

# BEYOND ASIAN

VAFF

VANCOUVER  
ASIAN FILM  
FESTIVAL



29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
VANCOUVER  
ASIAN FILM  
FESTIVAL  
NOV 6 - 16, 2025  
IN PERSON & VIRTUAL



#VANCOUVERASIANFILMFEST

Tickets on  
sale at  
[VAFF.ORG](https://vaff.org)

# Canadian films have it all.

Celebrate the richness of Canadian storytelling. Weekly updates deliver fresh releases to inspire, entertain, and immerse you in the vibrant world of Canadian cinema!

**[seeitall.telefilm.ca](http://seeitall.telefilm.ca)**

**TELEFILM**  
CANADA



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## VISION STATEMENT

A world where Asian Canadian stories are integral to Canada's cultural narrative while boldly reshaping the media landscape and redefining what it means to be Canadian.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We champion authentic Asian Canadian and global Asian diaspora representation by showcasing, mentoring, training and nurturing storytellers at every stage of their creative journey while building a vibrant, connected ecosystem of Asian voices on all storytelling platforms.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xwməkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitlh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities that have cared for Turtle Island since time immemorial. With this acknowledgment, we remind ourselves of discriminatory, racist, and colonial practices that have and continue to create barriers for Indigenous Peoples and Communities across this land.

# ABOUT VAFF

Since its founding in 1995 and debut in 1997, the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) has become a transformative force in Canada's cinematic landscape, championing the diversity of Asian stories within Canada and globally. As the country's longest-running Asian film festival, VAFF is more than an annual event - it is a cultural hub for creative voices that transcends boundaries and opens nuanced cultural dialogues. Each year, VAFF captivates thousands with its hybrid screenings, blending in-theatre and virtual experiences, while also fueling year-round conversations with its programming. Powered by a dedicated and passionate community of volunteers, sponsors, and donors, VAFF continues to push the envelope making space for new narratives and spotlighting underrepresented stories that reflect the complexity and richness of the Asian diaspora within a global context and a rapidly evolving entertainment landscape.

BEYOND ASIAN

*"BEYOND ASIAN" this year's theme, spotlights unique Asian filmmakers and story protagonists who bravely express bold visions beyond every expectation*

Donate to VAFF to support Diversity in Film. As VAFF is not a registered charity, we cannot issue official donation receipts.



### Board of Directors

Barbara Lee, Founder/President  
Clement Lau, Vice President  
Jason Ding, Treasurer  
Edmond Ng, Past Treasurer  
Emily Kwan, Member at Large  
Jacqueline Lee, Member at Large  
Justin Park, Member at Large

### Executives

Regina Leung, Director of Industry and Operations  
Lynne Lee, MAMM Director/Producer  
**Special Thank You to Rick Tae.**

### Programmers

Sidantha Murjani, Programming Director, Feature  
William Lau, Programming Director, Short  
Andreea Jurj, Programming Coordinator  
Jane Lu, Programming Coordinator, Programmer Short  
Rjay Sta.Teresa Programmer, Short  
Candyce Xu, Programmer, Short  
Lee Tzu Mao, Programmer, Short  
Shuyi Yang, Programmer, Short  
Zainab Fatima, Programmer, Short  
Chantele Semilla-Regan, Programmer, Short  
Johnson Phan, Programmer, Short  
Lissa Neptuno, Programmer, Short  
Yin Wang, Programmer, Short  
Nelson Wong, Programmer, Short  
Yasmine Ross, Programmer, Short  
Conor Wylie, Programmer, Short  
Alan Woo, Programmer, Short  
Walter Quan, Programmer, Short  
Aidan Parker, Programmer, Short  
Kathy Leung, Programming Advisor, Short  
Anthony Lee, Programming Advisor, Short  
Fei Ren, Programming Advisor, Short  
Jimmy Lo, Programmer, Feature  
Kevin Feng, Programmer, Feature  
Minerva Navasca, Programmer, Feature  
Amanda Wong, Programmer, Feature  
Abby Huang, Programmer, Feature  
Raugi Yu, Programmer, Feature  
Nico Wan, Programmer, Feature

Taylor Kare, Programmer, Feature  
Linda Sum, Programmer, Feature  
James Yi, Programmer, Feature  
Rosie Simon, Programmer, Feature  
Rosie Hsueh, Programming Advisor, Feature  
Curtis Lum, Programming Advisor, Feature  
Clement Lau, Programming Advisor

### Operations

Louis Poulain, Operations Manager  
Vincent Gan, Box Office Manager  
Colin Hong, Print Traffic Manager  
Josephine Ryu, Volunteer Manager  
Anqi Ye, Events Coordinator  
Linda Shaji, Project Manager  
Sophia Son, Events Coordinator

### Marketing

Sara Ren, Marketing Manager  
Robbie Tee, Marketing Manager  
Althea Alabat, Marketing Manager MAMM  
Hyang Gi Lee, Marketing Coordinator Outreach  
Daniil Kolesnyk, Marketing Coordinator Outreach

### Social Media

Joyce Lam, Social Media Manager  
Julianne Li, Social Media Specialist  
Jessie Cheng, Social Media Specialist

### Creative

Jessica Ruiz, Lead Graphic Designer  
Vika Zheng, Graphic Designer  
Youjin Rachel Kim, Graphic Designer  
Anna Yu, Graphic Designer  
Sienna Yoon, Graphic Designer  
Roberto Wong, Graphic Designer  
Heron Cheung, Editor / Graphic Designer  
Alisha Weng, Editor / Graphic Designer

### Copywriting

Jared Yu  
Karson Yee  
Alicia Liu

### Website

Ray Ho  
Hattie Xu  
Luis Baptista  
Kevin Ou

### Sponsorships

Drew "G-Luve" Archer, Consultant  
Josh Santos, Sponsorships Coordinator

### VAFF Industry Program Team

Khanh Nguyen  
Louis Poulain

### MAMM Team

Joshua Lam, Lead Creative Producer  
Moheb Jindran, Creative Producer  
Panta Mosleh, Creative Producer  
Shanthini Balasubramanian, Trainee Creative Producer  
Osric Chau, Vertical Series Producer  
Patrick Do, Vertical Series Producer  
Barbara Lee, Vertical Series Executive Producer

### E8 Team

#### Special Thank You - Audrey Wong

Emily Leung, Social Media Strategist

### Special Thanks to VAFF29 Festival Creatives

Daniel Lew, Musician  
Sidantha Murjani, Actor / Dancer / Filmmaker  
Yin Wang, Actor  
Kasha Konaka, Circus Artist  
Ann Marie Fleming, Filmmaker  
Gillian Lo, Lead Graphic Designer  
Phillip Chin, Photographer  
Brian Cheung, Videographer & Video Director  
Amy Tsui, Video operations support  
Louis Poulain, Editor  
Heath Whitelock, Composer  
Rick Tae, Creative Director  
Regina Leung, Producer



# TICKETING & SCREENING PROTOCOLS

Purchase passes and tickets at [vaff.org](http://vaff.org) until the screening day.



## PRICING

### IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS - MULTIPASS

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
<b>Premier Festival Pass</b> Includes In-Theatre access and e-passes to all In-Theatre Screenings, Virtual Screenings, VAFF Industry Insight Series, and all Special Events.	\$350
<b>In-Theatre Screening All Access Pass</b> Includes access to all In-Theatre Screenings from November 6 to 9 and November 15, 2025.	\$200
<b>6-Pack In-Theatre Screening Pass</b>	\$75

### IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS - SINGLE TICKETS

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
<b>Single Special Presentation Screening</b> Base ticket per special presentation film/program	\$20
<b>Single General Program Screening</b> Base ticket per general film/program	\$15
<b>Special Rate</b> For students, youth, and seniors	\$12
<b>Accessible (limited tickets for sale)</b> Base ticket per general film/program	\$7

### VAFF INDUSTRY INSIGHT SERIES

Includes VAFF Membership

Ticket Type	Price
<b>All-Inclusive Pass</b> <b>In-person</b> Industry Insight Series Sessions November 8 and 15 at Hudson Pacific and Scotiabank Theatre <b>Virtual</b> Lunch & Learn Sessions November 10 to 14, 2025 Industry parties November 7 and 15	\$80
<b>Single Ticket</b>	\$12 - \$20
<b>Virtual Lunch &amp; Learn Sessions</b>	Donation

### VAFF VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Only for viewers in **Canada**

Ticket Type	Price
<b>Virtual All Access E-Pass</b> Available for viewing from November 10 - 14, 2025	\$30
<b>Virtual Individual Program</b> Base e-ticket per program / each day	\$8

**MEMBERSHIP NOTE:** Under BC law, members of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival must be 18 years of age or above as a number of entries have not been previously classed by Consumer Protection BC. VAFF Memberships are non-transferrable and membership fee is included in all in-theatre programs. Members are required to show their passes and tickets during the festival.



## POLICIES

- Ticket sales for In-Theatre Screenings will close daily at 10:00 am online. You may purchase tickets at the Box Office if any are available.
- NO REFUNDS and EXCHANGES
- The surcharge fee is charged by the ticketing system, not VAFF
- All details subject to change without notice
- Please check our website at vaff.org for the latest updates
- For more information, please email festival@vaff.org

## ACCESSIBILITY

### PHYSICAL SPACE

- Accessibility information is available on our website at vaff.org
- All our venues are wheelchair accessible
- Guests are encouraged to support a scent-reduced environment
- Health and Safety Protocols are subject to each venue's restrictions

### SPECIAL EVENTS & THE OVASIAN AWARDS

- Accessibility information is listed for each special event in vaff.org
- English subtitles will be provided for foreign language films, short of unforeseen technical difficulties
- Live ASL interpretation or closed captioning can be provided if requested and with sufficient notice at info@vaff.org

## IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS

- 30 minutes before screening: Pass Holders enter the theatre
- 15 minutes before screening: Ticket Holders enter the theatre
- 10 minutes before screening: If available, Rush Tickets will be released for sale on a first-come, first-served basis to guests in the Rush Line once all Pass Holders and Ticket Holders have been seated in the theatre.
- Passholders are NOT guaranteed a seat for a screening if checking in less than 30 mins BEFORE screening is scheduled to start.

