

A VIRTUAL ALL-CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE VARIETY SHOW

**CINEMA  
SPECTACULAR  
2021**

**JULY 15-19th**

## A Message from our Director

Welcome to our first virtual festival!

These past two years we have missed our in-person event immeasurably, but it has afforded us a unique and spectacular opportunity to not only expand our program to the 44 films we are exhibiting this year, but to present our festival Canada-wide. For the first time we can exhibit our love for local, Canadian cinema from coast-to-coast-to-coast - and it's amazing!

In these three blocks that we have had the pleasure of programming, you will see Canadian indie film in many forms. It's emotional, diverse, and captivating, mind-bending, soulful, and exploratory.

Enjoy these weird, wise, and wonderful stories at your leisure this weekend. Wherever you are, thank you for being here.

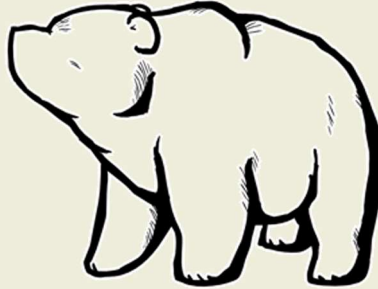
*Laurel*

Laurel K. Brown  
Festival Founder, Director - Cinema Spectacular



Friends of the Fest

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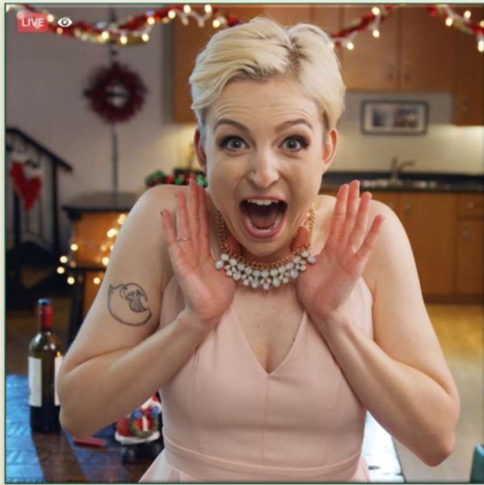
Entertainment Specialists

**ON SET  
HEADSETS**  
*CONNECT TO ACTION*

The graphic features a central dark grey band with a light grey grid pattern. The text 'TEAL PROGRAM' is centered in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a teal drop shadow. Below it, the website 'CINEMASPECTACULAR.COM' is written in a smaller, white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is a light cream color with large teal triangles pointing towards the center from the top and bottom. Scattered around the central band are several smaller teal and purple geometric shapes, some with a grid pattern and others with a solid color.

# TEAL PROGRAM

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# Influenced

Julie Bruns, BC

Julie is driven to bring stories to life that leave an impact and keep audiences thinking long after the credits roll. She has lived all over North America, attended theatre school in London, UK, and you will usually find her writing, re-writing or skulking around a set somewhere.

*Social media star Rose is thrilled with her boyfriend's beautiful Christmas gift until her followers throw its origins into dark doubt as she live-streams an unfortunate Christmas Dinner.*



# Unofficial Selection

Gordon Mihan, NB

Gordon Mihan is a Fredericton-based screenwriter and film director. He has produced and directed several festival-screened short films across Canada. His most recent short film *Unofficial Selection* won the Audience Choice Award at the 2019 Silver Wave Film Festival and his previous short film *Coached* was broadcast on the CBC as part of the 5th season of the Reel East Coast, now available on CBC Gem.

*A con-artist is introduced to a new form of deception. A swimmer breaks into a pool. A wedding is rudely interrupted. An interview takes an odd turn.*



# Small Bites

Andy Wong, BC

Andy Wong is an Asian-Canadian film maker from Vancouver. After finishing the film program at SFU, he began working in various departments in Vancouver's film and TV industry before starting his own production company *Lonely Artists Production*. Most recently he produced a short film that received funding from the National Film Board and the Canadian Arts Council called *Hekademia*.

*A woman goes hiking with a group of friends where she is bombarded with mosquitos, and micro-aggressive questions. When friends Annie, Robbie, Jason, and Dave meet up for a hike, Dave asks Annie questions that are micro-aggressive in nature. Climbing this mountain trail Annie is continually bitten by mosquitoes when Dave asks her seemingly harmless questions about her race and ethnicity. As the trail progresses, Jason and Annie's friendship comes into question when Dave goes too far and pushes Annie to challenge him. Left with an ally in Robbie, who has been considerably bitten as well, Annie is forced to reconsider her position in this group, and in the world.*



# Sue Sada Was Here

Cindy Mochizuki via Video Out Distro, BC

Cindy Mochizuki has created installation, performance, animation, drawings and collaborative works that consider spaces that embody both the fictional and documentary. Her multi-media works experiment with moving images, optical illusions and magical realism through a hybrid of video, film, audio and animation. She received her MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the School For Contemporary Arts at SFU.

