

16th ANNUAL

**EMERGING LENS**

CULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL

production of Charles Taylor Theatre & Media Arts

APRIL 15TH - 19TH

2026

# WORDS FROM THE FOUNDERS



**SHELLY FASHAN**



**TARA TAYLOR**

Welcome Everyone to our 16th Birthday celebrating and showcasing cultural filmmakers and emerging artist. We are so proud of the creative ventures we are presenting on our 16th. We are super excited to be showcasing 10 local filmmakers. Many of these stories speak to truth, personal experience and triumph over adversity. We continue to build and develop industry related skills through programs such as, "Black Above the Line" and "Breaking Through the Screens." We continue to build great relationships within this industry, the future possibilities are endless.

Thank you all for supporting emerging independent film. Enjoy these incredible stories!

- Shelley, Tara, Randon, and Kayla.



# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

**April 15th** | Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 @ 6:00 pm

- **Opening Performance:** Julia Tynes
- **Feature Film: "40 Acres" by R.T. Thorne**
- **Film Screening**

**April 16th** | Dartmouth Crossing Cineplex @ 6:30 pm

- **Opening Performance:** Alvaro
- **Film Screening**

**April 17th** | Woodlawn Library @ 6:30pm

- **Opening Performance:** Warlet
- **Film Screening**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** | North Branch Library @ 10am

- **Film Screening**
- **Future of Black Film: Discussion Panel**
- **Animation Workshop**
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**April 18<sup>th</sup>** | The Black Cultural Centre @ 6:30pm

- **Opening Performance:** Aquakultre
- **Film Screening**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** | Virtual Screening (Online)

- **Film:** "Ray of Hope" by Ryan Singh
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# APRIL 15TH

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21 | 6PM

Performance: Julia Tynes

Feature Film: 40 Acres by R.T. Thorne



- **Beeba Fly's** - Tara Taylor
- **Cobequid Road School - Sandra's Story** - Ann Verrall and Sheryl Grant
- **Landed to Takeoff** - Nahom Assefa, Olena Yanchuck, Viktoria Fomenko, Margaryta Logyyn, Xing Mu, Yawen Zhou, and Yue Li

# APRIL 16TH

DARTMOUTH CROSSING CINEPLEX | 6:30 PM

Performance: Alvaro

## Films

- **Home is a Feeling** - Ryan King
- **Down Home Love** - Guyliegh Johnson, Kardiesha Provo, Asiah Sparks
- **Vow and Waver** - Neetika Mahawar
- **8:38** - Imole Ladipo
- **The Agent** - Phillip Gannon and Ryan Gannon
- **Beneath the Boardwalk** - LeoNia Elms and Anthony Bryan
- **IMVisible** - Shadwa Ramadan

## Music Videos

- **La Sirène**- Keke Beatz
- **Born to Dance** - Michał Cygan
- **Flooded Realms**- Virginie BLUZAT
- **Dhat Gyal** - Nii Xowah
- **Boy Nephron** - Dance My Pain - Mr. Eye
- **Gallows** - Sobaz Benjamin
- **IN THE CITY** - Zamani Folade x Amariah

# APRIL 17TH

WOODLAWN LIBRARY | 6:30 PM

Performance: Warlet

- **Talking to the Sun** - Megan Leigh Sweeney
- **Record, Pause, Record** - Richard Dang
- **A Passions Night Bloom** - Kwesi Awotwi
- **Welcome to Canada** - Deviina Hajela
- **Once Upon a Time** - Ana Sofia Alaman, Lara Ana Borojevic
- **Worth While** - Brayden Schinkel
- **The Angry Bird** - Jack Lilleywhite
- **See You Later** - Skye Rooney-Pedersen

# APRIL 18TH

NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY | 10 AM

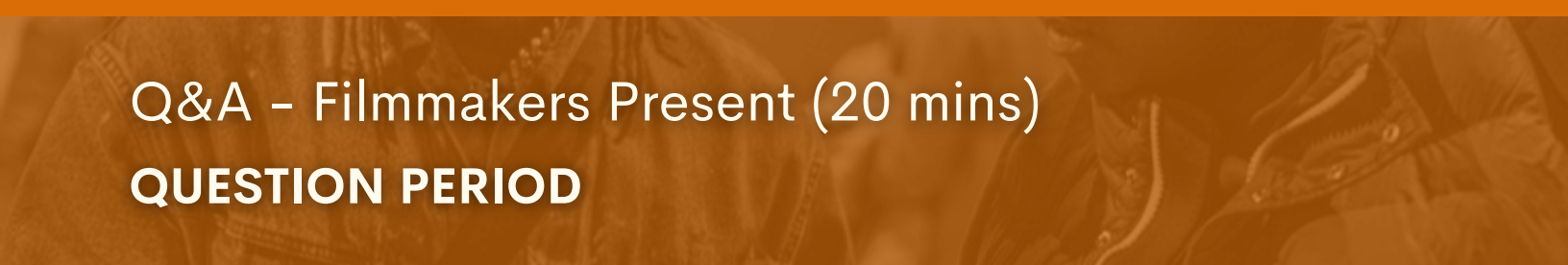


Animation with Tara Taylor (30 mins)

