



21st Annual

REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL

November 23-26
ALWAYS FREE & ACCESSIBLE

Get tickets at
[RPF.CA/2023](https://rpf.ca/2023)
@RegentParkFilm

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS, SPONSORS, AND PARTNERS

Our year-round work is enabled and bolstered by their financial and in-kind support, and we value their shared belief in keeping our programming free and accessible for everyone.

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS + SUPPORTERS

Regent Park Film Festival (RPF) acknowledges the generosity of our community who support the work we do in multiple ways. Financial donations have a significant impact on our work and the communities we serve, allowing us to deliver FREE and accessible programming for all.

We are grateful to be part of a community that recognizes the incredible power of stories, the importance of complex and nuanced representations of BIPOC experiences, and creating a more just and joyful world.

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who supported RPF with their donations between November 2022 and October 2023.

FOUNDATIONS

Harry Newman Memorial Foundation
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We would also like to recognize the numerous anonymous donors who made contributions by adding a donation to their concessions purchases or added money to our donation boxes, during our 2022 Annual Film Festival and 2023 Under the Stars.

CONTENTS

- 2 Thank You
- 3 Acknowledgements
- 6 Greetings
- 10 Festival Staff
- 11 Volunteers
- 12 Who We Are
- 13 Our Year-Round Programs
- 16 Frequently Asked Questions
- 18 Festival Schedule

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- 20 Opening Night Reception
- 21 Feature: *In Flames* + Talkback

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- 22 Emerging Directors' Pitch Competition
- 24 Pitch Competition Alumni Showcase
- 25 Feature: *We Will Be Brave* + Talkback

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- 26 Living With An Arts Wage
- 27 *Viral Interventions* + Talkback
- 28 Stop Motion Animation Workshop
- 28 Shorts Program: *How We Used to Live*
- 31 Financing Innovation: Exploration New Models in the Digital Age
- 32 Shorts Program: *Face to Face* + Talkback
- 34 Feature: *Seagrass*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- 35 Community Breakfast
- 35 Feature: *When Morning Comes*
- 36 INKspire Table Read
- 36 Shorts Program: *Stuck* + Talkback
- 39 Commercial Filmmaking: From Production to Post
- 40 How to Fail as a Popstar + Fireside Chat with Vivek Shraya
- 41 Feature: "Sisterhood Softball" + *Allihopa: The Dalkurd Story* + Talkback
- 42 Awards
- 43 For Our Friend, Ravi
- 44 Support RPF
- 45 Rent Our Space



ERIN COX

Board Chair,
Regent Park Film Festival



Our very first festival was in a school gym. Born of a need in Regent Park to see stories that represented the people who call this vibrant neighbourhood home. It was a simple concept: free for all to attend and an emphasis on equity and underrepresented stories. I'm proud to say that we are now a 4-day festival, screening dozens of films. Still free. Still focused on equity and underrepresented stories. This year's lineup promises to be a testament to the resilience, creativity, and unity within our community.

I want to extend my gratitude to our dedicated team, sponsors, and volunteers for their unwavering support. Together, we are breaking barriers and reshaping the narrative of storytelling.

Thank you for joining us in this remarkable journey. Your presence, support, and donations ensure that the Regent Park Film Festival remains a beacon of hope and inspiration.



KALPANA SRINARAYANADAS

Executive Director,
Regent Park Film Festival



We were thrilled to put this incredible program together for you this year, but admittedly it felt difficult at times. Outside of work, we see countless neighbours unhoused or relying on food banks; we are witnessing suffering and violence in multiple countries; and many of us are struggling to live in a city that is rapidly becoming inaccessible.

So where do we turn to in these times? Where can we find hope?

I adore James Baldwin's words about the role of an artist, which is to "illuminate that darkness, blaze roads through that vast forest, so that we will not, in all our doing, lose sight of its purpose, which is, after all, to make the world a more human dwelling place."

I hope you can find your own kernel of light, joy, or radical conviction from the amazing artists and stories we present this year. Bearing witness to these stories, and holding space for the ideas and emotions within them are what community is really about.

Thank you for being a part of our community.



ALICE WANG

Manager of Programming,
Regent Park Film Festival



So much of art and film is about a collective experience. We don't perceive and understand art in isolation, and we don't create in isolation. Whether that is making a film, or curating a festival program, I am constantly reminded that community is at the core of our work.

For this year's festival, I wanted to highlight the journey of creation - the woes and joys of artistic expression. Across mediums, genres, and formats of storytelling. These films reflect the multitude of experiences, perspectives, and stories from our community.

If you're feeling uncertain and frustrated in your artistic endeavours like I have, I hope our program will provide you with whatever it is you may need - inspiration, comfort, entertainment, connection. Thank you for coming and experiencing art with us!



MICHELLE CHAWLA

Director and CEO,
Canada Council for the Arts



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

To better understand the human condition, fully experience the world around us and challenge our assumptions, we need art, now more than ever.

More engagement, connection and inspiration are what the arts promise us and what you are bringing to life, collectively, through this unique gathering of the arts and culture in Canada.

The Canada Council for the Arts is a proud supporter of Regent Park Film Festival, and I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all those involved.



RITA DAVIES

Chair,
Ontario Arts Council



On behalf of the board and staff at the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), I am pleased to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending the 21st Regent Park Film Festival (RPF).
Over its history, RPF has shown unwavering commitment to the community by providing an accessible and inclusive space to connect, learn and be inspired by film. The festival provides a vital platform for filmmakers to share their stories with audiences and ignite important conversations in a welcoming environment.

Congratulations to all of this year's featured filmmakers. For 60 years, OAC has played an essential role in supporting the arts for the enjoyment and benefit of Ontarians. And that includes RPF, which OAC has supported since 2003. Thank you to the dedicated staff and volunteers who have worked hard to put together another successful event. Enjoy the festival!



KELLY LANGGARD

Director & CEO
Toronto Arts Council
Toronto Arts Foundation



On behalf of Toronto Arts Council (TAC), it is my pleasure to congratulate the Regent Park Film Festival (RPF) on another year of exceptional programming. Toronto's longest-running free community film festival, RPF showcases local and international independent works that break stereotypes and inspire new thinking.

TAC is proud to support this vital festival and the work that it does to support local talent and increase community access to compelling stories and images. I myself began my career in independent film and media, and I know the value that RPF brings to artists and audiences alike. The films, so thoughtfully created and selected for this program, will surely engage and spark dialogue.

The City of Toronto through TAC invests public funds in the arts, providing millions of Torontonians and visitors the opportunity to gather and share a wealth of arts experiences together. Toronto Arts Council enables artists and arts organizations to explore, create, and contribute to the health of the city and all its residents.

Congratulations to the staff, board and festival volunteers for their dedication to bringing this exciting programming to Toronto audiences.



PASCALE ST-ONGE

Minister, Department of
Canadian Heritage



Welcome to the 2023 Regent Park Film Festival!

The art of cinema has the power to transform us, expand our horizons, and help us better understand the lived experiences of people in our communities. Our government is proud to support Toronto's longest-running free community film festival, which once again is giving people from the neighbourhood the opportunity to experience arts and culture that reflect who they are and to make discoveries that educate, enlighten and entertain.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I would like to thank all the organizers, volunteers and filmmakers who helped bring this year's event to life. I hope everyone taking part in the festival enjoys exploring these films and celebrating these voices and stories from Regent Park and beyond.

Enjoy the films!