*Sue Sada Was Here is an experimental film that turns written texts Muriel Kitagawa (1912–1974) into scores of physical movement, which are then enacted in the historic Roedde House. Kitagawa’s editorial writing and unpublished manuscripts speak to the pre- and post-war periods in Vancouver, particularly the injustices of the Canadian government’s policies towards Japanese and Japanese Canadians. The performers embody Sue Sada, one of Kitagawa’s pen names and use books as objects of print history that can omit histories of violence and colonialism. This film was originally commissioned for Memories of the Future III.*





# Ho.Me

**All Bodies Dance Project - Gemma Crowe,  
Alex Mah, Carolina Bergonzoni, BC**

All Bodies Dance Project (ABDP) is an inclusive dance company located on unceded Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver, BC). Founded in 2014, ABDP brings together artists with and without disabilities to explore movement as a means of creative expression.

*Ho.Me is a dance film that explores themes of belonging, comfort and discomfort in relation to the notion of inhabiting the body. It is comprised of three portraits of individuals who live in very different bodies linked together through a loose narrative. Shot in the intimate settings of each dancers' home, the three performers move through solo material derived from the questions: Where do I come from? What stories do I carry? What is inside me? Through the three characters' movement we learn about their distinct qualities and quirks. Ho.Me revels in the beauty of difference and the universality of the body; it highlights the relationship between the body and the self and the creative possibilities of the body.*



# Hesar

Farnaz Ohadi, BC

While growing up in her native Iran, Farnaz sang at every available opportunity but longed to find her authentic artist's voice. Upon her move to Canada, she studied Operatic vocal training, Persian folk singing, then Flamenco cante through the instruction of Oscar Nieto, Vicente Griego, Naike Ponce and Lucas Ortega among others.

Farnaz's love of music and performance art inspired her to create the collaborative project *Mashregh Ensemble* in 2012, which combine's Persian poetry with Flamenco music.

*This video is the backdrop for the song "Hesar" from Farnaz Ohadi's Persian Flamenco debut album. It focuses on themes of Iranian women's struggles, immigration, mental health and the artist's journey when she arrived in Canada in 1990. The movie traces the journey of the artist from her home land, Iran to Canada, the angst and confusion and pain of immigration and finally choosing to put down roots in a new land.*



# Days Like These

Mawrgan Shaw, ON

Mawrgan Shaw BA(Media&Comm), M(DigFilm), is a visual artist and animator based in Toronto, originally from Melbourne, Australia. Mawrgan's art is inspired by our sense of self and the intersection with our physical reality, and how we move through and make meaning in the world. Mawrgan creates 2D frame-by-frame animation traditionally using mixed media; ink, marker, charcoal and watercolour, and digitally to explore texture and feel. Recently, Mawrgan has had her animated work featured in festivals in Canada and the U.S. and has upcoming programming in South Korea and China.

*Days Like These is an animated piece that celebrates dance in the midst of a global pandemic. Performing alone, we watch a dancer whose image is constantly changing. Created in the first three months of the pandemic, this film is an expression of the tension and anxiety I felt as lockdowns occurred around the world. It is a story through dance about the difficulties in overcoming the very natural desire to touch someone; to make contact, when this is now unsafe.*

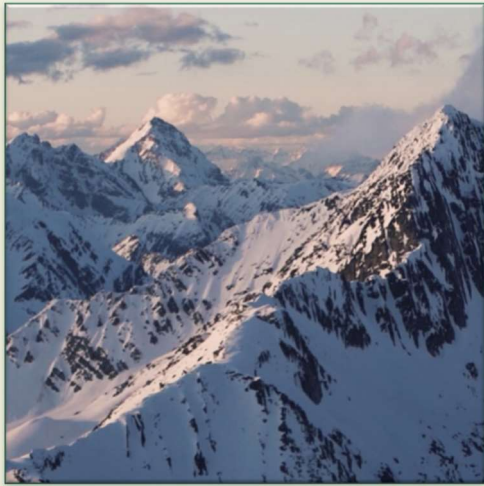


# The Curtain

Yan-Kay Crystal Lowe, BC

Yan-Kay Crystal Lowe has been a professional actress for more than 18 years. She fast became one of Hollywood's most in-demand 'Scream Queens' and sought-after Sci-fi heroines. While filming the second season of *Signed Sealed Delivered*, Yan-Kay Crystal recognized that she had a great desire to spend time behind the camera in the director's chair. She has gone on to produce and direct award-winning short films, including *The Curtain* which screened in four languages in seven countries, winning a dozen awards.

*Two hospitalized strangers develop an unlikely friendship by revealing painful, intimate details about their lives through the safety and anonymity of the room's curtain divider. They bond through grief and humour, encouraging one another to make brave choices that hold personal consequences.*



# Silence

Nigel Goodwin, AB

Nigel Goodwin is a cinematographer and video producer in Calgary. He is a dedicated filmmaker and an avid outdoorsman, as well as the primary video producer for the Alberta Ballet and the Calgary Opera. With a background in composing music for cinema, he has a deep understanding of how music influences the mood and overall impact of a film. Combined with the artistry behind cinematography and editing – compelling films have an unparalleled ability to influence people. His passion is combining those art forms in strategic and meaningful ways.

