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79th Annual

FESTIVAL GUIDE
MAY 20 - 24

Gallagher Centre
45 Broadway Street West
Yorkton



WEDNESDAY MAY 20 _____ 2026

COMMUNITY SCREENING / 6:30 PM - 9:00PM

Presented by City of Yorkton
Location: Yorkton Firehall

Searchers - 00:45m



Episode 3 - North of Nowhere

When Lois Chartrand vanishes while mushroom picking near Smeaton, Sask., family and volunteers brave the harsh wilderness to find her. Although the story ends in tragedy, the community rallies together in the face of loss.



Episode 4 - Scorched

A woman disappears from a campground in northern Saskatchewan, plunging search and rescue teams into a scorched, smoky landscape. With wildfires raging nearby, rescuers battle heat, confusion and time to find her alive in a true story of survival.

*Door opens at 6.30 pm with a tour of the Firehall. Screening starts at 7:00pm

FREE to the public!

THURSDAY MAY 21 _____ 2026

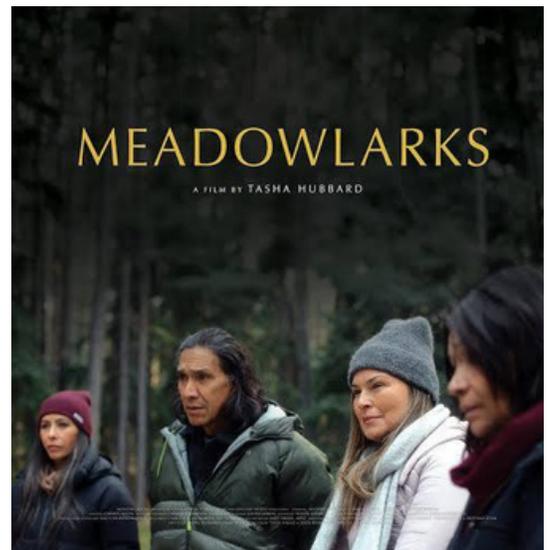
OPENING NIGHT SCREENING / 7:00 PM

Presented by The Painted Hand Casino
Location: Parkland Room – Painted Hand Casino

Meadowlarks- 1h:31m

Inspired by her own acclaimed documentary Birth of a Family, Tasha Hubbard's Meadowlarks tells the story of four Cree siblings, separated since childhood and now in their fifties, who agree to meet for the first time over a holiday weekend in Banff.

Without the usual markers of familiarity, or a shared sense of cultural belonging, the Meadowlark siblings discover unexpected moments of joyous synchronicity, conflict, and connection.



FREE to the public!

FRI - SAT MAY 22/23 _____ 2026

PROGRAMMED SCREENING / 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

YFF ON DEMAND / 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Presented by The Clean Energy Show

Location: Gallagher Centre

*Registration Required

Schedule available at the registration desk.

SATURDAY MAY 23
Programmed Screenings
/ 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

FREE to the public!

FRIDAY MAY 22 _____ 2026

VIEW FROM THE TOP / 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Presented by Canada Media Fund

Location: Gallagher Centre

Description: Join us Friday morning, hangover be damned, as we kick off Yorkton 2026 with an intimate in-conversation hosting; Valerie Creighton, CEO of the Canada Media Fund and Melanie Nepinak Hadley, VP of the Indigenous Screen Office.

Panelist(s): Valerie Creighton, Melanie Nepinak Hadley

Moderator(s): Daniel Cross

CRIP TRIP - UNDER THE HOOD OF A BROKEN DOWN VAN / 10:05 AM - 10:50 AM

Presented by Accessible Media Inc.

Location: Gallagher Centre

Crip Trip creators and directors Frederick Kroetsch and Daniel Ennett arrive at the Yorkton Film Festival in the accessible Crip Trip van for a candid, clip-driven look at how their scrappy feature documentary evolved into a multi-season television series for AMI-tv. The panel unpacks the early pushback (“disabled people make audiences sad”).

Panelists: Frederick Kroetsch, Daniel Ennett

Moderators: John Melville

PITCH-O-RAMA / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Gallagher Centre

Test your pitching skills and be judged by an esteemed panel of broadcasters, directors, and distributors. This is not your regular pitch session so leave your pitches at home. Be brave and spin the “Wheel of Spin” and see what idea you and your team will be forced to pitch.

