



SUNDAR PRIZE
FILM FESTIVAL

3RD



2026

**APRIL
23-26
2026**

PROGRAM

SUNDARPRIZE.COM

@sundarprize #sundarprize



FESTIVAL

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



CALENDAR

	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11PM
RECEPTION	OPENING NIGHT The Weight of Silence, The Power of Choice 🎬 4 films		PANEL	NETWORKING RECEPTION Catered Banquet & Refreshments		
	When Home Is On Fire Environmental Spotlight 🎬 3 films	PANEL		What We Don't Say South Asian Spotlight 🎬 4 films	PANEL	
				Catered Reception By Swiss Embassy		
	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM
PANEL		Crossing the Line Shorts Block 3 🎬 10 films	Q & A	Love, Actually Queer Focus 🎬 4 films	PANEL	
	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM		
	PANEL		Pitch Session & Award Ceremony			



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.

3RD ANNUAL



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

WHERE CINEMA MEETS SOCIAL CHANGE

@sundarprize #sundarprize

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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



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



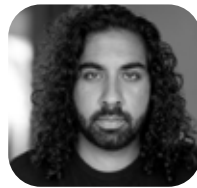
Amar Sangha
Co-Founder and Partnerships



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



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,

Sidhartha 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



TESAN MONGKHAN KITTANA JIRAPORN

ONE BABE, ZERO GAME.



love train



PRODUCED BY TESAN MONGKHAN AND KITTANA JIRAPORN. DIRECTED BY TESAN MONGKHAN. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: KITTANA JIRAPORN. EDITOR: KITTANA JIRAPORN. CASTING: KITTANA JIRAPORN.

CASTING: KITTANA JIRAPORN



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

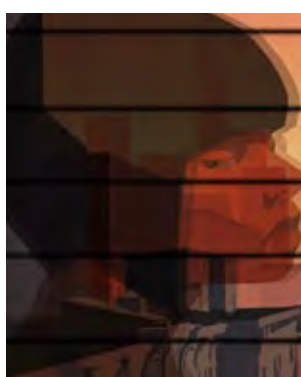
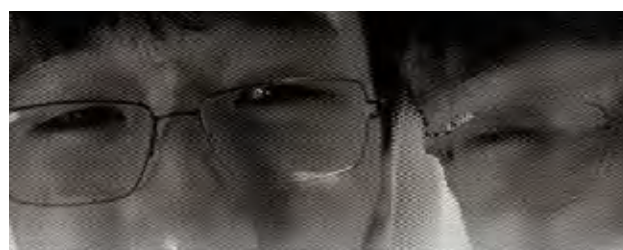
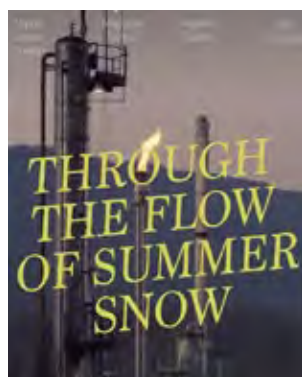
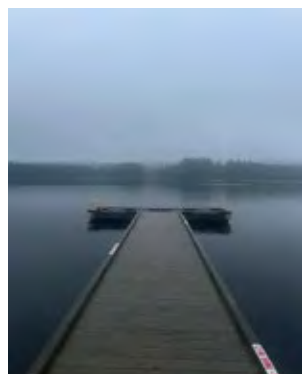
-  **Grain** (Canada, 2025), Ilana Zackon — 6:45
-  **E for Effort, Never Excellence** (Canada, 2025), Sarah Shahab — 15:23
-  **Humanity Over Hate** (United States, 2025), Zara P. Bharadwaj — 12:49
-  **Through the Flow of Summer Snow** (Canada, 2024), Sophia Santos
-  **Fallen** (United States, 2025), 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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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

