

REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL+ SUMMIT

Film Festival
Oct 21 - Nov 3 | 2024

Summit
Oct 22 & 23 | 2024


REELWORLD
SCREEN INSTITUTE | FILM FESTIVAL | DATABASE
BLACK | INDIGENOUS | PEOPLE OF COLOUR

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CANADIAN FILMS HAVE IT ALL.

BIG HITS
BIG HITS
BIG HITS
BIG TALENTS
BIG TALENTS
BIG TALENTS
BIG TALENTS



telefilm.ca/en/seeitall

Contents

| | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|--|
| 4 | Land Acknowledgement | 33 | Opening Night Film |
| 5 | Welcome Letter from Reelworld Founder | 34-42 | Feature Films |
| 7 | What is Reelworld? | 45-59 | Short Film Programs |
| 7 | Reelworld Film Festival + Summit | 62 | Reelworld Film Festival Jurors |
| 8 | Welcome Letter from Governor General | 63 | Reelworld Film Festival Awards |
| 9 | Welcome Letter from Prime Minister | 66-67 | Reelworld Trailblazers Awards |
| 10-16 | Welcome Messages | 70 | Reelworld Visionary Award |
| 18 | Welcome Letter from Reelworld Screen Institute Board Chair | 71 | Reelworld Award of Excellence |
| 19 | Reelworld Screen Institute Board | 73-76 | Summit Schedule |
| 20 | Welcome Letter from Reelworld Foundation Board Chair | 77 | Digital Day |
| 21 | Reelworld Foundation Board | 78-79 | Reelworld Emerging 20 Program |
| 22-23 | Reelworld Screen Institute Staff | 80 | Reelworld Producer Program |
| 24-27 | Reelworld Film Festival + Summit Partners and Funders | 82-83 | Reelworld Black Entrepreneurs Program |
| 28-29 | How To Festival | 84 | Reelworld Training Lab presented by Amazon |
| 30-31 | Festival Schedule | 86 | Reelworld Directors Immersion Program |
| | | 89 | Reelworld Market Ready |
| | | 90 | Reelworld 25th Anniversary |

Land Acknowledgement

The land on which Reelworld operates is the traditional territory of numerous Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe, and the Chippewa. Our offices are located in Toronto, which falls under Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. These Sovereign Nations have inhabited, protected, and preserved this land. We humbly acknowledge this enduring truth.

Reelworld recognizes that many people living in (what we call) Canada today have been unjustly dispossessed of their ancestral lands. European colonialism has obscured and continues to erase their histories. Reelworld represents those who are from the many scattered lands around the world and stand united with Indigenous peoples. Reelworld observes the injustices, the suffering, and the oppression and acknowledges Indigenous peoples right to their lands.

As settlers, immigrants or children of immigrants, we and our ancestors adopted settler laws and we continue to occupy and settle stolen Indigenous land. We must learn and foster understanding and trust with Indigenous people to dissolve the White supremacy and settler colonialism that pervades our cultural, social, political, and economic spheres.

Welcome Letter



We are facing a period of significant challenges in our industry and this can cause anxiety in many. But I have always felt that with challenges comes opportunity. This is a time for us all to get more creative and to work together, a time for us to think out of the box when it comes to “content” and our audience.

At Reelworld, we shape our initiatives based on the needs of the wide community that we serve. We are passionate about the diverse creatives that reside in Canada and the unique perspectives, ideas and stories that they bring to the table. Our mission is to meet them where they are, and help them advance to the next stage of their careers.

We are humbled each year with the growing support of our many funders, sponsors and donors. A heartfelt thank you to them for their continued support. We are already working together to make our 25th anniversary in 2025 our best and strongest year.

Reelworld is committed to investing in the future of our screen industry by championing and supporting our country’s diverse talent pool. Last year alone we impacted over 3,500 people through our programs, events, panels and mentorship. We invite everyone in the industry to continue investing in Reelworld, and by extension our vibrant industry, by showing up to our events, hearing from our community, and contributing in any way you can to their growth.

Thank you to all our speakers at the summit this year — you will be bringing your expertise to those who are hungry to hear it — and a big thank you to all the filmmakers who toiled to make the beautiful films presented at this year's festival.

Enjoy!

Tonya Williams
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FOUNDER
REELWORLD SCREEN INSTITUTE

WELCOME MESSAGE

LATE BLOOMER

WWW.REELWORLD.CA

**YOUR STORY.
YOUR TRUTH.
OUR SUPPORT.**

LA CLÉ DES CHAMPS

STREAMS FLOW FROM A RIVER

ABROAD

The Canada Media Fund is here to support bold, courageous voices across the audiovisual industry—from television and web series to documentaries, video games, IDM and immersive projects. Wherever there's a vision and a desire to shine a light, we're there to light the spark.



