



# SUNDAR PRIZE

F I L M F E S T I V A L

3<sup>RD</sup>



2026

APRIL  
23-26  
2026

PROGRAM

[SUNDARPRIZE.COM](http://SUNDARPRIZE.COM)

@sundarprize #sundarprize



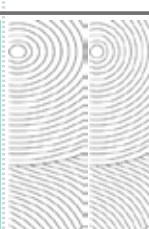

# SPFF2026

# FESTIVAL

	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM
<b>DAY 1</b> April 23, Thursday,  NORTH DELTA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS						
<b>DAY 2</b> April 24 Friday,  NORTH DELTA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS	Doors Open	<b>Small Stories, Big Questions</b> Shorts Block 1 - BC Student & Youth Showcase  🎬 11 films	<b>Q &amp; A</b>		<b>Who Are We Under Pressure?</b>  BC/Indigenous Focus  🎬 4 films	<b>P A N E L</b>
<b>DAY 3</b> April 25, Saturday  LANDMARK CINEMAS SURREY GUILDFORD	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM
		<b>Becoming Someone</b>  Shorts Block 2  🎬 11 films		<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>What We Inherit</b>  Centerpiece Spotlight  🎬 4 films	
<b>DAY 4</b> April 26, Sunday  LANDMARK CINEMAS SURREY GUILDFORD	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM
		<b>After Everything</b>  Spiritual, Health, Wellness  🎬 4 films		<b>P A N E L</b>	<b>Choosing Each Other</b>  Closing Screening  🎬 4 films	



# CALENDAR

	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
<b>R E C E P T I O N</b>	<b>OPENING NIGHT</b> The Weight of Silence, The Power of Choice 🎬 4 films		<b>P A N E L</b>	<b>NETWORKING RECEPTION</b> Catered Banquet & Refreshments		
	<b>When Home Is On Fire</b> Environmental Spotlight 🎬 3 films	<b>P A N E L</b>	<b>What We Don't Sa y</b> South Asian Spotlight 🎬 4 films	<b>P A N E L</b>		
	<b>4 PM</b>	<b>5 PM</b>	<b>6 PM</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>8 PM</b>	<b>9 PM</b>
<b>P A N E L</b>	<b>Crossing the Line</b> Shorts Block 3 🎬 10 films		<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>Love, Actually</b> Queer Focus 🎬 4 films	<b>P A N E L</b>	
	<b>6 PM</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>8 PM</b>	<b>9 PM</b>		
<b>P A N E L</b>			<b>Pitch Session &amp; Award Ceremony</b>			



## **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement**

We humbly acknowledge that we come together in gratitude and celebration on the timeless lands of the Coast Salish Peoples. In particular, Sher Pride and the Sundar Prize Film Festival honour the stewardship of the Semiahmoo, Musqueam, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen nations, whose ancestral and unceded territories we are privileged to inhabit.

3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL



**SUNDAR PRIZE**  
F I L M F E S T I V A L

WHERE CINEMA MEETS SOCIAL CHANGE

**@sundarprize #sundarprize**

**WWW.SUNDARPRIZE.COM**



## A message from Prem Gill, CEO, Creative BC

On behalf of all of us at Creative BC, congratulations to the Sundar Prize Film Festival on its third year! In a short time, the festival has become a vital platform for championing diverse voices, supporting emerging filmmakers, and elevating stories that spark reflection, dialogue, and social impact.

British Columbia's motion picture industry is strengthened by the diversity of its storytellers and the authenticity of voices that resonate deeply with audiences. Sundar Prize's commitment to local creators is especially evident this year, with 68% of the selected films produced in the province. These works reflect the many lived experiences that shape our province, both those of the filmmakers bringing these stories to life, and of the audiences who come together to experience and discuss them.

Creative BC is especially proud to support festival initiatives that invest directly in emerging creatives in B.C. through their programs that embody the power of knowledge-sharing, community, and relationship-building as a launchpad for creative careers.

This year's theme speaks to questions of belonging, identity, culture, community, which are values that align with Creative BC's mission. Sundar Prize creates a space for connection and understanding, bringing people together through stories that reflect who we are and what we are going through.

Congratulations to the entire Sundar Prize Film Festival team on another successful year. We look forward to seeing the festival continue to grow and inspire, and to its ongoing role in fostering a more inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable industry in the years ahead.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Prem Gill".

Prem Gill  
CEO, Creative BC



## Official Greetings from the President of Sher Pride

On behalf of Sher Pride, it is my absolute honour to welcome you to the third annual Sundar Prize Film Festival—a celebration rooted in love, culture, courage, and community. As President of Sher Pride, I stand here with great pride in witnessing spaces like this, where our stories are not only told but also celebrated openly and unapologetically.

“Sundar” means beautiful, and I feel the Sundar Prize Film Festival has a beautiful heart, and tonight is a reminder that our community has always led with heart—through resilience, through joy, through resistance, and through collective care for one another. For many of us, especially 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, visibility and belonging are not given; they are built together, step by step, gathering by gathering.

This festival is more than film, music, dance, and art on screen. It is a declaration that our identities, our cultures, and our love are powerful. It is a space where intergenerational wisdom meets youth leadership, and where solidarity becomes action.

Sincerely,

*Annie Ohana*

Annie Ohana

President of Sher Pride

[www.sherpride.ca](http://www.sherpride.ca)



**SUNDAR PRIZE**  
FILM FESTIVAL

## Greetings from the Co-Founders

Welcome to the 3rd Annual Sundar Prize Film Festival.

We are proud to welcome you to the 2026 festival, a celebration of powerful cinema, meaningful dialogue, and community connection. As co-founders and filmmakers, we believe in the power of film to inspire empathy, challenge perspectives, and spark social change. This year's theme, "Home Is Complicated, So Are We," reflects the many stories of identity, belonging, resilience, and transformation that shape this year's programme.

We are also proud that the Sundar Prize Film Festival is presented by Sher Pride, the registered charity behind the festival, whose commitment to inclusion, human rights, and community care helps make this important work possible. Thank you to our filmmakers, sponsors, volunteers, partners, and audiences for being part of this journey. We are honoured to welcome you and hope these films stay with you long after the festival ends.

