

**FREE &
ACCESSIBLE**



20TH ANNIVERSARY
**Regent Park
Film Festival**

DECEMBER 7 - 10 2022

**@REGENTPARKFILM
#RPFF2022**



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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



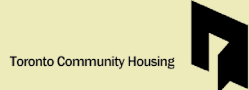
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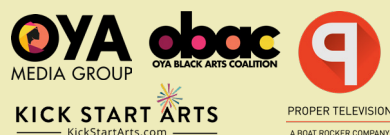
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INDUSTRY PARTNERS



YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM PARTNERS



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Welcome to Regent Park Film Festival!

This year, Regent Park Film Festival celebrates its 20th Anniversary! As always, the Festival prioritizes accessibility. All our film screenings will take place at Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas Street East. This is a completely accessible venue and all films have closed captions.

WE ARE ALSO PROUD TO OFFER FREE ADMISSION AND FREE CHILDCARE!

If you have any questions, accessibility concerns, or if you would like to reserve a space for childcare before attending, please contact us at info@rpff.ca, or call us at 416.599.7733

FREE tickets can be reserved by visiting us at rpff.ca/2022. Seats will be reserved for you at the screening up until 10 minutes prior to the start time. After this time, seating becomes first come, first served.

SHARE YOUR FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING @REGENTPARKFILM #REGENTPARKFOREVER #RPFF22

Festival Staff



KALPANA SRINARAYANADAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NOBU NAKAMURA
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS



AASHNA THAKKAR
MANAGER OF PROGRAMMING



SHAFIA SHAIKH
MARKETING & OUTREACH MANAGER



TANIA UDDIN
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR



FIYIN COKER
OUTREACH COORDINATOR



ALICE WANG
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



RANDI BOWRON
OPERATIONS & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



TAYLOR LUFTIG
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Acknowledgements

SUPPORT TEAM

Chad Mohr, *Web Developer*
 Laura Macapagal, *Volunteer Assistant*
 Sara Ghaben, *Graphic Designer*
 Emieke Geldof, *Bookkeeper*
 Lani Akande, *Regent Park Made Visible Coordinator*

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Wendy Zhao, *2022 Outreach and Logistics Intern*
 Lisa Murzin, *Staff Photographer*
 Amira de Vera, *Festival Publicist*
 Nathan Boone, *Festival Trailer Producer*
 Maverick, *Digital Trailer Producer*

GENERAL PROGRAM ADVISORY

David Osubronie
 Tazeen Ahmed
 Hazelmae Valenzuela
 Sarah Edo

SCHOOL PROGRAM ADVISORY

Ari Para
 Marc Proudfoot
 Celia Saroya

THANK YOU TO ALL THE 2022 VOLUNTEERS! THE FESTIVAL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Regent Park Film Festival 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 relevant representations, and creating a more just and joyful world.

Thank you to the following individuals who supported our 20 for 20 campaign which was launched in May 2022 to celebrate our 20th anniversary!

CHAMPION DONOR

Maria Martin Stanley

CORPORATE DONORS

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\$200+

Anya Martin	Chris Chin	Michaela Beder
Cathy Vine	Christine Peplinski	Patrick Dolan
Chad Mohr	David Osubronie	Sonia Sakamoto-Jog

\$1 - \$199

Amy Nguyen	Jamal Virani	Nayeon Kim
Brian TienTrinh	Janelle Brown	Nina Giocada
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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS WHO MADE GENEROUS GIFTS FROM OCTOBER 2021-APRIL 2022:

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Greetings



JOSHUA RICHARDS
BOARD CHAIR,
REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL



And we're back (and in person)! Welcome to the 20th edition of the Regent Park Film Festival.

RPFF has always been more than just a community film festival, we're a community building organization that elevates the stories and lived experiences of BIPOC communities. And that community building is so important as we slowly begin to transition back into physical spaces.

We're so excited to connect with you all in person this year and truly cannot wait for you to explore and engage with the incredible programming and events the staff has put together for our 20th anniversary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joshua Richards, <i>Chair</i>	Ravi Srinivasan, <i>Director</i>
Ayman Alvi, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Radhika Sikka, <i>Director</i>
Erin Cox, <i>Treasurer</i>	Carly Kastner, <i>Director</i>
Christine Peplinski, <i>Secretary</i>	Sadia Mohamed, <i>Director</i>



AASHNA THAKKAR
MANAGER OF PROGRAMMING,
REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL



This year is especially momentous not only because of our milestone anniversary, but it's our first festival back in person since 2019! I feel incredibly lucky that we're able to bring programming back into community spaces, where we can laugh, learn, and celebrate together once again. This year's program includes reflections on the festival and the neighbourhood's history through retrospective films, conversations, and written reflections, as well as our special anniversary project, *Regent Park Made Visible*. While we want to reminisce, we also hope our programming inspires conversations about the future; the future of communities like Regent Park that continue to be in flux yet thrive despite it, and an industry that should be in flux to meet the needs of the diverse creatives within it, by way of tough but necessary conversations. Thank you for coming on this journey of reflection and celebration with us!



KALPANA SRINARAYANADAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL



Thank you for joining us at our 20th Regent Park Film Festival! We're excited to celebrate not only our 20th anniversary, but also the resilience and fortitude we've all experienced these past few years, and our chance to finally come together in-person as a community again.

This year, as always, we're showcasing films that reflect the experiences of Black, Indigenous and racialized communities - communities you will encounter in Regent Park and across Canada. Be sure to check out *Regent Park Made Visible*, our 20th anniversary project for which we commissioned five filmmakers to create new films inspired by archival footage, news clips, and personal anecdotes about living and growing up in Regent Park.

We're also delighted to bring back filmmakers from Festivals past and former Executive Directors to reflect on the past two decades, and how RPFF has held true to its commitment to connect diverse audiences to representative films that can change the way they see themselves and their community members.

From the very beginning, it has been vital to RPFF's mission to offer programming that is FREE and accessible to anyone who wishes to participate and attend. We are grateful to our numerous supporters who enable us to persist in this crucial purpose.

I'm honoured to take on the role of Executive Director in this momentous year, and to join an incredible team of creative, hard-working individuals who brought this year's Festival to fruition.

Join us as we celebrate 20 years of film, art, community and incredible storytelling!



SIMON BRAULT.
O.C., O.Q.
DIRECTOR AND CEO
CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS



The arts are a vital part of our society: they inspire us to reflect, bring us joy, nourish our sense of belonging, and strengthen our connections to one another and the wider world.

We need the arts now more than ever. A strong support for a resilient, inclusive, and accessible arts sector benefits society in all its diversity.

The Canada Council for the Arts is a proud supporter of the Regent Park Film Festival and its creative contributions that bring the arts to life.



RITA DAVIES, C.M.
CHAIR, ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL



On behalf of the board and staff at the Ontario Arts Council, I am pleased to welcome you to Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF), this year celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Over the past two decades, the festival has grown and established itself as a significant community event, bringing people together through workshops, industry panels and film screenings. RPFF prides itself on being Toronto's longest-running community film festival, committed to remaining accessible and free of charge to the communities it serves.

This year's festival includes *Regent Park Made Visible*, a special anniversary project in which five filmmakers were selected to create short films, each one celebrating Regent Park. Congratulations to these talented filmmakers as well as all the other exceptional filmmakers whose works are being screened at this year's festival!

Sit back, relax and enjoy the festival.



JASON RYLE
PRESIDENT,
TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL



Welcome to the 2022 Regent Park Film Festival!

It's a special year for Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF) as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. Toronto's longest-running free community film festival, RPFF has become a staple in Regent Park, showcasing local and international independent works as well as films that break stereotypes. Toronto Arts Council is proud to support this vital festival.