CANADA MEDIA FUND FONDS DES MÉDIAS DU CANADA

cmf-fmc.ca

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What is Reelworld?

Reelworld was founded in 2000 by award-winning actress and producer Tonya Williams to advance opportunities for Canadians who are Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour in the screen industries by providing professional development and advocating for racial equity in Canadian content and production. **Reelworld Screen Institute**, a non-profit, provides training programs and presents the acclaimed **Reelworld Film Festival**, which celebrates stories by racialized Canadians. The festival has now expanded to include a two-day **Summit** to shine a spotlight on issues around diversity, inclusion and equity in the Canadian screen landscape. Providing access to opportunities is core to Reelworld, and **Access Reelworld** is Canada's leading hiring platform for Indigenous and racialized crews and talent. **Reelworld Foundation**, a registered charity, is transforming the industry by creating mechanisms that hold systems accountable for greater equity.

Reelworld Film Festival+Summit

Celebrating its 24th year, Reelworld is Canada's longest-running film festival and screen institute committed to advancing opportunities for Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour in the Canadian screen industries by reducing barriers and fostering authentic stories.

The Reelworld Film Festival showcases 100% Canadian content across a wide variety of genres in narrative and documentary features, shorts, music videos, animation, and episodic series. The 2024 Reelworld Film Festival will run in a hybrid format, with in-person events and screenings from October 21 to 27, digital events on October 28 and 29, and all films accessible online from October 22 until November 3.

For the second year, the Reelworld Summit will take place during the festival, on October 22 & 23. The summit will feature keynote speeches, industry discussions, fireside chats, pitch sessions, and networking opportunities. These collective elements enhance the experience for our attendees, providing an opportunity for Canadian creatives, professionals and government leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue about the state of our industry today.



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL • LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

Message from the Governor General on the occasion of the 24th Reelworld Film Festival+Summit

I am pleased to convey warm greetings to everyone taking part in the 24th Reelworld Film Festival+Summit.

Since it was launched in 2000, the Reelworld Film Festival has exclusively featured the work of independent Canadian filmmakers that identify as Black, Indigenous, Asian or People of Colour. It provides a stage where members of the vibrant and racially diverse artist community can speak their truths, share their unique perspectives and shape how we perceive the world.

Art is vital to reflecting our society and expressing our identity. It reveals who we are, as individuals and as a country. This festival creates great opportunities to foster understanding and connection among people of different backgrounds. And in embracing these opportunities, participants of this remarkable initiative are helping to build a stronger, more inclusive Canada.

I wish everyone a memorable festival.

Mary Simon



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

October 21–27, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2024 Reelworld Film Festival + Summit.

For the past 24 years, this event has offered Canadian filmmakers who identify as Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern and Latin American a platform to share their stories and experiences. I am certain that audiences will appreciate the diverse selection of films being screened this year.

I would like to thank the organizers for their commitment to supporting Canadian filmmakers of all backgrounds. Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made stronger and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



Welcome Messages



THE HONOURABLE EDITH DUMONT | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

Congratulations to the Reelworld Film Festival+Summit on your 24th year of empowering diverse Canadian voices in film. Your dedication to inclusion and social impact continues to inspire and unite us all.



THE HONOURABLE PASCALE ST-ONGE | MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

Congratulations to Reelworld on the success of this festival, which gives Canadian filmmakers the chance to share their talent and highlight our diversity through works that educate, enlighten and entertain.



THE HONOURABLE KAMAL KHERA | MINISTER OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Reelworld makes it possible for diverse voices to tell their stories. Many thanks to the festival for enhancing representation and helping build a more inclusive society!



PREMIER DOUG FORD | PREMIER OF ONTARIO

Welcome to the 24th Reelworld Film Festival+Summit. We're proud to support this showcase for talented storytellers and media artists from our diverse communities. Keep up the great work!



THE HONOURABLE NEIL LUMSDEN | ONTARIO MINISTER OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND SPORT

Congratulations to the 2024 Reelworld Film Festival + Summit. Your commitment to sharing Ontario's diverse stories through film reinforces our province's reputation as an international leader in the screen-based industries.



THE HONOURABLE MARCI IEN | MINISTER OF WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH

Congratulations on the 24th Reelworld Film Festival+Summit! Reelworld's commitment to amplifying and nurturing racially diverse talent creates a richer film industry and more vibrant Canada. Keep spotlighting diverse voices and stories – lights, camera, action!