Warm regards,

**Amar Sangha & Vinay Giridhar**  
Co-Founders, Sundar Prize Film Festival

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# Meet the Team



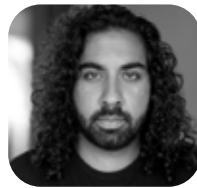
**Amar Sangha**  
Co-Founder and Partnerships



**Vinay Giridhar**  
Co-Founder & Creative Director



**Susan Ruzic**  
Volunteer Manager



**Sidartha Murjani**  
Executive Director & Senior Programmer



**Sean Farnel**  
Festival Consultant & Mentor



**Jagreet Dhadli**  
Newsletter Coordinator



**Bhavesh Chauhan**  
Social Media Manager



**Darryl Frayne**  
Website Coordinator



**Ian Frayne**  
Festival Assistant



**Chhavi Disawar**  
Social Media & Red Carpet



**Jason Pillay**  
Social Media & Red Carpet



**Amit Dhuga**  
Moderator, Equipment Liason Manager



**Rashi Sethi**  
Festival Videographer



**Charlie Beerling**  
Festival Photographer



**Kat Dipper**  
Festival Photographer



**Cindy Bourguignon**  
Festival Videographer



**Joshna Hirani**  
Community Engagement



**Davinder Litt**  
Festival Assistant



**Imaan Shermin Hirji**  
Youth Correspondent



**Varnnitha Venugopal**  
IT Support



**SUNDAR PRIZE**  
FILM FESTIVAL

## Greetings from the Executive Director & Senior Programmer

I am delighted to welcome you to the 3rd edition of the Sundar Prize Film Festival, this is an edition that marks our most ambitious year yet.

Our programming this year was designed to acknowledge the weight of current global events without being eclipsed by them. Throughout history, humanity has faced dark chapters, but our strength has always resided in our capacity to show up for one another.

Each block of films has been carefully curated to serve as a chapter in a larger narrative connected to our main theme Home is Complicated, So Are We. Leading us toward our final theme: Choosing Each Other. I encourage you to experience every block to see how this story unfolds.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our Founders, the Sundar Prize Team, our volunteers, sponsors, community partners, filmmakers, and our host venues. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Much Gratitude,

**Sidarta Murjani (he/him)**  
Executive Director & Senior Programmer  
Sundar Prize Film Festival

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# Meet the Jury



**Amar Sangha**  
Jury Advisor, Filmmaker



**Sidartha Murjani**  
Actor, Filmmaker



**Carolyn Mauricette**  
Moderator, Writer & Critic



**Greg Chan**  
KPU Professor Emeritus



**Peter Lilly**  
Filmmaker



**Vinay Giridhar**  
Filmmaker, Editor



**Susan Ruzic**  
Educator, Social Justice Advisor



**King Louie Palomo**  
Director, Producer



**Jane Diokpo**  
Writer, Director



**Siddharth Ganesh**  
Filmmaker



**Nic Altobelli**  
Producer, and Actor



**Amit Dhuga**  
Actor, Filmmaker



**Akshay Sachdeva**  
Pre-Screener and Youth Juror



**Rashi Sethi**  
Cinematographer



**Rami Kahlon**  
Actor, Writer, & Director



**Valerie Raghoebier**  
Actor



**Shanthini Balasubramanian**  
Writer, Director & Composer



**Charleen Phelps**  
Director, Producer Actor



**Swann Tsai**  
Actor





DAY 1

Opening Night

# The Weight of Silence, The Power of Choice


April 23, North Delta Centre for the Arts


5:00 PM – Doors Open | Red Carpet & Photos


6:00 PM – Opening Remarks (30 min)

6:45 PM – Screening begins

**Love Train** (Canada, 2025), Tiegan Monaghan – 3:55

 **Home Is A Feeling** (Canada, 2025), Ryah SM King – 7:04

 **One Day This Kid** (Canada, 2024), Alexander Farah – 17:25

 **Saints And Warriors** (Canada, 2024), Patrick Shannon – 1:37:00

8:45 PM

## What We Don't Say Out Loud

Panel Moderated by Sidartha Murjani

Silence can be inherited, enforced, or chosen — but it always carries weight. This opening night conversation brings together filmmakers whose work explores what happens when personal truth collides with family expectations, colonial erasure, and unspoken histories. From intergenerational trauma to cultural survival and queer self-discovery, the panel examines how cinema becomes a space to voice what has long been suppressed — and what it costs to finally speak.

9:30 PM – Catered Reception

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## Small Stories, Big Questions

April 24, North Delta Centre for the Arts

Small moments often carry the biggest questions. This **BC Student and Youth Showcase** highlights emerging voices who grapple with identity, justice, belonging, and self-expression through deeply personal lenses. From animation to documentary to narrative shorts, these films reflect a generation learning how to speak — and choosing what matters most when they do.

**1 PM – Shorts Block One**, Screening begins

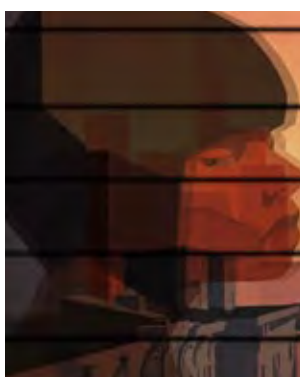
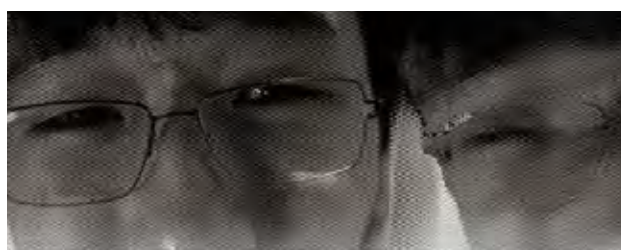
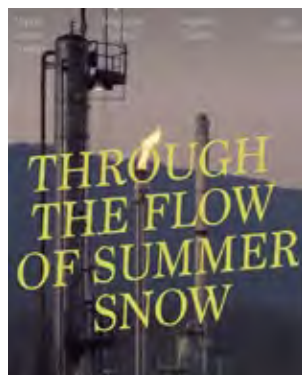
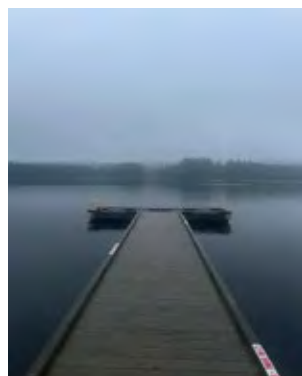
-  **Grain** (Canada, 2025), Ilana Zackon — 6:45
-  **E for Effort, Never Excellence** (Canada, 2025), Sarah Shahab — 15:23
-  **Humanity Over Hate** (United States, 2025), Zara P. Bharadwaj — 12:49
-  **Through the Flow of Summer Snow** (Canada, 2024), Sophia Santos
-  **Fallen** (United States, 2025), Angela Ruohan Yan — 4:09
-  **Black Chador** (Canada, 2025), Elyana Moradi — 7:16
-  **Always Forever** (Canada, 2025), Tibet Karayazgan — 15:50
-  **Drafting** (Malaysia, 2025), Janshin Soo — 2:25
-  **Best Friends Notice of Deportation** (Canada, 2025), Berenika Widera — 12:42
-  **All That Lies Beneath** (Canada, 2025), Ella McCleary — 9:40
-  **Quenched** (Canada, 2025), Ben Mark Hart Fieldhouse — 2:18

