#VAFF30
@vaffvancouver

VAFF
VANCOUVER
ASIAN FILM
FESTIVAL



Nov 5 - 15, 2026

30th ANNUAL VANCOUVER ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

In Person and Virtual

Tickets on sale at VAFF.ORG

Canadian films have it all.

Celebrate the richness of Canadian storytelling. Weekly updates deliver fresh releases to inspire, entertain, and immerse you in the vibrant world of Canadian cinema!

seeitall.telefilm.ca

TELEFILM CANADA

SEE IT ALL



About VAFF30

Since its founding in 1995 and debut in 1997, the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) has become a transformative force in Canada's cinematic landscape, championing the diversity of Asian stories within Canada and globally. As the country's longest-running Asian film festival, VAFF is more than an annual event – it is a cultural hub for creative voices that transcends boundaries and opens nuanced cultural dialogues. Each year, VAFF captivates thousands with its hybrid screenings, blending in-theatre and virtual experiences, while also fueling year-round conversations with its programming. Powered by a dedicated and passionate community of volunteers, sponsors, and donors, VAFF continues to push the envelope making space for new narratives and spotlighting underrepresented stories that reflect the complexity and richness of the Asian diaspora within a global context and a rapidly evolving entertainment landscape.

Vision Statement

A world where Asian Canadian stories are integral to Canada's cultural narrative—boldly reshaping the media landscape and redefining what it means to be Canadian.

Mission Statement

We champion authentic Asian Canadian and global Asian diaspora representation by showcasing, mentoring, training and nurturing storytellers at every stage of their creative journey while building a vibrant, connected ecosystem of Asian voices on all storytelling platforms.

Land Acknowledgment

We are grateful to live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We thank the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities that have cared for Turtle Island since time immemorial. With this acknowledgment, we remind ourselves of discriminatory, racist, and colonial practices that have and continue to create barriers for Indigenous Peoples and Communities across this land.

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Donate to VAFF to support Diversity in Film. As VAFF is not a registered charity, we cannot issue official donation receipts.

VAFF team

Board of Directors
Barbara Lee, Founder and President
Clement Lau, Vice President
Jason Ding, Treasurer
Edmond Ng, Treasurer
Emily Kwan, Member at Large
Jacqueline Lee, Member at Large
Justin Park, Member at Large
David Wong, Member at Large
Gene Lee, Member at Large

Executives
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Lynne Lee, MAMM Director/Producer

Programming
William Lau, Programming Director (Short)
Kevin Feng, Programming Director (Feature)
Aanchal Vombatkere, Programming Coordinator / Programmer
Sena Yurika, Programming Coordinator / Festival Assistant
Colin Hong, Print Traffic Manager
Candyce Xu, Programmer (Short)
Jessica Wong, Programmer (Short)
Josephine Ryu, Programmer (Short)
Lissa Neptuno, Programmer (Short)
Rjay Sta.Teresa, Programmer (Short)
Shuyi Yang, Programmer (Short)
Fei Ren, Programming Advisor (Short)
Abby Huang, Programmer (Feature)
Raugi Yu, Programmer (Feature)
Val Chan, Programmer (Feature)
Kathy Leung, Programmer Advisor (Feature)
Rosie Hsueh, Programmer Advisor (Feature)
Clement Lau, Programming Advisor

Operations
Louis Poulain, Event Operations Manager
Colin Hong, Print Traffic Manager
Josephine Ryu, Volunteer Manager
Penny Lee, Event Coordinator
Tainyu Li, Event Coordinator
Anqi Ye, Event Coordinator
Sophia Son, Event Coordinator

Marketing
Joyce Lam, Social Media Manager / Marketing Strategist
Robbie Tee, Marketing Manager
Ashton Ramsay, Content Manager
Hyang Gi Lee, Community Outreach Manager
Timothy Cheng, Community Outreach Lead
Julianne Li, Social Media Specialist
Keyur Soyantar, Social Media Specialist
Insha Shahryar, Content & Copywriter
Madison Lee, Content & Copywriter
Jessica Ruiz, Lead Graphic Designer
Celina Alcantara, Graphic Designer
Roberto Wong, Graphic Designer
Luis Baptista, Website Admin & UX
Ray Ho, Website Admin & UX
Alisha Weng, Editor & Lead Photographer
Louis Poulain, Editor
Vy Nguyen, Marketing Coordinator
Daniil Kolesnyk, Marketing Coordinator
Andrew Poon, Publicist

Sponsorships
Amy Venhuizen, Sponsorship Lead
Eric Shinn, Sponsorship Consultant

VAFF Industry Program Team
Khanh Nguyen, Industry Program Lead
Louis Poulain, Industry Program Lead

MAMM Team
Shanthini Balasubramanian, Creative Producer
Ritisha Jhamb, Creative Producer
Tammy Tsang, Creative Producer
Justin Lee, Vertical Series Producer
Steven Hu, Vertical Series Producer
Barbara Lee, Vertical Series Executive Producer
Eunice Kang, MAMM Admin
Vincent Wong, Creative Director
Rachel Tao, Marketing Manager & Social Media Manager
Rachel Kim, Graphic Designer
Anna Yu, Graphic Designer
Althea Alabat, MAMM Event Lead

E8 Team
Brianna D'Silva, Social Media Strategy & Content

Ticketing & Screening Protocols

Purchase passes and tickets at vaff.org from September 26, 2026 until the screening day.

PRICING

IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS – MULTIPASS
Includes VAFF Membership

Premier Festival Pass
Includes In-Theatre access and e-passes to all In-Theatre Screenings, Virtual Screenings, VAFF Industry Insight Series, and all Special Events. **$350**

In-Theatre Screening All Access Pass
Includes access to all In-Theatre Screenings from November 5 to 8 and November 14, 2026. **$200**

IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS – SINGLE TICKETS
Includes VAFF Membership

Single Special Presentation Screening
Base ticket per special presentation film/ program. **$20**

Single General Program Screening
Base ticket per general film/program. **$15**

Special Rate
For students, youth, and seniors. **$12**

VAFF INDUSTRY INSIGHT SERIES
Includes VAFF Membership

All-Inclusive Pass
In Person Industry Insight Series Sessions November 7 at Vancouver Film School and November 14 at Scotiabank Theatre lounge
Virtual Industry Insight Series Sessions November 9 to 13, 2026 CanAsian Industry networking party Nov 14 **$80**

In-Person Session
$12 - $20

Virtual Session
Membership fee: $2

VAFF VIRTUAL SCREENINGS
Only for viewers in Canada

Virtual All Access E-Pass
Available for viewing from November 9 - 14, 2026. **$30**

Virtual Individual Program
Base e-ticket per film/ program. **$8**

MEMBERSHIP NOTE: Under BC law, members of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival must be 18 years of age or above as a number of entries have not been previously classed by Consumer Protection BC. VAFF Memberships are non-transferrable and membership fee is included in all in-theatre programs. Members are required to show their passes and tickets during the festival.

CONSUMER PROTECTION BC

POLICIES

- Ticket sales for In-Theatre Screenings will close 30 minutes after the individual program. You may purchase tickets at the Box Office at the Venue if any are available.
- NO REFUNDS and EXCHANGES
- The surcharge fee is charged by the ticketing system, not VAFF
- All details subject to change without notice
- Please check our website at vaff.org for the latest updates
- For more information, please email festival@vaff.org

ACCESSIBILITY

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Accessibility information is available on our website at vaff.org
- All our venues are wheelchair accessible.
- Guests are encouraged to support a scent-reduced environment.
- Health and Safety Protocols are subject to each venue's restrictions.

SPECIAL EVENTS & THE OVASIAN AWARDS

- Accessibility information is listed for each special event

IN-THEATRE SCREENINGS

- 30 minutes before screening: Pass Holders enter the theatre
- 15 minutes before screening: Ticket Holders enter the theatre
- 10 minutes before screening: If available, Rush Tickets will be released for sale on a first-come, first-served basis to guests in the Rush Line once all Pass Holders and Ticket Holders have been seated in the theatre

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

- All Virtual Passes and individual e-tickets are available to purchase at vaff.org anytime until the day of the virtual screening.
- The Virtual Program is available for online viewing from November 9 to 14, 2026.
- Select the individual program that you wish to purchase in the vaff.org film page.
- If you purchased an e-pass, you still need to login to your account and click on the Fulfill Pass option.
- If you purchased a Virtual Pass or e-ticket, the virtual access link will arrive to your email within 5 minutes of purchase.
- Once you press play, you will have 24 hours to finish watching the program.
- Only available to viewers located in Canada.

