

18<sup>th</sup>

Annual

# Regent Park Film Festival

TORONTO'S LONGEST RUNNING FREE COMMUNITY FILM FESTIVAL

November 26-29 2020

ONLINE

REGENT  
PARK  
FILM  
FESTIVAL



@REGENTPARKFILM  
#RPFF2020  
#RPFFONLINE

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## FOUNDATION SUPPORT



TORONTO  
FOUNDATION

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# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Regent Park Film Festival ONLINE

For the first time ever, the Regent Park Film Festival will take place in an online setting. This year, we are thrilled to bring you relevant programming connecting our communities in a new format. #RPFF2020 continues to program free and accessible films, talkbacks, industry sessions and more!

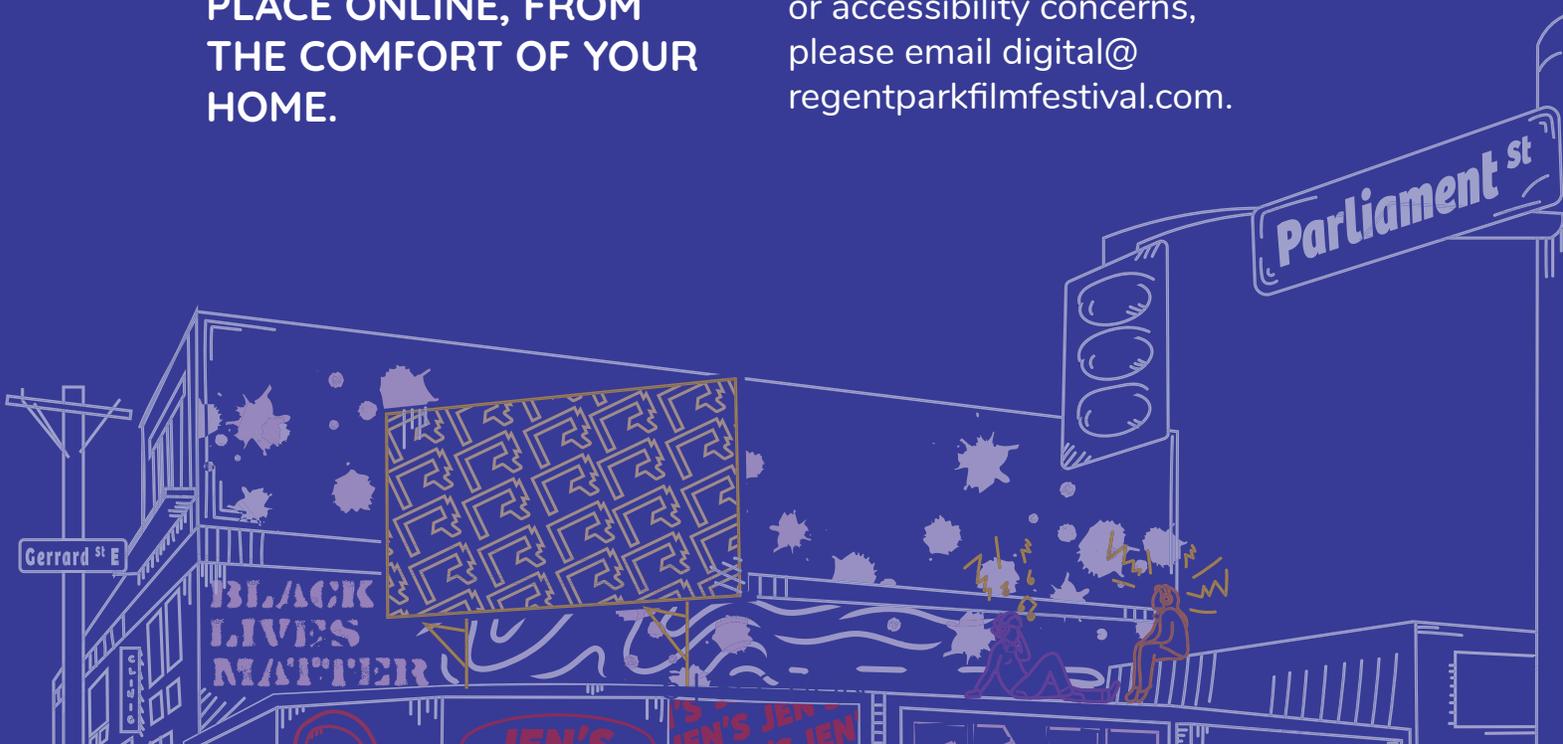
**SUBSCRIBE NOW FOR FREE ACCESS**  
**[REGENTPARKFILMFESTIVAL.COM/2020](https://regentparkfilmfestival.com/2020)**

**SHARE YOUR FESTIVAL  
MOMENTS WITH US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Tag us @RegentParkFilm and  
use the hashtag #RPFF2020

**ALL SCREENINGS TAKE  
PLACE ONLINE, FROM  
THE COMFORT OF YOUR  
HOME.**

If you have any questions  
or accessibility concerns,  
please email [digital@  
regentparkfilmfestival.com](mailto:digital@regentparkfilmfestival.com).



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## THANK YOU TO OUR LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION DONORS

### LIGHTS \$25+

Aisha Green	Deborah Nolan	Kendall Marin	Pamela Thomson
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Catherine Stockhausen  
Cliona Taylor  
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Deanna Wong  
Emi Sakamoto-Jog  
Erin Cox  
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Kathleen McMillan

Lali Mohamed  
Lea Marin  
Louis Calabro  
Madison Maguire  
Matt Brown  
Matthew Gorman  
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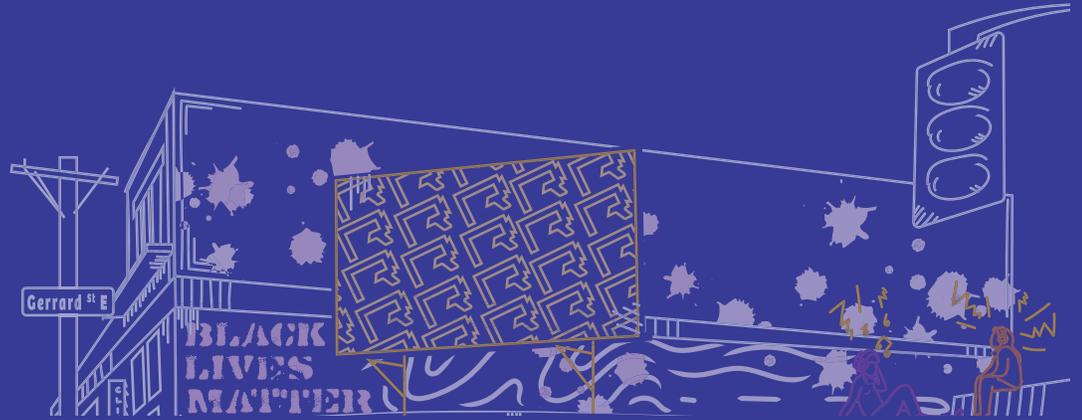
## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Tendisai Cromwell  
David Osubronie  
Ananya Ohri  
Jessica Dargo Caplan  
Fatima Saya  
Katie Elder  
Andria Wilson

Deanna Wong  
Naomi Johnson  
Katherine Bruce  
Tonya Williams



# GREETINGS



## BETTY XIE

BOARD CHAIR,  
REGENT PARK FILM  
FESTIVAL



Welcome to the 18th, digital edition of the Regent Park Film Festival.

2020 has been a year of uncertainty, with lives across the globe impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

But 2020 is also the year of resilience and strength. BIPOC Communities around the world gather to tell their stories, champion their causes, and share their lived experiences.

Regent Park Film Festival is honoured to have the opportunity to pivot our year-round and festival programs online and continue to provide a platform for the communities we serve to celebrate stories by BIPOC filmmakers and media artists.

Congratulations to our staff and board. To our fearless staff team -- Angela, Shafia, Craig, Faduma, Rolla, Yasmeen, Alicia, and Emieke -- you made it possible for all of us to continue to enjoy the festival.

Big thank you to our funders, sponsors, donors, and community supporters. Thank you for championing storytelling.

Enjoy the festival!



## ANGELA BRITTO

EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR,  
REGENT PARK  
FILM FESTIVAL



RPFF thrives on bringing groups of people together to share in the magic of storytelling and dialogue through film. Pivoting to virtual programming, while a useful way to connect communities and reduce social isolation, has also been accompanied by a palpable sense of loss and sadness.

Indeed, the theme of this year's Festival, "Dis-Place," references the physical space of Regent Park, and the many forms of displacement that its communities have experienced. It also draws attention to the disruption that COVID-19 has made to ways of life, and to the way we've always done things at RPFF.

This has been my first year as Executive Director. Being a new leader during a pandemic has been very challenging, and I couldn't have done it without our small but mighty team who managed to organize an entire Festival while working remotely. I couldn't be prouder of what we've accomplished together.

Regent Park we miss you, and we'll be with you in person again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Britto'.



## FADUMA GURE

PROGRAMMER,  
REGENT PARK FILM  
FESTIVAL



Coming into this role, I've been thinking a lot about the thematic possibilities for this year's film festival. Taking into account a factor like a global pandemic, I started to think about the ways we can feel further isolated and displaced from our routines and traditions. Displacement is not new to Regent Park and the more I say the word out loud the more I hear members of my community speak of this place. I hear them say Dis Place with the accent of the many different ethnicities that makes up the essence of Regent Park. I hear my family, my elders, the voices of my community.

