



Always Honest, Not Always Pretty.

18-21  
JULY  
2024

at Paradise Theatre  
& TIFF Lightbox



22<sup>nd</sup>  
FEMALE EYE  
FILM FESTIVAL

[TheFemaleEyeFilmFestival.com](http://TheFemaleEyeFilmFestival.com)



20  
24

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Welcome to the 22nd Female Eye Film Festival (FeFF)! This year we are excited to showcase an eclectic and thought provoking selection of films directed by women and female-identifying filmmakers from around the world. We are thrilled to have so many exemplary screenwriters, producers, directors and their cast and crew here with us in Toronto to celebrate their work.

2024 marks an exciting new initiative in collaboration with The Writers Lab (NYC) and the Firecracker Department for the launch of the inaugural TWL Canada for an in-person screenwriting intensive. As part of this official launch, we are delighted to celebrate the co producers of The Writers Lab, Elizabeth Kaiden and Nitza Wilon with a Best In Biz Tribute which will be followed by a TWL masterclass at FeFF.

I cannot emphasize the importance of art, in all its forms, at this crucial juncture in our collective and shared history as humans and I thank and applaud you for having the courage to create. I want to thank the Board of the Directors, our tireless team, and all the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to FeFF's vision. This edition would not have been possible without the generous and unwavering support of Experience Ontario, I.A.T.S.E. 873, AFBS, Ontario Creates, Ontario Arts Council, CIUT Radio and WIDC, particularly in a time where we have seen a retraction due to these turbulent times.

Lastly, I wish to announce that we're bringing back the Dec. 6th Program 2024 in which we will present films dedicated to raising awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls, in Memoriam of the Montreal Massacre (Dec. 6, 1989).

Upward and Onward! Leslie-Ann Coles

Founder, Executive/Artistic Director, The Female Eye

LETTER  
FROM

# THE CHAIR



Welcome to the Female Eye Film Festival's 22nd Anniversary. This year marks a bitter sweet moment for me as I announce my decision to step down as Chair, making room for the next generation to lead this incredible festival forward. It has been an absolute honour, pleasure, and privilege to serve alongside international filmmakers, amplifying their voices and celebrating their remarkable talents.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Leslie-Ann Coles, the Founder and Executive Director of this festival. Leslie's visionary leadership and foresight recognized the crucial need for a festival dedicated to women in film. She not only wears many hats herself, being a screenwriter and director but she has also been and continues to be the driving force behind the Female Eye, guiding it to become the impactful platform it is today.

To our colleagues, filmmakers, and sponsors, I am immensely grateful for your unwavering support throughout the years. Your commitment to the Female Eye has been instrumental in our success and growth over the past two decades.

I also want to acknowledge the dedicated members of the board, Martin Harbury, Christine Argyris and Tushar Unadkat, whose tireless efforts have been invaluable in shaping the trajectory of the Female Eye. It has been a privilege serving alongside each of you.

In a world fraught with global turmoil, the importance of festivals like ours cannot be overstated. Now more than ever, we need our artists to be heard and seen, to shine a light on the diverse experiences and perspectives that make up our world. As I step down, I urge you to continue supporting this vital festival and the incoming Chair who will lead us into the future.

As I reflect on my time as Chair, I am filled with pride and honour. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and honoured to have been part of this extraordinary journey. Let us continue to champion the Female Eye and the incredible filmmakers it represents, ensuring that their voices resonate far and wide, for it is the artists who remind us of our humanity, who challenge us to confront uncomfortable truths, and who inspire us to envision a better world. Let us honour our differences, celebrate our diversity and amplify the voices of those who have stories to tell. Together, we can illuminate the darkness and pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Thank you all for your unwavering support and dedication.

Angela Argento  
Chair, The Female Eye



<https://www.widc.ca/programs>



Worlds created on-screen by  
women and non-binary story-tellers

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LETTER  
FROM

OAC



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

On behalf of the board and staff at the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), I am pleased to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending the Female Eye Film Festival (FeFF).

Over its history, FeFF has been a strong advocate for gender equity, inclusion and diversity in the film industry. They have provided an outstanding platform for female directors at all stages of their careers to showcase their films amongst other national and international talent.

For over 60 years, OAC has played an essential role in supporting the arts for the enjoyment and benefit of Ontarians, and we are proud to support this year's festival.

Congratulations to everyone involved in FeFF 2024, and a big thank you to the dedicated staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to put together another successful event.

Enjoy the festival!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Davies".

Rita Davies, C.M.  
Chair  
Ontario Arts Council



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**873**

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**Female Eye  
Film Festival**

**[WWW.IATSE873.COM](http://WWW.IATSE873.COM)**



LETTER  
FROM

# IATSE

Through screenings, networking opportunities and programming, the Female Eye Film Festival shines a spotlight on the extraordinary female film makers in the industry, which we are extremely proud to support.

Members of the IATSE Local 873 make remarkable contributions towards the Canadian film and television industry. As the Union Behind Entertainment, we strive to create safe work environments, while encouraging and supporting our talented artisans, and implementing strategies to evoke and sustain change from within. We are proud of the female representation across all our departments and work to inspire the future generation of female film technicians.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's festival and we wish you all another hugely successful event.



**IATSE**  
**873**



# ENRICHING CREATIVE LIVES

**Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Female Eye Film Festival.**

**AFBS is a proud Event Sponsor.**

**[afbs.ca](http://afbs.ca)**

LETTER  
FROM

# AFBS

AFBS is proud to continue our long-term support for the Female Eye Film Festival to help ensure films made by talented Canadian women directors are showcased and celebrated. Since 2001, this festival has been at the forefront of advocating for gender equity, inclusion and diversity in the industry. Providing a platform for films directed by women around the world has proven to be an invaluable community initiative with great impact on Canadian cinema.

As a community partner of the Canadian creative industry, AFBS is a fraternal organization that is not driven by profit and provides insurance benefits and retirement savings plans to performers and screenwriters to support them across all stages of life. We also strengthen our community by providing affordable insurance options for self-employed Canadian artists,

In an industry where female filmmakers have been underrepresented, FeFF continues to bring female perspectives and diversity to the art of screen-based storytelling. The vast efforts that go into producing this festival, and the immeasurable results, are something AFBS is proud to stand behind.

On behalf of AFBS, I applaud FeFF for its continued community impact and it is our honour to be a sponsor again for their 22nd year.

Enjoy the festival, everyone!

Sincerely,,



Ron Zammit  
President & CEO  
AFBS



# COMING SOON!

## THE WRITERS LAB CANADA

Submissions are now open for the inaugural TWL Canada Lab and in-person intensive taking place  
DECEMBER 2024.

The Writers Lab Canada is for women and nonbinary Canadian screenwriters 40+, produced by the Firecracker Department and The Female Eye Film Festival with The Writers Lab (NYC).

For more information visit [twlstories.org](http://twlstories.org)



the [writers] lab



LETTER  
FROM

# inkcanada

Welcome to the 2024 Female Eye Film Festival, from the grassroots community of Canadian screenwriters and writer-hyphenates of all stripes called, inkcanada. We congratulate this year's featured filmmakers, mavericks and all their supporters on their extraordinary works, and the courageous journeys each undertook to bring us together in Toronto, this year.

The Female Eye Film Festival has long held a unique place in the vast inkcanada community's esteem. Like you, our creators believe that breaking down the many barriers of access for women's and female-identifying perspectives on screens, behind the camera, and throughout the industry is crucial to the quality, diversity and future of cinema globally. That's only possible when we all pull together. Since its inception over twenty years ago, The Female Eye Film Festival has been a rare and potent champion for women who are screenwriters or writer-directors of all stripes.

That's why we are so honoured to join you, applaud you, and celebrate your stories and your allies. You are why we are thrilled to present our first-ever #inkdrinks the Female Eye Film Festival social, in partnership with Paramount+ in Canada. We can't wait to meet you.

Karen Walton

Screenwriter-EP & Founding Admin

inkcanada - canadian screenwriters & friends community

**INKCANADA**  
CANADIAN SCREENWRITERS & FRIENDS



# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

ANNEX HOTEL WINE BAR • 296 Brunswick Ave.