**2:45 – 3:10 PM**

### How to Make Your First Film

Q & A Moderated By Shanthini Balasubramanian

Designed for emerging filmmakers and first-time creators, this panel demystifies the process of making your first film — from idea to execution. Filmmakers discuss early challenges, creative decision-making, and practical lessons learned while navigating production with limited resources but unlimited ambition.





## 🎬 DAY 2

## BC / Indigenous Spotlight

### Who Are We Under Pressure?

April 24, North Delta Centre for the Arts

Pressure reveals character. This BC and Indigenous spotlight block explores responsibility, masculinity, land, legacy, and survival — asking who we become when systems fail us and when silence is no longer an option. From animation to narrative to documentary feature, these films examine the tension between personal accountability and collective history.

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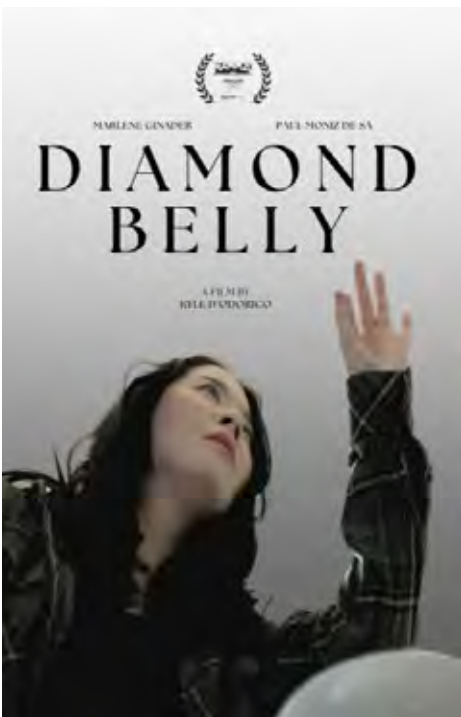
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3:30 PM Screening begins

- 📍 **Knitty Gritty** (United States, 2025), Hannah Mangione — 3:38
- 📍 **The 2400** (Canada, 2025), David Scott Titus — 5:00
- 🕒 **Diamond Belly** (Canada, 2025), Kyle D'Odorico — 10:00
- 🕒 **A Cree Approach** (Canada, 2025), Tristin Greyeyes — 1:10:00

5:00 – 5:30 PM

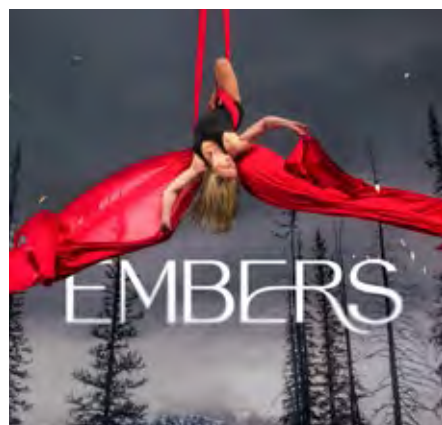
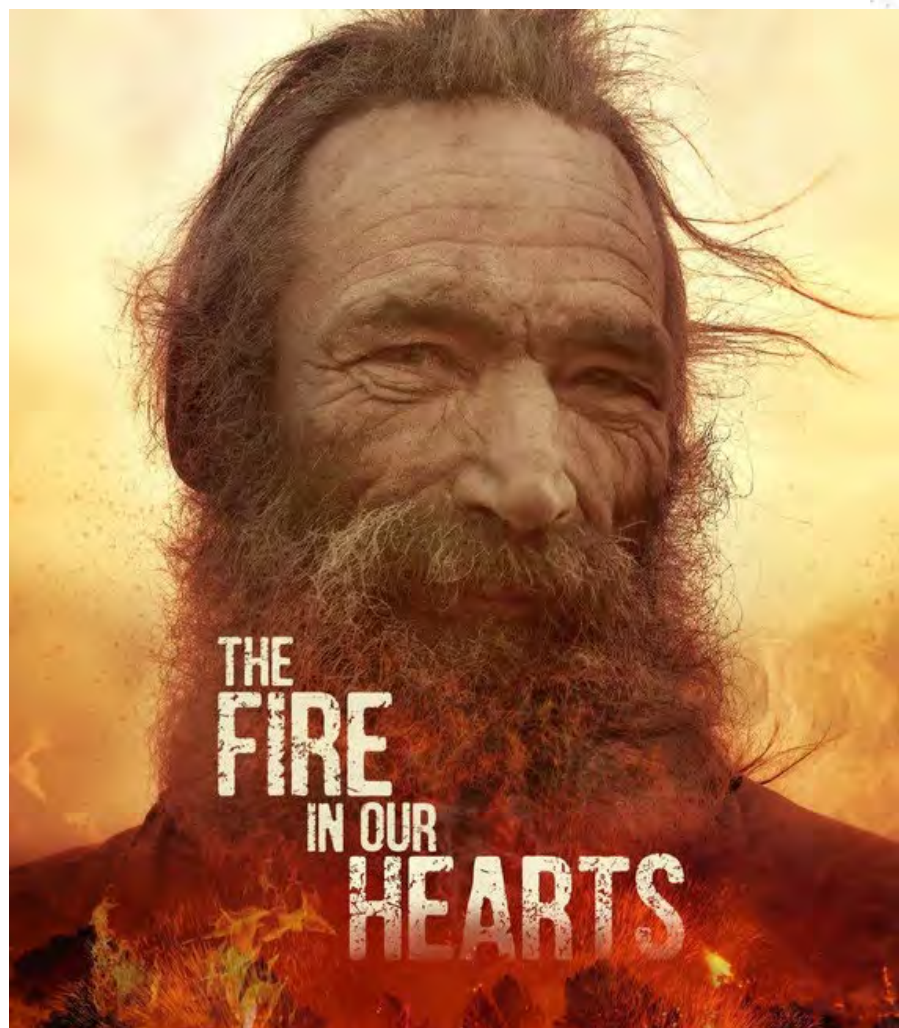
## Between Silence and Responsibility

