

# 23<sup>rd</sup> CALGARY UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

presented by LUKES DRUG MART  
APRIL 16 - 26, 2026



## PROGRAM GUIDE

ONLY AT 2  
**CUFF**

# CUFFCADE

Calgary's first independent video game arcade.  
Play games created by indie developers, completely free of charge!



## DRIVING ROGUE

BY GRAVITY WORKS

Every run is a new story: the city keeps changing, and you'll need pure focus to push your score to the limit.



## FOREHEAD CHIP

BY NATURALLY INTELLIGENT

Join the IMPLANT CORPS and capture the most HOLDOUTS to win the FOREHEAD CHIP!



## SUPER CRATE BOX

BY VLAMBEER

It's time to fight endless hordes of enemies and collect every weapon crate you can.



## VAMPIRE SURVIVORS

BY PONCLE

Mow down thousands of night creatures and survive until dawn!



## VVVVVV

BY TERRY CAVANAGH

VVVVVV is a platform game all about exploring one simple mechanical idea - what if you reversed gravity instead of jumping?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CUFFCADE AND THE GAMES VISIT:  
[calgaryundergroundfilm.com/cuffcade](http://calgaryundergroundfilm.com/cuffcade)

# TICKET & VENUE INFORMATION

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## VENUE

Globe Cinema - 617 8 Avenue SW

## SINGLE TICKETS

Regular Admission	\$12
CUFF Member, CJSW Friends Card, Student & Senior Admission	\$10
Opening Night Film & After Party	\$15
CUFF Member Entry	\$13
SATURDAY MORNING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-CEREAL CARTOON PARTY!	\$15
CUFF Member Entry	\$13
Kids 6 & Under	\$6

## 5 FILM MULTI-PACK

**\$50**

5 ticket credits. We recommend signing up for a Showpass account first, before purchasing the ticket credits. Credits cannot be redeemed for Opening Night Film & Party or the SATURDAY MORNING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-CEREAL CARTOON PARTY!

## FESTIVAL PASS

**\$149**

Pass includes all festival screenings and events, plus a post-festival private passholder secret screening. Tickets for passholders can be reserved online in advance via your Showpass account.

## FESTIVAL BAR & CONCESSION

Stop by the CUFF bar upstairs at Globe Cinema for specialty food items, cocktails and hot dogs! We have fun new options from our beer partner Eighty-Eight Brewing and tasty treats from local vendors Annex Sodas, Pretty Sweet Donuts, Meat Bar and Made by Marcus Ice Cream.

## FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE

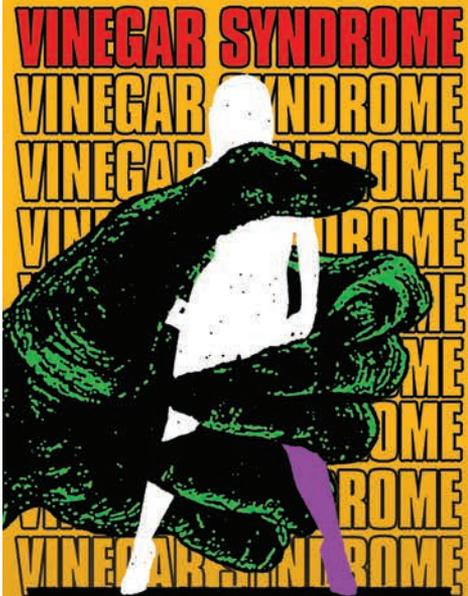
The Box Office opens 45 minutes prior to screenings. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.calgaryundergroundfilm.org](http://www.calgaryundergroundfilm.org) or in person at Globe Cinema during festival hours. Need help? Call the Box Office at 403-444-8315 ext.2 .

## MEMBERSHIPS

Purchase a \$10 lifetime membership at [www.calgaryundergroundfilm.org/memberships](http://www.calgaryundergroundfilm.org/memberships). Show your membership tag for discounts at all CUFF screenings & at the CUFF Festival bar.

## SPECIAL OFFERS FROM CUFF PARTNERS

1. Eighty-Eight Brewing Taproom - 10% discount. (for all ticket or passholders)
2. Shelf Life Books - 20% discount. (festival passholders only)
3. Eight Ounce Coffee – 10% discount (for festival passholders only) & for their online site [eightouncecoffee.ca](http://eightouncecoffee.ca)



- DELUXE BLU-RAY AND 4K UHD LIMITED EDITIONS.
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## DIRECTOR



## PRODUCER



## WRITER



## CINEMATOGRAPHER



Matt and Mara

Finality of Dusk



# Canadian indie films live here.



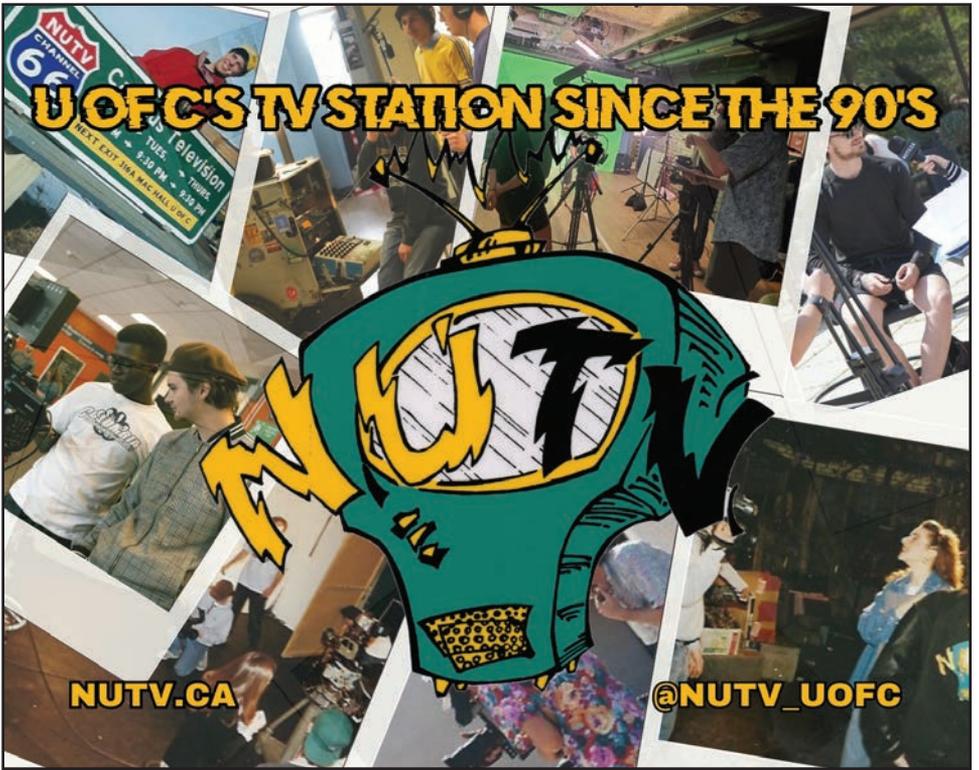
Beans



Brother

 Gem  
Watch Free

# U OF C'S TV STATION SINCE THE 90'S



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KINDNESS · HONESTY

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**Dr. Rob Hunt**  
**Dr. Stefan Hrach**

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# CODE OF CONDUCT

The Calgary Underground Film Festival (CUFF) supports safe and inclusive cinema experiences. CUFF does not tolerate abusive, discriminatory or disruptive behaviour. This includes but is not limited to intoxicated patrons, disruptions of screenings, and harassment of others. Consequences may include removal from the venue, loss of festival pass or ticket, or potentially exclusion from all future CUFF events.

## SAFER SPACE POLICY

CUFF is committed to providing a safer environment to all attendees, staff and volunteers. Racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, abusive or discriminatory language or behaviour of any kind will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to remove any patron creating an unsafe environment. Please come talk to one of our staff, or email us at [conduct@calgaryundergroundfilm.org](mailto:conduct@calgaryundergroundfilm.org), if you have any concerns or questions about our policy.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Please note that Globe Cinema, where we hold all of our screenings, is not an accessible venue. To access washrooms and to enter the cinema, you must walk up stairs. If you have any questions about accessibility please contact [cuff@calgaryundergroundfilm.org](mailto:cuff@calgaryundergroundfilm.org)

EST. 1975  
**LUNCHBOX**  
THEATRE

**Thank You for Your Order**  
*by Jessica Moss*

**Stage One**  
Festival of New Canadian Work

March 17 - April 4 Free readings in June

**TICKETS AT LUNCHBOXTHEATRE.COM**

**SEASON 2026-27 ANNOUNCEMENT COMING MAY 2026**

# CREDITS

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## FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Brenda Lieberman

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

Brennan Tilley

## MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Laura Carlson

## TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & PRINT TRAFFIC

Cole Binder

## LEAD PROGRAMMERS

Brenda Lieberman

Cameron Macgowan

Brennan Tilley

## PROGRAMMER

Adam Hicks

## PREVIEWERS

Juval Bothe

Murray Boyer

Laura Carlson

Sophie Chardon

Kenn Enns

Jim Evans

Maggie Hardy

Adam Keresztes

Fionn Laird

Robert Lalonde

Justin Langlois

Phillip Liesemer

Vivian Luckiw

Zach McLean

Dara Moats

Taylor Nodrick

Jody Page

Óscar París Vives

Tyler Perry

Tia Tilley

Bridget Van Voorden

Derek Wilson

Ali Zakreski

## BACK OF HOUSE TECH

Dylan Lindsay

## BAR MANAGERS

Jeff Storey

Josh Wiltshire

## BOX OFFICE COORDINATOR

Katie Wackett

## CUFFCADE CURATOR

Mike Lohaus

## GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Mark Kowalchuk

## GRANTS

Peter Hemminger

## GUEST RELATIONS

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Taylor Nodrick

## GUEST RELATIONS SHUTTLE

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Jayne Halas

Kara Lee Musters

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Braden Brickner

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Nicole McControversy

## ON-SITE LOGISTICS

Annie Hansen

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Sebastian Buzzalino

Sarah Koury

Mike Tan

## POSTER ILLUSTRATION & TRAILER ANIMATION

Nick Johnson

## PRODUCTION GRAPHIC DESIGN

Mariella Villalobos

## PRODUCTION & MERCH

AJ Musters

## PROJECTIONISTS

Cole Binder

Marnie Dunbar

Phil Jukes

Dylan Lindsay

## VIDEO EDITOR

Jesse Klein Waller

## VIDEOGRAPHER

Rhett Miller

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Celina Vides

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Amy Darling

Connor Dunphy-Brace

Pamela Hyde

Emily McCormick

Laura Onia

Garth Paulson

Chad Saunders

Sol Zia

## SPECIAL THANKS

Monique Barrie

Mitch Davis

Adam Keresztes

Michael Schayer

Michael Peterson



# PROUDLY SUPPORTING CALGARY UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL



**DEPT. 9 STUDIOS IS A BOUTIQUE FILM & TELEVISION PRODUCTION FACILITY. WE PRODUCE FEATURE FILMS, TV SHOWS, WEB SERIES, AND MORE, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL AND CANADIAN TALENT TO THRIVE.**



**LET'S CONNECT**

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# SCHEDULE

## APRIL 16 - 26, 2026

### THURSDAY 16

▲ 7:00 PM | HOKUM – OPENING FILM! ★  
▼

### FRIDAY 17

▲ 6:30 PM | THE FOX  
▼ 7:00 PM | IMPOSTERS ●  
▲ 9:00 PM | SHORTS: FRIDAY IN THE PARK WITH GORE ●  
▼ 10:00 PM | FRIDAY THE 69TH ●

### SATURDAY 18

▲ 10:00 AM | SATURDAY MORNING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-CEREAL CARTOON PARTY! ★  
▼  
▼ 1:45 PM | BEYOND THE DUPLEX PLANET ■  
▲ 2:00 PM | PANEL: FROM FESTIVAL BUZZ TO DISTRIBUTION DEALS ●◆  
▼ 4:15 PM | SHORTS: HOW TO SUCCEED IN LOVE WITHOUT REALLY TRYING ●  
▲ 4:30 PM | NOFX - 40 YEARS OF FUCKIN' UP ●  
▼ 7:00 PM | LITTLE DOORS ●  
▲ 7:45 PM | GOODY GOODY ●  
▼ 9:30 PM | SACCHARINE ●  
▲ 10:15 PM | BAGWORM ●

### SUNDAY 19

▲ 12:30 PM | CLAIRE'S HAT: THE UNMAKING OF A FILM ●  
▼ 1:00 PM | DECORADO ■  
▼ 3:30 PM | THANKS FOR NOTHING  
▲ 4:15 PM | MY BLOODY VALENTINE ●  
▼ 6:30 PM | HANGASHORE ●■  
▲ 7:00 PM | SHORTS: A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE CINEMA ●  
▼ 9:15 PM | EVERY HEAVY THING ●  
▲ 9:45 PM | GRIND ●

### MONDAY 20

▼ 4:30 PM | THE FOX ■  
▲ 6:30 PM | THE BEARDED GIRL ●  
▼ 7:00 PM | MOCKBUSTER  
▲ 9:15 PM | LUCID ●  
▼ 9:45 PM | THE WEED EATERS ●

### TUESDAY 21

▼ 4:30 PM | SACCHARINE ■  
▲ 6:30 PM | LONG LIVE THE STATE  
▼ 7:15 PM | THE SCOUT  
▲ 9:15 PM | AFFECTION  
▼ 9:45 PM | MĀRAMA

### WEDNESDAY 22

▼ 4:30 PM | BEYOND THE DUPLEX PLANET ■  
▲ 6:30 PM | KINGS OF VENICE  
▼ 7:00 PM | YOUNG FEMALE PLAYWRIGHT ●  
▲ 9:00 PM | THE KILLING CELL ●  
▼ 9:30 PM | FILM TBA!