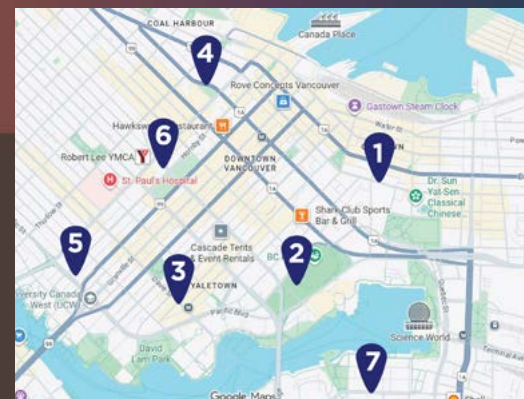
## VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

- All Virtual Passes and individual e-tickets are available to purchase at vaff.org anytime till the day of the virtual screening.
- The Virtual Program is available for online viewing from November 10 to 15, 2025
- Each program will have multiple films and changes daily from Nov. 10 - 15, 2025
- Select the daily program that you wish to purchase in the vaff.org film page
- If you purchased an e-pass, you still need to login to your account and click on the Fulfill Pass option
- If you purchased a Virtual Pass or e-ticket, the virtual access link will arrive to your email within 5 minutes of purchase
- Once you press play, you will have 24 hours to finish watching the program Only available to viewers located in Canada

## VENUES

### VANCOUVER LOCATIONS

1. Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, 3rd floor - 88 West Pender Street, Vancouver BC.  
In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 6 - 9)
2. D6 Parq Hotel, 39 Smithe Street, Vancouver BC.  
Opening Night Gala (Nov. 6) 9:00 PM
3. Hapa Izakaya Yaletown, 1193 Hamilton St, Vancouver, BC.  
WestCoast Industry Social (Nov. 7) 4:30 PM
4. Coal Harbour Room at Hudson Pacific, Funk Cafe, 1025 Dunsmuir St, Vancouver, BC.  
VAFF Industry Insight Series - VI<sup>2</sup> (Nov. 8)
5. Parker Rooftop - Parker Hotel 1379 Howe St, 9th floor, Vancouver, BC.  
Centrepiece After Party (Nov. 8) 9:30 PM
6. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, 4th floor - 900 Burrard Street.  
In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 15 only)  
VAFF Industry Insight Series - VI<sup>2</sup> (Nov. 15)  
CanAsian Party (Nov. 15)
7. BMO Newmont Theatre - 162 W 1st Ave #203, Vancouver, BC.  
OVASIAN Awards  
(Closing Night Gala, Nov. 16) 6:00 PM



# SCHEDULE

## Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas

### OPENING NIGHT Thursday, Nov. 6

#### Program #1 — Be Loved 6:30 PM

Retake  
Rosemead

### Friday, Nov. 7

#### Program #2 — Be Yourself 4:00 PM

I Write, You Draw  
Ice Cream, Ice Queen  
Choose The Correct Answer A, B, C or...  
Lost in 2044  
Loneliness can be Murder  
Billo Rani  
Tapeworm Diaries  
After what happened at the Library

#### Program #3 - Be Brave 6:45 PM

Without a Smile  
Give me Love  
Hatch  
Foreigner

#### Program #4 - Be Grateful 9:00 PM

Tears Burn to Ash  
Jackie's Haven  
With Time  
Sanjeevani  
Spring After Spring

### Saturday, Nov. 8

#### Program #5 - Be Different 12:00 PM

Weeping Fig  
Song for No One  
Does it make me naive if I've never been part of something where I've meant more to them than they did to me?  
Have you heard Judi Singh?

#### Program #6 - Be Mindful 2:30 PM

Chopsticks  
Mama  
The Prop Master's Dream  
The Soccer Team from Chinatown

#### Program #7 - Be Aware 4:30 PM

Clay Bird  
The Steak  
Boys on the Hill

### CENTREPIECE PROGRAM

#### Program #8 - Be Unique 6:30 PM

The Late Shift  
Te Seguiré a la Oscuridad  
I'm not an Actor

#### Program #9 - Be Bold 9:15 PM

Egg Yolk Custard Bun  
Fissures  
Dinner Rush  
404 Still Remain

### Sunday, Nov 9

#### Program #10 - Be Respected 12:00 PM

Nono  
The Drowning Fish  
Willow and Wu  
Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple  
Brotherly  
About Face

#### Program #11 - Be Heard 2:30 PM

Haru-Tsuge Fish + Fu-Rai Boy  
Year of the Dragon  
Nostalgia and Loss  
In the Room

#### Program #12 - Be Real 4:45 PM

Énouement  
Hideaway

#### Program #13 - Be Honourable 7:15 PM

Paper Trail  
The Artist: A Creative Journey  
Ran Som  
When the Blossoms Fade

#### Program #14 - Be Mindful 9:30 PM

Once Upon a Time  
Mint Condition  
No Time for Goodbye

### VIRTUAL

#### Monday Virtual Program - Be Kind

Flat  
What if  
Pass the Salt  
Dancing Home

#### Tuesday Virtual Program - Be Remembered

Dolly  
Healing Lahaina  
One of Ours  
(Surprise Screening!)

### Wednesday Virtual Program - Be Curious

Surface  
Okurimono  
The Seas Between Us  
Attachment for Life

### Thursday Virtual Program - Be Expressive

Morning Coffee  
The Midnight Hour  
The Cycle  
Luka and the Flower of the Sun 2

### Friday Virtual Program - Be Surreal

ENA  
Did we wear C last night  
Fankaar  
Moth & I

## Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver

### Saturday, Nov 15

#### Program #15 - Be Reflective 12:00 PM

Anohi  
Honolulu  
Kaiju

#### Program #16 - Be Respectful 2:30 PM

Grandma's Praying  
Born an Immigrant  
Ahon  
Pride and Prayer

#### Program #17 - Be Compassionate 4:45 PM

Unspoken  
Pull Up

#### Program #18 - Be Alive 6:45 PM

Grandma  
Daly City  
Life Support  
Things We Carry  
Nowhere  
Mrs. Chang's Perfect Teeth  
Neither Donkey Nor Horse

### CLOSING NIGHT

#### Program #19 - Be Present 9:00 PM

One Last Walk  
Akashi

# and Special Greetings

## Message from the Founder Barbara Lee

As Canada's first Asian film festival and the largest racialized film festival in Western Canada, VAFF continues to be a powerful gathering place where we celebrate the vibrancy, resilience, and brilliance of Asian diaspora storytelling. For nearly three decades, VAFF has shone a light on the stories too often left in the shadows of mainstream cinema, proving that our voices belong at the center stage.

2025 is already a landmark year for representation. FX's SHOGUN continued to make history with multiple Golden Globe awards earlier in the year and Season 2 continues to be highly anticipated. Notable animations include: Ne Zha 2 broke domestic box-office records in China and is the first non-Hollywood film to cross US\$1 billion in a single market. Dominating Netflix is Squid Game 2 and the breakout hit K-POP DEMON HUNTER written by Canadian Korean, Maggie Kang who often speaks of her Canadian identity being a cornerstone of her creative endeavors. Her experiences in Toronto have shaped her worldview and continue to influence her work, allowing her to bridge cultures and tell stories that are both personal and universally relatable.

This triumph is a powerful reminder that when diverse voices are nurtured, mentored, championed and valued, they can change the face of global entertainment. VAFF remains deeply committed to being that incubator for bold new talent, ensuring that the next generation of Asian Canadian creators is ready to rise even higher.

Rick Tae has been the driving force behind this year's festival program along side Regina Leung and his concept for this year's theme "Beyond Asian" expands the celebration of Asian and Asian Canadian stories. VAFF29 program will be a reflection of his vision and guidance. We are thankful to Rick for his time with VAFF and we look forward to celebrating his contributions at the festival.

To our Sponsors, Board, Executives, volunteers, audiences, and incredible filmmakers THANK YOU so much for your passion, dedication, and belief in our mission which makes VAFF possible year after year.

If VAFF's vision inspires you, we invite you to be part of this journey - as a supporter and come watch films both weekends, volunteer, or even a future Board member. Together, we can continue to create a vibrant cultural landscape where Asian Canadian voices are heard, celebrated, and remembered. Let's Watch Some Films!



**Barbara Lee**  
Founder & President,  
Vancouver Asian Film Festival

## Message from the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney

I proudly send my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 29th annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival.

Canada is fortunate to be home to a vibrant and diverse Asian community that greatly enriches our nation and the fabric of our society, through a variety of ways.

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival is one of Canada's many great and cherished film festivals. It highlights the works of our incredible Asian community—helping share their stories and talents, and promoting them to television screens across our nation. This does a great service to celebrating Canada's diversity and fostering cultural understanding.

I would like to congratulate the talents featured at this year's festival. Film greatly enriches and livens the fabric of Canadian society and your works have stood out for their excellence, uniqueness and creativity. Canadians thank you for sharing your talents with us. Our government is also a proud supporter of Canada's film industry, and events like the Vancouver Asian Film Festival indeed help remind Canadians just how incredibly proud we should be of the great talent Canada is home to. Please accept my very best wishes for a memorable film festival.



**Mark Carney**  
Prime Minister of Canada



## Message from the Premier David Eby

As Premier of British Columbia, I am pleased to extend my warm greetings to everyone attending the 29th annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF).

For nearly three decades, VAFF has brought artists and audiences together to celebrate the richness of Asian culture and identity through the power of cinema. By providing a platform for diverse voices, VAFF invites audiences to engage with unique perspectives that offer new ways of seeing the world and connecting with one another. The festival's hybrid format of in-person and online screenings and events will ensure these impactful stories reach audiences throughout British Columbia and beyond.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and generous sponsors whose efforts make this festival possible each year. To all the filmmakers and artists participating in this year's festival – thank you for sharing your work and your vision. Your contributions enrich our province and remind us of the power of storytelling to foster meaningful dialogue and build bridges between communities. Whether you are attending in person or watching from home, I wish everyone a memorable experience at this year's festival. Enjoy the films!