VENUES

1. **Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas**, 3rd floor – 88 West Pender Street, Vancouver BC - In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 5 - 8)

2. **D6 Parq Hotel**, 39 Smithe Street, Vancouver BC - Opening Night Gala (Nov. 5)

3. **Chinese Canadian Museum** - 51 E Pender St, Vancouver, BC - Sing My Song Special Presentation After Party (Nov. 6)

4. **Vancouver Film School**, 150 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC - VAFF Industry Insight Series – VI^2 (Nov. 7)

5. **Parker Rooftop - Parker Hotel** 1379 Howe St 9th floor, Vancouver, BC - Centrepiece After Party (Nov. 7)

6. **Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver,** 4th floor – 900 Burrard Street - In-Theatre Film Screenings (Nov. 14 only)
VAFF Industry Insight Series – VI^2 (Nov. 14)
CanAsian Party (Nov. 14)
OVASIAN Awards (Closing Night Gala, Nov. 15)

6. **SUMU Restaurant**, 888 Burrard St #102, Vancouver, BC, (OVASIAN Reception, Nov.15)



Schedule

November 5 - PROGRAM OPENING NIGHT - 6:30PM
-Shopping for Fangs
-Rags 2 Richmond Sneak Preview

November 6 - PROGRAM SPORTS DOCUMENTARIES - 4:00 PM
-Beyond the Smiles: Yani Tseng
-Generational: The Story of Asian Roots Collective

November 6 - PROGRAM 30th SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION - 6:30 PM
-Sing My Song

November 6 - PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES - Shorts - 9:00 PM
-Chappal
-Roots
-Prisoner
-Soon
-Pardesi
-My Fat Came Alive
-No Barriers

November 7 - PROGRAM ANIMATIONS BLOCK 1 - 12:30 PM
-Love and Strife
-Sky Maker
-The Windy Day
-The Bird, the Girl and the Typhoon
-Rocketship Mai
-HEART-BIT DIM SUM FRIENDS!
-Echoes of the Tide

November 7 - PROGRAM DOCUMENTARY SHORTS - West Coast Tales + Screen to Action - 2:30 PM
-Fragile Flow
-Shapes in Between: Norman Takeuchi's Journey
-Light Through the Blindfold
-1910: The Uncovering
-The Dying Sky
-After, Still - Navigating Same Sex Marriage in Taiwan

November 7 - PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALE SPECIAL PRESENTATION- 4:30 PM
-THE BRYCE LEE STORY

November 7 - PROGRAM CENTREPIECE SPOTLIGHT- 6:30 PM
-ISLE CHILD

November 7 - PROGRAM INDOCANADIAN SPOTLIGHT- 8:45 PM
-Strong Son
-Crowned Athletes

November 8 - PROGRAM INDIGENOUS STORIES THAT CONNECT featuring Indigenous Creatives- 12:00 PM
-NOW IS THE TIME
-HOLY ANGELS
-INKWO FOR WHEN THE STARVING RETURN
-MY FRIEND THE GREEN HORSE

November 8 - PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES+ SHORTS - 12:30 PM
- THE GREAT WALL - FILM FUND short
-No Idea - The Musical
-Patang
-Red Light Rebel
-Queen Mother
-Another Christmas Story

November 8 - SPECIAL ARTIST EVENT RAGS 2 RICHMOND - 1:30 PM
FROM RICHMOND TO THE WORLD — WHAT TRANS-MEDIA IP MEANS FOR LOCAL CREATIVES

November 8 - INTERNATIONAL + CANADA SHORTS - 2:30 PM
-My Dinner With Victor
-We are Happy Fish
-Vital
-What Are You, Chicken?
-Aasmani
-Little Stewardess
-Betty St. Clair

November 8 - PROGRAM ANIMATIONS BLOCK 2 -3:30 PM
-Flamingo in the Garden
-Chai
-Pearl
-Come Home
-Our Bodies Ours
-After Us
-Ocher

November 8 - PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT - JAPAN & PHILIPPINES -4:30 PM
-Return to Bloom
-Manongs

November 8 - PPROGRAM INDO CANADIAN FEATURE 5:00 PM
-Jersey Boy

November 8 - PROGRAM DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT -WESTCOAST TALES+ 7:00 PM
-Bridging Our Stories
-Give and Take (2025)

November 8 - PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES+ SHORTS- 7:30 PM
-11'15"
-Infinite Mirror
-Nikkei Heist
-Crooked Wings
-We are Happy Fish
-Stranded
-Kaippakka

November 8 - Special Artist Event COMEDY INVASION: IPOC COMICS COLLAB - 9:30 PM

November 8 - INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT - SOUTH KOREA- 8:30 PM
-DEBONE

November 14 - PROGRAM WEST COAST TALES+ SOUTH EAST ASIA SPOTLIGHT- 12:00 PM
-HER SECOND ACT
-The Chicken & The Egg
-Tarian Tresna (Dance of Love)

November 14 - PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT - JAPAN - 2:30 PM
-A Journey into the World of Dementia
-Together up there

November 14 - PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES+ SHORTS - 4:45 PM
-Summer Fling
-Shattered Silence
-Tinto
-Locally Sourced
-Revenge Body
-SORRY SORRY SORRY
-Tetrachromacy

November 14 - WESTCOAST TALES+ SPOTLIGHT - 6:45 PM
-First Comes Love: Nakabingwit
-500 Words For Yeoreum
-Kyoko-chan
-Love Language

November 14 - PROGRAM CLOSING NIGHT FILM featuring SISA - 8:45 PM
-Feature - SISA

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

NOV 9 - 14, 2026
(available across Canada)

PROGRAM #V1 CANASIAN SPOTLIGHT
-There Are No Words

PROGRAM #V2
-WHERE THE SUN SHINES BRIGHT

PROGRAM #V3 ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3
-Seul-ah.
-Dobrina
-Ang Merkado
-Bisou Sauvage
-Jolene
-Push & Pull
-The Deadline

PROGRAM #V4 DOCUMENTARY SHORTS
-Next Up, Lin Sun
-Sea Song
-Correspondence
-TAMASHI
-I see myself in you

PROGRAM #V5 CANADA +INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
-What the River Remembers
-"Purgatory"
-In Search of the Lambs
-Thumbprint
-Ban Dal (Half-Moon)

PROGRAM #V6 CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
-CHECK PLEASE
-Shimmer
-This House That Bears No Fruit
-Chinaman

WELCOME LETTERS & SPECIAL GREETINGS

Message from Founder Barbara Lee

Welcome to the 30th Anniversary of Vancouver Asian Film Festival. Three decades of films, filmmakers, audiences, and stories that have brought us together to shape who we are.

Thirty years ago, the Vancouver Asian Film Festival launched with a simple but ambitious idea: to create a space for Asian Canadian filmmakers and stories that deserved to be seen, heard, and celebrated.

Over the years, VAFF has brought individual filmmakers together to cultivate a thriving ecosystem of storytellers. Stories that began with identity, migration, and lived experience have grown into stories with universal themes and global reach, while retaining the distinctive voices from which they emerged.

For 30 years, we have created space for voices that are too often underrepresented, undervalued, and underfunded. We have incubated, mentored, showcased, and celebrated filmmakers at every stage of their journeys with our year round programs – Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM), Asians in Movies, Music and Media (AIM3) and Elimin8hate. And along the way, some of the filmmakers and talent we were proud to showcase early in their careers went on to remarkable success in independent cinema, television, and Hollywood. That evolution is part of our legacy, and we like to think we played a small part in it.

So, if you want to say, "I saw them before they were big," keep coming back to VAFF-because discovery has always been at the heart of what we do.

And as we celebrate 30 years, we're looking ahead to a changing world of filmmaking, where new voices are emerging and new audiences are finding new ways into stories.

Our role remains the same: to create space for those voices, champion bold storytelling, and help filmmakers take their next step. That is why, for our 30th anniversary, we are returning to where it all began. We are bringing back, for an encore screening, SHOPPING FOR FANGS, the very first film shown at our very first festival 30 years ago. And as VAFF has grown, so have the careers of Quentin Lee (People I've Slept With, Rez Comedy) and Justin Lin (Fast & Furious franchise, Star Trek Beyond). Both of its co-directors went on to remarkable careers in independent cinema and Hollywood.

Quite an auspicious start for a niche film festival. Thirty years later, VAFF remains a place to discover, take a chance, find an audience, and begin an exciting path.

None of this would be possible without the filmmakers, audience, sponsors, funders, volunteers, and the many team leaders who have carried this festival forward over the years. It truly takes a village, and this village has helped build something that will carry these voices into the future of global storytelling,

So THANK YOU for being on this journey with us and contributing to this legacy.

Our legacy is not simply the films we have shown or the filmmakers we have celebrated. Our collective legacy is the community we have built and the possibilities we have created.

Now, we look toward the next 30 years with curiosity, courage, and a belief in the power of a good story. The next chapter is ours to write.

Welcome to the 30th anniversary of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival!



Barbara Lee
Founder and Board Chair
Vancouver Asian Film Festival

Message from the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney

It is my great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 30th annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival. For three decades, this festival has brought audiences together to experience the great creativity of Asian Canadian filmmakers and storytellers from across the Asian diaspora. By providing a platform for both emerging and established filmmakers, the festival has helped strengthen Canada's vibrant film community while contributing to a richer understanding of the many cultures and experiences that make up Canada's cultural mosaic.