GRACE MOSS | VICE PRESIDENT OF DISCOVERY EQUITY + INCLUSION, WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY

Congratulations to Reelworld for continuing to empower Canadian storytellers. We are proud to support and be aligned with your commitment to equity and inclusion in the film and television industry!



VALERIE CREIGHTON, | PRESIDENT AND CEO, CMF

The CMF is delighted to support Reelworld's advocacy for Indigenous, Black, and Racialized creators. I thank Tonya Williams and the festival's team for their tireless work to showcase underrepresented talents and advance Canada's screen sector.



ALICIA ROSE | ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, SOCIAL IMPACT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP, TD BANK GROUP

Through the TD Ready Commitment, we're proud to support Reelworld's efforts to showcase media artists from communities facing barriers to the industry and the stories that reflect the rich tapestry of the world around us.



JULIE ROY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO, TELEFILM CANADA

Telefilm Canada is proud to promote and celebrate stories that reflect the diversity of voices and communities of our country. Once again, we are happy to partner with Reelworld to champion Canadian creators and their work!



VANESSA CASE | VICE PRESIDENT, CONTENT, PARAMOUNT+ AND PLUTO TV, PARAMOUNT GLOBAL

Paramount+ is honoured to partner with Reelworld to support their mission of nurturing and growing Canadian talent year-round. At Paramount, inclusion and diversity are top priorities, and we are proud to support Reelworld's dedication to professional development and celebrating diverse storytellers.



CARLYN KLEBUC | GENERAL MANAGER, ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING, BELL MEDIA

Bell Media is proud to return as a partner for the 24th edition of the Reelworld Film Festival. Reelworld's commitment to championing diverse perspectives through storytelling and professional development programs continues to make impactful changes to the Canadian film and television industry. Congratulations!



MAGDA GRACE | HEAD OF PRIME VIDEO CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND; AMAZON

Congratulations to Reelworld on your remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to creating a more inclusive Canadian screen industry. You have paved the way for countless talented individuals to showcase their skills and share their unique perspectives.



MICHELLE CHAWLA | DIRECTOR AND CEO, CANADA ARTS COUNCIL

The Canada Council for the Arts congratulates the Reelworld Film Festival+Summit for bringing to life engagement, diversity, connection and inspiration through the 24th edition of its unique gathering of the arts and culture.



SIMON FOSTER | CHAIR, ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

Congratulations to Reelworld for another incredible showcase of work by racially diverse Canadian media creators. Heartfelt thanks to the staff and volunteers who tirelessly crafted another successful event.



ROBIN MIRSKY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROGERS GROUP OF FUNDS

At Rogers, we are deeply committed to supporting talented equity-deserving filmmakers in Canada and thank Reelworld Film Festival for their continued dedication to the industry.

**RON ZAMMIT | AFBS**

AFBS is proud to support Reelworld as we applaud their commitment to championing diversity and driving social change within the Canadian creative community. Congratulations on your 24th annual film festival and summit.

**MARCIA DOUGLAS | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BELL FUND**

Bell Fund is proud to support Reelworld Film Festival + Summit as a catalyst for connections, projects and careers for new and experienced BIPOC creators and producers.

**JEFFREY L. ORRIDGE | CEO, TVO**

TVO Media Education Group is proud to support the 24th annual Reelworld Film Festival+Summit and the chance to work collaboratively to celebrate racially diverse Canadian storytellers, filmmakers, actors and artists and their stories. Congratulations on another wonderful year.

**WARREN P. SONODA | PRESIDENT, DGC NATIONAL**

The DGC is proud to support the 24th Reelworld Film Festival+Summit!

**PREM GILL | CEO, CREATIVE BC**

Creative BC is pleased to support Reelworld Film Festival+Summit, a champion of diverse storytellers and filmmakers. We are delighted to congratulate them on their 24th year of programming and ongoing commitment to representation!

**REYNOLDS MASTIN | PRESIDENT AND CEO, CMPA**

For more than two decades, Reelworld has been at the forefront of championing diversity and inclusivity in Canada's screen industry. The CMPA is proud to support this essential work and congratulates Reelworld on its 24th anniversary.

**MARGUERITE PIGOTT | FILM COMMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR OF ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES, CITY OF TORONTO**

Congratulations to ReelWorld and especially to the filmmakers it celebrates. Your voices are at the heart of the future of Canadian film.

**ELEANOR NOBLE | NATIONAL PRESIDENT, ACTRA**

ACTRA is proud to support the Reelworld Film Festival+Summit and was pleased to contribute to the #HerFrameMatters Protocol Guideline. Congratulations on 24 years of advocacy and impact!