The City of Toronto, through Toronto Arts Council, invests public funds in the arts, providing millions of Torontonians and visitors the opportunity to enjoy a wealth of artistic activity. Our programs enable artists and arts organizations to explore, create and thrive, while contributing to the health of the city. As a filmmaker and curator myself, I know the value of RPFF to artists and audiences. The films, so thoughtfully created by the artists and selected for this program, will surely inspire and spark dialogue.

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



PABLO RODRIGUEZ
MINISTER, DEPARTMENT OF
CANADIAN HERITAGE



Welcome to the 20th Regent Park Film Festival!

For two decades, this celebration has allowed local filmmakers to share their unique stories alongside the best independent storytellers from around the world. These compelling films prove that no place has just one narrative. In a country as diverse as ours, there are countless fascinating stories, all of which make Canada what it is.

Our government believes that the arts help us embrace that diversity is a fact, but inclusion is a choice. That is why events like this are so important in creating understanding and building bridges among our many communities. We are proud to support this gathering. As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I'd like to congratulate everyone who has ensured that Canada's longest running free community film festival continues to flourish.

Enjoy the shows!

Rent Our Space

Located inside Daniels Spectrum,
Regent Park's cultural hub.
585 Dundas St. East.

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!

Who We Are

Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF) is a non-profit cultural and educational media arts organization. It is Toronto's longest-running, free community film festival, and is the sole community film festival in Canada's largest and oldest public housing neighbourhood. The key communities we serve are Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities, people with low-income, people who live in public housing, and Regent Park residents. RPFF is a staple in the community. In addition to our annual festival in November, we offer year-round screenings, our annual School Program, workshops and community events at no cost.

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.

Our Year-Round Programs

UNDER THE STARS

Our FREE, outdoor screening series focuses on showing widely loved films that represent and resonate with Indigenous, Black, and people of colour communities. This year, Under the Stars returned to the park for the first time in 2 years to celebrate RPFF's 20th anniversary! Hundreds came together to enjoy delicious food, exciting games, and of course, free movies under the night sky. We hosted a free block party featuring local organizations, family-friendly activities, free food, and live performances from Toronto-based artists, Desiire, Pisceze, and Kennen!



LIVE IT TO LEARN IT

Now in its fifth year, *Live It To Learn It* is a paid summer internship program, in partnership with OYA Black Arts Coalition, that facilitates greater diversity in Toronto's film & TV industry by creating opportunities for Black 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: *Kim's Convenience*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, and *The Great Canadian Baking Show*.

Congratulations to this year's *Live It To Learn It* interns: Warda Youssouf, Caleb Phillips and Chelsea Richard James.

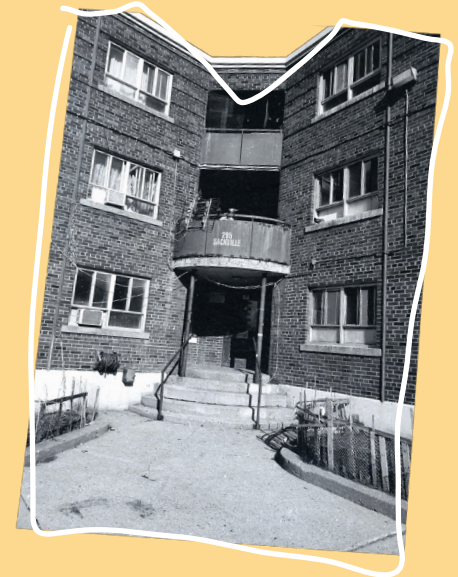


PROPER TELEVISION
A BOAT ROCKER COMPANY

REGENT PARK PROJECT

Hosted by RPFF and facilitated by KickStart Arts, 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. Youth participants have produced two seasons of their web series, a play adaptation, and most recently have completed a script for their first feature film. Full details can be found here: kickstartarts.com

KICK START ARTS
KickStartArts.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, our annual school program returns in-person for local schools in Regent Park and will also be available online for schools across the GTA.



BLOCK BY BLOCK

RPFF is a community partner for Block by Block, a participatory, multimedia program of the Toronto Ward Museum. Block by Block trains young people to interview community members in their own neighbourhoods about their lived experiences of migration, settlement and civic life.

www.blockbyblock.wardmuseum.ca
@TOWardMuseum.



Schedule

CHECK OUT OUR NEW! INDUSTRY LOUNGE

THURSDAY, FRIDAY
4-8 pm

SATURDAY
12- 7:30 pm

DON'T MISS!
A Special Exhibition tour by
Walter Klassen FX

SATURDAY
4:30 - 5 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Opening Night
Community Reception
5:30-7pm

Opening Night
Film: *Brother*
7-10pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Shorts Program:
Nuanced Connections
4-5pm

Commercial Filmmaking:
From Production to Post
4-5pm

Discovering Delight:
Creative Writing Workshop
For BIPOC Creators
5:30-8:30pm

Emerging Directors'
Pitch Retrospective &
Competition
6-8pm

Short Film: *We Need to
Talk About the #Vaccine*
+
Feature: *TikTok, Boom.*
9pm-12am

VENUE LEGEND

ADA SLAIGHT HALL

RPFF STUDIOS

OFFSITE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Academy Talks: Mental Health
and Self Care for Filmmakers
3-4pm

Shorts Program:
Physical Perceptions
4-5:30pm

Designing Sound: Sourcing
Music for your Next Film
5-6pm

Shorts Program:
Truths Unravelling
4-5:30pm

Feature:
Portraits from a Fire
9:30-11pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Community Breakfast
9-10am

Summer of Soul
10am-12pm

In Conversation with
Carlos Bustamante
1-2pm

Shorts Program:
Regent Park Made Visible
3-4:30pm

Short Film:
A Tribute to Paintbox Bistro
+
*20 Years of Film & Community
in Regent Park*
5:30-6:30pm

Closing Night Film:
Riceboy Sleeps
7:30-10:30pm

Wednesday December 7, 2022

OPENING NIGHT COMMUNITY RECEPTION

CSI COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM | 585 DUNDAS ST. E. | 5:30PM-7:00PM

Join us for our 20th anniversary opening night celebrations with food, drinks and good company. The event is free and tickets are available online. Be sure to also get a ticket for our opening night film 'Brother'!



SPONSORS: **CAFÉ ZUZU** 

CAFÉ ZUZU

Café ZUZU is a lively & nostalgic nod to 1950s Italy.

The multi-faceted ZUZU is home to a morning café with Italian pastry & time-honoured beverages, co-working spaces, retail selection & bottle shop, and a neighbourhood restaurant where people come to escape the everyday.

now open

555 DUNDAS STREET EAST
@CAFEZUZUTO | CAFEZUZU.COM



**SPECIAL
EVENT!**

Wednesday December 7, 2022

FEATURE + TALKBACK



ADA SLAIGHT HALL
7:00PM-10:00PM

BROTHER

CLEMENT VIRGO | DRAMA | CANADA
2022 | 119 MINS | ENGLISH

Sons of Caribbean immigrants, Francis and Michael face questions of masculinity, identity and family amid the pulsing beat of Toronto's early hip-hop scene.

CONTENT ADVISORY: POLICE BRUTALITY, GUN VIOLENCE

CO-PRESENTERS:



COMMUNITY PARTNERS:



CLEMENT VIRGO WILL BE JOINING US
FOR A TALKBACK AFTER THE SCREENING



Clement Virgo is one of Canada's foremost film directors. His TV directing credits include *Billions*, *The Get Down*, *Empire*, and *The L Word*. His debut feature, *Rude*, premiered in Cannes' Un Certain Regard section and opened the Perspectives Canada programme at TIFF. *Brother* is his latest feature.

Thursday December 8, 2022

INDUSTRY LOUNGE

This year, we have an Industry Lounge for aspiring, emerging, and established filmmakers to relax, speak with industry insiders, learn about available resources, and meet potential new collaborators. The space will also feature an exclusive exhibit of Walter Klassen FX's props and costumes from popular Toronto productions.

