

an all-Canadian motion picture variety show

CINEMA SPECTACULAR

At the UIFF Centre MARCH 26th 2023

Online MARCH 27th-APRIL 1st 2023



Tickets, program info & more

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello!

Welcome to the 8th and final Cinema Spectacular. Since 2014 we've programmed 149 projects from across Canada and have proudly represented the low- to no-budget indie filmmaking spirit.

Today we've got a stellar slate of 21 films to show you - a wonderful mix of drama, comedy, horror, animation, music, and documentary. And as with every year, a subconscious theme gathers at the edges of our programming. This year submissions were meditative; a lot of conversations (or the stark lack thereof) between people, plenty exploring isolation - both as something burdensome and as something freeing, and getting to know the world that immediately surrounds us a little bit better.

It is bittersweet being back and having it be for the last time. I have immensely appreciated this community, the support, and the friendships forged in the fires of film festing. It has been an absolute pleasure to see all of the films submitted to us, to see filmmakers come back year after year, and to have the honour of including these projects in our programs. It has been a privilege to be able to come back to this theatre time and time again to fill it with homegrown movies, music, and friends.

Enjoy the program today! Love these films, keep up with these filmmakers, and continue to engage with local cinema at every opportunity.



Laurel K. Brown
Festival Founder, Director - Cinema Spectacular

CINEMA SPECTACULAR

MARCH 26th AT A GLANCE

10:00 Doors open - enjoy the music of Raincity, the VIFF concession, raffle prizes + more

11:00 Program 1 begins

12:30 Intermission - enjoy more Raincity!

13:00 Q+A for Program 1

13:30 Program 2 begins

14:45 Q+A for Program 2

Please join us post-screening for celebratory snacks, drinks, and more opportunities to chat local cinema at
The Morrissey pub
1227 Granville St, Vancouver BC

Vote for your favourite film this evening to win our Audience Choice award - Drop off your ballot with our volunteers after the show

#lovelocalcinema

Cinema Spectacular operates on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and sə̱lilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.



Magic Trick

Chris Lennox-Aasen (BC)

An enchanting meet-cute about encountering a beautiful stranger in the wild.

Chris is a filmmaker living in Vancouver BC. He grew up a foreign service brat, and studied film at SFU. As a storyteller, his interest is in archetypes, genres, and alternative subcultures as exciting reflecting pools for human experience, emotion, and growth.





“Time is a Car” by Partner Lesley Marshall (BC)

“Time Is A Car is a meta music video. A music video in a music video. It’s what would have happened if Thelma and Louise escaped with all the money and drove happily ever after off into the sunset and had wonderful prosperous lives. Fueled by music video epics, pulp films, and ripe with sarcasm, Time Is A Car, has the parody quality of Beastie Boys’ Sabotage and the vibrancy of Megan Thee Stallion’s Thot Sh*t filmed in Victoria, BC.”



An award-winning filmmaker with films appearing in 40 festivals nationally and internationally, music videos by Lesley have been featured on Rolling Stone, American Songwriter, and many more. Lesley’s cinematography and editing of the 2019 Inside Out selected webseries “Village Legacy Project” can be seen on OutTV. Lesley’s first documentary web series “Dollar Bin DJ” was shortlisted for Telefilm Talent To Watch and WIFTV IDM Accelerator in 2018. In 2022, Lesley received full funding for her current

documentary, the Illegal Midwives of Vancouver Island from the BC Arts Council and is supported by CBC Gem for the short The Colour Orange. Lesley is the founder of MAVNetwork, a production company focused on inclusive crews working with Netflix, Vox Media, TD Bank, MLB and many more. Projection art by Lesley has been performed at the National Art Centre, Montreal Jazz Fest, CentrePHI and in galleries in NYC, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and the Netherlands.



BOSSBABE

Teresa Alfeld (BC)

Nikki Newstead gets sucked into the slippery world of multi-level marketing, and is about to get more than she bargained for.

Teresa Alfeld (she/her) is an award-winning writer/director from Vancouver. She is a member of the Director's Guild of Canada, and the Documentary Organization of Canada.