The theme this year is "Dis-place". We confront the meaning and effects of displacement and how we as individuals and communities navigate that. We take the exploration of the theme one step further and focus on our relationship to 'dis place'. This is a nod to all the BIPOC and immigrant families especially in Regent Park who watch their neighbourhood change in real time due to gentrification, compounded with many systemic factors and come to terms with their relationship to this place.



**SIMON BRAULT**  
**O.C., O.Q.**

DIRECTOR AND CEO,  
CANADA COUNCIL  
FOR THE ARTS



The arts further our understanding of one another, and they bring us together to imagine a better world.

In these unprecedented times, artists and arts organizations are embracing innovative approaches so that they can continue to create their work and share it with audiences. As we grapple with enormous global challenges, the arts offer an endless supply of renewal, inclusion, and resilience.

The Canada Council for the Arts is proud to support the Regent Park Film Festival, which centres on the unifying power of the work it presents.



**RITA DAVIES**

CHAIR, ONTARIO ARTS  
COUNCIL



On behalf of the board and staff of the Ontario Arts Council, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2020 online edition of the Regent Park Film Festival (RPF).

This year has presented countless challenges, but it has also been a year of profound resilience. The Ontario Arts Council is proud to support the RPF, which through its many activities engages audiences, empowers artists and propels budding filmmakers on their career paths. While the pandemic continues to disrupt many activities in the arts and in everyday life, the RPF remains a gathering place for communities – particularly people of colour, Black, and Indigenous communities – to share and enjoy stories told through film.

I would like to wish all the filmmakers, organizers and attendees good health and a wonderful 2020 festival.



**GAËTANE VERNA**

PRESIDENT, TORONTO  
ARTS COUNCIL



Welcome to the 18th Annual Regent Park Film Festival. Toronto Arts Council is proud to support Toronto’s longest running free community film festival.

The City of Toronto, through Toronto Arts Council, invests public funds in support of our work to connect every Toronto neighbourhood with the transformative benefits of the arts. As an arts professional myself, I know how challenging 2020 has been for artists who are trying to maintain their practice. As such, I want to acknowledge Regent Park Film Festival for providing space for local, emerging, and established filmmakers to be showcased together at such a critical time. Thank you for this opportunity to engage with each other’s inspirations, ideas, and expressions in such a fulsome way.

Congratulations to the staff and board of Regent Park Film Festival, and thank you to the volunteers who make this exciting event possible.

Wishing you continued success.



**KRIS DEPENCIER**

REGIONAL  
PRESIDENT, GREATER  
TORONTO, RBC



Toronto is home to many film festivals, but none that bring a community together quite like the Regent Park Film Festival.

This year’s challenges have changed the festival’s usual format, but the passion and drive to continue gifting our city with incredible stories through film remains unwavering.

As a proud Premier Sponsor for the past nine years, RBC has witnessed how this multi-cultural festival has been a catalyst for change in our neighbourhoods. And this year is no different – we will get the opportunity to re-watch some of the most inspiring films this city has to offer.

To our festival organizers, thank you for continuing to connect us all and for your commitment to carrying on the tradition of inspiring our city, despite the unusual times we’re living in.

Until next year!

# SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS

## UNDER THE STARS

Our free, outdoor screening series is one of a kind in the city, with a focus on showing widely loved films that represent and resonate with Indigenous, Black, and people of colour communities. Each year, Under the Stars: Movies in the Park draws in more of the Regent Park community and the GTA than the last! This year's program was online and we hope to return to the park again soon!

## REGENT PARK PROJECT

The Regent Park Project empowers youth from Regent Park and beyond with opportunities to develop their acting, writing and filmmaking skills through hands-on workshops in creating their own web series. An example of inter-cultural dialogue in action, the project has completed two seasons on their web series, which can be seen at [RegentParkProject.com](http://RegentParkProject.com).

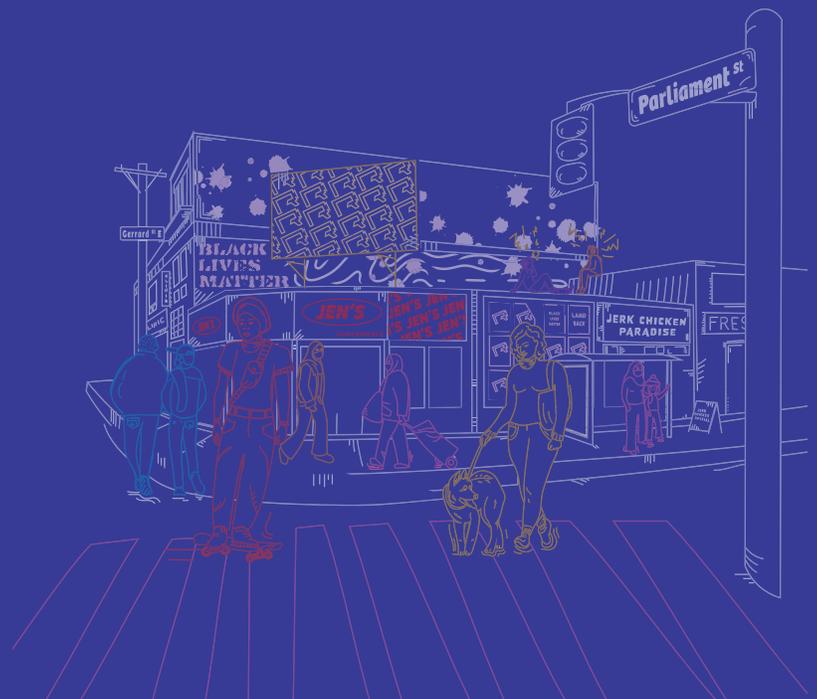


## SCHOOL PROGRAM

Each year, the Regent Park Film Festival kicks off with the School Program, a series of films for younger audiences from the community. Featuring films from around the world and across genres, the program not only reflects these students' diverse lived experiences, but asks them to situate themselves and their community within a broader context. This year's school program online will be available to educators outside of the Festival dates for greater access.

## BLOCK BY BLOCK

Block by Block is a participatory, multimedia program of the Toronto Ward Museum. We train young people to interview community members in their own neighbourhoods about their lived experiences of migration, settlement and civic life. Block by Block is thrilled to be working in Regent Park from 2019-2022 with support from the Regent Park Film Festival and Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre and grateful to all of the Regent Park community members who have contributed so far. [www.wardmuseum.ca](http://www.wardmuseum.ca) @TOWardMuseum



# FESTIVAL STAFF



**ANGELA BRITTO**  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR



**FADUMA GURE**  
PROGRAMMER



**YASMEEN NEMATT ALLA**  
OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR



**ALICIA HEWITT**  
PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR



**SHAFIA SHAIKH**  
MARKETING AND  
OUTREACH MANAGER



**CRAIG PALMER**  
MANAGER OF  
OPERATIONS



**ROLLA TAHIR**  
DIGITAL FESTIVAL  
COORDINATOR

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## LEGEND

★ FEATURES

🎥 DOC FEATURES

SHORTS

💬 TALKBACK + INDUSTRY PANELS

👤 NON FILM PROGRAMMING

## DIS PLACE OPENING NIGHT



6:00 PM  
OPENING NIGHT

OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION: BEING  
BLACK IN TORONTO + TALKBACK PANEL

THE ONYX BUTTERFLY  
YYZ  
MR. JANE AND FINCH  
BLACK SUN  
TALLAWAH ABROAD



RUTHLESS SOULS



IT MUST BE HEAVEN

## DIS CONNECTION



CREATING CHANGE THROUGH INDIGENOUS  
LEADERSHIP: THE INDIGENOUS SCREEN  
OFFICE



CTV'S TRANSPLANT:  
HOW IT STARTED AND WHAT'S NEXT



THE OUTSIDE STORY



DHALINYARO

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## LEGEND



FEATURES



DOC FEATURES



SHORTS



TALKBACK + INDUSTRY PANELS



NON FILM PROGRAMMING

## DIS COMMUNITY



FAMJAM:  
FAREWELL REGENT



FAMJAM: THE KINGS OF MULBERRY STREET



BLOCK X BLOCK: REGENT PARK TRIVIA



LET'S DOC AND TALK: KELET



LET'S DOC AND TALK: CODED BIAS + TALKBACK



OUTDEH

## DIS IS REGENT

CLOSING NIGHT

### SHORTIES PART 1

MYSTERY OF NOW  
MASTERPIECE  
GRAMERCY  
DELAYED ECHOS  
COMMUTER  
THE RUBY

### SHORTIES PART 2

BEEF  
VISIBLE  
SIGNS  
SERIOUS LEES  
EMPTY  
PAGANS



ACADEMY TALKS:  
IN THE ROOM - THE ART OF THE PITCH



6:00 PM  
CLOSING NIGHT:  
EMERGING DIRECTORS' SPOTLIGHT  
& PITCH COMPETITION

TEEN DREAM  
BOLLYSINGH  
PYOTR495  
BY THE TRAIN  
LONELY BOY PARTY  
BURN

## FAQ

### **HOW DO I WATCH THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL?**

#### **DO I NEED TO SUBSCRIBE?**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the decision to move this year's festival online. This year's Festival is being presented as a video on demand experience (example: Netflix, Crave etc.) using our Cinesend platform. Instead of tickets to individual screenings, you subscribe on our website to access the entire catalogue of films and panels all at once for free (with the exception of the Emerging Directors' Pitch competition which is Live at 7pm, Sunday, November 29).