**DAVID GALE | PRESIDENT, ACTRA TORONTO**

ACTRA Toronto is proud to support Reelworld and its commitment to creating community, conversation and collaboration for Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian and Artists of Colour and to connecting this talent with Canada and the world.

**VICTORIA SHEN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WGC**

The Writers Guild of Canada is proud to sponsor the Reelworld Film Festival+Summit. Congratulations on 24 years of championing independent Canadian filmmakers identifying as Black, Indigenous, Asian and People of Colour!



CATHERINE TAIT | PRESIDENT AND CEO, CBC/RADIO-CANADA

As a long-standing supporter of Reelworld, CBC/Radio-Canada has seen firsthand the many ways the organization supports racially diverse creators to tell their own stories. Congratulations on another incredible festival!



TAMMY FRICK | CEO, ACADEMY OF CANADIAN CINEMA & TELEVISION

Reelworld Film Festival's ongoing commitment to fostering access, development, and opportunity for racially diverse Canadian talent is more crucial than ever, and the Canadian Academy is proud to support this vital organization. Congratulations on 24 trailblazing years!



CELIA SMITH | CHAIR, TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL

Toronto Arts Council is proud to support Reelworld and its vital work to create greater access and inclusion for racially diverse Canadian artists to tell their stories through film and media. Congratulations on the 24th festival and summit.



MONIKA ILLE | APTN

APTN is honoured to support the Reelworld Film Festival + Summit, celebrating its dedication to amplifying Indigenous voices and stories in Canadian cinema. Wishing everyone an inspiring and successful event!