## DAY ONE: SCRIPT READINGS SERIES

The Annex Hotel Wine Bar, 296 Brunswick Ave. (Toronto)  
Thursday, July 18th • 9AM - 5PM

9:30 AM

**Panhandle** written by A.M. Chester.

**Logline:** When the pandemonium of family life with young children collides with an anniversary party and a hurricane simultaneously, Emily grapples with a deep, secret loss that renders her helpless.

**Synopsis:** As she prepares for her parents' 50th anniversary party, Emily struggles with the daily wildness of her three young children and the often funny, yet simultaneously infuriating relationship with her husband. In the middle of her frantic party preparations, when both her family and a hurricane descend upon her beachside home, Emily is hit with a loss so deep yet so secret, she struggles to function. It's a look into a woman's life that makes you question stereotypes, family roles, and what love truly means. Comedic yet poignant, Panhandle takes you through the build-up, landfall, and aftermath of a powerful storm.

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

**Akata** written by Stephanie Obadare & Caroline Gordon-Elliott.

**Logline:** The daughter of immigrant Nigerian parents comes of age in the Bronx believing there are two types of black people: Nigerians, and everyone else.

**Synopsis:** Samantha, an optimistic young woman, who has seen her fair share of life, plunges into depression and contemplates suicide after she fails her first college class. She believes that God saves her from the brink and that God is providing her with a husband, Gabriel, a Nigerian immigrant, living illegally in America. She breaks her vow of sexual abstinence only to find that Gabriel is abusive. Like Akata, which means a lost or wild cat that does not know its way home, Samatha embarks on a journey of self-discovery.

# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

ANNEX HOTEL WINE BAR • 296 Brunswick Ave.



## DAY ONE: SCRIPT READINGS SERIES **CONT.**

**Lunch Break: 11:45 PM - 1:15 PM.**

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

**Bougainvillea** written by Patricia Chica.

**Logline:** When a young Latina bride-to-be is shaken by the sudden encounter with her lost childhood friend, she defies her prearranged life, embarking on a journey toward self-discovery and liberation,

**Synopsis:** Marisol, a 21-year old Latina-Canadian young woman, has decided to get married to her Egyptian, foreign student boyfriend Ramy so she can escape her overbearing conservative family home. As she prepares for her wedding at the lakeside cottage venue where she spent summers as a child, she reconnects with Celeste, her teenage best friend. Celeste now lives alone in the cabin next door. As soon as they see each other again, their chemistry is undeniable, stirring dormant feelings that Marisol was forced to repress 8 years beforehand when her father forbade their friendship.

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**Demon Queen: A Tale of Good and Evil and All In-Between** written by Suri Parmar.

**Logline:** The Devil tricks a carnival jester into marrying her but struggles to convince their wayward child to take her place and rule the world.

**Synopsis:** In a mythical, pre-industrial, symbolic representation of our universe, a pious GIRL (15) trains to be a warrior in the service of GOD. When her family is murdered by bandits, she blames the DEVIL and sets out to destroy him. After killing the Devil, she usurps his power, becoming the DEMON QUEEN. It's a lonely existence so she tricks an amoral jester named FIRST (20's) into marrying her. As the Demon Queen ages, she is unable to fulfill her immortal duties. Desperately, she tries to convince SECOND (her son) to succeed her and become the Demon King, with the fate of the world at stake.



# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

ANNEX HOTEL WINE BAR • 296 Brunswick Ave.

## SCRIPT READINGS SERIES **INDUSTRY GUESTS**



DANIELA SAIONI (WGC, IATSE, ACTRA) is a screenwriter, story editor, punch-up artist, veteran script supervisor and educator. Between her students and clients, she has shepherded the creation of over 100 original screenplays from concept to completion. Apart from her own online programs, she has taught at Pacific Screenwriting Program and ScriptFest PEI, and guest story edited at ReelWorld E20 and FEFF. A Top 1% Coverfly writer with numerous honours including Grand Prize - WE Screenplay Diverse Voices 2021 and both Best Screenplay and Best Fresh Voice at Female Eye Film Festival 2019, she is also proud of the growing list of her alumni achievements. A former stand-up comedian and character actress, her talents are varied, but her mission is singular: change the world, one laugh at a time.



ALLEGRA FULTON is a multi award-winning actor, in film, television, stage, and VO with over 150 credits including THE SHAPE OF WATER, MAPS TO THE STARS, SUITS, FARGO, CASCADE, 19-2, THE GOOD DOCTOR, TITANS, SUPERMAN & LOIS, SCHITTS CREEK, and MOONSHINE among others. Her directing and dramaturgy/script editing work continues to propel her into new arenas. More at [IMDB](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1045744/) [www.allegrafulton.com](http://www.allegrafulton.com)

Facilitated by Lia Cavasotto, Director of Script Development  
Supported by Ontario Creates.



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# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.



## ONTARIO FILMMAKER SERIES (Dramatic Shorts)

Thursday, July 18th • 10AM



**Northened** directed by Un Di Gallo. Two friends spend an endless, muggy summer exploring their industrial neighbourhood. Electrical towers dot the beach and factories loom high above them as they pass the time doing small acts of mischief. Their days are largely cyclical until they encounter a strange event at the beach which threatens to disrupt their friendship and sense of reality forever. (08:15, Animation, 2024, ON, Canada, WP)



**Good Girl** directed by Sunita Miya-Muganza. Halima, a single mother living in a close-knit, East African community in Calgary, is thrust into a precarious situation when she makes a last-minute decision to stop her 13-year-old daughter Salama, from making a trip back to Kenya to be circumcised. Halima knows that choosing to flout tradition may cost her everything: her community, reputation, and way of life. (12:40, Drama, 2023, ON, Canada, NAP)



**Mom** directed by Kate Campbell. A brief yet raw look into a woman's mind and heart as she continues to balance the grief of her two miscarriages. (15:29, Drama, 2024, ON, Canada, TP)



**Treat Day** directed by Lisa Kockeritz. It's "Treat Day" and Deborah has cash in her pocket and a stocked tuck shop in the lobby of her building. Overwhelmed with options, the cashier steers her towards a candy and cassette tape deal. Reunited with music from decades ago, Deborah is joyfully transported back in time. By the end of her journey, we are left to wonder, whose "Treat Day" is it? (11:29, Drama, 2023, ON, Canada, TP)



# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

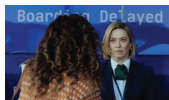
PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.

## ONTARIO FILMMAKER SERIES (Dramatic Shorts) **CONT.**

Thursday, July 18th • 10AM



**Cold** directed by Liz Whitmore. Jane likes things to be clean. Jane has just turned 40. Jane is cold all the time; her skin is grey; her appetite is nonexistent. Something is wrong. Her doctor, her friends, her partner, all tell her it's normal—this happens to women of a certain age. Her friends are showing signs of decay themselves... It's just the reality of The Change. The important thing is not to let yourself go. Jane tries to “fake it till she makes it,” but her body is decomposing at an alarming rate... which is when things really start to fall apart. (20:00, Horror/Comedy, 2023, ON, Canada, TP)



**Sara** directed by Jessica Hinkson. As Sara navigates the stress of her flight being delayed multiple times, a missed call from an unknown number sends her spiralling into distress. Taking refuge in a bar, an unlikely stranger becomes the confessional she didn't know she needed and the support to tackle her diagnosis. (11:00, Drama, 2023, Drama, ON, Canada, TP)



**Mist Me** directed by Karen Kaeja. In a moving painting, the artist searches for her 6-year old self. Amidst childhood traumas and adult treasures, she finds expansive flight in aging. (08:30, Experimental/ Dance, 2023, ON, Canada, CP)

Total Run Time: 1H 29M.

Followed by audience Q & A.

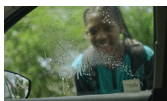
# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.