Panel Moderated By Debbie Courchene

When institutions fail, communities respond. This conversation explores Indigenous sovereignty, cultural resilience, and the burden of representation — examining how filmmakers navigate responsibility when telling stories rooted in lived experience and systemic pressure.

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# When Home Is On Fire

April 24, North Delta Centre for the Arts

When the land we call home is threatened, survival becomes an act of resistance. This environmental block brings together films that document crisis, accountability, and collective action — asking what responsibility we hold when climate change moves from abstraction to immediate reality.




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5:45 PM Screening begins

-  **Climate Crisis** (Canada, 2024), Peter Cameron-Inglis — 4:11
-  **Embers** (Canada, 2025), Trixie Pacis — 24:16
-  **The Fire in Our Hearts** (Canada, 2026), Josias Tschanz — 1:27:20

7:45 – 8:15 PM

## From Witness to Action

Panel Moderated By Sidartha Murjani

What does it mean to move beyond documenting crisis toward meaningful action? This panel brings filmmakers and community voices together to discuss the role of cinema in environmental advocacy, accountability, and mobilization — and how stories can help shift audiences from awareness to responsibility.

8:30 PM Catered Reception

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## RECEPTION SPONSOR



## What We Don't Say

April 24, North Delta Centre for the Arts

Silence can protect, conceal, or destroy. This South Asian spotlight block confronts shame, gender, power, and truth — examining what happens when deeply embedded cultural silences are challenged. These films explore the emotional and political cost of speaking up in communities where reputation and loyalty often outweigh justice.

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### FESTIVAL PARTNER



**8:45 PM** Screening begins

**Shitcute** (Canada, 2024), Ritisha Jhamb & Ry Fry — 4:51

 **Sanjeevani** (Canada, 2025), Neetha John — 15:00

 **Calorie** (Canada/India, 2025), Eisha Marjara — 1:47:00

**10:45 – 11:30 PM**

## When Truth Demands a Cost

Panel Moderated By Mankiran Aujla

What happens when speaking the truth threatens family, faith, or community standing? This late-evening conversation examines the emotional stakes of accountability within close-knit communities, and how filmmakers navigate storytelling that confronts harm without erasing cultural complexity.

### PANEL SPONSOR



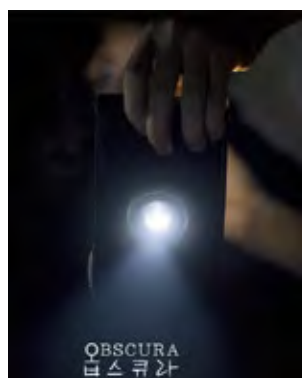
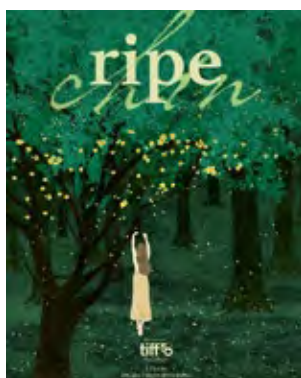
ELLORA PATNAIK SHANAYA DHILLON-BIRMHAN AND ANUPAM KHER  
ASHLEY GANGER DOLLY AHLUWALIA

Calorie Pictures Presents a Calorie Production in Association with Eisha Marjara Presents THE CALORIE  
Produced by ELLORA PATNAIK, SHANAYA DHILLON-BIRMHAN, ANUPAM KHER, ASHLEY GANGER, DOLLY AHLUWALIA, and EISHA MARJARA  
Screenplay by ELLORA PATNAIK, SHANAYA DHILLON-BIRMHAN, ANUPAM KHER, ASHLEY GANGER, DOLLY AHLUWALIA, and EISHA MARJARA  
Directed by EISHA MARJARA  
Cast: ELLORA PATNAIK, SHANAYA DHILLON-BIRMHAN, ANUPAM KHER, ASHLEY GANGER, DOLLY AHLUWALIA, and EISHA MARJARA

# Calorie

A Film by  
EISHA MARJARA





## Becoming Someone

**April 25, Landmark Cinemas Guildford**

Becoming is rarely linear. This dynamic shorts block explores transformation — artistic, emotional, cultural, and political. From intimate identity journeys to surreal animation and bold narrative risks, these films capture the fragile and fearless moments that shape who we are becoming.

**10:15 AM** Screening begins

-  **Pearl** (Canada, 2025), Alice Shin — 13:48
-  **Don't Think About the Pink Dolphins** (Canada, 2025), Anthony Lee — 15:00
-  **ripe (chín)** (Vietnam/Canada, 2025), Solara Thanh Bình Đăng — 20:13
-  **Art Connoisseur** (Canada, 2025), Hugh Liu — 12:56
-  **ENIGMA** (Canada, 2025), Anya Kapustianyk — 4:58
-  **Our Long Goodbye** (Canada, 2025), Dave Beamish — 12:50
- Praying For Love** (United States, 2025), Sofia Tonin — 6:45
-  **IF** (India, 2025), Tathagata Ghosh — 25:41
-  **Lateral** (Canada, 2025), Loken Charon — 10:00
-  **Sing to the Wind** (Canada, 2025), Yaffa Aboudib Hussein — 11:17
- Obscura** **옵스큐라** (Canada, 2024), Arnold Lim — 20:00

**1:00 – 1:15 PM**

### Who Are We Becoming?

Q & A Moderated By Amit Dhuga

This conversation reflects on creative evolution. Filmmakers discuss growth, risk-taking, and how identity shapes artistic voice — particularly for emerging BC and international creators navigating shifting cultural landscapes.

