

KCFF

KINGSTON CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Music Takes the Stage at Kingston Canadian Film Festival, Feb. 25 – March 1

- *Bif Naked, Middle Life, Mile End Kicks, Nirvana: The Band – The Show – The Movie, Space Cadet, and Beauty Life* to screen as part of the **Amherst Island Radio Music Series** –
 - Bif Naked, July Talk, Born Ruffians, Julianna Riolino, and more perform at KCFF26 –
 - KCFF’s Slight Music Video Showcase presents world premieres from 10 Kingston artists –
 - Full lineup for Canada’s premier all-Canadian filmfest to be announced Jan. 28 –
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KINGSTON, ON (January 26, 2026) – Music takes centre stage at this year’s [Kingston Canadian Film Festival](#) (KCFF26) with the [Amherst Island Radio Music Series](#), announced today. The festival confirmed more than a dozen music-related events at the world’s largest all-Canadian film and cultural festival, including film and music performances from **Bif Naked** and members of **July Talk** and **Born Ruffians**. The series also features new films from directors Matt Johnson, Kid Koala, Chandler Levack, and Jared Raab; music gigs every night of the festival; and two music-focused industry panels. Meanwhile, the fifth annual [Slight Music Video Showcase](#) features the world premieres of 10 music videos from local Kingston artists. Running **February 25 - March 1**. KCFF26’s full lineup will be unveiled **January 28**.



Bif Naked is the subject of Pollyanna Hardwicke-Brown’s hard-hitting documentary at KCFF26.

KCFF is at the intersection of Kingston’s creative industries. The city’s film and music sectors already supports hundreds of jobs and millions in local income, and that impact continues to grow. With ongoing investment in film, music and the wider arts, Kingston continues to build a creative environment where makers and audiences thrive. It’s no surprise that the volume of musical artists that have emerged out of Kingston – and the passion with which local residents enthusiastically engage in music – has led to its reputation as a “[music city](#).”

“Kingston is a city with a strong legacy of storytelling, with film and music bringing people together to help us see one another, feel represented, and learn through shared experience,” said Moira Demorest, Music Officer, [Tourism Kingston](#). “We see this connection on concert stages and on screens, where sound and story deepen meaning and build community. KCFF has long embraced this creative synergy, and I look forward to another incredible year of music being supported, championed, and showcased as part of the festival’s programming.”

The Amherst Island Radio Music Series

ON SCREEN:

Bif Naked – d. Pollyanna Hardwicke-Brown (Eastern Canadian Premiere)

As an artist who’s experienced enough challenges and triumphs to fill several lifetimes, [Bif Naked](#) most definitely has a story worth sharing. In this hard-hitting documentary portrait, the Canadian singer is as frank and fearless on camera as she is in her songwriting. With its mix of new interviews and archival material — including plenty of footage from Bif’s characteristically fierce live performances — Hardwicke-Brown’s film offers a no-holds-barred account of its subject’s tumultuous journey over several decades in the music industry.

With Bif Naked.

Middle Life – d. Pavan Moondi (Provincial Premiere)

Alternately spiky and sweet, this relationship comedy by writer-director Pavan Moondi follows the increasingly intertwined lives of two thirty-somethings who first meet by chance. While Andie ([July Talk’s](#) Leah Fay Goldstein), a wedding planner and new mother, may seem like she’s got her act together, she’s really not so different from Ryan ([July Talk’s](#) Peter Dreimanis), a blue-collar guy with a looser, more cavalier approach to life. The growing connection between the two threatens to make things even messier for them both.

With Moondi, Goldstein, Dreimanis and Luke Lalonde (Born Ruffians).

Mile End Kicks – d. Chandler Levack (Regional Premiere)

Making a very welcome return to the Festival with her follow-up to her much-loved feature debut *I Like Movies* (KCFF23), writer-director [Chandler Levack](#) revisits her own past as a music journalist for this semi-autobiographical tale set in the bustling and ultra-cool indie scene of early 2010s Montréal. Barbie Ferreira stars as Grace Pine, a Toronto scribe who heads to Québec in hopes of writing her first book. While out at a club, she develops an interest — both professional and romantic — in the band onstage, a development that sends her Montréal summer in a more complicated direction.