**Honourable David Eby, KC**  
**Premier of British Columbia**

## Message from MLA Anne Kang

I extend my highest regards on hosting the 29th annual celebration, showcasing an inspiring blend of emerging and established Asian Canadian and Asian American filmmakers. This innovative hybrid festival not only embraces the power of storytelling but also creates a vital platform that amplifies diverse voices in our cultural landscape.

I look forward to the continued success of VAFF in enriching our community and fostering artistic excellence for many years to come.



**Anne Kang**  
**Burnaby Centre MLA**

## Message from COV Mayor Ken Sim

On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 29th Anniversary of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF).

For nearly three decades, VAFF has served as a vital cultural bridge, connecting Asian and non-Asian communities through the power of film. By showcasing the unique voices and creative talents of emerging and established Asian Canadian and Asian American filmmakers, VAFF enriches Vancouver's vibrant arts and culture scene. As a city proud of its strong film and television industry, we value the important role VAFF plays in bringing together local and international industry professionals, further cementing Vancouver's reputation as a leading destination for film and TV production in North America. Congratulations and thank you to the filmmakers, artists, organizers, and volunteers whose passion and dedication make VAFF such a meaningful celebration of creativity and diversity. Best wishes for a successful festival! Sincerely,



**Mayor Ken Sim**

# WestCoast Tales Program

Exploring the Local Asian  
Canadian Experience

As an organization, VAFF is dedicated to elevating the voices of local independent Asian Canadian filmmakers. In an effort to continuously fulfill this mission, **WestCoast Tales** was created: a special program showcasing local cultural diversity and cinematic brilliance.

WestCoast Tales is an expedition into Asian Canadian storytelling. The program includes festival entry screenings followed by Q&A sessions with filmmakers and panel discussions to provide a deep dive into their work. Designed to deepen the connection between the filmmakers and their audiences, these events are held in a dedicated space called the **WestCoast Lounge**.

WestCoast Tales, along with the rest of the 2025 Vancouver Asian Film Festival, is made possible by the generous support of Canadian Heritage, the filmmakers, volunteers, partners, and VAFF members. Together, they enable VAFF to foster greater understanding and visibility of Asian Canadian experiences through cinema.

## WestCoast Tales Screening Program

### Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas

Be Brave | Fri Nov. 7 | 6:45 pm  
Without a Smile  
Give me Love  
Hatch  
Foreigner

Be Grateful | Fri Nov. 7 | 9:00 pm  
Tears Burn to Ash  
Jackie's Haven  
With Time  
Sanjeevani  
Spring After Spring

Be Different | Sat Nov 8 | 12:00 pm  
Weeping Fig  
Song for No One  
Does it make me naive if I've never been  
part of something where I've meant  
more to them than they did to me?  
Have you heard Judi Singh?

Be Mindful | Sat Nov 8 | 2:30 pm  
Chopsticks  
Mama  
The Prop Master's Dream  
The Soccer Team from Chinatown

### Scotiabank Theatres Vancouver

Be Respectful | Sat Nov 15 | 2:30 pm  
Grandma's Praying  
Born an Immigrant  
Ahon  
Pride and Prayer

Be Present | Sat Nov 15 | 9:15 pm  
One Last Walk  
Akashi

## WestCoast Lounge

Meet and Mingle with filmmakers in the theatre's lobby area.

## VAFF Industry Insights Series

WestCoast Creators Chat | Nov. 8 | 10:00 am

# In-Theatre Programs Opening Night

## Thursday Nov 6

Cineplex Odeon  
International Village  
Cinemas, 88 W  
Pender St 3rd Floor,  
Vancouver, BC



**6:30 PM**  
**OPENING PROGRAM #1**  
BE LOVED

### Retake



**19 min. | Short | Drama/  
Comedy | North  
American Premiere |  
Japan**

A broken astronaut steps onto a surreal film set, where the line between cinema and memory blurs, and his greatest failure demands a retake.

*Filmmaker in Attendance.*

**Director**  
**Eisuke Ohga**



**6:30 PM**  
**OPENING PROGRAM #1**  
BE LOVED

### Rosemead



**97 min. | Feature | Drama  
| West Coast Premiere |  
USA**

In a race against time, an ailing woman is stricken by the discovery of her teenage son's violent obsessions and must go to great lengths to protect him, and possibly others, in this portrait of a Chinese American family. Inspired by true events. Starring Lucy Liu.

*Actors Lawrence Shou &  
Madison Hu in Attendance*

**Director**  
**Eric Lin**



*All ticket holders will be eligible for 20% off regular walk-up rates on Small, Regular, or Large Pop & Popcorn Combos, as well as Large Candy at both of the International Village Cineplex and Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver.*

Thursday Nov 6

BEYOND  
US-AM

**Thursday  
Nov 6  
9:00 PM**

**BE SEEN  
BE HEARD  
BE BOLD**

**Venue: D6 Parq Hotel,  
39 Smithe Street,  
Vancouver BC**

**BUY YOUR TICKETS**



**RATE: \$75 General Opening  
Gala Ticket  
\$125 MEGA STAR gala ticket  
(inc. welcome drink)  
19+ | Valid ID required**

**Elevators are available for  
wheelchair access**

**SPECIAL EVENT**



**Beyond Asian  
Opening Night  
Gala**

*Kick off the 2025 Vancouver Asian Film  
Festival with our opening gala.  
Meet filmmakers and local film industry  
guests.*

*Cool Vibes with DJ iFun  
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres  
Cash bar*

*Dress code: Dressy / Cocktail*

***Be Bold, Be Brave, Be YOU***



# Friday Nov 7

**Cineplex Odeon  
International Village  
Cinemas, 88 W  
Pender St 3rd Floor,  
Vancouver, BC**

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

**INTERNATIONAL VOICES**

PROGRAM #3  
BE BRAVE

PROGRAM #4  
BE GRATEFUL

**WESTCOAST TALES**



**4:00 PM**

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

## I Write, You Draw



**INTERNATIONAL VOICES**

**15 min. | Short | Drama |  
BC Premiere | Canada**

A talented young illustrator, who after being heartbroken by his girlfriend and creative partner, must confront his emotions and rediscover his artistic voice.



**Director  
Liam Cooper**

**4:00 PM**

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

## Ice Cream, Ice Queen



**INTERNATIONAL VOICES**

**17 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canadian Premiere | USA,  
China, New Zealand**

Lost in the lonely life of New York City, a middle-aged Chinese woman wrestles with the complexities of her unexpected bond with her son's lesbian violin teacher.



**Director  
Jeremy  
Tianyu Chi**

**4:00 PM**

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

## Choose The Correct Answer A,B,C or ...



**INTERNATIONAL VOICES**

**5.50 min. | Short | Drama  
Horror | Vancouver  
Premiere | Canada /  
South Korea**

Minji has a nightmare about taking the English listening test.

*Filmmaker & Actor in  
Attendance.*



**Director  
Seung Yeon You**

4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

## Lost in 2044



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

12.30 min. | Short |  
Drama/Science Fiction  
| Canadian Premiere |  
Japan

In the late stages of cancer, elderly Arken can only share quiet moments over chess with his childhood friend, abla—a digital human. As he approaches the final chapter of his life, he faces a double choice: become a digital human to fulfill his daughter's wishes, or step alone into eternal silence. In the end, Arken realizes that, whatever the choice, it is merely a new form of solitary existence.



Director Alimjan  
Abdusalam

4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

## Loneliness can be Murder



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

22.22 min. | Short |  
Comedy, Sci-Fi, Fantasy |  
Canadian Premiere | USA

After a global catastrophe in which lonely, socially inept people around the world literally explode into colorful smoke one by one, a nerdy, introverted loner desperately fights to escape his seemingly inevitable explosive fate.



Director  
Vincent Xiaofei  
Zeng

4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

## Billo Rani



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

9 min. | Short | Coming  
of Age | Vancouver  
Premiere | USA

When Hafsa, a sparkly and impulsive 12-year-old girl, is made aware of her unibrow at Islamic Sunday School in a lesson on "cleanliness", her eyebrows come alive and begin to speak to her.



Director  
Angbeen Saleem

4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF

## Tapeworm Diaries



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

10 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canada | MAMM

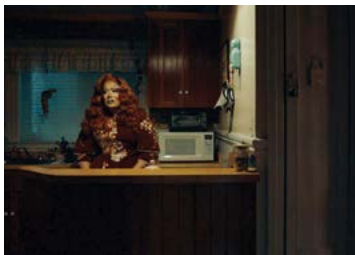
Tapeworm Diaries follows ten real-time minutes in the life of a rising Chinese-Canadian actress as she prepares to leave for her first major film premiere. It's the biggest night of her career and she's invited her mother as her plus-one. But here's the twist: The film opens and ends inside the mother's body, through the eyes of a tapeworm.

*Filmmaker in Attendance.*



Director  
Kayla Cao

4:00 PM

PROGRAM #2  
BE YOURSELF**After what happened  
at the library***INTERNATIONAL VOICES*15.01 min. | Short |  
LGBTQ Drama | Western  
Canada Premiere | USA

In the wake of a terrifying encounter, an overwhelmed drag queen struggles under the weight of public attention.

*Filmmaker in Attendance.*Directors Syra  
McCarthy / Kyle  
Casey Chu**EVENT****Friday  
Nov 7**

4:30 - 6:30 PM

**WestCoast  
Industry  
Happy Hour****Venue: Hapa  
Izakaya Yaletown,  
1193 Hamilton St.  
Vancouver, BC.**

An event to network and mingle with WestCoast filmmakers, creators, and industry guests.

Complimentary hors  
d'oeuvres  
Cash bar  
Dress code: Casual

**BUY YOUR TICKET**

RATE: \$35  
19+ | Valid ID required

6:45 PM

PROGRAM #3  
BE BRAVE**Without a Smile***WESTCOAST TALES*1 min | Short | Drama  
Comedy | Canada |  
MAMM

Mona, an Iranian in Canada, can't stop smiling during the photo session, mocking Iran's strict passport photo rules.