Lounge Hours:

Thursday and Friday 4-8pm
Saturday 12-7:30pm

Don't Miss! A special tour by Taku Dazai
from Walter Klassen FX - Saturday 4:30-5pm



SPONSOR:



PARTNER:



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www.mbseco.ca



Thursday December 8, 2022



WORKSHOP

COMMERCIAL FILMMAKING: FROM PRODUCTION TO POST

ROOSTER POST PRODUCTION

Commercial filmmakers are tasked with finding the most impactful way to tell a story in a concise medium where every frame counts. This course will encompass both the technical and creative aspects of the commercial process, from the director's treatment through to post-production. This journey will be guided by an industry-leading group of storytellers including Oscar nominated director Hubert Davis, whose most recent film *Black Ice* won the People's Choice Documentary Award at TIFF.



HUBERT DAVIS

Hubert Davis is one of Canada's most acclaimed contemporary directors in the documentary film scene. Davis' directorial debut *Hardwood* was nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Documentary in 2005. Hubert's latest feature documentary *Black Ice* won the People's Choice Award for Best Documentary at TIFF. Hubert was recently featured as one of the top 100 Visionary Directors in the world on the 2022 ADWEEK Creative 100 List.



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. Sochima was also a former LITLI intern with RPFF.

SPONSOR:



Thursday December 8, 2022



SHORTS PROGRAM: NUANCED CONNECTIONS

ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 4:00-5:00PM



NANITIC

CAROL NGUYEN | DRAMA | CANADA | 2022
14 MINS | VIETNAMESE/ENGLISH

9 year-old Trang starts to shift out of oblivion as her aunt Ut tends to Grandma, who lies in her deathbed in the living room. How can a single body occupy so much space? What will happen when Grandma is gone?



Carol Nguyen is a Vietnamese Canadian filmmaker based in Montreal. Her last film "No Crying at the Dinner Table" premiered at the TIFF 2019 and received the Jury Prize for Short Documentary at SXSW. Today, Carol is working towards her first documentary feature as well as an animated short.



THE SYED FAMILY XMAS EVE GAME NIGHT

FAWZIA MIRZA | COMEDY | USA | 2021 | 11 MINS | ENGLISH

All cards are on the table when a queer Pakistani Muslim woman brings her Puerto Rican partner home for the first time on the family's annual game night.



Fawzia Mirza is a queer, South Asian Muslim writer/director and a White House Champion of Change in Asian American Art & Storytelling. She co-wrote/produced/starred in SIGNATURE MOVE, wrote on CBS series THE RED LINE, and wrote/the CBC produced short, NOOR & LAYLA.



AHU'S JOURNAL

WEEDA AZIM | DRAMA, EXPERIMENTAL | CANADA | 2021
7 MINS | ENGLISH, FARSI

Eager for an escape from family, Safiya moves into the sublet room of an acquaintance, Ahu. Her new place is peaceful, but she soon comes across something that takes her on a reflective journey: Ahu's journal.



Weeda Azim is an Afghan Canadian writer and filmmaker based in Toronto. Her ultimate goal is to embrace chaos and failure in her work, to create in order to understand herself, and to meet like-minded individuals along the way.

Thursday December 8, 2022



N'XAXAITKW

ASIA YOUNGMAN | FANTASY/DRAMA | CANADA | 2021
17 MINS | ENGLISH

After moving to a new town, a teenager must navigate peer pressure when her next-door neighbour convinces her to explore a nearby island in search of a legendary lake monster. However, she quickly learns that her new friends might be harbouring some secrets and ulterior motives of their own.



Asia Youngman is an award-winning director and screenwriter based in Vancouver. Named as one of Playback's "10 to Watch", she is an alumna of various programs and accelerators such as TIFF Filmmaker Lab. Asia wrote and directed the short documentary THIS INK RUNS DEEP (2019) which premiered at TIFF.



CUPIDS

ZOEY MARTINSON | COMEDY | USA | 2021 | 9 MINS | ENGLISH

In this playful comedy, three kids worry that their beloved school bus driver will be lonely this summer without them. They set out to find her a partner and imagine the perfect matches.



Zoey Martinson is an award-winning writer and director in film and off-Broadway theater. Her film, The Fisherman, is currently streaming on HBO Max and she directed the TV movie Uthandiwe Uyatshata II for DSTV South Africa. She is a writer for season two of Betty on HBO Max.



PERFECT RESTAURANT

AIKEN CHAU | ANIMATION/FAMILY DRAMA | CANADA | 2021
4 MINS | CANTONESE

A family tries to get through their dinner at a restaurant as a fly wreaks havoc upon their meal.



Aiken Chau is a Chinese-Canadian artist and animator who enjoys storytelling and creating characters. A graduate from the Sheridan College animation program (2021), he experiments with animation of all mediums. He has collaborated on a number of short films, music videos and zines in his local art community and his work has been showcased in film festivals including TIFF Next Wave and OIAF.

CO-PRESENTER:



COMMUNITY PARTNER:



**SPECIAL
EVENT!**

EMERGING DIRECTORS' PITCH RETROSPECTIVE & COMPETITION

ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 6:00-8:00PM

Our annual Pitch Competition is back, but with a twist! This year we're starting the night with a look back at the last 7 years of Pitch Competitions at RPFF, with a lineup of films that were made after being pitched at our festival. And of course, you'll also have a chance to hear 3 brand new unscripted projects being pitched from the finalists in this year's competition. The winner will receive a development deal with CBC and \$1000 courtesy of RBC!

RETROSPECTIVE

HOSTED BY JASON D'SOUZA, HOST OF CBC RADIO ONE'S *FRESH AIR*



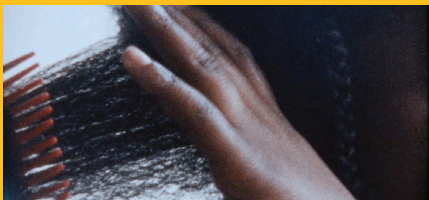
Alicia K. Harris is a filmmaker from Scarborough. Her films have been screened at numerous festivals including TIFF. Her short film *PICK* won Best Live Action Short at the 2020 Canadian Screen Awards. Alicia is dedicated to celebrating the Black experience, with a focus on beauty, spirituality and vulnerability.

PICK (2017 PITCH)

ALICIA K. HARRIS | DRAMA | CANADA | 2019 | 11 MINS | ENGLISH

A young girl wears her afro to school on picture day and must deal with the unexpected consequences.

CONTENT ADVISORY: RACISM, MICROAGGRESSIONS



Kourtney Jackson is a Toronto-based writer and filmmaker interested in hybridized, experimental forms of storytelling that exist within and transcend the physical body. Centred in the socio-cultural collisions of subjectivity, surveillance, and societal prescriptions of identity, her films *1 versus 1* and *Wash Day* have screened at various festivals.

WASH DAY (2018 PITCH)

KOURTNEY JACKSON | EXPERIMENTAL/DOCUMENTARY
CANADA | 2020 | 9 MINS | ENGLISH

The act of washing one's hair and body serves as the touchstone for *Wash Day*—an intimate exploration into how private, domestic acts such as washing your hair or putting on makeup become a significant re-acquaintance with the body, before and after navigating the politics of one's outwardly appearance.



Lu Asfaha is an award-winning writer and director based in Toronto. Her films bend genres to explore themes of identity, belonging, and how things fall apart. Most recently her short horror *'Fresh Meat'* premiered at Inside Out Film Festival 2022 before being released on CBC.

FRESH MEAT (2019 PITCH)

LU ASFAHA | HORROR | CANADA | 2021 | 17 MINS | ENGLISH

A young idealistic writer starts her first staff gig at a powerful media conglomerate and quickly discovers they have a terrifying secret to success.