Moderator: Charlotte Engel, Sarah Jane Flynn

NETWORKING LUNCHEON/ 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Presented by City of Yorkton

THE FULL FRAME: INCLUDING WELLNESS FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN /1:45 PM - 2:30 PM

Presented by Telefilm Canada

Location: Gallagher Centre

The Full Frame examines the intersection of creativity and care, offering a roadmap for embedding wellness into the DNA of your project.

Panelist: Tasha Hubbard

Moderator: Kaya Wheeler

MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK - BUDGET HACKS FOR PRODUCING GREAT CONTENT /2:35 PM - 3:05 PM

Presented by Wavelength Entertainment

Location: Gallagher Centre

How do filmmakers consistently get more impact on screen without simply spending more money or adding more days to the schedule? This session brings together practical, field-tested insights from professionals across the film and television industry.

Presenter: Steve Allen

YFF INDUSTRY CONNECT: MAKE MEETINGS THAT MOVE YOUR CAREER OR PROJECT FORWARD / 3:15 PM- 4:30 PM

Presented by Creative Saskatchewan

Location: Gallagher Centre

Meet the people who shape today’s film and television industry- content decision makers, producers, distributors, agencies, organizations, and financial partners. Industry Connect gives delegates direct access to mentors, collaborators, and supporters who can help advance projects and careers. Ask questions, pitch ideas, and build relationships that open doors and create real opportunities.

BROADCASTERS:

- Jim Krysko, Content Development Specialist - Accessible Media Inc.
- Cara Nye, Director Content Development and Production - Accessible Media Inc.
- Will Dixon, Program Manager, Original Production (Citytv, OMNI, Citytv Sask).
- Tina Ouellette, (Western Region)- NFB
- Andrew Williamson, Telefilm
- Sarah Jayn Flynn, Director of Independent Production & Business Affairs - Knowledge Network

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Check out the bios of
our moderators,
panelist and
broadcasters...
yorktonfilm.com
”

OTHER AGENCIES:

- Erin Dean, Chief Executive Officer - Creative Saskatchewan
- Kaya Wheeler, Program Manager - Indigenous Screen Office
- Chris Vajcner, Director, Partner Support - National Screen Institute
- Christine Kleckner, Executive Director - National Screen Institute
- Jon Taylor, CEO, Independent Production Fund
- Huw Eirug - CEO, Nunavut Film Commission
- Lynne Skromeda, CEO - Manitoba Film & Music
- Lindsay Somers - Executive Director, On Screen Manitoba
- Kyle Irving - Co-Owner & Producer, Eagle Vision

RBC- ROYAL BANK OF CANADA:

- Johnny Zhang - Sr. Relationship Manager, Commercial Financial Services

LOBSTERFEST / 5:30 PM

Location: Yorkton Wildlife Federation Clubhouse, York Lake

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ATTENTION!

CASH BAR ONLY
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Join us at the Yorkton Wildlife Federation for our signature event!
Enjoy a delicious East Coast meal with a side order of trap shooting.

Spring evenings in Saskatchewan can be chilly.

Please dress up for the weather!

Shuttles to and from Lobsterfest will begin departing at **5:30 pm** from the front entrance of the Gallagher Centre and Holiday Inn Express & Days Inn.

***Tickets are required for meal and trap shooting.**

STRONGER TOGETHER: CRACKING THE CODE ON INTERPROVINCIAL COPRODUCTION/ 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Presented by Creative Saskatchewan
Location: Painted Hand Casino

What's holding Canadian producers back from working together across provincial borders — and how do we fix it?

Join film commissioners and industry leaders for a practical conversation on the real opportunities, challenges, and emerging solutions shaping interprovincial coproduction.