## ME (Short & Feature Documentary)

Thursday, July 18th • 12:30 PM



**Squeegee Boy** directed by Chun-Wei Hung. In a quest to find belonging and acceptance, a young trans, Asian-American, teenager yearns to become part of a tight-knit group of squeegee boys in the city of Baltimore. But as he navigates the challenges of this gritty urban landscape and grapples with the complexities of his own identity, he discovers that the job demands more than just physical labour; it requires a strength of character and a resilience that he must cultivate from within. (14:23, Coming-of-Age, 2023, ON, Canada, CP)



## FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Hineni** directed by Dar Dowling. In Hebrew, “Hineni” translates to “here I am.” This documentary delves into the journey of Moshe, a trans man, who felt a profound calling to convert to conservative Judaism - and answered it. Featuring rare footage and insightful interviews, the film follows Moshe every step of the way, from his decision to embark on the conversion process to deeply personal moments, including discussions with Rabbis on how to approach circumcision. (44:00, Documentary, 2024, USA, WP)

Total Run Time: 59M. Followed by audience Q & A.

## THE SHIFT (International Shorts)

Thursday, July 18th • 2:30 PM



**What Remains** directed by Edie Steiner. What Remains is a 3-minute video poem addressing the issue of “becoming-with.” What and how do we become-with in a world dominated by technology and spectacle, development and decay? How do bodies figure into constructions of progress and world design? (03:10, Experimental, 2023, ON, Canada, NAP)

World Premiere (WP), North American Premiere (NAP), Canadian Premiere (CP), Ontario Premiere (OP), Toronto Premiere (TP)

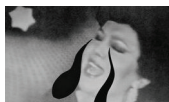


# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.

## THE SHIFT (International Shorts) **CONT.**

Thursday, July 18th • 2:30 PM



**Heideh: A Return** directed by Sara Kazemi-manresh. A short experimental video essay that consists of a series of rotoscoped animation sequences intercut with home video footage excerpts. The film offers glimpses of Hayedeh (1942-1990), the exiled diva of post-revolution Iran, and her constant desire for an impossible return to her homeland. The visual narrative is intercepted by recorded voice-over of personal musings on the concepts of belonging and memory. (04:48, Experimental, 2022, USA, CP)



**The Canadian Dream** directed by Ilse Moreno. A migrant worker's pursuit of 'The Canadian Dream' takes a nightmarish turn as he uncovers an unsightly truth in the Ontarian agricultural industry. (08:48, Documentary, 2024, ON, Canada)



**Blur** directed by Sahra Asadollahi. Following the tragic death of their one-year-old child caught in an attack with the father who is critically wounded and unconscious; a woman borrows a child from a nearby home with the hope that her husband will believe their daughter is still alive and awaken. (14:55, Drama, 2024, Iran, WP)



**250 km** directed by Hasmik Movsisyan. When a war suddenly breaks out, a 14-year-old boy finds himself faced with a decision that could save his family. With no time to think of the consequences, he embarks on a treacherous 250 kilometre journey. (22:30, Drama, 2022, Armenia, TP)

# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.



## THE SHIFT (International Shorts) CONT.

Thursday, July 18th • 2:30 PM



**Above the Desert with No Name** directed by Sonia Sabastian. Twelve year old, Silvia has already witnessed how sexual violence can shape the world around her. After illegally crossing the border with her mother and siblings, old patterns begin to emerge and Silvia finds solace sitting alone on the balcony of their apartment building. (16:20, Drama, 2023, Mexico, WP)



**Voices to Be Heard** directed by Lila Rios. This documentary unveils the current moment that Iran is facing, using point testimonials from Iranian immigrants in Canada as reference. It highlights the humanity felt by people who belong to a country that is experiencing a cultural and radical conflict. (13:00, Documentary, 2023, ON, Canada, WP)

Total Run Time: 1H 23M. Followed by audience Q & A.

## BITTERSWEET FUNNIES (Shorts)

Thursday, July 18th • 4:45 PM



**One Happy Customer** directed by WATTS. Set in the red-light district of a heightened world that mischievously blends live action and animation, One Happy Customer follows the daily routine of an older sex worker: luring clients in, snatching up their cash, and using her special trick to leave them satisfied—and more importantly, to get them out of her hair as quickly as possible. She's listless, even bored. It's business as usual, until one customer—an old, seemingly decrepit man—arrives looking for something more. And he's got a trick or two of his own to impress the woman who's seen it all. (06:20, Animated Comedy/Fantasy/Romance, 2023, USA, CP)

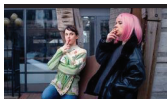


# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.

## BITTERSWEET FUNNIES (Shorts) CONT.

Thursday, July 18th • 4:45 PM



**The Callback** directed by Kara Herold. The Callback is a short comedy about a struggling artist in an out-of-touch film industry. The film blends fiction, animation, humour and poetry to call out an industry where women are underrepresented and underwritten. (13:13, Comedy, 2024, USA, WP)



**Panties** directed by Marissa Emmanuelle Velez. PANTIES is a provocative short film about a woman's relationship with this essential piece of clothing. (03:40, Short Documentary, 2024, NAP)



**& Other Concerns** directed by Sabina Olivia Lambert. Elizabeth (33) finds herself trapped in a surreal escape room. The timing couldn't be worse since she's already jumpy about her big day tomorrow. One by one, her three closest friends show up but instead of helping her, they're more concerned with bickering about her life choices. When Elizabeth solves the final riddle without them and is knocked unconscious, her friends learn they need to work together if they're all going to make it out alive. (16:56, Drama/ Fantasy, 2023, USA, CP)



**Slut** directed by Cate Fogarty. After being diagnosed with herpes, a young woman's shame taunts her before her big date. (08:16, Dramedy, 2022, USA, CP)



**When you know you...know?** directed by Katie Uhlmann. This film follows three individuals whose lives are ruined through social media in a fun and dark exploration of "Instagram vs reality". (12:58, Dramedy, 2023, ON, Canada, OP)

# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.



## BITTERSWEET FUNNIES (Shorts) CONT.

Thursday, July 18th • 4:45 PM



**Potato** directed by Birgitta Liljedahl. When Mother 1 (46) struggles with a tired body, a failed bun-baking project, and hopeless over-aged children, Lisa (22) and Dennis (64), conflicts soon escalate beyond what's accepted by The State of Sweden. The doorbell rings. And The Inspector enters, providing The State's quality solution: a shining, new Mother 2 (27). POTATO is an absurd, socially critical comedy that takes place in a future closer than we would like. (14:29, Experimental/ Dramey, 2024, Sweden, CP)

Total Run Time: 1H 15M. Followed by audience Q & A.

## (Foreign Short & Feature)

Thursday, July 18th • 7 PM



**The Day** directed by Noora Mohaghegh. An elder sister eagerly awaits her little brother's return, following his circumcision. When family and friends congregate at the family home to celebrate her brother's manhood, the girl gets her period and is banned from entering the ceremony. (05:58, Drama, 2023, Iran, NAP)



## FEATURE PRESENTATION

**The Goat** directed by Ilaria Borrelli. Hadyia, a pregnant eleven year old orphan, escapes from her village after having been forced into marriage. She takes the road to freedom alone with her goat, whose milk she will use to survive. The Goat explores complex themes of human nature, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of the human soul. (01:33:00, Drama, 2023, Iran, NAP)

Total Run Time: 1H 36M. Followed by audience Q & A.



# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

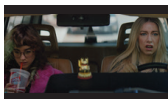
PARADISE THEATRE • 1006c Bloor St., W.