# What We Inherit

**April 25, Landmark Cinemas Guildford**

Inheritance is not always visible — it lives in our bodies, our beliefs, our relationships, and the stories we carry forward. This compelling Centerpiece Spotlight explores the emotional, cultural, and generational forces that shape who we are. From quiet rituals passed down through family, to the pressures of ambition and the weight of expectation, these films examine what we inherit — and what we choose to hold onto or let go. Blending tenderness, satire, and deeply personal storytelling, What We Inherit moves across cultures and generations, revealing how legacy can be both a source of connection and a burden to confront. At its heart, this block asks: What defines us — what we're given, or what we choose to become?

**1:15 PM** Screening begins

-  **Sheepskin** (Canada, 2025), Ethan Wingrove — 5:00
-  **Pan de Muerto** (Canada, 2025), Renata Calderon — 7:00
-  **NEPO BABY** (Canada, 2025), Khánh Nguyen — 15:00
-  **Bayaan** (India, 2025), Bikas Ranjan Mishra — 1:58:00

**3:30 – 4:00 PM**

## What We Inherit, What We Consume

Panel Discussion Moderated By Shanthini Balasubramanian

This conversation examines generational inheritance — from trauma and cultural tradition to privilege and systemic power. How do the stories we grow up with shape the stories we tell? And how can filmmakers interrogate legacy without losing empathy?

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## Crossing the Line


April 25, Landmark Cinemas Guildford


Boundaries are meant to define us — until we decide to cross them. This daring shorts block examines moral thresholds, political unrest, personal rebellion, and emotional breaking points. From intimate character studies to urgent global narratives, these films ask: What happens when we reach the limit?

**4:15 PM** Screening begins


**Animals** (Canada, 2025), Michael Makaroff — 7:23

 **Walk and Talk** (Canada, 2025), Inanna Cusi — 6:00


 **“Purgatory”** (Canada, 2025), Nikki Shaffeeullah — 19:34


 **Sheepskin** (Canada, 2025), Ethan Wingrove — 5:00

 **At The End** (Canada, 2025), Lili Beaudoin & Isabelle Deluce — 16:51

 **Trance** (Canada, 2025), Aman Mann — 3:28

 **113 Words For You Today** (China, Taiwan, United States, 2025),  
Bo Qing Tang & Lan Zeng — 12:31

 **The Last Flight** (Canada, 2025), Amy Tsai & Brian Cheung — 15:08

 **Vital** (Canada/Iran, 2025), Amir Zargara — 15:00

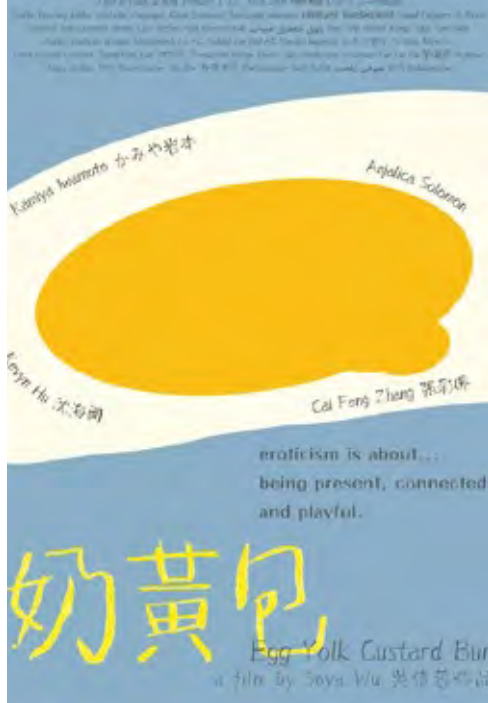
 **Ambush** (Canada/Jordan, 2025), Yassmina Karajah — 21:00

**6:00 — 6:15 PM**

### What Happens When We Reach the Limit?

Q & A Moderated By Charleen Phelps

This conversation explores threshold moments — emotional, political, and ethical. When is a line crossed? And how do filmmakers portray rupture, resistance, and the aftermath of confrontation without simplifying complexity?



**DAY 3**

**Queer Spotlight**

**Love, Actually**

April 25, Landmark Cinemas Guildford

Pressure reveals character. This BC and Indigenous spotlight block explores responsibility, masculinity, land, legacy, and survival — asking who we become when systems fail us and when silence is no longer an option. From animation to narrative to documentary feature, these films examine the tension between personal accountability and collective history.

COMMUNITY PARTNER



FESTIVAL PARTNER

**VANCOUVER  
QUEER FILM  
FESTIVAL**

A JASON SAKAKI FILM



JASON SAKAKI PRESENTS RAMEN BOYS STARRING JONAHY WU, BRUNOAS KUTNAGI AND MARJANA ZOSZULAS. MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHER KING AND JEFF SMITHELS. COSTUME DESIGNER BRUCE FIMASCHNIK. COLOR BY SOUVIGNY PARK. CINE MATOGRAPHIE GRACE LIEPPICKY. PRODUCED BY PAUL ALPHEGA AND JASON SAKAKI. WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JASON SAKAKI.



Medha Gautham

Kai Kurwakawa

Adrienne Tan

A Film by TRISTAN G RAMOS



6:45 PM – Screening begins

- 🌐 **Egg Yolk Custard Bun** (Canada, 2025), Soya Wu — 2:00
- 🌳 **It's Not You** (Canada, 2025), Tristan Garcia Ramos — 9:14
- 🌳 **Ramen Boys** (Canada, 2024), Jason Sakaki — 13:20
- Blood Lines** (Canada, Saskatchewan, 2025), Gail Maurice — 1:29:41

8:45 – 9:30 PM

### What Queer Intimacy Really Looks Like

Panel Moderated by **Joshna Hirani**

Moving beyond trope and tokenism, this panel examines how queer filmmakers portray intimacy with authenticity and nuance. What does tenderness look like on screen? How do filmmakers balance joy and struggle? And how can storytelling resist flattening queer experience into a single narrative?