#### **WHEN CAN I START WATCHING FILMS AND PANELS?**

All programming (with the exception of the Emerging Directors' Pitch Competition) will be made available to view on the first day of the festival on November 26 at 6PM and will be available to view until 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 29.

#### **IS THE FESTIVAL STILL FREE?**

Yes, the Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto's longest running free community Film Festival and we continue to make our programming free to the public.

#### **CAN I WATCH THE FESTIVAL TITLES ONCE THE FESTIVAL IS OVER?**

Regent Park Film Festival will make recordings of our industry and professional development sessions, talkbacks and panels available after the Festival is finished but unfortunately, the short films and features will no longer be available to watch after the Festival is over.

#### **I LIVE OUTSIDE CANADA. CAN I STILL WATCH THE FESTIVAL?**

No, all of our content is restricted to viewers in Canada, with the exception of the film *The Outside Story* which is only available to viewers in Ontario.

#### **IS THE FESTIVAL ACCESSIBLE?**

All films are captioned and/or subtitled in English. Some pre-recorded content is available with ASL interpretation.

## **HOW DO I TURN CAPTIONS ON/OFF**

Open captions (oc) are part of the video itself and cannot be turned off while closed captions can be turned on or off within the player through clicking this button at the bottom right of your player.

## **CAN I WATCH ON OTHER DEVICES ?**

Yes you can using Chromecast using your laptop and google chrome to cast your Cinesend viewing experience to your devices. Unfortunately you cannot cast from your mobile phone.

## **WHAT ARE THE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS?**

Our Festival can be accessed on Intel-based Macs running OSX 10.12+ and PCs running Windows 7+ as well as Iphones and I pads using Safari (iOS 11.2 or later with “screen mirroring” turned off), and Android phones and tablet (6.0) using chrome

## **WHAT ARE THE SUPPORTED BROWSERS?**

Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge (PC), and Opera. We recommend using the latest version of your browser. Internet Explorer is not supported.

## **MY BROWSER WON'T CONNECT**

Our Festival is available for residents of Canada. If you live in Canada and use a VPN, please turn it off to view our Festival content. If you continue to have issues please contact us at [digital@regentparkfilmfestival.com](mailto:digital@regentparkfilmfestival.com) with the email used to register.

## **I AM HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING ACCESS**

For all questions related to access, please contact [digital@regentparkfilmfestival.com](mailto:digital@regentparkfilmfestival.com)

## **I FORGOT MY PASSWORD**

Use the password reset option on the login page to have your password reset link sent to the e-mail address you used to log in.

## **ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions, contact us at [digital@regentparkfilmfestival.com](mailto:digital@regentparkfilmfestival.com)

# DIS PLACE



## OPENING NIGHT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH AT 6PM

Mahlikah Awe:ri helps us open the Festival with a land acknowledgment and then join us on a brief visual journey through Regent Park and hear from Executive Director Angela Britto and festival Programmer Faduma Gure on the story behind this year's theme of "Dis-Place." Stay for our opening night presentation of the "Being Black in Toronto" selection of films by local filmmakers, followed by a talkback with the directors.

*Sponsored by RBC*



ANGELA BRITTO

Angela Britto has been the Executive Director of the Regent Park Film Festival since 2019. She is a writer and arts administrator who came to the Festival from the public sector where she supported increased access to arts and culture in Ontario. She has a background in communications, stakeholder relations, and program management that she developed at arts organizations such as Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO), Scarborough Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres.

She has an MA in English from the University of Pennsylvania and her creative writing most recently appeared in *The Unpublished City II* (2018).



FADUMA GURE

Faduma Gure is a Toronto-based curator and arts organizer. As the founder of The Black Nerds, Faduma is dedicated to hosting and cultivating spaces for Black nerds. Past Black Nerds events included video game tournaments, art exhibits and film screenings. Faduma Gure is also a co-founder of Own the Walls- a curatorial project that showcases the work of emerging BIPOC artists.



### MAHLIKAH AWE:RI

Haudenosaunee Kanien'kéhà:ka & Mi'kmaw L'sitkuk, Canadian Poet Of Honor, Mahlikah Awe:ri is an Artist For Social Change, "Shifting paradigms through Indigenized ways of knowing and being; while reimagining what it means to be "In-Relation", to the Land and to each other". Awe:ri is a nationally recognized Spoken Word Artist, Arts Educator, Musician, Land Defender & Water Protector, Public Speaker, Performance Artist, Curator and Afro-Indigenous Futurist Writer & Digital Artist, who was awarded the 2019-2020 Paula Fund for the development of new works for younger audiences for her acclaimed solo work Tionnhéhkwen Tionnká:non.

## OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION: BEING BLACK IN TORONTO + TALKBACK PANEL

With these short films that open the 2020 Festival, we highlight the complexities of the Black experience. How do we encompass the Black experience as a whole into a single programming block? We don't. What we hope to do is honour these stories and position ourselves in relation to these realities. These stories serve

as reference points and prompts to bigger questions and discussions centering Be-ing Black In Tkaronto.

Join us after the films for a talkback with the filmmakers moderated by Ismaila Alfa, host of Metro Morning

CONTENT ADVISORY PG - 13

*Opening night sponsored by: RBC  
Copresented by: CBC Toronto  
In partnership with: OYA Media*

### HOST

### ISMAILA ALFA



Ismaila Alfa has been named the new host of Toronto's top-rated morning radio program and show of record, METRO MORNING, beginning Monday, August 24. A CBC Radio broadcaster and journalist since 2008, Alfa most recently served as the host of CBC Winnipeg's current affairs program UP TO SPEED.

Born in Nigeria to a Nigerian father and Canadian mother. Alfa was raised in Nigeria and Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he studied civil engineering at the University of Manitoba. He toured Canada and the United States as a hip hop musician for almost a decade before joining CBC Radio in Winnipeg in 2008. In June 2013, Alfa took the helm as the host of Up to Speed, taking the show to #1 in the Winnipeg afternoon radio market.



[WATCH TRAILER ►](#)

## THE ONYX BUTTERFLY

Yasmin Evering-Kerr | Short Documentary |  
Canada | 2019  
6 min | English

The Onyx Butterfly is a Poetic and Expository Documentary which seamlessly incorporates actuality with poetic elements of dance performance. The film is an exploration of the life of a Black male ballet dancer.

The film follows Jordan as he grapples with the societal pressures of being a Black male in a traditionally white feminine landscape while also struggling against the cultural gender expectations placed upon Black men. The film aims to explore the psychological impact of stereotypes on a Black male who is determined to redefine Black masculinity.

### YASMIN EVERING-KERR

Yasmin Evering-Kerr, born and raised in the cultural mosaic of the GTA, uses her roots to inspire her artistry. A recent graduate of Film Studies at Brock University, and completing her post-graduate diploma at Sheridan College. She is a passionate storyteller who frequently addresses issues of race and gender in her films.



## YYZ

Omolola Ajao | Short Documentary  
| Canada | 2019  
5 min | English

The film *YYZ* is an intimate portrayal and discussion between that of a Nigerian-Canadian family and their last-born child. For Omolola and her family, their first night in Toronto was spent in Pearson airport - that night full of anticipation, expectation, and fear. Specifically looking back at her family's journey, as well as their present and future, this film focuses on the feelings of rootlessness and loss of identity that often accompany immigration.

### OMOLOLA AJAO

Omolola Ajao is a Nigerian-Canadian screenwriter, student & filmmaker. Her priority in filmmaking is authentic, raw, and human visual narratives. *FUFU*, the start of her filmmaking journey; reflects on the continuance and severance of West-African traditions and cultures. *YYZ* is an intimate portrayal of a Nigerian-Canadian family exploring flows of migration.



## MR. JANE AND FINCH

Ngardy Conteh George  
Short Documentary | Canada  
2019 | 45 min | English

Winston LaRose, an 80-year-old activist, is running for office for the first time. He is confident of winning the Ward 7 seat, however, when Doug Ford drastically changes the political landscape by cutting the number of city councillors, Winston must fight to keep his disintegrating team together, inspire a non-voting demographic, and empower the people of his beloved Jane and Finch community.

### NGARDY CONTEH GEORGE

Ngardy Conteh George is an award-winning filmmaker. Her credits include Sundance Documentary Film Fund supported feature-length documentary *The Flying Stars* (Best documentary – BronzeLens Film Festival, 2015) and most recently, TV hour *Mr. Jane and Finch* (CBC) winner of two Canadian Screen Awards. Ngardy co-founded OYA Media Group.



## BLACK SUN

Adrian Wallace  
Short Documentary  
Canada | 2019 | 7 min | English

Sherri Bonnelly, a white woman who raised and lost her Black son, looks to advocate for anti-gun violence through her community activism, and Kelly Fyffe-Marshall, a Black filmmaker aims to shed emotional intelligence through the creation of her first feature “Summer of the Gun”, based on one of Toronto’s deadliest summers.

