



Inside Out

Lead Sponsor



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**NETFLIX**

# Inside Out

2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival

In-Person and Online

May 25-June 4, 2023

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

2023

**NETFLIX**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE  
2023  
INSIDE OUT'S  
FINANCE FORUM  
PARTICIPANTS**

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# Welcome Letters

On behalf of our staff and board of directors, we are thrilled to welcome you to our 33rd edition of Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival here in Toronto and online across Ontario. We've been hard at work to bring you the freshest in queer cinema, from respected legends to our filmmaking stars of tomorrow. We can't wait to share the program with you, meet the filmmakers, maybe even finance a film at our 7th edition of the world's only 2SLGBTQ+ Finance Forum.

Since its inception, Inside Out's mission has been to challenge attitudes and change lives through the exhibition, promotion, and production of queer film. We have always advocated for better representation for the 2SLGBTQ+ community in media and for more opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ people to be the ones to tell their own stories.

Over the next 11 days, we hope you experience the joy in the films, parties, networking events, and through mingling with our invited guests, storytellers, patrons and partners. Inside Out exists because of you. We strive to create and promote a safer and truly intersectional creative space to celebrate our community's resilience.

2023 marks year one of our exciting new three year strategic plan. Guiding the festival to its 35th anniversary in 2025 are five strategic pillars: Programming and Exhibition, Industry Development, Accessibility and Equity, Community Outreach, and Enhancing Organizational Capacity. We have an incredible history at Inside Out and we are grateful to all who have supported, contributed, and attended Inside Out over the past three decades. We can't wait to continue this incredible journey into the future.

See you at the movies.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Murphy".

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



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elie Chivi".

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

On behalf of RBC, welcome to the 2023 Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Toronto Film Festival!

For the past 33 years, Inside Out has been challenging attitudes and changing lives as an incredibly important platform for our 2SLGBTQ+ community to tell their stories. And we're excited that the festival will combine in-person and online screenings for a truly inclusive, hybrid experience again this year.

For RBC, supporting the arts has been a longstanding priority as we recognize the role it plays in building strong, diverse, connected communities. We're proud to be entering our 15th year of supporting this 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, informing, and connecting us all. We look forward to watching some of the most ground-breaking and thought-provoking 2SLGBTQ+ cinema in the world this spring.

And to the Inside Out Toronto team of staff and volunteers, thank you for your efforts to bring us together every year.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Depencier".

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



I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2023 Inside Out Toronto 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival. For over 30 years, this festival has provided 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 engaged by the diverse selection of films being screened this year and that the panels and discussions planned for the next eleven days will stimulate a great deal of meaningful dialogue and exchange.

Canada gets a little bit stronger every day that we choose to embrace and to celebrate who we are, in all our uniqueness.

I would like to thank the festival organizers for their hard work and dedication in planning this year's edition of the festival. You can take pride in your commitment to celebrating Canadian filmmakers and to fostering diversity and inclusion in the screen 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



Canada

For more than three decades, Inside Out has provided a showcase for the best queer films from Canada and around the world. By championing these unique voices, this celebration has been a leader in building an open, inclusive society where every person has the same opportunity to participate and succeed.

Our government is a proud supporter of the arts across Canada, including this signature event. This year's celebration will have more in-person screenings, while also maintaining its virtual programming, ensuring that everyone has lots of opportunities to enjoy these compelling films. As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I'd like to thank everyone involved in making this year's Inside Out festival such a success.

Enjoy the shows!



**Pablo Rodriguez**  
Minister of Canadian Heritage



It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the Inside Out Toronto 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival. As one of the largest 2SLGBTQ+ film festivals in the world, Inside Out offers audiences the best in queer film from across the country, while providing support to emerging and established 2SLGBTQ+ filmmakers. I would like to extend best wishes to everyone participating in this hybrid festival, as it celebrates its 33rd anniversary this year. Thank you to Inside Out for being a strong advocate for the queer community through film.

I am thrilled that the Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival is taking place in Toronto. Events like this represent the wonderful diversity in our city. The arts are an integral component of Toronto's cultural and economic fabric that enrich and enhance the lives of many. Arts and culture can be incredible forces for the development of an individual, group or community, and they promote intercultural connections including understanding, friendship and social cohesion.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.



**Jennifer McKelvie**  
Deputy Mayor of Toronto

It brings me so much joy that Ontarians across our province can enjoy wonderful Queer cinema with Inside Out in Toronto, Ottawa, and virtually! Inside Out has grown so much over the past 33 years. I am proud to have been a supporter since its inception – first as a small business owner in the Village, then as a City Councillor, and now as Ontario's first openly non-binary Member of Provincial Parliament.

It is my firm belief that while strong communities and good public policy keep us safe, so too does great art. Seeing stories that reflect your experience can be life-saving. Seeing stories of identities different from your own can build lasting bridges of understanding. Not to mention the amazing jobs that queer films create, especially for 2SLGBTQIA+ workers. I will always fight for robust arts funding to keep our film scene vibrant and our communities doing inspiring work.

Congratulations to the staff, volunteers, members, and donors who make this incredible festival possible.

Happy film-festing!



**Kristyn Wong-Tam**  
MPP, Toronto Centre



## About Inside Out

In addition to bringing Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ community together 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 with the following initiatives:

### Ottawa Film Festival

An annual fall festival of local, national and international films. The Festival presents upwards of 25 diverse films, both shorts and features, made by and about 2SLGBTQ+ people of all ages, races and abilities and offers special events including artist Q&As and parties.

### RE:Focus Fund

Established in 2018, Inside Out's RE:Focus Fund aims to address industry inequities through providing 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 \$200,000 in festival travel grants, post-production funds, and professional development programs for filmmakers since its creation.

### 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 financial and in-kind production support and an Inside Out screening of the completed work.

### Out on Set

Out On Set is a database for North American 2SLGBTQ+ film & television crew and creative talent. Out On Set is a joint initiative created and developed by OUTtv and Inside Out to connect production companies, agencies, and networks to queer and trans talent within the screen industry.

### International Finance Forum

Inside Out's International Finance Forum (IFF) is the first and only 2SLGBTQ+ finance forum of its kind in the world. Marking its seventh edition, the Forum provides 2SLGBTQ+-identified producers, writers, and directors creating 2SLGBTQ+ content an opportunity to move their feature projects forward through professional development, mentorship, and the platform to pitch their projects directly to top international industry executives and decision-makers.

### Pitch, Please!

Competitors present a short, two-minute 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.

### Inside Out Exclusives

Inside Out works with the 2SLGBTQ+ film community to bring exclusive previews, special presentations, events, and conversations to Inside Out audiences throughout the year. In the months leading up to the 2023 Toronto Festival, Inside Out curated Ace Hotel's screening series, 'Shorts In Conversation,' inviting filmmakers to discuss their films and the craft of translating thoughts into moving images.

### The Library

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

## 2023 Board, Committees & Staff

### Board

Chair: Thomas Park  
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Alex Lalonde  
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Ferrin Evans  
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Allia McLeod  
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Nicole Hayward  
Sarah Lane  
Pedro Lobo-Guerrero  
Michael McNeely  
Laya Mendizabal  
Jae Ng  
Nirujaa Vasantharajah  
Will Zang

#### Program Note Writers

Rachel E. Beattie  
Allen Braude  
Jacob Crepeault  
Jenna Dufton  
Paul Gallant

#### Accessibility Consultants

Ken Harrower  
Michael McNeely

### Staff

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

#### Co-Head and Artistic Director

Andrew Murphy

#### Director of Festival Programming

Jenna Dufton

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Kelsey Butt

#### Senior Administrative Manager

Jayne Schneider

#### Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications

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#### Partnerships Manager

Emma Pitters-Fisher

#### Design and Tech Services Manager

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#### Member and Donor Relations Manager

Jeff Schissler

#### Operations Coordinator

Ajeya Gonzalez

#### Programming Coordinator

Lucia Linares

#### Marketing Coordinator

Adam Pitters-Fisher

#### Bookkeeper

Sunny Kim

#### Grants Research / Writer

Steen Starr

#### Grants Writers

Sarah Fellows  
Steven Greenwood

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Debbie Read

**Festival Box Office Manager**  
Reece McCrone

**Finance Forum Producer**  
Jan Nathanson

**Industry Coordinator**  
Sarah Barzak

**Guest Relations Coordinator**  
Claire Jarvis

**Accessibility Coordinator**  
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**Development Assistants**  
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Mohammed Khan

**Partnerships Assistants**  
Polen Light  
Radhika Mehta

**Marketing Assistant**  
Simran Taurani

**Publicist**  
Organic.

**Festival Identity**  
Brian Jiang

**Festival Trailer**  
Merik Williams

**Website Design and Development**  
Co-Effect

**Copy Editor**  
Ingrid Randoja

## Ticketing & Accessibility

Inside Out is the lead organization in the Reel Access initiative that aims to improve the accessibility of film festival programming in Toronto and beyond. For more information and accessibility updates in the weeks leading up to the Festival, please visit [insideout.ca/accessibility](https://insideout.ca/accessibility).