Nirvana: The Band – The Show – The Movie – d. Matt Johnson

As celebrated as [Matt Johnson](#) has become thanks to movies like *Operation Avalanche* (People’s Choice Award winner at KCFF17) and *Blackberry*, the actor, filmmaker, and all-round maverick always returns to his roots. In this case, those roots are characters he and Jay McCarrol created almost 20 years ago for a mockumentary web series about two aspiring musicians (conveniently named Matt and Jay) who are forever trying to land a gig at Toronto’s iconic Rivoli. Regardless of whether viewers know much about the duo’s misadventures so far, they’re in for a wildly entertaining ride as Matt and Jay mount their first big-screen quest for greatness in a time-travel comedy that’s two-parts *Back to the Future* and one-part pure anarchy.

Space Cadet – d. Kid Koala (Regional Premiere)

With his captivating big-screen adaptation of his own graphic novel, Montréal DJ-turned-filmmaker [Kid Koala](#) invites viewers of all ages on an interstellar animated adventure. Conveying

its story without dialogue but with a wealth of feeling, *Space Cadet* celebrates the special bond between Celeste, a young cadet about to take her first space mission, and Robot, her devoted companion since childhood. When their trajectories diverge, both must face challenges on their own. Yet through their experiences, they each gain new understandings of what they treasure the most. Koala adds more sparkle scoring the music for the film as well, which also includes original songs by Karen O and Digable Planets' Mariana "Ladybug" Vieira.

With Ginette Petit (producer) and Mylène Chollet (writer).

Beauty's Pride – d. Jared Raab

Directed by long-time Matt Johnson collaborator and cinematographer Jared Raab (*BlackBerry, Nirvana: The Band – The Show – The Movie*) and produced by July Talk's Peter Dreimanis, *Beauty's Pride* combines poetic visuals with philosophical reflection, following the band [Born Ruffians](#) as they navigate the evolving dynamics of artistry, identity and legacy. *Beauty's Pride* mines Born Ruffians' archival footage from recording music and being on the road together since 2008 to help execute the concept, which was conceived in collaboration with Raab, as well as Dreimanis and his July Talk bandmate Leah Fay Goldstein.

With Jared Raab and Born Ruffians.

KCFF26 Trailer – d. Gavin Bellows

The most-watched video content at KCFF is always the festival trailer, which features a different Kingston musical artist every year. This year's trailer is cut to the song "Sosie" by retro-pop band Good Fortune, a former participant in KCFF's Slight Music Video Showcase.

ON STAGE:

JULIANNA RIOLINO | Feb. 25 | Broom Factory

Riolino tours her sophomore album *Echo in the Dust* featuring her soulful blend of alt-country and rock on the first night of KCFF26.

MUSIC SYNC NETWORKING & WORKSHOP | Feb. 26

[Kingston's Music Office](#) teams up with Canada's Music Incubator to host a workshop and networking event dedicated to music sync and supervision. Details to be announced.

JULY TALK + BORN RUFFIANS | Feb. 27 | Kingston Grand Theatre

Two of Canada's most exciting live acts, July Talk and Born Ruffians are all over KCFF this year, including the films *Middle Life* and *Beauty's Pride*. The artists join for one amazing concert at the legendary Kingston venue.

ANCIENT SHAPES, CLEM CHESTERFIELD, THE CODAS | Feb. 25 – March 1 | [The Toucan](#)

KCFF26 presents free, live music every night of the festival at Kingston's beloved Toucan pub featuring local artists Ancient Shapes, Clem Chesterfield, and The Codas.

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE PANEL @ KCFF [CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DAY](#) | Feb. 28 | Isabel

July Talk's Peter Dreimanis and Leah Fay Goldstein join *Middle Life* director Pavan Moondi for a panel moderated by Tourism Kingston Music Officer Moira Demorest.