Directing credits include the feature documentaries DOUG AND THE SLUGS AND ME (Closing Night Gala film at DOXA 2022, premiered on CBC January 2023), and THE RANKIN FILE: LEGACY OF A RADICAL, the short documentary JEAN SWANSON: WE NEED A NEW MAP and short dramatic films ROADKILL, CHARLIE GAUVIN, and BUNKY THE VAMPIRE KILLER.

Teresa recently premiered the short comedy DAVID FOSTER'S EGGGPAA (NFB 2022) starring David Foster and Katharine McPhee at the Governor General Awards ceremony in Ottawa.

Teresa holds a BFA in film production (SFU 2010), a Master's in Dispute Resolution (UVic 2017), is fluent in French, and – as a teenager – once helped build a pirate TV tower, successfully knocking out the national broadcaster's signal for nearly ten minutes to broadcast her and her colleagues' content (Teresa's program was a dirtbag dating show called Hookin' It Up: East Van Style).





Picture Yourself

Tracey Lavigne (NB)

An agoraphobic woman resists going with her partner to a family funeral, triggering a crisis point in their relationship. An exploration of the short but impossible distance between the threshold of the front door to the world outside, and between two people separated by a mental illness.



Tracey Lavigne (she/they) is a queer writer, director, and producer based in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Tracey's award-winning short films have screened at festivals across Canada and beyond. An alumnus of the Reykjavik International Film Festival Talent Lab, the FIN Atlantic Film Festival Script Development Program, and a past winner of the WIFT-Atlantic CBC Pitch Competition, she is producer of the upcoming feature length fantasy drama *Further Than the Eye Can See*.



Wish You Were Here

Shiun Okada, Yuki Masaki (BC)

After planning their trip to Japan, Miya and Haru discover that they are no longer able to go due to the pandemic. Miya decides to recreate the Japanese experience from the comfort of their home and drags Haru along with her.

Shiun Okada graduated from the Film Production program at the University of British Columbia. He is an emerging filmmaker with an eye for cinematography. For over a decade, his goal is to be a Director of Photography with a small interest in Directing. His background, however, began from the technical side of film—learning the specifics of camera and lighting technologies, as well as visual effects. Through the creations in visual effects work, he continued to try and refine the art of visually capturing and creating an image to learn to be a better storyteller. Shiun is a 2nd-generation Japanese Canadian who now works to investigate the human psyche and its influences it has on our mental health while using this non-western lens in his body of works.



Yuko Masaki graduated in Socio-Cultural Anthropology from the University of British Columbia. As a second-generation Japanese Canadian, she focuses her studies on aspects of Japanese culture in order to better understand herself and her heritage. Her interests specifically lie in food and how traditions around food are formed and maintained. "Wish You Were Here" is her directorial and screenwriting debut.





MARTY

Mike McKinlay (BC)

This 7 minute documentary titled MARTY follows an 11 year old 80's obsessed skate punk - stuck in the past while struggling to navigate the present.



During his 20 years as a Director of Photography Mike McKinlay has carved out a respectable niche as a multi award winning Cinematographer in the Canadian documentary scene - taking part in some of the top documentary stories spanning the west coast. Some of his most recent clients have included CBC, National Geographic, Netflix, National Film Board of Canada, Knowledge Network, and APTN.



After the Rain

David K Greene, Nate Kelly,
Parker Thompson (BC)

Dealing with the weight of the world, a gardener takes solace in tending to his plot.

Nate Kelly and Parker Thompson are part of Gritzmoré, the art collective and production company led by David K Greene. Together, over the years, these three and many more have produced comedy, music videos, and many experimental films. Production company for hire and arts collective for fun, Gritzmoré is here to stay.





Forgotten

Mawrgan Shaw (ON)

Forgotten is an animated short film that offers a window into the isolation the elderly face when living alone. Drawn using traditional and digital media, the film presents and explores one person's loneliness, sorrow, and deteriorating grip on reality.



Mawrgan Shaw BA (Media & Comm), M (DigFilm), is a visual artist and animator based in Toronto, Canada, 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 United States, and has upcoming programming in South Korea and China.



