00**

**Language:** Persian with English subtitles

To avoid being outed two lesbian high schoolers must erase footage from the school's CCTV cameras.



## Bust

**Director:** Angelis Field

**USA | 2023 | 11:00**

The New York City Police Department goes undercover to make a drug bust.

**Date:** Sat. May 25, 4:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**



## **The Pleasure is All Mine (O Prazer é Todo Meu)**

**Director:** Vanessa Sandre

**Brazil | 2023 | 19:00**

**Language:** Portuguese with English subtitles

When 76-year-old Amélia realizes she has never had an orgasm in her life, she becomes determined to have one at any cost.



## **F\*\*KED**

**Director:** Sara Harrak

**United Kingdom | 2023 | 6:00**

When Dani tells her wife, Jess, she might be interested in sleeping with guys again, it doesn't go down as expected.



## **How we have loved (Som vi har älskat)**

**Director:** EE Eelio Kihlstrand

**Sweden | 2023 | 17:00**

**Language:** Swedish with English subtitles

Butch Jane lives alone with her memories of a long-lost life until Dilo moves in after their application for asylum is refused.

# Shorts: Show Stopper

Total program runtime: 90:00



## The Mountain

**Directors:** Will Mayo, Ian Scott McGregor  
**USA | 2023 | 11:00**

Successful news anchor Melanie Abraxas is blindsided by her husband on the same day the teleprompters fail, leading to a very public embarrassment.



## Dinner Party Dictator

**Director:** Bente Engelstoft  
**USA | 2023 | 8:00**

A group of friends get together for a cozy dinner party, but their fun and fellowship is interrupted by a time-traveling soldier from the future.



## Really Good Driver

**Director:** Alex Song-Xia  
**USA | 2024 | 8:00**

An Asian-American mom teaches her grown-up child how to drive, forcing both to confront parts of the car, and themselves, they never have before.



## Complicated Order

**Director:** Emmie Lichtenberg  
**United States | 2023 | 15:00**

Remy, a depressed 20-something who's just been dumped, accidentally places a food delivery order to her estranged girlfriend's house.



**Date:** Sun. May 26, 4:30p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 3  
**Digital Screening Available**



## The Burden

**Director:** Tish Arana

**USA | 2023 | 15:00**

**Language:** English and Japanese with English subtitles

In 2044, immediately following the election of another racist president, a group of wealthy Black people start an exclusive new colony.



## No, YOU'RE amazing!

**Director:** Kate Pinchuck

**South Africa | 2023 | 4:00**

A girls' night turns into a bar fight when two women refuse to accept each other's compliments.



## Fanatic

**Director:** Taran Killam

**USA | 2023 | 16:00**

Desperate for cash, Charlie and Gerald reunite their failed 2000s boy band for a competition that could remedy all of their financial woes.



## ILY, BYE

**Directors:** Taylor James

**USA | 2024 | 13:00**

When socially anxious mess Siobhan's call to schedule a job interview goes to voicemail, she panics and leaves a series of unhinged messages.

# Shorts: Talk to Me

Total program runtime: 87:00



## Halfway

**Director:** Kumar Chheda

**India | 2023 | 9:00**

A turbulent couple finds themselves at opposing entrances of Juhu beach, compelling them to walk toward each other and meet in the middle.



## Muscat

**Director:** Philippe Grenier

**Canada | 2023 | 16:00**

**Language:** English, French, and Darija with English subtitles

Samir, a 16-year-old Moroccan fisherman, discovers his attraction toward men when he meets Louis, a tourist traveling with his wife.



## Stay Lost

**Director:** Chris Coats

**USA | 2023 | 12:00**

A chance meeting with a nomadic musician sets an aimless and depressed young man's life on an entirely new trajectory.



## 8 Minutes 20 Seconds

**Directors:** Harris Doran

**USA | 2023 | 9:00**

There are only 8 minutes and 20 seconds of sunlight left on earth and Max must race against time to reconcile with his ex-boyfriend.