JULIE ROY

Executive Director and
CEO, Telefilm Canada



Showcasing and celebrating the works of Canadian creators is at the heart of what we do at Telefilm. That is why we are proud to partner with 2023 Regent Park Film Festival, to further boost our support for Canadian creatives at home and around the world.

At Telefilm, we are uniquely positioned to finance and support every stage of a film's career, from development and production, all the way to film festivals. In this ever-evolving audiovisual landscape, we are thankful to partner with engaging festivals such as 2023 Regent Park Film Festival to bring audiences compelling stories made and told by Canadians. The diversity of our storytelling is one that puts Canada in the forefront of a global stage and is what sets us apart.

Festivals continue to play an important role in the screen-based industry, growing the talent pool as well as promoting a communal experience for audiences to celebrate and connect with distinctive Canadian films and the talent behind them.

We encourage you to keep supporting Canadian films wherever they are available and tell others to do the same!

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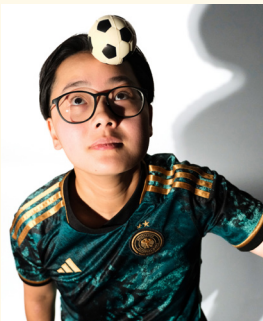
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Manager of Programming



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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2023 VOLUNTEERS!

The Festival would not be possible without their continued support.

Abhiram Ashok
Ahnaf Masud
Aimee Mitchell
Alaa Aboubieh
Aminata Coulibaly
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Bona Lee
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Masrid Mannan
Maya Ghonem
Meaghan Grant
Mohamad Nakouzi
Nahid Ahmed
Nancy Seto
Nataliya Kozyrina
Nathalie Noël
Nathalie Saade
Pratyaksh Verma
Rafidah Min Naing

Rov Deb
Ruby Duggal
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Sue Guinard
Sujohn Proadhan
Swamy Siva Prakash Malleddi
Tabitha (Dorcas) Elewa
Tahrim Minar
Thiviya Manoharan
Tony Le
Victoria carella
Vinton Bennett
Vishakha Agrawal
Vitan Pravtchev
Vivian Cheung
Zulema Ureta Livias



WHO WE ARE

Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF) is an award-winning, community-based, non-profit organization, and Toronto's longest-running, free community film festival.

RPFF's mission is two-fold: to amplify and center marginalized communities and their stories, providing a platform for the work of emerging and established artists, while opening up access to the film and television industry; and to ensure art is free and accessible to everyone, regardless of financial status.

Showcasing local and international works from and about Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities, RPFF presents films of all genres that resonate with and relate to the diverse lived experiences of BIPOC communities: films that provide opportunity for in-depth, nuanced discussions, as well as uplifting and joyful films which have a significant impact on a community's growth and prosperity.

Founded in 2003 when Regent Park was Canada's oldest public housing neighbourhood, RPFF has remained true to its mission to make art, creativity, and storytelling accessible to everyone, regardless of financial status. While the neighbourhood has evolved and margins are shifting, RPFF works within this dynamism to honour its history and the communities it has collaborated with throughout the years.



IT'S ALL FREE - REALLY!

From the very beginning, it has been vital to RPFF's mission as an organization to offer programming that is free and accessible to anyone who wishes to participate and attend. Everything we offer is free, and we mean EVERYTHING.

FREE FILM SUBMISSIONS

Filmmakers can spend hundreds of dollars submitting their films to festivals worldwide just to be considered and given the chance to launch their careers. RPFF refuses to create any barriers for filmmakers to share their creative collaboration and hard work with the world.

FREE CHILD CARE

From our very first film festival, RPFF has always provided free child care for every day of our Festival. Thinking holistically about the life of a creative and artist, and removing any additional barriers to participating in the film festival is vitally important to RPFF.

FREE FILM FESTIVAL

As a film-loving city, everyone in Toronto should be able to watch incredible independent and international works, and experience the power of film to bring people together and delve into another world. RPFF has always been and will always be free and accessible to all.



OUR YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS

UNDER THE STARS

Under the Stars (UTS) has been a pillar event in Regent Park since 2014 - making this year our 10th anniversary! For the last decade UTS has been bringing people of all ages, cultures and communities together for nights of free film, food and performances in the heart of our community, the Big Park, every summer. New this year, we had an additional screening in Dentonia Park in Scarborough, showcasing vital community organizations in the area as well as meaningful film programming, all at no cost.



LIVE IT TO LEARN IT

Live It To Learn It is a paid summer internship program that facilitates greater diversity in Toronto's film and TV industry by creating opportunities for racialized youth ages 18-26. The program includes training, certifications and a month-long stint as a production assistant in various departments on some of Canada's best known shows such as Kim's Convenience, Murdoch Mysteries, Frankie Drake Mysteries, and The Great Canadian Baking Show.



SCHOOL PROGRAM

Each year, our Annual Film Festival kicks off with our School Program, both online and in-person. RPPF curates a film series around various themes which address a myriad of social issues affecting Toronto's diverse student population and their experiences, and asks them to situate themselves and their community within a broader context. We also provide resources and lesson plans for educators to help them facilitate dialogue among their students about these issues, as well as critical conversations about art, creativity, and all students' lived experiences.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

With the support of the City of Toronto's SDP grant, RPPF was able to bring back our regular community screenings multiple times throughout the year. Screening films that reflect the experiences and stories of individuals in the neighbourhood, we hosted these events in Daniels Spectrum as well as nearby Carlton cinemas.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I GET TICKETS TO THE FESTIVAL?

A link to get tickets to each film, industry panel or event is found at the bottom of each program page on our film festival site: rpff.ca/2023. You can also see the full list of programs and get tickets at RPFf's page on TicketTailor.

IS THE FESTIVAL REALLY FREE?

Yes, Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto's longest running free community film festival! Since its inception in 2003, our Annual Film Festival has been FREE so that anyone can experience film and art, regardless of financial status.

If you are in a position to pay for tickets, we also offer a "Pay-What-You-Can" option for each program which is another way you can support RPFf's work.

WHY DOES A TICKET NOT GUARANTEE A SEAT IN THE PROGRAM?

As all of our programming is free, we "oversell" tickets because oftentimes people will not show up even after securing a ticket. Therefore, tickets are available on a first-come-first-serve basis, and we ask that people arrive a minimum of 10 minutes before the program starts to get a seat.

WHAT IF THE PROGRAM IS SOLD OUT? IS THERE A RUSH LINE?

Yes, there will be a rush line for all sold out programs in case ticket holders do not show up and seats become available. We encourage you to show up 10 minutes before the program starts to join the line. Festival staff will keep individuals in line informed if and when seats become available.



HOW DO I ACCESS FREE CHILDCARE DURING THE FESTIVAL?

Complimentary childcare has been offered by RPFf from the very first edition of the Film Festival. It is available every day of the Festival, 30 minutes before the start of the first program of the day, until 30 minutes after the last program of the day.

Families are asked to arrive a little early before the start of a program to sign up for childcare at the Info & Registration Desk. Childcare will take place on the 3rd floor of Daniels Spectrum, and is run by two ECE-accredited childcare providers.

IS THE FESTIVAL ACCESSIBLE?

All feature films and shorts are closed captioned and subtitled in English if the film is in another language.

The Film Festival takes place in Daniels Spectrum (585 Dundas St. East) which is fully accessible by Ontario standards.