*Filmmaker in Attendance.*Director  
Nina Zarabi

6:45 PM

PROGRAM #3  
BE BRAVE**Give me Love***WESTCOAST TALES*6.54 min. | Short | Drama,  
Dance Film, Narrative |  
Canada

A young man confronts inherited ideals of masculinity as tensions erupt between him and those shaped by a world of forced stoicism.

*Filmmaker & Actor in  
Attendance.*Director  
William Yao



6:45 PM

PROGRAM #3  
BE BRAVE

## Hatch

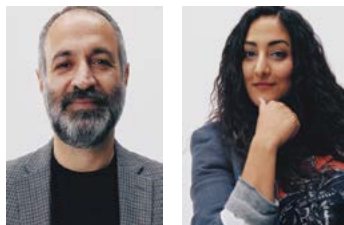


WESTCOAST TALES

10.57 min. | Short |  
Drama | Canada

After losing his mother during their escape, a young Afghan refugee boy searches for a way to relive their final memory together.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.



Directors Alireza Kazemipour /  
Panta Mosleh

6:45 PM

PROGRAM #3  
BE BRAVE

## Foreigner



WESTCOAST TALES

82 min. | Feature | Horror,  
coming-of-age | Canada

In the age of low-rise jeans and flip phones, a Persian teen trying to fit in with her new Canadian clique dyes her hair blonde -- and invites a monstrous force into her life.

Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.



Director  
Ava Maria Safai

9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4  
BE GRATEFUL

## Tears Burn to Ash

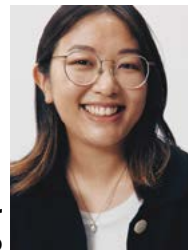


WESTCOAST TALES

15 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canada

With only one night in Tokyo, a grieving Japanese Canadian woman is haunted by her doppelganger.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Natalie Murao

9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4  
BE GRATEFUL

## Jackie's Haven



WESTCOAST TALES

9.12 min. | Short | Drama,  
Animation | Canada

In an exploration of grief, a young girl's world shifts between reality and a vibrant underwater fantasy as she navigates the depths of her loss, using her imagination.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Mimi Dejene



9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4  
BE GRATEFUL

## With Time



WESTCOAST TALES

10 min. | Short | Drama  
| Western Canada  
Premiere | Canada

Alice must confront her unresolved past when her estranged mother, who has dementia, moves in, forcing her to provide the care she never received in her childhood while juggling her own responsibilities as a mother.

**Filmmaker & Actor in Attendance.**


**Director Jenny Lee-Gilmore**

9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4  
BE GRATEFUL

## Sanjeevani



WESTCOAST TALES

10.1 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canada

After delivering a stillborn child, Saritha is consumed by silence, shame, and isolation. Her body continues to produce breast milk with no child to feed, until a friend's plea for help sparks something in her. In secretly donating her milk, Saritha transforms her grief into healing for others, and ultimately, herself.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**


**Director Neetha John**

9:00 PM

PROGRAM #4  
BE GRATEFUL

## Spring After Spring



WESTCOAST TALES

75 min. | Feature |  
Documentary |  
WORLD PREMIERE |  
Canada

After their mother's death, three sisters reunite to lead Vancouver's Chinatown Parade, forced to choose between honouring their past and letting it go.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**
**Co-presented by**

CANADA  
MEDIA FUND

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA'S

**Knowledge  
Network:**


**Director John Chiang**

WESTCOAST  
TALES

# Saturday Nov 8

Cineplex Odeon  
International Village  
Cinemas, 88 W  
Pender St 3rd Floor,  
Vancouver, BC

PROGRAM #5  
BE DIFFERENT

PROGRAM #6  
BE MINDFUL

PROGRAM #7  
BE AWARE

**WESTCOAST TALES**

PROGRAM #8  
BE UNIQUE

**CENTREPIECE PROGRAM**

PROGRAM #9  
BE BOLD



## EVENT



### Saturday Nov 8

10:00 AM to  
11:30 AM



See Venue 4 on page 6

### WestCoast Creator Chat

by CMF and DGC BC  
Share their journey from  
shorts to features & TV  
series. Join us with Ava  
Maria Safai, Milton Ng  
and Steph Song

Moderated by  
Jeremy Xu, producer &  
Actor

**BUY YOUR TICKET**

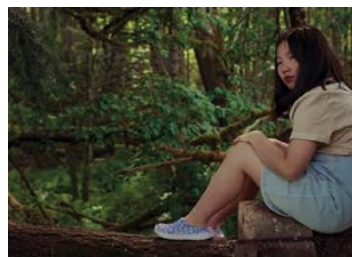


RATE: \$12

12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5  
BE DIFFERENT

### Weeping Fig

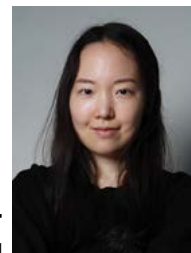


**WESTCOAST TALES**

17.36 min. | Short |  
Psychological Drama |  
Canada

Weeping Fig short film is a  
reverse fairytale that centers  
on a fragile father-daughter  
relationship during a time of  
emotional upheaval.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**

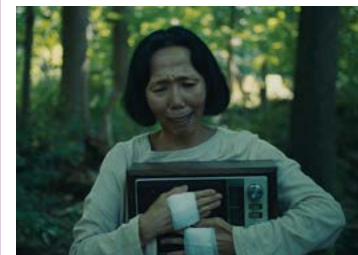


Director  
Sohee Hong

12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5  
BE DIFFERENT

### Song for No One



**WESTCOAST TALES**

6.23 min. | Short |  
Experimental | BC  
Premiere | Canada

From his apartment in  
Brooklyn, Gene hosts an  
independent radio show  
to platform his music in  
hopes of one day finding a  
dedicated audience. Instead,  
his radio show reaches his  
recently deceased mother  
Sook-Ja in the after life,  
through a radio powered  
by the stationary bikes that  
Sook-Ja and her interpreter  
Han Sol, ride each day.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



Director  
Liam Ma

12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5  
BE DIFFERENT

Does it make me naive  
if I've never been part of  
something where I've meant  
more to them than they did  
to me?



WESTCOAST TALES

19.20 min. | Short |  
Romance, Comedy, Visual  
Album |  
WORLD PREMIERE |  
Canada

Sharing the title of EP  
suite, thirteen Vancouver  
directors, including Amanda  
Sum herself, bring eighteen  
moments of her love life to  
the screen in a playful, multi-  
style short film.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Amanda Sum,  
Sam Tudor, Sam  
Lynch, Jenny Lee-  
Gilmore, Miranda  
MacDougall, Maiko  
Yamamoto, Derek  
Kwan, Jamie King,  
Mayumi Yoshida,  
Shana Wolfe,  
Emma Pollard,  
Sophia Wolfe, Jo  
Hirabayashi



12:00 PM

PROGRAM #5  
BE DIFFERENT

## Have you heard Judi Singh?



WESTCOAST TALES

79 min. | Feature |  
Documentary | Canada

The story of Judi Singh, an  
unwitting trailblazer who,  
as a Punjabi-Black singer,  
steps onto jazz stages during  
tumultuous times and leaves  
a musical imprint to be  
discovered.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Co-presented by

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA'S | **Knowledge  
Network:**

Director  
Baljit Sangra



## EVENT



Saturday  
Nov 8

1:00 PM to  
3:00 PM



See Venue 4 on page 6

## Creative WorldBuilding with Director vs Cinematographer roundtable

Creating your own worlds  
and places limited by  
only your imagination

BUY YOUR TICKET



RATE: \$20

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #6  
BE MINDFUL

## Chopsticks



WESTCOAST TALES

1.10 min. | Short | Drama  
Comedy | Canada |  
MAMM

During a team dinner filled  
with cultural expectations  
and etiquette, a young intern  
must impress his co-workers  
by proving that he is 'Asian'  
enough to fit in.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Josephine Ryu





2:30 PM

PROGRAM #6  
BE MINDFUL

## Mama



WESTCOAST TALES

8.30 min. | Short |  
Documentary | WORLD  
PREMIERE | Canada

A filmmaker learns about talent and perseverance through an examination of his grandmother and her operatic hobby.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Andy Wong

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #6  
BE MINDFUL

## The Prop Master's Dream



WESTCOAST TALES

30 min. | Short |  
Documentary short |  
WORLD PREMIERE |  
Canada

In a rapidly changing Vancouver Chinatown, master performer Rosa Cheng launches a ground-breaking project to revive the magical, centuries-old art of Cantonese Opera.

Filmmaker & Actor in  
Attendance.



Director  
April Liu

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #6  
BE MINDFUL

## The Soccer Team from Chinatown



WESTCOAST TALES

52.21 min. | Feature |  
Documentary | WORLD  
PREMIERE | Canada

In the early 20th century, the Chinese Students Football Team overcame prejudice and adversity to win British Columbia's top men's soccer prize, the Mainland Cup, leaving an enduring legacy of resilience and unity.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Andy Lin

4:30 PM

PROGRAM #7  
BE AWARE

## Clay Bird



13.43 min. | Short |  
Animation - Family |  
Vancouver Premiere |  
Nepal

Mocked for her potter grandfather's simplicity, a nine-year-old girl turns away from him - until heartbreak and memory gently guide her back to the hands that molded her heart.