### THURSDAY 23

▼ 4:30 PM | GOODY GOODY ■  
▲ 6:30 PM | TRACY AND MARTINA: GOIN' OUT WEST ●■  
▼ 7:00 PM | THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE  
▲ 9:00 PM | FEELS LIKE HOME  
▼ 9:45 PM | MAG MAG ■

### FRIDAY 24

▼ 4:30 PM | DECORADO ■  
▲ 6:30 PM | SANTACON  
▼ 7:00 PM | FLOATING CAROUSEL ●  
▲ 9:00 PM | BAD HAIRCUT ●■  
▼ 10:00 PM | LUGER

### SATURDAY 25

▼ 12:30 PM | MAG MAG ■  
▲ 1:00 PM | LIVE SCRIPT READING: QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRE PENGUINS ●◆★  
▼ 3:30 PM | EARTH TO COLBY ●  
▲ 4:30 PM | INDIE GAME BASH ●★  
▼ 6:30 PM | BLACK ZOMBIE ■  
▲ 7:30 PM | OBSESSION  
▼ 9:00 PM | BUFFET INFINITY ●  
▲ 10:15 PM | FIFTEEN

### SUNDAY 26

▲ 12:30 PM | 48-HOUR MOVIE MAKING SHORT FILM SHOWCASE ●  
▼ 1:00 PM | AFFECTION ■  
▼ 3:30 PM | JARIPEO  
▲ 4:15 PM | CAMP ●  
▼ 5:45 PM | THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE ■  
▲ 7:30 PM | I LOVE BOOSTERS

### LEGEND

- ▲ Globe Upstairs
- ▼ Globe Downstairs
- ★ Special Event
- Guests in Attendance
- ◆ Free
- Encore
- Short before Feature

# 48-HOUR MOVIE-MAKING CHALLENGE

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Sunday, April 26 | 12:30 PM

Canada, 2026, 180 min  
**World Premiere**



Presented in partnership with NUTV, join us for the completed shorts showcase of this year's 48-Hour Movie Making Challenge.

All registered teams were provided randomly selected elements – genre, prop and line of dialogue – to include in their film. The teams were given just 48 hours to complete a 2 to 5 minute short film, which will be screened for the first time before an audience on the big screen! The in-competition shorts, which meet all the rules of the challenge, will be juried live at the screening, followed by an awards ceremony. The films will receive jury and audience awards based on how well teams integrated the given elements and the overall quality of film produced, including story, structure, and entertainment factor. One of the most celebrated, fun and must-attend events at CUFF!

# AFFECTION



Tuesday, April 21 | 9:15 PM  
Sunday, April 26 | 1:00 PM

United States, 2025, 90 min  
**Canadian Premiere**

A woman confronts a disturbing condition resetting her memory. Each reset disorients her, leaving haunting recollections of an unfamiliar life.

Ellie Carter has never met the man who calls himself her husband, doesn't recognize the girl who calls her mother, and can't remember the life she is told is her own. Afflicted by violent seizures that reset her memory without warning, she is trapped in a cyclical nightmare, struggling to uncover the horrifying truth of her existence – before she forgets it all over again.

*"AFFECTION is steeped in existential questions and fears that plague modern society, while it embraces the ethos of the '80s through bold body horror. Add to that Rothe's revelatory performance and AFFECTION is a hidden gem that will connect with your mind, body, and soul."*

– **Bloody Disgusting**

*"AFFECTION is gripping, physically uncomfortable, and engrossing as it builds to its climax with a twist."*

– **DarkSkyLady Reviews**

PRESENTING PARTNER



SPONSORED BY



DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER  
BT Meza

CAST  
Jessica Rothe  
Joseph Cross  
Julianna Layne

PRODUCERS  
Bay Dariz  
BT Meza  
Austin Walk  
JP Ouellette

CINEMATOGRAPHER  
Jason Hafer

# BAD HAIRCUT

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Friday, April 24 | 9:00 PM

United States, 2025, 109 min  
**Alberta Premiere**

When a college kid goes to a new place to get a haircut, he discovers that his barber is a psychopath.

Billy Crumpus has never been the confident type. A socially awkward college student, he hits rock bottom after a humiliating encounter at a party. Seeing their friend spiraling, Billy's ride-or-die duo, Sonny and Dee, decide it's time for drastic measures. Their plan? Take him to the one place that's never let them down: the chair of their favorite barber, the wildly eccentric and possibly deranged Mick. What starts as a simple haircut quickly spirals into a surreal nightmare. **BAD HAIRCUT** is a wild, genre-bending thrill ride packed with sharp humor, dark twists, and just the right amount of heart.

*"A comedy-horror with a wonderful balance of humour, heart and guts." – **What a Scream Podcast***

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER**  
Kyle Misak

**PRODUCERS**  
Jon Petro  
Jesse Charles  
Kyle Misak  
Adam Renaud

**CAST**  
Spencer Harrison  
Levin  
Frankie Ray  
Nora Freetly  
Martin Klebba

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Reid M. Petro

## MEGA BALL

Canada, 2026, 12 min  
World Premiere



Director: Max August

In an attempt to lift his spirits, Andrew's friend invites him to play a game, which leads to violence, chaos, and self-reflection.



# BAGWORM

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Saturday, April 18 | 10:15 PM

United States, 2025, 97 min  
**Canadian Premiere**

After a sexually frustrated hammer salesman steps on a rusty nail, he must determine whether the world's sudden and violent turn against him is real or the result of an infection consuming his body and mind.

Carroll's worldview is dominated by the threat of catastrophe and the decline of morality in the face of human extinction. Then he steps on a rusty nail. He stumbles through the modern world, searching for romance, shedding toxic friendships, and fighting for truth... all while struggling to maintain his deteriorating health and sanity. As his moral crusade edges closer to self-destruction, Carroll is confronted with the ultimate existential question: are we really doomed, or is he just dying of tetanus?

*"This is one of the year's most squirm-worthy movies, and you should seek it out." – **Bloody Disgusting***

*"BAGWORM is great stuff. Funny stuff. Heady stuff. It's body horror by way of CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM." – **Dread Central***

**DIRECTOR**  
Oliver Bensen

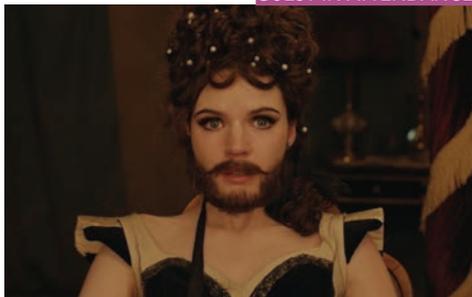
**PRODUCER**  
Zoe Rosenberg

**CAST**  
Peter Falls  
Michelle Ortiz  
Robbie Arnett  
Corbin Bensen  
Stephen Borrello

**SCREENWRITER**  
Henry Bensen  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Adriel Gonzalez

# THE BEARDED GIRL

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Monday, April 20 | 6:30 PM

Canada, 2025, 101 min  
Alberta Premiere



The story of a bearded girl who is tired of being a freak.

On the brink of inheriting the position of “The Bearded Woman” – matriarchal leader to an outcast community of circus performers – a young woman defies her overbearing mother and runs away instead. Free from the expectations and responsibilities at home, she seeks romance and adventure with the normies in a tiny farm town. In order to fit in, she reinvents herself with stories of a fabricated past, until the truth of who she is can no longer be concealed.

*“THE BEARDED GIRL is a delightfully charming coming-of-age tale that celebrates embracing yourself over wearing the bland mask of conformity.” – That Shelf*

*“A charming story about the ways in which we are both beholden to and repulsed by the traditions and family obligations laid at our feet, THE BEARDED GIRL is sure to speak to young girls in a way that will truly matter.” – ScreenAnarchy*

DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER  
Jody Wilson

PRODUCERS  
Amber Ripley  
Jody Wilson

CAST  
Anwen O’Driscoll  
Jessica Paré  
Skylar Radzion  
Linden Porco  
Keenan Tracey  
Brendan Riley

CINEMATOGRAPHER  
François Dagenais

# BEYOND THE DUPLEX PLANET



Saturday, April 18 | 1:45 PM  
Wednesday, April 22 | 4:30 PM

United States, 2026, 93 min  
International Premiere

Artist David Greenberger’s conversations with seniors in the ‘70s became the cult ‘zine The Duplex Planet. Now a senior himself, he shares insights on art, conversation, and aging.

In 1979, David Greenberger became activities director at a Boston nursing home. David began interviewing the residents, rejecting pat questions with the unexpected: “Which do you prefer – coffee or meat?,” “What is embarrassment?,” and “How close can you get to a penguin?” The result was The Duplex Planet, an early ‘zine characterized by humor, warmth and sincerity. Today, David’s work takes the form of spoken word shows and recordings. BEYOND THE DUPLEX PLANET explores notions of aging and its intersection with art and community. It’s also a slightly ironic look at the life of an artist devoted to documenting the elderly who is himself in his senior years.

*“The movie cuts back and forth from the past to the present, showing the totality of Greenberger’s creative output and curiosity.” – Hammer to Nail*

*“Beth Harrington’s profile of David Greenberger ... rethinks what art is.” – Moveable Fest*

DIRECTOR  
Beth Harrington

PRODUCER  
Beth Harrington

FEATURING  
David Greenberger  
The Residents Of The Duplex  
Planet Nursing Home

CINEMATOGRAPHER  
Scott Ballard

## SHELL YEAH

United States, 2026, 5 min  
Canadian Premiere  
Director: Sam Graff



A musician, his shells, and the surprising sounds they create – a true “shell-ebration” of music.

# BLACK ZOMBIE



Saturday, April 25 | 6:30 PM

Canada, 2026, 90 min  
**Alberta Premiere**



From the flickering screens of Hollywood horror to the haunted cane fields of colonial Haiti, the documentary unearths the buried origins of the zombie, reclaiming it as a symbol of survival and spiritual resistance.

BLACK ZOMBIE digs beneath the blood-soaked spectacle of modern horror to uncover the story of the most popular, yet misunderstood monster of our time. Born from enslavement, spiritual belief, and resistance, the zombie first emerged in Haiti before becoming one of pop culture's most profitable monsters. The film traces its evolution from Vodou, to WHITE ZOMBIE, NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD and THE SERPENT AND THE RAINBOW. Part cultural reckoning, part horror remix, BLACK ZOMBIE is a reclamation of Haitian Vodou and celebration of the only nation forged through a successful slave uprising.

*"A film that fascinatingly unpacks the origins of one of the most popular horror genres of all time: the zombie movie." – RogerEbert.com*

*"A must-watch for horror fans." – ButteredPopcorn*

### DIRECTOR

Maya Annik Bedward

### PRODUCERS

Maya Annik Bedward  
Hannah Donegan  
Kate Fraser

### FEATURING

Yves-Grégory Francois  
Anderson Mojica  
Mambo Labelle Déese-  
Botanica  
Slash  
Tom Savini

### CINEMATOGRAPHERS

Ricardo Diaz  
Duraid Munajim

# BUFFET INFINITY

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Saturday, April 25 | 9:00 PM

Canada, 2025, 99 min  
**Calgary Premiere**



Local businesses duke it out by making increasingly lunghinged commercials to outdo their competitors in this absurdist, cosmic horror about the town of Westridge, Alberta.