CONTENT ADVISORY: RACISM, MICROAGGRESSIONS



Tommy Truong is a digital artist, filmmaker, and arts educator, whose work explores the ideas of human behaviour, cultural identity, and storytelling; specifically, how they coincide and complement one another. Truong has exhibited in venues like OCAD University, Artscape, The Royal Cinema, Daniel Spectrum, and Art Gallery of Ontario.

MY NAME IS 張麟發 TOMMY LAN PHAT TRUONG (2019 PITCH)

TOMMY TRUONG | ANIMATED SHORT DOCUMENTARY | CANADA 2022 | 11 MINS | ENGLISH

In the animated short *My Name is 張麟發 Tommy Lan Phat Truong*, Tommy (a.k.a. 張麟發, Jason, Timmy, Tammy, Tim Tam, Lan Phat and T Truong) reveals the story of his many names by exploring their etymology, evolution, and script.

CONTENT ADVISORY: CONTAINS ANIMATED SCENES
DEPICTING WAR

PITCH COMPETITION

JURORS:



YASMINE ABBASAKOOR

As Executive in Charge of Unscripted Development Yasmine works with independent producers to develop factual programming for CBC and CBC Gem, including the coming-soon primetime docuseries Bollywed. Prior to joining the CBC she worked within Canada's independent production sector for 20 years. Yasmine also served as a content producer for the Banff World Media Festival's inaugural BANFF Spark Accelerator.



JACQUIE LEE

Senior Producer Jacquie Lee got her start at CBC's Fashion File and carried her love of storytelling on to shows like: Dragons' Den, Best Recipes Ever, Four Rooms, and Steven & Chris. Before joining CBC Creator Network, Jacquie was at CBC Music producing some of their marquee television specials.

PITCHERS:



CALL ME ELIAN WEIYE SU

Weiye Su is a documentary director and abstract photographer. He recently directed two National Film Board productions - Jia (2020) and A Passage Beyond Fortune (2022). He was selected to be in the Hot Doc Film Festival accelerator program and Yorkton Film Festival mentorship program in 2021.



FARM TO SCHOOL: A TASTE OF THE GROWING CANADIAN COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLYARD FARMS VIVIAN CHEUNG

Vivian Cheung is an emerging Chinese-Canadian female filmmaker. Her directorial debut, 'For Roy' earned Best First Time Director and People's Choice Best Short at the 17th Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon. Vivian also holds a BSc Major in Biology from UBC, utilizing her passions for science and digital storytelling at her role at Fresh Roots.



BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS KAMIKA BIANCA GUERRA-WALKER

Kamika Bianca Guerra-Walker is a Jamaican-Chilean-Canadian director, producer, and actress. Her passion is to understand people and help people understand themselves. Kamika is the founder of her own mental health organization, The Walker Foundation, blossoming from her experience with mental illness in her family.

Thursday December 8, 2022



WORKSHOP

DISCOVERING DELIGHT: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP FOR BIPOC CREATIVES

RPFF STUDIOS | 5:30-8:30PM

For those of us who identify as Indigenous, Black, and/or people of colour, we are asked all too often to default to our stories of hardships, trauma, and oppression. But we are all of that and so much more. Our stories are beautiful, heartbreaking, uplifting, contradictory, and constantly unfolding. What does it mean to lather ourselves in joy? To indulge ourselves in delight? This writing workshop is an attempt to dip our toes in exactly that. No writing experience necessary!

COMMUNITY
PARTNER:

Living Hyphen



FACILITATOR

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU

Justine Abigail Yu is the Founder of Living Hyphen, a community exploring what it means to live in between cultures as hyphenated Canadians - that is, anyone who calls Canada home but who has roots elsewhere. She is an award-winning writing workshop facilitator who was named "Changemaker" by Toronto Star in October 2021.

SHORT. FEATURE + TALKBACKS

ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 9:00PM-12:00AM



Adrian Patterson is a Toronto born filmmaker. His work focuses on speaking truth to power through comedy. He's currently writing his feature debut.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE #VACCINE

ADRIAN PATTERSON | COMEDY | CANADA | 2021 | 7 MINS | ENGLISH

A content creator tiptoes between political lines creating viral videos to engage and enrage his audience.

CO-PRESENTERS:

BREAKTHROUGHS
FILM FESTIVAL

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

DOCinstitute VIBE

Thursday December 8, 2022

FEATURE + TALKBACKS



ADA SLAIGHT HALL
9:00PM-12:00AM

TIKTOK, BOOM.

SHALINI KANTAYYA | DOCUMENTARY | USA
2022 | 91 MINS | ENGLISH

Dissecting one of the most influential platforms of the contemporary social media landscape, TikTok, Boom. examines the algorithmic, socio-political, economic, and cultural influences and impact of the history-making app.

CO-PRESENTERS: COMMUNITY PARTNERS:



MODERATOR



SAL PATEL

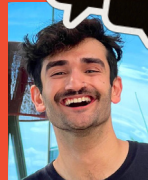
Sal Patel is a Webby Award winning Content Producer and Strategist who has worked as the Managing Content Producer at the Toronto International Film Festival, Head of Social, Brand & Audience Expansion at Shopify, and currently works as the Head of Red Bull's Media Network.

PANELISTS



DENA ANWAR

Dena Anwar is a creative multi-hyphenate with experience in social media, content creation, art direction and brand development. She believes in work that brings out the intersection between emotions, aesthetics, and mission driven brands. She's a sucker for the power of social media to tell stories, mobilize, & create conversations.



TAHA ARSHAD

Taha is a Toronto-based queer South Asian digital content creator who makes videos ranging from inspirational to alarming across TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram! You can check him out on IG and YouTube as @tahalikesyou and on TikTok as @tahareallylikesyou!



Emmy-nominated filmmaker Shalini Kantayya directs fiction and nonfiction films that marry the future of science with the future of story. Her latest film, TikTok, Boom, was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. Her 2020 film, *Coded Bias*, was broadcasted globally on Netflix.

Friday December 9, 2022

PANEL

SPONSOR: ACADEMY OF CANADIAN CINEMA & TELEVISION ACADÉMIE CANADIENNE DU CINÉMA ET DE LA TÉLÉVISION



MENTAL HEALTH AND SELF CARE FOR FILMMAKERS

RPFF STUDIOS | 3:00PM-4:00PM

In this industry session, presented by the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, our panel will discuss mental health resources and self-care in the workplace, for productions with big and small budgets. What are some systemic changes needed to foster a healthy on-set environment for cast and crew? What are new resources developing and available to filmmakers to prioritize mental health, especially when working with difficult content? Hear from filmmakers and some new on-set roles advocating for this support.



MODERATOR

HANNAH YOHANNES

Hannah Yohannes is an Eritrean director & screenwriter who recently directed a CFC project called "The Crown" with the talented composer, Kaia Kater. She studied script writing at Michigan State University and was named as Canada's Top 100 Black Women to Watch in 2022 for her film work, advocacy and arts programming.

PANELISTS:



NADIA GEORGE

Nadia George is an award-winning Indigenous actor, activist, and therapeutic performance coach using her skills to support film and commercial campaigns like Ronald McDonald House, and on the set of *Little Bird* (Crave TV). Additionally she is a certified trauma clinician, with over a decade of professional experience in the social service sector.



SEDINA FIATI

Proudly Black and queer, Sedina Fiati is an artist and activist for stage and screen. Sedina was the Associate Producer - Equity Diversity and Inclusion for *Pretty Hard Cases* Season 3 and appears as Ese the Make Up Artist in Season 1 and 2 of *Tokens*. They were recently awarded ACTRA Toronto Lifetime Membership.