Director  
Kiran Bhakta  
Joshi



4:30 PM

PROGRAM #7  
BE AWARE

## The Steak


8 min. | Short | Drama,  
War | Canada/Iran

A birthday party preparation is thrown into chaos by an awful event.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Kiarash Dadgar



4:30 PM

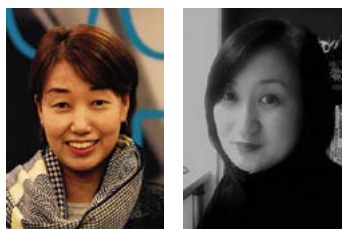
PROGRAM #7  
BE AWARE

## Boys on the Hill


78 min. | Feature |  
Documentary | North  
American Premiere |  
Korea

90 year-old Korean war veterans share their stories and things they shouldn't have seen at 19 years-old from the war.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



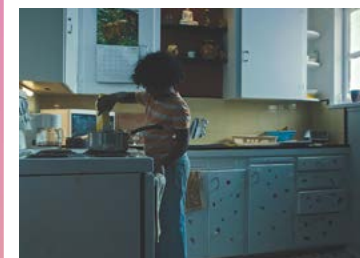
Director Mijin Lee / Semee Kim

BEYOND  
ASIAN


6:30 PM

PROGRAM #8  
BE UNIQUE

## The Late Shift



CENTREPIECE PROGRAM

1 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canada | MAMM

A six-year-old boy makes mac and cheese guided only by his mother's voicemail, revealing the resilience and tenderness of immigrant family love

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Tsuyoshi  
Yanagawa



6:30 PM

PROGRAM #8  
BE UNIQUE

## Te Seguiré a la Oscuridad



*CENTREPIECE PROGRAM*

10.19 min. | Short |  
Comedy, coming of  
age | Western Canada  
Premiere | USA

Set in 2005, a driven  
high school sophomore  
obsessively studies Spanish  
all year so she can test up a  
level into her crush's class.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

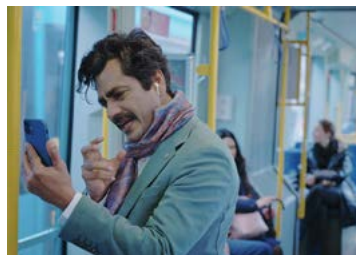


Director  
Nicholas Luciano

6:30 PM

PROGRAM #8  
BE UNIQUE

## I'm Not An Actor



*CENTREPIECE PROGRAM*

120 min. | Feature |  
Drama Comedy | North  
American Premiere |  
India

Mouni, a 35 year old frustrated  
but puritanical actor in Mumbai  
meets Adnan Baig, a 55 year old  
depressed, recently retired banker  
in Frankfurt over an online film  
audition and spends the rest of  
the day teaching him acting over  
live video calls.

As they both walk around Mumbai  
and Frankfurt respectively, the  
acting class forces them both  
to be emotionally naked and  
vulnerable; and confront things  
about themselves that they've  
both swept under the rug for  
years.



Director  
Aditya Kripalani

## EVENT



Saturday  
Nov 8

9:30 PM

# Centrepiece After Party

**Venue: Parker Rooftop - Parker  
Hotel 1379 Howe St 9th floor,  
Vancouver, BC**

An intimate reception in Downtown  
Vancouver to celebrate the  
Centrepiece films.  
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres  
Cash bar

Dress code: Casual



BUY YOUR TICKET

RATE: \$35

All ages | Valid ID required

Elevators are available for wheelchair access

9:15 PM

PROGRAM #9  
BE BOLD

## Egg Yolk Custard Bun



1.10 min. | Short | Queer | Canada | MAMM

At a dimsum table where food meets kink, three friends push playfulness and intimacy to its sticky, steamy edges—until a sudden interruption challenges who gets to claim pleasure.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Soya Wu



9:15 PM

PROGRAM #9  
BE BOLD

## Fissures



12.41 min. | Short | Horror/Thriller | WORLD PREMIERE | USA

When a young Asian woman models for a celebrated White artist, her desire to meet his expectations spirals into a nightmarish reality, where she uncovers the disturbing fates of the women who came before her

Director  
Maya Mazuki  
Peters



9:15 PM

PROGRAM #9  
BE BOLD

## Dinner Rush



15.36 min. | Short | Horror/Comedy | Canadian Premiere | Canada

When Aaron Chan, the oldest son, is expected to take over his dad's small-town Chinese restaurant, a sudden zombie virus outbreak forces him to give up his hockey dreams and step up to protect his chaotic family.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Milton Ng



9:15 PM

PROGRAM #9  
BE BOLD

## 404 Still Remain



100.15 min. | Feature | Drama, Music, LGBTQ | North American Premiere | Korea

In 2001, South Korea entered into an open-minded era, with growing acceptance towards Japanese culture. But was it truly an open era? In reality, discourse surrounding the queer community remained limited. Meanwhile, political tensions between South Korea and Japan — such as Dokdo, referring to it as a Japanese island in textbooks, and shrine visits — meant that fans of Japanese culture were subtly ostracized.

The director addresses the story of joys and sorrows of Gyeonghwan who has an unrequited love for Jaemin.

Director  
Uhm Ha Neul





# Sunday Nov 9

**Cineplex Odeon  
International Village  
Cinemas, 88 W  
Pender St 3rd Floor,  
Vancouver, BC**

PROGRAM #10  
BE RESPECTED

PROGRAM #11  
BE HEARD

PROGRAM #12  
BE REAL

PROGRAM #13 BE  
HONOUARBLE

**VAFF FILM FUND NIGHT**

PROGRAM #14  
BE MINDFUL

**HONG KONG STORIES**



**12:00 PM**

PROGRAM #10  
BE RESPECTED

## Nono



**4.24 min. | Short |  
Animation, thriller | BC  
Premiere | USA**

As his 10th birthday party wraps up, a boy understands that his childhood is fading away with the end of the celebration.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



**Director  
Aerin Wu**

**12:00 PM**

PROGRAM #10  
BE RESPECTED

## The Drowning Fish



**14.11 min. | Short | Drama  
Mystery | Canadian  
Premiere | China**

A young man, who seemed to be involved in a drug deal, was actually trying to circumvent China's dine-in restrictions during the pandemic just to have a bowl of rice noodles. However, in the process, he accidentally bumps into a patrolling security guard. To get through the situation, he has no choice but to disguise himself as a chef from the noodle shop...

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



**Director  
Weihua Feng**

**12:00 PM**

PROGRAM #10  
BE RESPECTED

## Willow and Wu



**13 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canadian Premiere | USA**

Finally receiving a day-off after being dumped, young assistant Willow is ordered to aid the elusive husband of her high-powered boss with an unusual task.



**Director  
Kathy Meng**



12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10  
BE RESPECTED

## Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple



10.59 min. | Short |  
Drama Comedy | Canada  
| MAMM

When a proud Chinese grandma tries to reconcile with her granddaughter the only way she knows how—by cutting her an apple—she ends up in an all-out Kung Fu brawl at the market over the last one.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Directors  
William Yao / Andrew Ha

12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10  
BE RESPECTED

## Brotherly



8.43 min. | Short | Drama  
| BC Premiere | Canada

Nabil learns his mentally ill brother has ordered for euthanasia and is forced to decide whether or not to respect his wishes.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Gavin Seal

12:00 PM

PROGRAM #10  
BE RESPECTED

## About Face



60 min. | Feature |  
Documentary | Canadian  
Premiere | USA

Two NYC dancers challenge the dance world to rid ballet of offensive Asian stereotypes—and succeed.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Jennifer Rita Lin

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11  
BE HEARD

## Haru-Tsuge Fish + Fu-Rai Boy



5 min. | Short |  
Stop-motion Animation |  
Japan

A little wandering dwarf hears a beautiful melody carried by the wind.



Director  
Takeshi Yashiro

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11  
BE HEARD

## Year of the Dragon



12.34 min. | Short |  
Drama | Western Canada  
Premiere | Canada

A devoted immigrant mother sets out to deliver a cake for her son's birthday, but as the day unravels, she is forced to confront the reality of her son's situation.



Director  
Giran Findlay-Liu

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11  
BE HEARD

## Nostalgia and Loss



12.03 min. | Short | Drama  
| WORLD PREMIERE |  
Canada / China

After the COVID lockdowns, a Chinese businessman living in Canada returns home, only to confront the painful truth of infidelity, alienation, and emotional separation.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Yilin Evan Zhu

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #11  
BE HEARD

## In the Room



75 min. | Feature | Drama  
Comedy | BC Premiere |  
Canada

Through a series of honest conversations, five extraordinary Afghan women reveal how their commitment to freedom and equality empowered them to take the world stage and reclaim their homeland.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Brishkay Ahmed

4:45 PM

PROGRAM #12  
BE REAL

## Énouement



14.55 min. | Short |  
Drama, Family, Short |  
Canadian Premiere | USA

A career-driven film industry amateur grapples with the demands of her job and caring for her grandfather with dementia, only to discover a heartfelt letter that forces her to reevaluate her priorities and redefine the essence of love and time.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Angel Lu

4:45 PM

PROGRAM #12  
BE REAL**Hideaway**

**108 min. | Feature  
| Drama Comedy |  
International/North  
American Premiere |  
Korea**

No matter how hard I try,  
there is always a hole in my  
heart.



**Director  
Han Ji-Su**

7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13  
BE HONOURABLE**Paper Trail**

VAFF FILM FUND RECIPIENT



**20 min. | Short | Drama  
Comedy | WORLD  
PREMIERE | Canada**

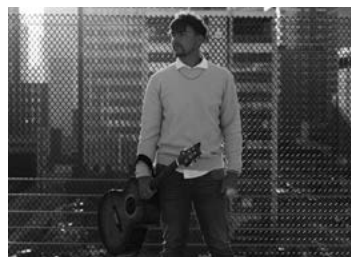
A second-generation  
Chinese Canadian retraces  
her mother's boat people  
refugee journey, uncovering  
the mysteries that started  
with one paper and four  
names.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



**Director  
Vivian Cheung**

7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13  
BE HONOURABLE**The Artist: A  
Creative Journey**

**25 min. | Short |  
Documentary | Canada**

The Artist: A Creative  
Journey explores the impact  
of the creative arts on one's  
well being. Local artists  
share stories of overcoming  
adversity, and creating  
powerful connections to the  
community through the arts.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



**Director  
Anne Mueller**

7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13  
BE HONOURABLE**Ran Som**

**12.16 min. | Short | Drama  
Comedy | Western  
Canada Premiere |  
Canada**

Two small-time burglars  
kidnap a wealthy  
businessman's son for  
ransom, only to discover his  
abusive home life and face a  
choice between cashing in or  
becoming his protectors.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



**Director  
Richard Dang**



7:15 PM

PROGRAM #13  
BE HONOURABLE

## When the Blossoms Fade



40 min. | Feature |  
Documentary | North  
American Premiere |  
Canada

Retracing their mother's  
WWII internment, a  
Japanese Canadian  
filmmaker uncovers hidden  
trauma and the enduring  
impact of displacement on  
family and identity.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Tomiko Potts

9:30 PM

PROGRAM #14  
BE MINDFUL

## Once Upon a Time



*HONG KONG STORIES*

17.17 min. | Short | Drama  
| Canadian Premiere |  
Hong Kong

As summer fades, a group  
of boys chase one last game  
of football through a city  
slipping out of their reach—  
dodging time, territory, and  
farewell, in a quiet rebellion  
against growing up.