In BUFFET INFINITY, you can find all of these things as you follow along with an unnamed viewer who channel-surfs the local TV station of Westridge County. This town has everything you need and more! But there's something sinister going on, and as we watch, local favourite Jenny's Sandwich Shop and a new restaurant called Buffet Infinity compete for the top position in town via TV ads. And there's that sinkhole... and the red screens with cryptic messages... oh, and there's Langdon P. Hershey, the religious scholar and recording artist. But what does it all mean? And why do we want to go to Buffet Infinity all the time? Along with our mystery viewer, we see the decline of an Albertan town and the rise of something sinister and out of control.

DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER  
Simon Glassman

PRODUCERS  
Simon Glassman  
Michael Peterson  
Allison Bench

CAST  
Kevin Singh  
Donovan Workun  
Claire Theobald  
Allison Bench  
Ahmed Ahmed

CINEMATOGRAPHER  
Edgar Pinzon

# RAMÓN WHO SPEAKS TO GHOSTS

Canada, 2025, 7 min  
Alberta Premiere  
Director: Shervin Kermani



After a volcanic eruption, Ramón walks the island of La Palma with his mic, looking for ghosts.



# CAMP

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Sunday, April 26 | 4:15 PM

Canada, 2025, 111 min  
Alberta Premiere



**H**unted by a traumatic past, Emily finds solace as a camp counselor while navigating grief, witchcraft and the power of female friendship.

Emily is the root cause of two devastating tragedies very early in her life. She feels the weight of these accidents like a curse has been placed upon her. Her dad suggests she go to a Camp for troubled youth to ease her guilt; she can be a counsellor there. When Emily arrives, she is taken in by the other counsellors, they accept her as she is and wrap her in a veil of peace & forgiveness. Emily stands at the forefront of a new kind of life, but there's a voice out there in the woods she can't quite seem to ignore. The voice is whispering, she's telling Emily to go home. From CUFF alum Avalon Fast (HONEYCOMB, 2022) and featuring Calgary cast (Mike Tan) and crew (producers Taylor Nodrick and Michael Peterson), CAMP is a story of impossible redemption, modern witchcraft, and duels that repeat themselves like cursed cycles.

*"It's heartfelt, honest, and at times devastatingly beautiful—a film that's sure to find the right audience with time, and a sign of great things to come from its director." – Horror Press*

*"A beautiful, hazy coming of age film about embracing your power and learning to forgive yourself." – Daily Dead*

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER**  
Avalon Fast

**PRODUCERS**  
Taylor Nodrick  
Jacob Glickman  
Jackie De Niverville

**CAST**  
Zola Grimmer  
Alice Wordsworth  
Cherry Moore  
Lea Rose Sebastianis  
Ella Reece  
Austyn Van De Kamp

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Eily Sprungman

# CLAIRE'S HAT: THE UNMAKING OF A FILM (2002)

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Sunday, April 19 | 12:30 PM

Canada, 2002, 91 min  
Alberta Premiere



**L**egendary Canadian Director Bruce McDonald documents the unmaking of his 2001 flop PICTURE CLAIRE in this rarely screened alternate version.

PICTURE CLAIRE is a frenzied film noir about Claire Beaucage, a young woman whose dreams of a better life are kick-started into reality by a one-night stand. In only a few hours, Claire's life will be turned upside-down. Fighting against time and a case of mistaken identity, Claire must race to clear her name and get out alive.

After screening the film at the Toronto International Film Festival, Director Bruce McDonald recut the film, calling the first version a failure. The seldom screened alternate version, CLAIRE'S HAT: THE UNMAKING OF A FILM, has garnered a quasi-legendary status. Constructed like a DVD commentary – with McDonald re-imagining the creators in the principal roles – CLAIRE'S HAT features some genuinely hilarious, though possibly apocryphal, behind-the-scenes anecdotes. But instead of the usual self-congratulatory throat clearing that characterizes such behind-the-scene forays, CLAIRE'S HAT is a rancorous, excoriating exercise in self-criticism, in which McDonald confesses, "I fucked up my own movie."

*"Mischievously conflating fact and fiction [in CLAIRE'S HAT Director Bruce], McDonald creates a charming artifact that unfolds like Entertainment Tonight hosted by Jean-Luc Godard." – Maclean's*

**DIRECTOR**  
Bruce McDonald

**PRODUCERS**  
Robert Lantos  
Wendy Grean

**CAST**  
Juliette Lewis  
Gina Gershon  
Camilla Rutherford  
Callum Keith Rennie  
Mickey Rourke

**SCREENWRITER**  
Semi Chellas  
**EDITOR**  
Michael Pacey

## DECORADO



Sunday, April 19 | 1:00 PM  
Friday, April 24 | 4:30 PM

Spain, 2025, 93 min  
**Alberta Premiere**

An unemployed middle-aged mouse suspects his entire world is merely a set, tracing the conspiracy to a corporation influencing every corner of his life.

Something is wrong in the city of Anywhere. Arnold is caught in an existential crisis. His marriage is falling apart, his life feels meaningless, and he begins to suspect that everything around him is a grand illusion. When his best friend dies under mysterious circumstances, he believes a monolithic corporation is behind it. What begins as a creeping paranoia turns into a desperate flight toward something that might, just might, resemble freedom. Adapted from the acclaimed 2016 short film by director Alberto Vázquez (BIRDBOY: THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN, UNICORN WARS), DECORADO blends biting humor with haunting beauty in a darkly comedic odyssey through our era of social control, manufactured realities, and the quest for authentic human connection.

*"A beautifully animated, reality-altering nightmare that is both depressing and enchanting."* – **Bounding Into Comics**

**DIRECTOR,  
SCREENWRITER,  
PRODUCER &  
CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Alberto Vázquez

**CAST**  
Asier Hormaza  
Aintzane Gamiz  
Kandido Uranga

**SCREENWRITER**  
Francesc Xavier Manuel Ruiz

## BURNED CANS FOR ALUMINUM CHILDREN

United States, 2025, 2 min  
Calgary Premiere

Director: Rob Kleinschmidt

The distant sound of church bells signals the beginning of an apocalypse.



## EARTH TO COLBY

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Saturday, April 25 | 3:30 PM

Canada, 2026, 86 min  
**World Premiere**



An aspiring vlogger discovers a notebook detailing hidden portals in her hometown, leading her on a journey to discover the city's supernatural history.

After paranormal vlogger Colby vanishes, a documentary crew digs through her content and recovered footage to uncover the truth. What they find is her growing obsession with a strange coil-bound book and the escalating hauntings that followed. As Colby searches for a sign from her late father, friends and family reveal the chilling descent that led to her disappearance. EARTH TO COLBY is produced with the support of TELUS STORYHIVE, and the first feature from Calgary director Rino Mioc.

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Rino Mioc

**PRODUCERS**  
Rino Mioc  
Matt Prazak  
Tyler Whelen

**CAST**  
Saylor McPherson  
Casey Coston  
Elisa Collard  
Kevin Morrison  
Anne Hawthorn

**SCREENWRITER**  
Stephanie Kvellestad

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Rino Mioc

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## ANNEX

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## EVERY HEAVY THING

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Sunday, April 19 | 9:15 PM

United States, 2025, 89 min

Alberta Premiere

Director Mickey Reece takes us on a journey centered around an ad-seller for one of the last alt-weeklies in the country, who, after witnessing a murder, is intimidated into being the killer's reluctant accomplice.

Charming and vulnerable Joe (Josh Fadem), in a comfortable yet stagnant relationship with his long-time girlfriend Lux (Tipper Newton), spends his days selling ad space. When Joe witnesses the murder of lounge singer Whitney Bluewill (Barbara Crampton, who can also be seen in the CUFF 2026 Selection GRIND) after a night out, he is inadvertently drawn into a weird, chilling web of high-tech shenanigans and good old fashioned serial murder. With EVERY HEAVY THING, Mickey Reece (CLIMATE OF THE HUNTER, CUFF 2020) sets his sights on neo-noir, bringing his own distinct twist to the '80s techno thriller featuring a cast of familiar faces, including Vera Drew (Director of THE PEOPLE'S JOKER, CUFF 2023), taking a turn in front of the camera this time.

*"EVERY HEAVY THING deftly blends black comedy with vivid 80s and early 90s-era surrealism, employing the grit and texture of a De Palma, Lynch or Cronenberg along with its more modern influences."* – **Starburst**

*"It's an exciting stepping-stone in the career of one of the most exciting modern genre filmmakers".*

– **Bloody Disgusting**

**DIRECTOR  
& SCREENWRITER**  
Mickey Reece

**PRODUCER**  
Peter Kuplowsky

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Samuel Calvin

**CAST**  
Josh Fadem  
James Urbaniak  
Tipper Newton  
Vera Drew  
Barbara Crampton

## FEELS LIKE HOME



Thursday, April 23 | 9:00 PM

Hungary, 2025, 124 min

Canadian Premiere

Kidnapped by a family convinced she is their missing daughter, a woman must assume another identity to survive as she seeks a way out of this nightmare.

Rita, an ordinary, but lonely woman is kidnapped. Her captors are the Árpáds; they claim she is not called Rita but Szilvi, a runaway from their family. Rita eventually understands that the only way out is in – to escape she must impersonate Szilvi. The more she becomes the lost girl the more she finds out about the family, and understands that her life is on the line.

*"Through the script, Holtai and Veres do a very capable job of unravelling the basis behind the film's eerie premise, based upon a slightly extended view of reality where bystanderism and complicity are stretched to an extreme."* – **Cineuropa**

**DIRECTOR**  
Gábor Holtai

**SCREENWRITERS**  
Gábor Holtai  
Attila Veres

**CAST**  
Rozi Lovas  
Áron Molnár  
Dorka Gryllus

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Dániel Szoke

**PRODUCER**  
CineSuper

Roll camera.  
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## FIFTEEN



Saturday, April 25 | 10:15 PM

Mexico / Argentina, 2026, 99 min  
Canadian Premiere

Two best friends preparing for their quinceañera face desire, cruelty, and social pressure – until one girl’s body begins to transform into something monstrous.

Ligia and Mayte are inseparable – two teenage girls counting down to a quinceañera that promises glamour, status, and a new version of themselves. But after a traumatic sexual experience, Ligia’s body begins to change in unsettling ways, turning adolescence into something visceral and terrifying. Blending coming-of-age intimacy with body horror, *QUINCE* explores consent, power, and the fear of growing up in a world that watches, judges, and consumes young women.

*“It’s weird, it’s sad, and eventually, it’s very, very bloody.” – Mama’s Geeky*

*“A monstrous tale of the bond of friendship and the pain its dissolution can bring, FIFTEEN is equal parts GINGER SNAPS and EIGHTH GRADE, making it a coming-of-age horror that nails both the high-school politics and the horror.” – THN*

### DIRECTORS

Jack Zagha  
Yossy Zagha

### CAST

Greta Martí  
Macarena Oz  
Aminta Ireta  
Martha Claudia Moreno  
Enrique Arreola  
Mercedes Hernández  
Malena Sandy  
Cloe Juresa Furgan

### PRODUCERS

Jack Zagha  
Yossy Zagha  
Elsa Reyes  
Valentín Javier Diment  
Vanessa Pagani

### SCREENWRITERS

Andrzej Rattinger  
Ricardo Álvarez Canales

### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Claudio Rocha

## FLOATING CAROUSEL

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Friday, April 24 | 7:00 PM

United States, 2025, 101 min  
International Premiere

A web of dystopian dating scenarios collide in modern-day New York City as five 20-somethings attempt to find love in a time that has been called the loneliest century.

A Gender Studies masters student, a messy philanderer, an in-denial Sugar Baby, an aspiring cabaret artist, and a professional cuddler are at the core of this dark sex comedy about dating in the post-Covid era. The film takes a surreal turn when two of the characters plot an elaborate revenge scheme that inadvertently unleashes an infestation across New York. Directed by and starring Lucy Powers and Delilah Napier, and based on their own experiences of dating after the pandemic, *FLOATING CAROUSEL* is a humorous and raunchy look at the transactional nature of our modern day relationships.