### ADRIAN WALLACE

*Adrian Wallace is an award-winning director, screenwriter and actor. His debut film, a short comedic doc titled Pull Up Your Pants won ‘Best Student Documentary’. Currently, Adrian is premiering his second documentary film, Black Sun, and is developing season two of Courtside, his debut feature, and a TV original.*



## TALLAWAH ABROAD

Sharine Taylor  
Short Documentary  
Canada | 2019 | 7 min  
English, Jamaican Standard English

Little Jamaica, a neighbourhood in Toronto’s west end, was a once thriving hub for Black and Caribbean business owners until the ills of gentrification reared its ugly head. Vernal Small, the owner of the 47-year old business Jamall Caribbean Custom Tailor, is now tasked with confronting how the construction of the incoming light rail is shifting the dynamic of his community, changing their future and slowly erasing their presence in the process. Tallawah Abroad aims to discover how Small, residents and other business owners have been affected and are or have prepared themselves for the adjustments on the horizon.

### SHARINE TAYLOR

*Sharine Taylor is a writer, producer and director. She is also the publisher and editor-in-chief of BASHY Magazine: a publication made by and for Jamaica and its diaspora. As she transitions into film, she’s interested in exploring the intersection of music culture, (un) belonging, memory, diaspora, identity and citizenship.*



**CONTENT ADVISORY - PG-13**

**WATCH TRAILER ▶**

## RUTHLESS SOULS

Madison Thomas

Drama | Canada | 2019 | 84 min | English

Jackie is slowly rebuilding her life after the sudden and tragic death of her partner Toni during gender reaffirming surgery. On the night of the one year anniversary of Toni's death Marlene gets a call from her lifelong friend Rooney. She's dumped her longtime partner Tay. The problem? Tay is Jackie's other best friend.

### MADISON THOMAS

Madison Thomas is a filmmaker from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Growing up, she emerged as a natural storyteller and artist at a young age. Her work reflects her mixed cultural roots, Ojibwe, Saulteax, Russian and Ukrainian. Thomas also draws inspiration from experiences growing up in the inner city and has committed herself to diverse representation in her work.



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG

WATCH TRAILER ►

## IT MUST BE HEAVEN

Elia Suleiman

Comedy/Drama | France, Qatar, Allemagne, Canada, Turquie, Palestine | 2019

97 min | English, Arabic, French (English Subtitles)

ES escapes from Palestine seeking an alternative homeland, only to find that Palestine is trailing behind him. The promise of a new life turns into a comedy of errors: however far he travels, from Paris to New York, something always reminds him of home.

### ELIA SULEIMAN

Born in Nazareth on July 28, 1960, Elia Suleiman is an award winning filmmaker and writer. Throughout his career he has won numerous awards including winning the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, Best Foreign Film at the European Awards in Rome.



## DIS CONNECTION

## CREATING CHANGE THROUGH INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP: THE INDIGENOUS SCREEN OFFICE

Key members from the Indigenous Screen Office in conversation with RPF Executive Director, Angela Britto, discuss the creation of an Indigenous funding institution,

programs for supporting Indigenous filmmakers and transforming the screen sector in solidarity with Black and POC creators.

*Presented by: Indigenous Screen Office*

### MODERATOR



ANGELA BRITTO  
Executive Director  
Regent Park Film Festival

### PANELISTS



JASON RYLE  
Jason Ryle is an independent arts professional with a focus on the Indigenous media arts sector. In his current contract with the Indigenous Screen Office, Jason works as a Program Coordinator assisting with the development and delivery of the ISO's COVID-related grants. He is Anishinaabe from Lake St. Martin, Manitoba.



KERRY SWANSON  
Kerry Swanson is Managing Director of Canada's Indigenous Screen Office. Kerry has been leading initiatives in Indigenous arts for over fifteen years as a fundraiser, arts administrator and advocate at the grassroots and institutional levels. She is a founding member of Indigenous Fashion Week Toronto (IFWTO), and was recently Board Chair for imagineNATIVE. Kerry was born and raised in Chapleau, northern Ontario, in a family of Cree/Ojibwe/Irish/French ancestry..

## CTV'S TRANSPLANT: HOW IT STARTED AND WHAT'S NEXT

Join us for a panel discussion with the team behind CTV's show "Transplant", where BIPOC actors, writers and producers discuss the process of bringing complex stories and characters from concept to screen with thoughtfulness.

Topics include centring the experiences of refugees and Muslim communities in Canada, diversity in the writers' room, telling difficult and authentic stories, and supporting emerging and established BIPOC artists.

*Presented by: CTV and HireBIPOC*

### MODERATOR



ADNAN KHAN

Adnan is a novelist, essayist, and screenwriter. He has been nominated for a National Magazine Award and was awarded the 2016 RBC Taylor Emerging Writer award. His debut novel, *There Has To Be A Knife*, was named a best Canadian novel of 2019 by the CBC, and called "a raw, gritty, shiver-inducing—but very readable—account of a young man in a spiral of grief and self-destruction," by Kirkus Review. His film work includes co-writing the screenplay *Shook*, for Scarborough Pictures, and his non-fiction has been published in *The Globe and Mail*, *Maisonneuve*, among others.

### PANELISTS



HAMZA HAQ

Hamza Haq- named a Canada Rising Star by The Hollywood Reporter in 2017, Hamza Haq stars as Bashir "Bash" Hamed in the CTV medical drama *TRANSPLANT*. In 2018, Hamza appeared alongside William Shatner and Russell Peters as twins Amal and Gopal in the CTV mini-series *INDIAN DETECTIVE*, and earned critical acclaim as Raza Ali in the CBC drama *THIS LIFE*, for which he earned a 2018 Canadian Screen Award Nomination for Best Guest Performance. Other notable credits include recurring roles on the Cinemax series *JETT* opposite Carla Gugino, *QUANTICO* starring Priyanka Chopra, and *THE ART OF MORE* with Denis Quaid and Kate Bosworth.



SAMI KHAN

Sami Khan is an Oscar-nominated writer/director whose work has been supported by the Sundance and Tribeca Film Institutes, Rooftop Films, IFP, the Berlinale, and the NBC/Universal's Directors Fellowship. His films have screened at leading festivals including Tribeca, Toronto, Hot Docs, and Mumbai. He graduated from Columbia University with an MFA in film. Currently, Sami is a writer and consulting producer on the groundbreaking scripted show TRANSPLANT about a Syrian refugee doctor living in Toronto for creator Joseph Kay, CTV, Sphere Media, and NBC.



ANAR ALI

Anar Ali is a critically acclaimed short story writer and novelist, and newly, a screenwriter. In 2016, she won a development deal with CBC's Diverse Creators Program, for her 1-hour serialized drama, RUBY'S TURN. In 2018/9, she was a writer on the first season of the hit new medical drama, TRANSPLANT (CTV/NBC Universal). Her half hour comedy, GASOLINE ALLEY, which is centered on the lives of Muslim sisters, is currently in development with Darius Films. Her debut novel, NIGHT OF POWER, was recently published by Penguin Random House in Canada, the US, and the Indian Subcontinent, and in Germany by CulturBooks Verla.



TARA WOODBURY

Tara Woodbury is Executive Producer on the new smash hit medical drama TRANSPLANT for CTV and NBC. She is currently VP of Development for Sphere Media Plus, leading domestic and international development for the English office. Tara recently produced the sci-fi thriller film NIGHT RAIDERS by Danis Goulet, with Taika Waititi as Executive Producer. Night Raiders is the first ever Indigenous co-production for Canada and New Zealand and was supported by the Sundance Institute with XYZ Films handling sales.



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG-13

WATCH TRAILER ▶

## THE OUTSIDE STORY

Casimir Nozkowski  
Comedy | USA | 2020  
85 min | English

On a tight deadline, an introverted editor is locked out of his apartment and forced to interact with his neighbors, confront his personal demons and find a way back inside.

### CASIMIR NOZKOWSKI

Casimir Nozkowski is a filmmaker who has directed and/or edited over 100 short films and sits on the Rooftop Films board of directors. His work has premiered at Sundance, SXSW, Telluride, Tribeca, Hot Docs, Woodstock, San Diego Comic Con and garnered millions of views online. He wrote and directed his first feature “The Outside Story” starring Brian Tyree Henry, Sonequa Martin-Green, Sunita Mani, Olivia Edward and Asia Kate Dillon.



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG 13

WATCH TRAILER ▶

## DHALINYARO

Lula Ali Ismail | Drama | Djibouti | 2019  
85 min | French, Somali (English Subtitles)

This story revolves around the lives of three young friends from different socio-economic backgrounds, with completely varied attitudes towards life, but bound by a deep friendship. Two teens must decide whether to remain in Djibouti or go to France to study.

### LULA ALI ISMAIL

Lula Ali Ismail is a director and actress who lives in Djibouti. In 2011, she wrote, directed and acted in her film “Laan”. Ismail created her production company Samawada Films in 2013. Since then she has produced short films such as “Everybody Against Khat”. Her debut feature film “Dhalinyaro” was completed in 2019.

# DIS COMMUNITY



## FAM JAM

Join us for FamJam, our family-friendly programming, perfect for the whole family.



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG

WATCH TRAILER ►

## FAMJAM: FAREWELL REGENT

Christene Browne  
Documentary | Canada | 2019  
90 min | English

What happens when the largest redevelopment in North America dismantles the place where social housing began? Will the community and its residents ever be the same?

### CHRISTENE BROWNE

Christene Browne is an award-winning filmmaker and novelist. Browne is the first Black woman to direct and write a dramatic feature film in Canada. Browne lived in Regent from 1970 to 1985 and made her first documentaries there as part of the Regent Park Video Workshop in the 80's.