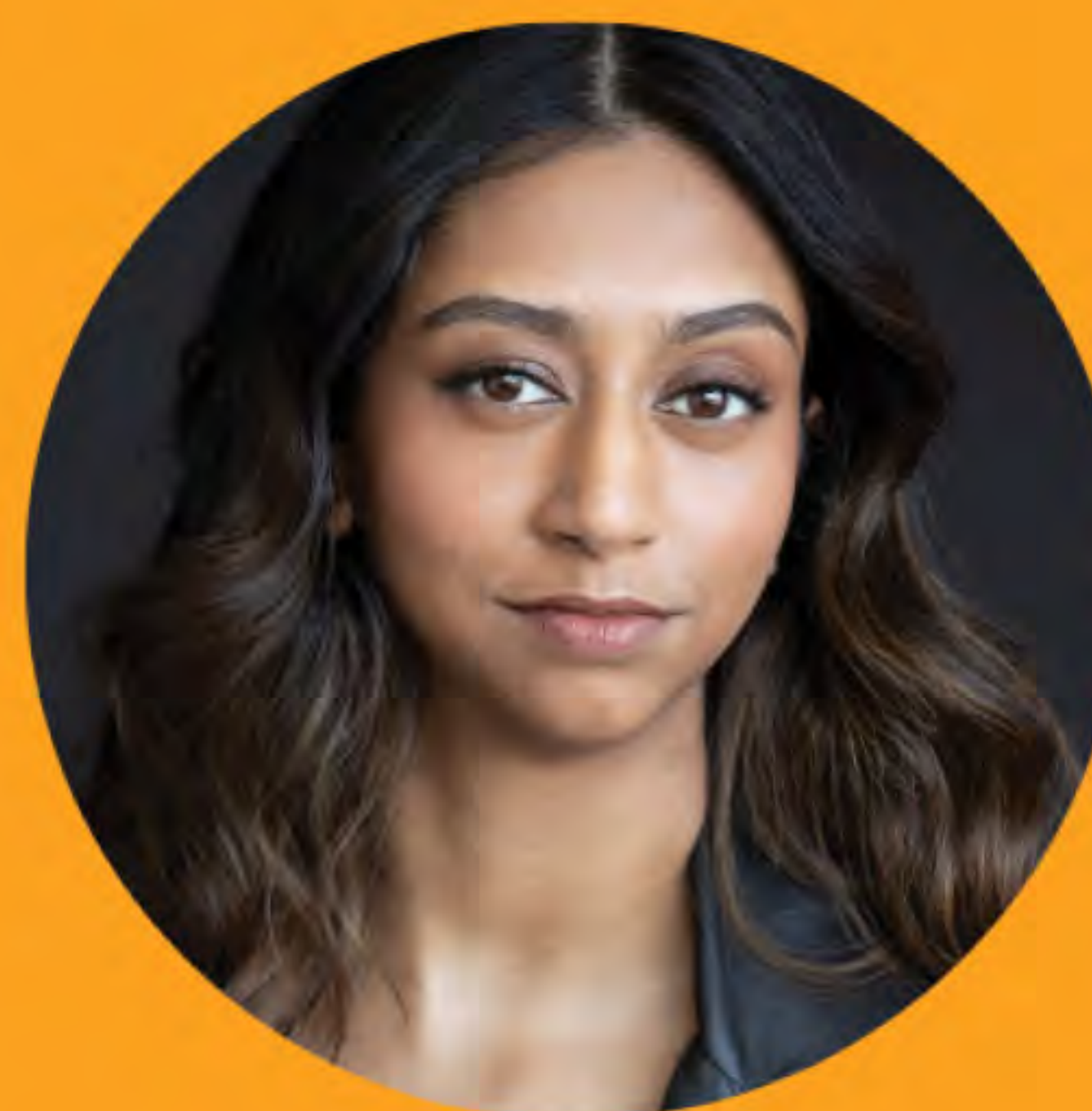
ACCESS REELWORLD

Reelworld advances opportunities for Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian and People of Colour in the Canadian screen industries by reducing barriers and fostering authentic stories.

Search us at

Access Reelworld.ca

Vinuja Shanthasoruban
Actress and Producer



Mitchell Saddleback
Actor, Director and Screenwriter



Francine Buchner
Casting Director



Over 100 Screen Industry Professions

Welcome Letter

REELWORLD SCREEN INSTITUTE



Greetings and welcome to the 24th Reelworld Film Festival+Summit! On behalf of the Reelworld Screen Institute Board of Directors, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all attendees, filmmakers, and participants as we celebrate 24 years of breaking barriers and championing the voices of Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour in the Canadian screen industry. Through our efforts as an organization and a film festival, we continue our dedication to creating more

access and inclusion for racially diverse Canadian talent, both on and behind the screen.

Our festival's mission is to showcase independent feature and short films by racially diverse Canadian filmmakers. At the two-day summit, Reelworld will continue to provide vital conversations, workshops and initiatives that drive meaningful change in our industry, reaffirming our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Canadian screen landscape.

In addition to our festival and summit, we remain committed to nurturing and growing the Canadian talent pool year-round. We aim to empower racially diverse filmmakers and artists through professional development programs such as the Black Entrepreneurs Program, the Emerging 20 Program, the Producer Program, workshops, webinars, mentorship, and other instructional opportunities. These efforts support their creative journey and ensure their voices are heard and celebrated.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration of diverse Canadian storytelling. Your participation is integral to our mission. We hope you enjoy the films, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and leave inspired by the incredible talent on display. Together, we can create a more inclusive and dynamic film industry for all.

Warm regards,

CHERYL HUDSON
CHAIR, REELWORLD SCREEN INSTITUTE BOARD

Reelworld Screen Institute

BOARD



CHERYL HUDSON, CHAIR
Founder, Cheryl Hudson & Co



HAYLEY PHILLIPS, TREASURER
SVP, Finance & Operations, Shaftesbury



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Producer, White Bear Films



GINA BOWEN
Sr. Director Online Community Strategy, Verint



MARSHA GREENE
MPPA Entertainment Executive



TY HYLAND
Production Planning Executive, Scripted & Digital Content, CBC Television



FLOYD KANE
Creator, Writer, Producer, Search it Up Productions Inc.



PATRICIA BEBIA MAWA
Executive Vice President, Silvertrust Media & Afroglobal TV



LISA MEECHES
President, Eagle Vision Inc



APRIL MULLINGS
Creative Director, Director Producer, Shift



ERICA SHAW
Media Production Manager, Shaw Communications | Professor, Sheridan College



SHARON STEVENS
Vice President, Programming, Hollywood Suite

Welcome Letter

REELWORLD
FOUNDATION



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Reelworld Foundation, I welcome you to the 2024 Reelworld Film Festival and Summit. As a registered charity, Reelworld Foundation is leading the charge to transform the screen industry by advocating for equitable opportunities for Canadians who are Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour. Initiatives like the #HerFrameMatters Protocol Guideline challenge stereotypical representations in Canadian screen content.

Professional training programs like the Emerging 20 Program and, the Black Entrepreneur Program demonstrate Reelworld's dedication to developing talent above and below the line. Through its Market Ready initiative, Reelworld has taken delegates to esteemed national and international festivals and markets like the Cannes Film Festival, the Banff World Media Festival and Prime Time.

My heartfelt congratulations goes out to Tonya Williams, founder of Reelworld, for winning the Changemaker Award at the 2024 Canadian Screen Awards and for her over-two-decade commitment to supporting diverse filmmakers and creatives.