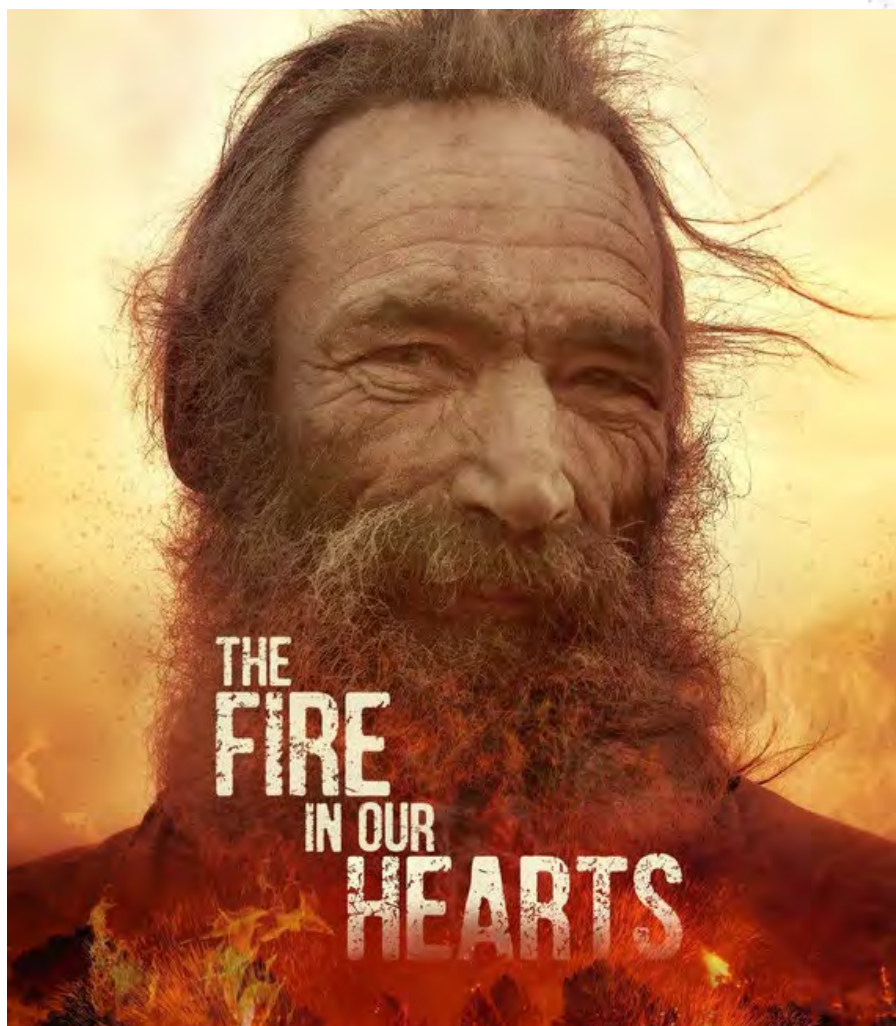
Between Silence and Responsibility

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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**Knowledge
Network:**



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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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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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.

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ELLORA PATNAIK SHANAYA DHILLON-BIRMHAN AND ANUPAM KHER

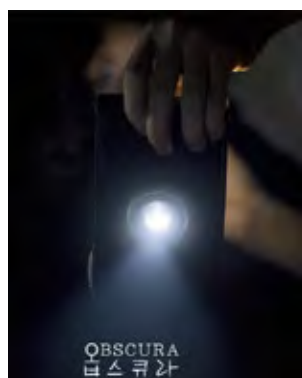
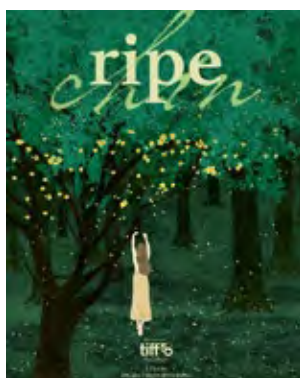
ASHLEY GANGER DOLLY AHLUWALIA

Calorie Pictures Presents a Calorie production in association with Eisha Mariara Presents THE CALORIE
Writen by EISHA MARIARA Produced by EISHA MARIARA Directed by EISHA MARIARA
Cast: ELLORA PATNAIK, SHANAYA DHILLON-BIRMHAN, ANUPAM KHER, ASHLEY GANGER, DOLLY AHLUWALIA
Production Design: EISHA MARIARA, Production Office: EISHA MARIARA, Production Office: EISHA MARIARA, Production Office: EISHA MARIARA
Music: RUPAK GHOSH, Sound Design: RUPAK GHOSH, Editing: RUPAK GHOSH, Color Grading: RUPAK GHOSH, VFX: RUPAK GHOSH
Casting: RUPAK GHOSH, Production Office: EISHA MARIARA, Production Office: EISHA MARIARA, Production Office: EISHA MARIARA