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG 14

WATCH TRAILER ►

## FAMJAM: THE KINGS OF MULBERRY STREET

Judy Naidoo

Comedy, Adventure, Family | South Africa  
2019 | 94 min | English

When timid Baboo moves into the Sugarhill District neighbourhood where feisty Ticky lives, they are soon drawn together by a shared threat. Side-by-side the two boys embark on an epic adventure to become the Kings of Mulberry Street!

### JUDY NAIDOO

Judy Naidoo is a South African independent filmmaker. Judy made her directorial debut on the feature length film 'Hatchet Hour, which had its International premiere at the LA Femme International Film Festival (2016), where it won the Best Foreign Film award. 'Kings of Mulberry Street is her second feature.

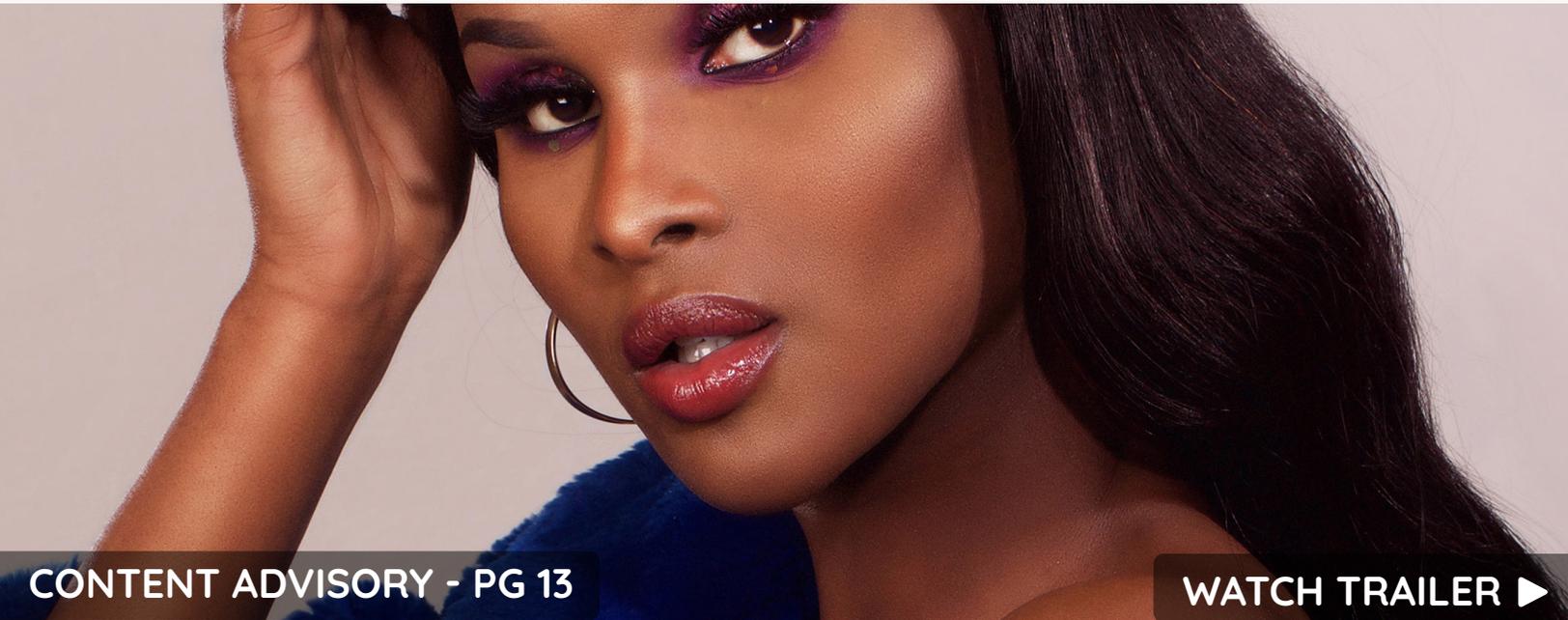
## BLOCK BY BLOCK TRIVIA

An informative and interactive quiz created by the young researchers and curators of the Toronto Ward Museum's Block by Block program, focusing on the rich history and diversity of Regent Park. This game will run on a software called Quizizz, and players will be asked to answer multiple choice questions all about Regent Park! Play along when you subscribe for free access to the 2020 Festival at [RegentParkFilmFestival.com/2020](https://RegentParkFilmFestival.com/2020). Click in the Block by Block program for the game link.

Presented by: [Toronto Ward Museum](#)

## LET'S DOC AND TALK

A selection of documentaries from near and far with talkbacks to follow: talkback panels for Kelet and Coded Bias



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG 13

WATCH TRAILER ►

### LET'S DOC AND TALK: KELET

Susani Mahadura  
Documentary | Finland | 2020  
54 min | Finnish, English

Kelet is a documentary film about Black trans beauty, courage and the importance of role models. The story follows the exceptional life of 20-year-old Kelet, a Finnish Somali trans woman living in Helsinki who dreams of becoming a model in Vogue magazine.

Join us after the film for a Q&A with Kelet, Lola and Kim Ninkuru, moderated by Lali Mohamed

#### SUSANI MAHADURA

Susani Mahadura is an award-winning journalist and director who has become a household name in Finnish media through her award-winning national radio programme Mahadura & Özberkan. Mahadura appeared as a narrator on the 24H Europe - project, a 24h documentary film about young people in Europe, which was one of TV history's longest documentaries.

## TALKBACK

### MODERATOR



LALI MOHAMED

Lali Mohamed is an award-winning organizer who is interested in the power and poetics of community-based knowledge. He is an advisor for Salaam Canada, a national, volunteer-driven organization that creates and cultivates supportive spaces for LGBTQ Muslims, newcomers and refugees.

### PANELISTS



KELET ALI

The title focus of this documentary, Kelet is a Finnish Somali trans woman, model, podcaster, trans rights activist and ballroom icon.



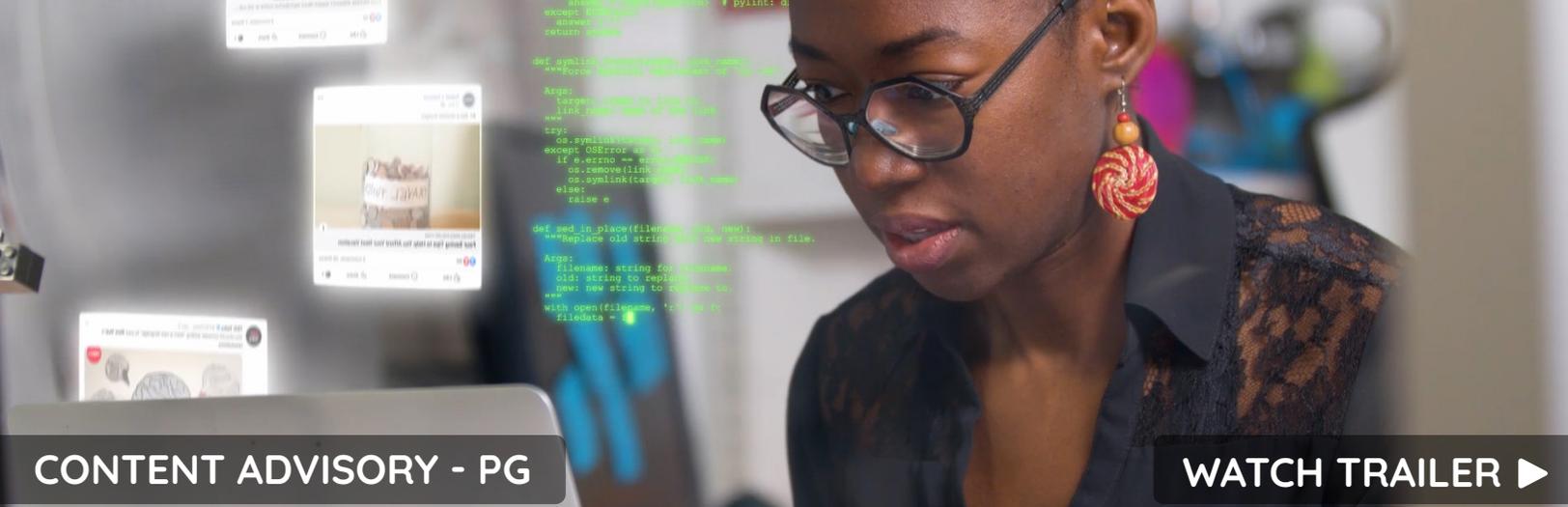
LOLA LORENZO

A key figure in the documentary, Lola is a Finnish Somali trans woman, makeup artist, and a member of the Finnish ballroom scene.



KIM NINKURU

Kim Ninkuru is a multimedia artist from Bujumbura, in Burundi, currently residing in Toronto. She uses performance art, installation, video, spoken word and movement to create pieces that give her the chance to explore and express rage, love, desire, beauty, or pain in relation to her own body and mind. Her work heavily questions our preconceived notions of gender, race, sexuality and class. It is grounded in the firm belief that Blackness is past, present and future at any given moment.



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG

WATCH TRAILER ▶

## LET'S DOC AND TALK: CODED BIAS

Shalini Kantayya  
Documentary | USA, UK, China | 2020  
90 min | English

An exploration of the fallout of MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini's startling discovery of racial bias in facial recognition algorithms.