## AT THEIR BEST (North American Short & Feature)

Thursday, July 18th • 9:45 PM



**Have a Good Day** directed by Lisa Soper. Horror writer Jodi Sloan (LUCY DAVIS) battles creative block by exploring gripping ideas, only to discard them in absurd ways. On one particularly uninspired day, Ben, (ERIC JOHNSON) her overly optimistic mailman interrupts her solitary routine, delivering not only her mail but also a cup of tea, eerily tailored to her tastes. Despite Jodi's discomfort, she engages in awkward yet polite conversation, mirroring the contrived nature of her writing. As night falls, a sinister masked figure lurks outside. (27:38, Comedy/ Horror, 2024, ON, Canada, TP)



### FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Sour Party** directed by Amanda Drexton and Michael A. Drexton. Gwen and James are two broke, self-absorbed, emotionally stunted 30-somethings, eking their way through a meager LA existence. They've tried everything to get rich quick, playing the victims all the way. To save face in front of family, Gwen and James set out on a twisted road trip across Los Angeles in an attempt to collect on "debts." They encounter an array of frenemies, failed artists, toxic males, and one supernatural being on their quest. What begins as a journey to confront the ghosts of their pasts quickly shifts gears as Gwen and James realize maybe they're not the victims after all - maybe they've just been throwing themselves a sour party. (01:24:22, Comedy, 2023, USA, CP)

Total Run Time: 1H 55M.

Followed by audience Q & A.



# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

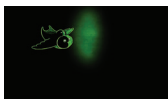
TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



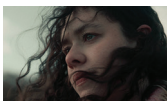
## MOTHERS & SUCH (Shorts and Gala Feature)

### OPENING CEREMONY

Thursday, July 18th • 7PM



**Two One Two: Deux Un Duex** directed by Shira Avni. Two One Two by award-winning filmmaker Shira Avni combines shimmering clay on glass animation with personal archives in this deeply intimate, experimental documentary love letter to motherhood, parenting on the spectrum, and two headed monsters everywhere. (04:10, Animation/ Experimental/ Documentary, Montreal, Quebec, 2023)



**Something Else** directed by Martha Treves. Faced with the sudden disappearance of her beloved Shadow, Judith calls upon her estranged daughter Lily to return home and help her with the search but when Judith gets a devastating call from a local farmer, Lily is forced to face up to her mother's grief and come to terms with her own. (14:30, Drama, United Kingdom, NAP)



**The Moon Shows the Way** directed by Sezimai Mairambek kyzy and Uuljan Zainidinova. A day in the small village of Kyzyl-Korgon passes quietly as 18-year-old Akylai rushes to school. Since childhood, she has dreamed of freedom, of the big city. When her parents announce matchmakers will come for Akylai, an event occurs that will forever change the life of the entire family. The Moon Shows the Way was produced as part of the "Alternativa Teen Lab", a laboratory that helps teenagers talk about complex and pressing issues through cinematography. (19:40, Drama, Kyrgyzstan, 2023, CP)



# THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## OPENING CEREMONY CONT.

Thursday, July 18th • 7PM

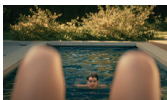


**One for Sorrow, Two for Joy** directed by Ana Yang. The second-child policy has been passed and Qin Ling finds herself pregnant and pressured to have the child in hopes of a boy, who will pass on the family line. Her daughter Yimeng, 16, concerned for her mother's wellbeing, rebels when she receives visitations from a little boy who she believes is her unborn brother. (19:40, Experimental Drama, China, 2022, CP)



**Sally, Get the Potatoes** directed by Danicah Waldo. A little girl's innocence is shattered when she takes an unexpected ride in her wealthy family's rolling laundry cart and learns their dark secrets. (16:34, Coming of Age Drama, United States, 2024, CP)

Intermission: 10 minutes.



## GALA FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Katie's Mom** directed by Tyrrell Shaffner. A recent divorcee's holiday celebration with her adult children derails when she falls for her daughter's charming new boyfriend. A comedy influenced by "The Graduate" told from the perspective of a protagonist inspired by Mrs. Robinson. Katie's Mom is loosely based on co-writer, producer, Meryl Branch-McTiernan's ex-boyfriend, who had an affair with a recently divorced mother while simultaneously dating her college-aged daughter. Dina Meyer as Nancy Rosenfeld delivers a nuanced and compelling performance. This love triangle represents an extreme example of that battle between logic and passion. A real treat as Tyrrell handles this taboo twist with eloquence and grace. Starring Dina Meyer, Julia Tolchin, Jason Wiles, Colin Bates and Shannon Dee. (1:53:00, Dramedy, United States, 2023, CP)

Total Run Time: 3H 46M. Followed by audience Q & A.

# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

ANNEX HOTEL WINE BAR • 296 Brunswick Ave.



## DAY TWO: SCRIPT READINGS SERIES

The Annex Hotel Wine Bar, 296 Brunswick Ave. (Toronto)  
Friday, July 19th • 9AM - 5PM

9:10 AM - 10:10 AM

**Citizen Blob** written by KJ Carter.

**Logline:** A darkly comic, sci-fi 50's, film noir horror, where Citizen Kane meets the Blob. A Faustian tale of Bob Smith, a frustrated accountant who gets entangled in nefarious dealings with his employers, the evil Octo Brothers.

**Synopsis:** CITIZEN BLOB takes place in a parallel world where hard-working accountant, Bob Smith, is overlooked for yet another promotion, after he saves millions of dollars for the company that he works for, with the help of his sweet but meek colleague Constance Evered. Frustrated, Bob vows to get ahead at any cost, which triggers a strange blue Blob to infect him. The Blob helps Bob command attention; his bosses—the Octo Brothers promote him. Bob enters a corrupt world of secrets, lies, and politics, where money is exchanged for favours that grease the wheels of the coal and oil industry, with little concern for safety or the public good. Are the Octo Brothers greedy, morally bankrupt industrialists or is there more to them than meets the eye? And what exactly is the Blob and who or what does it ultimately serve?

10:25 AM - 11:25 AM

**Nina's 80's** written by Christine Rodriguez.

**Logline:** In 1980's Montreal, Nina, a Black-mixed-race teen, who loves disco, funk and roller skating, is a pariah at her suburban high school until she discovers Cleo's Castle where all the cool Black teens gather every Saturday night to escape their everyday troubles.

**Synopsis:** Eager to escape the predominantly White suburb where she lives, mixed-race Nina is thrilled when she comes across Cleo's Castle, a roller rink where all the cool Black and mixed-race teens in Montreal hang out. However, she soon learns that she has to prove that she belongs; she has to earn the respect of Black peers who come from various neighbourhoods in the city and a diversity of socio-economic realities.



# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

ANNEX HOTEL WINE BAR • 296 Brunswick Ave.

## DAY TWO: SCRIPT READINGS SERIES **CONT.**

10:25 AM - 11:25 AM

**Nina's 80's** written by Christine Rodriguez.

**Synopsis cont.:** Desperate to fit in, Nina finds the courage to stand up to bullies by participating in the Skate Off so she can erase all doubt about where she belongs. While she forms lasting bonds, she also has to deal with some of the problems that plague the community, providing a look at contemporary issues through the nostalgic lens of disco, funk and roller skating's golden age.

11:40 AM - 12:40 PM

**How Deep is Your Love** written by Gillian Smith.

**Logline:** The exploration and introspection of an unlikely marriage between Casey - a man struggling with his sexuality, and his best friend Angie - a woman dealing with the effects of sexual abuse as a child.

**Synopsis:** Best friends, Casey and Angie, marry in a time and place wherein their love and their personal stories are not accepted. Through a series of drunken events the night they meet, Casey and Angie admit their deepest, darkest secrets to one another: Angie struggles with substance abuse due to molestation as a child; Casey is gay. Revealing their secrets to each other creates a lasting bond that results in marriage. Wedlock, a move, and their newborn child Maggie, force the couple to reflect on the ties that bind and the answer to their lurking demons once and for all.

**Lunch Break: 12:40 PM - 2:10 PM.**

2:10 PM - 3:10 PM

**The Knife Thrower's Assistant** written by Joyce Kline.

**Logline:** When a mysterious target girl is hired by the arrogant knife thrower in a Depression-era truck circus, their romance leads to an unimaginable act of desperation.

# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

ANNEX HOTEL WINE BAR • 296 Brunswick Ave.