*Silence is a short film celebrating the raw beauty of the Canadian Rockies in winter. Featuring a quote from one of the most influential landscape photographers in history, reminding us that it's important to sometimes put our cameras away and mindfully experience a moment for ourselves. Featuring Eric Goodwin, Cinematography and Editing by Nigel Goodwin, Filmed throughout the Canadian Rockies.*



# Pierre St Denis

Sammy Mohamed, ON

Sammy Mohamed is a black writer/director from Ottawa. He and his parents immigrated from Somalia in the early 90's. His parents, who were also writers, cultivated his love for the arts at an early age. They watched all sorts of movies and read all sorts of books together and with their help he learned to love stories in all their forms. As he grew older, he fell even more in love with cinema and decided to attend Algonquin College in the Scriptwriting Program. Since then, he has written two screenplays, directed a short film and written three short films.

*A man suffering from a gunshot wound is being treated in the ER, when he is visited by a mysterious man who shares some uncomfortable news with him.*

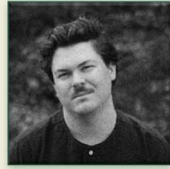


# Hope

Harmen Van Andel, SK

Harmen has been acting in Vancouver since 2005. After acting on several network television shows and worldwide television commercials, he has made the leap from being in front of the camera to bring behind the camera. He's been passionate about photography and film making his whole life and is currently working on his next short film *Matthattan's Dakota* due out for festival release in the fall of 2021.

*This year has been tough. The clock keeps ticking and bills need to be paid. A humble, down on his luck farmer relies on his persistence in times of hardship and the absurdity of societal norms.*



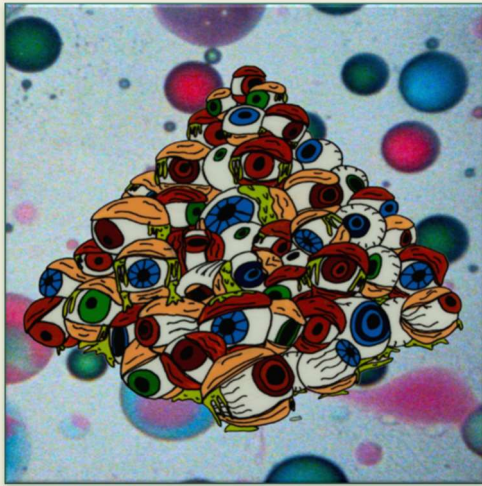
# The little Death

Antoine Rail, QC

Antoine likes to take seriously some seemingly dumb ideas and find the absurdity living within serious subjects. He studied filmmaking at Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema in Montréal. Some people say that he's kind and he cares. Others will say he's a bit too direct. I believe both are right.

*Leo goes out on a date not knowing that he is walking directly into a trap.*





# Terror Fervor

Phoebe Parsons, BC

Phoebe Parsons was born and raised outside of Vancouver in White Rock. Phoebe studied at Emily Carr University in Vancouver and completed her Bachelor's degree in Media Arts with a focus in film and animation studies. Phoebe works professionally as an assistant costume designer in film and television while continuing to direct and produce films. Additionally, she was awarded a Canadian National Film Board Grant for the production of *Terror Fervor*, a hand-drawn cel animation that has since been screened in over 30 festivals worldwide and has been featured in an episode of *Adult Swims' "Off The Air"*.

*Terror Fervor follows seven different characters through a psychedelic dystopia. This wasteland echos the past and future of loss and abandon. Each character holds their vices tightly to them as they sway and morph from space to space. A warning tale of the dangers of malaise and malicious behaviors. Overconsumption, brainwashing, murder! But also, beautiful colors and a sweet, sweet soundtrack.*



# Play the Field

Lesley Marshall, ON

Lesley Marshall is an intermedia artist currently working on independent audio-visual projects. An award-winning filmmaker, Lesley has worked as an independent curator; filmmaker, musician, and performance artist under the name LesleyDemon and Lesley 666. Lesley is the founder and CEO of MAVN a production, media and marketing agency. In 2020/2021, Lesley along with collaborator Ashley Bowa will present *Green Gazing* a 360-projection immersion project of plants and experimental movement at Ada X, Montreal and Connexion Arc, Fredericton. Lesley's cinematography and editing of the 2019 Inside Out selected webseries *Village Legacy Project* can be seen on OutTV.