*“A relevant study on today’s modern dating culture .... FLOATING CAROUSEL is the work of vivid intention and vision.” – Top Film*

*“The dialogue is razor-sharp and authentic, performed beautifully by the terrific cast.” – Arts Fuse*

### DIRECTORS & SCREENWRITERS

Delilah Napier  
Lucy Powers

### CAST

Jon Rudnitsky  
Brittany Bradford  
Glori Dei Filippone  
Noah Kieserman  
Reg Rogers  
Elsie Hewitt  
Michael Cyril Creighton

Dylan T Jackson  
Julian Cihí  
Dylan Baker  
Jessica Hecht  
Catherine Curtin  
Geneva Carr  
Sean Grandillo

### PRODUCER

Adam Kinyon

### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Fletcher Wolfe

## THE FOX



Friday, April 17 | 6:30 PM  
Monday, April 20 | 4:30 PM

Australia, 2025, 90 min  
Canadian Premiere

**A** man takes advice from a talking fox who promises to fix his relationship problems.

When Nick (Jai Courtney), affable heir to a wealthy rural landowner, discovers his fiancée, Kori (Emily Browning), is cheating on him, he wants nothing more than to just fix the problem. One night, he captures a rogue Fox (voiced by Olivia Colman), and she offers him a trade-off: if Nick lets her live, the Fox will help save his relationship. All he has to do is push Kori into a magic hole with the power to change her into the perfect partner. Nick follows the Fox's advice but the Kori that emerges from the hole is not what he expected.

*"Bless THE FOX and all of its playful weirdness, we need more of that in this world."* – **Screen Daily**

*"Jai Courtney-Emily Browning[s] dark comedy has bite... A promising and imaginative feature debut."* – **Variety**

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**

Dario Russo

**CAST**

Emily Browning  
Damon Herriman  
Claudia Doumit  
Sam Neill  
Miranda Otto  
Olivia Colman  
Jai Courtney

**PRODUCER**

Kristina Ceyton  
Samantha Jennings  
Carly Maple

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Matthew Chuang

## FRIDAY THE 69TH

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Friday, April 17 | 10:00 PM

United States, 2026, 93 min  
Canadian Premiere

**P**orn filmmakers in 1981 cash in on the slasher craze with a ripoff about spring break coeds stalked by a killer beekeeper at a cursed camp.

FRIDAY THE 69TH, the first-ever period piece feature shot entirely on an iPhone (probably...don't Google it), is a microbudget slasher-comedy paying tribute to the bottom-shelf horror films of the early '80s. It follows a group of adult filmmakers in 1981 who aim to capitalize on the slasher trend by making their own independent ripoff about a group of spring breaking college coeds as they are terrorized by a mysterious killer beekeeper with a vendetta, leading to a series of gruesome and absurdly comedic events. Made for under \$15,000 and featuring a scene shot on location at the original TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE house, FRIDAY THE 69TH embraces the charm of low-budget horror and DIY spirit of films like EL MARIACHI while delivering a bloody fun time for fans of cult cinema.

**DIRECTOR,  
SCREENWRITER,  
PRODUCER &  
CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Alex Montilla

**CAST**

Amy Letcher  
Rob Zoppo  
Bud Galloway  
Amber Nichole Kellehan  
David Arnold Rubin  
Anna Bess

## GOODY GOODY

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Saturday, April 18 | 7:45 PM  
Thursday, April 23 | 4:30 PM

United States, 2026, 80 min  
**International Premiere**

**A** home birth turns terribly wrong when complications arise during a raging blizzard.

Lulled into a necessary sense of comfort during a long home birth process, expecting parents and their midwife begin to realize something may be horribly wrong. A blizzard rages outside, trapping the family in their home as increasingly sinister complications arise.

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Raymond Creamer

**CAST**  
Samantha Robinson  
Colleen Foy  
Zoe Renee  
Colby Hollman

**PRODUCERS**  
Deven Bromme  
Raymond Creamer  
Keely Yulla Kemp  
Harrison Rothman

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Tristan Noelle

## GRIND

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Sunday, April 19 | 9:45 PM

United States, 2026, 105 min  
**International Premiere**

**F**our interconnected stories centre around the gig economy, hustle culture, and evils of late-stage capitalism in this timely horror comedy anthology.

GRIND tackles the modern work landscape through four perspectives exploring the hustle culture of sales, the repetition of food delivery, the online horrors of content moderation, and the unionization of a coffee shop. In a capitalist world where success is defined by wealth and those at the top are always hungry for more, GRIND is more relevant than ever. True to life, the horrors are real, but there are some laughs along the way too.

*"A seriously surreal horror-comedy anthology that takes on the gig economy with guts and gusto." – **Deadline***

*"Poignant, relatable, and gleefully gory, GRIND is a middle finger to The Man that we can all get behind." – **ScreenAnarchy***

**DIRECTORS**  
Brea Grant  
Ed Dougherty  
Chelsea Stardust

**CAST**  
Rob Huebel  
Barbara Crampton  
Christopher Rodriguez-  
Marquette  
James Urbaniak  
Jessika Van

**PRODUCER**  
Chelsea Stardust

**SCREENWRITERS**  
Brea Grant  
Ed Dougherty

**CINEMATOGRAPHERS**  
Yaron Levy  
Mark Evans  
Alexander Chinnici  
Taylor Washington

# HANGASHORE

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Sunday, April 19 | 6:30 PM

Canada, 2025, 87 min  
**Alberta Premiere**



**H**aunted by nightmares and visions, an artist chases the ghost of her father to the remote coast of Newfoundland.

Abandoning all that she knows of her life in Iceland, Vera settles in a remote Canadian fishing village looking for answers. She finds herself drawn to Jack, a seal hunter leaving town with his failing boat and superstitious crew. With a curious romance blossoming, Vera sneaks aboard his fledgling longliner destined for ice floes full of seals. The vessel is choked in a thick fog and there is no bounty on the water. Jack's scrappy crew is lead by Patrick – desperate and plagued by superstition, he blames the mysterious weather on the stowaway. Violence erupts, hurling Jack and Vera into a fit of survival. **HANGASHORE** is a hypnotic vision of romance glowing in frozen Newfoundland landscapes.

*"A moody slice of seafaring folklore."* – **Halifax Bloggers**

*"A beautifully haunted experience."* – **Wonder Watchlist**

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER**

Justin Oakey

**PRODUCERS**

Justin Oakey  
G. Patrick Condon  
Tania Sarra

**CAST**

Hera Hilmar  
James Frecheville  
Stephen Oates

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

James Klopko

# HARD CORE LOGO (1996) - 30TH ANNIVERSARY

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Wednesday, April 15 | 7:00 PM

Canada, 1996, 92 min



**NATIONAL CANADIAN FILM DAY FREE SCREENING!**

**B**ruce McDonald's beloved cult classic is now celebrating its 30th anniversary!

For this year's annual CanFilmDay event, join us on Wednesday, April 15 for a FREE screening of **HARD CORE LOGO** with director Bruce McDonald in attendance the night before the 2026 Calgary Underground Film Festival officially begins.

Joe Dick, Billy Tallent, John Oxenberger and Pipefitter are Hard Core Logo, Vancouver's legendary but now defunct punk band. Joe Dick coaxes his former bandmates to overcome personal differences and reunite for a benefit concert for their aging punk mentor Bucky Haight, who had been shot in Saskatchewan. The enormous success of their coming out of retirement/benefit gig prompts Joe Dick to urge a reunion tour. A documentary film crew headed by Bruce McDonald accompanies them on tour through the pristine landscape of Western Canada. On stage, the Hard Cores are brilliant. However, as the tour unfolds, the band's old, buried tensions erupt, and the boys are faced with the raw fact that they cannot relive nor alter the past. A raw, realistic look at a band; the music that binds them, the love and anguish that tears them apart and the tour which takes them there.

**DIRECTOR**

Bruce McDonald

**PRODUCERS**

Christine Haebler  
Brian Dennis

**CAST**

Callum Keith Rennie  
Hugh Dillon

**SCREENWRITERS**

Noel S. Baker  
Michael Turner

## WHAT IS CANFILMDAY?

CanFilmDay is a massive, one-day coast-to-coast-to-coast celebration of Canadian cinema. Launched in 2014, CanFilmDay has brought together hundreds of thousands of Canadians, to celebrate our stories and the incredible achievements of our filmmakers. Each year, CUFF hosts Calgary's flagship event.

## NEVER SEEN

Canada, 2026, 7 min  
World Premiere  
Director: Morgan Ermtor



Two friends enter an abandoned house looking for vintage tech and discover something inside that has been waiting for them.

## THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE



Thursday, April 23 | 7:00 PM  
Sunday, April 26 | 5:45 PM

United States, 2026, 100 min  
Canadian Premiere

A filmmaker applies lessons from a Hallmark movie writing workshop to pitch a documentary about concrete.

Documentarian, humourist, and the star of HBO's HOW TO WITH JOHN WILSON, John Wilson makes his feature directorial debut with a film that is both incredibly funny and difficult to describe. As the title suggests, in the documentary Wilson chronicles the history of concrete in his typical comedic style; but by the end, the building material becomes a jumping off point for a meditation on life and death.

*"The question was always: Could he sustain something like that in a longer format? The answer is a resounding [in John Wilson voice], "Um, well... yes." – Rolling Stone*

*"[Director John] Wilson's debut feature THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE shows the expert essayist as sneakily profound as ever, contemplating life and art and piecing together meaning from the fragments." – Sight & Sound*

**DIRECTOR**  
John Wilson

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**  
Josh Safdie  
Eli Bush  
Ronald Bronstein  
Conor Hannon  
Richie Doyle

**PRODUCERS**  
John Wilson  
Clark Filio  
Shirel Kozak  
Allie Viti  
**EDITOR**  
Cori Wapnowska

## HOKUM OPENING NIGHT FILM



Thursday, April 16 | 7:00 PM

United States / Ireland, 2026, 101 min  
Canadian Premiere

A novelist is haunted at a remote inn during a trip to scatter his parents' ashes.

When reclusive American novelist Ohm Bauman retreats to an isolated Irish inn, the staff's tales of an ancient witch haunting the honeymoon suite take hold of his mind. Soon, disturbing visions and a shocking disappearance draw him into a nightmarish confrontation with the darkest corners of his past. Damian McCarthy (ODDITY, CUFF 2024) returns with HOKUM, a bone-chilling and absolutely terrifying film starring Adam Scott (THE OVERNIGHT, CUFF 2015).

*"It's frightening but not so self serious that it can't be a joy as well. It's the sweet spot for horror fiends." – Slashfilm*

*"Damian McCarthy's HOKUM [is] his most polished and unnerving horror movie yet ... continuing his streak for folkloric tales of supernatural karma and spine-tingling terror with a dark sense of humor." – Bloody Disgusting*

### OPENING NIGHT AFTERPARTY

Following the film, join CUFF for drinks, food, and music at The Derrick across the street from Globe Cinema (620 8 Ave SW). Special DJ set from CJSW's Station Manager Adam Kamis.

Tickets cost \$15 (\$13 for members, students & seniors) and include both the film and afterparty. Admission to afterparty is subject to capacity. Multi-pack tickets are not accepted.

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Damian McCarthy

**CAST**  
Adam Scott  
Peter Coonan  
David Wilmot

**PRODUCERS**  
Roy Lee  
Steven Schneider  
Derek Dauchy  
Ruth Treacy  
Julianne Forde  
Mairtín De Barra

# I LOVE BOOSTERS

## CLOSING NIGHT FILM



Sunday, April 26 | 7:30 PM

United States, 2026, 105 min  
International Premiere

**A** crew of professional shoplifters take aim at a cutthroat fashion maven. It's like community service.

Hip-hop legend and visionary filmmaker Boots Riley is back with *I LOVE BOOSTERS*. After the ground breaking communist manifesto that was *SORRY TO BOTHER YOU* (CUFF 2018), he brings his colourful maximalist style back to the Bay Area and has no plans to rein in the weird. With an all-star cast including Keke Palmer (NOPE), LaKeith Stanfield (*SORRY TO BOTHER YOU*), and Demi Moore (*THE SUBSTANCE*), this is sure to be one of the most talked about films of the season.

*"It's a lot, but that's Boots' style. The ADULT SWIM energy is strong here ... and the satire is sharp in the way that shattered glass flying every which way from a shotgun blast is."* – **Rolling Stone**

*"[Director Boots] Riley delivers a sophomore effort that's outrageous, provocative, and really f\*cking fun."*  
– **Mashable**

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Boots Riley

**CAST**  
Keke Palmer  
Naomi Ackie  
Taylour Paige  
Poppy Liu  
Eiza González  
LaKeith Stanfield  
Will Poulter  
Demi Moore

**PRODUCERS**  
Boots Riley  
Aaron Ryder  
Andrew Swett  
Allison Rose Carter  
Jon Read

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Natasha Braier

# IMPOSTERS

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Friday, April 17 | 7:00 PM

United States, 2026, 103 min  
Canadian Premiere

**A**fter a couple's baby boy is taken, the desperate mother learns of a way to bring him back. However, her husband begins to suspect that what she returned with isn't their son.