Calorie

A Film by
EISHA MARIARA





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

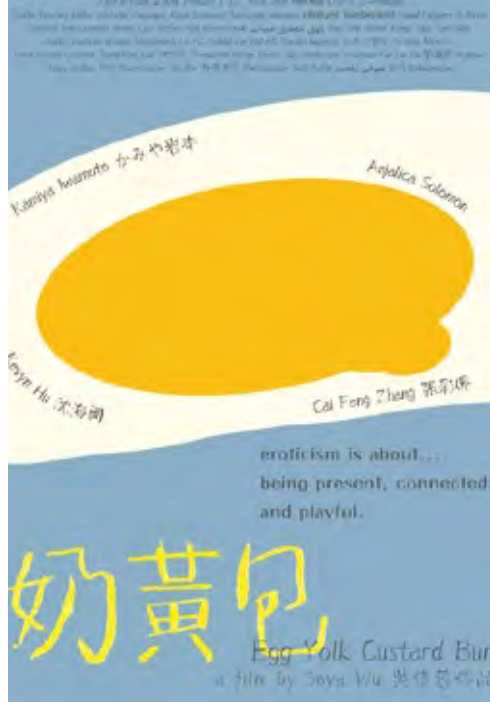
 **Ambush** (Canada/Jordan, 2025), Yassmina Karajah — 21:00

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

RAMEN BOYS

JASON SAKAKI PRESENTS RAMEN BOYS STARRING JOHANNY WU BENEDICTA KUTUMAGI AND MARIANNA ZOUZOUKAS MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHER KING AND JEFF GRIFFITHS EDITOR BRUCE FIMASCHUK COLOR BY SOUVOND PAIK CINE MATTHEW GRACE LUDWIG PRODUCTION PRODUCED BY PAUL ALPHEA AND JASON SAKAKI WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JASON SAKAKI



Medha
Gautham

Kai
Kurwakawa

Adrienne
Tan

A Film by TRISTAN G RAMOS



It's Not You

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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BC



🌐 WORLD PREMIERE 🌳 CANADIAN PREMIERE 🐼 BC PREMIERE 🌲 SURREY PREMIERE ⌚ DELTA PREMIERE



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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12:45 PM – Screening begins

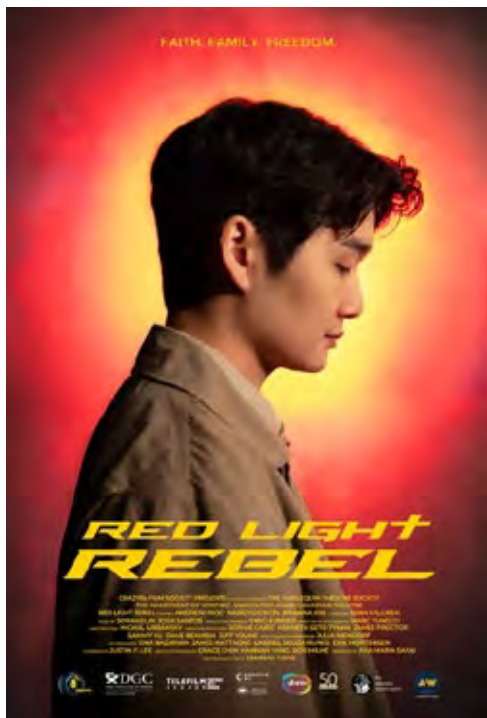
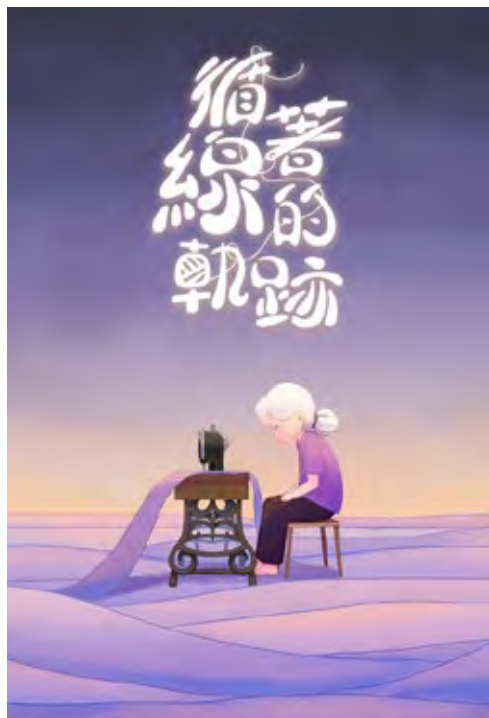
- 🌲 **Surface** (Canada, 2025), Katherine Wong — 2:00
- 🐘 **A Ticket Home** (Canada, 2025), Magill Moyes — 11:43
- 🐘 **Light Through the Blindfold** (Canada, 2025), Alireza Kazemipour — 25:00
- 🐘 **Et Maintenant? (What Now?)** (Canada, 2025), Jocelyn Forgues — 1:36:00