I also commend the Vancouver Asian Film Festival for its efforts to build bridges between communities. Through film, the VAFF creates opportunities for people of different backgrounds to connect, discover novel perspectives and celebrate the stories we share. The festival's work to support filmmakers and its efforts to combat anti-Asian racism further demonstrate the important role that culture and film can play in building more welcoming and inclusive communities. I congratulate the Vancouver Asian Film Festival on its 30th year and wish the VAFF's organisers, filmmakers, volunteers and audiences an enjoyable and successful celebration of Asian filmmaking excellence.

Ottawa 2026



Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada

Message from Minister Marc Miller

Welcome to the 30th Vancouver Asian Film Festival!

Thirty years is a milestone worth celebrating.
Since its beginnings, VAFF has provided a platform for Asian Canadian and Asian American filmmakers to share their stories, perspectives and creativity with audiences.

What makes this festival unique is its role as a pillar of Vancouver's cultural community. It opens new doors for emerging artists while helping established artists strengthen their expertise through training and mentorship. At its heart, the Festival is about passing knowledge and experience from one generation of artists to the next.

Congratulations to the artists, organizers, volunteers and partners whose dedication has helped shape the festival over the years.

May this anniversary edition inspire new voices, spark meaningful conversations and bring people together through film.



The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and
Minister responsible for Official Languages

Message from Robert Wong, Vice President, Creative BC

Congratulations from all of us at Creative BC on 30 years of VAFF! This remarkable milestone reflects three decades of championing Asian voices, fostering inclusion, and creating space for stories that deserve to be celebrated. As Canada's longest-running Asian film festival, VAFF plays a pivotal role in advancing equity within the film industry.

Through bold programming, the festival amplifies underrepresented perspectives while creating critical opportunities for filmmakers to build networks, share their work, and advance their careers, helping ensure diverse voices remain central to B.C.'s cultural landscape.

Thank you to the entire VAFF community for your dedication and collective effort.

We look forward to this year's festival and the conversations it will inspire.
Sincerely,



Robert Wong
Vice President, Creative BC

WestCoast Tales Program

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada

Exploring the Local Asian Canadian Experience

VAFF is dedicated to elevating local independent Asian Canadian filmmakers and celebrating cultural diversity through the arts. WestCoast Tales showcases Asian Canadian storytelling through festival screenings, filmmaker Q&As, and panel discussions that foster dialogue and strengthen connections between artists and audiences.

The 2026 Vancouver Asian Film Festival also features local performers, including Flower Boys, Asian Persuasion All Stars, Son of James, and many others celebrating Asian Canadian artistic talent and cultural expression. Through film and live performances, VAFF creates opportunities for local artists to share their work, engage the public, and build stronger community connections.

With support from the Gov't of Canadian (BCAH), local filmmakers and artists gain greater visibility, and the public develop deeper understanding, and appreciation of Asian Canadian experiences and contributions to Canada's cultural landscape.

Program #5 – WESTCOAST TALES – SHORTS
Date: Nov. 6, 2026 | 6:15 pm Artist Q&A

Program #3 – 30th SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION featuring SING MY SONG Artist Q&A and Performance
Date: Nov. 6, 2026 | 7:45 pm

Program #6 – DOCUMENTARY SHORTS – WESTCOAST TALES+ Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 7, 2026 | 2:00 pm

Program #23 – WESTCOAST TALES SPECIAL PRESENTATION Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 7, 2026 | 4:30 pm

Program #9 -WESTCOAST TALES+ SHORTS 2 Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 8, 2026 | 12:30 pm

Program #13 – WESTCOAST TALES + SHORTS Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 8, 2026 | 7:30 pm

Program #14 – DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT -WESTCOAST TALES+ Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 8, 2026 | 6:30 pm

Program #18 – WESTCOAST TALES+ SOUTH EAST ASIA SPOTLIGHT Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 14, 2026 | 12:00 pm

Program #20 – WESTCOAST TALES+ SHORTS Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 14, 2026 | 4:45 pm

Program #21 – WESTCOAST TALES+ SPOTLIGHT Artist Q&A
Date: Nov. 14, 2026 | 6:45 pm

Thursday November 5

PROGRAM OPENING NIGHT featuring SHOPPING FOR FANGS

Rags 2 Richmond Sneak Peek

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

6:30 PM

Shopping for Fangs

90 min. | Feature | Dark Comedy | US | 1997

A married woman, who's been getting seductive phone calls from a lesbian, and a man, who believes he might be a werewolf, are about to find out who they deep down really are.

In Attendance

Directors
Justin Lin & Quentin Lee





VAFF at 30 Opening Night Gala

Nov. 5, Thursday | 9:00 pm

Venue: D6 Parq Hotel, 39 Smithe Street, Vancouver BC

$75 - General opening gala ticket
$125 - MEGA STAR gala ticket (welcome drink)
19+ | Valid ID required

Kick off the 2026 Vancouver Asian Film Festival with our opening gala. Meet filmmakers and local film industry guests. Performances of DJ iFun

- **Complimentary hors d'oeuvres**
- **Cash bar**
- **Dress code: Dressy / Cocktail - 90s Glam**
- **Theme: "Celebrate like 1997"**

Wheelchair Accessibility Info
Elevators are available for wheelchair access

PROGRAM SPORTS DOCUMENTARIES

Generational: The Story of Asian Roots Collective

Beyond the Smiles: Yani Tseng

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

CINEPLEX

All ticket holders will be eligible for 20% off regular walk-up rates on Small, Regular, or Large Pop & Popcorn Combos, as well as Large Candy at both of the International Village Cineplex and Scotiabank Cineplex Theatre.

4:00 PM



Generational: The Story of Asian Roots Collective

25.18 min. | Short | Documentary, Sports | Canada

When basketball lands in Canada, local dreamers join forces to unite their community through sport.

In Attendance

Director
Marc Rende



4:00 PM

Beyond the Smiles: Yani Tseng

94 min. | Feature | Documentary/Sports | US/Taiwan/Canada

Once the world's No. 1 golfer, Yani Tseng fights to return to the game after major surgeries and a devastating fall from grace.

In Attendance

Director
Frank W Chen





Friday November 6

PROGRAM 30th SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION

Sing My Song

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

6:30 PM

Sing My Song

85 min. | Feature | Documentary | Canada, WestCoast

SING MY SONG documents Kayee Lee's journey to find a singer for her songs. Her quest begins with attempts to meet Kelly Clarkson to sing her songs, but she must confront her own internalized racism ingrained from the lack of Asian rock stars while growing up in the West.

In Attendance

Director
Barbara Lee





VAFF Shop

Celebrate 30 years of VAFF in style! Our official VAFF 30 merch is here. Grab your favourites and show off your VAFF pride all year round.

VAFF30 Toque $30
VAFF30 Cap $47
VAFF30 Tote bag $20

VAFF Artists & Community Gathering





VAFF Artist & Community Gathering - Join the local musical artists from Sing My Song documentary for an intimate performance and about their artistic journey. 9:00 pm Location Chinese Canadian Museum. Stay after the screening for the VAFF Artists & Community Gathering, featuring Tony Lee and Eric Lowe of the Asian Persuasion All Star Band and Shon Wong of Son of James. Connect with artists and community members through music, storytelling, and shared experiences that celebrate Asian Canadian arts, culture, and heritage.

Friday November 6

PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES - Shorts

- Chappal
- Roots
- Prisoner
- Soon
- Pardesi
- My Fat Came Alive
- No Barriers

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

9:00 PM



Chappal

1 min. | Comedy | Canada, WestCoast

A young adult son responds rudely to his mother about doing his bit for the house, resulting in the mother calling upon her trusted aide - The Chappal.

In Attendance

Director
Yash Ahuja



9:00 PM



Roots

11 min. | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

In 1940s Vancouver, a South Asian woman defies public backlash and confronts a city council meeting to advocate for her right to purchase a home in a white neighbourhood.

In Attendance

Director
Jasleen Kaur



9:00 PM



Prisoner

15 min. | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

“Prisoner” follows Adam, a 12-year-old refugee, confronting the unsettling reality of his father Saeed’s past as a political prisoner.

In Attendance

Director
Rame Ibrahim



9:00 PM



Soon

22.15 min. | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

With no recipe or culinary skill, Soojin must prepare her late grandmother's sundubu-jjigae for her ailing mother.

In Attendance

Director
Jonah Lee-McNamee



9:00 PM



Pardesi

9.21 min. | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

After moving to a new country, Kirpa struggles to balance her dreams with survival. She tries to gain family approval and financial stability while staying true to her hope of becoming a dancer.

In Attendance

Director
Mannat Dhillon



9:00 PM



My Fat Came Alive

13.40 min. | Romantic-Comedy and Pulp Horror | Canada WestCoast

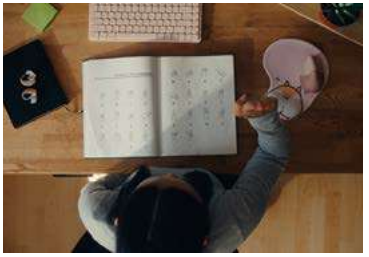
After a woman is fat-shamed in front of her crush, she tears the fat off her body... but the fat comes alive and tries to reunite with her body at all costs!