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**DAY 4**

## Spiritual, Health, and Wellness

### After Everything

April 26, Landmark Cinemas Guildford

What remains after rupture, diagnosis, grief, or transformation? This contemplative block explores healing, faith, resilience, and the quiet courage required to begin again. Through animation, documentary, and a narrative feature, these films ask: what comes after everything changes?

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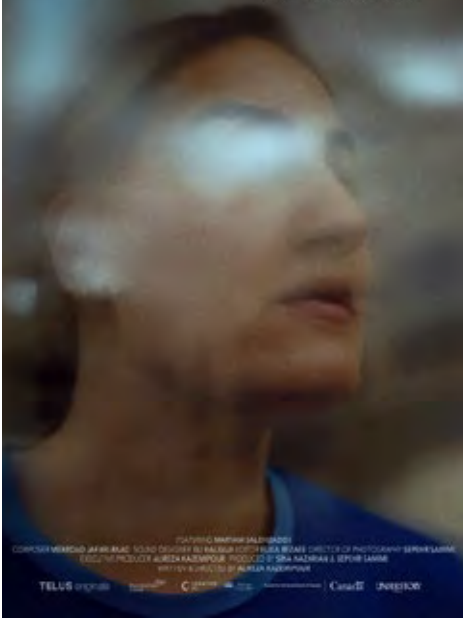
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# LIGHT *through the* BLINDFOLD

A FILM BY ALIREZA KAZEMIPOUR



12:45 PM – Screening begins

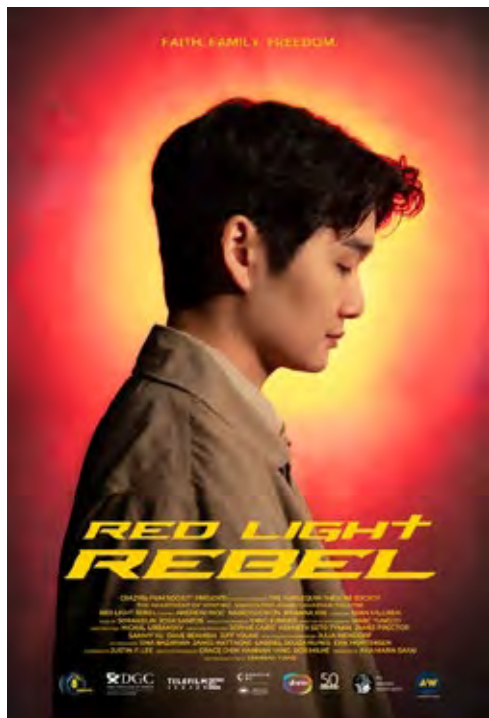
- 🌲 **Surface** (Canada, 2025), Katherine Wong — 2:00
- 🐼 **A Ticket Home** (Canada, 2025), Magill Moyes — 11:43
- 🐼 **Light Through the Blindfold** (Canada, 2025), Alireza Kazemipour — 25:00
- 🐼 **Et Maintenant? (What Now?)** (Canada, 2025), Jocelyn Forgues — 1:36:00

2:50 – 3:20 PM

## What Comes After

Panel Discussion Moderated by Amit Dhuga

Healing is not linear. This panel brings together filmmakers and wellness advocates to discuss mental health, accessibility, and spiritual resilience in storytelling. How can cinema create space for vulnerability while empowering audiences to move forward?



# DAY 4

Sunday, April 26, 2026  
Landmark Cinemas Guildford

## Closing Block

# Choosing Each Other

Home is not always inherited — sometimes it is chosen. Our closing block celebrates solidarity, resistance, friendship, and community-building across borders and identities. These films remind us that belonging is an active practice. In a world shaped by division, choosing each other is both radical and necessary.

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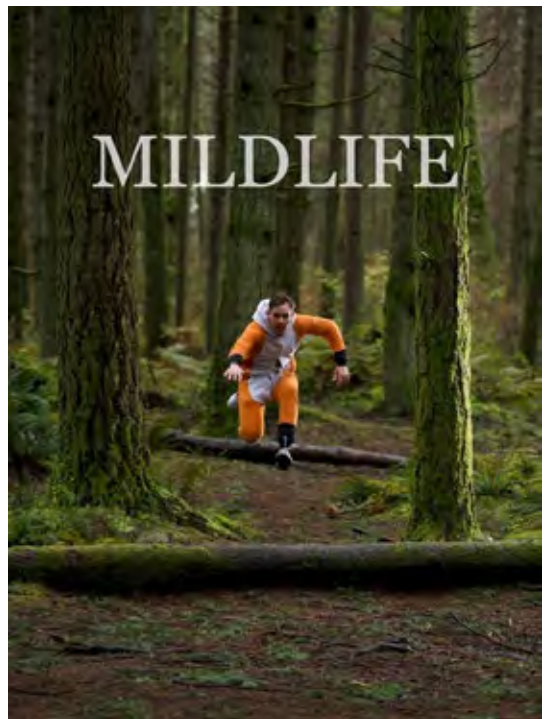
Canada Council  
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Conseil des arts  
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Canada 



3:30 PM – Screening begins

- 🦊 **Following The Line** (Taiwan, 2025), Jia-Yee Ong — 7:05
- 🌍 **Red Light Rebel** (Canada, 2025), Hannah Yang — 15:56
- 🌲 **Burcu's Angels** (Canada, 2025), Özgün Gündüz — 19:56
- 🌲 **Midlife** (Canada, 2025), Cory Thibert — 1:25:00

5:30 – 6:30 PM

## Community Is The Work

Panel Discussion by Dan Burritt (CBC Host)

Community is not an accessory to storytelling — it is the foundation. This closing conversation reflects on collaboration, collective care, and the responsibility filmmakers hold toward the communities they represent. How do we sustain movements beyond the screen?

EXCLUSIVE MEDIA PARTNER





# 2026 SPFF THE NOMINEES ARE...

Congratulations to all the nominees of the  
third annual Sundar Prize Film Festival,  
where cinema meets social change.