*"IMPOSTERS grips the viewer from its cold open to its twisty truths, becoming a fantastic example of parental nightmares done right."* – **THN**

*"An emotionally charged genre-bending mystery that keeps you firmly in its grip, anchored by another knockout performance by genre stalwart Jessica Rothe."* – **Bloody Disgusting**

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Caleb Phillips

**CAST**  
Jessica Rothe  
Charlie Barnett  
Yul Vazquez  
Bates Wilder  
Thomas Parobek  
Luisina Quarleri

**PRODUCERS**  
Thomas Bond  
Sara Seligman  
Joe Bandelli

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Allie Schultz

## JARIPEO



Sunday, April 26 | 3:30 PM

United States / Mexico / France,  
2026, 75 min

### Canadian Premiere

A hybrid documentary that journeys to Michoacán's hypermasculine rodeos. What starts as a celebration of tradition, descends into the subconscious of memory, queer desire, and longing.

Every Christmas in Penjamillo, Michoacán, the annual jaripeo unites locals and returning U.S. migrants in a celebration of cowboy culture, nostalgia, and masculinity, while beneath the spectacle a hidden queer subculture quietly unfolds. Filmmaker Efraín Mojica, who grew up between Penjamillo and Riverside, California, blends personal experience with Super 8 footage, stylized memory, and raw verité to interrogate the machismo at its core. Through encounters with Noé, a macho cowboy living partly in secret, and Joseph, a flamboyant jaripeo superfan and community pillar, the film becomes an intimate journey of self-recognition within a traditionally masculine world. JARIPEO is a reckoning with the wounds and beauty of a home left behind.

*"JARIPEO opens a window on a previously hidden queer experience and invites viewers of all sexualities to consider what we find."* – **Movies We Texted About**

*"Dreamlike and frank, Efraín Mojica and Rebecca Zweig's JARIPEO is a clear-eyed survey of the queer culture that exists within Michoacán's hypermasculine rodeos'."* – **RogerEbert.com**

#### DIRECTORS

Efraín Mojica  
Rebecca Zweig

#### CINEMATOGRAPHERS

Josué Eber Morales  
Gerardo Guerra

#### PRODUCER

Sarah Strunin

#### EDITOR

Anaía Goethals

## THE KILLING CELL

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Wednesday, April 22 | 9:00 PM

United States, 2025, 89 min  
**International Premiere**

Five friends break into an abandoned prison hoping to document proof of the paranormal. What they find is worse.

It's the summer of 2006 and local police have discovered one of the most horrific crime scenes in Georgia's history. Teenagers Zack, Dan, Jeremy, Sadie, and Shawn head out to the long-abandoned River's Edge Penitentiary, which is rumored to be haunted. As they explore the place, they discover that what inhabits it is much more dangerous than the paranormal. Co-writers, directors, producers and stars James Bessey and Karsen Schovajsa deliver a shocking and terrifying debut feature that is bound to become a found footage classic.

*"If you love found-footage films, then THE KILLING CELL is an absolute must-watch, and I predict it will be one of the most talked-about films in the genre upon its completion of its festival run in 2026."* – **Grime of Horror**

*"THE KILLING CELL is a fresh voice that screams from the depths of found footage."* – **Horror Press**

#### DIRECTORS & SCREENWRITERS

James Bessey  
Karsen Schovajsa

#### PRODUCERS

James Bessey  
Cory King  
Karsen Schovajsa

#### CAST

Karsen Schovajsa  
Erin Caitlin Collins  
James Bessey  
Stephen Lamar Lewis  
Jordan Whitley  
Tim J Doyle  
Luc Sabatier  
LaMont Green

#### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Rob Albert

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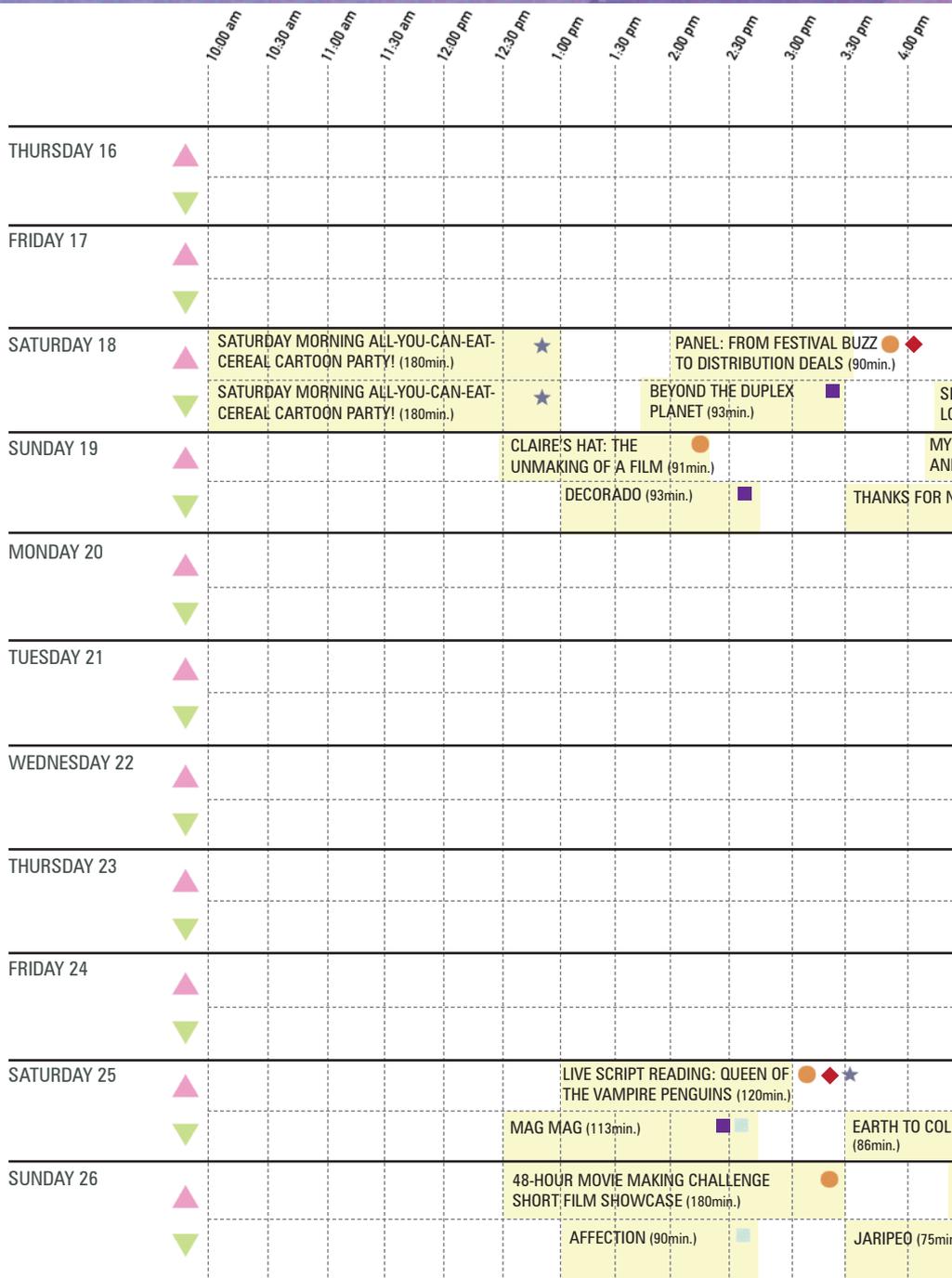
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APRIL 16 - 26, 2026

## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



## LEGEND

▲ Globe Upstairs  
▼ Globe Downstairs

● Guests in Attendance  
◆ Free Event

■ Encore  
★ Special Event

■ Short before Feature  
(will impact total runtime)





# CUFF FESTIVAL BAR & CONCESSION

Stop by the CUFF Bar upstairs at Globe Cinema for specialty food items, cocktails and hot dogs! We have a range of selections from our beer partner Eighty-Eight Brewing Co. and tasty treats from locals Annex Sodas, True Wild Distilling, Pretty Sweet Bakeshop, and Made by Marcus Ice Cream.



## CUFF MERCH



Want to look good and support the festival? We have a variety of items available for purchase at Globe Cinema throughout the festival. Grab some classic CUFF merch like toques, ball caps, socks, hoodies and browse our new and unique products like hot sauce and 23rd festival t-shirt.

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## KINGS OF VENICE



Wednesday, April 22 | 6:30 PM

United States / Iceland, 2025, 95 min  
Calgary Premiere

**S**pend a day on the boardwalk with **KINGS OF VENICE**, a madcap look at the paddle tennis community of Venice Beach.

Once a proud sport, it's now kept alive by a collection of oddballs – including an Italian male model, a degenerate gambler, and Hollywood's most accomplished party crasher. That is, until pickleball shows up and threatens to overtake their beloved courts, leading the locals to hatch an over-the-top plan: a \$50,000 winner-take-all tournament to put paddle tennis back on the map. Against all odds, they raise the cash. But when two of pickleball's top pros show up to claim the prize for themselves, can our rag-tag crew pull off a miracle, or is paddle tennis dead for good?

*"A heartfelt look at community wrapped in a (surprisingly) enrapturing sports documentary." – book and film globe*

*"KINGS OF VENICE is the perfect storm documentary ingredients. At the heart of the film there's a collection of class clown-type people who come alive in front of the camera." – Beyond the Cineramadome*

### DIRECTORS & PRODUCERS

S.D. Saltarelli  
Sveinn Ingimundarson

### FEATURING

Larry Nagler  
Ernesto Russo

### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Michael Cannova

### EDITORS

Patrick Steward  
Evan James Hill  
Dave Horowitz

## LITTLE DOORS

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Saturday, April 18 | 7:00 PM

United States, 2026, 77 min  
World Premiere

**I**n a quietly apocalyptic world, a lonely woman discovers a small wooden door on the side of her body, and must decide whether or not to open it.

The feature directorial debut of Anthony Oberbeck (**DAD & STEPDAD**, **REVERIES: THE MIND PRISON**), **LITTLE DOORS** is a relentlessly deadpan comedy about loneliness, love, and the pain of human connection. In a strangely quiet, apocalyptic world, a lonely, reticent, and perpetually scowling woman is one day visited by an odd, but good-natured locksmith. They tumble awkwardly into their own strange, stilted version of a romance, and just as a real connection seems to be forming, the woman discovers a small wooden door on the side of her body. She tries to ignore it at first, but when something starts banging on the other side, she has to decide if she can bring herself to open it. Oberbeck stars, with his wife Megan Koester, in a movie indebted stylistically to Aki Kaurismaki, Jim Jarmusch, and Yorgos Lanthimos, but moving very much with its own distinctly absurd logic and quietly thoughtful surrealism.

### DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER

Anthony Oberbeck

### CAST

Megan Koester  
Anthony Oberbeck  
Eleanore Pienta  
Ikechukwu Ufomadu  
Connor Kizer

### PRODUCERS

Miceal O'Donnell  
Mackenzie Jamieson

### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Tyler Davis

# LONG LIVE THE STATE



Tuesday, April 21 | 6:30 PM

United States, 2025, 110 min  
**International Premiere**

**M**embers of '90s comedy troupe The State reunite for a live tour, blending classic sketches with behind-the-scenes stories from their influential journey in comedy.

Formed by a group of friends who met at NYU in the late 1980s, The State was a sketch comedy troupe whose unique brand of edgy, offbeat humor quickly landed them their own show on MTV – Generation X’s alternative to SNL. While “The State” was short-lived as a TV show, it inspired a devoted cult following and helped launch the careers of some of today’s most successful comedy actors, writers and directors including Michael Showalter, Joe Lo Truglio and Michael Ian Black. Reuniting for a live tour in 2024, members of The State reflect on the roller coaster ride surrounding their sudden rise to fame during the mid-90s when New York City was still dangerous — and so was comedy. Featuring hilarious footage from The State’s live Breakin’ Hearts & Dippin’ Balls reunion tour, LONG LIVE THE STATE unpacks the complex ties that have bound this acclaimed group of subversive Gen-Xers together for over 30 years and examines their enduring influence and legacy throughout the comedy sphere.

*“An absolutely brilliant doc, that is as funny as it is poignant.”*  
– **Cinema Daily US**

*“LOVE LIVE THE STATE is a must-watch for any fans of The State, let alone comedy in general.”* – **Sozly at the Movies**

## DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Matthew Perniciaro

## PRODUCERS

Kelsey Oluk  
Adam F. Goldberg

## CAST

Kevin Allison  
Michael Ian Black  
Todd Holubeck  
Robert Ben Garant  
Michael Patrick Jann  
David Wain

## CINEMATOGRAPHERS

Yoni Shrira  
Robert Nachman

# LUCID

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Monday, April 20 | 9:15 PM

Canada, 2025, 110 min  
**Alberta Premiere**



**A** 1990s art student uses a lucid dreaming elixir to break through creative blocks, but soon finds herself trapped in a nightmarish underworld.