*"Play the Field" is a rocking song from lesbian Canadian band Partner. This song goes through the ups and downs of meeting your crush in the locker room and dreaming of scoring big. A tribute to women in sports, "Play the Field" incorporates sports film footage from creative commons at [archive.org](https://archive.org).*



# Free Range

Daniel Jeffrey, BC

Daniel Jeffrey is a creator of documentary and comedy short films. Since graduating SFU Film in 2013, he has worked professionally in Vancouver as an editor, actor, and filmmaker. His recent self-financed short film, *A New Leash On Life* (2020) has screened at over 25 festivals. His editing work has been selected by TIFF, VIFF, DOXA, CBC, Crazy 8s, Telus Storyhive, IGN, Vimeo Staff Picks, Booooooom.com and has received two Leo Award nominations.

*Before a long road trip back to the city, retired teacher Dave Jeffery is tasked with capturing four bullying roosters from the family chicken coop for drop-off at the butchery. Dave enlists the help of his children who, sensing disaster, take it upon themselves to create an impromptu documentary of the ordeal. What starts as a simple chroniclization unfolds into a daylong misadventure - revealing the unconventional philosophies and teaching stylings of a laissez faire parent, and the dynamics of a family shaped by them.*



# BLUE PROGRAM

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# Caught Dead Handed

Peter Faint, BC

Peter Faint is a writer director of six short films that have played in festivals across North America including Sudbury Cinefest International Film Festival and Shorts TV, alongside Oscar award-winning shorts.

*A true-crime documentary crew interviews various people intimate with a shocking murder as the behind the scenes production unravels.*



# Don't Die

Greg Doble, QC

Greg Doble is an animator born and raised in Canada. Since graduating from the Alberta College of Art and Design with a BFA in Media Arts in 2011, Doble has moved to Montreal, where he works as an illustrator and creates short, animated films. His work is easily recognizable by its playful absurdity and whimsical nature.

*Montreal based doom pop band NOBRO go for a stroll through a haunted graveyard. What could go wrong?*



# BEST BITCHES FOREVER

Valerie Leclair, QC

Actress and film set technician, Valérie Leclair has been combining her skills to carry out humorous projects since 2008. Her desire to interpret new characters makes her portray her own ideas! She loves gender movies, and she stands out as a screenwriter with a great comedic timing. Her movies *Backstore* and *A Nightmare on*

*Chocolate* appear on festival programs such as Fantasia International Film Festival and SPASM Film Festival at Montréal.

*It's Katherine's birthday and, as a surprise, her girlfriend Alex takes the staff of a restaurant hostage. The two women then argue over how to use their metapsychic powers.*



# Seasonal Depression

Yohann Thiou, QC

Yohann is a Quebec director of French origin. Co-creator of the feature film *Montreal Dead End*, he has also directed several short films selected in numerous festivals. His films *Seasonal Depression* and *Contained* are both present this year at the Cinema Spectacular Festival. Which makes him very very happy.

*In this dark comedy, Elisa doesn't want to go out, but Vincent doesn't hear it that way.*





# That Thing You Did

Stefan Kuchar, ON

Stefan Kuchar is a Toronto based filmmaker who is passionate about creating and sharing films. A producer and director with Sudden Impulse Productions and the founder and producer of the annual Sudden Impulse Film Festival, showcasing local Toronto and GTA short films since 2011. In 2019, he was awarded Best International

Director at the Atlanta Comedy Film Festival for his work on the web series *French Off the Boat*. In 2017 his short comedy *Legends of the Falls*, about a group of Niagara Falls mascots, played at 7 festivals across 3 countries. His 2019 short film *Around the Hole* was a finalist at the 48 Hour Toronto Film Project and his latest short *That Thing You Did* is currently in the festival circuit.

*An office place comedy set during the covid-19 global pandemic. Llyns coworkers react to the news of her being fired by changing their custom printed expressive face masks.*



# Contained

Yohann Thiou, QC

Yohann is a Quebec director of French origin. Co-creator of the feature film Montreal Dead End, he has also directed several short films selected in numerous festivals. His films Seasonal Depression and Contained are both present this year at the Cinema Spectacular Festival. Which makes him very very happy.

*Léanne is in confinement at home, far from Gabrielle.*



# Raven Steals the Light

Daniel Foreman, AB

Daniel is a Métis filmmaker from Alberta. He has been creating stories all his life, using different media for the storytelling. For the last ten years, he has been focusing on film and video. Daniel's interest in filmmaking took root when he created music videos for bands that he played in. In 2003, he was hired as key grip for *Halo*, a feature motion picture. In 2007, he took his first film class with the Film and Video Arts of Alberta Society (FAVA). The film he created confirmed his passion to direct and make films. In more recent projects, he has created stories that address issues such as racism, intolerance, societal disconnection, and communication challenges using genres including satire, drama, comedy, horror, and animation.

*Raven is the craftiest of all creatures. Be transported into a magical animated world where Raven is flying blindly in the endless night. He decides to steal all the light in the world from Sky Father, which is no easy task. The story is adapted from an ancient Haida (North Pacific Coast First Nations) myth.*



# Snug

Deanna Milligan, BC

Deanna Milligan is an award-winning actress and filmmaker with over 30 years in the film industry. Her first film *Cascadia* screened at the Lucid Dreams Festival (Italy 2018) and Sick Chicks Flicks (USA 2018). *Snug* premiered at the YIFF 2019. She is director and producer of *Lucid*, a horror genre short film which premiered March

2021 at the Mid West Weird Fest in Wisconsin, USA, and is official selection at the Frostbiter Icelandic Film Festival, Short Circuit, North Bend, and Apulia Horror International Film Festival. She is nominated for a LEO award (2021) for Best Director and Best Short Film.