- All washrooms and drinking fountains are accessible
- Barrier-free access to the building via the Dundas Street entrance
- Elevators (to all floors) located in the South Lobby
- Signage throughout the building in braille

If you have any access requirements you would like RPFf to know about, including ASL or accessible seating, please contact info@rpff.ca.

HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE AT THE FESTIVAL?

You can contact us at info@rpff.ca or 416.599.RPFf (7733). RPFf is a hybrid workplace, so the best way to get in touch with someone is via email.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

EVENT LEGEND

FEATURES

SHORTS

INDUSTRY EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN DANIELS SPECTRUM

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 23

Opening Night
Reception
6:00-7:30pm

In Flames + Talkback
7:30-10:30pm

FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 24

Emerging Directors'
Pitch Competition
7:00-8:30pm

We Will Be Brave
+ Talkback
9:30-11:30pm

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 25

Living With an Arts Wage
12:00-1:00pm

Viral Interventions
+ Panel
1:00-3:00pm

Industry Meet & Greet
1:00-7:00pm

Stop Motion
Animation Workshop
3:00-6:00pm

Shorts:
How We Used to Live
4:00-5:00pm

Financing Innovation:
Exploring New Models in
the Digital Age
5:00-6:00pm

Shorts:
Face to Face + Talkback
6:00-7:30pm

Seagrass
8:30-10:30pm

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 26

Community Breakfast
9:00-10:00am

When Morning Comes
10:00-11:30am

INKspire Table Read
12:00-1:30pm

Industry Meet & Greet
12:30-6:30pm

Shorts: *Stuck* + Talkback
1:30-3:00pm

Commercial
Filmmaking:
Production to Post
3:00-4:00pm

How to Fail as a Popstar
+ Fireside Chat
with Vivek Shraya
4:00-5:30pm

Sisterhood Softball +
Allihopa: The Dalkurd
Story + Talkback
6:30-9:00pm

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023



OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

Daniels Spectrum Lobby | 6:00-7:30pm

SPECIAL EVENT

Join us as we celebrate the opening of the 21st Annual Regent Park Film Festival, and 4 days of free movies, industry panels and activities. Everyone is invited to a free reception in Daniels Spectrum's community lounge where delicious food and drink will be served.



OFFICIAL
FESTIVAL CATERER

FUSION BY T

PARTNERS



Partake
Brewing



OPENING NIGHT FEATURE FILM

Ada Slight Hall | 7:30-10:30pm



IN FLAMES

Zarrar Kahn | 2023 | Horror, Drama
Pakistan/Canada | 98 mins | Urdu

CO-PRESENTERS:
TORONTO
AFTER
DARK
FILM FESTIVAL

Mariam lives with her younger brother and their mother, Fariha, in a tiny apartment in Karachi. When Mariam's maternal grandfather passes, family relationships become strained, and Mariam becomes consumed by nightmares. Mother and daughter must come together if they hope to overcome the real and phantasmal forces that threaten to engulf them.

CONTENT ADVISORY: Themes of abuse; mature themes, frightening scenes, sexual innuendo

TALKBACK

Join us after the film for a talkback with the director, Zarrar Kahn, and film critic, Carolyn Hinds.

PANELISTS



ZARRAR KAHN

Zarrar Kahn is an award-winning Pakistani-Canadian filmmaker whose film IN FLAMES is the first South Asian Horror to premiere at the 76th Cannes Film Festival as part of the Director's Fortnight. He is an alumnus of the TIFF Talent Lab, Locarno Filmmakers Academy, Open Doors Locarno, Asian Film Academy and Director's Lab program at the Canadian Film Centre.



CAROLYN HINDS

Carolyn is a member of AAFC and is a Tomatometer-Approved Critic, Journalist & YouTuber. Her work has been published in Variety, Joy Sauce, Mediaversity Reviews, as well as K-Movie Today, the digital vertical of the Korean Film Council (KOFIC). She was a contributing writer for 'Pause & Rethink' - the 2021 Canada Media Fund Trends Report.

EMERGING DIRECTORS' PITCH COMPETITION

Ada Slaight Hall | 7:00-8:30pm

SPECIAL EVENT

This year, our annual Emerging Directors' Pitch Competition will feature 4 new unscripted film pitches along with a showcase of the latest work created by past competition winners! Come and support the finalists as they pitch to win a development deal with CBC and \$1,000 courtesy of RBC!

HOST



ISMAILA ALFA

Ismaila Alfa was born in Zaria, Nigeria and moved with his family to Winnipeg where he studied civil engineering at the University of Manitoba. A playwright and musical artist, he toured Canada and the United States as a hip-hop musician for nearly a decade. To Alfa, music has always been his way to connect with various communities and to hear their concerns. Alfa served as the host of CBC Radio One's Up to Speed and CBC Toronto's Metro Morning, and is currently the host of Fresh Air.

JURORS



LUCIUS DECHAUSAY

Lucius Dechausay is an award winning producer, director and editor based in Toronto. His first short film went on to screen at over 40 festivals including RPPF, winning multiple awards. He followed that up with Solace in the Dark, a film that premiered at The Toronto International Film Festival. As a producer, he led the dance series "The Move" and the Canadian Screen Award winning digital series "21 Black Futures." Currently, he works as the Sr. Producer of Unscripted Video at the CBC producing stories that champion diversity, arts and culture.



ANDREW D'CRUZ

Andrew D'Cruz is the Managing Editor, Digital, Unscripted Content at CBC, overseeing CBC Arts, CBC Life and the CBC Creator Network and the Unscripted Video team. He's been building, contributing to and running websites since the late '90s, and is (still) passionate about finding new ways to tell stories online. He previously executive produced CBC Arts: Exhibitionists, led CBC's Canada 150 vertical and ran digital content for George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight and Steven and Chris. Prior to that he worked in magazine publishing in both print and digital roles.



AARON LEAF

Aaron Leaf has more than 15 years experience working at media organizations dedicated to serving diverse audiences. Currently the Senior Producer at CBC Arts, he previously worked as Editorial Strategist at the Toronto Star and Director of Content Development at OkayMedia in New York City. He sits on the board of the non-profit organization Feet in 2 Worlds that provides training and resources for immigrant journalists.

PITCHERS



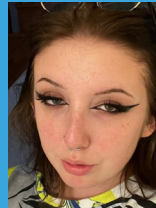
ANDY LEE

Andy Lee is an award-winning writer, lens-based artist and member of the Writers Guild of Canada. His passion for photography was ignited as a child in the basement darkroom of his father's camera store, and his craft forged through Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Photography program. His images have appeared in Exclaim!, Perfect Bound and Ryerson University magazines, and have been featured online by CBC, Met Radio 1280AM and the University of Toronto. Andy is excited to further his directorial and production practice through the Documentary Media MFA program at TMU this fall.



KAI TROTZ-MOTAYNE

Kai Trotz-Motayne is a Guyanese-Canadian researcher; writer and aspiring filmmaker from Tkaronto/Toronto, Canada. Driven by histories of movement and migration within her own family, her research focuses on the making and meaning of diaspora and how histories are transferred through generations. She holds a Joint Honors degree from McGill University in History and African Studies. Kai's practice is grounded in the archive; both traditional and non traditional.



MADYSON ARSCOTT

Madyson Arscott is an emerging screenwriter and director about to enter her fourth year in Humber's Bachelor of Film and Media Production Program. She has written and directed various short films, her most recent being 'Timeless,' an IMDB-credited documentary which explores womanhood and ageing; in it, she interviews her mother, her middle school film teacher and a commercial model dedicated to spreading age-positivity. Since then, Madyson has been working on expanding her writing portfolio by diving into her first feature film.