In Attendance

Director
Jaymee Mak and Kevin Ang



9:00 PM



No Barriers

11.45 min. | Drama | Canada WestCoast

After years of growing up isolated from the Hearing world, a Deaf adult starts to pick up sign language for the first time.

In Attendance

Director
Anh (Autumn) Pham



PROGRAM ANIMATIONS BLOCK 1

- Love and Strife
- Sky Maker
- The Windy Day
- The Bird, the Girl and the Typhoon
- Rocketship Mai
- HEART-BIT DIM SUM FRIENDS!
- Echoes of the Tide

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

12:30 PM



Love and Strife

8 min. | Animation | Animated Short Film | Canada

Love can build a world. But it takes Strife to make it live.

In Attendance

Director
Jay Mehta



12:30 PM



Sky Maker

9 min. | Animation | Family, Fantasy, Family / Children, Coming-of-Age, Drama, Adventure | Canada, Taiwan

A child in a color-obsessed world dreams of becoming just like his idol, only to discover that the color he wished were different may be exactly what makes him shine.

In Attendance

Director
I Ching Wang



12:30 PM



The Windy Day

7.40 min. | Animation | Drama, Coming-of-Age, Adventure | Taiwan-Vancouver based team

Three children climb an old water tower to retrieve a kite, when a sudden gust of wind arrives and changes the course of their lives forever.

In Attendance

Director
Zong-Yi Xie & Shih-Chien Hsu



12:30 PM



The Bird, the Girl and the Typhoon

10.55 min. | Animation | Experimental | USA

While following her morning routine, an elderly migrant Filipino nurse is liberated from a lifetime of service as she transforms into the weather, an endemic bird, the harvest, and her own internal force.

Director
Angeline Marie Michael Meitzler



12:30 PM



Rocketship Mai

8.01 min. | Animation | Animation | Canada - WestCoast

After her father falls ill, restless and hyper imaginative Mai battles Time in a wild intergalactic showdown.

In Attendance

Arlyn Nertomb, Nattasha Shrestha, Airin Budiman, Crystal Woo, Katie Winchester, Bec Cranswick, and Anastasia Walker

12:30 PM



HEART-BIT DIM SUM FRIENDS!

8.28 min. | Animation | Action / Comedy | HK, USA

On the outskirts of Hong Kong, lies a humble Dim Sum shop named 'A Little Heart Restaurant'. Three dim sum, Pobu the Char Siu pork bun, Mai the Shumai, and Gao the crystal shrimp dumpling come to life and use their Kung Fu powers to save the day!

Director
VEDA LEE



12:30 PM



Echoes of the Tide

6.50 min. | Animated historical drama | Canada

When wartime internment tears a Japanese Canadian family from their coastal home, a father and son find resilience and hope through the simple act of carving a wooden boat—a legacy that echoes across generations.

In Attendance

Director
Craig Madokoro



Saturday November 7

PROGRAM
DOCUMENTARY
SHORTS - West Coast
Tales +
Screen to Action

- Fragile Flow
- Shapes in Between: Norman Takeuchi's Journey
- Light Through the Blindfold
- 1910: The Uncovering
- The Dying Sky
- After, Still - Navigating Same Sex Marriage in Taiwan

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

2:00 PM



Fragile Flow

13.59 min. | Short | Environmental Documentary | Canada - WestCoast

A Story of Fracture, Memory, and Repair

In Attendance

Director Elder Bill Jones, Jordan River Watershed Awareness, Jillian Wilkes



2:00 PM



Shapes in Between: Norman Takeuchi's Journey

15.01 min. | Short | Documentary | Canada

Japanese Canadian artist Norman Takeuchi confronts a childhood marked by wartime displacement, transforming decades of silence about his heritage into a powerful journey of artistic and cultural reclamation.

In Attendance

Director Aki Takabatake



2:00 PM



Light Through the Blindfold

25 min. | Short | Documentary | Canada - WestCoast

Maryam Salehizadeh, a visually-impaired Paralympian, facing a life-changing surgery that may grant her the gift of sight.

In Attendance

Director Alireza Kazemipour



2:00 PM



1910: The Uncovering

27 min. | Short | Documentary | Canada - WestCoast

A tragic 1910 Rogers Pass avalanche united history, loss, and two friends' search for meaning and justice.

In Attendance

Director
Chad Townsend



2:00 PM



The Dying Sky

15.50 min. | Short | Cultural, Observational | Canada- TO

Despite financial struggles, failing speech, and even the rain working against him, a young boy refuses to give up his love for kite flying.

In Attendance

Director
Sohil Chhabra



2:00 PM



After, Still - Navigating Same Sex Marriage in Taiwan

30 min. | Short | Documentary | Canada- TO

After, Still follows LGBTQ+ individuals in Taiwan in the aftermath of it becoming the first jurisdiction in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage. Through intimate stories of identity and resilience, the film depicts how sexual minority individuals navigate the real-world challenges of acceptance when the law changes, but centuries of tradition remain.

In Attendance

Directors
Jordan Chang, Jake Sajko, Valeria Widjaja



Centrepiece After Party

Nov. 7, Saturday | 9:00 pm

Venue:
Parker Rooftop - Parker Hotel 1379 Howe St 9th floor, Vancouver, BC

An intimate reception in Downtown Vancouver to celebrate the Centrepiece film.

- Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
- Cash bar
- Dress code: Dressy / Cocktail - 90s Glam

$35 | All ages | Valid ID required at the bar

Wheelchair Accessibility Info. Elevators are available for wheelchair access.

PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALE SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

4:30 PM

THE BRYCE LEE STORY

90 mins. | Feature | Comedy, Coming-of-Age | WestCoast Canada

A 13-year-old Chinese boy named Bryce Lee lies about being related to Bruce Lee to be accepted by classmates at school.

In Attendance

Director
Arnold Lim



PROGRAM CENTREPIECE SPOTLIGHT

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

6:30 PM

ISLE CHILD

93 mins. | Feature | Coming-of-Age | US

When a Korean-American adoptee discovers a hidden letter revealing his birth mother is terminally ill in Korea, he must choose between maintaining his perfect American life or confronting the painful truth of his adoption.

Lead, Ethan Hwang in attendance

Director
Thomas Percy Kim





Saturday November 7

PROGRAM INDO-CANADIAN SPOTLIGHT

Crowned Athletes

Strong Son

8:45 PM



Crowned Athletes

23.57 min. | Short | Sports, Canadian, Short-Documentary, Social Justice | Canada, WestCoast

Four South Asians athletes recognised as some of the best in Canada, tell their stories to inspire youth overwhelmed by the bounds of normative culture and their faith.

In Attendance

Director
Prabhjit Singh Sabharwal



8:45 PM

Strong Son

81.30 min. | Feature | Drama | Canada, Manitoba

A former South Asian bodybuilder moves back in with his aging father to become his primary caregiver, forcing him to balance the physical strength that once defined him with the mental and emotional challenges of caring for the man who raised him.

In Attendance

Director
Ian Bawa





Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

12:00 PM



NOW IS THE TIME

16 min | Short | Documentary | Canada

On the 50th anniversary of the first new totem pole raising on British Columbia's Haida Gwaii in almost a century, Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter steps through history to revisit the day that would signal the rebirth of the Haida spirit.

Director Christopher Auchter



12:00 PM



HOLY ANGELS

14 min | Short | Documentary | Canada

In 1963, Lena Wandering Spirit became one of the more than 150,000 Indigenous children who were removed from their families and sent to residential school.

Director Jay Cardinal Villeneuve



12:00 PM



INKWO FOR WHEN THE STARVING RETURN

19 min | Short | Animation | Canada

Dove, a gender-shifting warrior, uses their Indigenous medicine (Inkwo) to protect their community from an unburied swarm of terrifying creatures.

Director Amanda Strong



12:00 PM



MY FRIEND THE GREEN HORSE

12 Min | Short | Animation | Canada

In her vivid dream life, the young Alanis Obomsawin found her best childhood friend: the Green Horse, who embodied the spirit of kindness and celebration of life.

Director Alanis Obomsawin



We invite audiences to listen, learn and deepen their understanding of Indigenous peoples, cultures and contemporary experiences in Canada with the STORIES THAT CONNECT. (FREE Admission: Membership fee $2.00 + by Donation)

SPECIAL ARTIST EVENT: RAGS 2 RICHMOND:

FROM RICHMOND TO THE WORLD - WHAT TRANS-MEDIA IP MEANS FOR LOCAL CREATIVES



NOV 8 | 1:30pm to 3:00 pm | Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas - Aud 8 | In-Person

What does it take for a story set in Richmond to reach a global audiences? From ultra-low-budget microdrama to musical feature film, Rags 2 Richmond charts an unconventional path for original IP, with Vancouver creatives at the forefront.