*A man dreams of living in a world where people don't know how warm and cuddly he is. Exhausted, Mark is ready to throw it all in, move to Mexico or take up a hobby. In his unusual profession he seems to be endlessly giving to those in his tiny community. We follow him through his last night on the job - comforting those most in need. A quiet slice-of-life dramedy, about one man's mission to warm an island.*



# Asteroid Season

Earthstar Smith, BC

Earthstar Smith is an artist and filmmaker based in Vancouver. His short animated works include the *Genetisphere* animated TV pilot, selected for the New York Television Festival's independent pilot competition in 2009. Working on a mix of solo and collaborative projects, Earthstar acts as writer, director, storyboard artist, character designer, and animator. His future goals include directing epic animated features and charming cartoon series.

*In a lonesome frozen land, a feisty hermit lives a charmed life. Her quirky self-sufficient routine is happily fixed, but catastrophic change waits just around the corner to transform her environment and change her outlook. When an enormous asteroid arrives overhead, her sheltered reality will face a cosmic shake-up. In the course of losing the world she knows, the hermit just might find the companionship she's always hoped for.*



# Legacy Voices

**Akil McKenzie, ON**

Akil McKenzie is the CEO of media production company, Falling Motion. He runs a team of talented people that work on films, commercials, music videos, weddings, and events. They have worked with clients such as Lexus, Carlsberg, Chanel, Redbull, the Globe and Mail, and Dexta Daps to name a few. Falling Motion is currently Halton's main hub for media production and have been filming many community oriented projects throughout the pandemic. Akil is an award-winning director, producer, cinematographer, editor, public speaker, and poetic artist. He does numerous lectures at secondary and post secondary institutions about film, poetry, social justice, and speech writing etiquette. As a creative, Akil is always looking for new artforms to express thought and emotion.

*Elderly members of the Halton community share their experiences as some of the first Black people to live in Ontario's Halton Region.*



# Wisemen, God, and Wednesday

Sam Luk, BC

Chinese-Canadian filmmaker Sam Luk began working for the screen in 2009, writing and directing four short films that entered the international festival circuit. He also worked as a finishing editor for many broadcast and theatrical projects, including CBC's *The Nature Of Things* with David Suzuki and the animated feature film *Window Horses* by Ann-Marie Fleming. His narrative feature screenplay, *Torrents*, was shortlisted at Whistler Film Festival's Screenwriter's Lab in 2021.

*Samwise and Stevie grew up homeless in BC and Nova Scotia. Ianos is a gender-queer Greek. Kwaku is a single father who came from extreme poverty and famine. Featuring a juxtaposition of sound and imagery, "Wisemen, God, and Wednesday" is a sketch of these characters' intimate commentaries on life as they see it.*



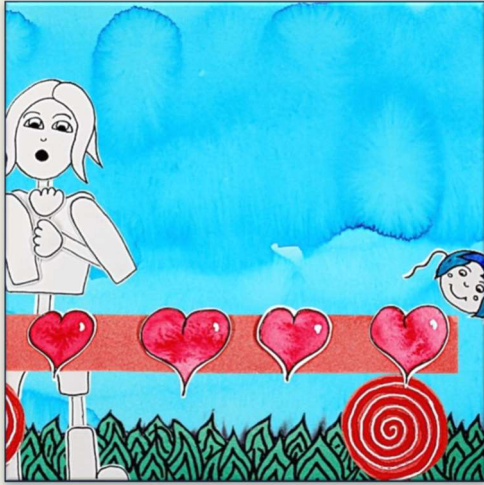
# Girl and the Polar Bear

Emily Shepard, AB

Born in Hollywood, raised in Michigan, starting a film career in Edmonton. Emily discovered her passion for filmmaking while attending classes at the Film and Video Arts Society of Alberta, and has written, directed, edited and produced two short films so far: *Honey Money* (2017) and *Girl and a Polar Bear* (2019). She is currently developing a short horror comedy about class, cannibalism, and Mozart.

*A convenience store worker is having a rough night when she is greeted by a very unusual customer.*





# Rage Monster

Sarah Gignac, NS

Sarah Gignachas made 5 short films which have played in festivals across North America and internationally. Her work blends more traditional narrative formats with elements of magic realism to create thoughtful, fantastical films that explore love, loss, grief and in her newest work, uncontrollable anger. Currently she is in development with her creative partner Becky Parsonson a feature horror film, *The Apartment*. Sarah is committed to telling stories that are often overlooked or misrepresented. She believes that stories have the power to connect people and change minds and wants to spend her life finding and sharing tales people might not otherwise encounter. Sarah works at the public library and is currently trying to learn how to garden. She lives and creates in Dartmouth.