## DAY TWO: SCRIPT READINGS SERIES CONT.

2:10 PM - 3:10 PM

**The Knife Thrower's Assistant** written by Joyce Kline.

**Synopsis:** At the height of the Great Depression, desperate runaway Lola sneaks into a travelling truck circus where she learns egotistical knife thrower Zoltan needs a new target girl. Lola fakes experience and Zoltan hires her, out of desperation. Her creativity and onstage charisma soon challenge his supremacy. Despite this, he becomes smitten with his enigmatic, new assistant. Though equally attracted to him, Lola keeps her distance, refusing to surrender to his charms or reveal anything of her troubled past. As tensions mount between them, Zoltan uncovers the dark secret she's been hiding, only to be brought down by Lola's final unimaginable act.

3:25 PM - 4:25 PM

**Jupiter** written by Elise Kibler.

**Logline:** A work-averse, gold-digging millennial and a prickly, well-off senior embark on a self-serving scheme to convince his gated golf community they are grandfather and granddaughter.

**Synopsis:** In order to maintain their respective - though deeply limiting - status-quo's, a gold-digging, work-averse young woman and a prickly, well-off senior bachelor find themselves unlikely collaborators in a self-serving scheme to convince his gated golf community that they're granddaughter and grandfather.

Over the course of the series, they disrupt each other's lives in almost every way imaginable - forcing a reckoning within themselves and each other. A messy, funny, slapsticky, sexy, druggy, begrudgingly heart-felt journey (and naturally a million hijinks) to rediscover their sense of curiosity about the world and their place in it, ensues.



# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

ANNEX HOTEL WINE BAR • 296 Brunswick Ave.

## SCRIPT READINGS SERIES **INDUSTRY GUESTS**



DANIELA SAIONI (WGC, IATSE, ACTRA) is a screenwriter, story editor, punch-up artist, veteran script supervisor and educator. Between her students and clients, she has shepherded the creation of over 100 original screenplays from concept to completion. Apart from her own online programs, she has taught at Pacific Screenwriting Program and ScriptFest PEI, and guest story edited at ReelWorld E20 and FEFF. A Top 1% Coverfly writer with numerous honours including Grand Prize - WE Screenplay Diverse Voices 2021 and both Best Screenplay and Best Fresh Voice at Female Eye Film Festival 2019, she is also proud of the growing list of her alumni achievements. A former stand-up comedian and character actress, her talents are varied, but her mission is singular: change the world, one laugh at a time.



ALLEGRA FULTON is a multi award-winning actor, in film, television, stage, and VO with over 150 credits including THE SHAPE OF WATER, MAPS TO THE STARS, SUITS, FARGO, CASCADE, 19-2, THE GOOD DOCTOR, TITANS, SUPERMAN & LOIS, SCHITTS CREEK, and MOONSHINE among others. Her directing and dramaturgy/script editing work continues to propel her into new arenas. More at [IMDB](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1045744/) [www.allegrafulton.com](http://www.allegrafulton.com)

Facilitated by Lia Cavasotto, Director of Script Development  
Supported by Ontario Creates.



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# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



## FIGHT OF OUR LIVES

### (International Short Drama & Feature Documentary)

Friday, July 19th • 11AM



**Hemorrhage** directed by Ella Lentini. A young woman must travel from Georgia to Virginia to get an abortion. When she starts to hemorrhage in a state that has criminalized abortion, she must decide whether to race back across state lines to safety or risk arrest in an emergency room. (21:25, Drama, 2024, United States, WP)



### FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Rebelled/ Rebeladas** directed by Andrea Gautier and Tabatta Salinas. On March 8th, International Women's Day, the world mobilizes to raise its voice against sexist violence. *Rebelled* features a group of Mexican female filmmakers who meet to tell their story. In the 1970's, they created the *Collectivo Cine Mujer* (Women's Cinema Collective) as political activists, laying the foundation of a feminist cinema. Their films addressed issues of gender violence, rape, femicide, abortion and discrimination in the workplace; ongoing issues that still plague Mexico. Marked by the Revolution of 1968 and the second wave of feminism, these pioneers witnessed how the issues they addressed 40 years ago remain unresolved. (1:22:25, Documentary, 2023, Mexico, CP)

Total Run Time: 2H 5M. Followed by audience Q & A.

## ON THE FRINGE

### (International Shorts and Feature Documentary)

Friday, July 19th • 2:30 PM



**It Will Pass Away** directed by Nan Yao. Following the end of a relationship, a woman's amplified emotions while in the throes of insomnia touch subtle voices. (14:30, Animation, 2023, China, WP)



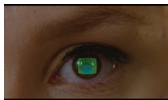
# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## ON THE FRINGE

### (International Shorts and Feature Documentary) **Cont.**

Friday, July 19th • 2:30 PM



**Repeat, Reverse** directed by Shuyue Su. A woman becomes aware of the tedious and meaningless daily routine of her life in an all-women work place that serves as a visual metaphor to self-perception under duress. (02:36, *Experimental*, 2023, United States, CP)



**Discordia** directed by Rowan Gray. A gymnast develops a mysterious disorder that prevents her from competing. Shot on 16mm, *Discordia* is a visual interpretation of the feeling and frustration that comes with wanting something that exists outside the bounds of your ability. (09:39, *Drama*, 2023, Winnipeg, MB, OP)



**White Noise** directed by Tamara Scherbak. Ava's debilitating hyper-sensitivity to sound is becoming unlivable. Her doctor's prescription of exposure therapy backfires as she descends into a fit of panic in class and collapses in a park when bombarded by ambient noise. When her attempt at suicide fails, her doctor enrolls her in an experimental trial involving an anechoic chamber: the world's quietest room. In this soundless space, her euphoria quickly mutates into madness when she hears the inner workings of her own body. (16:54, *Psychological Thriller*, 2023, Montreal, Quebec, TP)



**3 EASY STEPS** directed by Paige Henderson. A woman with debilitating ADHD embarks on a self-help journey to the woods but things take a dark turn when she manifests another version of herself. (16:39, *Dramedy/horror*, 2024, United States, WP)



# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

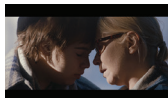
TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



## ON THE FRINGE

### (International Shorts and Feature Documentary) **Cont.**

Friday, July 19th • 2:30 PM



#### FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Just Hear Me Out** directed by Malgorzata Imielska. Gosia's schizophrenia has kept her away from home for most of her adolescence.

After 7 years in and out of mental health facilities, she returns to her family and friends. All Gosia wants is a chance at ordinary life, just like any other young woman, but inner voices threaten her and her loved ones at every turn. *Just Hear Me Out* provides a rare glimpse into a rare and much misunderstood illness and its debilitating impact on those afflicted with the illness and their family. (01:13:00, Documentary, 2023, Poland, NAP)

Total Run Time: 2H 31M.

Followed by audience Q & A.

## THE DREAM (Foreign Dramatic Short & Feature)

Friday, July 19th • 6:30 PM



**Chicken Girl** directed by Em Humble. After having an aneurysm at a Jack and the Beanstalk panto in 2006, *Chicken Girl* can't get golden eggs off her brain. With the assistance of

her "better half" Gary, *Chicken Girl* is loving her chickens to death. Inspired by *Grey Gardens*, *This Country*, and *What We Do in the Shadows*, this mockumentary follows a deranged couple on their journey to gold. (09:17, Comedy, 2023, United Kingdom, NAP)

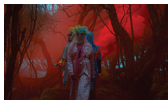


# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## THE DREAM (Foreign Dramatic Short & Feature) **Cont.**

Friday, July 19th • 6:30 PM



### FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Den siste våren / Sister, What Grows Where Land is Sick?** directed by Franciska Eliassen.

From a small Northern Norway town, Eira tries to navigate the world around her brilliant and rebellious older sister, Vera, in a quest to better understand her. When Eira reads Vera's diary, she enters a universe imbued with intense light, glitter and mythology with hope for a more beautiful world until Vera's diary reveals darkness and rage that Eira did not foresee. (1:20:00, Drama/ Coming of age/ Magic Realism, 2022, Norway, CP)

Total Run Time: 1H 52M. Followed by audience Q & A.