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

Official Ticketing Provider  
elavent

### In-Person Tickets & Box Office Info

To purchase memberships, ticket packages and tickets, or to redeem a ticket package for in-person screenings, visit our box office anytime at [insideout.ca/boxoffice](https://insideout.ca/boxoffice). During the festival dates, visit the Inside Out Festival Box Office at TIFF Bell 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. All major credit cards accepted. Contact [boxoffice@insideout.ca](mailto:boxoffice@insideout.ca) for ticketing assistance.

### Reel Access

Inside Out is committed to improving accessibility for all audience members by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers. The Reel Access discount is available for BIPOC folks, students, seniors, under-waged patrons, and patrons living with disabilities. Valid for all in-person and digital screenings during the 2023 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival. We are soliciting captions or full subtitles for all 2023 programming, depending on content that is provided. For more information on accessible ticketing or to inquire about Reel Access discounts, email [boxoffice@insideout.ca](mailto:boxoffice@insideout.ca).

### 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 4th at 11:59pm or the view cap is reached. All single tickets for digital screenings are valid for 48 hours after you press 'Play.' The Digital All-Access Pass allows for one viewing of all films on the digital platform, for one household.

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

All festival films screening at TIFF Bell Lightbox will be accompanied with open captions or English subtitles (all languages will be subtitled in English, including English for both in-cinema and digital screenings). ASL will be available by request. All festival films screening via Cinesend will have the option to enable captions.

## 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
Special Presentation	\$20	\$17
Gala Screening	\$25	\$21.25
6-Ticket Package	\$75	\$63.75
All Access Digital Pass	\$225	

\*Fees and taxes apply. Service charges are applied to all points of purchase: online, over the phone, and in-person.

\*Fees are added to both member and non-member prices.

\*Member discounts are applicable to individual tickets only.

### Ticketing, Venue, and Box Office Accessibility

All festival films screening at TIFF Bell Lightbox will be accompanied with open captions or English subtitles (all languages will be subtitled, including English). ASL will be available by request. All festival films screening via Cinesend will have the option to enable captions. Ticketing, Venue, and Box Office Accessibility

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

Inside Out offers a discounted Reel Access 6-Pack ticket package available to BIPOC folks, students, seniors, underwaged patrons and patrons living with disabilities. Valid for regular in-person and digital screenings during the 2023 Inside Out Film Festival. Must be in Ontario to view digitally. Digital screenings will be available for select films screening in-person therefore not every festival film will be available digitally.

BIPOC folks, students, seniors, underwaged patrons and patrons living with disabilities are eligible for a 15% discount on in-person and digital screenings.

### Program Guide Accessibility

Visit our text program guide at [insideout.ca/2023textpg](https://insideout.ca/2023textpg) to review the content of the program guide with a range of accessibility features that include increased text size, big cursor, smart contrast, screen reader and many more.



# Donors & Members

The Inside Out Film Festival exists only because of the unstinting support of donors and members alike. Inside Out is extremely grateful for your constant generosity, which serves to further our shared belief in the transformative power of 2SLGBTQ+ film and its innate ability to bring people of diverse backgrounds together to engage, empower, educate and entertain our audiences. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank all of our Donors and Members including our 2023 Deluxe and Visionary Members.

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

## Deluxe Members

Carl Bremner and Kenneth Holt  
Gebadia Haverkamp  
Dr. Richard Issac and Brian Sambourne  
Tony Markotich  
Donald McKay and Jim Laughlin  
Adam Morrison and James Owen

## Visionary Members

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Patrick David and Michael Smith  
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Gary and William Klein  
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Jim Lawrence & David Salak  
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Martha LA McCain  
Thomas Park  
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Kimberly P  
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Debbie Read  
Nik Redman  
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Karen Wirsig

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Carolyn Greve  
Paul Lalonde  
Richard McLellan  
Adam Morrison and James Owen  
Jason Novelli  
Ralph Pascht and Mark Le Messurier  
Nik Redman  
Mike Rudolph  
Jeff Slater  
Amy & Mich Talbert

## Leadership Circle

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

Jill Andrew and Aisha Fairclough, Body Confidence Canada  
Neville Austin  
Amy & Mich Talbert  
Lawrence Bennett  
Tom Tan  
Neil Betteridge  
David Carter  
Jo-Ann Chiam and Janet Koehler  
Chris Chin  
Andy Chong  
Gebadia Haverkamp  
Larry Hughsam  
Japneet Kaur  
Gary and William Klein  
Marcus Law  
Jim Lawrence & David Salak  
Tony Markotich  
Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten  
Andrew Mainprize and Philip Kocev  
Martha LA McCain  
Keith Medley  
Adam Morrison and James Owen  
Ralph Pascht and Mark Le Messurier  
Bernardine Perreira

## Insider Circle

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

The Paul Butler and Chris Black Foundation at Toronto Foundation  
Carolyn DiMaria  
Scott Ferguson  
Phil Gazaleh  
Dr. Richard Issac and Brian Sambourne  
Paul Lalonde  
Nicole McVan  
Jason Novelli  
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 and James Owen  
Russell Mathew and Scott Ferguson  
Philip Rouse  
Dr. James Stewart  
Alan Reginald Westbrook

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# Screening Schedule

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

For venue information, visit [insideout.ca/festival/venues](http://insideout.ca/festival/venues)

#InsideOut2023

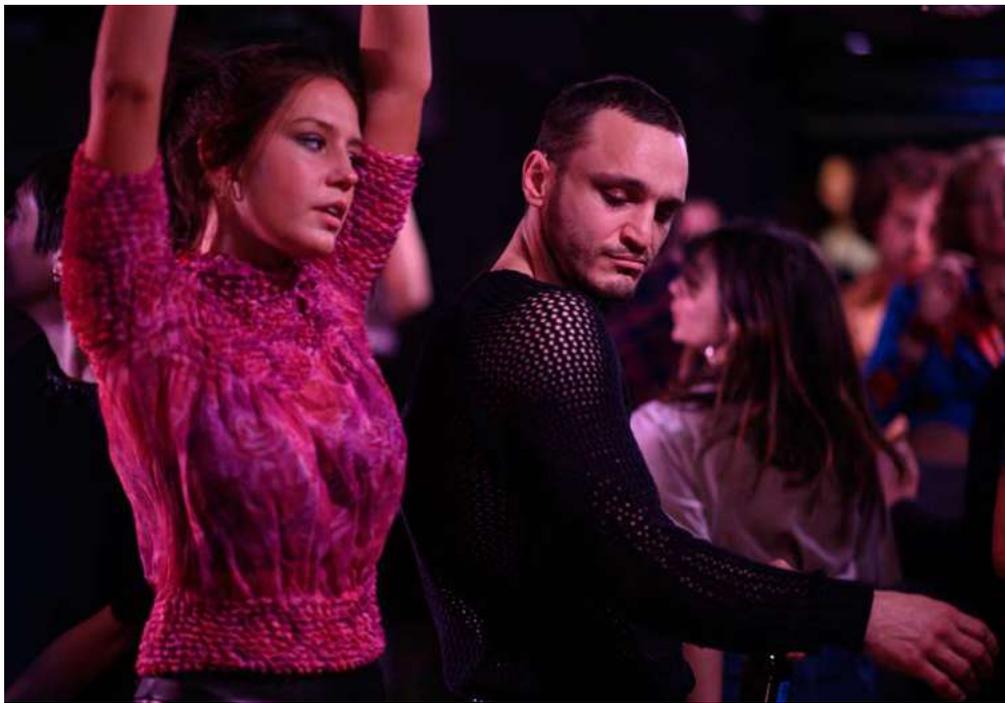
- Galas/ Special Presentations
- Premieres
- Spotlight on Canada
- Icons
- International Showcase
- Shorts
- Industry/Events