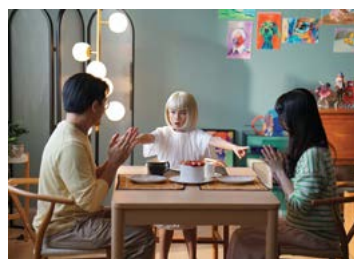


Director  
Chun Him To

9:30 PM

PROGRAM #14  
BE MINDFUL

## Mint Condition



*HONG KONG STORIES*

24.30 min. | Short | Sci-fi  
| Canadian Premiere |  
Hong Kong

A primary school student  
strives to survive a system  
that will modify those who  
fail to perform to perfection.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Tsoi So Man

9:30 PM

PROGRAM #14  
BE MINDFUL

## No Time for Goodbye



*HONG KONG STORIES*

106 min. | Feature |  
Drama | North American  
Premiere | Hong Kong

The lives of two asylum  
seekers fleeing post-social  
unrest in their home city  
intertwine in Britain, starting  
a romance that tests their  
resilience and adversity.



Director  
Don Ng



# Virtual Programs

## Monday Nov 10

Available for one day only

### Virtual

MONDAY PROGRAM  
BE KIND



#### VIRTUAL 1

MONDAY PROGRAM  
BE KIND

##### Flat



**5.27 min. | Short |  
Documentary | BC  
Premiere | Canada**

In which filmmaker Suri Parmar discusses her struggles with breast cancer, gender, and body image as she heals from a double mastectomy without reconstruction and reclaims her identity.



**Director  
Suri Parmar**

#### VIRTUAL 1

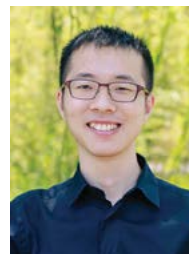
MONDAY PROGRAM  
BE KIND

##### What if



**18.30 min. | Short  
| Drama | WORLD  
PREMIERE | China**

Years apart, Liu and Chen meet again with lingering regrets. What if a parallel reality rewrote their story?



**Director  
Ziyu Wang**

#### VIRTUAL 1

MONDAY PROGRAM  
BE KIND

##### Pass the Salt



**11 min. | Short |  
Psychological Drama |  
Canadian Premiere |  
Canada**

Pass the Salt is an intimate psychological piece that explores the quiet warfare of a mother-son relationship set within the suffocating confines of a single dining table, where the son struggles to reclaim his version of 'normal' from his ailing mother.



**Director  
Karan Archana  
Singh**

## VIRTUAL 1

MONDAY PROGRAM  
BE KIND

## Dancing Home

89 min. | Feature |  
Documentary | Taiwan

A choreographer who left his Indigenous community at a young age to pursue dance returns home to create with Indigenous dancers—rekindling his lost sense of belonging and rediscovering himself through movement.



Director  
Wang Cheng Yi

## EVENT

Monday  
Nov 1011:00 AM to  
1:00 PMVIRTUAL 1  
Lunch and  
Learn

Virtual Filmmakers Talkback  
- Canadian & International  
films (official selections)  
A selection of Canadian &  
International filmmakers  
share their impactful and  
challenging parts of their  
film.

Moderated by Regina Leung

REGISTER NOW



BY DONATION

Tuesday  
Nov 11REMEMBRANCE  
DAY*Available for one day only*

Virtual

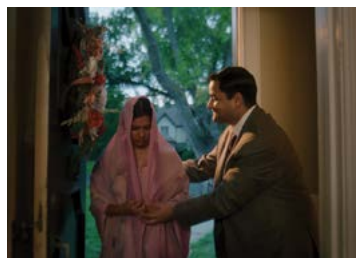
TUESDAY PROGRAM  
BE REMEMBERED

# SURPRISE SCREENING

**VIRTUAL 2**  
TUESDAY PROGRAM  
BE REMEMBERED

**VIRTUAL 2**  
TUESDAY PROGRAM  
BE REMEMBERED

## Dolly



**12.32 min. | Short |  
Drama, Historical Drama,  
Romance | Western  
Canada Premiere |  
Canada**

A young Indian woman finds herself alone in a new country, trying to create a home away from home.



**Director  
Maya Rikhi**

**VIRTUAL 2**  
TUESDAY PROGRAM  
BE REMEMBERED

## Healing Lahaina



**35.30 min. | Short  
| Drama Comedy |  
Canadian Premiere | USA**

Director Laurel Tamayo shares her family's story through this personal glimpse into the hours, days, and year after the 2023 Lahaina wildfire.



**Director  
Laurel  
Tamayo**

## VIRTUAL 2

TUESDAY PROGRAM  
BE REMEMBERED

### One of Ours



**39.57 min. | Short  
| Drama Comedy |  
Vancouver Premiere  
| Canada**

A soldier vanished with no known grave. Who was Fred Lee?



**Director  
Jack Gin**

## EVENT



**Tuesday  
Nov 11**

**11:00 AM to  
1:00 PM**



## VIRTUAL 2 Lunch and Learn

Virtual one-on-one meeting with producers, distributors, sales, financial institutions (National Bank, RBC, BDC) and private investors.

Facilitated by VAFF Industry Team

REGISTER NOW



BY DONATION

# Wednesday Nov 12

*Available for  
one day only*

## Virtual

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM  
BE CURIOUS



## VIRTUAL 3

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM  
BE CURIOUS

### Surface



**2 min. | Short | Drama,  
Thriller | WORLD  
PREMIERE | Canada**

Mysteriously submerged underwater, a woman admires her floating belongings until panic launches her into a desperate scramble for air.



**Director  
Katherine Wong**



### VIRTUAL 3

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM  
BE CURIOUS

## Okurimono



**96.30 min. | Feature  
| Documentary | BC  
Premiere | Canada**

Noriko returns to Japan, her native land, in the hopes of reviving her mother's memories, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bomb, while preparing for her childhood home's sale.

**Director  
Laurence  
Lévesque**



### VIRTUAL 3 WEDNESDAY PROGRAM BE CURIOUS

## The Seas Between us



**13.44 min. | Short |  
Drama | Vancouver  
Premiere | Canada**

In the mid 1960s a young girl who has never seen anything but rural Trinidad has her eyes opened to the world when her adventurous Auntie from India comes to visit.

**Director  
Faisal  
Lutchmedial**



### VIRTUAL 3

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM  
BE CURIOUS

## Attachment for Life



**25 min. | Short | Drama  
| WORLD PREMIERE |  
China**

A lonely old man on the edge of the city takes in a patient who escaped from a mental hospital. The two wander in the gray area, just to satisfy the old man's paranoid desire to keep his wife's body.

**Director  
Jingbo Sha**



## EVENT



**Wednesday  
Nov 12**

**12:00 PM to  
1:00 PM**



**VIRTUAL 3  
Lunch and  
Learn**

Presented by RESO  
Go Global: Unlocking  
Co-Production & Streaming  
Opportunities for Canadian  
Producers  
Presented by Barbara Lee  
and Akeena Legall



REGISTER NOW



BY DONATION

# Thursday Nov 13

Available for  
one day only

Virtual

THURSDAY PROGRAM  
BE EXPRESSIVE



## VIRTUAL 4

THURSDAY PROGRAM  
BE EXPRESSIVE

### Morning Coffee



12.40 min. | Short |  
Drama | Canadian  
Premiere | Canada

After the end of a deeply emotional yet tumultuous relationship, a queer woman grapples with grief, self-discovery, and the bittersweet memories of love that linger, as she learns to navigate the space between loss and healing.



Directors Nolan  
Manio Begley /  
Kyla Mah

## VIRTUAL 4

THURSDAY PROGRAM  
BE EXPRESSIVE

### The Midnight Hour



14.58 min. | Short |  
Drama | Vancouver  
Premiere | Canada

A grieving woman, whose hope for marriage is reignited when the ghost of her dead fiancé, appears. As he attempts to fulfill his unfinished business to passover, she is determined to rebook their wedding.



Director  
Anita Yung

## VIRTUAL 4

THURSDAY PROGRAM  
BE EXPRESSIVE

### The Cycle



127 min. | Feature |  
Drama | Canadian  
Premiere | India

THE CYCLE tracks a day in the life of a young Punjabi housewife in Chandigarh, India who is obsessed with losing weight as she joins a cycling club and grapples with the cost of individuality and freedom.



Director  
Arpita  
Mukherjee

# VIRTUAL 4

THURSDAY PROGRAM  
BE EXPRESSIVE

## Luka and the Flower of the Sun 2



29 min. | Short | Fantasy | North American Premiere | Japan

To bring back his childhood friend Rosa, who had transformed into the flower of the sun, Luka sets out on a journey to find a legendary white bird said to grant any wish.

Director  
Tomoyasu  
Murata



# EVENT



## Thursday Nov 13

11:00 AM to  
1:00 PM



## VIRTUAL 4 Lunch and Learn

Virtual lunch & Learn with Funders CMF, Telefilm, Creative BC, Ontario creative, Manitoba commissioner, Rogers & Bell

Facilitated by the VAFF Industry Team

REGISTER NOW



BY DONATION

# Friday Nov 14

Available for one day only

## Virtual

FRIDAY PROGRAM  
BE SURREAL



# VIRTUAL 5

FRIDAY PROGRAM  
BE SURREAL

## ENA



29.57 min. | Short | Thriller | WORLD PREMIERE | Japan

Two men capture and torture Nomoto, who stole important confidential information. They find a creepy hidden room and end up opening the door. From the door, a frightening monster that Nomoto calls "mom" appears. What is the only the only option for survival...