# Best Feature Film

\$2000 CAD + Eco-Trophy



## Bayaan

DIR. BIKAS RANJAN MISHRA  
INDIA, 2025

When a letter accusing a revered cult leader of abuse surfaces in a small Indian town, rookie detective Roohi is sent to investigate. Confronted by a wall of silence and blind devotion, she must navigate a closed community to uncover the truth no one dares to speak.

## Blood Lines

DIR. GAIL MAURICE  
CANADA, SASKATCHEWAN, 2025

An estranged Métis mother and daughter struggle to overcome their differences but their world comes crashing down when an alluring woman enters their lives.



## Et Maintenant? (What Now?)

DIR. JOCELYN FORGUES  
CANADA, 2025

When Vincent, a folk artist in his thirties, is diagnosed with tongue cancer, he initially laughs it off, convinced he can quickly move on with his life. Grueling treatments soon erode his independence, forcing him to rely on Renée, a chatty volunteer care driver, and Mike, a blunt yet endearing home care nurse. As doubt replaces denial, an unexpected friendship forms, helping Vincent discover a deeper sense of meaning and connection.





## KDocsFF Best Emerging Filmmaker Nominees

\$1,000 CAD + Four Months Filmmaker Residency Program at KPU + Eco-Trophy



**Özgün Gündüz**  
Burcu's Angels

Photo: MENA Film Festival



**Neetha John**  
Sanjeevani



**Khánh Nguyễn**  
NEPO BABY



## BC Performer's Mastery Award Nominees

\$500 CAD + ACTg Workshop valued at \$750 + Eco-Trophy



**Medha Gautham,**

Featured in three official selections at 2026 SPFF



**Cory Thibert**

Director and lead actor of the feature film *Mildlife*



**Andrew Woo**

Lead actor in *Red Light Rebel*

Photo: IMDb



# Best Short Film

\$1000 CAD + Eco-Trophy

## One Day This Kid

DIR. ALEXANDER FARAH  
CANADA, 2025

Under the weight of his father's expectations, Hamed confronts fear, desire, and shame in search of a self unknown. Inspired by David Wojnarowicz's renowned text, "One Day This Kid" is an exploration of silent struggle and unspoken tension as Hamed navigates an undefined future with his father.



## Ambush

DIRECTED BY YASSMINA KARAJAH  
CANADA/JORDAN, 2025

A pop-up techno club ambushes the streets of downtown Amman flooding a conservative neighborhood with heavy bass and unfamiliar faces. Jana arrives, newly sober, wrestling with intimacy. While across the street, Hasan watches from his family rooftop, anticipating a long-overdue encounter



## Vital

DIR. AMIR ZARGARA  
CANADA/IRAN, 2025

A mother in Iran, considers selling her organs to save her daughter, while in the United States, a doctor faces ethical dilemmas to save his daughter, revealing the complexities of organ trade.



# Best Short Documentary

\$1,000 CAD + Eco-Trophy

## Light Through the Blindfold

DIR. ALIREZA KAZEMIPOUR  
CANADA, 2025

Maryam Salehizadeh, a visually-impaired Paralympian, facing a life-changing surgery that may grant her the gift of sight.



## Burcu's Angels

DIR. ÖZGÜN GÜNDÜZL  
CANADA, 2025

For over 30 years, Burcu's Angels was more than a store—it was a radical space of care. As the shop nears closure, this documentary blends archival fragments, poetic reflection, and community memory to honour a Turkish queer elder's defiant presence—and the disappearing spaces that held generations of queer lives.



## Embers

DIR. TRIXIE PACIS  
CANADA, 2025

"Embers" premiered at the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival and has also played at the Whistler Film Festival and Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival. It is a sequel to the film "Wild Aerial."





# Best Feature Documentary

\$2,000 CAD + Eco-Trophy

## The Fire in Our Hearts

DIR. JOSIAS TSCHANZ  
CANADA, 2025

When the land we call home is threatened, survival becomes an act of resistance. This environmental block brings together films that document crisis, accountability, and collective action — asking what responsibility we hold when climate change moves from abstraction to immediate reality.



## A Cree Approach

DIR. TRISTIN GREYEYES  
CANADA, 2025

Tristin wants to understand why Cree was not her first language, unraveling the story of her late grandmother, Freda Ahenakew. A single mother of 12 and a high school dropout, Freda witnessed a generational divide in her family—half of her children learned Cree as their first language, while the rest grew up without it. Despite these challenges, Freda became a renowned Indigenous scholar, linguist, and advocate for the Cree language.

## Saints & Warriors

DIR. PATRICK SHANNON  
CANADA, 2025

Throughout the Haida basketball season, leaders of the Skidegate Saints fight to defend their All Native Basketball Championship title—while also battling for their land and waters against the government that stole it through the Indian Act.





## Best 2SLGBTQ+ Film

\$2,000 CAD + Eco-Trophy



### Ramen Boys

DIR. JASON SAKAKI  
CANADA, BC, 2024

Kevin finally takes a chance to connect with James, the lifeguard he's admired from afar, leading to an extremely expected first kiss and a summer of love and laughter.

### IF

DIR. TATHAGATA GHOSH  
INDIA, 2025

An arranged marriage tears a lesbian couple apart, but with a mother's love, perhaps another future is possible.



### One Day This Kid

DIR. ALEXANDER FARAH  
CANADA, 2024

Under the weight of his father's expectations, Hamed confronts fear, desire, and shame in search of a self unknown. Inspired by David Wojnarowicz's renowned text, "One Day This Kid" is an exploration of silent struggle and unspoken tension as Hamed navigates an undefined future with his father.





# Best Animation

\$1,000 CAD + Eco-Trophy

## Sing to the Wind

DIR. YAFFA ABOUDIB HUSSEINI  
CANADA, ONTARIO, 2025

Orphaned and displaced from their home in Gaza City, two brothers must find their way to a "safe zone" to survive. Forced to grow up much too fast, the boys confront pain and loss on their tragic path along the shoreline. "Sing to the Wind" is a short, 2D animated film that tells the story of perseverance through the eyes of a child, and the resilience of a people in the face.