BURCU EMEÇ

Burcu Emeç is a queer performer, director, and intimacy coordinator. She completed extensive training with HBO's Lead Intimacy Coordinator Alicia Rodis. Burcu believes depicting intimacy in a consent-forward approach can make it a joyful part of storytelling, and provides support to handle these scenes with both artistry and safety.

Friday December 9, 2022



SHORTS PROGRAM: PHYSICAL PERCEPTIONS

ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 4:00-5:30PM



IT'S A GIRL!

ANDY NGUYEN | EXPERIMENTAL, DOCUMENTARY | CANADA
2020 | 3 MINS | ENGLISH, VIETNAMESE

A self-portrait short film on 16mm from a trans male perspective.



Andy Nguyen is a visual artist specializing in experimental and documentary filmmaking based in Vietnam and Toronto. As a Southeast Asian trans person, he wishes to continue in creating more projects that reflect on gender and cultural identity, and in portraying themes of vulnerability and memory into his work.



GUARDIANS

MINERVA NAVASCA | PARTICIPATORY DOCUMENTARY | CANADA
2021 | 6 MINS | ENGLISH, TAGALOG

With concerned phone calls from friends and family, GUARDIANS walks the viewer through the psychological reality of a girl's nightly trip home. Discussions surrounding seemingly mundane choices are framed with a woman's hyper-vigilant lens; bringing into question what the true price of safety is.

CONTENT ADVISORY: MENTIONS OF VIOLENCE
& SEXUAL VIOLENCE



NECTAR

NAKITA SUNAR | DOCUMENTARY | CANADA | 2020 | 12 MINS | ENGLISH

Nectar is a portrait film that explores the beauty and complexities of fatness, queerness, race, joy, desire, and body autonomy.

CONTENT ADVISORY: FATPHOBIA, RACISM



Minerva Navasca is an immigrant Filipina director and producer, finishing her final year of the Bachelors of Film and Television program at Sheridan College. Best known for her short documentaries "Guardians" (2021), and "Kamayan" (2020), she aims to explore hyper-personal stories of cultural dysphoria and girlhood with intimate specificity.



Nakita is a mental health provider, system change advocate, educator, and emerging filmmaker. Nakita lives in Toronto and works to build a more accessible and safe future for her BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Nakita believes that filmmaking is her way of creating accessible education that embodies art, storytelling, and social change.

Friday December 9, 2022

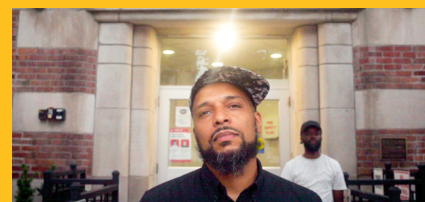


Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor runs Joi Productions, a queer-led production company that focuses on Queer, Black and Female-led work. In 2019 Joy produced Rapman's debut Blue Story and later in 2021 she produced Aml Ameen's debut Boxing Day. Joy is currently producing Champion for BBC and Netflix.

FOR LOVE

JOY GHARORO-AKPOJOTOR | DRAMA | UNITED KINGDOM | 2021
13 MINS | ENGLISH

Illegal immigrant, Nkechi, lives happily in the shadows with her partner Martha, but when immigration officers turn up unexpectedly, they have to make difficult decisions about their future together.



Ian Kamau is an artist and designer. He has released music projects, published writing, and was the founder of Nia Centre for the Arts. He holds a Bachelor and Masters in Design, and a Masters in Environmental Studies.

WE WENT OUT

IAN KAMAU | DOCUMENTARY | CANADA | 2022 | 12 MINS | ENGLISH

We Went Out is an expressive documentary that celebrates in-between spaces in the lives of four friends who met as teenagers in Toronto. Directed by Ian Kamau the short film is a narrative mapping project, made with the people the film features. The film explores the meaning of a venue.



Tyler McKenzie Evans is a Toronto-based director and screenwriter. During his childhood, he would go to the theatres weekly to escape the mundane of the suburbs in Mississauga, where he discovered his love for storytelling. Tyler seeks to create original stories centred around Black people and people of colour.

DIASPORA

TYLER MCKENZIE EVANS | THRILLER/HORROR | CANADA | 2022
16 MINS | ENGLISH

In this sly satirical thriller by Toronto's Tyler McKenzie Evans, a woman begins to wonder whether the disappearance of the Black families who have long occupied her suburban neighbourhood may be caused by something more sinister than gentrification.

CONTENT ADVISORY: THEMES OF RACISM, IMPLICIT
VIOLENCE, MURDER & CANNIBALISM, HORROR, LANGUAGE

SPONSOR: **Inside
Out**

Friday December 9, 2022



PANEL

DESIGNING SOUND: SOURCING MUSIC FOR YOUR NEXT FILM

RPFF STUDIOS | 5:00-6:00PM

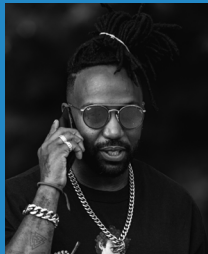
Finding the right music is a craft in itself and sometimes even seasoned filmmakers can underestimate the value of incorporating music supervisors and composers earlier in the development stage. Join us as Music Publishers Canada breaks down the steps to developing collaborations and finding music regardless of your budget.



MODERATOR

KIM TEMPLE

Kim Temple is Senior Manager of Industry & Member Relations at Music Publishers Canada, the national trade organization for music publishers. She is co-founder and President of High Priestess Publishing, home to a vibrant assembly of artists including Witch Prophet, James Baley, Sun Sun, and Zaki Ibrahim. Kim is also Director of Licensing & Publishing at Six Shooter Records, an independent record label based in Toronto.



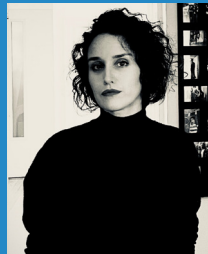
EVERTON LEWIS, JR.

Everton Lewis Jr. is an industry veteran and the go to music supervisor for the hottest and most dynamic music syncs in the business. Over the past ten years, he's forged his way as a thought leader and built an extensive rolodex of A List music industry connections.



RICH BRISSON

Rich heads up the sync & licensing department at Cadence Music Group and is also a part of the music supervision team at Eggplant Music & Sound. Rich has placed music in ads for Virgin Mobile, Ford, Bell, McDonald's + others and in tv shows for NBC, CBS, Fox, Amazon prime, CBC, CTV, Sportsnet and TSN



STEPH COPELAND

Steph Copeland is an award winning film composer best known for her work in genre, thriller and dramas (*The Retreat, Vicious Fun, The Oak Room*). As a producer and singer/songwriter her original songs have been featured in series' such as Netflix's *Tiny Pretty Things*, LA's *Finest*, *Unreal* and more.



SHORTS PROGRAM: TRUTHS UNRAVELLING

ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 6:30-8:30PM



REEL BLACK: OUR FILM STORIES

TRISTEN SUTHERLAND, EMERAUDE DOMINGOS MBUKU & AYAN TANI | DOCUMENTARY CANADA | 2022 | 22 MINS | ENGLISH

In an exploration of Black Canadian filmmaking, emerging filmmakers Christian Anderson and Ajahnis Charley quickly discover the realities of the industry. Through insights from veteran filmmakers such as Claire Prieto-Fuller, the young filmmakers learn that sometimes if you aren't given a seat at the table, you have to make your own.



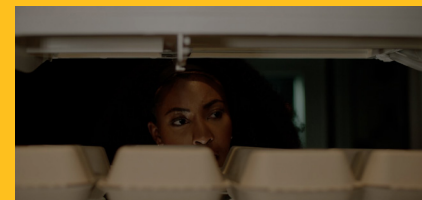
Tristen Sutherland is a writer/director/producer whose stories highlight BIPOC members of the LGBT+ community.