THURS. MAY 25	FRI. MAY 26	SAT. MAY 27	SUN. MAY 28	MON. MAY 29	TUES. MAY 30	WED. MAY 31	THURS. JUNE 1	FRI. JUNE 2	SAT. JUNE 3
	1:00p <b>Shorts: Centre Stage</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (86 min, PG 76/77)	11:45a <b>Is Anybody Out There?</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (87 min, PG 50)	11:45a <b>Shorts: Closer to Fine</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (93 min, PG 78/79)						11:45a <b>Golden Delicious</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (119 min, PG 37)
		1:30p <b>Shorts: BOLD</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (90 min, PG 74/75)	1:30p <b>Queendom</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (98 min, PG 65)						
		2:00p <b>Commitment To Life</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (115 min, PG 48)	2:00p <b>Shorts: Stories We Tell</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (98 min, PG 42/43)						2:15p <b>Shorts: Sorrow and Joy</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (91 min, PG 86/87)
		4:00p <b>Bloom Room</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (53 min, PG 36)	4:00p <b>Big Boys</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (105 min, PG 61)						4:00p <b>It's Only Life After All</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (123 min, PG 51)
	4:15p <b>A Queer's Guide to Spiritual Living</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (75 min, PG 34)		4:15p <b>Hummingbirds</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (78 min, PG 49)						4:30p <b>Pitch, Please! Awards</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (90 min)
	6:30p <b>The Venus Effect (Venuseffekten)</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (105 min, PG 67)		6:30p <b>This Place</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (87 min, PG 39)						
	6:45p <b>Norwegian Dream</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (97 min, PG 64)	6:45p <b>Opponent</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (119 min, PG 28)	6:45p <b>Shorts: Something Real</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (110 min, PG 84/85)		6:45p <b>Centrepiece Gala: Supporting Our Selves</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (75 min, PG 20)	6:45p <b>Mutt</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (87 min, PG 62)	6:45p <b>Shorts: Local Heroes</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (92 min, PG 40/41)	6:45p <b>School of Rock</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (108 min, PG 65)	
		7:00p <b>RE:Focus Gala: Kokomo City</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (73 min, PG 19)		7:00p <b>Leilani's Fortune</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (80 min, PG 52)					
7:30p <b>Opening Night: Passages</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (91 min, PG 18)	9:00p <b>Shorts: Let it Be Me</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (88 min, PG 82/83)		9:00p <b>A Place of Our Own (Ek Jagah Apni)</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (88 min, PG 58)				7:00p <b>Something You Said Last Night</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (96 min, PG 38)	7:00p <b>Narrow Path to Happiness</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (82 min, PG 63)	7:15p <b>Closing Gala: Glitter &amp; Doom</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (110 min, PG 21)
	9:15p <b>I Used to Be Funny</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (105 min, PG 22)	9:15p <b>Sisi &amp; I (Sisi &amp; Ich)</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 2 (132 min, PG 30)	9:15p <b>All The Colours of the World are Between Black and White</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (93 min, PG 59)	9:15p <b>Special Sneak Preview: Chesnut</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (87 min, PG 27)					
		9:30p <b>Almamula</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (94 min, PG 60)			9:15p <b>20,000 Species of Bees (20,000 especies de abejas)</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (129 min, PG 26)	9:15p <b>Wolf and Dog (Lobo e Cão)</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (111 min, PG 68)	9:15p <b>Runs in the Family</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (107 min, PG 29)	9:15p <b>Blue Jean</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 1 (97 min, PG 23)	9:15p <b>Before I Change My Mind</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (88 min, PG 35)
							9:30p <b>Shorts: Joking</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (92 min, PG 80/81)	9:30p <b>Shorts: Thrive</b> TIFF Bell Lightbox 3 (99 min, PG 88/89)	

**GALAS**

**&**

**SPECIAL  
PRESENTATIONS**



## Opening Gala: Passages

Screening Sponsor



**Director:** Ira Sachs  
**Screenplay:** Ira Sachs, Mauricio Zacharias  
**France | 2023 | 91:00**  
English and French with English subtitles

**Date:** Thurs. May 25, 7:30p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

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*Passages* begins with German filmmaker Tomas meticulously crafting a scene. He requires perfection to be satisfied and when the slightest error occurs, he loses his temper. After the film wraps, Tomas' desire for control seeps into his personal life. Unsatisfied in his long-term marriage with Martin, Tomas launches into an impulsive sexual affair with a young woman named Agathe. When their one-night stand grows into something more, the two men are left to wonder if their crumbling marriage can survive. The latest work by acclaimed filmmaker Ira Sachs follows three people caught in a love triangle marked by passion, jealousy, and narcissism.



## RE:Focus Gala: Kokomo City

**Director:** D. Smith  
**USA | 2023 | 73:00**

**Date:** Sat. May 27, 7:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Through conversation and laughter, D. Smith presents the stories of four Black transgender sex workers in New York and Georgia. These women offer unapologetic and unfiltered reflections on belonging and identity within the Black community and beyond. Dreams and memories, past lives and new beginnings, battles fought and won are openly shared. D. Smith, a Grammy-nominated artist, creates a unique and exhilarating soundtrack that matches the protagonists' energetic personalities and the film's striking black and white visuals. *Kokomo City* is a vibrant portrait of a community tired of stigmatization and ready to take ownership of their stories.





## Centerpiece Gala: Supporting Our Selves

**Director:** Lulu Wei  
**Canada | 2023 | 75:00**

**Date:** Tues. May 30, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

**Screening Sponsors**  
Andrew Mainprize &  
Philip Kocev

Founded in 1980 as the Gay Community Appeal, Community One Foundation has from the start raised funds for an array of community projects and organizations, with the organization and its name evolving along with the community itself. What started as a predominantly white, middle-class collective redefined itself during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and '90s and continues to adapt today to better meet the needs of our Toronto communities. *Supporting Our Selves* is a moving exploration of more than four decades of activism, told through the lens of the Toronto-based philanthropic organization.



## Closing Gala: Glitter & Doom

**Director:** Tom Gustafson  
**Screenplay:** Cory Krueckeberg  
**USA | 2023 | 110:00**

**Date:** Sat. June 3, 7:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

When carefree Glitter and aspiring musician Doom meet it is love at first sight. But as Glitter prepares to live out his dream of running away with the circus, the two have only 29 days to discover if their love will last. Their journey is told through song lyrics by the Indigo Girls, featuring some of their greatest hits, including the iconic anthem "Closer to Fine." Starring Alex Diaz, Alan Cammish, Lea DeLaria, Missi Pyle, Tig Notaro, and the Indigo Girls themselves, *Glitter & Doom* is a fantastical summer romance with a big musical heart.





## Special Presentation: I Used To Be Funny

Screening Sponsor  
David Carter

Director: Ally Pankiw  
Screenplay: Ally Pankiw  
Canada | 2023 | 105:00

Date: Fri. May 26, 9:15p  
Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Sam Cowell, an au pair and aspiring stand-up comedian, is struggling with PTSD and must decide whether to join the search for Brooke, a missing teenage girl she used to nanny. The story exists between the present, where Sam tries to recover from her trauma and get back on stage, and the past, where memories of Brooke make it difficult to ignore the petulant teen's sudden disappearance. Toronto's own Ally Pankiw delivers a debut feature that is both funny and heartbreaking in its honest look at sexual violence, trauma, and recovery, and how they affect the relationships and communities that shape us.



## Special Presentation: Blue Jean

Screening Sponsor  
Gebadia Haverkamp

Director: Georgia Oakley  
Screenplay: Georgia Oakley  
UK | 2022 | 97:00

Date: Fri. June 2, 9:15p  
Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

It's 1988 in England and Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government is about to pass Section 28, a law that prohibits the promotion of homosexuality. For Jean, a gym teacher, a law stigmatizing gays and lesbians adds an additional layer to her ongoing struggle to live her life openly. As she attempts to lead a double life, pressure mounts between her and her out and proud partner. As the issues intensify on all sides, the arrival of a new student catalyzes a crisis that will challenge Jean to her core.



# PREMIERES





## 20,000 Species of Bees (20,000 especies de abejas)

**Director:** Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren  
**Screenplay:** Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren  
**Spain | 2023 | 125:00**  
Spanish and Basque with English subtitles

**Date:** Tues. May 30, 9:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

An eight-year-old child struggles with the fact that people keep addressing her in confusing ways; her birth name feels very wrong, and her nickname Cocó doesn't feel quite right either. During a summer in the Basque Country among the beehives, she explores her name and identity alongside her mother and the women of her family, who are also reflecting on their own lives and desires. Much like a beehive, *20,000 Species of Bees* examines a space predominantly run by women, exploring with great care the incredible complexity of gender identity.