Q&A with and Coded Bias director, Shalini Kantayya and RPFM Programmer, Faduma Gure

### SHALINI KANTAYYA

Shalini Kantayya is a YED Fellow, William J. Fulbright Scholar, and an Associate of the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Her film Coded Bias had its premiere at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. On Earth Day 2016, Shalini's debut film "Catching the Sun" with Executive Producer Leonardo DiCaprio was released on Netflix. This film was named a NY Times Critic's Pick.

## TALKBACK



### MODERATOR

FADUMA GURE  
Programmer  
Regent Park Film Festival



### PANELIST

SHALINI KANTAYYA  
Shalini Kantayya is a YED Fellow, William J. Fulbright Scholar, and an Associate of the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Her film Coded Bias had its premiere at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. On Earth Day 2016, Shalini's debut film "Catching the Sun" with Executive Producer Leonardo DiCaprio was released on Netflix. This film was named a NY Times Critic's Pick.



CONTENT ADVISORY - PG 13

WATCH TRAILER ►

## OUTDEH

Louis Josek  
Documentary | Jamaica, Japan, USA | 2020  
78 min | Jamaican Patois and English (English Subtitles)

OUTDEH is a documentary film that portrays the Youth of Jamaica: a new generation in transition, determined to get out of old and set structures in society and culture – and contribute with their fresh mindset and strength to a new understanding of the island.

## LOUIS JOSEK

Louis Josek, born 1994 in Cologne / Germany, is a young film director. After several years of working on multiple film productions as a DOP, Louis finally found his role as a director and developed his artistry, which is beyond mainstream: young, fresh and intimate. OUTDEH is his debut film.



## DIS IS REGENT

### SHORTIES

This short films package is packed with rich storytelling addressing topics of displacement, grief, self determination, community and friendship. In Shorties, we'll take you through the motions as you witness resilience through creativity. Through these stories you'll also learn that sometimes you have to get

a little lost to find your way. It can get difficult to hold onto the things and people in your life that keep you grounded. You may laugh, you may cry but one thing's for sure, you'll feel. So, remember to take breaks, take breaths and take note at what keeps you grounded at a time like this.

Please note that films are divided into Shorties 1 and Shorties 2 packages on our streaming platform, Cinesend.



WATCH TRAILER ▶

## THE MYSTERY OF NOW

Audrey Buchanan

Short Documentary

USA | 2019 | 16 min | English

In the short film, “The Mystery of Now,” artist and Apache Skateboards founder, Douglas Miles shares socio-political context around the history that led to life on the San Carlos Apache reservation, and the personal history of how and why he started a skateboard brand and team of local youth leaders. His advice on cultivating resilience, creativity, and joy, provides guidance in a time that for many feels uncertain, polarizing and divisive in our living rooms and around our dinner tables.

This film can be found in the Shorties 1 package on Cinesend.

### AUDREY BUCHANAN

This film is Audrey Buchanan’s directorial debut. Audrey is an interviewer and filmmaker who believes in civic engagement, social justice and the fact that diversity drives innovation. As the founder of a boutique production company called THE WOODS, and a founding board member of NPR Generation Listen, Audrey curates and lifts up diverse voices through intimate interviews, films, digital content and experiential programming.



## MASTERPIECE

Runyararo Mapfumo  
Short Comedy | UK | 2018  
6 min | English

A group of young men try to interpret their friends' art, so they can save face and show support.

This film can be found in the [Shorties 1 package on Cinesend](#).

### RUNYARARO MAPFUMO

Since graduating from Sheffield Hallam University in 2013 with a 1st class degree in Film and Visual Effects, Runyararo has been writing and directing shorts, as well as freelancing. Currently, Runyararo is working on a major production at Pinewood Studios.



[WATCH TRAILER ▶](#)

## GRAMERCY

Jamil McGinnis and Pat Heywood  
Short Drama | USA | 2019  
22 min | English

Shaq, a young man grappling with depression, returns to his New Jersey hometown, where his exploration of grief and brotherhood transforms into the imagining of an inner life.

This film can be found in the [Shorties 1 package on Cinesend](#).

### JAMIL MCGINNIS AND PAT HEYWOOD

Jamil and Pat work under the moniker Seneca Village Pictures. Their work has screened at the Locarno Festival, BFI London, Telluride, AFI FEST, Film at Lincoln Center, Walker Art Center, and Newark Museum of Art. They currently reside in Brooklyn, New York.



WATCH TRAILER ▶

## DELAYED ECHOS

Sharrae Lyon  
Short Drama  
Canada | 2020 | 10 min | English

In this fictional short, Messiah Campbell must navigate the loss of his mother as he journeys towards his destiny.

[This film can be found in the Shorties 1 package on Cinesend.](#)

### SHARRAE LYON

Sharrae Lyon is an emerging writer, director and producer. She is an alumni of Black Women Film! and the DOC Institute. Her work explores identity, neurodiversity, ancestral and societal connections in science-fiction/fantasy and non-fiction formats. Her film credits include *Delayed Echoes* (2018), *Body as Technology* (2015) and *Gaia's Awakening* (2014).



COMMUTER

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
MILCA KUFLU

## COMMUTER

Milca Kuflu  
Short Comedy Canada | 2020  
2 min | English

Commuter is a short comedy about Sarah, an introverted and overworked 27-year-old, who runs into an acquaintance on the TTC after an exhausting day at work. Forced to sacrifice her coveted alone time, Sarah comes face to face with her biggest fear: small talk.

[This film can be found in the Shorties 1 package on Cinesend.](#)

### MILCA KUFLU

Milca Kuflu is an independent filmmaker from Toronto, Ontario. In 2016 she made her directorial debut with a 10 min documentary called *Dance Saved My Life*, which was made during her time at POV 3rd street and screened at TIFF Bell Lightbox to a private audience. She is currently editing her own short film - a comedy on the perils of off-line communication.



WATCH TRAILER ▶

## THE RUBY

Ling Low  
Short Drama Comedy  
Malaysia | 2019 | 27 min  
Bahasa Malaysia/ Cantonese/  
English

A runaway teenage girl seeks shelter in an old hostel, only to discover that the building has a secret past guarded by a strange janitor. Set in Kuala Lumpur, the Ruby is a short film about friendship, lost history and the power of shared stories.

This film can be found in the Shorties 1 package on Cinesend.

### LING LOW

Ling Low is a Malaysian writer and filmmaker. Her work includes short films, music videos and commercials. She has also written comedy sketches for BBC Radio 4, published short works of fiction and worked as a journalist. The Ruby was selected for Locarno Film Festival's Open Doors section in 2020.



## BEEF

Jabbari Weekes  
Short Comedy  
Canada | 2019 | 4 min | English

Two friends squabbling over the merits of a beef patty from the east-end Warden subway station versus Islington station, in the west end – with much of their exchange taking place at a transit stop in a suburb on the western edge of Toronto.

This film can be found in the Shorties 2 package on Cinesend.

### JABBARI WEEKES

A Caribbean director based in Toronto who is focused on creating slice-of-life and fantasy stories within the diasporic community. Specifically, their work touches on pointed topics like mental health and liveable wages through blunt humour as the best way to take on society's deepest concerns.



## VISIBLE

Maryan Haye and Carol Liu  
Short Drama Canada | 2020  
23 min | English

At Aginview Secondary School, Sharon, Mo, and Lee are in their final year of high school. When Mo's brother Abdi is hurt in what seems to be a xenophobic attack, the seniors team up to seek justice from the school administration, but quickly realize that getting justice in their community isn't as easy as it seems.

This film can be found in the Shorties 2 package on Cinesend.

### MARYAN HAYE

Maryan Haye is a Somali-Canadian writer, actor and producer from the Jane Finch community of Toronto. A new WGC member and recent graduate of the RTA Media Production program at Ryerson, she is excited to create stories that will highlight underrepresented voices in authentic and nuanced ways.

### CAROL LIU

Carol Liu is a Chinese-Canadian visual artist, designer and media creator. A recent RTA Media Production graduate with a concentration in Digital Media, she has found a passion for writing and creative direction. Growing up between Toronto and Shanghai, Carol feels a strong connection to the multicultural immigrant community.



WATCH TRAILER ▶

## SIGNS

Yero Timi-Biu  
Short Drama  
UK | 2019 | 19 min | English

A coming-of-age drama about a teenage carer (RHIANNE BARRETO) coming to terms with the responsibility of looking after her family after a distressing incident.

This film can be found in the Shorties 2 package on Cinesend.

### YERO TIMI-BIU

Yero Timi-Biu is a multi-award winning writer and director for TV and film. Her 2019 BFI-funded short film, *Signs* premiered at Encounters Film Festival where it won the Youth Jury Award. Yero is developing a satirical drama series, *The Institution* with AbbottVision.



WATCH TRAILER ▶

## SERIOUS LEES

Krista Jang  
Short Comedy  
Canada | 2020 | 8 min | English

Nothing puts your identity, self-worth and family to the test like going to the Chinese supermarket, but it's a journey one father and daughter are determined to take.

This film can be found in the Shorties 2 package on Cinesend.

### KRISTA JANG

Krista Jang is an actor/filmmaker originally from Vancouver, and an alumna of Capilano University's Film/TV Acting, Cinematography and Motion Picture Production programs. Her first short film, "Project: Icing", was highlighted as one of NSI Online Short Film Festival's 'comedy gems' of the year, while her second, "Misplaced", was a MAMM Award Winner.



## EMPTY

Tristan Laughton  
Short Portrait narrative  
Canada | 2020 | 2 min | English

A portrait of the effect the pandemic has on the city shown from the perspective of a man calling a loved one.