It’s 1994, and art student Mia Sunshine Jones must pass her self portrait project or be kicked out of school. The problem is that she can’t seem to figure out who the hell she really is. She is desperate to break free of her terrible creative block and finds her last hope in a magical Lucid Dreaming Elixir. The potion sparks her creativity but also unleashes dark monsters from her subconscious. As Mia battles these creatures, including a Fried Chicken Monster, her art flourishes. When her estranged mother appears as a hairy monster, Mia must face the truth about her past.

*“If you’re drawn to surreal storytelling, punk-grunge energy, and films that hit with raw, unfiltered emotion, LUCID is a much watch.”* – **Offscreen Central**

*“LUCID is the Lynchian manifestation of an artist in a restless dream state.”* – **The Twin Geeks**

## DIRECTORS & SCREENWRITERS

Deanna Milligan  
Ramsey Fendall

Jamal Broadfoot  
Bobby Cleveland  
Rianne Delahunt

## PRODUCERS

Emanuel Foucart  
Deanna Milligan  
Ramsey Fendall  
Martin Cadieux-Rouillard

## CAST

Caitlin Acken Taylor  
Amber Dandelion  
Vivian Vanderpuss  
Georgia Acken  
William Acken  
Jo Barnes  
Zamira Beckford

## CINEMATOGRAPHER

Ramsey Fendall

## LUGER



Friday, April 24 | 10:00 PM

Spain, 2025, 95 min  
**Alberta Premiere**

**H**ired by a crooked lawyer to recover a stolen car, a couple of small-time thugs are dragged into a violent situation that quickly spirals out of control, forcing them into a brutal confrontation against the owner of a shady junkyard.

Rafa and Toni work for Ángela, a morally flexible lawyer who offers her clients quick solutions outside the law. The story unfolds over a frenetic day in a labyrinthine industrial park, when they're hired to get back a stolen car for one of those clients. In its trunk, they find a mysterious safe containing a World War II relic: a Luger P08 gun, highly desired by very dangerous people from the underworld.

*"A lean mean machine with bone-crushing action."*  
– **Elements of Madness**

*"A punchy little thriller which oozes class.... It's a thrilling ride with surprising emotional heft."* – **Eye for Film**

**DIRECTOR**  
Bruno Martín

**SCREENWRITERS**  
Bruno Martín  
Santiago Taboada

**CAST**  
David Sainz  
Mario Mayo  
Ángel Acero

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
David Hebrero

**PRODUCERS**  
Bruno Martín  
José Luis Rancaño  
Bruno Martín

## MAG MAG



Thursday, April 23 | 9:45 PM  
Saturday, April 25 | 12:30 PM

Japan, 2025, 113 min  
**Alberta Premiere**

**A**fter her beloved is killed by the MAG MAG ghost, Sanae vows revenge, but soon discovers the true identity of the person she truly owes her revenge to.

"If you see her, it's too late. If she falls in love with you, the only escape is death." First-time director Yuriyan Retriever, Japan's most popular comedian and two-time contestant on AMERICA'S GOT TALENT, MAG MAG reinterprets the world-famous J-horror genre with a fresh perspective. This crazy love story, based on the director's own painful romantic experiences, is a twisted tale that combines horror and humour, delivering a powerful blow to the world.

*"MAG MAG is an effective ghost story that balances chills and humorous thrills in an effective package."* – **Nerdy**

*"Led by a wonderfully off-the-wall performance from [Sara] Minami, MAG MAG is a treat for fans of the subgenre and its tropes. Possessing a bonkers energy (think DRAG ME TO HELL by way of Takashi Miike), it pays tribute to the best of J-horror while very much marching to the beat of its own drum."* – **Starburst Magazine**

**DIRECTOR**  
Yuriyan Retriever

**PRODUCER**  
Daisuke Takahashi

**CAST**  
Sara Minami  
Maeda Oshiro  
Aoi Yamada

**SCREENWRITER**  
Eisuke Naito

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Hideki Shima

## FLOOR

South Korea, 2025, 14 min  
Alberta Premiere

Director: Jo Bareun



His perfect home has just one flaw – the unrelenting noise from upstairs.

## MĀRAMA



Tuesday, April 21 | 9:45 PM

New Zealand, 2025, 89 min  
**Alberta Premiere**

A young Māori woman sets out to connect with her family heritage, but instead uncovers a dark and unsettling reality.

Mary (Ariāna Osborne) travels to a grand English manor in search of her missing parents at the invitation of its owner, Nathaniel (Toby Stevens). Within its dark halls, she is haunted by visions hinting at something sinister and violent beneath the surface. Set in the Victorian era, MĀRAMA has been touted as venturing into “bold new cinematic territory: Māori Gothic”. The debut feature of London-based Kiwi Taratoa Stappard, MĀRAMA wrestles with themes of colonisation, Maori oppression and the spiritual realm.

*“The use of genre techniques, in tandem with the ferocity of Osborne’s performance, makes for unsettling and at times chilling viewing.” – ScreenDaily*

*“MĀRAMA uses the structure and visual language of Gothic Horror to tell a story of discovery and empowerment, and it’s a phenomenal debut, a confident piece of work that takes a familiar genre and makes it feel perfect for the story its telling.” – RogerEbert.com*

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Taratoa Stappard

**CAST**  
Ariāna Osborne  
Toby Stephens  
Umi Myers  
Evelyn Towersey  
Erroll Shand

**PRODUCERS**  
Sharlene George  
Rickylee Russell-Waipuka  
Rouzie Hassanova

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Gin Loane

## MOCKBUSTER



Monday, April 20 | 7:00 PM

Australia / United States, 2025, 90 min  
**Canadian Premiere**

A struggling Australian filmmaker’s chance at redemption collides with chaos and compromise as he navigates the eccentric world of notorious SHARKNADO production house, The Asylum.

Once-promising filmmaker Anthony Frith lands a final shot at glory with Hollywood’s kings of B-movie schlock, the Asylum. Tasked with directing a lost-world dinosaur film in suburban Adelaide on a six-day shoot and a shoestring budget, he also turns the camera on himself, filming a behind-the-scenes documentary as the chaos unfolds. Between demanding LA execs, a bewildered cast, and his own creeping self-doubt, both productions push their first-time director to the brink. MOCKBUSTER is a hilarious and unexpectedly tender documentary about chasing the dream through the absurd hustle of genre filmmaking, but finding a different kind of success behind the scenes.

*“At once hilarious and insightful, Mockbuster not only takes audiences to get a look behind the curtain at how The Asylum churns out their collection of titles, it’s also a general reminder that one should never feel guilty about the things you enjoy or even love.” – Elements of Madness*

*“MOCKBUSTER is about never giving up, despite impossible odds, costume mistakes, organizing camera insurance, and figuring out how to entertain the masses with pocket change.” – Film Threat*

**DIRECTOR**  
Anthony Frith

**PRODUCERS**  
David Elliot-Jones  
Sandy Cameron  
Naomi Ball

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Maxx Corkindale

**SCREENWRITERS**  
Anthony Frith  
Sandy Cameron

# MY BLOODY VALENTINE (1981) - 45TH ANNIVERSARY

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Photo Credit: Piroška Mihalka

Sunday, April 19 | 4:15 PM

Canada, 1981, 90 min



**C**ross your heart...and hope to die. Celebrate the 45th Anniversary of this cult Canadian slasher with the 4K uncut version of MY BLOODY VALENTINE!

In the town of Valentine Bluffs, Nova Scotia, a methane gas explosion trapped six miners underground. The accident occurred due to two supervisors abandoning their posts to attend the annual Valentine's Day dance. Six weeks later, only one survivor, Harry Warden, was rescued; he had survived by resorting to cannibalism. Driven mad, Warden was institutionalized. A year later on Valentine's Day he escaped and murdered the negligent supervisors, warning the town never to hold a Valentine's dance again. As the town prepares for its first Valentine's dance in 20 years, the mayor and police chief receive a heart-shaped candy box containing a human heart and a warning note. Despite the official dance being cancelled to prevent panic, a group of young adults decides to hold a secret party at the coal mine. A killer dressed in full mining gear and a gas mask begins picking off the partygoers one by one, using a pickaxe and other industrial tools. Has Harry Warden returned to exact revenge again?

*"For any fan of gore, horror, or slashers, this is an absolute non-negotiable, must-watch."* – **Horror Press**

*"A slasher that deserves a better legacy."* – **Movie Jawn**

## DIRECTOR

George Mihalka

## PRODUCERS

John Dunning  
André Link  
Stephen A. Miller

## CAST

Paul Kelman  
Lori Hallier  
Neil Affleck  
Keith Knight  
Cynthia Dale

## CINEMATOGRAPHER

Rodney Gibbons

## SCREENWRITERS

Stephen A. Miller  
John Beard

# NOFX - 40 YEARS OF FUCKIN' UP

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Saturday, April 18 | 4:30 PM

Canada, 2026, 126 min



## Alberta Premiere

**N**OFX - 40 YEARS OF FUCKIN' UP chronicles the chaotic four-decade career of the punk rock band NOFX.

Formed in Los Angeles in 1983, NOFX's mainstream success coincided with increased interest in punk rock during the 1990s, but unlike many of their contemporaries, they were never signed to a major label. The documentary details the band's storied history as drug-addled teen punks-turned-icons. Directed by Calgary alumnus James Buddy Day (CUFF 2017 Selection MANSON: THE VOICE OF MADNESS) and produced by NOFX bassist and lead vocalist Fat Mike, 40 YEARS OF FUCKIN' UP features interviews with fellow NOFX band members guitarist Eric Melvin, lead guitarist Aaron 'El Hefe' Abeyta, and drummer Erik Sandin. The film explores the band's history of survival, excess, and self-destruction.

## DIRECTOR

James Buddy Day

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

James Buddy Day

## PRODUCER

Fat Mike

Fat Mike

Aaron Abeyta

Erik Sandin

Eric Melvin

## CINEMATOGRAPHER

Nathaniel Harper

Gary Ousdahl

Jay Reynolds

Cisco Adler

Jon Nadeau

## EDITOR

Dave Alderson

## OBSESSION



Saturday, April 25 | 7:30 PM

United States, 2025, 108 min  
**Alberta Premiere**

**A**fter breaking the mysterious “One Wish Willow” to win his crush’s heart, a hopeless romantic finds himself getting exactly what he asked for but soon discovers that some desires come at a dark, sinister price.

*“Barker pulls nothing, getting darker, creepier, and bloodier with each passing scene in this study of extreme dependence.” – **RogerEbert.com***

*“A simple, well-trodden concept transforms into a shocking and unsettling descent into abject horror in [Director Curry] Barker’s capable hands, ensuring that his latest is destined to become horror’s latest, well, obsession.” – **Bloody Disgusting***

**DIRECTOR, EDITOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Curry Barker

### CAST

Michael Johnston  
Inde Navarrette  
Cooper Tomlinson  
Megan Lawless  
Andy Richter

**PRODUCERS**  
James Harris  
Haley Nicole Johnson  
Christian Mercuri  
Roman Viaris

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Taylor Clemons

## SACCHARINE



Saturday, April 18 | 9:30 PM  
Tuesday, April 21 | 4:30 PM

Australia, 2026, 112 min  
**Canadian Premiere**

**A** lovelorn medical student becomes terrorized by a hungry ghost after taking part in an obscure weight-loss craze: eating human ashes.

When Hana runs into an old friend who has lost so much weight she is almost unrecognisable, the first-year medical student is sucked into the world of weight-loss pills, a much quicker shortcut to dropping kilograms than her twelve-week “body transformation” programme at the gym. As her obsession to get slimmer grows stronger, a hungry ghost manifests literally. The Australian modern day body horror written and directed by Natalie Erika James (RELIC, 2020) had its world premiere at the Midnight section of the 2026 Sundance Film Festival.

*“[A] freaky, fun body horror for the Ozempic era.”  
– **ScreenHub***

*“Real-life horror of one’s own body is the most insidious kind of body horror at play here, though James’ film offers a measure of the gorily fantastical stuff too.” – **Variety***

**DIRECTOR &  
SCREENWRITER**  
Natalie Erika James

### CAST

Midori Francis  
Danielle Macdonald  
Madeleine Madden

**PRODUCERS**  
Natalie Erika James  
Anna McLeish  
Sarah Shaw

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
Charlie Sarroff

# SANTACON



Friday, April 24 | 6:30 PM

United States, 2025, 87 min  
International Premiere

**S**antacon is perhaps the single most hated event on the planet. A dreaded day in which tens of thousands of drunk idiots dress like Santa and invade countless cities around the world to live out their drunkest and most violent instincts.