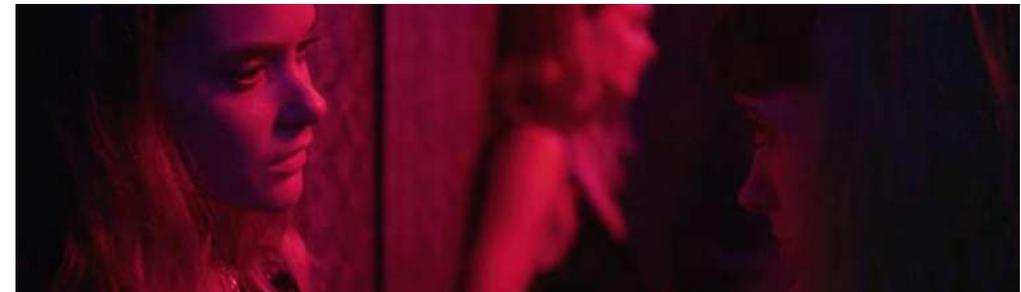


## Special Sneak Preview: Chestnut

**Director:** Jac Cron  
**USA | 2023 | 87:00**

**Date:** Mon. May 29, 9:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

After graduation and a hard breakup, Annie is ready for a new life and a new city. She plans to spend the summer packing up her apartment and saying goodbye to friends, but a chance meeting with an alluring duo makes Annie begin to question her decision to leave. They quickly become entangled in a precarious love triangle, filled with toxic habits and unspoken words. *Chestnut*, director Jac Cron's feature debut, is a slow-burning exploration of the desire to belong and the pain of loneliness. Natalia Dyer, Rachel Keller, Danny Ramirez, and Chella Man come together to create this intimate character study with great empathy and sincerity.





## Opponent (Motståndaren)

Screening Sponsors



Adam Morrison and James Owen

**Director:** Milad Alami  
**Screenplay:** Milad Alami  
**Sweden | 2023 | 119:00**

**Date:** Sat. May 27, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

Farsi and Swedish with English subtitles

A devastating and dangerous rumour forces Iman and his family to flee Iran. As refugees, Iman, his wife Maryam, and their two daughters end up in a run-down hotel in northern Sweden. When Maryam learns she is pregnant and there is still no movement in the immigration process Iman must do whatever it takes to protect his family. As a wrestler who once represented Iran at the Olympics, a local wrestling club may be the solution to their problem. However, wrestling – and one sparring partner in particular – ignites old feelings and Iman must choose between his own desires and the safety of his family.



## Runs in the Family

Screening Sponsors



**Director:** Ian Gabriel  
**Screenplay:** Gabe Gabriel  
**South Africa | 2022 | 107:00**

**Date:** Thurs. June 1, 9:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Real-life father/son filmmaking team Ian and Gabe Gabriel unite for this witty, heartfelt dramedy that sees former scam artist Varun and his trans drag performer son River (played by Gabe Gabriel) embark on a road trip across South Africa to rescue River's long-lost mother from a rehab clinic. River's only worry is missing Her Vajesty's Drag Competition and the opportunity to win the prize money to pay for his top surgery. With secrets bubbling to the surface and a competition to win, the duo's relationship will be tested like never before.





## Sisi & I (Sisi & Ich)

**Screening Sponsor**  
Martha LA McCain

**Director:** Frauke Finsterwalder  
**Screenplay:** Frauke Finsterwalder, Christian Kracht  
**Germany, Switzerland, Austria | 2023 | 132:00**  
German with English subtitles

**Date:** Sat. May 27, 9:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

When Countess Irma is sent by her mother to a women-only commune in Greece to act as companion to Empress Elisabeth of Austria-Hungary, she is captivated by the eccentric recluse. She is put to the test by the Empress, also known as Sisi, with sadistic tests of athleticism and a diet of laxative teas and cocaine extracts but once she is accepted, the two women become very close. All good things may come to an end, however, when a return to Vienna threatens their routine. Set to a soundtrack that includes Portishead and Le Tigre this is the 19th century like you've never experienced it before.



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## A Queer's Guide to Spiritual Living

Screening Sponsor



**Director:** Ari Conrad Birch,  
Michal Heuston  
**Canada | 2023 | 77:00**

**Date:** Fri. May 26, 4:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

*A Queer's Guide to Spiritual Living* celebrates the many surprising intersections of faith and queerness in the lives of four queer folks from various religious contexts. Through journal entries, poetry, and conversations with friends, this enlightening documentary provides a glimpse into how Summeiya, the genderfluid founder of Queer Muslim Network Toronto, Juliana, a bisexual teacher and former Baptist Christian, Vaibhav, a gay Hindu dancer, and Ari, a trans Coptic Orthodox drag artist, navigate their queer and spiritual journeys.



## Before I Change My Mind

**Director:** Trevor Anderson  
**Screenplay:** Trevor Anderson,  
Fish Griwkowsky  
**Canada | 2022 | 89:00**

**Date:** Sat. June 3, 9:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

It's 1987 and Robin's arrival at a small-town Alberta middle-school causes a stir. Being the new kid at school is never easy, and it's extra challenging for Robin who contends with the discomfort of the other students who aren't sure of Robin's gender. Things improve when they become friends with Carter, the local troublemaker, during a class trip to the West Edmonton Mall. But Robin and Carter's friendship is put to the test when they are both attracted to Izzy, leading Robin to question the price they are willing to pay to fit in.



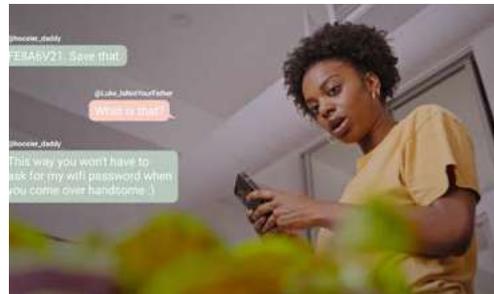


## Bloom Room

**Directors:** Tristen Sutherland, Yasmijn Nicolle, Christian Anderson, Sochima Nwakaeze, Ajahnis Charley  
**Canada | 2023 | 53:00 (6 episodes)**

**Date:** Sat. May 27, 4:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

When Leo turns their love of plants into an online community for Black folks to talk all things foliage, they discover that community is the key to staying rooted. As Leo's group of Black millennials become more entangled in each other's lives, Leo, Amira, Cain, and Isla, find purpose in caretaking for their plants and their budding relationships. This comedic and heartfelt series explores the complexities of Black mental health and the bonds of chosen family, through the chaotic and precarious lens of young Black adults in Toronto.



## Golden Delicious

**Screening Sponsor**  
 Andy Chong

**Director:** Jason Karman  
**Screenplay:** Gorrman Lee  
**Canada | 2022 | 120:00**

**Date:** Sat. June 3, 11:45a  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Everyone wants something from high school senior Jake: his father is pushing him to try out for the basketball team – an abandoned dream of his own – and his girlfriend wants to take their relationship to the next level. It isn't until Aleks, an openly gay teen with a love for basketball, moves in across the street that Jake begins to struggle with his own desires. To get closer to Aleks, Jake devotes himself to making the basketball team – only to realize it's not basketball he really wants.





## Something You Said Last Night

Screening Sponsor



**Director:** Luis De Filippis  
**Screenplay:** Luis De Filippis  
**Canada/Switzerland | 2022 | 96:00**  
English and Italian with English subtitles

**Date:** Thurs. June 1, 7:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

Ren reluctantly accompanies her very Italian family on a beach resort holiday. As her younger sister makes friends and parties, Ren navigates a resort not suited to her trans identity while also coping with her parents' loving yet overbearing nature. She's trying to balance the yearning for independence with the comfort of being taken care of, and yet looming in the back of Ren's mind is the secret of her recent dismissal from work, and that once the holiday is over, she will need to rely even more on her family's support.



## This Place

Screening Sponsors



**Director:** V.T. Nayani  
**Screenplay:** Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs, Golshan Abdmoulaie, V.T. Nayani  
**Canada | 2022 | 87:00**  
English, French, Mohawk, Persian and Tamil with English subtitles

**Date:** Sun. May 28, 6:30p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

Greg Lichti and  
Garth Norbraten

Kawenníóhstha leaves her community of Kahnawà:ke near Montreal to attend university in Toronto and to find her Iranian father, who she has never met. Malai is a Tamil woman dealing with her father's terminal illness and trying to decide what her future should look like. The women meet by chance but form an intense attraction and bond as they navigate complex issues of identity and family. In each other they have found understanding and comfort but is this new connection enough or will the pressures of their legacies overwhelm them?



# Shorts: Local Heroes

Total program runtime: 92:00

From raves to resistance, this collection of shorts highlights the work of local queer storytellers making films that explore the multitudes this city has to offer.

Date: Thurs. June 1, 6:45p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 1

Screening Sponsors



Ralph Pascht and Mark Le Messurier



## Thriving: A Dissociated Reverie

Director: Nicole Bazuin  
Canada | 2023 | 10:00

A surrealist exploration of dissociative identity disorder (DID) based on the lived experience of a Black, nonbinary, disabled artist and former sex worker.



## Adore

Director: Beth Warrian  
Canada | 2022 | 11:00

Luci, a queer Peruvian Canadian woman, gives her beloved nephew the Christmas gift of his dreams: a beautiful sequined dress.