This film can be found in the Shorties 2 package on Cinesend.

### TRISTAN LAUGHTON

Tristan Laughton is a Toronto-based creative, specializing in filmmaking, photography, digital art and content creation. He was born and raised in Scarborough after his parents immigrated from Jamaica. Tristan's love of art and storytelling drew him to filmmaking at an early age. Now, with over ten years of professional experience in the creative industry, Tristan brings absolute precision to every film he makes.



## PAGANS

Lucy Luscombe  
Short Drama | UK | 2019  
21 min | English

Three young women learn about loss over the course of one Bonfire Night that takes them on a surreal journey into the depths of the English countryside.

This film can be found in the Shorties 2 package on Cinesend.

### LUCY LUSCOMBE

Born in London, Lucy went on to study at Central St Martins before quickly establishing herself as one to watch. She received a number of high profile accolades including Underwire's Outstanding Talent; BFI Future Film Award, UK Music Video Award nominations for her work with John Grant, Darkstar and Tiny Carriages in addition to being included in Dazed and Confused's top 100 global creatives.



ACADEMY  
**TALKS**  
IN THE ROOM  
**THE ART OF THE PITCH**  
PRESENTED BY  
  
BOAT ROCKER  
MEDIA

## ACADEMY TALKS: IN THE ROOM - THE ART OF THE PITCH

Join our panel of filmmakers as they offer advice on how to refine your story and create solid conflict and intrigue in your pitch, what makes

a good pitch stand out among many, and advice on how to make the strongest case for funding and resources available.

*Presented by the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television and Boat Rocker Media.*

### MODERATOR



SHERIEN BARSOUM

Sherien Barsoum is a film director and producer based in Toronto. She is a founding member of the Racial Equity Media Collective, which uses research to advocate on behalf of racialized creators in Canada. Sherien directed and produced *RIDE FOR PROMISE* and *PLAYER ZERO*, winning the HotDocs Short Film Pitch and Best Canadian Documentary at NorthWest Fest.

## PANELISTS



ADELINE BIRD

Adeline Bird is an Afro-Objiwe filmmaker, broadcast producer, & author, who is a member of treaty four territory Rolling River First Nations, but resides and grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Adeline is a graduate of the National Screening Institutes CBC New Indigenous Voices program where she made her directorial debut with her first shortfilm “Nappy Hair and Eagle Feather” which is featured on CBC Gem.



ALICIA K. HARRIS

Alicia K. Harris is a filmmaker from Scarborough, ON. Her latest short film, PICK, won Best Live Action Short at the 2020 Canadian Screen Awards, making her the first Black woman to win. Her films have been broadcast nationally on CBC, TVO, Bell Fibe TV, and at numerous festivals, including TIFF Next Wave and Miami Film Festival.



LEA MARIN

Lea Marin is an award-winning Toronto-based producer with more than 20 years experience. A graduate of the Canadian Film Centre’s Producers’ Lab, Lea joined the National Film Board of Canada as a producer in 2006.



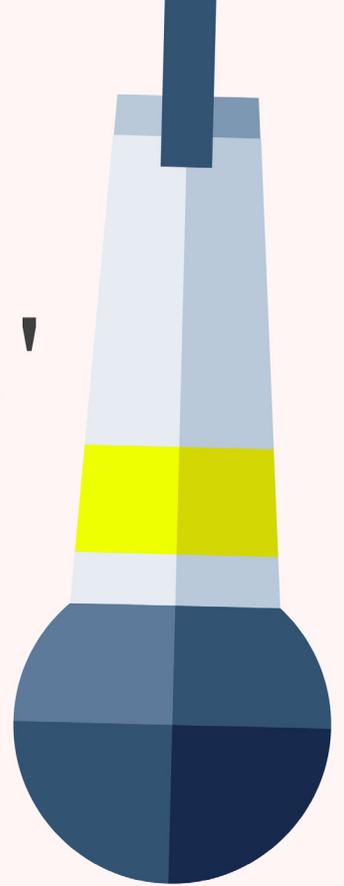
LU ASFAHA

Lu Asfaha is an award winning filmmaker based in Toronto. Her films bend genres to explore themes of identity, belonging, and how things fall apart. In 2018 she released the short documentary “Freedom Summer” on CBC Gem, won the CineFAM script competition to make fantasy short “Paladin” and was part of the post production team on CSA-winning documentary “Mr. Jane and Finch.”



PAIGE MURRAY

Paige Murray has worked at the CBC for over nine years within the content areas. She is currently Executive in Charge of Production, YA Digital Originals, overseeing production and development of short and mid-length series for CBC Gem targeted to a gen z audience.



# EMERGING DIRECTORS' SPOTLIGHT & PITCH COMPETITION

Winners in Scripted & Unscripted categories

## **CLOSING NIGHT: EMERGING DIRECTORS' SPOTLIGHT & PITCH COMPETITION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT 6PM**

Part showcase and pitch event, this exciting platform highlights the best of Canada's emerging talent, who then pitch their next project to a jury of industry experts from CBC Programming. This year, there will be two categories of pitches, **SCRIPTED** and **UNSCRIPTED** projects. One winner in each category will receive a development deal from CBC and \$1000 from RBC!

Watch the spotlighted short films from the finalists at any point throughout the Festival and tune in at 6pm on Sunday November 29th for the broadcast of the pitch competition, hosted by Jason D'Souza of CBC's Fresh Air, and the exciting announcement of winners!

*Sponsored by: RBC  
Presented by: CBC*

## JUDGES



PAIGE MURRAY

Paige Murray has worked at the CBC for nine years within the content areas. She is currently Executive in Charge of Production, YA Digital Originals, overseeing production and development of mid-length series for CBC Gem.



MICHELLE MCCREE

Michelle McCree is a Production Executive with CBC's Unscripted department. She oversees a slate of programming including You Can't Ask That, Family Feud Canada, Anyone's Game and Still Standing. Prior to joining CBC, Michelle worked as a producer, director and writer.



SARA YACOBI-HARRIS

Sara Yacobi-Harris has been working with the Unscripted Content team at the CBC for the past 3 years. Her current work focuses on equity, inclusion and anti-racism strategy implementation. She also leads focused community outreach, mentorship and festival partnerships.

## HOST



JASOND'SOUZA

Jason D'Souza is the interim host of CBC Radio One's Fresh Air. Jason began his CBC journey as the recipient of the Gzowski internship in 2012. He has since worn many different hats, including hosting on various CBC radio and television shows.

# SCRIPTED CATEGORY

CONTENT ADVISORY - 14+

## TEEN DREAM

Christian Anderson  
Drama | Canada | 2018  
15 min | English

When 14-year-old Myla and her best friend attempt to orchestrate a romantic encounter with older boys from school, both girls are forced to decide whether or not they're ready for "love" and what exactly that means.

### CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

Christian Anderson is an award-winning Afro-Latin writer & director based in Toronto, Canada. She is a recent graduate of York University's film production program. Christian's work, such as short films; "Lagoon" and "Teen Dream", is centred around amplifying the voices of diasporic Black and Brown women, through her unique and immersive storytelling.

A Regent Park Film Festival alumn (circa 2016), Christian's work has also been screened in Winnipeg's 2018 & 2019 Afro Prairie Film Festival, as well as in other incredible local screenings such as Canema's; Black History Month screening in 2018, and The Humming Collectives' 2019 Short Film Screening.

CONTENT ADVISORY - G

## BOLLYSINGH

Prajj Rajawat  
Comedy | Canada | 2017  
6 min | English

Pardeep Singh is a 17 year old Canadian-Sikh who struggles between accepting his cultural identity vs changing it to fit conventional ideas of beauty to impress his crush.

### PRAJJ RAJAWAT

Prajj is an emerging filmmaker and artist; immigrating to Canada from India at a young age, he's been at the crossroads between two very different cultures. His work often focuses on the dynamics that occur between these intersections and the people caught between the lines.

# SCRIPTED CATEGORY

CONTENT ADVISORY - MATURE

## PYOTR495

Blake Mawson

Horror | Canada | 2016

15 min | English

Set one evening in present day Moscow, 16 year-old Pyotr is baited by an ultranationalist group known for their violent abductions and anti-gay attacks bolstered by Russia's LGBT propaganda law, but Pyotr has a dangerous secret his attackers could never have accounted for.

### BLAKE MAWSON

Blake Mawson is a queer Canadian screenwriter and director and graduate of the CFC Director's Lab. In 2016, he wrote and directed his first short film, PYOTR495, a film set amidst the brutal anti-gay attacks taking place in Russia since the passing of Putin's LGBTQ propaganda law which criminalized the normalization of homosexuality. The film toured worldwide, screening everywhere from Sitges and Fantasia to Frameline and Outfest, and was awarded The National Screen Institute of Canada's A&E Filmmaker Award in 2018 as well as a 2019 Canadian Screen Award for Best Lead Performance by the film's star Alex Ozerov. Blake is currently developing his sci-fi horror series, GURNERS, which is co-written and co-created by Scott Treleaven (BUGCRUSH) and executive produced by Blue Ant Studios in partnership with Alan Cumming's Club Cumming Productions.