RICHARD DANG

Richard Dang is a Cambodian-Canadian director from Toronto. His short films have been featured in Toronto Youth Shorts and Canadian Diversity Film Festival. Starting his directorial journey in 2016 with no formal training, he has since produced three shorts, established a photography business and worked as an assistant director within the DGC. His work aims to unveil the essence of the Cambodian experience and encourage artistic expression in often-silenced communities.



FITCH COMPETITION ALUMNI SHOWCASE

Ada Slaight Hall | 7:00-8:30pm



Black Boys Skate Too

Danica Dizzy Ricamara | Documentary | Canada 2022 | 6 min | English

The skate community in Toronto is filled with young black skaters with dreams of going pro. Black Boys Skate Too follows Tristan and friends as they unravel the nuances

of skating while being black in a predominantly white sport. Nonetheless, these young men show resilience as they continue to impact skate culture and create a positive space for other black skaters to chase their dreams and do what they love most.

Dizzy Ricamara is a multifaceted award-winning director/actress from Scarborough, ON. She is known for her work in short-documentaries such as "Worst Student Ever" (2018), The Community Healing Project, (2022) and CBC Gem's "Black Boys Skate Too" (2023) highlighting the missing voices from the underrepresented communities in Toronto.



A Passage Beyond Fortune

Weiye Su | Documentary | Canada | 2022 16 min | English & Cantonese

Within Moose Jaw's warm sepia landscape, A Passage Beyond Fortune follows the Chow family as they reflect on the popular but untrue myth surrounding the city's

underground tunnels. Filmmaker Weiye Su brings us a tender archive containing the buried histories of those whose lasting cultural imprints have offered new ways of connecting with ourselves and our communities.

Weiye (they/he) is a Chinese-Canadian filmmaker and lens-based artist. They've directed Jia and A Passage Beyond Fortune in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada. Their talent has been recognized by film festivals and acclaimed mentorship programs, including Hot Docs' Accelerator Lab, the Yorkton Film Festival Mentorship Program and the DOC Institute's Breakthrough Development Lab.



FEATURE FILM

Ada Slaight Hall | 9:30-11:30pm



WE WILL BE BRAVE

Chrisann Hessing | Documentary Canada | 2023 | 78 min | English

CO-PRESENTERS:



We Will Be Brave follows the journey of the "Good Guise," a collective of racialized men in Toronto, as they passionately work to deconstruct toxic masculinity within their communities, using art to create transformative alternatives to shame and punishment. CONTENT ADVISORY: Mention of suicide, police brutality, violence, abuse.

TALKBACK

Join us after the film for a talkback with the director, Chrisann Hessing, some members of the Good Guise, and film curator, Kerry-Ann James.

PANELISTS



CHRISANN HESSING

Chrisann Hessing is a documentary filmmaker and impact producer based in Toronto. She has produced award-winning short films that have screened at Hot Docs, RIDM, Global Impact Film Festival and the London Asian Film Festival. Her work has been supported by the Ontario Arts Council, Inspirit Foundation, BravoFACT! Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent and Telefilm Canada. Chrisann's latest film, TURNING TABLES, won Best Short Documentary at the 43rd American Indian Film Festival, and has screened in over 30 film festivals internationally. In 2020, Chrisann was selected as one of Reelworld's Emerging 20 and named Talent to Watch by Telefilm Canada.



KERRY-ANN JAMES

Kerry-Ann is a film curator, scholar, and TV/film actor with appearances on Netflix, Paramount+, and CTV series. She holds an M.A. in Cinema and Media Studies from York University and an H.B.A. in Cinema Studies from the University of Toronto.



LIVING WITH AN ARTS WAGE

Ada Slaight Hall | 12:00-1:00pm

We're all familiar with the financial woes of being a creative, especially as the cost of living increases at an unsustainable rate. RPPF and our programming partner, BIPOC TV + Film, have invited creatives at various stages in their career to talk about how they keep themselves afloat in the arts and culture industry. Learn about the different jobs they have taken on to sustain themselves, and how they manage their time and mental health in order to keep pursuing their art.

MODERATOR



ASHUTOSH SHARMA

Ashutosh Sharma is an Indian-born writer, and media professional currently residing in Toronto, Canada. In his current role as the Community Engagement Manager at BIPOC TV & Film, Ash curates special events, masterclasses, workshops and panels for the BIPOC community. When not working at his day job, he's always looking for motivation to write.

CO-PRESENTERS:



PANELISTS



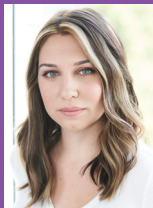
BETTY XIE

Betty Xie is a filmmaker, podcaster, and career coach. Most recently, she directed the animated series Uprooted: The Plantemic on CBC Gem. Her podcast The Everyday Talent Podcast features freshest insights on managing creative careers and won the 2023 Golden Cranes Award for Best Show for Arts and Creativity.



YAZMEEN KANJI

Yazmeen Kanji is a Muslim Indo-Caribbean documentary and narrative filmmaker, the Advocacy and Outreach Lead at BIPOC TV & Film and the founder of Films With A Cause - an advocacy and consulting startup.



MARYAM REMTULLA

Maryam Remtulla is an award-nominated Toronto based filmmaker and producer. She has worked in Canada and internationally over the last six years, working on a diverse set of projects. Maryam began producing full time working on branded content, advertisements and educational videos. In this, her clients were some of the top corporations, including Four Seasons, TEDx, UNICEF and CORUS Entertainment. Her first broadcasted film is titled The Photographer, and is available on CBC gem.

VIRAL INTERVENTIONS + TALKBACK

Ada Slaight Hall | 1:00-3:00pm

Four new urgent videos by Toronto-ish artists exploring stories of living with HIV today. In Amil Shivji's Call Me Uncle, queer Tanzanian musician Tofa Jaxx shares songs and conversation with trans HIV+ activist Aunty Ali. Darien Taylor's Virus Queen is an experimental video about wrestling with desire and disease, by the HIV+ co-founder of Voices of Positive Women. Esery Mondesir's video-poem Of What Death We Die explores his Haitian dad's 1980 death in context of early 80s AIDS stigmatization. In Atefeh Khademolreza's animated Meteor, her grief at the loss of her queer HIV+ bestie in Tehran is intercut with global Women-Life-Freedom protests.

Screening & discussion with artists, moderated by filmmaker Alison Duke.

FACILITATOR



ALISON DUKE

Alison Duke is an award-winning filmmaker. She earned two Canadian Screen Awards for the documentary, 'Mr. Jane and Finch' (2019). She is the first woman to direct a Canadian Heritage Minute with 'Chloe Cooley' and is also the co-creator and co-director behind Oya Media Group's 5-part hit docu-series 'Black Community Mixtapes' for CityTV.

SPONSOR:



PANELISTS



AMIL SHIVJI

Amil Shivji is based in Tanzania, his homeland, as a filmmaker and believes in using images to challenge the powers that be, in particular deconstructing urban facades of development and emphasizing the strength and struggles of marginalized communities.



ATEFEH KHADEMOLREZA

Atefeh Khademolreza is an award-winning writer and filmmaker born in Iran and living in Toronto. Khademolreza is an alumna of the Berlinale Talent Campus, Asian Film Academy, Serbia Interaction, and Reelworld E20 film programs. She was the TIFF Micki Moore Resident for 2021-22 and is a member of the Writers Guild of Canada.