The vision and creativity of all the outstanding filmmakers showcasing their films at this year's festival inspires us all. On behalf of the Reelworld Foundation Board of Directors, I commend you and hope that everyone has an amazing time during the festival and summit.

Let's work together to break down barriers, give voice to those with different perspectives, and create a future where innovation and inclusivity flourish.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA BEBIA MAWA
CHAIR, REELWORLD FOUNDATION BOARD

Reelworld Foundation

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS



PATRICIA BEBIA MAWA,
CHAIR
Executive Vice President,
Silvertrust Media &
Afroglobal TV



CHERYL HUDSON,
VICE-CHAIR
Founder,
Cheryl Hudson & Co



APRIL MULLINGS,
TREASURER
Director, Finance, and
Business Affairs,
HLP + Partners



TASCHINA ASHMEADE,
SECRETARY
Senior Associate,
Dentons, Toronto



TY HYLAND
Production Planning
Executive, Scripted &
Digital Content, CBC
Television



ANYA MCKENZIE
Manager Unscripted
Programming, Business
& Rights, CBC



ERICA SHAW
Media Production Manager,
Shaw Communications |
Professor, Sheridan College



Reelworld Screen Institute Staff

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TONYA WILLIAMS
Founder & Executive
/ Artistic Director
SHE/HER