In this timely panel, the film's cast and crew come together to explore how stories can evolve across platforms, reach audiences beyond borders, and generate unique opportunities for Vancouver's Asian talent pool. Why do locally-specific stories matter when connecting with greater viewership—and why is expanding representations of Asian masculinity more important now than ever?

Bringing together creative ambition, local identity, and the possibilities of trans-media storytelling, this panel explores how creatives can think globally without losing sight of what makes their stories their own.

Special Artist event
COMEDY INVASION: IPOC COMICS COLLAB

Nov 8 | 9:30 PM | Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas - Aud 8 | In-Person



COMEDY INVASION is a pioneering Canadian stand-up docuseries created by Quentin Lee. The show spotlights breakout Canadian comedians from historically underrepresented communities, including disabled, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and female comics. Showcase featuring Keith Nahanee's "Rez Style" episode of Comedy Invasion won Best Comedy Special at the 2024 Canadian Screen Awards for his hilarious, heartfelt set about reservation life. The third season, Comedy InvAsian III, showcases half-Indigenous, half-Chinese comic Trevor Jang exploring his dual identity in his TV debut special "Chindian", alongside action star Ludi Lin stepping into stand-up with his perspective-driven special "One Hand Clapping". Stay after the screening for the VAFF Artists & Community Gathering featuring the comics Trevor Jang, Keith Nahanee and Ludi Lin.

PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES+ SHORTS

- THE GREAT WALL - FILM FUND short
- No Idea - The Musical
- Patang
- Red Light Rebel
- Queen Mother
- On Gordon Alley
- Another Christmas Story

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

12:30 PM



THE GREAT WALL short (2026)

15 min. | Short | Drama / Comedy | Canada - WestCoast

Manny, a Filipino fugitive finds a disguise as a Chinese restaurant chef when an enthusiastic manager Darren hires him to make his restaurant more “authentic.” Winner of VAFF Film Fund Competition, generously supported by VAFF Lifetime Patron Richard K. Wong

In Attendance

Director
Soo Min Park



12:30 PM



No Idea - The Musical

15.03 min. | Short | Comedy, Musical | Canada - TO

Katie learns she’s Asian and her middle school universe quickly spins around her.

Director
Kel Kitagawa



12:30 PM



Patang

24 min. | Short | Drama, Coming of Age | Canada, WestCoast / India

A teenager in a small town of Punjab begins to question his inherited beliefs after encountering the ideas from Bhagat Singh’s ‘Why I am an Athiest?’, setting him on a journey of doubt, identity, and self-discovery.

In Attendance

Director
Hasnain Czar



12:30 PM



Red Light Rebel

15 min. | Short | Comedy-Drama | Canada, WestCoast

A pastor stuck at a red light finds himself at a crossroads with God.

In Attendance

Director
Hannah Yang



12:30 PM



Queen Mother

14 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

When a mother visits her son, a drag performer, a night of raw confessions forces them to confront the unhealed wounds of their past.

In Attendance

Director
King Louie Palomo



12:30 PM



Another Christmas Story

11 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

Two young Korean-Canadian sisters navigate the holidays in the 90s, in an immigrant household.

In Attendance

Directors
Andrea Bang & Diana Bang



People's Choice Awards

Voted by you–our community, the People's Choice Awards will be presented at the OVASIAN Awards on November 15, 2026. The voting period is from November 5, 2026 (8:00 pm PT) – November 14, 2026 (11:59 pm) PT. Votes can be cast at the below link.

Award Categories

-Best Overall Feature Film
-Best Overall for Performance, Feature Film
-Best Overall Short Film
-Best Overall for Performance, Short Film

Vote Here

INTERNATIONAL + CANADA SHORTS
Every generation is a reaction to the last

My Dinner With Victor
We are Happy Fish
Vital
What Are You, Chicken?
Aasmani
Little Stewardess
Betty St. Clair

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

2:30 PM



My Dinner With Victor

9.11 min. | Short | Comedy/ Horror | Canada / Hong Kong

Jimmy & Victor are childhood best friends who reunite after a long absence, but a cultural mix-up leads to hilarious – and deadly – consequences.

In Attendance

Director
Andrew Chiu



2:30 PM



We are Happy Fish

10 min. | dark comedy, drama | Canada, TO

A nihilistic girl and a robot boy escape their crazy family to revive a fish that died dramatically.

In Attendance

Director
Zoe Zhou



2:30 PM



Vital

15 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, TO

A mother in Iran, considers selling her organs to save her daughter, while in the United States, a doctor faces ethical dilemmas to save his daughter, revealing the complexities of organ trade.

In Attendance

Director
Amir Zargara



2:30 PM



What Are You, Chicken?

1 min. | Short | Comedy | Canada - WestCoast

During a high-stakes game of Go-Stop, a thirty-year-old nobody is challenged by the most dangerous ajusshi in the room... and makes a reckless move to prove he isn't one.

In Attendance

Director
Kevin Cho



2:30 PM



Aasmani

29.58 min. | Short | Comedy/ Family | India

An elderly woman struggles with the choice of selling her beloved vintage car, Aasmani.

In Attendance

Director
Ms Sayani Gupta



2:30 PM



Little Stewardess

19.57 min. | Short | Drama, Children, Family | South Korea

A young girl living with her grandmother enters a "Little Stewardess" contest, hoping to win an international flight ticket and reunite with her father in Ireland.

In Attendance

Director
Son Minkyu



2:30 PM



Betty St. Clair

11.33 min. | Short | Comedy | United States

Backstage at an all-AAPI drag show, Betty St. Clair struggles to keep her chaotic drag family on task. But when she takes the stage to host, a surprise guest soon threatens to derail everything.

In Attendance

Director
Kyle Casey Chu



PROGRAM ANIMATIONS BLOCK 2

- Flamingo in the Garden
- Chai
- Pearl
- Come Home
- Our Bodies Ours
- After Us
- Ocher

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 8

88 W Pender St 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

3:30 PM



Flamingo in the Garden

12.45 min.| Animation | Animation | USA

After a surfing accident leaves her hospitalized in Morocco, a young Chinese woman escapes into a morphine-fueled dream garden, where a forbidden romance blurs reality and fantasy as she struggles toward healing and rebirth.

Director
Xinhui Ma



3:30 PM



Chai

4.57 min. | Animation | Animation, Crime, Thriller, Desi | USA

With his mother sick, tea shop failing, and father only concerned with prayer, what limits will Ajmer break to protect his loved ones?

Director
Aryan Anand



3:30 PM



Pearl

13.48 min. | Animation | Animated Short | Canada

After losing his “pearl”, a grieving jeweller is given a final chance to make peace with his mortal desires through a chance encounter with a young lady.

In Attendance

Director
Alice Il Shin



3:30 PM



Come Home

4.50 min. | Animation | Drama, Family, Animation | USA

Della gets sucked into an ocean of memories, embarking on a journey to face her relationship with her father.

In Attendance

Director Katelyn Park



3:30 PM



Our Bodies Ours

7.36 min. | Animation | Animation, Poetic Cinema, Personal documentary | India, USA

Our Body Ours is a short poetic animated film that explores the nuance and beauty of trans becoming from a diasporic lens.

In Attendance

Directors Sanam Sheriff and Sonali Gulati



3:30 PM



After Us

5.05 min. | Animation | animation | Canada

Amid the silence of human ruin, a wolf and a wolverine learn to trust, searching for a new possible world.

Director Wahid Ibn Reza



3:30 PM



Ocher

7.10 min. | Animation, Family | Canada USA

An origin story of art... and destiny

Director Chee Ho



PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT - JAPAN & PHILIPPINES

Manongs

Return to Bloom

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas AUD.9

88 W Pender St 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

PROGRAM DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT -WEST COAST TALES+

Bridging Our Stories AUD. 9

4:30 PM



Manongs

14 min. | Short | Drama | US / Philippines

Set in 1965 California, an immigrant Filipino farm worker must decide whether to join NASA's Astronaut Program or stay and strike with his fellow workers.

In Attendance

Director
Colin Galeste



4:30 PM

Return to Bloom

84 min. | Feature | Drama | Japan / Philippines

On Bohol Island, known as "God's Little Paradise," Kazuki's girlfriend, Sara, suddenly disappears. As he searches the island for her, he eventually uncovers a truth that shakes the very foundations of the time they shared—and the reality he thought he knew.

In Attendance

Director
Rikiya Mimuro





6:30 PM



Bridging Our Stories

24 min. | Short | Social Issue Short Documentary | US

When the last Filipino community center in Ketchikan, Alaska, becomes a memory, a 50-year-old Filipina who spent her life resisting her heritage travels to the Philippines to rediscover her roots, preserving her community's disappearing culture, and teaching indigenous Filipino dances.

Director
Rafael Bitanga



Sunday November 8

PROGRAM INDO CANADIAN FEATURE

Jersey Boy

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 8
88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

5:00 PM

Jersey Boy

106 min. | Feature | Coming-of-Age, Drama | Canada, TO

Shattered by a family tragedy in the wake of 9/11, a young Sikh boy struggles to hold onto love, family, and identity as he grows up in a country feeling like he doesn't belong.