English and Spanish with English subtitles.



## Lala Gothicfish

Director: Angelina Nayyar  
Canada | 2023 | 11:00

Set against the backdrop of a city undergoing rapid gentrification, a Toronto teenager struggles to save a youth rave scene plagued by substance use and over-policing.



## Collective Resistance

Director: Isak Vaillancourt  
Canada | 2022 | 17:00

Told from the perspectives of 2SLGBTQ+ Afro-Indigenous leaders and activists, this short documentary imagines new possibilities in the relationship between Blackness and Indigeneity, which is rooted in solidarity and joy.



## September 10th

Director: Tasneem Nanji  
Canada | 2022 | 15:00

Two queer Muslim women, one in Toronto and one in New York, navigate love, family, and connection the night before 9/11.



## A Letter from the Ashes

Director: Raghed Charabaty  
Canada, Lebanon | 2023 | 11:00

A rough and raw letter on what it means to lose love at the expense of finding freedom. An essay on family, anger and fraud.



## Shedding

Director: Tziara Reyes  
Canada | 2022 | 5:00

This short documentary follows an individual's journey of shaving their head for the first time; exploring the complex relationship between hair and identity.



## Insta Gay

Director: Simon Paluck  
Canada | 2023 | 12:00

A millennial Torontonion is left reeling after breaking-up with a popular gay influencer.

# Shorts: Stories We Tell

Total program runtime: 98:00

From parenthood to plant care, this collection of shorts highlights the work of Canadian filmmakers creating from coast to coast.

Date: Sun. May 28, 2:00p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 2



## Plant Daddy

Director: James Cooper  
Canada | 2023 | 14:00

After rescuing an abandoned potted plant, Phil spirals into an absurd plant obsession to avoid visiting his father on his deathbed.



## Magic in Plain Sight

Director: Paige Gratland  
Canada | 2022 | 12:00

A portrait of self-taught seamstress Brenna Bezanson, a change-maker whose creations of custom women's clothing challenge capitalist and patriarchal ideals.



## 13 Eggs

Director: TJ Cuthand  
Canada | 2022 | 14:00

Over a four-year period, filmmaker TJ Cuthand collects footage capturing his experience of trying to make a baby.



## Tabanca

Director: Lauren Marsden  
Canada | 2022 | 12:00

Marlinn is a genderqueer Trinidadian woman suffering through a wet Vancouver winter and missing Carnival season back home, that is until they discover the power of masquerade is within them.



## Skill (Kalā)

Director: Arshad Khan  
Canada | 2023 | 12:00

A South Asian mother finds herself immersed in a profound state of mourning after discovering that her beloved son is gay.

English and Urdu with English subtitles



## Once in a Red Moon

Director: Yi Shi  
Canada | 2022 | 10:00

As Mid-Autumn Festival approaches, a lonesome young Chinese immigrant finds comfort in a whirlwind romance with a mysterious hometown queer crush.

English and Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles.



## The Year Long Boulder

Director: Brielle LeBlanc  
Canada | 2022 | 10:00

Crushed by unrequited love, a young queer poet finally reckons with their own emotional baggage – make that a boulder.



## The Left Hand (La main gauche)

Director: Maxime Robin  
Canada | 2022 | 14:00

Young Maxime's mother starts worrying about him when his 2nd grade teacher declares him "abnormal."

French with English subtitles.

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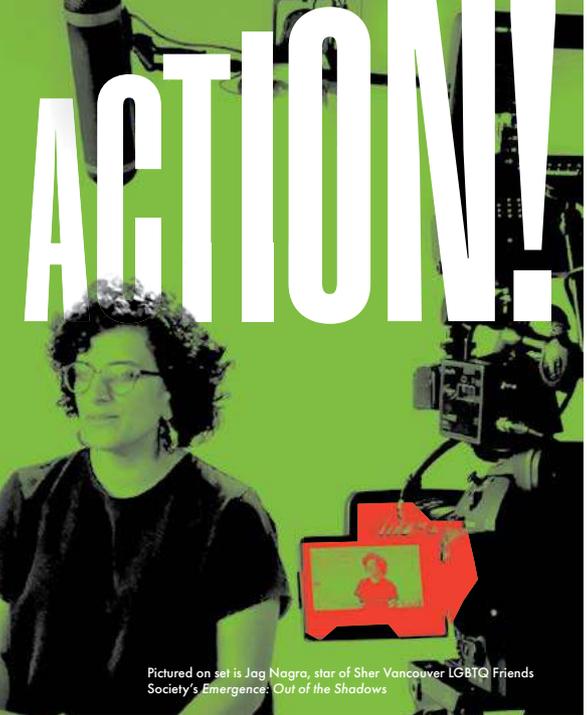
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Pictured on set is Jag Nagra, star of Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society's *Emergence: Out of the Shadows*

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# ICONS



## Commitment to Life

Screening Sponsors



Director: Jeffrey Schwarz  
USA | 2023 | 115:00

Date: Sat. May 27, 2:00p  
Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

Marcus Law

In the early 1980s, a young doctor at UCLA reported a strange immune disorder among gay men — the world's first warning sign of the epidemic to come. In the decades that followed, Hollywood played a critical role in the battle against HIV/AIDS as doctors, movie stars, studio moguls and activists came together to change the path of the epidemic and how the world saw it. *Commitment to Life* documents this incredible drama — Rock Hudson and Easy-E, Elizabeth Taylor and David Geffen, the Red Ribbon, *Philadelphia*, ACT UP and APLA — through the stories of those who lived through it.



## Hummingbirds

Screening Sponsors

Jo-Ann Chiam and  
Janet Koecher

Directors: Silvia Del Carmen Castaños,  
Estefanía "Beba" Contreras  
USA | 2023 | 78:00

Date: Sun. May 28, 4:15p  
Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

English and Spanish with English subtitles

Filmmakers and activists Silvia Del Carmen Castaños and Estefanía "Beba" Contreras are coming of age in Laredo, Texas, a stone's throw away from the Mexico border. Stuck in an immigration process with the ever-present threat of deportation for their families, they boldly refuse to be scared into submission, spending their days planning protest actions for legal abortion and against border control abuses. Amidst the intensity of their lives, they express themselves with music, poetry, and art, creating magic in everyday moments.





## Is There Anybody Out There?

**Director:** Ella Glendining  
**UK | 2023 | 90:00**

**Date:** Sat. May 27, 11:45a  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

Filmmaker Ella Glendining was born with a disability so rare that she's not yet met anyone else in the world who shares the experience of living in a body like hers. Through Facebook groups and online searches, she sets out to find if there really is anybody like her out there. Using intimate video diary entries, conversations with similarly bodied people and doctors treating her condition, Ella invites viewers to question their assumptions about normalcy while exploring what it takes to love oneself fiercely despite the pervasiveness of ableism.



## It's Only Life After All

**Director:** Alexandria Bombach  
**USA | 2023 | 123:00**

**Date:** Sat. June 3, 4:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Amy Ray and Emily Saliers began performing together in high school, well before entering the mainstream as the acclaimed folk-rock duo, Indigo Girls. Against all odds they broke through in the 1980s, maintaining musical careers on their own terms with an unwavering commitment to progressive politics and queer rights. This commitment stands to this day with their continued fight for environmental justice through their work with Indigenous activist Winona LaDuke. Blending more than three decades of home movies, archival footage, and intimate present-day verité, *It's Only Life After All* is a timely look into the life lessons of two famous queer friends who never expected to make it big.





## Leilani's Fortune

Director: Loveleen Kaur  
Canada | 2023 | 80:00

Date: Mon. May 29, 7:00p  
Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

### Screening Sponsors



Bernardine Ferreira

*Leilani's Fortune* takes us on an intimate journey with queer, immigrant, Ethiopian-Eritrean artist Witch Prophet, as she navigates newfound momentum in the music industry. After a decade of making music she is now receiving critical acclaim and nominations, finally getting the validation and support she needs to embark on the creation of the album of her prophecies. Canada has been known for exporting some of the biggest international names in music from Drake to Kaytranada; with growing public demand for more diverse voices, whose music will shape the next era of artists from Canada?



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# INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition. It features a repeating pattern of circular motifs, each with a central dot and radiating lines, in shades of green, blue, and purple. These motifs are set against a background of soft, blended colors in shades of pink, purple, and blue. In the lower half of the image, there are faint, overlapping silhouettes of human figures in various poses, suggesting a crowd or a group of people. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

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## A Place of Our Own (Ek Jagah Apni)

Screening Sponsors



Chris Chin

**Director:** Ektara Collective  
**India | 2022 | 90:00**  
 Hindi with English subtitles

**Date:** Sun. May 28, 9:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

Trans women Laila and Roshni are looking for housing after they are evicted from their rental. It soon becomes evident that their search for a home is also their ongoing search for a place in a society that wants to push them aside. As their search continues, we realise it transcends physical spaces and biological bonds, and as new friendships blossom, help arrives from unexpected places. A timely and essential film, *A Place of Our Own* was created by the Ektara Collective, an independent collective seeking to make films aesthetically located in their own realities and experiences.