**Date:** Sat. June 1, 2:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsor**

**Leadership Circle**  
Tony Markotich



## **Congratulations, Dx!**

**Director:** Mark Felix Ebreo  
**Philippines | 2023 | 20:00**  
**Language:** Tagalog with English subtitles

After receiving an undetectable HIV status, Dexter finally shows up at his friends' party and reconnects with them, following a long and sudden ghosting.



## **The Last Take**

**Director:** Brian Foyster  
**USA | 2023 | 14:00**

Facing the end, a movie star from the golden age of Hollywood must reconcile with the only man he ever loved.



## **Great Canyon**

**Director:** Ella Sahlman  
**USA | 2023 | 7:00**

Chronicling the endearing anxieties and insecurities of two men on a first date.

# Shorts: Thrive

Total program runtime: 82:00



## Re-Entry

**Director:** Ariel Mahler

**United States | 2023 | 16:00**

When a trans scientist rediscovers a lost satellite from her former life as a NASA engineer, she's forced to confront her painful past.



## to boyhood, i never knew him

**Director:** Tram Anh Huu Nguyen

**Canada | 2023 | 4:00**

**Language:** English and Vietnamese with English subtitles

Archival footage, distorted images, and internal monologues blend, resurfacing fragmented memories.



## Degenere

**Director:** Sara Casa

**Colombia | 2019 | 19:00**

**Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

Doroty's dream was to dance and be recognized as the woman she was, but death came first. Her best friend, Misael, a 60-year-old gay man, will make it happen.



## The Garden of Earthly Delights (Le jardin des délices)

**Director:** Genevieve Marie Dale, Dean G. Mang-Wooley

**Canada | 2023 | 3:00**

**Language:** English and French with English subtitles

Inspired by the absolutely unhinged masterpiece of Hieronymus Bosch, this collage animation journeys from the lush gardens of paradise through to the flaming hot recesses of hell.

**Date:** Fri. May 31, 7:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Lightbox, Cinema 2  
**Digital Screening Available**

**Screening Sponsor**



## **SKIN**

**Director:** Leo Behrens  
**United States | 2023 | 7:00**

With the help of their inner manifestation, the iceman sheds their old skin and embraces their true identity.



## **Mirror, banana**

**Director:** EE Newman  
**United States | 2023 | 4:00**

The Ignorant Cowboy first battles his ornery reflection, then mockery from aliens and kinky reindeer.



## **Wouldn't Make It Any Other Way**

**Director:** Hao Zhou  
**United States | 2023 | 20:00**

After building a colorful life in an American prairie town, an aspiring costume designer visits their island homeland of Guam to lead the design team of a theatre production.



## **Pillow Chocolate**

**Director:** Charlie Tidmas  
**UK | 2023 | 9:00**

Following a one-night stand with a celebrity, trans man Jamie is forced to choose between a relationship and his own self-worth.



# FESTIVAL ARTIST

## Pegah Peivandi

*(She/They)*

Pegah is an Iranian-Canadian multidisciplinary artist from North York, is known for their use of bold colors and textures, evoking surrealism, otherworldliness, and nostalgia. Their diverse portfolio spans digital illustration, murals, and ceramic stoneware, with a constant drive to explore new mediums.

Pegah sees embracing one's true self as the essence of self-love, a bravery queer individuals demonstrate daily. This perspective led Pegah to use flowers as symbols in their design, representing power, love, individuality, warmth, life, and sexuality—attributes of queerness.

Pegah believes queer films are vital in fostering understanding and empathy. They offer solace and connection, revealing the breadth of queer experiences yet to be explored. Pegah's design aims to unite diverse voices, creating a supportive network that fosters collective understanding and inclusion.



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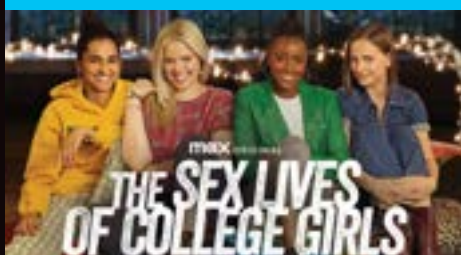


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