In Attendance

Director
Jaskaran Singh





PROGRAM DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT

WEST COAST TALES+

Give and Take (2025)

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

6:30 PM

Give and Take (2025)

60 min. | Feature | Documentary | Canada, West Coast

A schoolteacher and an artist, two newlyweds, leave their lives in Hong Kong and wrestle with the promise of freedom in Canada.

In Attendance

Director
Jimmy Lo






30
VAFF
VANCOUVER
ASIAN FILM
FESTIVAL


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Special Thanks to VAFF30 Festival Creative

Thank you to our VAFF at 30 Filmmakers

Agam Darshi
Andrea Bang
Andy Wong
Arnold Lim
Ava Maria Safai
Baljit Sangra
Brian Cheung
Barbara Lee
Caleb Chan
Brian Chan
Diana Bang
Jason Karman
Jeff Chiba Stearns
Jenny Lee Gilmore
Jon Chiang
Josh Aries
Julia Kwan
Karen Lam
Kat Jayme
Kevin Ang
Kevin Jin Kwan Kim
Mayumi Yoshida
Nach Dudsdeemaytha
Milton Ng
Osric Chau
Panta Mosleh
Phil Planta
Ryan Mah
Denny Berish
Sonya Lee
Soo Min Park
Vivian Cheung
Ying Wang

Key Creative Production Team:

Photographer: Phillip Chin
Graphic Designer Lead: Jessica Ruiz
HMU: Sophia Maxwell and Sam Kronstal
Concept Direction & Producer: Regina Leung
Social Media Manager: Joyce Lam

Production associates: Louis Poulain and Khanh Nguyen
BTS photographer: Matthew Liu
BTS videographer: Kyungwoo Lim
BTS video editor: Louis Poulain

phillip chin photography

Big Baby Film Rentals



Sunday November 8

PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES+ SHORTS

- 11’15”
- Infinite Mirror
- Nikkei Heist
- Crooked Wings
- We are Happy Fish
- Stranded
- Kaippakka

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 8

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

7:30 PM



11’15”

17 min. | Short | Thriller | Canada, WestCoast

A North Korean missile is eleven minutes and fifteen seconds from Seoul. A man makes his final attempt to reunite with his wife and daughter.

In Attendance

Director
James Cho



7:30 PM



Infinite Mirror

10 min. | Short | Psychological Drama | Canada, WestCoast

A struggling screenwriter’s world unravels when the protagonist of her screenplay appears at her door, begging her to rewrite her fate.

In Attendance

Director
Amir Arab



7:30 PM



Nikkei Heist

12 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, TO

Two Japanese-Canadian boys rob a local government post office to help their family.

In Attendance

Director
Michael Hitoshi Maddeaux



7:30 PM



Crooked Wings

10 min. | | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

A perfection-obsessed art teacher, shaped by a childhood of strict approval and rejection, must confront her compulsive need for control when a chaotic student's imperfect paper crane threatens to unravel everything she believes about beauty, worth, and love.

In Attendance

Director
Sonia Chou



7:30 PM



On Gordon Alley

19 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

When her troubled brother threatens to end his life, uptight youth counsellor Mel is forced beyond the emotional distance between them to save their fractured relationship before she loses him for good.

In Attendance

Director
Kendra Eyles



7:30 PM



Stranded

18 min. | Short | Drama | Canada / China/ US

When Yiling, a Chinese marine biologist living abroad, travels to a Newfoundland fishing town to study a repeatedly stranded humpback whale, the coastline awakens memories of the seaside hometown in China she left behind.

In Attendance

Director
Raina Liwen Yang



7:30 PM



Kaippakka

10.10 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

A young immigrant in Canada confronts memory, loss, and belonging through a food he once rejected

In Attendance

Director
G Amarnath Sankar



Sunday November 8

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT - SOUTH KOREA

DEBONE

Cineplex Odeon International Village Cinemas, AUD. 9

88 W Pender St, 3rd floor, Vancouver, BC

8:30 PM

DEBONE

Director
Lee Daehan



120 min.| Feature | Thriller / Dark Drama / Crime / Horror | South Korea

A crime thriller following an ex-convict who killed his father in childhood as he navigates various milieus and confronts different faces of human nature.





Saturday November 14

PROGRAM WESTCOAST TALES+
SOUTH EAST ASIA SPOTLIGHT

The Chicken & The Egg

Tarian Tresna - (Dance of Love)

HER SECOND ACT

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver AUD. 4

900 Burrard Street, 4th floor, Vancouver BC

12:00 PM



The Chicken & The Egg

10 min. | Short | Dark Comedy | Canada, WestCoast

A podcast host invites a self-help author to discuss mental health, and what starts out as innocent small talk slowly spirals into a series of cringey comments, social faux pas, and self-destructive behaviour.

In Attendance

Director Louriza Tronco and Kevin Ang



12:00 PM



Tarian Tresna (Dance of Love)

14.30 min. | Short | Dance, Drama, Spiritual. | Canada WC / Indonesia

On the island of the gods...Her spirit awakens.

In Attendance

Director Sidartha Murjani



12:00 PM

HER SECOND ACT

87 min. | Feature | DRAMA, SPORTS, COMEDY | Malaysia

An unexpected cycling victory disrupts the quiet stagnation of a mother's life. As recognition unsettles the ordinary, long-suppressed dreams and silences between husband and wife begin to surface.

In Attendance

Director JOEY LEE CHOI KIN





Saturday November 14

PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL
SPOTLIGHT - JAPAN
Reach out. Hold tight.

Together up there

A Journey into the World of Dementia

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver AUD. 4

900 Burrard Street, 4th floor, Vancouver BC

2:30 PM



Together up there

24.57 min. | Short | Family drama | Japan

A couple trying to climb the mountain they once visited on their honeymoon.
My husband was heading for the mountain top, carrying a certain secret.

Director
Hiroyuki Seki



2:30 PM

A Journey into the World of Dementia

1.33 hrs. | Feature | Family drama | Japan

When a cheerful father with dementia fails to recognize his estranged son, the two embark on a journey to their former family home, rediscovering their bond while navigating the strange yet beautiful world the father experiences.

Director
Yoshihiro Tamura





Saturday November 14

PROGRAM WEST COAST TALES+ SHORTS
We see it. We breathe it in. We feel.

- Summer Fling
- Shattered Silence
- Tinto
- Revenge Body
- SORRY SORRY SORRY
- Locally Sourced
- Tetrachromacy

4:45 PM



Summer Fling

12 min. | Short | Drama, Romance, Sci-fi | Canada, WestCoast

A man reconnects with his summer fling who he can only see once a year, but their reunion isn't quite as it seems.

In Attendance

Director
Krit Komkrichwarakool



4:45 PM



Shattered Silence

13.05 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

A pregnant woman, abducted and confined in a basement by her obsessive husband, must fight for her freedom before it's too late.

In Attendance

Director
Amir Arab



4:45 PM



Tinto

17.30 min. | Short | Drama/ Magical Realism | Canada, WestCoast

Grieving after the sudden loss of her fiancé, Leah seeks solace in a bottle of wine.

In Attendance

Director
Tanya Jade



4:45 PM



Revenge Body

16.10 min. | Drama Comedy Musical | Canada, WestCoast

Pearl, recently heartbroken, takes up Latin DanceFit classes to get her 'revenge body' in hopes of getting her ex back. However, she discovers a deeper lesson in her journey healing from heartbreak.

In Attendance

Director
Polly Pierce



4:45 PM



SORRY SORRY SORRY

23.46 min. | Short | Drama | South Korea

In an unprepared age of illness and longevity, growing old means fearing both life and death.

In Attendance

Director
Shin Hea Kim



4:45 PM



Locally Sourced

6.58 min. | Short | Horror/ Comedy | Canada, WestCoast

When a couple's "locally sourced" dinner turns into an unexpected ted-talk about their divided community, sinking their teeth into common ground proves to be a challenge.

In Attendance

Director
Zaarin Bushra



4:45 PM



Tetrachromacy

11.10 min. | Short | Drama | Canada, WestCoast

After losing his ability to see color, a photojournalist meets a mysterious woman whose yellow dress is the only color left in his monochromatic world.

In Attendance

Director
Ericsson San Pablo Chu



Saturday November 14

WESTCOAST TALES+ SPOTLIGHT
A flourish of young love

500 Words For Yeoreum
Kyoko-chan
Love Language

First Comes Love: Nakabingwit

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver AUD. 4

900 Burrard Street, 4th floor, Vancouver BC



6:45 PM

500 Words For Yeoreum

10 min. | Short | Romantic Comedy | Canada, WestCoast

An aspiring Filipino photographer learns Korean in hopes of confessing his feelings to a fellow club member, only to discover that just as he finds the words, time is already running out.

In Attendance

Director
Marc Yungco





6:45 PM

Kyoko-chan

10.41 min. | Short | Drama/Coming-of-Age | Canada, WestCoast

In this heartwarming youth drama, a Japanese-Canadian high schooler despairs when his crush prepares to move back to Japan. Urged on by the mysterious voice of a samurai in his dreams, he summons the courage for one final, desperate Kokuhaku—his ultimate love confession.