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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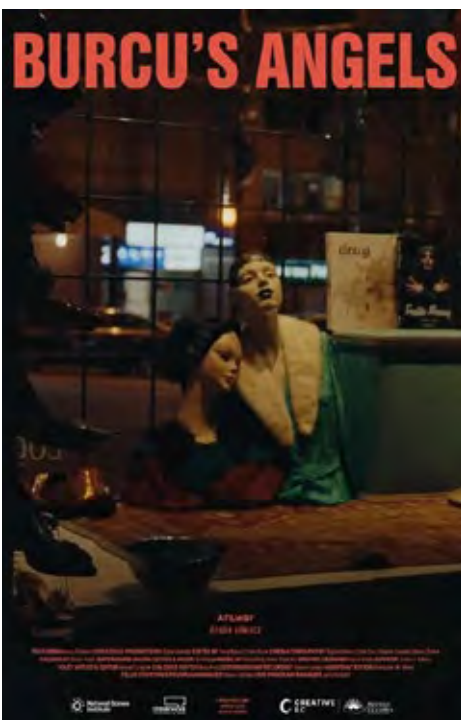
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3:30 PM – Screening begins

- 🐘 **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



🌍 WORLD PREMIERE 🌲 CANADIAN PREMIERE 🐘 BC PREMIERE 🌲 SURREY PREMIERE ⌚ DELTA PREMIERE



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 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 GREYEVES
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



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CANADA, 2025

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Best Student Film

\$500 CAD + Eco-Trophy



Praying for Love

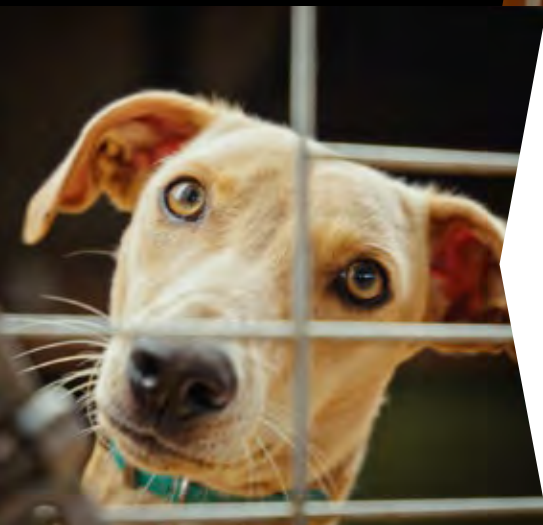
DIR. SOFIA TONIN
UNITED STATES, 2025

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.

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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

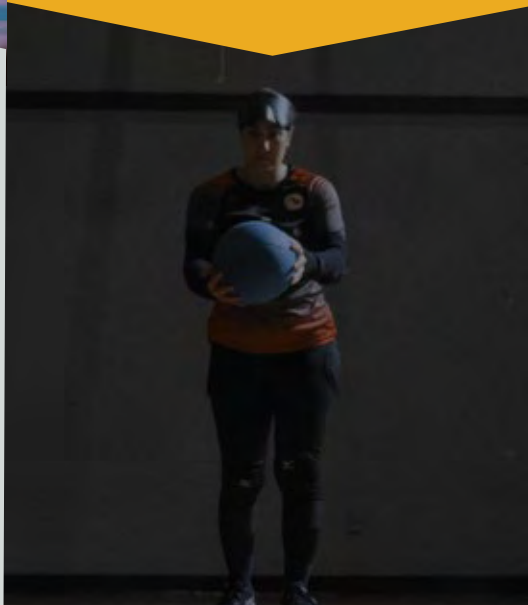
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About the Sundar Prize Eco-Trophy

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

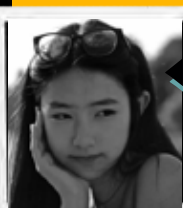
Submission Deadline

October 18, 2026

Winners Announced

December 2026

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"

IMPORTANT DATES



FOR MORE LUMINARIES PROGRAMS:

www.sundarprize.com/luminaires



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SPARKY'S
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8 CITIES



GENDER EQUITY
MEDIA SOCIETY



ISAFF



DocsFF



MENA
Film Festival



30VAFF



VIFF

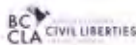


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