Halves and Doubles

Adam Mbowe (MB)

Despite the close bond between Adam and her sibling Khadija there is trauma unspoken between them. In this short documentary, the two hold a conversation where they attempt to find mutual understanding through the winding road of expressing emotions.

Adam Mbowe is a Gambian/Canadian, Montreal-based filmmaker. Recently a graduate from Concordia University, creating art through moving images has given her the means to describe experiences that may otherwise be forgotten or rarely explained. It has given her the power to illustrate blackness and queerness through film as reclamation. With her work, she is inspired by the inherent value of simple memories and how these tiny poignant moments almost escape description yet say so much. She hopes to continue to create entertaining yet films that resonate and keep viewers subtly reflecting.





Romantics

Jamie Lam (BC)

After a surprise date with her thoughtful boyfriend, Olivia goes on a quest to make her first-generation parents embrace their romantic instincts.



Hailing from Richmond, BC, Jamie Lam is an emerging director, writer, and filmmaker of Hong Kong descent. Her latest short film, “The Mess We’re In” won awards at the 17th Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon, including Best Film. Her short films have played at various festivals, including the Vancouver Asian Film Festival and DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon. As a writer, Jamie is an alumni of the Arts Club’s LEAP

Playwriting Intensive and Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre’s MSG Lab. Jamie’s work aims to explore the nuances in how human connection is pursued, built, or undone. She strives to contribute to the landscape of media as a woman of colour focused on fostering empathy and understanding.



Worst Day Ever

Karl Franzen Kimmel, Nils Kimmel (BC)

A young man's mind reels as he attempts to make it through the last five minutes of a dreaded workday without his anxiety-inducing secret being discovered by his co-workers. As time ticks away and tension mounts, he begins to suspect betrayal.

Nils and Karl are Canadian filmmaking brothers with a passion for both horror and comedy. They have always been drawn to the art of storytelling, and have honed their skills through years of hard work and dedication. They have created several films that explore the intersection of horror and comedy, showcasing their unique perspectives and innovative approach to filmmaking spanning an array of DIY projects and funded budgets.





Santa's Homophobic

Michelle Tran (AB)

Animated Music Video of Left at London's comedic single; "Santa's Homophobic", made with express permission of the musical artist. The music video details the story of Nat (Stage Name: Left at London) coming to a troubling conclusion about Santa Clause after not receiving gifts on



Michelle Tran graduated from the University of Alberta with 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 the 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.

IN THE ATRIUM



Meet Raincity, our musical guests! Lovingly described as “an acid trip struck by lightning”, this rage-funk quintet puts on one hell of a show!

Check out their latest release, “ohyeahfursurebud” and keep in the know about upcoming shows and fresh releases!

thatbandraincity.com

They're back, baby! Jamie Taylor and Sarah Faye Bernstein of the Jamie and Sarah Experience Project (JSEP) are back as our hosts with the most to guide us through our fest with giggles and good vibes.

jamieandsarahep.com



Bryce Logan is back to moderate our Q+As! Asking the big questions and digging deep with our filmmakers!

Have you grabbed your raffle tickets yet? We've got two stacked prize packs supplied by our sponsors!



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Even though the festival is coming to an end, we won't stop supporting and promoting Canadian-made media. We're going to keep this as up-to-date as possible going forward.

Have a festival or organization to add? Get in touch!
cinemaspectacular.com/contact-us



Torch Narrows

Simon Garez (SK)

Two small-town friends revisit a traumatic memory they shared on the Saskatchewan River.



Simon Garez is a Saskatoon-based actor and director who works in French and English. Raised in Saskatchewan, he holds a BFA in theatre performance from Simon Fraser University, a diploma in acting from the Vancouver Institute of Media Arts, and is a recipient of the RBC YFF Mentorship Program. His directorial debut, *Torch Narrows*, won the Saskatchewan Independent Film Awards for Best Short Film and Best

Technical Achievement. His films examines themes of rural life and humanity's interactivity to its ecological environment. Alongside his art practice, Simon works with bees and honey production.