## LATE NIGHT THRILLS & CHILLS (Shorts)

Friday, July 19th • 9:30 PM



**Measure** directed by Helen Simmons & Julia Cranney. When Jen takes her autistic son to a children's birthday party in her hometown, the horror of her own youth catches up with her. A stark exploration

of the effects of long-term internalised trauma caused by invisible disability, Measure takes a unique look at the social and sensory experiences of high-masking autistic women who have been white-knuckling their way through life. (13:51, Horror, 2023, United Kingdom, CP)



**Just Grand** directed by J. Christian Hamilton. A bizarre encounter in 1969 with a beautiful and frightening stalker has a ricochet effect into the present day, where a young woman grieves the

loss of her grandmother. "Just Grand" uses experimental elements to explore intergenerational hauntings while evoking a nostalgic feeling for the period. (05:00, Thriller, 2024, Canada, CP)

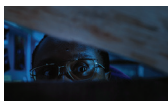
# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



## LATE NIGHT THRILLS & CHILLS (Shorts) **Cont.**

Friday, July 19th • 9:30 PM



**The Flacalta Effect** directed by Rochée Jeffrey. Two Black sisters find themselves in the fight for their lives - and looks - when the newest anti-aging drug has the inadvertent side-effect of causing the zombie apocalypse. *The Flacalta Effect* is a pitch-perfect satire about the unyielding pressure that Black women face when trying to navigate the rigid standards of toxic beauty culture. (07:50, Horror/Comedy, 2024, United States, CP)



**Rasch und mit Feuer** directed by Mia Watanabe Miller. When Aria Choi secures a rare audition for the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra amid a worsening case of chronic bronchitis, her grandmother offers her a cure in the form of exotic meats. As her condition escalates and the audition nears, will Aria become increasingly willing to blur the lines of what she consumes in order to live up to her grandmother's expectations and achieve her own dreams? At once gruesome and elegant, *Rasch und mit Feuer* uses cooking and classical music to explore loss, intergenerational familial relationships, and the pressure to succeed. (15:40, Thriller, 2023, United States, CP)



**TOOTH** directed by Jillian Corsie. Brushing, flossing, picking, gargling, whitening - from the daily grind of dental hygiene, the tooth revolution begins. Using a blend of 3D-animation and puppets made from real teeth, Jillian Corsie's *TOOTH* takes a wild and nightmarishly funny jab at the forced perfection of modern beauty standards, wondering what might happen if our teeth could push back. (04:32, Comedy, 2022, United States, TP)



# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## LATE NIGHT THRILLS & CHILLS (Shorts) **Cont.**

Friday, July 19th • 9:30 PM



**Ethixxx of Desire** directed by Larena Danielle Winn and Marcella Elyse Winn. A new dominatrix faces a moral dilemma, when her client asks her to castrate him. (07:45, Comedy, 2023, United States, WP)

United States, WP)



**Mermaid** directed by Ginger Gonzaga. Relocating the story of "The Little Mermaid" to the world of reality tv and extreme plastic surgery, Isla exchanges her voice for a head-to-toe makeover with a disturbed plastic surgeon in order to improve her chances of finding her dream man on "The Prince!". In a return to the dark origins of fairy tales, Mermaid is a cautionary tale of the very real consequences and regrets that can come from believing that internal happiness can only be achieved through external conformity. (19:08, Horror/Comedy, 2023, United States, CP)



**3pm Thursdays** directed by Michèle Kaye. A dancer's afternoon shift at a dive bar takes an unexpected turn. Well-choreographed and gory, Michèle Kaye's 3pm Thursdays is a fresh take on body horror that asks, in a world where female bodies are still so often objectified through a voyeuristic male gaze, what blood is acceptable and what blood is not? (06:23, Horror, 2023, Canada, OP)

# FRIDAY, JULY 19TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



## LATE NIGHT THRILLS & CHILLS (Shorts) **Cont.**

Friday, July 19th • 9:30 PM

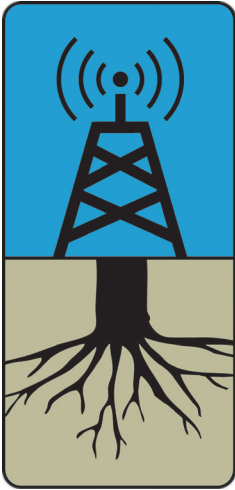


**Olga's Eyes** directed by Sarah Carlot Jaber. Olga is a music-loving octogenarian who is tired of killing humans. Could it be the vampire blues? When her daughter places her in a care home for those who have “one foot in the grave”, Olga embarks on a journey to rediscover her lust for (taking) life. *Olga's Eyes* is a witty and stylish take on the undead featuring a female protagonist of an age rarely seen in horror cinema. (22:08, Horror/Comedy, 2023, Belgium, CP)

Total Run Time: 2H 16M.

Followed by audience Q & A.





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# PROUD TO PLAY A SUPPORTING ROLE



Ontario Creates celebrates Ontario talent in front of the camera and behind-the-scenes at the Female Eye Film Festival.

Clockwise from top left: *Queen Tut*, *Fitting In*, *We Forgot To Break-Up*, *I Used To Be Funny*, *North of Normal*

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[ontariocreates.ca](http://ontariocreates.ca)





# SATURDAY, JULY 20TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## COMING-OF-AGE (International Shorts)

Saturday, July 20th • 9:45 AM



**The Sun That Flew Away** directed by Ania Jamila. Lidia and her young daughter Solomiia seek a ray of hope to send back to Kyiv, their Ukrainian homeland, which they fled during the war, leaving behind Lidia's husband/ Solomiia's father and Solomiia's beloved toys. Portrayed by real life characters, Lidia and Solomiia arrived in Ontario, Canada as Ukrainian refugees. (04:53, Drama, 2023, ON, Canada, CP)



**A Private Message** directed by Amen Baran Sahraei. Based on a true story. Rana, a young girl, mistakenly sends a nude photo of herself to her father and finds her life in peril. (14:50, Drama, 2022, Iran, CP)



**Piecht** directed by Luka Lara Steffen. For 17-year-old Johanna, a vacation in the idyllic countryside of Piecht is anything but relaxing. While her mother dreams of an ecological alternative to city life, a real nightmare unfolds for Johanna when she confronts the far-right, close-knitted community and encounters brutal resistance. (29:57, LGBTQIA+ drama, 2023, Germany, TP)



**swim and float** directed by Janina Lutter. When Mila learns that her best friend is going to have sex for the first time, she panics and organizes a sleepover with a former childhood schoolmate, Jonas. As the two become closer, Mila realizes that she is not ready for this kind of intimacy. (16:45, Drama, 2024, Germany, NAP)



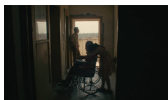
# SATURDAY, JULY 20TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

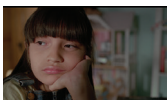


## COMING-OF-AGE (International Shorts) **Cont.**

Saturday, July 20th • 9:45 AM



**First Last Month** directed by Elena Vatamanu-Mărgineanu. Doina, a 12-year-old girl, has her first period on the day that her grandmother has a stroke. When Doina's dad considers taking her grandmother to a nursing home, Doina has to prove to him that she is woman enough to take care of her. (21:18, Drama, 2024, Poland, WP)



**We'll See Each other In the Distance/A la distancia nos vemos** directed by Jocelyn Lopez Cárdenas. Seven year old Jimena lives with her mother, who is confined under lock and key. The girl, fed up with her virtual monotony, discovers an unexpected friendship from her window. (14:38, Drama, 2023, Mexico, NAP)

Total Run Time: 2H. Followed by audience Q & A.

## NEW WORLD (Canadian Short and Feature)

Saturday, July 20th • 12:45 PM



**Les Lavandières** directed by Laura Kamugisha. In this visual essay, strung along a clothesline, a narrator named Lavender tells the story of her mother, Jeanne, a Rwandese immigrant filled with hope. (04:06, Experimental, 2023, Montréal, Québec, OP)



**FEATURE PRESENTATION**  
**Banned (AKA Hysteria)** directed by Reem Morsi. Three Muslim families experience different phases of ethnic cleansing where their neighbours play a part in their survival or demise. (01:33:00, Drama, 2023, Toronto, Canada, WP)

Total Run Time: 2H. Followed by audience Q & A.