*Rage Monster tells the story of Reagan, a young girl struggling to understand her uncontrollable anger. It was made using a stop motion technique incorporating a combination of paper dolls and painted collage components and features an original score by Newfoundland composer Sarah Harris.*

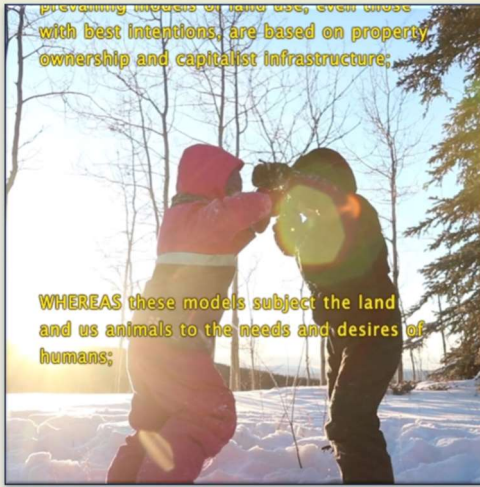


# A Safe Distance

Gloria Mercer, BC

Gloria Mercer is a filmmaker from Vancouver, which is located on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Her award-winning short films have screened at international festivals worldwide. Her film *Hekademia* was awarded support from the National Film Board of Canada and the Canada Council for the Arts. She recently partook in the Women in the Director's Chair Career Advancement Module, where she developed the feature version of *A Safe Distance*. She and her partner are in pre-production for their newest short *Smoke Eater* funded by the Harold Greenberg Fund. Gloria seeks to expand upon representations of women by creating stories that interrogate gender and foreground complicated female characters. She is passionate about featuring more women in front of and behind the camera and fostering new talent in the BC film industry.

*Two women commiserate on their experiences with men while they make their way through the woods.*



# Exercises in Being Close to You

Krista Davis, UK

Krista Davis is a visual artist and filmmaker based in Yukon. Writer Donna Haraway's call for strategies to "live and die better together on this damaged earth" has become the guiding principle of her work. Through video, animation, performance and multi-media installation, Davis seeks creative, sometimes fantastical strategies to shift perspectives on human and non-human relationships towards a more ecologically just world. Davis' work has been presented in galleries and festivals across North America, and Europe. She received her BFA from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and MFA from Arizona State University.

*A Story for the Arctic Refuge is an experimental documentary that follows a group of hikers through Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They hope to meet up with the Porcupine Caribou herd to collect stories that could help push back on oil exploration and drilling on the caribou's birthing grounds. The narrator, admitting to a perverse desire to be close to everything, wants nothing more than to spoon a caribou.*

The graphic features a central dark blue/black horizontal band. Above and below this band are light yellow-green triangular shapes. The central band is decorated with several purple triangles of various sizes and orientations, some with thin green outlines. The text 'PURPLE PROGRAM' is centered in the dark band in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a purple drop shadow. Below the title, the website 'CINEMASPECTACULAR.COM' is written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

# PURPLE PROGRAM

CINEMASPECTACULAR.COM



# Even the Greats

Elliot C. Way, BC

Elliot C. Way is a singer/songwriter first and foremost, as a filmmaker he has a keen sense of aesthetics. He likes good humour, rock n' roll and authentically vintage vibes. What we tried to do with the video is have some good old fashion fun. In a world that seems to bombard you with overwhelming intensity and seriousness,

finding humility and humour is sometimes hard.

*The story is an homage to all kinds of iconic television and movies: bad cheesy 70s detective shows; B-movie green screens, practical effects, and smokey dim lit dive bars. Hopefully for the audience this combination is an effective formula for a bit of respite from the world's madness, and a chance to laugh and enjoy one wild ride adventure! A taxidermied hawk appears as bandleader Elliot C. Way stumbles upon writing the ultimate song. The hawk helps unite musicians across the city to perform the piece while evading a pesky cop duo who are hot on his tail.*



# A Certain Texture

Matthew Hayes, ON

Matthew Hayes is an independent filmmaker, researcher, and educator. He currently teaches English and Philosophy at Northern Lakes College, having received his PhD from Trent University. He's made over a dozen short films and a feature-length documentary.

*Alex Unger, aka ELMS, lives a double life: he creates haunting music, and farms cattle. In this short, he explores how one influences the other, what drives his art, and how one of these lifestyles is more of a privilege than he thought.*



# Tulips are my father's favourite flower

**Nisha Platzer, BC**

Nisha is a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker who often plays with handmade celluloid processes. She is interested in the melding of artistic mediums and her work explores themes of identity and the intersections therein. Her films and photographs have been exhibited at festivals on three continents and she has attended artist residencies in South and North America. Nisha was a live-in artist resident at the James Black Gallery in Vancouver from 2015-2016. She studied at Concordia University in Montreal and the Escuela Internacional de Cine y Televisión in Cuba. Her work can be found in music videos, documentaries, and narrative films.