In Attendance

Director
Kohei Masumori





6:45 PM

Love Language

8.40 min. | Short | Coming-of-age Romantic Drama | Canada, OT

To win back the childhood sweetheart who just came home, shy 17-year-old Agapito Lopez wants to relearn the Tagalog he lost — but Maria won't fall for a boy chasing her heart until he reclaims his own.

In Attendance

Director
Jeziah Salvar



6:45 PM

First Comes Love: Nakabingwit

64 min. | Feature - Doc | Documentary | Canada, WestCoast

From whirlwind romance to raising mixed-race children, for three Filipina–white couples, love unfolds alongside harder conversations about race, belonging and what it takes to stay.

In Attendance

Director
Joella Cabalu





Saturday November 14

PROGRAM CLOSING NIGHT FILM featuring SISA

Feature - SISA

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver AUD. 4

900 Burrard Street, 4th floor, Vancouver BC

8:45 PM

Feature - SISA

114 min.| Feature | Historical Revenge Espionage Thriller | US/Phillipine

In 1902, a “mad woman” who witnessed the slaughter of her family during the gruesome Philippine-American war turns out to be a spy for the Filipino revolutionaries.

In Attendance

Director
Jun Robles Lana





People’s Choice Awards

Voted by you–our community, the People’s Choice Awards will be presented at the OVASIAN Awards on November 15, 2026. The voting period is from November 5, 2026 (8:00 pm PT) – November 14, 2026 (11:59 pm) PT. Votes can be cast at the below link.

Vote Here

Award Categories

- Best Overall Feature Film
- Best Overall for Performance, Feature Film
- Best Overall Short Film
- Best Overall for Performance, Short Film

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you #VAFFamily volunteers, for your amazing generosity and dedication during Festival. “Every Contribution Matters!”



PROGRAM #V1
CANASIAN SPOTLIGHT



There Are No Words

98 min. | Feature Doc. | Documentary | Canada TO

There Are No Words examines how Cold War militarism on the Korean Peninsula enters the home, as filmmaker Min Sook Lee turns her camera toward her father—a former intelligence officer—and the silences surrounding her mother's suicide.

Director
Min Sook Lee



PROGRAM #V2



WHERE THE SUN SHINES BRIGHT

67 min. | | Drama / Coming-of-Age | Bulgaria, Canada, China, Malaysia, Switzerland

An 18-year-old boy facing the uncertainty of adulthood finds his own story reflected in the lives of four children in the same village—parallel journeys of left-behind childhood shaped by resilience and the fragile brightness of growing up.

Director
LAM Can-zhao



PROGRAM #V3
ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3



Seul-ah.

8.09 min. | Fantasy | Canada South Korea

A god, unfulfilled by his creations, falls in love with a goddess who appreciates his talents. His life is suddenly filled with happiness until he realizes that his love is unrequited.

Director
Alexis Sawyun Han



PROGRAM #V3
ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3



Dobrina

5 min. | Western animated | Germany

Lotte Reiniger meets Sergio Leone in this animated short, where desire burns as bright as the desert sun.

Director
Hannes Rall



PROGRAM #V3
ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3



Ang Merkado

12.50 min. | Animation, Drama, Psychological Thriller | Canada

In a rural Philippine market, a street dog scavenges for scraps while a mother and son, fleeing Canada, search for a fresh start. All are torn apart by their own kind—one for stolen meat, the others for a debt that can never be paid.

Director
NOFAC3



PROGRAM #V3
ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3



Bisou Sauvage

2.50 min. | Animation | Canada

The world is crumbling, but what's for supper? Romance rhymes with dissonance in this peculiar animated short.

Director
Bahij Jaroudi



PROGRAM #V3
ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3



Jolene

9:25 min. | Western/ Fantasy | Canada

A cowboy trying his damndest to revive his dead horse.

Director
Kirsten Mills



PROGRAM #V3
ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3



Push & Pull

15 min. | Animation | Canada/China

"Push & Pull" is an animated short film exploring themes of the invisible, stillness, and the environment.

Director
Wen Wen Lu



PROGRAM #V3
ANIMATIONS BLOCK 3

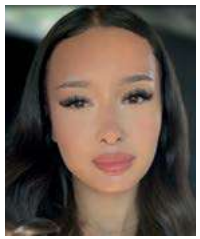


The Deadline

4.46 min. | Animation | Canada

Jane falls asleep at work and enters a nostalgic dreamscape where she confronts her burnout and need to please others.

Director Kayla Bergeron



PROGRAM #V4
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS



Next Up, Lin Sun

20.55 min. | Documentary | Geremy / US

Born in a refugee camp and descended from a Cambodian entertainment dynasty erased by genocide, comedian Lin Sun transforms a complicated past into fearless stand-up while reclaiming her family's legacy.

Director Jane Alcala



PROGRAM #V4
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS



Sea Song

17.58 min. | Documentary | US

The last remaining South Vietnamese naval officers reunite in California for what will likely be the final time, finding solace with the few people who understand the complexities that shape their life histories.

Director An-Phuong Ly



PROGRAM #V4
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS



Correspondence

5.40 min. | Documentary | US

A filmmaker participates in a Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) with the murderer of his grandmother

Director Paul Oh



PROGRAM #V4
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS



TAMASHI

12.56 min. | Documentary | China, France, Japan, United States

In the once water-rich valley of Payahuunadü, a climber Ashima Shiraishi and their former Butoh-dancer mentor father return to the desert, using climbing and dance as a ritual of reconciliation between body, land, and generations.

Director Ashima Shiraishi & Jess X. Snow





PROGRAM #V4
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS



I see myself in you

9 min. | Short Documentary, Experimental | Canada TO

Amidst rising xenophobia, three South Asian settlers paint a more holistic picture of their hometown.

Director Amreen Kullar



PROGRAM #V5
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



What the River Remembers

15.57 min. | Canada, AB

After receiving news of a personal tragedy, a young Chinese migrant struggles to continue building her life in Canada.

Director Yan Zhu



PROGRAM #V5
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



“Purgatory”

19.34 min. | Drama/ Comedy | Canada, TO

Zena, a usually confident young queer woman with an anxiety-induced supernatural streak, is forced to face off with a meddling relative when she returns to her family’s mosque with her partner in tow to attend the funeral of a beloved community member.

Director Nikki Shaffeeullah



PROGRAM #V5
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



In Search of the Lambs

17.29 min. | Fiction Short | China

On the subway, the father tells his daughter, who loves a sheep-themed game, stories about raising sheep in his childhood.
Back then, he and a boy next-door tended sheep together. To keep the flock healthy, the two young boys tried every trick they could think of. Those silly, glowing little adventures of their time came flooding back from memory one by one. Then the sheep went missing, and that was where the story ended.

Director
Yan Chen



PROGRAM #V5
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



Thumbprint

22.29 min. | Drama | United States / Japan

In 1942, one man refuses to let fear - his government's or his own - define the limits his American dream.

Director
Chris Naoki Lee



PROGRAM #V5
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



Ban Dal (Half-Moon)

21.37 min. | Drama | South Korea / Swizeland

Annette, a Swiss woman, accompanies her adopted son to South Korea to meet his biological mother.

Director
Hae-Sup Sin



The Virtual Program is available for online viewing (Canada only) from November 9 to 14, 2026.
Each program will have multiple films and it's available from Nov. 9 to 14, 2026. Select the number of the program that you wish to purchase in the vaff.org film page If you purchased an e-pass, you still need to login to your account and click on the Fulfill Pass option If you purchased a Virtual Pass or e-ticket, the virtual access link will arrive to your email within 5 minutes of purchase Once you press play, you will have 24 hours to finish watching the program Only available to viewers located in Canada.

Learn more VAFF Virtual Program

PROGRAM #V6
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



CHECK PLEASE

9.38 min. | Action, comedy, martial arts | United States

Two headstrong Koreans can't agree on who's treating who to dinner, causing their casual restaurant outing to spiral into a martial arts deathmatch.

Director
Shane Chung



PROGRAM #V6
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



Shimmer

18.48 min. | Drama, Children, Coming-of-Age | South Korea

A girl who dreads the school health check follows shimmering water and quietly meets herself.

Director
Oh Soyoung



PROGRAM #V6
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



This House That Bears No Fruit

6 min. | Horror, Thriller, Drama | Canada, TO

A daughter and mother's codependent relationship is tested.

Director
Chantal Leong



PROGRAM #V6
CANADA + INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



Chinaman

12.38 min. | Drama | United Kingdom

When racist violence erupts inside his father's takeaway, an angry mixed-race son is forced to confront what he's been too proud to admit.

Director
Rob Chiu



VAFF Industry Insight Series Nov. 7-14, 2026



VAFF Industry Insight #1

Working the dynamic between traditional and AI animation

Saturday, November 7 | 10:30 AM

Vancouver Film School

Explore animation and AI storytelling in this workshop led by animation directors!