# SATURDAY, JULY 20TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

Saturday, July 20th • 4PM - 5:30 PM  
VIP and All Access Pass Holder's, FREE

## **FEMALE EYE BEST IN THE BIZ, MAVERICK TRIBUTE** 2024 Honorary Mavericks: Founders and CoProducers, Elizabeth Kaiden and Nitza Wilon, The Writers Lab (NYC).

Join us for an intimate conversation with Elizabeth Kaiden & Nitza Wilon, Co-founders of The Writers Lab (NYC) for women and non-binary screenwriters, age 40+. The Writers Lab is the New York based, not-for-profit contest and incubator, supported by Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman.

The Female Eye Best in the Biz Honorary Maverick Tribute and Award exemplifies innovation, creativity and perseverance in the film and television industry. This year, it is given in recognition of two women who have blazed a unique and enduring trail in their own careers and in support of women through the The Writers Lab, the only program in the world devoted exclusively to script and career development for women and non binary writers over the age of 40. The Writers Lab is currently celebrating its 10th edition. We are delighted to present Elizabeth and Nitza with their Honorary Maverick Award!



Elizabeth Kaiden is The Writers Lab contest and organization operations manager. She served as Head of Development at Tangerine Entertainment, mentored for Stowe Story Labs, was a prolific theatre and film critic, and is a graduate of Princeton and the Yale School of Drama.



Nitza Wilon leads communications, retreat design and community programming at the Writers Lab. Her advocacy for women screenwriters originated in her years as an actor, journalist, & magazine and book editor. She earned her BA from the Annenberg School at UPenn.

Facilitated by Leslie-Ann Coles, FeFF Founder, Artistic and Executive Director. Supported by Ontario Creates



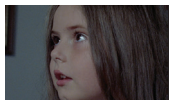
# SATURDAY, JULY 20TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



## FEARFUL FAMILIALS (Canadian Short and Feature)

Saturday, July 20th • 6:30 PM



**Mother's Skin** directed by Leah Johnston. Newfoundland, 1971. A neglected six-year-old girl struggles to cope with her mother's depression and her father's alcoholic rage. She spends her days alone, fending for herself, as her father works and her mother sleeps. At night, violence erupts around her, threatening to tear her family apart. But when the girl discovers a secret hidden within their home, her dysfunctional world takes on a strange new meaning. (19:30, Drama, 2022, Halifax, NS, OP)



### FEATURE PRESENTATION

**The Dogs** directed by Valerie Buhagiar. Cameron Weaver and his mother Katherine settle in an old farmhouse in a small rural town to escape an abuser. There, Cameron meets Jacky - a boy who appears to be from the 1960s - and discovers the farmhouse has a dark past, including the death of its former owners. Is it all in his head? Cameron, unable to shake the visions, attempts to solve the mystery and a murder - ultimately, uncovering the truth about his own disturbing past.

The Dogs is a complex hybrid drama/suspense/ ghost story. Woven throughout is the horror of intimate partner abuse that parallels the lives of two young boys whose friendship evolves from their shared trauma. Based on the novel by Allan Stratton, adapted by Sheila Rogerson and Anthony Artibello. Distributed by Wild Media Entertainment. (2023, 01:36:00, Suspense Drama, BC, Canada, WP)

Total Run Time: 2H 23M.

Followed by audience Q & A.



# SATURDAY, JULY 20TH

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## LATE NIGHT THRILLS & CHILLS (USA Short & Feature)

Saturday, July 20th • 9:45 PM



**Leaving Yellowstone** directed by Kayla Arend.

Tessa is excited to visit her new boyfriend Mark's cabin in Yellowstone, but what starts as a romantic winter weekend away quickly takes a turn as Mark's behaviour begins to change. As he becomes increasingly frightening and violent, Tessa realises she doesn't really know him at all. Unfortunately inspired by a true story and the lack of assistance available to survivors of violence in a society that frequently protects dangerous men, Leaving Yellowstone uses Nature as an accomplice to rewrite justice into a narrative that too often goes unpunished in real life. (22:44, Horror/Thriller, 2022, United States, CP)



### FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Somnium** directed by Racheal Cain. When

Gemma moves to LA to chase her dreams of acting, she takes a survival job at an experimental sleep clinic where all is not as it seems. As she begins to unravel the mysteries of the clinic, she becomes increasingly unsure of which horrors are real and which are in her mind. With dreamy, nostalgic cinematography and art direction, Somnium is an unnerving yet ultimately uplifting film about facing your fears and finding the strength to believe in yourself when others do not. (01:32:20, Horror/Thriller Sci Fi, 2023, United States, CP)

Total Run Time: 2H 18M.

Followed by audience Q & A.

# SUNDAY, JULY 21ST

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL • 370 King St. W.



**VIP AWARDS CEREMONY & BRUNCH** • By Invitation Only  
Sunday, July 21st • 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

*Awards are presented for Best Films and Screenplays.  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Regency Room A*

## THE WRITERS LAB MASTERCLASS

with FeFF Honorary Mavericks, Elizabeth Kaiden & Nitza Wilon  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Regency Room B • 12PM - 2PM

The *First Pages* masterclass is presented by the FeFF Honorary Mavericks, Elizabeth Kaiden and Nitza Wilon, co-founders of The Writers Lab for women and non binary screenwriters, age 40+. The Writers Lab is the New York based, not-for-profit contest and incubator, supported by Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman.

You've heard that when you submit to a contest, you'd better have nailed your opening pages. Well, it's true because... to truly nail those first pages, you must have nailed the rest of your story. Join Elizabeth & Nitza, co-founders of The Writers Lab, to walk through what the opening pages say to a reader about the writer, the story, and where it will go. They'll delve into micro- craft issues as well as macro- story issues and show you how it all weaves together to make a script pop.



Elizabeth Kaiden is The Writers Lab contest and organization operations manager. She served as Head of Development at Tangerine Entertainment, mentored for Stowe Story Labs, was a prolific theatre and film critic, and is a graduate of Princeton and the Yale School of Drama.



Nitza Wilon leads communications, retreat design and community programming at the Writers Lab. Her advocacy for women screenwriters originated in her years as an actor, journalist, & magazine and book editor. She earned her BA from the Annenberg School at UPenn.

Facilitated by Elizabeth Kaiden and Nitza Wilon  
Supported by Ontario Creates



# SUNDAY, JULY 21ST

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## ASCENSION (Shorts & Feature Documentary)

Sunday, July 21st • 12PM



**Rise** directed by Bridget Farr. Filmed during an artist's residency in the Puntarenas region of Costa Rica, Rise flows to the rhythm of dreams. A woman's soul is awakened by the jungle and begins a journey guided by the wisdom of nature and her soul. (02:00, Experimental. 2023, Ottawa, Canada, OP)



**The Shadow of Dawn** directed by Olga Stalav. An incorporeal Shadow takes up a dangerous adventure through a mystical forest, fancy castle and dream world to save her frivolous owner from a cursed Beast. (14:54, Puppet Animation, 2024, Estonia, CP)



**FEATURE PRESENTATION**  
**Three (Extra)Ordinary Women** directed by Cionin Lorenzo and Pearlette Ramos. Through captivating images of Mount Kilimanjaro and eye-catching animation, Three (Extra)Ordinary Women tells the personal stories of three women of colour who have collectively overcome poverty, abuse, systemic racism, and political occupation through practicing forgiveness, helping others and immersing themselves in nature. As they brave their biggest physical obstacle yet – climbing Mount Kilimanjaro - trekking up Africa's tallest peak through arctic temperatures and some of the highest altitude on the planet, they discover they still have emotional hurdles to climb. (01:32:00, Documentary, 2024, USA, CP)

Total Run Time: 2H 11M.

Followed by audience Q & A.