The Slight Music Video Showcase (February 28)

KCFF and the Kingston Music Office are proud to present the fifth annual edition of the [Slight Music Video](#) Showcase. Once again, local film and media production companies received financing from the [Slight Family Foundation](#) to create new music videos featuring some of Kingston's top emerging bands and musicians. The initiative connects Kingston's film and music scenes, encouraging local production, and providing a free, professionally made music video for selected local musicians. With more entries than ever before, premiering this year are videos from 10 local production companies and artists:

- [Yeah No For Sure Productions](#) with [The Wilderness](#)
- Al Bergeron (in collaboration with [Skeleton Park Arts Festival](#)) with [Cantabile Youth Singers](#)
- [Jamstone Productions](#) with [The Codas](#)
- [Subtle Negative](#) with [Kyra](#)
- [Happy Kid Productions](#) with [Piner](#)
- Vile Wolf Productions with [Nolan Hubbard](#)
- [Creatopia Studios](#) with [The Sugar Pills](#)
- [Little Friday](#) with [Tiny Horse](#)
- [Josh Lyon](#) with [Anthea Feaver](#)
- Who Gets It Done Productions with [Clem Chesterfield](#)

The **Amherst Island Radio Music Series** and the **Slight Music Video Showcase** are also supported by Tourism Kingston, Exclaim!, Team Ambrose - Royal LePage ProAlliance Realty, Kingston's K-Rock 105.7, Kingston's Country 93.5, Kingston's 98.3 FLY FM, Kingston's New Country 98.9, 102.7 WOW FM, Brockville's Giant 103.7, Brockville's myFM 104.9, Hustle & Heart 99.1 myFM, Hustle & Heart 88.1 myFM, Long & McQuade, CFRC, Central New York's Classic FM, Agent 99, and Whit Kingston.

The 2026 Kingston Canadian Film Festival is presented by TD Bank Group. Premier partners are the Slight Family Foundation, Amherst Island Radio, and Cogeco. Major supporters are ACFOMI, Delta Hotels Kingston Waterfront, Downtown Kingston BIA, Kingston Community Credit Union, Homestead, Marriott Kingston, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, Shaftesbury, and Tourism Kingston. KCFF benefits from the patronage of Diane Blake & Stephen Smith, the Norman & Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation, the McLean Smits Family Foundation, and the Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation. Join the KCFF Circle of Supporters [here](#) or learn about sponsorship opportunities [here](#).

About Amherst Island Radio

Established in 2006 and one of the last five fully independent radio stations in Ontario, Amherst Island Radio broadcast from two locations in Loyalist Township: CJAI's world headquarters in the milkhouse studios in Stella and it's high-tech media hub in Bath. The station's 4,800-watt signal on 101.3 FM reaches Eastern Ontario locally while streaming worldwide online.

As a volunteer-run, non-profit station supported by listeners and over 90 local partners, Amherst Island Radio focuses on diverse music, local news, community events, and regional stories not heard on mainstream radio.

About the Kingston Canadian Film Festival

The Kingston Canadian Film Festival (KCFF) is Canada's premier all-Canadian film festival and the largest of its kind in the world. For more than a quarter century, KCFF has celebrated the diversity, creativity, and vitality of Canadian screen-based storytelling, presenting feature films, documentaries, shorts, and music videos that bring filmmakers, artists, and audiences together each year in a dynamic festival setting. More than a film festival, KCFF is a multi-disciplinary, intersectional cultural event that transforms traditional and unconventional venues across historic downtown Kingston into a vibrant, walkable festival hub, featuring live comedy and music, exhibitions, industry conversations, workshops, networking events, and community gatherings.

With nearly 100% of films screening at KCFF accompanied by live post-screening Q&As with visiting talent, the festival has welcomed leading Canadian filmmakers and performers including Atom Egoyan, Deepa Mehta, Alanis Obomsawin, Don McKellar, Mina Shum, Matt Johnson, Jay Baruchel, Brigitte Berman, Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor, Jeff Barnaby, Gerry Dee, Cathy Jones, Jeremy Hotz, Bif Naked, Donovan Woods, Gordon Pinsent, and casts from *The Kids in the Hall*, *Letterkenny*, *Trailer Park Boys*, *Baroness von Sketch Show*, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, among others.

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For more information:
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Social Media:
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