DARIEN TAYLOR

Darien Taylor has been living with HIV since 1987. She was involved with the treatment activist group AIDS ACTION NOW!, and a founder of Voices of Positive Women. She is co-editor of the international anthology Positive Women, and the director of a documentary film based on this work. Darien was among the first women in Canada to be "out" about her HIV status.



ESERY MONDESIR

Esery Mondesir is a Haitian-born video artist and filmmaker and assistant professor at OCAD University. Mondesir draws from personal and collective memory, official archives, vernacular records, and the Everyday to generate a reading of our society from its margins. His latest films have been exhibited in art galleries and film festivals worldwide.

INDUSTRY MEET & GREET

Daniels Spectrum Lobby
 Saturday, November 25 1:00-7:00pm
 Sunday, November 26 12:30-6:30pm

SPECIAL EVENT

Get to know the movers and shakers in Toronto's screen industry at our Industry Meet & Greet. Aspiring, emerging, and established filmmakers have the opportunity to speak with industry insiders, learn about available resources, and meet potential new collaborators.

STOP MOTION ANIMATION WORKSHOP

Daniels Spectrum 3rd Floor | 3:00-6:00pm

Bring your imagination to life at this workshop perfect beginners interested in stop motion animation. Join Akash Jones, filmmaker and stop motion animator, as he teaches you how to make your own stop motion scene.



AKASH JONES

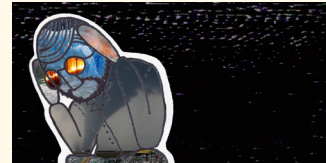
Akash Jones is a filmmaker and stop motion animator. He's a TMU film studies graduate and a Year 2 OYA Black Arts Coalition Graduate. He's created content for AMC's Ultra City Smiths and Amazon Prime's The Boys. His short film, A Tale of Two Regents, was presented at RPF's 20th Anniversary.

SHORTS PROGRAM: HOW WE USED TO LIVE

Ada Slaughter Hall | 4:00-5:00pm

This shorts program introduces us to characters navigating changes in their communities and personal lives. "How We Used to Live" focuses on themes of loss, memories, climate change and shows us how these issues impact our connection to our culture.

CO-PRESENTERS:



Feeling The Apocalypse

Chen Sing Yap | Documentary | Canada | 2022 | 7 mins | English

A psychotherapist struggling with climate anxiety explores what it means to live in a dying world.

Chen Sing Yap (he/him) is a Singaporean-born filmmaker living in Oakville, Ontario. Before moving to Canada he was a picture editor working primarily in long form factual television for Singaporean and international markets. In recent years, he has focused on directing and editing in the short form.



Tiny

Ritchie Hemphill, Ryan Haché | Animation, Documentary
 Canada | 2022 | 16 mins | English

Tiny is a contemplative stop motion film which tells the story of 'Nakwaxda'xw Elder Colleen Hemphill's childhood. The film portrays modern day Colleen as she reflects on her past, and re-enacts the stories she tells of her youth, as a young girl growing up on a float-house in the wild and unpredictable Pacific Northwest. **CONTENT ADVISORY: Mild blood.**

Ritchie Hemphill and Ryan Haché co-founded the award winning stop motion animation film studio Bronfree Films in 2015. Since then they've produced a number of short films that include Indigenous legends and Elder storytelling. Their latest film 'Tiny' recently won the Best Short Documentary Award and Elevate Award at DOXA.



W8linaktegw ta niona

Myriam Landry | Documentary | Canada | 2022
 7 mins | French

Myriam explores the importance of the W8linaktegw River (Bécancour River) to her family and her nation through her memories and the stories of her father. The film also bears witness to this river which has been transformed over the generations.

Myriam Landry was born in Trois-Rivières and has lived in Tiohti:áke (Montréal) for the past six years. She is a member of the W8banaki (Abenaki) First Nation in the community of Wólinak. Her film seeks to showcase Ndaquina, the ancestral territory of the W8banakiak, and the Abenaki language, which she is slowly learning.





For Roy

Vivian Cheung | Family, Drama | Canada | 2022
12 mins | English

Legend says, folding a thousand paper cranes will give a person one wish. For young Celeste, it was for her dying father to be there on her birthday. Using the power of imagination and the art of origami, she grapples with the reality of losing her father in the hospice.

Vivian Cheung is an emerging Chinese-Canadian filmmaker. She made her award-winning debut through VAFF's Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon. She was a finalist in Regent Park Film Festival's 2022 Emerging Filmmaker Pitch Competition, and was selected in Doc BC's 2022 Science & Nature Filmmaking Workshop and VIFF's 2023 Catalyst Mentorship Program.



Find Your Wild

Leila Khalilzadeh | Drama | Canada | 2023
16 mins | English, French

When a recently arrived Iranian immigrant in Montreal returns to her former profession as a beautician, her husband faces the challenge of adapting to a changing

narrative around gender roles.

Leila Khalilzadeh, an Iranian-Canadian filmmaker, showcased her short films at international festivals. A Berlinale Talents 2021 alumna, she holds an MFA in Film Production from Concordia University. Currently, she's developing her debut feature, a short documentary, and a short fiction, funded by Telefilm Canada, NFB, and SODEC, respectively.



(not so) little india

Rimsha Minocha | Slice of Life | Canada | 2022
7 mins | English, Hindi

This documentary highlights the journey of Gerrard India Bazaar (Little India), the South Asian community of Toronto that was born because of a cinema hall – Naaz Theatre

(1970s). Even though the theatre doesn't exist today, the businesses and people still thrive on the street and the community still remains strong.

Rimsha Minocha is an independent filmmaker. Originally from Mumbai, India, she assisted renowned creators & filmmakers in the Indian ads & film industry. She came to Toronto to pursue an education in Documentary Filmmaking, thereby shedding light on the communities of the city through her short documentaries.



FINANCING INNOVATION: EXPLORING NEW MODELS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Ada Slight Hall | 5:00-6:00pm

In an era of rapidly evolving distribution platforms and digital content creation, this panel will explore innovative financing models for film and TV projects. From short-form content for online platforms to interactive storytelling, experts will discuss emerging opportunities for financing and producing content in the digital age, while also addressing associated financial challenges.

This is an Academy Talks event presented by the City of Toronto.

FACILITATOR

SPONSORS:

COMMUNITY PARTNER:



CHARLIE LUBINIECKI

Charlie Lubiniecki is a producer/director with his company Border2Border Entertainment which produces and promotes a unique brand of award-winning, critically acclaimed film, television and digital projects for diverse, underserved audiences made by people with marginalized lived experience – 2SLGBTQ+, women, BIPOC and people with disabilities as key participants in what Border2Border Entertainment creates and distributes.

PANELISTS



WINNIFRED JONG

Winnifred Jong is an award winning Toronto-based filmmaker. Known for her cinematic style and authentic storytelling, Winnifred is adept at directing comedy, drama and action. She created and directed the comedic short form series, TOKENS, nominated for 8 Canadian Screen Awards (winning Best Direction 2020/2023, and Best Supporting Performance 2023) and was recognized with the 2020 ACTRA Sandi Ross Award and the 2023 Reelworld Trailblazer Award.