## All the Colours of the World are Between Black and White

Screening Sponsors



Jim Lawrence and David Salak

**Director:** Babatunde Apalowo  
**Nigeria | 2023 | 93:00**  
 English, Igbo, and Nigerian Pidgin with English subtitles

**Date:** Sun. May 28, 9:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Bambino is a delivery driver in Lagos, living a quiet life and holding his neighbours at arm's length. When he meets Bawa, a friendly and easygoing photographer, something clicks. But in a country where homosexuality is illegal and taboo, Bambino doesn't know what to do with their connection; judging by the life choices of his friend Ifeyinwa, the options seem limited. The subtlety and restraint in Babatunde Apalowo's much-lauded debut feature is part of its power to move audiences. He creates characters that feel like real people, and we fear for them and cheer for them as they find their way.





## Almamula

Screening Sponsors



**Director:** Juan Sebastián Torales  
**Screenplay:** Juan Sebastián Torales  
**France, Argentina, Italy | 2023 | 94:00**  
Spanish with English Subtitles

**Date:** Sat. May 27, 9:30p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Keith Medley

After being gay bashed by neighbourhood boys, Nino's family moves to their country home. Nino is forced to attend confirmation class and is warned not to enter a nearby forest or risk being captured by the Almamula, a mythic creature that takes away those who commit carnal sins. But as Nino's sexual desires grow, he is pulled to explore the forest and find out if the Almamula is real. Building tension through ambiguity, this dreamlike film explores the impact of religion and superstition on a queer youth.



## Big Boys

Screening Sponsor

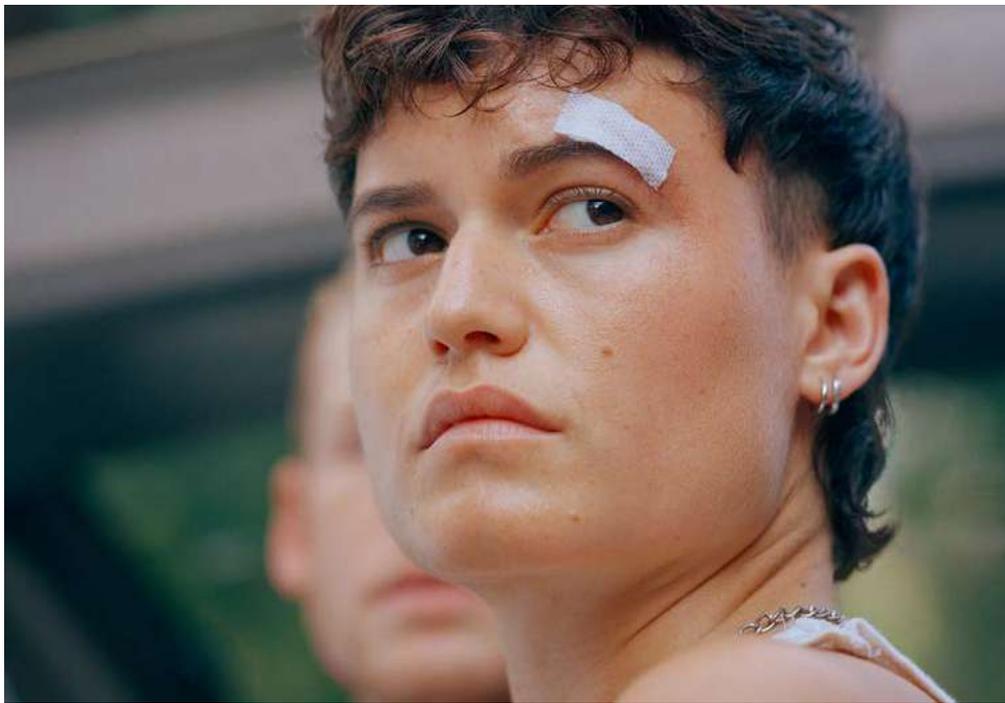


**Director:** Corey Sherman  
**Screenplay:** Corey Sherman  
**USA | 2022 | 90:00**

**Date:** Sun. May 28, 4:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

Jamie's dream camping trip is ruined before it even begins when he finds out that his beloved cousin is bringing her new boyfriend. However, Jamie's initial jealousy of the competent and confident Dan quickly turns into a friendship, as they bond over cooking, games and both being "big boys." But as the weekend progresses, despite Jamie's brother's attempts to set him up with a girl staying at the campsite, all Jamie wants to do is hang out with Dan. As his burgeoning crush gets him into awkward scrapes and arguments, Jamie begins to come to terms with who he is, and who he desires.





## Mutt

Screening Sponsor



**Director:** Vuk Lungulov-Klotz  
**Screenplay:** Vuk Lungulov-Klotz  
**USA | 2023 | 87:00**

**Date:** Wed. May 31, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

English and Spanish with English subtitles

Over the course of a single hectic day in New York City, three people from Feña's past are thrust back into his life. Having lost touch since transitioning, he navigates the new dynamics of his relationships with his father, his younger half-sister, and his ex-boyfriend all while tackling the day-to-day challenges of living life in-between. This thoughtful drama delves into the complexity of both being trans and Latinx in today's America.



## Narrow Path to Happiness

Screening Sponsors



**Director:** Kata Oláh  
**Hungary, USA | 2023 | 82:00**  
Hungarian with English Subtitles

**Date:** Fri. June 2, 7:00p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Larry Hughsam

Gergo and Lenard, a young Romani couple living in a remote village in Hungary, have a very big dream: to make a musical based on their lives. The first step toward realizing this dream is to leave the hostile and homophobic environment in which they were raised and head to Budapest where they can live more openly and find the necessary collaborators to help bring their story to life. However, when Gergo's mother suddenly dies, they must return to their village for one final reckoning, hoping to finally find the inspiration to write their own happy ending.





## Norwegian Dream

Screening Sponsors



**Director:** Leiv Igor Devold  
**Screenplay:** Justyna Bilik, Gjermund Gisvold, Radoslaw Paczocha  
**Norway, Poland, Germany | 2023 | 97:00**  
English, Norwegian, and Polish with English subtitles

**Date:** Fri. May 26, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 1

Tony Markotich

Robert travels from Poland to begin work in a salmon processing plant off the Trøndelag coast in Norway. Isolated and far from home he plans to keep his head down and work hard, seeking financial security for him and his mother. However, his focus shifts when he begins spending time with colleague, and aspiring drag queen, Ivar. Robert's budding relationship and loyalty to his fellow workers is tested when a strike breaks out and his employer offers him a solution for his financial troubles. Will he choose the security he has sacrificed so much for or a chance at love with Ivar?



## Queendom

Screening Sponsor



**Director:** Agniia Galdanova  
**United States, France | 2023 | 98:00**  
Russian with English subtitles

**Date:** Sun. May 28, 1:30p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

Gena, a queer artist from a small town in Russia, dresses in otherworldly costumes and protests the government on the streets of Moscow. Born and raised on the harsh streets of Magadan, a frigid outpost of the Soviet gulag, Gena stages radical performances that become a new form of art and activism. By doing so, she hopes to change people's perception of beauty and queerness and bring attention to the harassment of the LGBTQ+ community. The performances — often dark, strange, evocative — are a manifestation of Gena's subconscious...and they come at a price.





## School of Rock

Screening Sponsor



**Director:** Richard Linklater  
**Screenplay:** Mike White  
**USA | 2003 | 108:00**

**Date:** Fri. June 2, 6:45p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3

Join us and our very special guest, *School of Rock*'s Rivkah Reyes (Katie), as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Mike White and Richard Linklater's classic comedy that holds a special place in many queer hearts. Fired from his band, down and out rockstar Dewey Finn faces a mountain of debt and depression. Desperate for work, he poses as a substitute music teacher at an uptight private school where his attitude and hijinks have a powerful effect on his students. As he gets his privileged and precocious charges in touch with their inner rockstars, he imagines redemption at a local Battle of the Bands, solving his financial problems and putting him back in the spotlight.