Director  
Takashi Satoh



## VIRTUAL 5

FRIDAY PROGRAM  
BE SURREAL

## Did we wear C last night



13.10 min. | Short  
| Fiction, Comedy,  
Romance | North  
American Premiere |  
South Korea

Yoon-hye and Yong-hoon shared a passionate one-night stand last night. Despite the awkwardness, they exchange shy greetings and decide to grab a meal together. But wait... something important is missing!



Director  
Gyuri Nam

## VIRTUAL 5

FRIDAY PROGRAM  
BE SURREAL

## Fankaar



14.58 min. | Short |  
Drama/Thriller | Pakistan

Trapped in a nightmarish room, a John Doe confronts cryptic messages and societal realities in a psychological journey to reveal a new reality he lives in.



Director  
Ahsan Minhas

## VIRTUAL 5

FRIDAY PROGRAM  
BE SURREAL

## Moth &amp; I



22.16 min. | Short |  
Fantasy, Black Comedy  
| WORLD PREMIERE |  
Hong Kong

An anxious real estate agent loses his human form while forcing sales during an economic downturn.



Director  
Oliver Chen

Saturday  
Nov 15

Scotiabank Theatre  
Vancouver, 4th floor  
- 900 Burrard Street,  
Vancouver, BC.

PROGRAM #15  
BE REFLECTIVE

*JAPAN FOUNDATION*

PROGRAM #16  
BE RESPECTFUL

*WESTCOAST TALES*

PROGRAM #17  
BE COMPASSIONATE

*KOREAN HIGHLIGHTS*

PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

**CLOSING PROGRAM #19**  
BE PRESENT

*WESTCOAST TALES*  
*CLOSING NIGHT FILM*





## EVENT



**Saturday  
Nov 15**

**10:00 AM to  
1:30 PM**

Scotiabank Theatre



**Master Hands-on  
Workshop with  
Zarqa Nawaz**



the creator of the  
Canadian TV show "Little  
Mosque on the Prairie"  
Co-presented by



BUY YOUR TICKET



RATE: \$20

**12:00 PM**

PROGRAM #15  
BE REFLECTIVE

## Anohi



**JAPAN FOUNDATION**

**1 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canada | MAMM**

A fleeting encounter on a train forces a carefree teenage boy to confront what he never expected to feel at fifteen: the quiet fear of a forgotten life.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



**Director  
Lilia Miki**

**12:00 PM**

PROGRAM #15  
BE REFLECTIVE

## Honolulu



**JAPAN FOUNDATION**

**19.37 min. | Short |  
Drama | North American  
Premiere | Japan**

A terminally ill wife begins filming her husband's life without her, desperate to glimpse the world that will go on after she's gone.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



**Director  
Tomomi  
Muraguchi**

**12:00 PM**

PROGRAM #15  
BE REFLECTIVE

## Kaiju



**JAPAN FOUNDATION**

**101 min. | Feature  
| Documentary |  
International/North  
American Premiere |  
Japan**

This documentary captures a year in the life of Japanese painter Issei Nishimura, nicknamed "Kaiju" (meaning "creature"). At 19, after developing a serious mental illness, he taught himself to paint. For 26 years, no one outside his family had ever seen him paint—until this film.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



**Director  
Tomoya Ise**

## EVENT



**Saturday  
Nov 15**

**2:30 PM to  
4:30 PM**



### VERTICAL SERIES CASE STUDY

Co-presenting with Andy Chu, founder of Vertical Film & Short Series Alliance (VFSSA) + MAMM20 Vertical Series showcase. Topics include discussions of global landscape, best practices and engaging stories for global audiences

BUY YOUR TICKET



RATE: \$12

**2:30 PM**

PROGRAM #16  
BE RESPECTFUL

### Grandma's Praying



**WESTCOAST TALES**

**1 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canada | MAMM**

What begins as an interruption to a grandmother's prayer becomes a quiet act of love and unexpected connection with her interfaith grandson.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



**Director  
Mathew Jin**

**2:30 PM**

PROGRAM #16  
BE RESPECTFUL

### Born an Immigrant



**WESTCOAST TALES**

**22.42 min. | Short |  
Documentary | WORLD  
PREMIERE | Canada**

A Canadian-born Chinese woman supports her family by becoming a dressmaker in Victoria, British Columbia during the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



**Director  
Jennifer Lee**

**2:30 PM**

PROGRAM #16  
BE RESPECTFUL

### Ahon

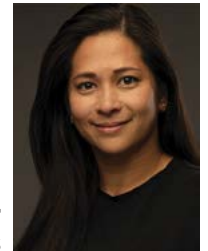


**WESTCOAST TALES**

**20 min. | Short |  
Documentary, Mountain  
Culture, Adventure |  
Canada**

In Filipino, "ahon" means to rise, emerge, or break through a surface. "Ahon" recounts the rise of the K8 Mountaineering Club of Alberta, drawing parallels between climbing and the obstacles immigrants must overcome.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

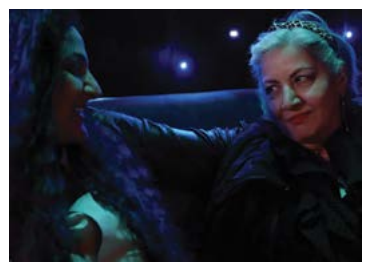


**Director  
Trixie Pacis**

2:30 PM

PROGRAM #16  
BE RESPECTFUL

# Pride and Prayer



WESTCOAST TALES

62.15 min. | Feature |  
Documentary | Canada

Amid the intersection of faith and identity, Panta embarks on a deeply personal journey to explore whether a space exists within the Muslim community for someone who is both queer and seeking to reconnect with their faith.

Filmmaker in Attendance.



Director  
Panta Mosleh

4:45 PM

PROGRAM #17  
BE COMPASSIONATE

# Unspoken



KOREAN HIGHLIGHTS

20 min. | Short | Drama |  
North American Premiere  
| Korea

Sujin, class president, accidentally hurts deaf classmate Juyeon. Sujin visits Juyeon at home with her friends to apologize, but Juyeon refuses to accept her apology and Sujin's friends turn out to be of no help, either.



Director  
Jaewook Oh

4:45 PM

PROGRAM #17  
BE COMPASSIONATE

# Pull Up



KOREAN HIGHLIGHTS

60.53 min. | Feature |  
Drama Comedy | North  
American Premiere |  
Korea

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when social distancing was mandatory, Seok-joo, who was working part-time reviewing the correctness of online lectures, met Maeng-ji, the instructor of the lecture she was editing, and they became friends.



Director  
Chun Hun Mok

## EVENT



Saturday  
Nov 15

5:00 PM to  
6:30 PM



BEHIND THE  
SCENE WITH  
"THE WEDDING  
BANQUET"

Presented by IATSE 891

BUY YOUR TICKET



RATE: \$12



030-4-633



6:45 PM  
PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

## Grandma



1.30 min. | Short  
| Animation /  
Experimental | Canadian  
Premiere | US

A charcoal-animated film on a single sheet of paper on memory, time and death.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Yang Hu



6:45 PM  
PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

## Daly City



16 min. | Short | Drama,  
Comedy, Food, Coming  
of Age, Family | Western  
Canada Premiere | USA

An Indonesian boy and his mother attend a church potluck and lie about their dish.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Nick Hartanto



6:45 PM  
PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

## Life Support



10.32 min. | Short |  
Drama | Western Canada  
Premiere | USA

Inspired by true stories, an emergency doctor struggling under the weight of life-and-death decisions must confront his own hidden traumas as he teaches a young medical student what it truly means to save a life.

Filmmaker in Attendance.

Director  
Jamon Tolbert





6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

## Things We Carry



**18.43 min. | Short |  
Drama | Canadian  
Premiere | Australia**

A young Chinese mother discovers that her child could one day become a cultural stranger in their new-found home in Australia.



**Director**  
**Yifan Zhang**

6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

## Nowhere



**25.03 min. | Short |  
Drama | North American  
Premiere | China**

While working at a construction site, Lao Lin stumbles upon a statue and sees it as a chance to improve his life by selling it. However, his plan catches the eye of Zhang Liwei, the company manager, who asserts ownership of the statue, citing land rights. Faced with the clash between authority and ethics, Lao Lin finds himself torn in a gripping battle between greed and dignity.



**Director**  
**Ze Wang**

6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

## Mrs. Chang's Perfect Teeth



**15.50 min. | Short |  
Horror | Canadian  
Premiere | Canada**

When Siu Yee, a young Chinese immigrant, is hired at Mrs. Chang's foot massage parlour, she learns that success in her new country will require a perverse sacrifice in this surrealist horror short film.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



**Director**  
**Karen Lam**

6:45 PM

PROGRAM #18  
BE ALIVE

## Neither Donkey Nor Horse



**28.29 min. | Short  
| Drama, History,  
Biography, Thriller |  
Canadian Premiere | USA**

Amidst the outbreak of the 1910 Manchurian Plague, a young Chinese doctor makes a historic discovery.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**



**Director**  
**Robin Wang**

## EVENT



**Saturday  
Nov 15**

**8:30 PM**



### CanAsian Industry Party

**Venue: Scotiabank  
Theatre Clubhouse,  
4th floor - 900  
Burrard Street**

Wrap up this year's VAFF Industry Insight Series and unwind with filmmakers, creators, and industry guests with music and food.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres + Cash bar



BUY YOUR TICKET

RATE: \$35  
All ages | Valid ID  
required

Elevators are available for  
wheelchair access

**9:00 PM**

**CLOSING PROGRAM #19**  
BE PRESENT

### One Last Walk

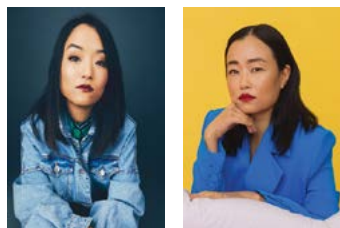


**WESTCOAST TALES**

**10 min. | Short | Drama |  
Canada | MAMM**

Two lonely, non-english speaking grandmas from two different cultures connect on their daily walks around the neighbourhood. Today is their last walk before one of them flies back home to Korea.