DANIELLE HÉBERT

Danielle Hébert has worked with the Industry Development team at Ontario Creates since 2018, specifically delivering the Interactive Digital Media Fund. As a Program Consultant, she leads the Video Content (Linear) stream of the IDM Fund Concept Definition and Production programs, manages the Futures Forward initiatives and works with Film and Interactive organizations through the Industry Development Program.



RODNEY DIVERLUS

Rodney Diverlus is a Haitian-Canadian producer, activist, and best-selling author. They produced Aftercare, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and their live performance and installation work has been through Stratford Festival, Canadian Opera Company, Soulepepper Theatre, Art Gallery of Ontario. Diverlus is a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement in Canada, and the Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism, and a co-author of Canadian bestseller Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada.

SHORTS PROGRAM: FACE TO FACE + TALKBACK

Ada Slaight Hall | 6:00-7:30 pm

This shorts program tackles the joys and complexities that comes with being face to face with new or uncomfortable situations. Confrontations aren't easy and these filmmakers capture the nuanced emotions we may feel when overcoming our fears or addressing long held issues. Join us with a talkback with the filmmakers, following the screening.

CO-PRESENTERS:



Eitr

Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller | Romance, Dramedy | Canada
2022 | 15 mins | English & Arabic

A closeted Arab wholesale perfume seller, attempting to mask his identity with excessive amounts of Polo Sport adjacent cologne, is knocked off centre when a charming

customer sees through his act.

Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller is a Queer Palestinian/Canadian filmmaker whose work explores themes of fragmented identity, isolation and connection through "oh no, should I laugh?" comedy. She is passionate about creating nuanced representations of Arabs for the screen and prioritizes making space for marginalized voices in front of and behind the camera.



NO JAMES HARDEN

Adrian Wallace | Comedy, Fantasy | Canada
2021 | 5 mins | English

Two motiveless Torontonians have an encounter with an NBA superstar 'James Harden' imposter, and test his validity after he claims to be the "one and only."

Adrian Wallace is a social media driven, millennial-serving, award-winning director, writer, producer and actor. Playback's 10 to Watch 2022 honouree, and winner of a 2021 Canadian Screen Award, Adrian has worked successful projects in both unscripted and scripted spaces broadcasted across channels like CBC, MTV, Prime Video, Paramount+ and Tubi.

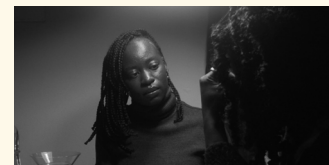


For Black Muslim Girls

Niya Abdullahi | Documentary | Canada
2022 | 8 mins | English

For Black Muslim Girls explores the social nuances behind identity expression and what it takes to fall in love with yourself. **CONTENT ADVISORY - Racism, Islamophobia**

Niya Abdullahi is a Multidisciplinary Artist, Technologist and the founder of @Habasooda. Themes of identity, liberation and resistance inform her work. Her films have screened at TIFF Next Wave, Nuit Blanche Saskatoon, Breakthroughs Film Festival, Gallery 44, amongst others.



Halves & Doubles

Adam Mbowe | Documentary | Canada
2023 | 15 mins | English

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. **CONTENT ADVISORY: Mention of attempted suicide**

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.



Uproot

Queena Liu | Documentary | Canada | 2023
11 mins | English, Cantonese

Uproot, directed by Queena Liu, is a film about a family's silent struggles with mental health care in immigrant communities. Ten years ago, the director's father was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in his forties and spent two years in and out of a psychiatric hospital. This film documents the director's first time having an open and honest conversation with her family about his diagnosis that she never could as a child.

Queena Liu is a Chinese-Canadian director and cinematographer based in Toronto. With a passion for music and visual arts, her filmmaking style draws from a diverse set of skills and inspiration. Her goal is to tell poetic and emotionally-resonant stories that reflect on personal experiences, community, and intersecting identities.





Aftercare

Anubha Momin | Drama | Canada | 2023
9 mins | English

A tattoo studio becomes the site for an emotionally charged reunion between a woman and the now-grown person she used to babysit, stirring up emotions that are more than skin deep.

Anubha Momin is a queer, Bangladeshi-born, Toronto-raised writer, director, and producer. She has directed content for outlets like VICE and CBC and is currently in development for her directorial feature debut and a TV series with 20th Television and Disney. **AFTERCARE** is her directorial debut.



FEATURE FILM

Ada Slight Hall | 8:30-10:30pm



SEAGRASS

Meredith Hama-Brown | Drama
Canada | 2023 | 115 mins | English

Desperate to find a deeper connection in her marriage after the recent death of her mother, Judith, a Japanese Canadian woman, brings her family to a self-development retreat on a remote island. But when they befriend another interracial couple who seem to have the perfect marriage, Judith begins to recognize how irreparably fractured her relationship is. Meanwhile, their two daughters are plunged into a destabilizing world under the constant stress of their parents' crumbling relationship. In the end, the family must collectively face their most unnerving insecurities before they become permanently broken.

CO-PRESENTERS:



Meredith Hama-Brown's work as a director has taken part in various international film festivals including: Palm Springs Shortfest, Shnit, Fantastic Fest, and Fantasia International Film Festival. In 2020 she was selected for the TIFF Filmmaker Lab and was awarded the Canada Goose Fellowship for her feature film, **SEAGRASS**



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Daniels Spectrum Lobby | 9:00-10:00am

SPECIAL EVENT

Bring the whole family to the Festival for a complimentary breakfast before the screening of *When Morning Comes*. A delicious assortment of breakfast food, hot coffee and tea will be available for everyone to enjoy.

PARTNERS



FEATURE FILM

Ada Slight Hall | 10:00-11:30am



WHEN MORNING COMES

Kelly Fyffe-Marshall | Drama
Canada | 2022 | 95min | English

CO-PRESENTERS:

BIPOC TV & FILM

A young Jamaican boy grapples with the idea of saying goodbye to his homeland and emigrating to the ever elusive 'foreign land', Canada.

CONTENT ADVISORY: Violence.

Kelly Fyffe-Marshall is making powerfully impactful films. Using the medium to disrupt one-dimensional narratives of Black people across the diaspora, the TIFF, Sundance and Canadian Academy of Film and Television award-winning director cares deeply about the global community and its welfare which materializes through *Make Ripples*: a non-profit focused on addressing racism, inequality and making activism accessible.



INKSPIRE TABLE READ

Ada Slight Hall | 12:00-1:30pm

RPF and INKspire present a live table read of a feature film written by actor, writer and filmmaker, Janet-Rose Nguyen. Developed during her time as Writer-in-Residence at INKspire, the script is a heartwarming holiday story based in Toronto. The table read will feature professional Toronto-based actors, and will be followed by a Q&A with Janet-Rose Nguyen.

WRITER



JANET-ROSE NGUYEN

Janet-Rose Nguyen is an award-winning actress and writer. Her work explores magic, horror, feminism, queerness, and the Asian diaspora. She served as the co-chair of the ACTRA Diversity & Inclusion Committee and on ACTRA Toronto Council. An alumnus of the Reelworld Emerging 20 Program and the CFC's CBC Actors Conservatory, she taught screenwriting workshops as the first Writer in Residence for INKSpire. As an independent filmmaker her films have been featured with the National Screen Institute and Myseum Toronto. You can catch her next in Doomlands (RokuTV).