EMILY-JANE WILLIAMS
Development Director
SHE/THEY



SAFIA ABDIGIR
Program Director
SHE/THEY



PAHULL BAINS
Communications
Director
SHE/HER



NATALIE NADEEN
Communications and
Public Engagement
Manager
SHE/HER



RODNEY V. SMITH
Marketing Manager
HE/HIM



ZAARIN BUSHRA
Program Manager
SHE/HER



BAL NJOVANA
Finance Manager
SHE/HER



JULISA MARCEL
Programs Coordinator
SHE/HER



MARINA HANNA
Senior Film
Programmer
SHE/HER



RICHARD B. PIERRE
Film Programmer
HE/HIM



AMADEUS WHEESK
Programming Coordinator
THEY/THEM



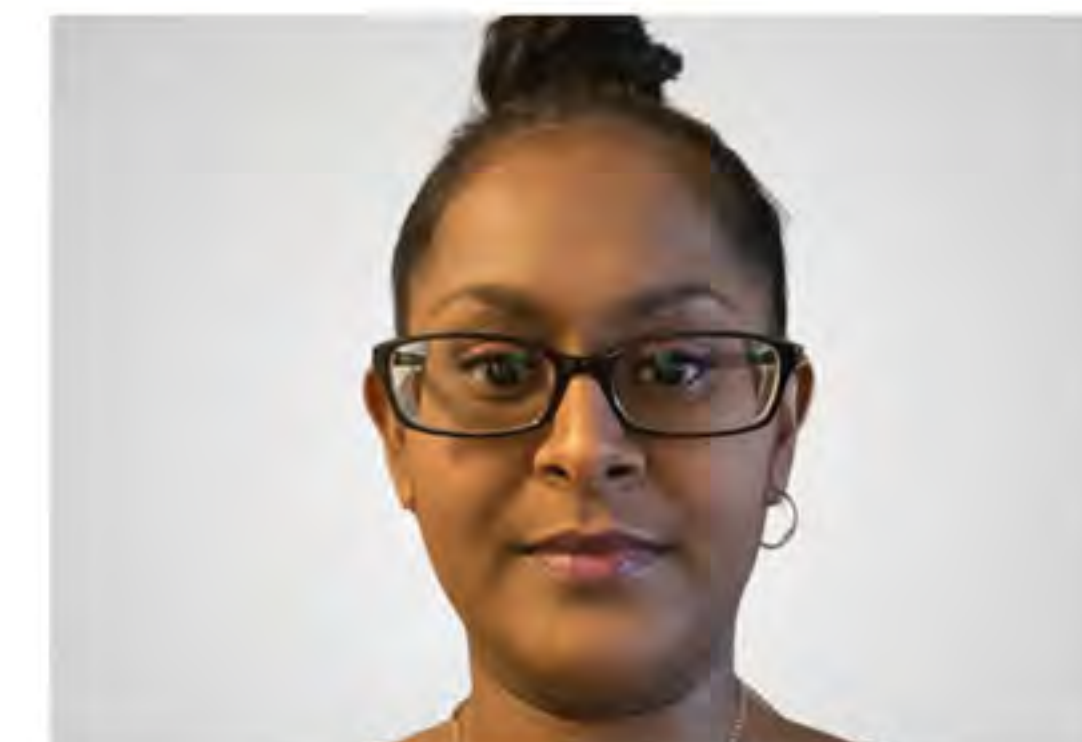
MINERVA NAVASCA
Film Screener
SHE/HER



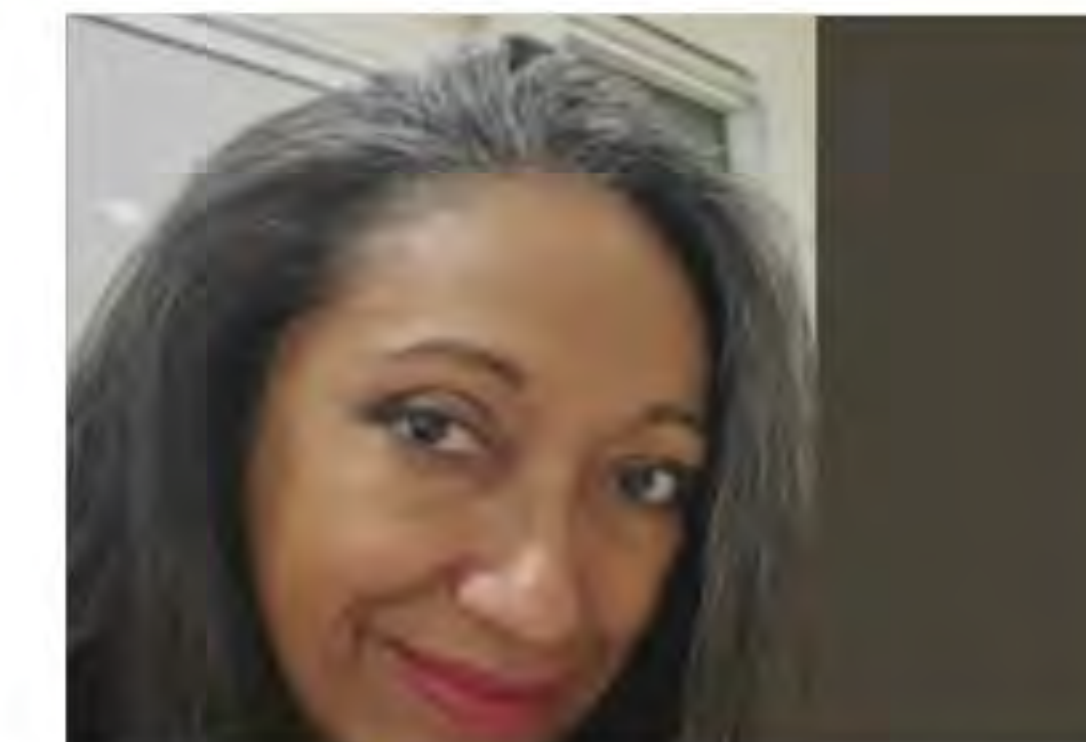
KIRSTY PLANGE
Operations Coordinator
SHE/HER



RHEIMA ROBINSON
Guest Services
SHE/HER



JENN PERSAUD
Executive Assistant
SHE/HER



YVETTE SUTHERLAND
Finance Coordinator
SHE/HER



TADY CLARKE
Evaluation and
Report Coordinator
SHE/HER



MEILING MENIN
Archiving Coordinator
(Summer Student)
SHE/HER



GEO LA FORME
Programming Assistant
(Summer Student)
HE/THEY



2024 Reelworld Film Festival+Summit Partners and Funders

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DIAMOND PARTNERS



PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



BRONZE PARTNERS



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



MEDIA & COMMUNITY PARTNERS





2024 Year-Round Partners & Funders

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DIAMOND PARTNERS

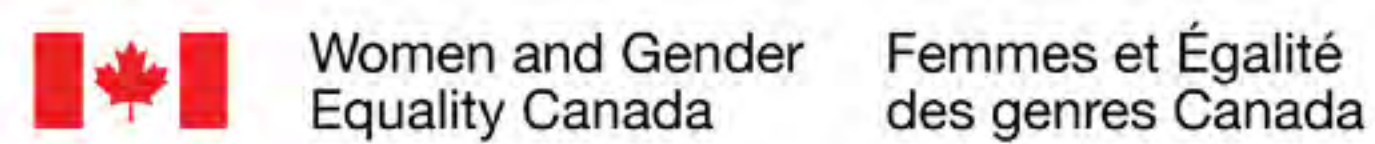


Emerging Artists



GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

Funded by:
Federal Economic Development
Agency for Southern Ontario



Canada Council for the Arts



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



HOW TO FESTIVAL

- Please refer to the [Reelworld Film Festival](#) website for details on all the films screening at this year's festival, including dates/times and where to buy tickets. Bring your ticket with the QR code to the cinema. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Opening Night Film is screening on October 21, with the rest of the screenings taking place from October 25-27.
- The Reelworld Summit takes place on October 22 and 23. The Summit Pass can be purchased [here](#). An email with registration instructions will be sent to you following your purchase. Once registered on Swapcard, our summit registration platform, you will be able to see the full summit schedule and correspond with other registered delegates.
- There will be two Digital Days taking place on October 28 and 29. This will be an opportunity for those not in Toronto to participate in some virtual events. All films will also be available to watch online (geo-blocked to Ontario) from October 22 to November 3.
- The 2024 Reelworld Awards Presentation will be livestreamed on Reelworld's YouTube channel on Sunday, November 3 at 6pm ET.