**WORKSHOP**

## FILM SCREENING (1 HR)

- **Take Care of Me** - Nazanin Karimi
- **Light Through the Blindfold** - Alireza Kazemipour
- **On Grief** - Edgar Nunley
- **Two Suns** - Alpha Estifanos, Jean-Benoit Proulx
- **I Exist** - Fatemeh Mokhtari
- **Saltwater Psalms** - Devin Nikki Thomas
- **Mentor** - Jacquile Kambo



Q&A - Filmmakers Present (20 mins)

**QUESTION PERIOD**



The Future of the Black Film Industry (30 mins)

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

# APRIL 18TH

BLACK CULTURAL CENTRE | 6:30 PM

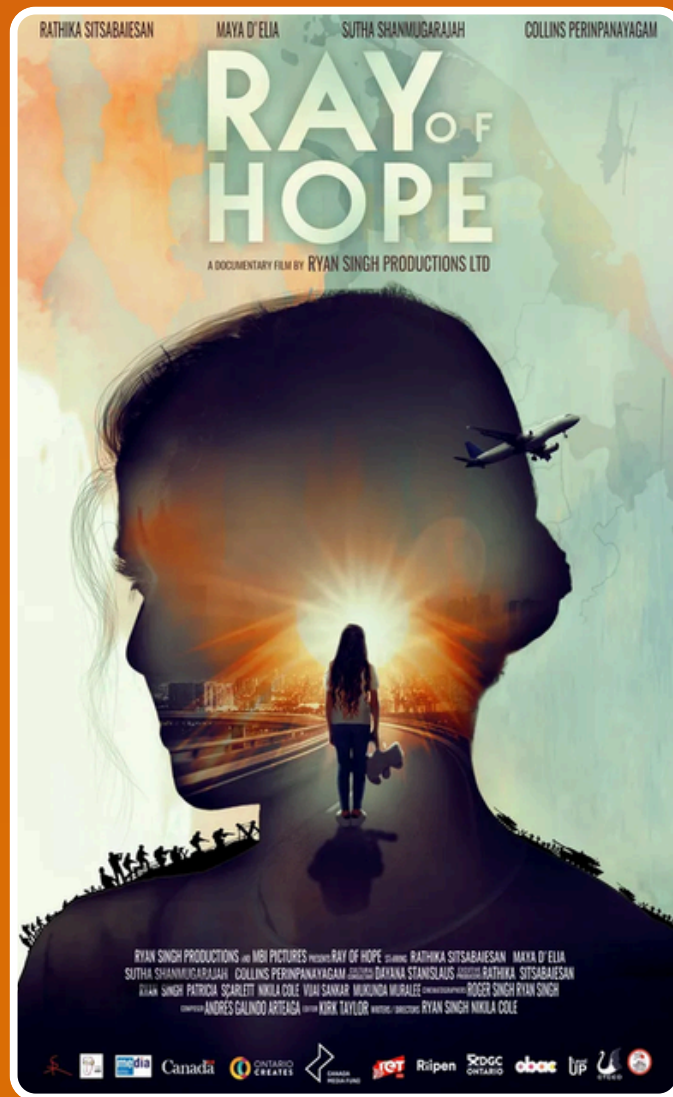
Performance: Aquakultre

- **The Magical Adventures of Happi Ness and Locs** - Tonya  
"Samgwan" Paris
- **Beneath the Boardwalk** - LeoNia Elms and Anthony Bryan
- **Naomi's Reverie** - Tara Taylor and Randon Wright
- **IN THE CITY** - Zamani Folade x Amariah
- **How to Hide it** - Ramla Ali, Richard A. Moore
- **Transported** - Wide Angle Youth Media
- **Stay** - Philip Gannon and Ryan Gannon
- **Open Hearts: Leslie and Claudette** - Stephanie Daye
- **See the City** - Mia Golden
- **Lucasville Stories** - Ann Verrall and Sheryl Grant
- **Little Dreams** - Hannah Yohannes
- **Dorin & Brown** - Vicky Plancher
- **Hope is Lost** - Eno Enefiok
- **The Kitchen School** - Ann Verrall and Sheryl Grant

# APRIL 19TH

VIRTUAL SCREENING (ONLINE)