SPONSORS: ACTRA

ACTORS

KATHERINE FOGLER, ROBERT IFEDI, ZARA JESTADT, NATASHA KRISHNAN, MARISA McDONALD, AND CHRISTINE L. NGUYEN

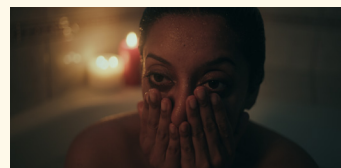
The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy.

SHORTS PROGRAM: STUCK + TALKBACK

Ada Slight Hall | 1:30-3:00 pm

This shorts program introduces us to characters feeling stuck; unable to move forward due to policies, mental health or the pull of familial bonds. Whether they're navigating the immigration system or the psychological toll of new motherhood, the characters we meet are dealing with their own unique constraints. Join us for a talkback with filmmakers, following the screening.

CO-PRESENTERS:



Rock The Cradle

Asis Sethi | Drama, Dark, Slice of Life | Canada 2022 | 14 mins | English

When a new South Asian mother gives birth, she realizes she may be stuck in a place of darkness, without knowing how to get out. Be it her struggles with breastfeeding or the

crippling anxiety that something can happen to her newborn, Pari soon dissolves into her puddle of grief.

Featured as Playback's 10 to Watch in 2020, Asis Sethi's work has been supported by TIFF, Netflix, CBC, Citytv, OMNI Television, Rogers, CFC, and WIFT Toronto. Featured in the Playback Magazine, CTV, The Globe & Mail, and OMNI Television, Asis focuses on telling stories of those whose voices have been suppressed.



The Mess We're In

Jamie Lam | Drama | Canada | 2022 3 mins | English

Still living in the hoarder's house she grew up in, young adult Dara contemplates moving forward in life.

From Richmond, BC, Jamie is a filmmaker of Hong Kong descent. Her work aims to explore the nuances in how human connection is pursued, built, and undone. Jamie Lam's latest short, "The Mess We're In" has played at festivals like TIFF Next Wave, NFFTY, and St. John's International Women's Film Festival.



Bawang Merah Bawang Putih (Shallots and Garlic)

Andrea Nirmala Widjanto | Horror, Thriller Indonesia, Canada | 2022 9 mins | English

When polar opposite sisters Nur and Karina reunite for their grandparents' wedding anniversary dinner, Karina starts itching and blames Nur for putting garlic in her food. CONTENT ADVISORY: Depiction of eating disorder.

Andrea Nirmala Widjanto is an Indonesian writer/director who splits her time between Toronto and Jakarta. Her work explores sociopolitical, cultural, and environmental issues. Andrea's films have been screened at TIFF, Sundance, VIFF, Aspen Shortfest, and other film festivals. Her next short, "Sawo Matang" premiered at the 48th TIFF.





māyā

Samyuktha Movva | Drama | Canada | 2022 | 15 mins | English

While preparing to celebrate her wedding anniversary, a woman is forced to reconcile with her long-held identity as a "wife." Through a telephone conversation between mother and daughter, the spell of the present day begins to unravel for both the Wife and the audience, as we begin to understand her as a woman trapped in an illusion more inviting than the truth of her reality. **CONTENT ADVISORY: elements of grief**

Samyuktha Movva is an Indo-Canadian filmmaker based in Toronto. In her work, she seeks to explore our complex experience of time, memory, beauty, love, and loss through intimate character studies that traverse language and culture. Today, Samyuktha is developing her next short film and writing her first feature.



Wandering

Karla Meza | Documentary | Canada 2022 | 13 mins | French

For the past three years, a young Mexican asylum seeker has been forced to put his academic career and his dream of becoming a police officer on hold due to his immigration status. Socially isolated, he clings to the daily life he shares with his family and tries, as best he can, to occupy his time while waiting for the life he dreams of.

Karla Meza started making documentary films in 2019, while working as a journalist. Inspired by issues related to forced migration and the challenges of marginalized communities, the Canadian-Mexican director made her first two short films Uprooted by war and Nu Ulew before joining the Documentary program at L'inis in 2021.



Hi ading

Dinaly Tran | Experimenta | Documentary | Canada | 2022 | 2 mins | English, Vietnamese, Ilocano

"hi ading" is a poetic short that provides a glimpse into a love story. Speaking to their parents past selves, Dinaly asks and hopes that these past versions might help present them realize that the decisions they may not understand, are still made out of love.

Dinaly Joyce Tran is a queer, trans, nonbinary Filipinx-Vietnamese community organizer, and artist. They aim to create spaces and tell stories that empower and uplift folks with similar identities. They are always hoping to make things that feel homey, in their art, organizing, and in Animal Crossing.



COMMERCIAL FILMMAKING: FROM PRODUCTION TO POST

Ada Slight Hall | 3:00-4:00pm

Commercial filmmakers are tasked with finding the most impactful way to tell a story in a concise medium where every frame counts. Join industry-leading group of artists and storytellers from Rooster Post Production as they guide us through the technical and creative aspects of the commercial process: from the director's treatment through to post-production.

PANELISTS

SPONSORS:



MICHELLE CZUKAR

Michelle Czukar began her career editing music videos where she honed her talent for telling emotional, human stories and established the artistic voice that would be the hallmark of her award-winning commercial work.



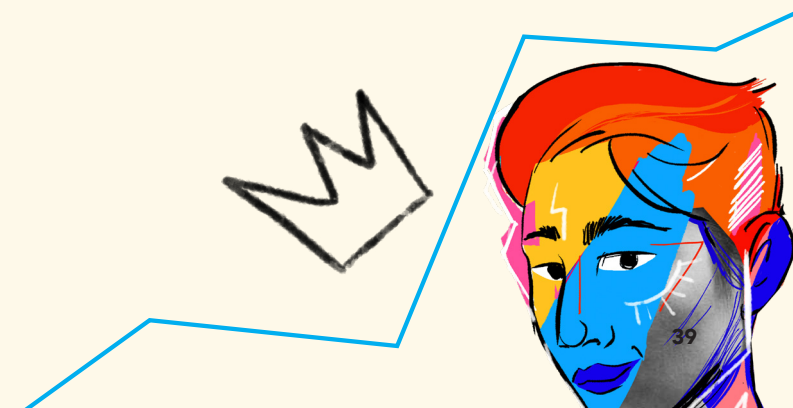
COLIN MURDOCK

Colin Murdock has been a Commercial Editor at Rooster since 2018. An aspiring Jeopardy contestant with a background in film theory, he brings a creative flair and a critical eye for detail to all his projects.



SOCHIMA NWAKAEZE

Sochima Nwakaeze, who usually goes by Soch, moved to Canada from Nigeria in 2013. As an Assistant Editor at Rooster, Soch's passion for filmmaking and strong cultural roots drives his desire to learn and excel.



HOW TO FAIL AS A POPSTAR + FIRESIDE CHAT WITH VIVEK SHRAYA

Ada Slight Hall | 4:00-5:30pm



What happens when a star isn't born? An adaptation of Vivek Shraya's hit play and subsequent book, How To Fail as a Popstar answers this question with hilarity, vulnerability, a healthy dose of imagination, and of course, music. The series tracks the journey of a young, queer, brown boy growing up in Edmonton trying to achieve pop stardom and what went almost right along the way – from the perspective of the now 40-something trans femme artist that boy became.

Join us for an intimate conversation with Vivek Shraya as we discuss her CBC Gem series "How To Fail as a Popstar"; a raw, comedic story chronicling her pursuit of pop stardom.