*This prosaic title serves as a jumping off point for the viewer to reflect on personal associations that arise from the abstract aesthetic of the work. Tulips... is shot on 16mm, hand processed, contact printed, tinted, and toned. Soundtrack by Apollo. Apollosparadise.com*



# A tempo

François Dubé QC

Feeling and consistency are at the heart of François Dubé's achievements. Winner of the 2012 *Course Évasion Autour du Monde* (italiques), and recipient of multiple nominations at the 2014 Gemini Awards for the documentary series *Le Bonheur en Scandinavie* (italiques), it is with empathy and interest that this former biologist takes on his projects.

*In music, back to the primitive movement. Consideration about the rhythm of childhood and parenthood from birth.*





# Think of You

Joëlle Arseneau, QC

Director, producer and editor Joëlle Arseneau focuses on human experience and connections in her films. Her life's work and her approach to filmmaking stem from her childhood spent in Îles-de-la-Madeleine, a place that she continues to draw inspiration from today. In Montreal, where she studied cinema and management in university, Joëlle founded Le Pied Marin Production in 2009 to produce films independently, while focusing on bringing the artists' creative ideas to life. She was awarded a grant from the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television under the Programme national d'apprentissage. This program gave Joëlle the chance to participate in many job shadowing opportunities in editing at various production companies. She expanded her natural interest for documentary film to include fiction to her repertoire.

*The colorful musical universe of songwriter and singer Yan Etchevary.*



# Fish Bone

Cassandra Paige, AB

Cassandra is a filmmaker and artist based out of Alberta. She graduated from Red Deer College with a Theatre Diploma and Applied Degree in Film and has since won several grants to fund her passions. Her work in Experimental short films and music videos have been the focus as of lately, with her most recent being a micro short based around a spontaneously recorded phone call with her sister. She continues to make films and art that she hopes mean as much to others, as her favourite films mean to her.

*A woman seeks guidance from her sister after swallowing a fish bone.*

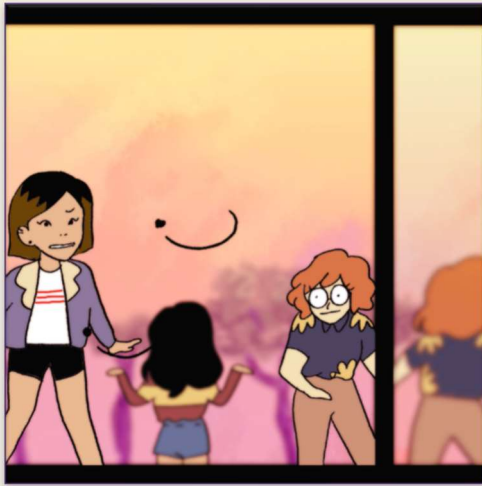


## B-Side

Alayna Silverberg, BC

Alayna pulls from her own experiences to create heartfelt, personally driven stories. She began her career in the top 3 of Elle Canada's Fashion Film competition, then took home a \$10k Telus Storyhive grant for their Female Directors edition. Alayna competed in a live pitch contest and won the 2018 MPPIA short film award at the prestigious Whistler Film Festival. The *B-Side* was nominated for Best Short Drama and Best Musical Score Short Drama at the 2020 Leo Awards. The film also screened at Vancouver Short Film Festival, Whistler Film Festival and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival 2020, where Alayna was the proud recipient of the Gerry Brunet award in recognition of a BC short filmmaker.

*B-Side is the Coming of Age story of 17-year old Mal, who when invited into a group of female skateboarders, is challenged to face her long-time, repressed fear of getting back on the board. Forced to confront the grief of the loss of her father, a once legendary Pro Skateboarder, Mal must decide if she is ready to move on from her mourning or remain stuck in her heartache.*



## voice memo 9

Michelle Tran, AB

Michelle Tran is a student at the University of Alberta pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She has been drawing since she was four years old. Nowadays she draws a bunch of little consecutive pictures in hope that it makes something that sort of looks like an animated short film. When she's not animating, she loves being with her

friends and hamsters.

*A demonstration of the carefree and often quirky nature of youth through the real-life recorded conversations between three teenage girls as they explore stretches of forest between the neighborhood suburbs. Annie, Alicia, and Michelle are three friends who have a picnic then a walk in a stretch of urban forest behind Annie's house. They encounter food hazards, bugs, dogs and shaky bridges on their little exploration, and with this- interesting reactions come about. Michelle records these reactions on her iPhone saves them under the name "voice memo 9".*



# Home Cooking

Joel Salaysay, BC

for Wildbrain Studios.