## Pearl

DIR. ALICE SHIN  
CANADA, BC, 2025

After losing his "pearl", a grieving jeweller is given a final chance to make peace with his mortal desires through a chance encounter with a young lady.

## Grain

DIR. ILANA ZACKON  
CANADA, MONTREAL, 2025

A young woman, trapped in the throes of a binge eating disorder, becomes a ravenous creature threatening to devour the town.





# Best Environmental Film

\$1,000 CAD + Eco-Trophy



## The Fire in Our Hearts

DIR. JOSIAS TSCHANZ  
CANADA, 2025

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# Best Student Film

\$500 CAD + Eco-Trophy



## Praying for Love

DIR. SOFIA TONIN  
UNITED STATES, 2025

Linda, a female praying mantis, wants to find the one for her but runs into a snag when her cannibalistic tendencies keep prematurely ending her relationships. After one too many failed dates she's about to give up when she realizes maybe she had been looking for love in the wrong place.

## Knitty Gritty

DIR. HANNAH MANGIONE  
UNITED STATES, 2025

A girl finds comfort from an unlikely source when she loses her late Grandmother's knitting needles on the subway.



## A Ticket Home

DIR. MAGILL MOYES  
CANADA, 2025

Appalled by the abuse and neglect suffered by hundreds of discarded Spanish hunting dogs, Tania Schmitt launched an initiative to unite them with loving Canadian families.



# Best BC Feature Film

\$2,000 CAD + \$10,000 Gift Certificate by Keslow Camera + Eco-Trophy



## Mildlife

DIR. CORY THIBERT  
CANADA, BC, 2025

A drummer's world is thrown off-beat when his girlfriend wants to leave their hometown of Victoria BC, just as he's struggling to care for his parents who both live with cerebral palsy.

## The Fire in Our Hearts

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# Best BC Short Film

\$1000 CAD + \$400 gear credit from Rainscope Filmworks + Eco-Trophy



## Sanjeevani

DIR. NEETHA JOHN  
CANADA, BC, 2025

In a quiet Kerala home, in Southern India, a young woman grieving in silence crosses paths with a mysterious woman and through their brief connection, finds a small moment of strength she didn't know she needed to change her life.

## NEPO BABY

DIR. KHÁNH NGUYỄN  
CANADA, BC, 2025

After a fight with her unsupportive dad, a Vietnamese actress wishes to trade anything for fame, and Buddha listens



## Red Light Rebel

DIR. HANNAH YANG  
CANADA, BC, 2025

A pastor stuck at a red light finds himself at a crossroads with God





## BC Student Film Showcase Award

First Place - \$1000 CAD + Eco-Trophy, \$3000 Gift Certificate from Sparky's Film Rentals, Second Place - \$750, Third Place - \$500



### Home Is a Feeling

DIR. RYAH SM KING  
CANADA, BC, 2025

A pink cat navigates a new city— but struggles when everything around her feels at odds with who she really is.

### Pan de Muerto

DIR. RENATA CALDERON  
CANADA, BC, 2025

A young Mexican girl and her strict grandmother bond over the tradition of making Pan de Muerto for Mexico's Day of the Dead.



### Through the Flow of Summer Snow

DIR. SOPHIA SANTOS  
CANADA, BC, 2024

In breaking through the fever of adolescence, a young woman's ground becomes unsettled in the face of decaying relationships, her grandmother's cancer diagnosis & an encroaching spore invasion.





# Best Spiritual, Health & Wellness Film

\$1,000 CAD + Eco-Trophy



## Light Through the Blindfold

DIR. ALIREZA KAZEMIPOUR  
CANADA, 2025

Maryam Salehizadeh, a visually-impaired Paralympian, facing a life-changing surgery that may grant her the gift of sight.

## Et Maintenant? (What Now?)

DIR. JOCELYN FORGUES  
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## About the Sundar Prize Eco-Trophy

The prestigious Sundar Prize trophy, a masterwork crafted by Watson Design from Squamish, British Columbia, and designed by Sundar Prize Co-Founder Vinay Giridhar of Surrey, British Columbia epitomizes custom-made excellence. This trophy is made from eco-friendly, sustainable bamboo and symbolizes environmental responsibility and artistic innovation. Sher Pride takes immense pride in collaborating with a local boutique award design studio, championing creativity and craftsmanship in British Columbia.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR INDUSTRY PRIZE SPONSORS**



KDocsFF Filmmaker Residency Prize: \$1,000, a four-month residency with workspace, equipment access, faculty mentorship, and student test screenings.



The winner of the major BC categories will receive a distribution offer from Moving Images Distribution.



Keslow Camera is offering a \$10,000 CAD gift certificate for a local BC winning filmmaker.



Sparky's Film Rentals is offering a \$3,000 CAD gift certificate for equipment rental for a local BC winning filmmaker.



Vancouver Film School is offering any one (1) SHORT-TRACK certificate course or workshop of your choice for all Sundar Prize winners.



Free tuition valued at \$750 towards a 3 day workshop with ACTg Vancouver's The Performer's Mastery Workshops.



A bag loaded with TELUS STORYHIVE and TELUS originals swag will be presented to a local BC filmmaker.



The winner of the Best BC Short receives a \$400 gear credit from Rainscope Filmworks.



MOV is providing 25 complimentary tickets to the MOV for local winners and finalists.



Forest Bean is donating sustainable coffee to local winning filmmakers and special guests.



# YOUTH & STUDENT STORYTELLER COMPETITION

16+

DESIGNED TO NURTURE  
THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF FILMMAKERS

### Submissions Open

April 27th, 2026

### Info Session at BC Culture Day

October 4th, 2026

### Submission Deadline

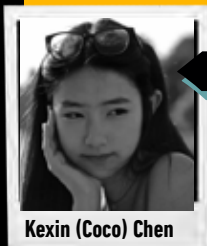
October 18, 2026

### Winners Announced

December 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

## MEET THE 2025 WINNERS



Kexin (Coco) Chen

### GRAND PRIZE

"Facade"



Jane Ifunanya Diokpo

### SECOND PRIZE

"Crash and Deliver"



Wendy Shenglin Zhang

### THIRD PRIZE

"The Name I Choose"



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