# UNSCRIPTED CATEGORY

CONTENT ADVISORY - PG

## BY THE TRAIN

Niya Abdullahi  
Drama/Horror | Canada | 2020  
3 min | English

### NIYA ABDULLAHI

Niya Abdullahi is a Black-Muslim-Ethiopian student, film maker, tech-enthusiast and online activist. She is the founder of Habasooda, a platform dedicated to sharing the richness of the Muslim experience through a variety of storytelling avenues including short films. The objective of the platform is to make the public aware that Islam and Muslims are not monolithic, each person has their own unique experiences. produced by Blue Ant Studios in partnership with Alan Cumming's Club Cumming Productions.

By the train explores the effects that islamophobia has on daily life for visibly Muslim women that live in the western world. A poetry piece that shares a Hijabi's deepest and inner thoughts while she waits by the train. It's meant to explore train track anxiety, the feeling of worry, nervousness, or uneasiness that many visibly Muslim appearing women and men experience while waiting for the train or subway. This feeling comes as a result of feeling afraid that someone may push them onto the tracks in an act of Islamophobia.

# UNSCRIPTED CATEGORY

CONTENT ADVISORY - G



## LONELY BOY PARTY

Mirusha Yogarajah  
Experimental | Canada | 2017  
4 min | English

An ode to brown boys encouraging them to seek happiness even if it means feelings of isolation. Know you are safe and loved.

### MIRUSHA YOGARAJAH

Mirusha directed a film produced by the National Film Board of Canada called *Parked: Seeking Refuge in Cars*, on youth in Scarborough who find refuge in their cars. She produced a film called *Snowbird* through the Inside Out Film Mentorship Lab, which premiered at the Inside Out Film Festival. She recently received a grant from the F-O-R-M Commission to direct a film on trauma carried in the body conveyed through a bharatanatyam performance. She was also selected for the Emerging 20 program through Reelworld Film Festival, which she completed last week. Her work aims to showcase the multifaceted experiences of being a person on the margins and the delicate and intimate experiences they host alongside survival.

# UNSCRIPTED CATEGORY

CONTENT ADVISORY - PG

## BURN

Shubhi Sahni  
Documentary, Experimental |  
Canada | 2020  
2 min | English

### SHUBHI SAHNI

Shubhi Sahni is a writer and filmmaker based in Toronto. She is interested in telling character-driven stories that come from a place of personal truth. Her first short film, *Click Here To Play*, premiered at the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival. In 2020, Shubhi was a participant in Regent Park Film Festival and BIPOC TV & Film's TV Writing Workshop led by Ins Choi, creator and showrunner of *Kim's Convenience*. She is also an alum of Reel Asian's *Unsung Voices* program as well as *Workman Arts' If You Ask Me* program. Her most recent short film, *Burn*, premiered at the *Rendezvous With Madness Festival*.

Shot on an iPhone in isolation, a filmmaker paints an intimate portrait of her relationship with anxiety.

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## WHAT FEELS LIKE HOME?

These images are part of **Block by Block's** 2020 poster series exploring that question and come directly from interviews with Regent Park community members. What smells, sounds or experiences make you feel like you're at home? Share your answers with us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter **@TOwardMuseum** for a chance to win a Toronto Ward Museum prize pack.



*Building a more inclusive city through storytelling, one neighbourhood at a time*

**I'LL SMELL THINGS  
LIKE THE LINDEN TREES.  
ONIONS AND GARLIC.  
I CAN HAVE A CONVERSATION  
WAITING IN LINE FOR ROTI.  
I'LL GO AND TALK TO SOMEONE  
LIKE WE'VE NEVER LEFT OFF  
AFTER 20 YEARS.**



WARDMUSEUM.CA

**AUNTIES  
GOSSIPING  
AND CATCHING UP.  
WE WOULD ALL  
BE PLAYING  
WITH OUR BIKES,  
SCOOTERS,  
WHATEVER WE HAD.  
WATER BALLOON FIGHTS.  
EVERYTHING WAS  
SO ALIVE.**

**BLOCK BY BLOCK  
REGENT PARK**

[WARDMUSEUM.CA](http://WARDMUSEUM.CA)

**COMMITTEES,**

**COMMUNITY  
GROUPS.**

**IF  
YOU**

**REACH  
OUT**

**TO  
THEM**

**THEY  
WILL  
PUSH.**

**DO  
ANYTHING**

**TO  
SUPPORT  
YOU.**

**BLOCK BY BLOCK  
REGENT PARK**

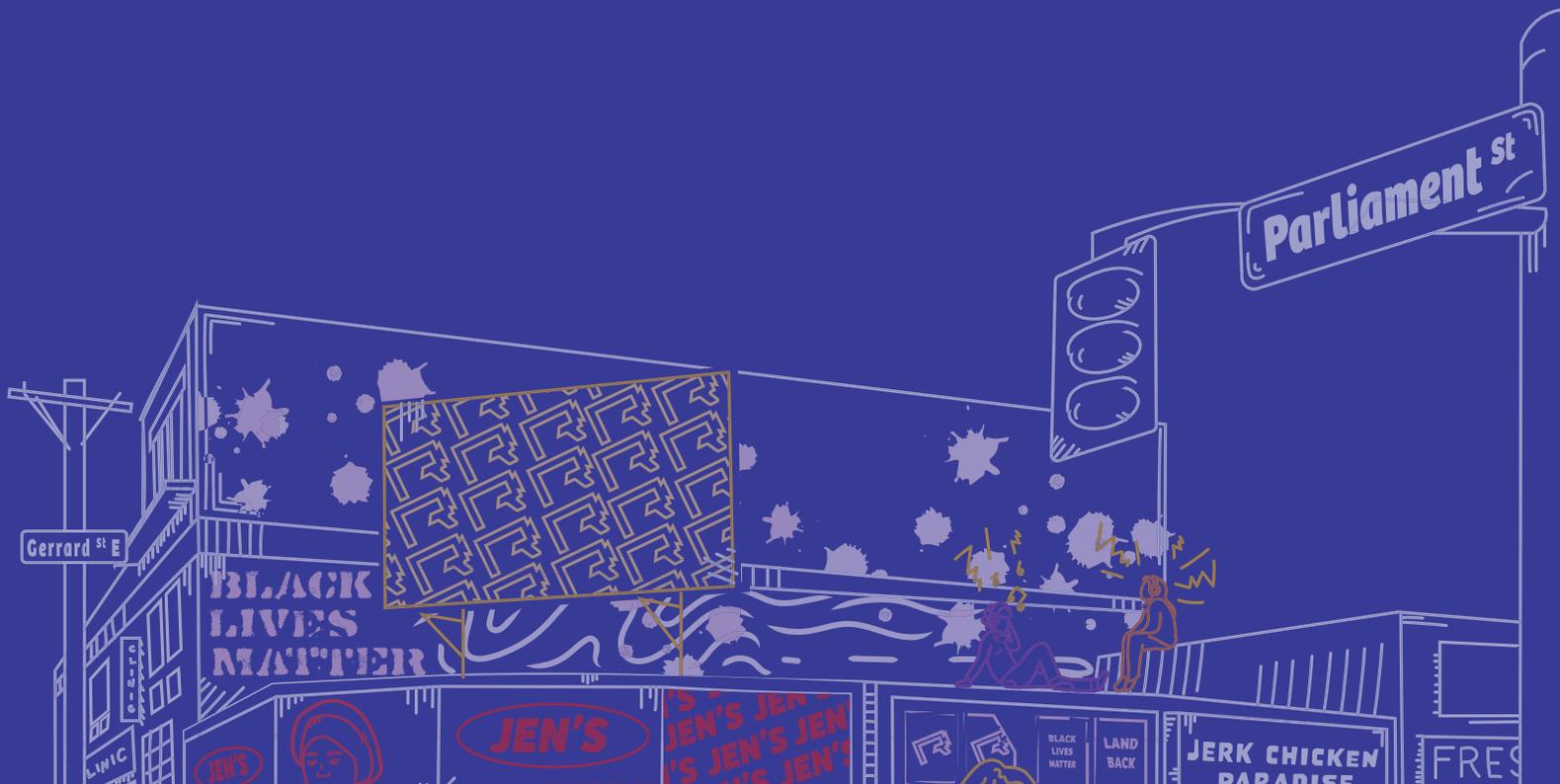
[WARDMUSEUM.CA](http://WARDMUSEUM.CA)

## AWARDS

The RBC Emerging Director Award will be presented to two Canadian filmmakers who win the Closing Night Emerging Directors' Spotlight and Pitch Competition in the Scripted and Unscripted categories. Each recipient will win a development deal with the CBC and a \$1000 cash prize from RBC.

### Audience Choice Award

Rate your favourite films using a star system in our streaming platform! The winning filmmaker receives a Regular Voting or Friend membership from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. Make sure to vote as you watch the Festival films.





V. T. Nayani



Jennifer Podemski



Jennifer Liao



Sasha Leigh Henry

# This is the future of the film industry.

RBC® is proud to support women in film.





## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

The Regent Park Film Festival is free to attend and we're working hard to keep it that way. Help us in making this possible by donating at the Lights, Camera, or Action Level.

### LIGHTS DONATION \$25+

The Lights level covers 1 hour of free childcare at our Festival

### CAMERA DONATION \$100+

The Camera level covers the cost to feature 1 short film

### ACTION DONATION \$250+

The Action level covers the cost of a feature film or allows us to bring a guest filmmaker to the annual festival

As a charitable organization, the Festival issues tax receipts for all donations.

The Regent Park Film Festival charitable # 8459 14613 RR0001