Film: "Ray of Hope" by Ryan Singh



# PERFORMERS

## JULIA TYNES - APRIL 15TH

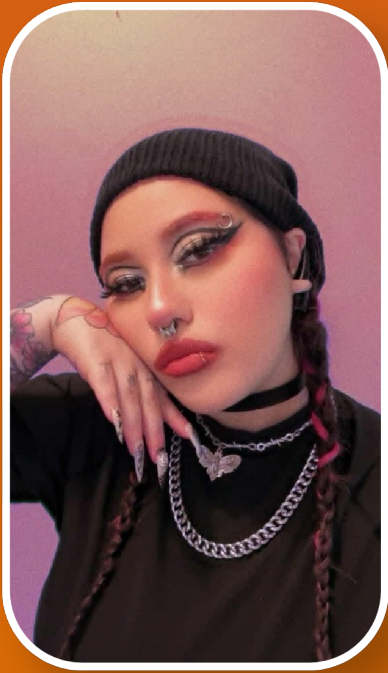
Halifax singer-songwriter Julia Tynes delivers a sweet and soulful blend of retro-inspired pop, with a voice that channels the elegance of Diana Ross and the energy of classic soul. A Music Nova Scotia Award nominee and ANSMA Award recipient, she took the stage for over 70 shows across Nova Scotia in 2025 alone, with past highlights including appearances at the Halifax Jazz Festival, performances for the Prime Minister of Canada, and sharing the stage with soul icon Liberty Silver. With thousands of national radio plays, her work blends nostalgia with a modern edge, and her performances are defined by a distinctive, recognizable vocal tone, an open heart, and a magnetic stage presence.

## ALVARO - APRIL 16TH

Alvaro, casually known as AL, is a singer-songwriter and performer whose music resonates from a fusion of diverse influences of the pop music genre. His artistry reflects the experiences of being born and raised in the Philippines and living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Drawing inspiration from the sub-genres of pop such as: rock, r&b, and more, Alvaro crafts melodies and lyrics as a canvas for intricate story-telling. Since his emergence into the local music scene, with the release of his debut record "ALone", it has amassed up to 1.6k monthly listeners and over 20k streams on Spotify – with tracks featured on CBC Information Morning, East Coast DNA, East Coast Top 30, Music Nova Scotia, and more. He then continued to share his music by performing to various audiences including his sold out debut album release show, a sold out double billed performance feature at the Bus Stop Theatre, and at the Garrison Grounds for the Philippine Fiesta! 3 years in a row to an audience of over 4k attendees, the 2025 Nova Scotia Music Week as a showcasing artist, and singing the US and Canadian National Anthems for the Halifax Thunderbirds Lacrosse Game in March 2026. Though Alvaro's musical journey has only just begun, his early milestones and achievements prove that he is set for the rest of the East Coast and the whole country to hear his sound.

# PERFORMERS

## WARLET - APRIL 17TH



Warlet is a singer, rapper and beatboxer from Brazil based in Nova Scotia. She mixes different genres such as Emo Rap, Hyperpop, R&B, Trap and Urban Latin on her music, while mixing her languages on her songs (English, Portuguese and Spanish). Her lyrics focus on deep, real life experiences from toxic relationships to her life as a woman on the spectrum.

## AQUAKULTRE - APRIL 18TH



Aquakultre is the artistic voice of Lance Sampson, a singer, rapper, composer, and storyteller whose three albums and multi-media collaborations range from rap and folk to experimental jazz and neoclassical hip hop chamber work. His recent projects in documentary television, visual art, and music, all draw from his explorations of ancestry, history, and community as a Black Nova Scotian who traces his roots back to 1783, also the title of his latest critically acclaimed album. Lance is the recipient of Creative NS's 2025 Black Artist Recognition Award and is currently Artist-in-Residence at the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook, NS.

# THANK YOU

We extend a very special thank you to our supporters and team who made this festival possible:

- **Tara Taylor** – Co-Founder – Festival Director/Technical Coordinator
- **Shelley Fashan** – Co-Founder – Festival Producer / Promotions Manager
- **Randon Wright** – Social Media Manager
- **Kayla Borden** – Artist Coordinator/Photographer
- **Carmahn McCalla** – Graphics and Web Designer
- **Ray Fashan**
- **Deana Sparks**
- **Extra Special Thank you to our families for putting up with crazy work hours and burning the candles at both ends! We love you:**
  - **The Fashan Family**
  - **Tara's Clan** – Tristahn, Carmahn, Noah, and Riley

And thank you to all the filmmakers who shared their stories with us!



THANK YOU TO OUR  
**SPONSORS:**



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Musée canadien de  
l'immigration du Quai 21  
Canadian Museum of  
Immigration at Pier 21

**REEL CANADA**

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