VAFF Industry Insight #2

WestCoast Filmmakers Fireside Chat

Saturday, November 7 | 1:00 PM

Vancouver Film School

Come listen to a WestCoast filmmaker fireside chat on Ski The Wong Way (Documentary) by Ryan Mah & Danny Berish vs. Project - Pass the Salt (Narrative) by Panta Molesh.



VAFF Industry Insight Virtual #1

Virtual Filmmaker Talks Series

Monday, November 9 | 12:00 PM

Online

A official selection of Canadian & International filmmakers share their impactful and challenging parts of their film.



VAFF Industry Insight Virtual #2

Virtual Filmmaker Talks Series – Case Study of the Co-Production

Tuesday, November 10 | 12:00 PM

Online

Join us in this filmmakers conversation about co-production about Where the Sun Shines Brightest, Thumbprint, Ban Dal (Half Moon), Next Up, Lin Sun, and Tamashi.



VAFF Industry Insight #5

Special presentation CASE STUDY – SLANT

Saturday, November 14 | 3:00 PM

Scotiabank Theatre 4th floor lounge

Join us for a special feature film case study of Slant, followed by a conversation with director Chester Sit, producer Richard Greenhalgh, and cast members. Explore topics including funding and development, production best practices, cast development, and creating engaging stories for global audiences.

VAFF Industry Insight Virtual #3

Virtual Lunch & Learn with Canada Media Fund

Friday, November 13 | 12:00 PM

VAFF Industry Week
Scan and Learn more

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Sunday
November 15

OVASIAN AWARDS & Closing Gala

The OVASIAN Awards celebrates VAFF with a final night gala celebration honouring filmmakers and industry changemakers at their very best.

Doors and Welcome reception at 5:00 pm. Awards ceremony starts at 6:00 pm.

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, 4th floor 900 Burrard Street Vancouver

After Party:
SUMU Restaurant, 888 Burrard Street, Vancouver Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and Cash bar.

Dress code: Dressy / Cocktail Ticket: $100 | 19+ | Valid ID required

Buy Tickets:

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS presented by Vancity

Scan and Learn more

Check out who's nominated for VAFF 2026 ! and Learn more about our VAFF 2026 Jury.

VAFF Industry Program

Unlocking insider knowledge for the next generation of cinema.

Since 2013, the VAFF Industry Program has been tackling the real questions facing our industry—connecting emerging and seasoned creators to champion diverse representation across every area of filmmaking.
Here's what's coming up in our VAFF Industry Insight Series (VI²) & Filmmaker Talks Series (VF):

Spring (May): Asian Heritage Month Edition

Summer (July): EXNW x RESO Partnership

Fall (November): Vancouver Asian Film Festival

Whether you're behind the camera or in the writer's room, it's time to level up your craft.
Interested in exploring more about the filming industry? Follow industry news at **VAFF on LinkedIn!**



Spring Filmmaker Talks Series-Our Ocean Table

VAFF Industry Insight Series - VI²
Unlock the Industry. Elevate Your Story.

Designed for filmmakers committed to diverse representation, this series brings you direct access to key stages of the creative process:

- Producer Experience: Inside guidance on development and production realities
- Writer's Room Workshop: Collaborative storytelling and script refining
- Pitching for Funding: Crafting compelling pitches that land support
- Casting Workshop: Building authentic onscreen representation from day one

VAFF Filmmaker Talks Series - VF
True insight comes from real experience.

A core pillar of this series features deep-dive case studies that trace the complete journey of selected filmmakers across multiple genres. From the early spark of development and the complexities of funding to post-production and final distribution strategies, these sessions reveal the exact decisions, challenges, and breakthroughs that brought each project from script to screen. Designed to demystify the business of filmmaking, this immersive look at real case studies equips creators with actionable strategies for bringing their own vision to market.



VAFF delegates at EXNW, Summer 2026

VAFF Film Fund

The VAFF Film Fund (VAFF^2) was founded by VAFF Lifetime Patron Richard K. Wong to assist talented Asian Canadian filmmakers and television producers in creating projects that raise the profile of Asians in Canada. His contribution is close to $80,000 to the fund since it was first established in 2021. VAFF is seeking additional donors to grow the Film Fund and help bring more Asian Canadian stories to the screen. Your support helps amplify underrepresented voices and create opportunities for Asian Canadian filmmakers to share their stories with the world.

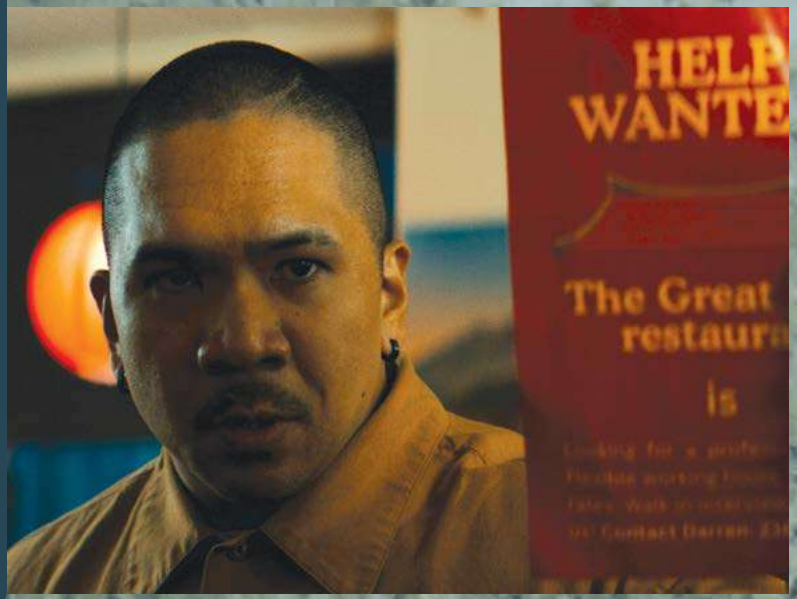
Interested in supporting the fund? Please contact us at info@vaff.org.

To provide Asian Canadian filmmakers the opportunity to complete their works, VAFF will finance original, high-quality projects that satisfy the fund's criteria. VAFF's hope is that the funded projects will further support Asian Canadian talent.

The Great Wall, directed by Soo Min Park, will have its world premier at VAFF30. Soo Min Park is a Korean immigrant and a Canadian permanent resident, She takes a deep interest in telling stories of people from different backgrounds, especially in their quest in becoming the bridge between the cultures of origin and the new. Having worked as a Korean-English translator and sometimes a cultural consultant on films such as The Mother and The Bear and Okja, she seeks to explore the vital role of languages in people's lives and the society as a whole through her films.

Learn more at: https://vaff.org/vafffilmfund/





MAMM

The 21st Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM21) had another successful, record-breaking year that concluded with 16 Shorts premiering at the MAMM21 Gala Screening and Awards Presentation at the Vancouver Playhouse on August 29, 2026 and 3 Vertical Series launched on Instagram. It has been exciting to witness the MAMM community grow as we saw more pitches from new filmmakers, more submissions, and new audiences in attendance. This year we launched a new awards category for Best Editing, thanks to our Lifetime Patron, Leon Ng.

The distinctive stories created by this year's filmmakers and the creativity and craft of storytelling impressed all in attendance, in person and online. We are so proud of the MAMMers of MAMM21 and are honoured that we could help tell their unique stories.

MAMM aims to foster and showcase emerging Asian and mixed Asian filmmakers through a 10-day moviemaking marathon preceded by a masterclass-level MAMMentorship program and culminating in a premiere screening and awards presentation.

Catch the award-winning Shorts, Ultra Shorts and Vertical Series at VAFF30. Be sure to follow us on Instagram @mamm_vaff for the latest news from MAMM and our alumni.

Lynne Lee
MAMM Director/Producer



Elimin8hate

Elimin8Hate (E8) is a Canadian anti-Asian racism hub that serves as the advocacy arm of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF). Founded in 2020 in response to the sharp rise in anti-Asian sentiment during the pandemic, the group works to interrupt, dismantle, and eliminate anti-Asian racism at individual, institutional, and systemic levels. E8 challenges anti-Asian racism through storytelling, education and community engagement. It explores the histories, stereotypes and experiences that shape how Asian communities are seen and represented, while creating space for dialogue, understanding and change. Through film, stories and shared experiences, #Elimin8Hate amplifies diverse voices, challenges harmful narratives and encourages everyone to recognize their role in building a more inclusive and connected community.

#Elimin8Hate UPCOMING Social Media Campaign

NOT JUST A MOMENT



A 12-week public education and engagement campaign exploring the history, impact, and continuing forms of anti-Asian racism in Canada. Through film, storytelling, history and contemporary issues, the campaign invites audiences to REMEMBER the past, RESIST harmful stereotypes and narratives, and RECLAIM the power to tell our own stories. The campaign moves from awareness to action while encouraging audiences to recognize patterns, challenge racism, amplify diverse voices and consider their own role in creating a more inclusive future.

Please donate to support the important work of VAFF/E8.

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