Joel Salaysay is a Vancouver-based filmmaker. His shorts have played in festivals across North America, and he is the recipient of numerous awards, including the TIFF Top Ten, Montreal World Film Festival, and BC Leo Award for Best Student Short (*Lifers* [2014/2015]). He is currently a co-director on a 3D animated series

*"Home Cooking" is an intimate short documentary about a family recipe being passed down between generations. It draws on the connection between food, culture, and communication.*



# Reflected

Sheen Chan & Travis Marx, MB

Sheen Chan is a recent Communications grad from the University of Winnipeg and Red River College. She has written, directed, and produced multiple short films and visual media projects. She specializes in media production and seeks to accurately portray diversity in her projects. Sheen resides in Winnipeg and she enjoys catching movies at Cinematheque or Landmark Theatres and writing short stories.

Travis Marx is a newcomer to the Winnipeg film industry. He enjoys creating stories that are focused on social justice and highlighting underrepresented voices. Travis got his first directing experience while making the short film *Reflected*. In his free time, he enjoys watching movies and anime, reading manga, learning Japanese, and growing many bonsai trees.

*After a young woman loses someone important in her life, she struggles to find the happiness she once had.*



# Dadaji/Ode

Rheanna Toy, BC

Rheanna is a video creator based out of the Greater Vancouver Area. She started her career after graduating from SFU with a BFA with honours in Film Production. She worked in documentary post-production and in corporate documentary, beginning with creating a web series which launched her freelance career. When she isn't experimenting with her own film projects, Rheanna is collaborating with local businesses and organizations.

*Dadaji/Ode emerged from an initiative created by posAbilities, an organization that provides a broad range of services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. The film features poems written and read by Rosh Kashap and Anjalica Solomon Faced with the restrictions that came during the early days of covid, Rheanna came up with the idea to film herself and her colleague against a white backdrop set up in her home, overlaying their silhouettes with stock footage and family photos provided by Anjalica and Roshni.*



# Falling In

Danielle Braund, BC

A graduate from The University of Lethbridge with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Danielle Braund is multi-talented actor, writer and singer based out of Vancouver. Danielle continues to refine her acting career, and in 2017, wrote, produced and starred in a one-woman show to sold-out audiences at The Vancouver Fringe Festival. Most recently, she co-starred in *Ladies Don't Wear Slacks*, co-starred in *Meant For Something More* a trans teen suicide awareness music video and was in an episode of *The Twilight Zone*. She and her co-writer Meeshelle Neal gained credibility as a quarter finalist at The ScreenCraft Film Fund.

*FALLING IN is the story of Kailey, a struggling artist with lightning-fast wit, who begrudgingly returns to her religiously oppressive small town, at the request of her father. Hiding her current financial instability, and lack of success, she pretends that everything is just fine. However, her father is also hiding that a secret.*





# Wheels of Life

Andrea Cass, NL

Andrea Cass is a filmmaker located in St. John's. Her first film, *River of Fire*, was selected for film festivals in Canada and the United States including FIN-Atlantic International Film Festival, the St. John's International Women's Film Festival and the Garden State Film Festival. This beautiful short documentary captures the sights, sounds and spirit of the Victoria Park Lantern Festival in downtown St. John's, Newfoundland. Her second short, *Wheels of Life*, documents the experiences of 3 long-term care residents as they enjoy a taste of freedom on an adaptive bicycle built for two. *Wheels of Life* was screened at The Nickel Independent Film Festival, FIN-Atlantic, SJIWFF, Charlottetown and the Halifax Independent Film Festival. Andrea's latest film, a dramatic short, *SPIN*, will be released in the fall of 2021.

*"...Free, free like a bird!" Wheels of Life is a short documentary that covers a single summer day in the lives of three long-term care residents as they enjoy a bit of freedom on an adaptive bicycle built for two.*



# Skipping Stones

Corby Martin, BC

Corby Martin is an accomplished cinematographer and camera operator as well as an inventor and innovator of optical and mechanical products for the film industry. He has lenses award winning short films, documentaries, commercials, music videos and feature films, as well as developed unique lenses and accessories for

TV and feature films including the Effigy Lens system and Ethereal Lens for Sim International. Corby is also a well recognized and respected expert on cinema lenses and has been invited to speak in panel discussions and technical workshops at event such as NAB and Cinegear and for brands such as Fujifilm USA and Sim International. Corby lives in the mountains of British Columbia and is available for cinematography and optical/mechanical design consultation.

*A portrait of a boy growing to a man, expressing his struggles and frustrations through the simple act of skipping a stone.*

## Our Team

### Screening committee:

Laura Arboleda

Lynn Matheson

Alexandra Caulfield

Jessica Seymour

Sahar Khalaji

Eloane Venkatapen

Sophia Gelfant

Zoe Hertz

### Core team:

Jessica Seymour (Festival Coordinator)

Bryce Logan (Q+A Host)

Paige Smith, Rebecca Matzov (Outreach)

## Thank You

Paige Smith

Nicole and Gary Brown

Anne and Dave Brown

Valerie Girard

Henriette Viljoen

Ron Levasseur

Will Romines

George and the Sparq team

Tom and the VanPrint Team

Silver Fox Postering