## The Venus Effect (Venuseffekten)

Screening Sponsor



**Director:** Anna Emma Haudal  
**Screenplay:** Anna Emma Haudal,  
 Marie Limkilde  
**Denmark | 2022 | 105:00**  
 Danish with English Subtitles

**Date:** Fri. May 26, 6:30p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 2

Responsible and level-headed Liv believes she has her whole life figured out. She works with her parents at their garden centre and goes home each night to her comfortable relationship with her loving boyfriend. Her stable and simple life, however, is much more fragile than she thought, and the cracks begin to show with the arrival of eccentric artist Andrea. As the two women grow closer Liv's life is thrown off course and she must contend with a breakup, a divorce, and an identity crisis that jeopardizes her shot at a happy life with the woman she loves.





## Wolf and Dog (Lobo e Cão)

Screening Sponsors

**Director:** Cláudia Varejão  
**Screenplay:** Leda Cartum, Cláudia Varejão  
**Portugal, France | 2022 | 111:00**  
Portuguese with English subtitles

**Date:** Wed. May 31, 9:15p  
**Venue:** TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema 3



Friends Ana and Luis were born in São Miguel, an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean ruled by religion and traditions. Growing up, both have been expected to fit into the lives that have been laid out for them. Watching Luis push back against his father's expectations, Ana begins to question the world around her. When her friend Cloé arrives from Canada, Ana embarks on a journey filled with new desires that will reveal the right sea for her to sail. *Wolf and Dog* is an enchanting ode to the big impact of one small island's queer community.



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# SHORTS

# Shorts: BOLD

Total program runtime: 90:00

Magical, vulnerable, raw, complex, and most of all supportive best describes this year's multifaceted program. Focused on amplifying Black creators and their stories, these films show how vast the Black experience is and how beautiful it can be when Black folks are at the helm.



## Catching Spirits

Director: Vanessa Beletic  
USA | 2022 | 13:00

Destiny has been told since childhood she has seizures when she dances. When she's challenged to face her fear and dance, Destiny makes a decision that could reveal a secret she doesn't yet understand.



## Code Switch

Director: Davis Alexander James,  
Mx. Roti  
USA | 2022 | 05:00

*Code Switch* follows a Black trans person as they navigate the barbershop, illuminating the complexity and dynamism of gender expression.



## House of Tulip

Director: Cydney Tucker  
USA | 2022 | 24:00

*House of Tulip* follows two Black trans activists as they run for office and work to build Louisiana's first housing refuge for trans and gender non-conforming residents.



## Finding the Light

Director: Brandon Haynes  
USA | 2022 | 22:00

The story of Donna Hylton and the project 'A Little Piece of Light,' a nonprofit focused on supporting Black women and LGBTQ+ individuals in the prison system.

Date: Sat. May 27, 1:30p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 3

Screening Sponsors



Jill Andrew and Aisha Fairclough,  
Body Confidence Canada



## Scaring Women at Night

Director: Karimah Zakia Issa  
Canada | 2023 | 11:00

Two strangers are scared on a late walk home. As they try to escape one another, their worlds collide at an intersection, forcing them to question who they're afraid of and why.



## Unless We Dance

Director: Hanz Rippe Gabriele,  
Fernanda Pineda Palencia  
Colombia | 2023 | 15:00

A portrait of dance as the greatest expression of shielding the Afro community in Quibdó. A tribute to their act of resilience and to all the lives that have been lost along the way.

Spanish with English subtitles.

# Shorts: Center Stage

Total program runtime: 86:00

Crushes, homecoming, and some surprising special interests: this short program highlights the complexities of young adulthood and the importance of being yourself.

Date: Fri. May 26, 1:00p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 1



## Crushed

Director: Ella Rocca  
Switzerland | 2022 | 8:00

Dealing with their own obsessive crushes, Ella Rocca researches what to do about it.

English, Swiss and German with English subtitles



## Evan Ever After

Director: Ariel Mahler, Radha Mehta  
USA | 2023 | 15:00

This short documentary explores the journey of Florida's first transgender Homecoming Queen, Evan Bialosuknia.



## The Dance Off

Director: Nicolás Keller Sarmiento  
Argentina | 2023 | 13:00

By a gas station in rural Argentina, a broken-hearted drag queen helps young Ernesto find the courage to follow his dreams.

Spanish with English subtitles



## Better at Texting

Director: Mary Galloway  
Canada | 2021 | 11:00

Trinity – a radical, Indigenous, feminist – and Addison – a devout, Black Mormon – are forced to work together on a school project and discover they have more in common than they thought.



## To All That We Are

Director: Kristian Cahatol  
Canada | 2022 | 6:00

Two non-binary young adults embark on a dream-like journey of self-discovery and acceptance as they navigate the complexities of love and identity.



## Word by Word

Director: Lourdes Miere  
Canada | 2023 | 10:00

*Word by Word* is a short documentary following the creative journey of Robyn Sidhu, a spoken word poet.



## Wherever You Are, Wherever I Am

Director: Kay Chan  
Canada | 2022 | 3:00

A pair of Two-Spirit Métis-Chinese youth soften a deer hide together, revealing a story about belonging and honouring your full self and ancestry, no matter where you are.

English, Cree, and Cantonese with English subtitles



## Fursona

Director: Aly Labbé-Hervieux  
Canada | 2022 | 5:00

*Fursona* is an incursion into the universe of Aly, a member of the Furry community.

French with English subtitles



## Gorditx

Director: Malik Ever  
USA | 2022 | 15:00

With her summer camp golf tournament looming, outcast Ursula hopes to win and prove her worth with the help of Chef Cormac, the transmasculine former ladies golf pro.

English and Spanish with English subtitles.

# Shorts: Closer to Fine

Total program runtime: 93:00

Beards, bands, boundaries, and besties, this collection of shorts is just trying to tell you something about life.

Date: Sun. May 28, 11:45a

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 2

Screening Sponsor

Japneet Kaur



## I Am Home

Director: Kymon Greyhorse  
USA | 2021 | 3:00

As time goes on and the world around us shifts, we adapt and change. Although we might look different, deep down we are still the same. We are made from Mother Earth – mud, wood, love, and patience.

Navajo with English subtitles.



## House of Whoreship

Director: Holly Bates  
Australia | 2022 | 16:00

When Violet, a suburban brothel worker returns to work after enduring a breakup, she is confronted by her recent ex-girlfriend hustling the same shift.



## Ya Benti

Director: Anissa Allali  
France | 2022 | 24:00

Sabrina is about to marry Younes, a marriage that means everything to her mother and grandmother. But the day before the ceremony, Sabrina steps back.

Arabic and French with English subtitles.



## Transenders

Director: Diane Russo Cheng  
USA | 2022 | 10:00

An intimate look into the nonprofit skateboarding organization Skate Like A Girl, as seen through the eyes of Alexa, a trans woman skateboarder and mentor.



## Butch Up!

Director: Yu-jin Lee  
South Korea | 2022 | 12:00

After a breakup, Mi-hae, the lead singer of an indie band, cannot bring herself to sing the band's most popular song, "Oppa's Girl."



## Soap

Director: Lulu Wei  
Canada | 2023 | 13:00

Inspired by past heartbreaks and present friendship, this short finds two queer best friends going on a romantic getaway after being dumped.



## Funny Face

Director: Jude Hope Harris  
USA | 2023 | 15:00

When country singer Randy travels to take care of his sister Sophie, who is recovering from facial feminization surgery, he meets her girlfriend Morgan for the first time.

# Shorts: Joking

Total program runtime: 92:00

These short films about loud neighbours, vampires, and inner saboteurs prove that anything can be comedic if it's in the right hands.



## Once Upon a Time in the Bay

Director: Judith Kanatahawi Schuyler  
Canada, New Zealand | 2022 | 10:00

After a year living in a very straight New Zealand beach town, First Nations lesbian Tallulah can stand it no longer – she's going back to Toronto where the rainbows fly. Or is she?

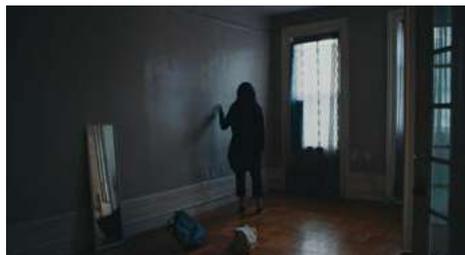
English, Maori and Oneida with English subtitles.



## Testing

Director: Andy Reid  
Canada | 2022 | 9:00

When a young gay man suspects he has an STI, he goes in for testing and discovers the older man he recently slept with is a doctor at the clinic.



## Troy

Director: Mike Donahue  
USA | 2022 | 16:00

Troy has loud sex. Troy has loud sex 24/7. Troy shares a wall with Thea and Charlie. Troy is ruining their lives...or is he saving them?



## Rejoice in the Lamb

Director: Courtney Bush, Will Carington, Jake Goicoechea  
USA | 2023 | 19:00

A late-night conversation with an oracle launches a young Brooklyn woman on a quest to slay a vampire.