M. Émeraud Domingos-Mbuku is a documentary filmmaker whose research-based practice threads together her identity as a daughter of Congolese refugees and a first generation Canadian.



Ayan Tani is a filmmaker whose stories prioritize connecting with and centering those on the margins is essential to building and maintaining communities



FRESH MEAT

LU ASFAHA | HORROR | CANADA | 2021 | 13 MINS | ENGLISH

A young idealistic writer starts her first staff gig at a powerful media conglomerate and quickly discovers they have a terrifying secret to success



Lu Asfaha is an award-winning writer and director based in Toronto. Her films bend genres to explore themes of identity, belonging, and how things fall apart. Most recently her short horror 'Fresh Meat' premiered at Inside Out Film Festival 2022 before being released on CBC.

CONTENT ADVISORY: RACISM, MICROAGGRESSIONS

PARTNERS:



Friday December 9, 2022



Chris Strikes is a Toronto based director who helmed the award-winning feature documentary *Becoming a Queen* and the award-winning short documentary *Patty vs. Patty*. Being of Jamaican and Barbadian decent, Chris prides himself in unearthing forgotten and/or little known Caribbean-related stories to bring them to screen.

PATTY VS. PATTY

CHRIS STRIKES | SHORT DOCUMENTARY/SATIRE | CANADA
2022 | 18 MINS | ENGLISH

Patty vs. Patty tells the story of Toronto's bizarre 1985 "Patty Wars," when Jamaican-Canadian bakers went head-to-head with the federal government over the name of their beloved beef patty.



Fatima Gardaad is a Toronto-based writer and director. In 2016, Fatima was selected as a participant in the inaugural Black Women Film! Canada leadership program for emerging black women filmmakers in Canada. Through her work she seeks to explore themes of identity and freedom.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

FATIMA GARDAAD | DRAMEDY | CANADA | 2021 | 2 MINS | ENGLISH

A girl goes to an interview and reveals more than asked!



Shubhi Sahni is an Indian Canadian filmmaker based in Los Angeles and Toronto. She makes intimate films that move between documentary and fiction. Shubhi is an Annenberg Fellow at the USC School of Cinematic Arts where she is pursuing an MFA in Film & Television Production.

HINDSIGHT

SHUBHI SAHNI | EXPERIMENTAL/POETIC | CANADA/USA | 2021
3 MINS | ENGLISH

A fleeting retrospect of a young woman who develops a chronic illness over the course of 2020.

CO-PRESENTER:

COMMUNITY PARTNER:



Friday December 9, 2022

FEATURE



ADA SLAIGHT HALL
9:30PM-11:00PM

PORTRAITS FROM A FIRE

TREVOR MACK | DRAMA | CANADA | 2021

92 MINS | ENGLISH

Portraits from a Fire is a coming-of-age film following Tyler, a teen who spends his days vlogging his Indigenous community. He meets an older teenager who pushes him to show his latest work about his family to the community, leading to a reckoning between the past and the future.



CONTENT ADVISORY: SOME SENSITIVE LANGUAGE

CO-PRESENTER:



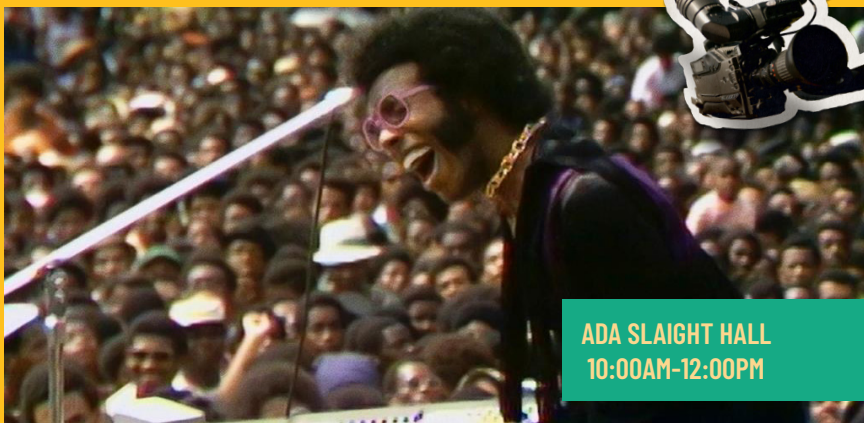
Trevor Mack is an award-winning Tsilhqot'in nation filmmaker from the interior of British Columbia, Canada. Mack started his film career at 17 when he helped create a freelance video editing group. His short films have screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, imagineNATIVE + Media Arts Festival and more.

Saturday December 10, 2022

**SPECIAL
EVENT!**

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
CSI COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM | 9:00AM-10:00AM

Bring the whole family for a complimentary breakfast before the screening of Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson's *Summer of Soul*!



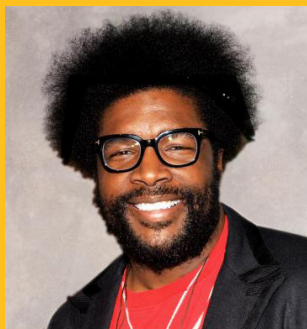
ADA SLAIGHT HALL
10:00AM-12:00PM

SUMMER OF SOUL
AHMIR "QUESTLOVE" THOMPSON
DOCUMENTARY | USA | 2020

In his acclaimed debut as a filmmaker, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson presents a powerful and transporting documentary—part music film, part historical record created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture and fashion. Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 1969, The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park.

CONTENT ADVISORY: RACIAL VIOLENCE

COMMUNITY PARTNER:



Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson is an American musician, record producer, disc jockey, filmmaker, music journalist, and actor. He co-founded the jazz/hip-hop group the Roots. Questlove is also an Academy Award-winning director of the 2021 documentary *Summer of Soul*.

Saturday December 10, 2022



PANEL

**IN CONVERSATION WITH
CARLOS BUSTAMANTE**
ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 1:00PM-2:00PM

For the last two decades Carlos Bustamante has been a beloved TV personality in Canadian television. From kids TV host to entertainment reporter, from bobsledding down an Olympic track to interviewing some of the biggest global celebrities, he's done it all! Join us as we dive into Bustamante's journey working in the Canadian media industry as a BIPOC TV personality, working in children's television, and more!

MODERATOR



LIEM VU

Liem Vu is a journalist with over 10 years of multi-platform experience. Liem has written for both local and national publications including The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, and The National Post. On TV, he has created and fronted national content on MTV News, 16x9, The Morning Show, Global News @ 5:30, Global National, ET Canada, and The New Reality. Currently, he can be seen weekdays on Global News Morning as a co-host and weather specialist.

SPONSOR: **CORUS.**

PANELIST



CARLOS BUSTAMANTE

As an entertainment reporter for ET Canada, Carlos has travelled the globe interviewing some of the biggest celebrities in the world. Before joining ET Canada, Carlos hosted a number of popular YTV shows such as The Zone, Big Fun Movies, and The Next Star, which he won a Canadian Screen Award for Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program for his work hosting the reality competition series. Carlos has taken on a number of acting roles outside of his hosting duties, including appearances in recurring roles on the YTV series Make it Pop and Nelvana's Miss Persona.

REGENT PARK MADE VISIBLE

In celebration of our 20th anniversary, Regent Park Film Festival launched a new groundbreaking initiative called Regent Park Made Visible! We commissioned 5 local filmmakers to produce 4 films that celebrate the history and resilience of Regent Park. This project gave viewers an opportunity to experience the neighbourhood's transformation through decades-old archival footage, news clips and interviews from longtime residents. These 4 films, along with a panel with the filmmakers, explore the gentrification of Regent Park and share the impact it had on those who call it home.

PANELISTS



AKASH JONES

Akash is an emerging black director/ animator whose work usually consists of two things. Telling stories that are true to his experience and culture or bringing worlds to life with the art of stop-motion. A TMU film graduate currently aiming to make his mark in the animation and film industries.