Under the Full Moon

Lynn Dana Wilton (ON)

Is anyone sleeping well, lately? What is real and what is dream? I didn't set out to make a pandemic film but ... A short animated with vine charcoal on 4" x 6" cards based on a pair of anijams for TAIS and AFX.

Lynn Dana Wilton's (Sheridan, Classical Animation -2001; Ryerson, BAAID - 1991) commercial work includes directing & animating stop-motion for TV series, specials, docs, ads, and interstitials including "Ultra City Smiths", "Sesame Street", "Angakusajaujuq: A Shamen's Apprentice", "Book of Dog", "Biidaaban: the Dawn Comes", "Scout & the Gumboot Kids", "Four Faces of the Moon", "What's Inside?", "Glenn Martin, DDS", "Rick & Steve: The Happiest Gay Couple In All the World", "A Miser Brothers' Christmas", and "Lunar Jim".

Indie shorts including "(Re)Cycle" and "Celestial Red & Blue" have screened around the world and she conducts workshops & lectures at home and abroad. She's also very proud of her former involvement in Scratch Track, a cameraless film project performed live with hand-drawn sound (yes, drawn sound!) at the 2002 OIAF.





Damned Supper

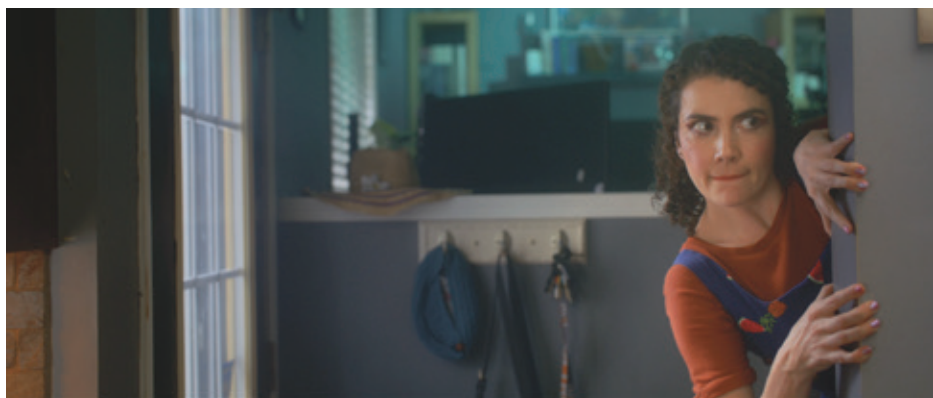
Ariel Hansen (BC)

On Halloween a group of wannabe witches seeking visions of their future loves conjure up more than they bargained for during their dumb supper ritual.



Ariel entered the entertainment industry as an actor, but being a passionate connoisseur of horror, she absorbed as much knowledge as she could while acting on various film sets in order to learn how best to bring her own nightmares to life. The first fright she birthed into the world was *Ready to Burst*, a pregnancy-based horror short that acted as her writer-director debut and led to her co-founding Bad Cookie Pictures.

Since then she's directed *The Man in the Rabbit Mask*, *Paint the Town Red*, *Relaxing Rituals ASMR*, *Nepenthes*, *Clout*, and most recently the Halloween horror *Damned Supper*. Behind the camera, Ariel seeks to create a collaborative atmosphere and is always excited to hear the new ideas others bring to the table in order to craft the most terrifying tale possible.



Milkshakes

Rob Hunt (BC)

She hadn't made a milkshake in years for fear that they would return.

She starts the blender reluctantly.

In the distance, screams

The boys had returned. They were coming to her yard.

Rob Hunt is a filmmaker based in Vancouver, Canada with roots in Victoria. With experience as a camera assistant on big budget productions and a member of latse 669, Rob brings technical expertise to his work as a director. His portfolio includes a variety of short films, web series, and music videos, showcasing a diverse range of styles and genres. However, Rob's most notable project to date is the fantasy comedy web series "Standard Action."