Date: Thurs. June 1, 9:30p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 3



## Dilating for Maximum Results

Director: Nyala Moon  
USA | 2023 | 14:00

A whack, irreverent comedy about a Black trans woman who tries to dilate, after four years of not dilating, to hook-up IRL with her online boyfriend.



## Say Uncle

Director: James Cooper  
Canada | 2022 | 13:00

After being estranged for almost a decade, former best friends Jake and Drew reunite so Drew can ask Jake the age-old queer question... can I have your sperm to make a baby?



## Gianna

Director: Kait Schuster  
USA | 2023 | 11:00

Gina, a Filipina Gemini who is just doing her best, takes the advice of her sliding scale therapist to spend a day with her inner saboteur. Enter Gianna.

# Shorts: Let It Be Me

Total program runtime: 88:00

Sex clubs, teddy bears, cruising, and erotic wrestling, this collection of shorts is all about owning your truth and not being afraid to express yourself.

Date: Fri. May 26, 9:00p  
Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 2

Screening Sponsors



Neville Austin



## Pipes

Director: Jessica Meier, Kilian Feusi,  
Sujanth Ravichandran  
Switzerland | 2022 | 4:00

Bob the plumber is hired to fix a broken pipe and to his surprise finds himself inside a gay fetish club.



## Bear (Nalle)

Director: Jimi Vall Peterson  
Sweden | 2022 | 16:00

When the inexperienced, 24-year-old Elias is reunited with his cuddly, talking childhood teddy bear, a passionate relationship is re-awakened.

Swedish with English subtitles.



## Krush the Wrestler

Director: Alex Megaro  
USA | 2022 | 14:00

Exploring the innate intimacy of submission wrestling, a lifelong wrestler turns his talents into an on-demand fetish video service.



## State of Mind

Director: Donald C. Shorter Jr.  
USA | 2022 | 4:00

*State of Mind* highlights the intimacy and beauty found through the experience of power exchange in BDSM/leather/fetish/kink.



## Nothing Special

Director: Mikko Mäkelä  
UK/Finland | 2023 | 14:00

A filmmaker's and a moviegoer's ideas of cinematic romance are put to the test during a one-night stand that turns emotional.



## Farlaques

Director: Julien Cadieux  
Canada | 2022 | 7:00

An Acadian country road and beautiful beach attracts more than just tourists.



## He Watches

Director: Joshua Conkel  
USA | 2022 | 14:00

Tom has his boyfriend Mikey move in and what initially seems like domestic bliss gives way to creeping dread as a malevolent spirit makes itself known.



## Safe Word

Director: Christopher Cunetto  
USA | 2022 | 15:00

Cesar, an emotionally stunted masochist, must confront his self-loathing after his dom, Bear, reinterprets the rules of their game.

# Shorts: Something Real

Total program runtime: 110:00

Snakes, the sea, and unexpected visitors, this collection of shorts explores relationships with everyone from ourselves and our partners to strangers.

Date: Sun. May 28, 6:45p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 1

Screening Sponsors

Gary and William Klein



## You Can Stay Over (If You Want)

Director: Zach Siegel  
USA | 2022 | 11:00

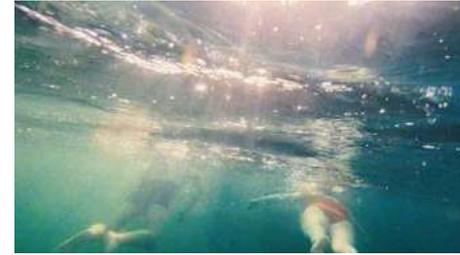
After a hookup, John and Alex test the limits of what's TMI.



## An Eighth of Him

Director: Levi Eddie Aluede  
UK | 2023 | 11:00

Stoic drug dealer Kadell begins spending more time with one of his new buyers, leading to self-reflection as they form a deep and unexpected bond.



## Will You Look At Me

Director: Shuli Huang  
China | 2022 | 20:00

A young Chinese filmmaker returns to his hometown and engages in an overdue conversation with his mother, leading them on a quest for acceptance and love.

Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles.



## 9th Floor to the Right

Director: Andrea Romano  
France | 2022 | 16:00

Lorenzo prepares to receive Marvin for the first time but when he shows up at his door with a guest, Lorenzo doesn't dare say no.

French with English subtitles.



## i get so sad sometimes

Director: Trishtan Perez  
Philippines | 2022 | 20:00

In the town of Pagadian, a gay teenager eagerly waits for a mature man to reveal his face after developing an anonymous sexual relationship with him online.

English and Tagalog with English subtitles.



## The Dalles

Director: Angalis Field  
USA | 2022 | 12:00

When a handsome cyclist passes through and asks for directions to a local cruising site, Cam takes it as an invitation to follow him.



## Christopher at Sea

Director: Tom CJ Brown  
France, USA, UK | 2022 | 20:00

After checking in as a passenger onboard a cargo ship, Christopher begins to question his sanity and his perception of time.

English and French with English subtitles.

# Shorts: Sorrow and Joy

Total program runtime: 91:00

A country at war, a competitive athlete, and couples exploring intimacy, this collection of shorts is all about the ups and downs of our queer realities.

Date: Sat. June 3, 2:15p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 3



## It's a Date

Director: Nadia Parfan  
Ukraine | 2023 | 5:00

A car races at breakneck speed through Kyiv at dawn. This contemporary remake of the French short film *C'était Un Rendez-vous* captures the heightened emotions caused by the war.



## Esperanza

Director: Shruti Parekh  
USA | 2022 | 18:00

When an immigrant taxi driver in upstate New York takes an undocumented couple to the Canadian border, they find themselves at odds.

English, Spanish and Hindi with English subtitles.



## My Fierce Aunt Bianca

Director: María José Maldonado  
USA | 2022 | 10:00

While planning a birthday party for her late aunt Bianca, María José Maldonado revisits the past in order to celebrate and correct Bianca's legacy.

English and Spanish with English subtitles



## Young Mom

Director: Cecilia Delgado  
Brazil | 2022 | 15:00

A young Latinx woman kidnaps the child she nannies to satisfy her girlfriend's desire to start a family.



## As You Are

Director: Daisy Friedman  
USA | 2023 | 15:00

When an interabled queer couple spends the night together for the first time, they must confront their complex relationships with desire, sexuality, and bodily autonomy.



## Apayauq

Director: Zeppelin Zeerip  
USA | 2022 | 16:00

Apayauq Reitan's journey to become the first out transgender woman to complete the legendary Iditarod sled dog race.



## Untitled Movie

Director: Annie Brennen  
USA | 2022 | 12:00

Zoe is making a movie about a woman who is making a movie. In it, her character must kiss a woman.

# Shorts: Thrive

Total program runtime: 99:00

Inside Out's specially-curated program showcasing the work of trans and non binary filmmakers.  
Curated by and for the trans\* community

Date: Fri. June 2, 9:30p

Venue: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Cinema 3

Screening Sponsor

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## Always, Asifa

Director: Shiva Raichandani  
UK | 2022 | 20:00

As Asifa prepares to finally undergo gender affirmation surgery, the disabled trans activist – who is also Britain's first out Muslim drag queen – reflects on her life.



## Virtual G I R L

Director: Connie Glachan  
Canada | 2022 | 5:00

Aqua Venus provides a personalised fever dream to help YOU discover what being a woman means!



## Here, Hopefully

Director: Hao Zhou  
USA | 2023 | 11:00

Zee, a nonbinary aspiring nurse from China, strives to build a gender-affirming life in rural Iowa.

English and Chinese with English subtitles.



## Bigger on the Inside

Director: Angelo Madsen Minax  
USA | 2022 | 12:00

Through snowy stargazing, flirting with guys on dating apps, taking ketamine (or not), and watching YouTube lecture videos, outer and inner space collapse.



## Yes, Goddess

Director: Randa Jarrar  
USA | 2022 | 12:00

A group of queer femmes and their lovers gather at a kink party for the first time since 2019.



## Cupid Into Transmutation

Director: Spndex  
Netherlands | 2022 | 13:00

Caesar, a trans camboy on the run from his traumatic past, is shocked when his body starts to violently morph and transform beyond all recognition.



## Golden Voice

Director: Mars Verrone  
USA, Cambodia | 2022 | 18:00

Forty years after the Khmer Rouge regime, a transgender man returns to the village where he survived the genocide.

English and Central Khmer with English subtitles.



## Gorditx

Director: Malik Ever  
USA | 2022 | 15:00

With her summer camp golf tournament looming, outcast Ursula hopes to win and prove her worth with the help of Chef Cormac, the transmasculine former ladies golf pro.

English and Spanish with English subtitles.



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