But it began as something else entirely: a piece of absurdism designed to shock people out of their everyday existence by creating a sense of awe and confusion. The folks who started Santacon in the '90s are the same ones who started Burning Man and served as the real-life inspiration for FIGHT CLUB and Project Mayhem. And today, they want nothing to do with their Christmas creation.

SANTACON explores how great ideas can transform into something else entirely, and what it's like to accept and live in a world you no longer understand. With exclusive access to the event's original creators and countless hours of never-before-seen home movies from the '90s, you'll be transported back in time to a world of awe, wonder, and endless possibility.

*"Fun in all the ways that affirms youthful foils and spoils, and reinforces the belief that societal criticism can be had in impressively creative ways." – Moviegoing with Bill*

*"A must watch ... SANTACON walks us down that path – having fun, getting drunk, being part of something bigger than ourselves...and then watching it go out of control." – Film Threat*

**DIRECTOR, PRODUCER & SCREENWRITER**  
Seth Porges

**PRODUCERS**  
Michael Garber  
Jake DeNicola

**CAST**  
John Law  
Chris Radcliffe  
Chuck Palahniuk

**SCREENWRITER**  
Michael Garber

# SATURDAY MORNING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-CEREAL CARTOON PARTY!



Saturday, April 18 | 10:00 AM

Various, 1990s, 180 min

**I**n this all-new program, you'll see both faves and obscurities spanning the '30s through the '90s, all punctuated with vintage commercials, PSAs and station IDs! Jammies Encouraged! ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CEREAL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It's the return of the SATURDAY MORNING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CEREAL CARTOON PARTY! It's that special time when kids and kids-at-heart get to relive the exciting Saturday Morning ritual of non-stop retro cartoons, and binge on the multi-coloured sugary cereals that used to be a part of every "balanced" breakfast! As always, this 3-hour trip into the weird and wonderful world of yesteryear's animated antics will be accompanied by an all-you-can eat buffet of cereal that is open throughout the show (and yes, there will be non-dairy options too!). The cartoon lineup is always a mystery, but in this all-new program you'll see both faves and obscurities spanning the '30s through the '90s, all punctuated with vintage commercials, PSAs and station IDs! So get ready for a sugar rush and an explosion of nostalgia all wrapped up in one candy-coated package.

## TICKET INFO

General Admission: \$15  
CUFF Member Entry: \$13  
Kids 6 & Under: \$6  
5-packs are not accepted for this special event.

*To get the most of our cereal bar, we suggest bringing your own cereal bowl and spoon to maximize proportions and help reduce waste. CUFF branded reusable bowls will also be available for purchase.*

**CURATOR**  
David Bertrand

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**



## THE SCOUT



Tuesday, April 21 | 7:15 PM

United States, 2025, 91 min  
Alberta Premiere

Over the course of one day, a location scout connects with a handful of New York City residents as she struggles to lock down shooting locations for a TV show.

Sofia works as a location scout for a TV show pilot shooting in New York City. In the 24-hour window in the lead-up of principal photography, Sofia is under pressure to find and lock down shooting locations. Over the course of a day, she struggles to find her footing in a mess of contradictions and the endless momentum of her unusual job. As the show's sole scout, she's often alone during her workdays—exploring and documenting the streets, businesses, and residences of the city. Throughout the day, she asks to enter the private space of a handful of the city's residents and in doing so, steps into the fabric of their lives: a nostalgic elderly woman who lives alone, a well-off software developer and new father with too much time on his hands, an old distanced college friend, and so on. **THE SCOUT** unfolds as an anthology of these threaded meetings, depicting a woman struggling to find an equilibrium both in her relationships with people, her enviroing world, and herself.

*"Paula González-Nasser's fantastic feature debut is a fascinating discovery." — **The Playlist***

*"A location scout thanklessly zips around NYC in the charming, awkward, funny debut from Paula Andrea González-Nasser." — **AV Club***

**DIRECTOR, PRODUCER & SCREENWRITER**

Paula Andrea Gonzalez-Nasser

Max Rosen

Sarah Herrman

Ike Ufomadu

**PRODUCERS**

Ryan Martin Brown

Matthew Romanski

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Nicola Newton

**CAST**

Mimi Davila

Otmara Marrero

Rutanya Alda

Matt Barats

## THANKS FOR NOTHING



Sunday, April 19 | 3:30 PM

Germany, 2025, 108 min  
Alberta Premiere

Okay, what would you do if your best friend tries to kill herself, another one is being deported, the third is in a manic episode, the fourth has stopped speaking, and your corrupt social worker is unsuccessfully trying to cover it all up from child services?

Katharina, Ricky, Malou, and Victoria are four teenagers living in a group home – a place they've crafted in defiance of everything - parents, school, and society's rules. With the dubious guidance of their social worker, Ballack, they've created their own little anarchic utopia. But Katharina, sick of the world and its expectations, is determined not to survive past 18. With her birthday looming in two weeks, her friends are scrambling to keep her suicide attempts under wraps, terrified that exposing the truth will destroy the only semblance of "home" they've ever known. In this darkly comedic tale of rebellion, abandonment, and surviving the absurd, **THANKS FOR NOTHING** is the kids' collective FU to the adults who've abandoned or failed them.

*"With an extravagant narrative style and laconic humor, Stella Marie Markert's debut film deals with serious topics such as mental health problems and suicidal thoughts in an unusual way." — **epd Film***

*"A refreshing, remarkable directorial debt... This amusing and unconventional story from ... front to back is one of the strongest film debuts this year." — **LA Youth***

**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER**

Stella Marie Markert

**PRODUCERS**

Marcos Kantis

Martin Lehwald

**CAST**

Lea Drinda

Sonja Weißer

Safinaz Sattar

Zoe Stein

Jan Bülow

**CINEMATOGRAPHERS**

Edgar Fischnaller

Jonas Kolahdoozan

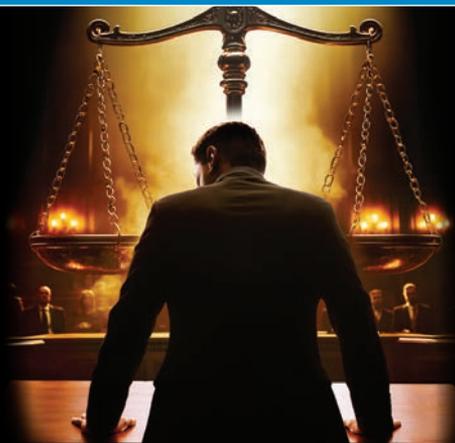
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BY BARRY REED, ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY MARGARET MAY HOBBS

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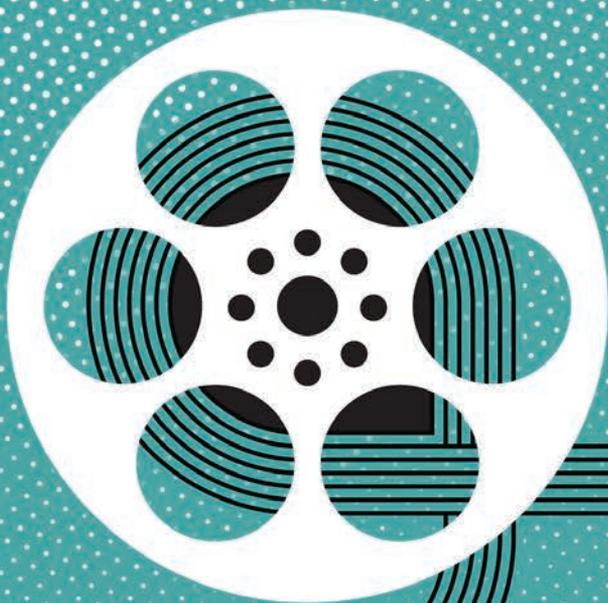


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Art | Post-Production

# TRACY AND MARTINA: GOIN' OUT WEST

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Thursday, April 23 | 6:30 PM

Canada, 2025, 77 min  
Alberta Premiere



Two Cape Breton best friends head west to Alberta for the first time with the hopes of making a few bucks as they open for a local band, but things go south when their accommodations fall through and they run out of money before booking a flight back home.

Best friends Tracy and Martina have never been farther than Nova Scotia, but when they hear promises of big opportunities "out west," they pack their clothes into garbage bags and hop a flight to Alberta. What starts as a dream trip quickly unravels: internal tensions, surprise expenses, and cousins who are nowhere to be found. With no return tickets and Martina's credit card maxed, the girls are stranded, broke, and desperate. They thought they'd make enough money opening for the band Slowcoaster at their three stops in Fort McMurray, Edmonton, and Calgary, but budgeting has never been their strength. Things go from bad to worse when old small-town tensions between the girls bubble to the surface.

"TRACY & MARTINA GOIN' OUT WEST lovingly mocks a refined flavour of Canadian delusion... The girls get their moment in the limelight, and make the most of it in their own chaotic fashion." – **Screen Anarchy**

DIRECTOR & CINEMATOGRAPHER

Brendan Lyle

PRODUCERS & SCREENWRITERS

Brendan Lyle

Justine Williamson

Greg Vardy

CAST

Justine Williamson

Greg Vardy

# THE WEED EATERS



Monday, April 20 | 9:45 PM

New Zealand, 2026, 81 min  
Alberta Premiere

An idyllic New Year's getaway in isolated New Zealand takes an unexpected turn when a bad batch of cursed weed unleashes horrific after-effects.

Jules (Alice May Connolly) is on a trip with her new boyfriend and his two stoner friends in the wops of North Canterbury, NZ when they stumble across a long-abandoned stash in an old shed. After a quick session and an accidental murder, the marijuana turns them into enthusiastic cannibals. To cover the evidence of their murder, they decide to keep toking so they can devour the body. What will happen when the meat runs out? Who will be the next victim? The Kiwi production team of Causeway Films, behind the indie hits TALK TO ME (CUFF 2023) and BRING HER BACK (2025), is shaking up the horror world in 2026 with both THE WEED EATERS and THE FOX selected by CUFF this year.

"Loved it, loved it, loved it... Punchy pacing and a tight edit (just 80 minutes—perfect!) help this debut feature avoid overreach, while it authentically incorporates genre elements (horror, stoner movie)." – **Flicks**

"Everyone needs to see THE WEED EATERS... my favourite [New Zealand] film in recent memory." – **The Spinoff**

DIRECTOR

Callum Devlin

PRODUCERS

Callum Devlin

Annabel Kean

Finnius Teppett

Alice May Connolly

CAST

Annabel Kean

Finnius Teppett

Alice May Connolly

Samuel Austin

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Samuel Austin

SCREENWRITER

Finnius Teppett

## DOUBLE DOUBLE

Canada, 2025, 3 min

Alberta Premiere

Director: Dara Jade Moats



A collage animation music video for Joe Abbott's "Double Double."

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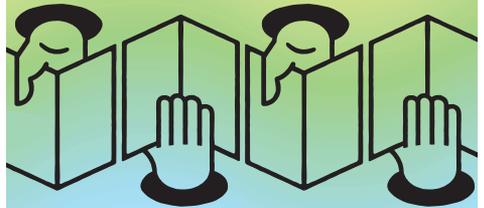


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## YOUNG FEMALE PLAYWRIGHT

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Wednesday, April 22 | 7:00 PM

Canada, 2026, 80 min

Alberta Premiere



When her professional debut play is branded “deeply personal,” a young playwright must fight to question the line between truth, fiction, and art.

26-year-old Millie lands a career-making debut at Canada’s National Theatre, but the celebration quickly turns to scrutiny after a press release describes her play as a “deeply personal story.” Certain her dark family drama is a work of fiction, Millie is blindsided as those around her begin to read it as confession, especially her uncle Mark, a schoolteacher and recovered alcoholic. Through bright lights and dark comedy, the film interrogates who gets to tell which stories, what it costs a woman to be believed. YOUNG FEMALE PLAYWRIGHT is the debut feature from Calgary-born CUFF alum Director Pony Nicole Herauf (ART BABY, CUFF 2025).