Panelists: Erin Dean, *CEO, Creative Saskatchewan*; Lynne Skromeda, *CEO, Manitoba Film & Music*, Huw Eirug, *Co-CEO Nunavut Film*; Dorian Rowe, *Film Commissioner, Edmonton Screen*

INTERPROVINCIAL COPRODUCTION CASE STUDY: FROM CONCEPT TO COLLABORATION/ 9:50 AM - 10:35 AM

Presented by ScreenSask
Location: Painted Hand Casino

Go inside a real-world interprovincial coproduction and see how it actually comes together. This case study session explores the opportunities, challenges, and practical solutions behind building a project across provincial borders — from aligning partners and financing to navigating incentives, labour, and logistics.

Panelist: Kyle Irving
Moderator: TBA

ADAPTING THE FORMAT: BRINGING THE ASSEMBLY TO CANADA/ 10:40 AM - 11:25 AM

Presented by FRANK Digital
Location: Painted Hand Casino

A behind-the-scenes look on how the team behind "The Assembly" adapted the original format for Canadian audiences. From working with format rights holders to deciding what can — and can't — change, the producers share surprising lessons on translating a successful show across countries and cultures.

Panelists: Stephen Sawchuk, Sean De Vries, Jessica Schmiedshen - CBC
Moderators: TBA

INDUSTRY MICRO BLASTS / 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Presented by SK Arts

Location: Painted Hand Casino

Four industry insiders deliver 10-minute micro-briefings on what their organizations are buying, producing, and prioritizing right now. A fast, practical snapshot of current opportunities in film and television.

Speakers(s): Joanne Levy - CRTIC, Andrew Williamson - Telefilm, TBA, TBA

Moderator(s): TBA

FIND YOUR PARTNERS: THE COLLABORATION PITCH LUNCH / 12:20 PM - 1:30 PM

Presented by Noodle Post Factory

This isn't about selling your project — it's about finding the right people to help you make it. During this interactive lunch session, selected filmmakers will take the floor to share their next project with a focus on what they need: collaborators, coproducers, financing partners, or strategic advice to move it forward. Whether it's a feature, documentary, or series, the goal is to spark real connections that can turn ideas into action.

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Max 3-4
participants.
Register
yorktonfilm.com
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Moderator:TBA

*Limited spots - by advance registration only

JEM GARRARD: BUILDING WORLDS — FROM GENRE TELEVISION TO FEATURE FILMMAKING/ 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Presented by DGC

Location: The Painted Hand Casino

Join DGC Director Jem Garrard for a candid conversation about building a directing career across television and film while carving out a distinctive voice in genre storytelling. n Emmy-nominated director and five-time Leo Award winner, Garrard is the creator and showrunner of the SYFY series Vagrant Queen and has directed across major international series including Virgin River, Orphan Black: Echoes, Nancy Drew, Motherland: Fort Salem, and Wynonna Earp.

Moderator:TBA

AN AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES! / 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Presented by The Clean Energy Show

Location: The Painted Hand Casino

Screenings and Q&As with some of this year's nominated filmmakers!

Moderator(s): Daniel Cross

FREE to the public!

2026 GOLDEN SHEAF AWARDS GALA

SATURDAY MAY 23 / 5:45 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: National Bank Convention Room - Gallagher Centre

Join us for an Ukrainian feast and prestigious awards gala, honouring the winners of the 2026 Golden Sheaf Awards.

****Ticket required.**

Cocktails	5:45 PM - 6:30 PM
Supper	6:30 PM - 7:50 PM
Awards	8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

A special thank you to the Paper Bag Players for their help with the red carpet.

SUNDAY MAY 24

2026

**SCREENSASK SUMMIT @ YFF: GROWING THE INDUSTRY
/8:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Location: Gallagher Centre

Details to be announced!

GETTING AROUND

SHUTTLES

Regina to Yorkton

Shuttles are pre-booked as per your flight itinerary. If you are unsure of your shuttle booking information, please call

Lobsterfest

Shuttles to and from Lobsterfest will begin departing at 5:30 pm, from the front entrance of the Gallagher Centre and Holiday Inn Express.

TAXI

Ace Taxi	306.621.7750
York City Taxi	306.782.6666
Redline Taxi	306.783.1010

Questions?

Any of our festival staff and volunteers will be more than happy to help, or you can call or text us at 639.540.0801

Follow us! X f @ @yorktonfilm

*Join us next year for the
80th Anniversary!
May 27 — 30, 2027*