# SUNDAY, JULY 21ST

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



## WHAT REMAINS (International Shorts)

Sunday, July 21st • 3:30 PM



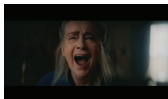
**Lei** directed by Huiru Shi. A seamstress, Yokai, tormented by her dreams, navigates a literal and symbolic maze to confront the creature and free herself from the psychological labyrinth that mirrors her inner struggles. Lei is a symbolic journey that represents the complex struggle many face when dealing with mental health issues and provides a metaphoric perspective on self-doubt and existential fear. (11:59, Sci-fi / Fantasy / Thriller, 2024, Toronto, Canada, WP)



**Statu Quo Chouchou (Favourite Only Child)** directed by Juliette Poitras. Fanny keeps quiet: she does not want to be a bother. (09:51, Experimental Drama, 2023, Montréal, Québec,)



**The Ornament** directed by Jinjara Mitchell. A seemingly innocent, holiday homework assignment transforms into a heart-wrenching test for 9-year-old Tessa, forcing her to confront the ultimate decision: disclose the painful truth about her abusive mother or continue to perpetuate the lies she's expected to tell. (15:00, Drama, 2023, Canada, WP)



**Age of Consent** directed by Katherine Gauthier and Ben Sanders. Héloïse lives a vibrant, independent life in spite of her advanced age and her deteriorating memory. When a shocking intrusion shakes up her reality, her adult children are left with a conundrum: how can you trust someone who can't trust themselves? When the mind betrays you, how do you maintain agency over your own body? 75-year-old Margaret Lamarre gives a wrenching and revelatory performance, opposite Stratford star Maeve Beaty (Beau is Afraid) and Order of Canada recipient Peter Hinton-Davis. (12:58, Drama, 2023, Toronto, Canada, TP)



# SUNDAY, JULY 21ST

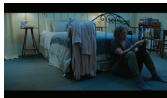
TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4

## WHAT REMAINS (International Shorts) **Cont.**

Sunday, July 21st • 3:30 PM



**The Complaint** directed by Maria Trevis. Hard-working mum, Katy, is frustrated with the institution responsible for her future career and is determined to take her formal complaint to the top, to the Complaints Officer. Through a bizarre and archaic turn of events, the world she knows unravels around her, causing her to question her reality. (10:35, Drama, 2024, United Kingdom, WP)



**The Moth** directed by Charlene Fisk. Maeve, an aging recluse whose only companion is her late dog's ashes, finds solace in the orderliness of her home and the quietness of her solitary life. However, her peace is disrupted when a rogue clothing moth infiltrates her sanctuary. (12:59, Drama, 2023, USA, NAP)



**The Storm** directed by Wendi Tang. In late September 2008, Xiaomin, class president in her elementary school graduating class, is reported by her classmates to have been seen consorting with street hooligans outside the school. Facing questions from people she trusts most in the world, she must challenge the idea of what she really wants. (16:28, Drama, 2022, China, CP)



**WUSS** directed by Nadine Wilson. Abandoned by his father, young Zach struggles with feelings of loss and self-blame. Despite his mother's encouragement to express his emotions, Zach shies away, convinced that crying reflects weakness. At least that's what Daddy says. However, when his cherished cat goes missing, he embarks on a relentless journey to find his beloved pet. (13:29, Drama, 2023, United Kingdom, CP)

Total Run Time: 2H 11M. Followed by audience Q & A.

World Premiere (WP), North American Premiere (NAP), Canadian Premiere (CP), Ontario Premiere (OP), Toronto Premiere (TP)



# SUNDAY, JULY 21ST

TIFF LIGHTBOX • 350 King St. W. Cinema 4



## CLOSING GALA FEATURE

Sunday, July 21st • 7PM



**Perséphone** directed by Emilie Racine. Created in the form of a palimpsest between mythical references and personal mythology, Persephone addresses mother-daughter transmission. (15:22, Fanatstique, fiction (non narrative), 2023, Canada, OP)



## FEATURE PRESENTATION

**Shalborne** directed by Caroline Corrie. England 1905. A letter from Tzar Nicholas to Lord Bartlett recounts the Bloody Sunday Massacre in Saint Petersburg and becomes the catalyst for a woman's courageous rebellion against her oppressive husband. Corrie's astonishing debut as writer, actor and director is a tour de force. (01:25:00, Period, 2024, United Kingdom, NAP)

Total Run Time: 2H 11M.

Followed by audience Q & A.

## CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION •

**inkdrinks The Female Eye Film Festival**

Sunday, July 21st • 8:30 PM - 11:30 PM

Presented by *inkcanada* in partnership with *Paramount+* in Canada

**INKCANADA**  
CANADIAN SCREENWRITERS & FRIENDS

*Paramount+*



# THE FeFF TEAM

**FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Leslie-Ann Coles

**LEAD PROGRAMMERS:**

Leslie-Ann Coles (North American & Foreign Features, International Shorts and Documentary and Industry Initiatives), Kathleen Carter (Foreign Documentary, Shorts and LGBTQ+ community), Marisa Lloyd (Late Night Thrills & Chills) and Lia Cavasotto (Script Development Program).

**SELECTION COMMITTEE:**

Jeff Reynolds, Kalli Paakspuu, Naomi McCormack, Edie Steiner, Nikita Helewa, Dianne Eibner, Beth Hornby, Abhay Lal, Amelia Wilder, Andru Lake, Annarosa Mudd, Annique Laliberte, Arda Ergene, Cecilia Nina, Cecilia Zheng, Chris Jackman, Cole Strongman-Borg, Daniel Gomez, Dianne Eibner, Gordan Krstevski, Ida Liao, Isabelle Gudelevicius, Jam Allen, Maddy Leitner, Mark Byrne, Rinette Gayoma, Fernanda Aldana, Maheen Hassan and Shashin Patel.

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Nadia Kwiatkowski

**PRINT TRAFFIC:** Maheen Hassan

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS:**

Cecilia Nina and Fernanda Aldanar

**DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS:** Ida Liao

**PUBLICITY & MANAGEMENT:** Jane Harbury

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Jennifer Fraczak

**FeFF CORRESPONDENT/NEWSLETTER & JOURNALIST:** Nikita Helewa

**ART WORK:** "Feminine Divine" by Negar Pooya

**ART DIRECTOR:** JoJo Carito (JoJoShow)

**GRAPHIC DESIGN:** Natalia Morales

**WEB DESIGN:** Aley Vo

**COPY EDITOR:** Julie English-Dixon

**VIDEO EDITOR:** Kasha McEachern

**AWARDS:** Dawson Calvert, Dawson Metal Design

# THE FeFF TEAM



## **FeFF BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

Angela Argento, Martin Harbury, Christine Argyris, Tushar Unadkat, Carol Whiteman, Jinder Chalmers, Gabriele Kelly, Melissa Silverstein, and Inger Whist.

## **...A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO**

**Our Sponsors:** Experience Ontario, Ontario Arts Council, IATSE 873, AFBS and Ontario Creates.

**Our Community and Industry Partners:** inkcanada, Paramount +, CIUT Radio, The Writers Lab (NYC), Firecracker Department, Women In the Director's Chair (WIDC) and WIFT + Toronto.

**Our host venues:** TIFF Lightbox, Paradise Cinema, The Annex Hotel and the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

**Individuals:** Karen Walton - inkcanada, Carol Whiteman - WIDC, Diane Eibner - (in-kind donations,) Industry Guests: Daniela Saioni - Mondo Cinema and Allegra Fulton.

**Our BTS (Behind the Scenes) Team:** The Toronto actors, volunteers, interns, program hosts and awards jury. And, all who contributed resources and talent to make the 22nd Female Eye Film Festival possible. We are very appreciative of all your efforts.  
And of course, our audience!

**OPEN  
CALL**

# FOR SUBMISSIONS

## **23RD ANNUAL FEMALE EYE FILM FESTIVAL**

**EARLY DEADLINE:** July 31, 2024

**REGULAR DEADLINE:** October 31, 2024

**LATE DEADLINE:** January 31, 2025

**EXTENDED DEADLINE:** March 14, 2025



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*"The lack of gender equity in film making [and in other arts] is perhaps a self-sustaining cycle. Movies shape the way that people see the world and by extension, the way that people see women." - Odessa Kelebay*