In addition to his film work, Rob is also an avid fan of board games and Dungeons & Dragons. This love for fantasy and gaming is evident in his creative projects, infusing them with a unique sense of humor and imagination.





Marry

Fiona Cully (QC)

After a few drinks in the park, two friends wander the streets and stumble upon life's toughest questions.



Fiona Cully is an emerging filmmaker from Montreal. After getting her degree in Film Production at Concordia University and completing her third year short film, she went on to direct some music videos as she worked as a production coordinator at the documentary production company Intuitive Pictures. While writing and directing *Marry*, she reconnected with her love of fiction and storytelling as well as the thrill of collaborating

with actors. She is now developing a web series project with funding from the CALQ.



Wok Hei

Joel Salaysay (BC)

Wok Hei follows an Asian-Canadian mother restoring a rusty family wok, and in-so-doing, reconnecting with her cultural

Joel Salaysay is a Canadian filmmaker based in Vancouver. His work ranges from live-action, to documentary, and 3D animation. His directing credits include the award-winning Lifers and Last Night, and the Netflix series Sonic Prime.





Cameo

Daniel Jeffery (BC)

Lucy discovers home movies of her older siblings and wonders why she never received the same video legacy herself.



Daniel Jeffery is a lifelong independent filmmaker whose comedy and documentary short films explore subjects like pet euthanasia, adult circumcision, family, and friendship. His absurdist talking-dog comedy, *A New Leash On Life*, has screened at over 30 international festivals (VIFF 20'; EIFF 20'; DC Shorts 20') and broadcast Canada-wide on CBC, while his impromptu home movie, *Free Range*, premiered

at DOXA Documentary FF 21'. In 2022, he was a recipient of the DGC Award for Best Director at Vancouver's Run N' Gun Film Competition for his team's short film, *Stanley Kubrick's The Moon Landing*. Daniel holds a B.F.A. in Film Production from Simon Fraser University and currently works in-house as a filmmaker for Lush North America.



The Dragon Awakens

Paul Johnson (BC)

3 friends relegated to the vitrium mines must escape and return to the wilds of their homeland through the power of their minds, absorbing the kung-fu skills of the Sparrow of Shaolin and dancing and kung-fu-ing their way from pixels to cartoons and ultimately to freedom.

Paul is currently employed directing video game cinematics and has worked for more than 25 years in TV and theatrical animation. Paul divides his time between studio work and personal work, including music composition, concept, design, marketing, and animation for film #10 of "20 short films in 20 years".

Paul found an animation career in 1995 at the age of 24, and has evolved from creating hand-drawn animation through digital 2d, 3d, and video game cinematics. Paul also taught animation part time for 15 years.





Peanut Butter

Maxime Divier (QC)

Dan is fed up. Fed up with his misfortunes, fed up with his bad luck and fed up with his life. He decided to end it by eating his last ban: peanuts.



I am an artist in the 3D Animation field, I write, direct and experiment, guided by my passion for storytelling and visual composition. Interested in all the formats that allow to tell stories visually, I challenge myself by directing and creating project that are dear to my heart. Through my films, I always try to bring a new look and spotlight on societies subjects that I feel are too often ignored, so that the viewer leaves the film with a

new vision, a new reflection. I truly believe that a better world is possible, and that art in general have something to do with it.

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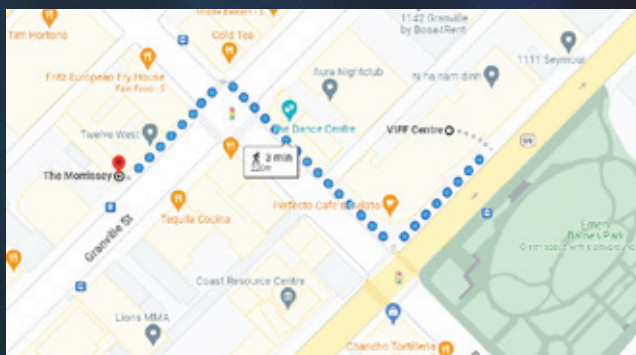
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Our 2023 program is available to stream online,
Canada-wide until April 1st!

cinemaspectacular.com