SHANELE SOARES

Shanele Soares is a Black Muslim videographer from Scarborough. She has been working in the non-profit sector creating community-based video campaigns. She is excited to create her first scripted independent short film for a film festival.



RHOMA SPENCER

Rhoma Spencer is an Actor, Playwright, Director, Docu-Filmmaker and Comedian. When not doing all of the above she can be seen turning a random pot of gastronomic pleasures. A graduate of York University with an MFA in Directing, Rhoma appears in the award winning Canadian movie Scarborough (Compy Films)

**SPECIAL
EVENT!**



CALLA MOYA

Calla Moya is a Toronto-based emerging artist whose work is invested in the materiality of the medium, whether the body, celluloid, or a digital apparatus. In using a reflexive mode in their work, Calla foregrounds an interplay between text, image, and gesture.



JANIS MAYERS

Janis Mayers is a Toronto born theatre creator. A member of ensembles such as Derives produced by Sans Productions and The Solitudes, produced by Aluna theatre. She completed artistic residencies at the Banff Centre, Aluna theatre and the Emerging Creators Unit with Buddies in Bad-Times theatre.

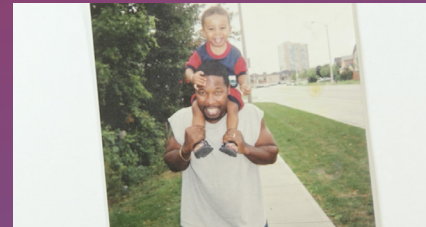
SPONSOR:



SCREENING + PANEL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2022

ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 3:00PM-4:30PM



A TALE OF TWO REGENTS

DIR. AKASH JONES

Akash Jones sits down with his father to talk about his life in Regent Park. With the aid of live action and animation, Adrian Jones discusses his arrival to Canada and early life in Regent as we see how it compares to his son's experience in the same city today.

TERRESTRIAL

DIR. SHANELE SOARES

Kiana and Jerry are best friends living in the revitalized area of Regent Park. When a shooting occurs in the neighborhood, cultural and economic differences surface between the friends.

CONTENT ADVISORY: IMPLICIT GUN VIOLENCE



REMNNANTHOOD

DIR. CALLA MOYA

A 16mm film that investigates the history and the scenery within the geographical boundaries of Regent Park.

A PILE OF DIRT

DIR. RHOMA SPENCER & PROD. JANIS MAYERS

A short Docu-Film unearthing a Regent Park of the past through the eyes of a new resident and the romanticism of a former resident. What lies below the mounds of earth everywhere as old buildings are torn down for the new. The more things change, the more some remain the same.



Saturday December 10, 2022

SHORT + PANEL

ADA SLAIGHT HALL
5:30PM-6:30PM



A TRIBUTE TO PAINTBOX BISTRO

FOCUS MEDIA ARTS CENTRE | DOCUMENTARY | CANADA | 2022
11MIN | ENGLISH

The Paintbox Bistro, a prominent restaurant in the Regent Park community, was forced to close its doors in January 2022. Gone but not forgotten, this collaborative documentary project led by youth, looks at the loss of the Paintbox Bistro and its contribution to the community.



FOCUS Media Arts Centre is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 1990 to counter negative stereotypes and provide relevant information to residents in the Regent Park area. FOCUS provides equipment, professional training and mentorship opportunities that enable community members to share stories, experiences and perspectives on relevant matters and issues.

Saturday December 10, 2022



PANEL

20 YEARS OF FILM & COMMUNITY IN REGENT PARK

ADA SLAIGHT HALL | 5:30PM-6:30PM

Hosting its first film festival in Nelson Mandela Park Public School's gymnasium, Regent Park Film Festival has since evolved and expanded thanks to the dedication and tenacity of many people. We're delighted to bring together RPFF's Executive Directors of the past decade, along with RPFF's Founder, for a discussion on leadership, community and the power of film.



MODERATOR

KALPANA SRINARAYANADAS

Kalpana joined RPFF as its new Executive Director in May 2022. She has worked in various charitable cultural organizations including the British Film Institute, TIFF, Canadian Stage and the ROM. Kalpana is excited to use her skills, experience and love for visual storytelling to lead RPFF into its next impactful decade.



SIDDHAN CHANDRA

Founder & Executive Director 2003-2007 // Siddhan Chandra is a Toronto based multimedia artist and educational activist who studied English literature in India, filmmaking and media theory in the USA. Siddhan launched the Regent Park Film Festival, makes films and is currently developing Kidocracy, an anti-fascist educational theory.



TENDISAI CROMWELL

Executive Director 2018-2019 // Tendisai Cromwell is a writer, filmmaker, and podcast host. She previously served as the Executive Director of the Regent Park Film Festival and as the founding Creative Director of New Narrative Films. Her writing has been published in BESIDE Magazine and Santa Ana River Review. Tendisai is currently writing her debut novel and is the host of the arts-focused podcast, "The Story So Far."



ANANYA OHRI

Executive Director 2011-2018; Home Made Visible Artistic Director 2018-2019 // Ananya is a community engaged artist, writer and producer. She was the Executive Director at the Regent Park Film Festival for 7 years, where she had the privilege of ushering the festival into its new home at the Daniel Spectrum and growing its reach through year-round programming. She is currently producing and



ANGELA BRITTO

Executive Director 2019-2022 // Angela Britto is a Tamil writer and arts administrator. She was the Executive Director of the Regent Park Film Festival from 2019-2022, leading its transition to virtual programming and operations. She has previously worked at non-profit and public sector organizations such as Scarborough Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. She is working on her first collection of short stories.

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Saturday December 10, 2022

FEATURE + TALKBACK



ADA SLAIGHT HALL
7:30PM-10:30PM

RICEBOY SLEEPS

DIR. ANTHONY SHIM | DRAMA | CANADA |
2022 | 117 MIN | ENGLISH/KOREAN

Set in the 90s, a Korean single mother raises her young son in the suburbs of Canada determined to provide a better life for him than the one she left behind.

CO-PRESENTER:



Anthony Shim is a Korean-Canadian actor and director, based in Vancouver. He co-founded and served as the artistic director of Blind Pig Theatre and has appeared in dozens of film, TV, theatre, and voice over projects as an actor. His first independent feature, *Daughter*, premiered at Vancouver International Film Festival. *Riceboy Sleeps*, his latest feature premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.



ETHAN HWANG WILL BE JOINING US
FOR A TALKBACK AFTER THE SCREENING

20 YEARS OF FILM & COMMUNITY IN REGENT PARK



20 YEARS OF FILM & COMMUNITY IN REGENT PARK

Regent Park Film Festival began in 2003 through the efforts of a determined group of community residents and volunteers, including a graduate student named Siddan Chandra. Their goal was to bring Regent Park residents access to high quality films that resonate with their experiences. In its first year, they were able to raise \$3,000 to host the first film festival in Nelson Mandela Park Public School's gymnasium.



From its inception, FREE access to film and art was the foundation of the film festival. The belief in cinema's ability to create understanding and empathy between communities, and its ability to elicit thought-provoking and important conversation was a driving force.

Siddan remained Executive Director of RPFF until 2007, after which Karin Haze and then Richard Fung served as Executive Directors in the intervening years. In 2012, Ananya Ohri, RPFF's longest-serving Executive Director, took on the role and also hosted RPFF's last film festival at Nelson Mandela Park Public School's gymnasium.



That same year, RPFF found a new home in the Daniels Spectrum building, nestled among other community and arts organizations. The film screenings could now conveniently be held on the main level of the building, in Ada Slaight Hall. The festival's new home came to Regent Park along with many other changes in the neighborhood, a lot of which caused displacement and disruption within the community. As a neighbourhood organization, RPFF often showcased films that discussed these themes and facilitated a space for healthy discussions and for community voices to be heard.