**Filmmakers in Attendance.**



**Directors Andrea Bang / Diana Bang**

**9:00 PM**

**CLOSING PROGRAM #19**  
BE PRESENT

### Akashi



**CLOSING NIGHT FILM**

**120.09min. | Feature |  
Drama | Canada**

When 35-year-old artist Kana returns to Tokyo for her grandmother's funeral, she uncovers a family secret that challenges her idea of love and forces her to rethink her future.

**Filmmaker in Attendance.**

Co-presented by



**Director  
Mayumi Yoshida**

# OVASIAN Awards Ceremony & Gala

**Sunday  
Nov 16  
6:00 PM**

**BMO Newmont Theatre**

**162 W 1st Ave #203,  
Vancouver, BC**

*Complimentary hors  
d'oeuvres  
Cash bar*

Dress code: Stylish/Cocktail



**BUY YOUR TICKET**

*RATE: \$100  
limited tickets for sale  
19+ | Valid ID required*

Elevators are available for  
wheelchair access



# OVASIAN AWARDS CEREMONY & GALA

## SPECIAL EVENT



The **VAFF OVASIAN AWARDS** celebrates VAFF with a final night gala celebration honouring filmmakers and industry changemakers at their very best. Doors at 6:00 pm. Awards ceremony starts at 6:30 pm.



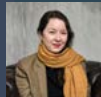
VAFF to acknowledge "Zarqa Nawaz" in this year's Lifetime Diversity in Film Award to celebrate an individual's achievement in contributing to the fight for making underrepresented voices heard and pushing forward the culture of diversity through their actions or work.



**Check out who's  
nominated for VAFF 2025!**

## FILM JURY

### VAFF 2025 Jury for Canadian short awards



**Ann Marie  
Fleming**



**Jason  
Furukawa**



**Judy Lee**



**Aaron Au**



**Alice Shin**



**Terry Woo**

### VAFF 2025 Jury for International short award



**Agam  
Darshi**



**Chris Lee**



**Joe Pascual**



**Amie Song**



**King Louie  
Palomo**



**Valerie  
Raghoebier**

### VAFF 2025 Jury for Canadian feature awards

### VAFF 2025 Jury for SHER VANCOUVER AWARD for Best 2SLGBTQ+ short film award

# Insight (VI<sup>2</sup>)Series

*VAFF Industry Insight Series and Filmmaker Talks Series provides insight and insider perspectives for aspiring and seasoned filmmakers / creators of diverse backgrounds, and those in the industry who aim to work with diverse representation both in front of and behind the camera. Plus, connecting and fostering the film community for the next generation of storytellers. The Series occurs during Spring – Asian Heritage Month (May) and Fall – Film Festival (November).*

**Celebration with National Canadian Film Day on VAFF Filmmaker Talks Series, showcase “Can I Get A Witness?” by Ann Marie Fleming.**

## Fall Series 2025 during VAFF29 Film Festival

Our topics include Master workshop with Zarqa Nawaz, the creator of the Canadian TV show “Little Mosque on the Prairie”, WestCoast Creator chat, Landscape of Vertical Series and Virtual Production case study, Go Behind the scene of Wedding Banquet, case study, next level of world building film & series round table discussion, virtual lunch & learn with Canadian, international filmmakers, funders, distributors and sales agents and two industry networking events.

**Interested in exploring more about the filming industry? Follow industry news at VAFF on LinkedIn! <https://www.linkedin.com/company/vaff>**

## Summary of Spring & Summer VAFF Industry Insight Series 2025

Thank you to Helen Yagi, PR Consultant for joining us as part of our “How to pitch Hands-on Workshop”, leading the 10 selected participants in partnering with Elim8Hate’s My Stories are Our Stories campaign on June 6, 2025

Key Takeaways:

- Discover techniques for making your unique story stand up to the media
- How to write a news release, or what information should be in a news release
- How to work with a publicist
- PR strategy and finding different story ideas for different media outlets and outreach



Helen Yagi and group



Ins Choi and group

**Thank you to Ins Choi, creator / writer of Kim’s Convenience who led the 12 selected participants to #VAFFINDUSTRY Insight Summer Series two-day TV writing workshop in partnering with Elim8Hate. My stories are Our stories campaign this year on July 15-16, 2025.**

**This workshop is intended for screenwriters, playwrights or other kinds of writers (sketch, standup, improv, etc) who want to learn about writing sitcoms. The purpose is to demystify the TV writing process in this fun, hands on writing workshop. It’s a real hands-on workshop where Ins takes the participants through the nuts and bolts of writing.**

**Scan the QR code to learn more:**





# VAFF Film Fund

*VAFF Film Fund (VAFF<sup>2</sup>) established in 2021 — founded by VAFF Lifetime Benefactor Mr. Richard K. Wong who has enduringly contributed close to \$80,000 to the fund — assists talented Asian Canadian filmmakers and TV producers to create projects that raise the storytelling profiles of Asians across Canada.*

In providing artists the opportunity to complete their works, VAFF<sup>2</sup> this year has generously supported Vivian Cheung's documentary short "Paper Trail", making its World Premiere at VAFF29!

With the blessing and continued generous support of Mr. Richard K. Wong, VAFF hopes to further champion Asian Canadians as notable and talented filmmakers and actors. VAFF aspires to secure additional donors and sponsors to contribute to this fund to be able to support more Asian Canadian creatives.

Learn more at  
<https://vaff.org/vafffilmfund/>



# MAMM20

*The 20th Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM20) was another successful, record-breaking year that concluded with 21 films premiering at the MAMM19 Gala Screening and Awards Presentation at the Vancouver Playhouse on August 30, 2025. It has been exciting to witness the MAMM community grow as we saw more pitches from new filmmakers, more submissions, and more audience demand as we sold out in just four days. We launched an inaugural “Vertical Series” category at this year’s competition that was led by our Founder, Barbara Lee.*

*The distinctive stories that came out of the filmmakers and the creativity and craft of storytelling impressed all in attendance, in person and online. We are so proud of the MAMMers of MAMM20 and are honoured that we could help tell your unique stories.*



*MAMM aims to foster and showcase emerging Asian and mixed Asian filmmakers through a 10-day moviemaking marathon preceded by a masterclass-level MAMMentorship program and culminating in a premiere screening and awards presentation.*

*Catch the award-winning Shorts, Ultra Shorts and Vertical Series at VAFF29. Be sure to follow us on Instagram @mamm\_vaff for the latest news from MAMM and our alumni.*

*Lynne Lee  
MAMM Director/Producer*

# Elimin8Hate



*This past year, Elimin8Hate advanced its mission to combat anti-Asian racism through education, advocacy, concerts, workshops, media guide and community engagement.*

See US Hear Us 2.0 Concert & Music Sync Workshop (May 23, 2025) - Elimin8Hate, in honour of Asian Heritage Month celebrated with live music showcasing the rich talent and vibrant spirit of Asian-Canadian artists. From intimate ballads to genre-defying anthems, the evening used music's storytelling power to challenge stereotypes, foster belonging, and build bridges between communities.

See Us Hear Us: Stand Up for Your Community - Elimin8Hate delivered Report Hate workshops in Punjabi, English, Mandarin, and Cantonese, making vital resources accessible across diverse communities. Throughout the year, trained facilitators partnered with local groups to build awareness, encourage reporting, and provide tools to respond to racism safely and effectively. These workshops not only equipped participants with knowledge but also fostered

solidarity, empowering community members to stand together, speak out, and take action against hate.

See Us Hear Us: A guide to telling your story in media. With the help of Journalist and Media consultant Hannah Sung, Elimin8Hate created the Media Guide to empower you, and especially Asian Canadians, to speak up and share. We know you have a story that will help, inspire or inform your community and beyond. Our stories matter. (Fall 2025)

Through these initiatives, Elimin8Hate not only responded to hate but also empowered communities and built long-term cultural change. Partnerships with other justice organizations further amplified intersectional solidarity.

**Elimin8Hate**

**Special thanks and appreciation to our amazing partners and grantors including:**



Canadian  
Race Relations  
Foundation

Fondation  
canadienne des  
relations raciales





BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

# Backing BC's Creative Vision

**Proud Sponsor of  
Vancouver Asian Film Festival**

Creative BC supports film, tv, music, and interactive through leadership, collaboration, and investment. Access grants, film commission services, motion picture tax credits, and more.

[creativebc.com](http://creativebc.com) | [@creativebcs](https://twitter.com/creativebcs)



- # 404 Still Remain - P23
- A** About Face - P25  
After what happened at the library - P15  
Ahon - P38  
Akashi - P42  
Anohi - P37  
Attachment for Life - P33
- B** Billo Rani - P14  
Born an Immigrant - P38  
Boys on the Hill - P21  
Brotherly - P25
- C** Choose The Correct Answer A,B,C or ...-P13  
Chopsticks - P19  
Clay Bird - P20  
Crouching Grandma, Hidden Apple - P25
- D** Daly City - P40  
Dancing Home - P30  
Did we wear C last night - P36  
Dinner Rush - P23  
Does it make me naive if I've never been part of something where I've meant more to them than they did to me? - P19  
Dolly - P31
- E** Egg Yolk Custard Bun - P23
- ENA - P35  
Enouement - P26
- F** Fankaar - P36  
Fissures - P23  
Flat - P29  
Foreigner - P16
- G** Give me Love - P15  
Grandma - P40  
Grandma's Praying - P38
- H** Haru-Tsuge Fish + Fu-Rai Boy - P25  
Hatch - P16  
Have you heard Judi Singh? - P19  
Healing Lahaina - P31  
Hideaway - P27  
Honolulu - P37
- I** I Write, You Draw - P13  
Ice Cream, Ice Queen - P13  
I'm Not An Actor - P22  
In the Room - P26
- J** Jackie's Haven - P16
- K** Kaiju - P37
- L** Life Support - P40  
Loneliness can be Murder - P14  
Lost in 2044 - P14  
Luka & Flower of the Sun 2 - P35
- M** Mama - P20  
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- P** Paper Trail - P27  
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