MODERATOR



MAYA BASTIAN

Maya Bastian is an award-winning Tamil-Canadian filmmaker and artist. Her work has been supported by Netflix, HBO, UN IOM, CBC, TIFF Series Accelerator and the Canadian Film Centre. She has exhibited at various festivals internationally including Cannes Court Metrage, Edinburgh Fringe, Colombo Art Biennale and Festival De Nouveau Cinema. She specializes in exploring untold stories from around the world, integrating the voices of each unique community through active engagement, research and open dialogue.

PANELIST



VIVEK SHRAYA

Vivek Shraya is an artist whose body of work crosses the boundaries of music, literature, visual art, theatre, TV, film, and fashion. She is a Canadian Screen Award winner and a Polaris Music Prize nominee, and her best-selling book I'm Afraid of Men was heralded by Vanity Fair as "cultural rocket fuel." She is also the founder of the award-winning publishing imprint VS. Books, which supports emerging BIPOC writers. Vivek has been a brand ambassador for MAC Cosmetics and Pantene. She is a director on the board of the Tegan and Sara Foundation, and her CBC Gem Original Series, How to Fail as a Popstar, is launching this fall.

CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE FILM

Ada Slight Hall | 6:30-9:00pm

CO-PRESENTERS:



Sisterhood Softball

Farhiya Ahmed | Documentary | Canada
2023 | 8 mins | English

Following the first all-female Muslim softball league in North America, Sisterhood Softball depicts a league that empowers women through sports in a community where women traditionally don't participate and are seen outside of their communities as disempowered.

As a Somali-Canadian filmmaker, Farhiya Ahmed's interest in storytelling came from exploring complex narratives, social issues, and lived experiences of first and second-generation immigrants. Ahmed explores the untold stories of people in her communities and creates intimate films that are emotionally motivated and driven by deep human connections and relationships.

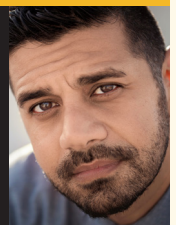


ALLIHOPA: THE DALKURD STORY

Kordo Doski | Documentary | USA, Sweden, Iraq, Canada | 2023
94 mins | English, Kurdish, Swedish

Allihopa: The Dalkurd Story is the inspirational story of The Dalkurd Football Club, a scrappy group of Kurdish refugees in Sweden who defy all odds to climb the ranks of Sweden's soccer leagues in hopes of becoming champions, and bringing glory and attention to the plight of their stateless people.

Writer, director and actor, Kordo Doski was born in Kurdistan, Iraq. Due to the political unrest under Saddam's regime, his family escaped Iraq for Canada. Growing up in Toronto, a very multicultural city, his vast exposure to other cultures, greatly influences his storytelling. In addition to telling stories, Kordo is the Co-founder and Creative Director of Lina Hanson Global Beauty, an Organic skin care line that is known for celebrating the concept of Global Beauty. The brand has received rave reviews by renowned publications such as Allure, Harper's Bazaar, GQ and Vogue.



NFB CANADA BEST DIRECTOR AWARD

The NFB Canada Best Director Award is given to an emerging Canadian short film director whose work is showing at this year's Festival. The NFB provides \$5,000 to use towards production and post-production costs for the winning filmmaker's next film.



RPF 2023 BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM AWARD

The Best Documentary Short Film Award is awarded to a filmmaker whose work is showing at this year's Festival, and whose documentary film is an engaging and nuanced reflection of the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour across Canada.

The winner will receive a \$2,500 cash prize provided by Station 369, and a membership to the Academy Of Canadian Cinema & Television

station 369



RPF 2023 BEST CANADIAN SHORT FILM AWARD

The Best Canadian Short Film Award is awarded to a Canadian filmmaker whose work is showing at this year's Festival, and is selected for their outstanding work and unique vision.

The winner will receive a \$2,500 cash prize provided by Station 369, and a membership to the Academy Of Canadian Cinema & Television.

station 369



RBC EMERGING DIRECTORS AWARD

The RBC Emerging Directors Award is presented to one Canadian filmmaker who won the Emerging Directors' Pitch Competition this year. The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize from RBC.



FOR OUR FRIEND, RAVI



Ravi Srinivasan, longtime RPF Board member and beloved friend, passed away suddenly last year, leaving RPF and the wider film community utterly devastated.

Deeply proud of his Indian and Filipino heritage, Ravi was a fierce champion of racialized filmmakers and their stories, and played a key role in bringing emerging talent to our Annual Film Festival each year, as well as in his role as a Senior Programmer at TIFF and the Founder of South Western Film Festival. He was passionate about making the film industry a more inclusive space for these filmmakers, and ensuring all audience members were represented on screen.

Almost a year later, we miss our friend, his bright smile, and boundless generosity. Our 21st Annual Regent Park Film Festival is dedicated to his life and legacy.

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Our first film festival was held 21 years ago in Nelson Mandela Park Public School's gymnasium. What started as a small community festival, meant to bring the multitude of cultural communities in Regent Park together through film, has become a platform for new and established racialized creators, and an intergenerational gathering place to experience art that can change the way you see yourself and your community.



We have evolved and expanded these past two decades, but what has remained since day one is our **commitment to providing free programming**, as well as our steadfast work to **remove barriers to access and participation** by providing free childcare, free film submissions, and paying all artists for their work.

To achieve our mission, RPFf relies on the generous support of individuals like you. **95% of our income is achieved through fundraising** and that is why your donation – however big or small – will have a vital impact on our work and the communities we serve.

Your support is more vital than ever to achieve our mission. To make your donation go further, **consider making a monthly contribution**; it offers a steady and predictable source of funding for our programming.

Become a champion of our work, and play an important role in ensuring everyone has access and the opportunity to create and experience art.

RENT OUR SPACE



Our flexible spaces are perfect to rent for your next screening, meeting, or rehearsal.

The Microspace is most suitable for small to medium sized groups and is equipped with all the necessary features to make your event a huge success!



We also offer 2 Focus Rooms for individuals, which are handy for secluded and private working, and to avoid distractions.

Our small Office Space, which is ideal for 2-3 individuals, is also available for a year-long lease. This space offers the perfect environment to operate a smaller organization while maintaining a close proximity to the city down below.



ACCESSIBLE VENUE | AFFORDABLE RATES
VISIT RPFf.CA TO BOOK TODAY!



RPFf.CA/DONATE

1. *Introduction*

2. *Methodology*

3. *Results*

4. *Discussion*

5. *Conclusion*

6. *References*

7. *Appendix*

8. *Notes*

9. *Index*

10. *Author's address*

11. *Correspondence*

12. *Received*

13. *Accepted*

14. *Copyright*

15. *Disclaimer*

16. *Keywords*

17. *Subject terms*

18. *Abstract*

19. *Summary*

20. *References*

21. *Appendix*

22. *Notes*

23. *Index*

24. *Author's address*

25. *Correspondence*

26. *Received*

27. *Accepted*

28. *Copyright*

29. *Disclaimer*

30. *Introduction*

31. *Methodology*

32. *Results*

33. *Discussion*

34. *Conclusion*

35. *References*

36. *Appendix*

37. *Notes*

38. *Index*

39. *Author's address*

40. *Correspondence*

41. *Received*

42. *Accepted*

43. *Copyright*

44. *Disclaimer*

45. *Keywords*

46. *Subject terms*

47. *Abstract*

48. *Summary*

49. *References*

50. *Appendix*

51. *Notes*

52. *Index*

53. *Author's address*

54. *Correspondence*

55. *Received*