During her tenure, Ananya also launched RPFF's first, nation-wide archival project, *Home Made Visible*, which toured in libraries across Canada. In 2018, Tendisai Cromwell took over as Executive Director before passing on the torch to Angela Britto in 2019 just before RPFF was forced to move online, along with the rest of the world, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For the year that I ran the Regent Park Film Festival, I felt honoured to be part of an organization that offers community-focused, responsive and, above all, free programming that prioritizes the longtime residents of Regent Park. I've witnessed audiences have deeply transformative experiences, filmmakers broaden worldviews through their work, and skills development programs that launched careers. To me, the festival is a site of community, dialogue, artistic growth, and deeply meaningful expressions of diversity. To 20 more years of RPFF!"

**- Tendisai Cromwell,
Executive Director 2018-2019**

Though a challenge at first, the move to online provided RPFF with the opportunity to connect with BIPOC communities across Canada through our on-demand programming. The stories RPFF presented through could remove geographical barriers and connect communities across Canada.

Over the last 20 years, the neighborhood has seen changes in demographics and physical space. During this time, RPFF has also evolved to serve our changing community, which now exceeds the neighborhood boundaries: we serve BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) communities, people who live with low-income, and people who live in public housing communities across Toronto and the GTA.

Removing all barriers - for attendees and filmmakers - has always been core to RPFF's mission, which is why RPFF has always offered FREE childcare; FREE industry panels, workshops and internships; FREE school programs for schools across the GTA; FREE film screenings year-round; and FREE film submissions for new and emerging filmmakers.

As we now celebrate our 20th anniversary, the festival reflects on its past, and continues to build towards our mandate. Despite the changes we have seen over the years, the people of this neighbourhood have been the foundation of RPFF and of the Regent Park community. Through the networks and relationships of the people who live, work, and play here, the spirit of this space remains and this will always be **Regent Park Forever**.

LETTER FROM FOUNDER, SIDDAN CHANDRA

What an extraordinary pleasure to be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Regent Park Film Festival, which began as an idea I pitched in a paper on multiculturalism during my B.Ed. studies in 2003! Part of a small cohort of teachers in training in the Regent Park Campus of York University's Faculty of Education, and living in St. Jamestown nearby, I argued from my experience as a new immigrant, that inner-city minority communities are divided and isolated, and nothing like a film festival to bring us together to have fun, learn about one another and make new friends. Films would offer opportunities to discuss gentrification, immigrant / refugee experiences, class, race, sexuality and citizenship, both global and local. Jeff Kugler, my professor at York who was soon returning to his post as the Principal of Nelson Mandela school, invited me to put my idea into action in its auditorium. Harry Smaller, professor, cinephile and dynamic educator, brought together a board. And Adonis Huggins at Regent Park Focus, a youth media training organization, jumped on board to program the opening night screenings of short films made in Regent Park, with films from South Asia and Canada to follow. Wanda vanderStoop at V.Tape offered support and enthusiastic volunteers - Manjit Bumrah, Bob Gundu, Sanjay Talreja and Stephen Chester - contributed generously towards making it happen over 3 days in November 2003.



Over three following years I had the privilege of sharing films from all over the world both fiction and documentary with a growing audience of adults and kids, thanks to the support of filmmakers, arts councils, community groups and programmers of ImagineNative, Reel Asian, Reelworld, Inside Out, TIFF and Hotdocs. And after moving on to other projects I have returned to appreciate festivals led by successive directors each bringing their own unique visions and strengths, expanding and enriching RPFF with commissioned projects, socially critical panels, year-round screenings, poetry, dances and more.



And here we are at this exciting milestone of RPFF's 20th anniversary, with new visions and ideas expressing multiculturalism from below! I look forward to yet another celebration of diverse voices provoking thoughts, enriching emotions, melting barriers, negotiating solutions and building democratic muscle through collective peak experiences.

Siddan Chandra
(she/her, they/them)



And most fittingly, five years ago at the 15th anniversary invited by Ananya Ohri, I had the unique opportunity to present a program of short films on the theme of Kidocracy, a new anti-fascist educational theory that seeks to integrate the 99% - minors and minorities - who are divided and ruled by the planet's richest 1%. Looking back, I can say that though Kidocracy emerged as a term and concept in a manifesto only in 2012 - through engagement with social movements like Occupy, Idle No More, Black Lives Matter, Arab Spring, No One is Illegal and, eventually, Fridays For Future - its roots go way back to what I learned while programming RPFF as an experiment in public education uniting diverse inner city residents.

HOME MADE VISIBLE

In 2017, Regent Park Film Festival proudly launched our first, nation-wide archival project, Home Made Visible. Inspired by Ali Kazimi's documentary, Random Acts of Legacy, this incredible project worked to preserve the personal histories of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour communities (BIPOC) by digitizing their home movies, and also contributing a portion of these videos to the Canadian Archives.

Home Made Visible celebrated the joy captured in home movies and explored how archives have the power to shape who we become and how we relate to one another. The collection of home movies captures everyday life of BIPOC communities, from weddings, picnics and holiday celebrations to snowstorms and family vacations.

RPFF toured an exhibition of the completed artworks in libraries across Canada, offering workshops and allowing communities to connect and relate to their own histories. Home Made Visible also commissioned 7 filmmakers and artists to create original works that

reflect on how archives shape our relationship to the past, how we re-frame them to build new histories, and how they can connect the vast and varied histories of Indigenous people in Canada and visible minority communities who have settled here.

"So much of the stories that are told about Indigenous and Visible Minorities are about adversity, and those are important stories to tell. What is also important is the strength, the flare, the play, the joy that makes up who we are, and home movies are a great way to remember that."

- Ananya Ohri, Artistic Director, Home Made Visible; RPFF Executive Director, 2012-2018

Home Made Visible came to an end in 2019 and in 2020, Home Made Visible was recognized with the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation.

For more information about this incredible project and to see the digitized home movies visit www.homemadevisible.ca.

JANUARY-JUNE 2019 | ACROSS CANADA
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To register please provide VIP code: RPFF22 to receive a waived \$200 registration.

NFB CANADA PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The NFB Canada Project Development Award is awarded 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.



RPFF 2022 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**; a membership to the **Academy Of Canadian Cinema & Television** and a **Criterion Collection** streaming membership, as well as access to the industry's most innovative production solutions and sustainable energy alternatives from **MBS Equipment Co. Canada**, including lighting and grip equipment and non-diesel, power supply options.

station 369



RPFF 2022 STAND OUT SCRIPT AWARD

The Stand Out Script Award is awarded to a filmmaker whose work is showing at this year's Festival, and whose scripted 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**, a membership to the **Academy Of Canadian Cinema & Television**, and a **Criterion Collection** streaming membership.

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**.



V. T. Nayani

Jennifer Podemski

Jennifer Liao

Sasha Leigh Henry

This is the future of the film industry.

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Regent Park Film Festival for 20 years of connecting diverse communities through the power of art and film.

Toronto Community Housing is proud to support your work, as you help to build vibrant communities through storytelling. The Regent Park Film Festival celebrates the people from all walks of life who call Canada's oldest and first large-scale social housing project home, propelling us towards a bright new future.



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Donate 20 for 20!

This year, in honour of our 20th anniversary, we are inviting people to donate \$20 (more is always welcome) as part of our 20 for 20 Campaign!

If everyone who attends this festival gives \$20, the impact would be monumental! Small things can create big changes, and when we come together as a community, we are unstoppable! Join us now and help us create another 20 years of amazing stories, connections, and art - always FREE and accessible to whomever wishes to participate.

Visit rpff.ca/donate today to donate and become a part of our 20 for 20 campaign.