### DIRECTOR

Pony Nicole Herauf

### CAST

Ellie Moon

Raoul Bhaneja

Karen Knox

Jonas Chernick

Colin Mochrie

### PRODUCERS

Pony Nicole Herauf

Macaulee Cassaday

Sarah Angelle

Ben Roberts

### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Ben Roberts

### SCREENWRITER

Ellie Moon

## SPECIAL EVENT: INDIE GAME BASH

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE



Saturday, April 25 | 4:30 PM

Canada, 2026, 120 min

World Premiere



Indie Game Bash returns with FOREHEAD CHIP, a platformer multiplayer game from Calgary developer David Kerr!

Easy to pick up and wildly competitive, FOREHEAD CHIP pits players against each other in fast-paced rounds where quick thinking and a little bit of luck can make all the difference. Competitors will battle through a live tournament bracket in front of the Indie Game Bash crowd for bragging rights and prizes!

A demo of FOREHEAD CHIP is available on Steam for players who want to get some practice in before the tournament. Learn more at [indiegamebash.com](http://indiegamebash.com)

### GAME DETAILS

Join the IMPLANT CORPS and capture the most HOLDOUTS to win the FOREHEAD CHIP in this pixel-art platformer inspired by 80s and 90s sci-fi. Play a single-player story mode with multiple endings, or battle with your friends in a variety of arenas!

### EVENT INFO

**3:45-4:30 pm: Doors & Registration.**

Register to play in the tournament! Advance registration encouraged with the ticket purchase option. Limited walk up spots may also be available.

**4:30-6:30 pm: Tournament.**

All are welcome to play or watch.

### TICKET INFO

Player Ticket: \$12

Audience Viewer Ticket: \$10 (General Admission) / \$8 (Student, Senior & CUFF Member)

### GAME DEVELOPER

Dave Kerr

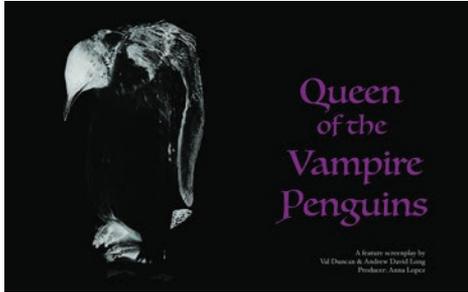
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## SPECIAL EVENTS:

### INDUSTRY EVENTS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

#### LIVE SCRIPT READING: QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRE PENGUINS



Saturday, April 25 | 1:00 PM

Join a cast of actors for a live script reading of the upcoming Alberta feature-length film *QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRE PENGUINS*. *This is a FREE event, open to the public*, and a great opportunity to experience a film in the early stages of development. There will be a Q&A following the reading and the production team is open to script feedback.

#### SYNOPSIS

Inspired by true events, *QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRE PENGUINS* is a genre comedy with teeth and pointy beaks. After a researcher at a remote Antarctic station falls mysteriously ill, a pair of specialized air rescue teams is dispatched to evacuate him during the brutal southern winter. But the ice hides dangerous secrets (it's in the title!) Will anyone escape alive? Can vampire penguins fly? Come find out!

#### SCREENWRITERS

Val Duncan & Andrew David Long

#### PRODUCER

Anna Lopez

#### ABOUT THE EVENT

Presented in partnership with the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA) Alberta, this annual event provides an opportunity for Alberta filmmakers to share a script in the early stages of development.

SPONSOR

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#### PANEL: FROM FESTIVAL BUZZ TO DISTRIBUTION DEALS



Saturday, April 18 | 2:00 PM

#### HOW FILMS BREAK THROUGH TODAY

A candid look at how programmers, buyers, and distributors discover films—and what factors inform their decisions to champion one project over another. Moderated by a veteran festival programmer and independent film producer, panelists will discuss the various qualities and strategies that help films stand out and move the needle from premiere to pickup in today's crowded market. *This is a FREE event open to the public.*

#### PANELISTS

**MITCH DAVIS** - Fantasia International Film Festival; Artistic Director

**JENNY EZELL** - Independent Film Company (IFC Films) & Shudder; Coordinator Of Acquisitions & Productions

**EMILY GAGNE** - Hollywood Suite; Senior Marketing and Content Manager

**HILARY HART** - Game Theory Films; Co-President  
**PETER KUPLOWSKY** - Toronto International Film Festival; Lead Programmer, Midnight Madness; International Programmer, US Indies

**ISABELLE LEGAULT** - Filmoption International; Vice-president Acquisitions & Theatrical

**JOSEPH YANICK** - Yellow Veil Pictures; Co-founder, Acquisitions

**LONDON ZAKHEIM** - Overlook Film Festival & Sundance Film Festival; Executive Director & Co-founder // Programmer, Short Films

Moderated by **PETER KUPLOWSKY**.

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**FRIDAY IN THE PARK WITH GORE**

Various Countries, 2025/2026, 89 min

Whether children and art, people that do not belong together, or a dog, when put all together, these shorts all bring the horror.

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**



**MEAT CRAYON**

Director: Richard Rotter  
Canada, 2025, 6 min

Kimberly's favourite teacher always brings her the best crayons. He just won't say where he gets them.



**YAZZA**

Director: Francisco Lacerda  
Portugal, 2025, 5 min

Two friends are suddenly blasted into sheer chaos.

**ABSOLUTIO**

Director: Mirko Decandia  
Italy, 2025, 7 min

In the refined Absolutio Restaurant, a wealthy couple enjoys an apparently perfect dinner. Normality vanishes when disturbing details reveal a dark ritual.

**PIMPLE**

Director: Fernando Alle  
Portugal, 2025, 4 min

A young boy's pimple bursts, leading to a bloody disaster.

**OPEN MIC**

Director: Jano Pita  
Spain, 2025, 9 min

The most grotesque show of your lives!

**CHÄIR**

Director: Chris McInroy  
United States, 2025, 6 min

Carl just wanted to sit down. The chair had other plans.

**PELACARAS**

Director: Ricardo Albarrán  
United States, 2025, 10 min

A mother hides the truth about her husband's disappearance until the silence takes on a terrifying form.

**THE SEEING EYE DOG WHO SAW TOO MUCH**

Director: Eric Jackowitz  
United States, 2026, 17 min

A blind violinist's seeing eye dog witnesses a murder... and it's up to this good boy to solve it.

**REBRAND**

Director: Edoardo Ranaboldo  
United States, 2025, 15 min

A group of YouTubers head to the woods to make a video. Four masked men follow to make a video of their own.

**BELLWETHER**

Director: Kim Abeniri  
Canada, 2026, 10 min

An overly ambitious girl must go through a gruelling hiring process to be accepted into her dream job.



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**A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE CINEMA**

Various Countries, 2025/2026, 98 min

These films are here for a good time, not a long time. You will get comedy tonight in these pretty little pictures.

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**



**CLOWN SONG**

Director: Brady Dowad  
United States, 2025, 7 min

A man's bleak life becomes even more nightmarish when his mother sleeps with an actual clown.

**HALFWAY HAUNTED**

Director: Sam Rudykoff  
Canada, 2025, 17 min

A tenant in a haunted house teams up with a ghost to stop a developer from demolishing the home they share.

**STRIP MALL**

Director: Andrew Appelle  
Canada, 2025, 9 min

Nate gets caught shoplifting.

**BEAUTY SLEEP**

Director: Jasmine De Silva  
United Kingdom, 2025, 13 min

A creatively stifled beautician-turned-mortician, provides makeovers at a funeral parlour for living teens.

**JINGLE JANGLE**

Director: Sionne Elise  
United States, 2026, 11 min

When two pranksters sneak in to their friend's apartment, the joke spirals into blood-soaked chaos.

**WE WERE HERE**

Director: Pranav Bhasin  
India, 2026, 11 min

Three retired men protest against machines taking over human jobs, by pretending to be household appliances.

**SMOKE BREAK**

Director: Eric Peterson  
Canada, 2026, 5 min

A clairvoyant trapped in a city far from home, bums a cigarette and shares knowledge with a video store clerk.

**SHRIMP FRIED RICE**

Director: Dylan Pun  
Canada, 2025, 12 min

A shrimp chef with an ego that outweighs his tiny body carries out his vendetta against a culinary-inclined rat.

**NICKY AND MIKE ARE IN BEACH FORMAL**

Director: Michael Spencer  
United States, 2026, 3 min

Nicky and Mike get sidetracked while looking for their friends' wedding at Coney Island.

**FINGER GUNS**

Director: David Feehan  
Canada, 2026, 10 min

A privileged office worker rebels when his freedom to use the "finger gun" gesture is threatened.



**HOW TO SUCCEED IN LOVE WITHOUT REALLY TRYING**

Various Countries, 2025/2026, 98 min

When it has been a long day, you may just need someone to believe in you. There are a lot of ways to find love, some are easier than others.

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**



**ITTY BITTY BETTY**

Director: Laura Buchanan  
Canada, 2025, 12 min

Betty must choose; a safe isolated life with miniature figurines or an authentic, vulnerable experience in the outside world.



**ROACH TRIP**

Director: Clare McNulty  
United States, 2025, 12 min

In this offbeat road movie, a woman fleeing heartbreak forms an unlikely bond that forces her to face the pain she's been trying to outrun.

**GATE CRASHERS**

Director: Philip Steiger  
United States, 2025, 13 min

Hoping to impress with borrowed luxury, an insecure bachelor invites a date to a backyard pool he's secretly "pool-sitting", only to trigger a humiliating chain reaction that exposes how far he'll go to fake belonging.

**KLEE**

Director: Gavin Baird  
Canada, 2025, 20 min

An alien is sent to Earth and tasked with a mission to invade, seduce, and terminate a family of colonizers in 19th century Saskatchewan. All shot on 16mm.



**PICK IT TILL IT BLEEDS**

Directors: Christina Dovolis & Tavis Putnam  
Canada, 2025, 3 min

Yearning to pick his girlfriend's scab, a young man gets more than he bargained for in this mixed-media animation.



**SPANKED BY A GHOST**

Director: Bianca Poletti  
United States, 2025, 12 min

Alone in her home, a woman is spanked by an unseen entity, awakening a force she cannot control.

**POTATO POTATO**

Director: Josh Locy  
United States, 2025, 14 min

When Cynthia writes a letter to the baby growing inside her about her hopes for their future, the baby writes back.

**MY GIANT WITHIN ME**

Director: Paul August Gordon  
United States, 2026, 12 min

A would-be life-coach pushes forward his multimedia corporation while avoiding all of his responsibilities.



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# INDEX

## APRIL 16 - 26, 2026

48 HOUR MOVIE MAKING CHALLENGE	p.10	LITTLE DOORS	p.33
AFFECTION	p.10	LONG LIVE THE STATE	p.34
BAD HAIRCUT	p.11	LUCID	p.34
BAGWORM	p.11	LUGER	p.35
THE BEARDED GIRL	p.12	MAG MAG	p.35
BEYOND THE DUPLEX PLANET	p.12	MĀRAMA	p.36
BLACK ZOMBIE	p.13	MOCKBUSTER	p.36
BUFFET INFINITY	p.13	MY BLOODY VALENTINE	p.37
CAMP	p.14	NOFX: 40 YEARS OF FUCKIN' UP	p.37
CLAIRE'S HAT: THE UNMAKING OF A FILM	p.14	OBSESSION	p.38
DECORADO	p.15	SACCHARINE	p.38
EARTH TO COLBY	p.15	SANTACON	p.39
EVERY HEAVY THING	p.18	THE SATURDAY MORNING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-CEREAL CARTOON PARTY!	p.39
FEELS LIKE HOME	p.18	THE SCOUT	p.40
FIFTEEN	p.20	SHORTS PACKAGE: FRIDAY IN THE PARK WITH GORE	p.51
FLOATING CAROUSEL	p.20	SHORTS PACKAGE: A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE CINEMA	p.53
THE FOX	p.21	SHORTS PACKAGE: HOW TO SUCCEED IN LOVE WITHOUT REALLY TRYING	p.54
FRIDAY THE 69TH	p.21	THANKS FOR NOTHING	p.40
GOODY GOODY	p.22	TRACY AND MARTINA: GOIN' OUT WEST	p.45
GRIND	p.22	THE WEED EATERS	p.45
HANGASHORE	p.23	YOUNG FEMALE PLAYWRIGHT	p.49
HARD CORE LOGO	p.23		
<i>National Canadian Film Day</i>			
<i>Free Screening (April 15)</i>			
THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE	p.24		
HOKUM	p.24		
LIVE SCRIPT READING: QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRE PENGUINS	p.50		
I LOVE BOOSTERS	p.25		
IMPOSTERS	p.25		
INDIE GAME BASH	p.49		
JARIPEO	p.26		
THE KILLING CELL	p.26		
KINGS OF VENICE	p.33		



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