GET YOUR
PASSES &
TICKETS!

- **Reelworld Summit**

This pass grants access to all summit events on October 22 and 23
Note: The summit pass does not provide access to film screenings

VENUE: Courtyard Marriott Toronto Downtown
(475 Yonge St, Toronto, ON)

PRICE: \$250 + HST

- **Opening Night Film Ticket**

A ticket to the Opening Night Film, Stealing Vows, on October 21

VENUE: The Royal Theatre (608 College St., Toronto, ON)

PRICE: \$20 + HST

- **Individual Film Tickets**

All remaining film screenings take place from October 25-27

VENUE: The Paradise Theatre (1006 Bloor St. W, Toronto, ON)

PRICE: \$12 + HST

- **Online Festival Pass**

This pass grants you online access to all the films screened during this year's festival via the Cinesend digital platform
Films will be available to watch from October 22 to November 3.
The platform is geo-blocked to Ontario

PRICE: \$60 + HST

We believe that when people participate in their community, good things can happen.

TD is proud to support the Reelworld Film Festival.

As part of our goal to help people feel a sense of belonging in their communities, TD supports arts and culture events, initiatives and organizations across North America that amplify diverse voices.

Learn more at td.com/artsandculture



**Mon. Oct. 21
7:00 PM @ The Royal**

Stealing Vows

DIRECTED BY BOBBY SINGH BROWN



PRESENTED BY



Bobby Singh Brown is a writer, producer and director, renowned for his expertise in crafting compelling narratives across various mediums. With a prolific career spanning 22 years, he has left an indelible mark in the entertainment industry, excelling in the realms of television serials, feature films, documentaries, commercials, music videos, and corporate productions. *Stealing Vows* emerged as Brown's inaugural feature film during the challenging times of the pandemic.

FILM NOTES

Johnny Khan is the most in-demand emcee of the South Asian wedding circuit. However, making other people's marital dreams come true isn't where this one-time celebrity pictured his life ending up. For Johnny and his work friends, who all have aspirations they're waiting to live out, the never-ending summer of extravagant weddings is a trap they can't escape. When an unexpected opportunity arises to set something right by doing something wrong, the team realizes that they can do more than plan a wedding party, and a summer stealing spree ensues.

Inspired by real events, director Bobby Singh Brown's matrimonial-themed heist film set in the summer of 1998 has all the notes of a classic caper, the stakes of a crime action drama, and the high energy of a South Asian wedding. With its grand wedding sequences, multiple dance scenes, and an extensive ensemble cast led by Fuad Ahmed, Gia Sandhu, Anand Rajaram, and Ali Hassan, weaving this film together with unstoppable momentum was a feat in and of itself. And it promises viewers as much fun as the goodies and baddies are having onscreen. Co-written by Brown and Ali Hassan, *Stealing Vows* is destined to become a Canadian caper classic.

- MARINA HANNA

PRODUCER(S): Bobby Singh Brown, Jeremy Hood

CAST: Gia Sandhu - "Jyoti"
Fuad Ahmed - "Johnny"
Anand Rajaram - "Rav"

Ali Hassan - "Al"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: Toronto Premiere

RUN TIME: 2:00:00

LANGUAGE: English

**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

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8th Street Menace

DIRECTED BY GAVIN BAIRD, JACOB FARRELL



Gavin Baird & Jacob Farrell are filmmakers located on Treaty 6 territory, with Métis and Indigenous ancestry respectively. They are inspired by unique, dynamic stories that reflect their roots in Saskatchewan. Together they co-wrote, directed and produced *8th Street Menace* and have a short film slated for production later this year.

FILM NOTES

While living in Saskatoon, Mitchell aka “Menace,” owes his cousin some cash. Failing as a part-time thief, he tries to become a rapper while dragging his loved ones along for the ride.

Co-created and directed by Gavin Baird and Jacob Farrell, *8th Street Menace* delivers a refreshing take on the slacker genre. Like the story, the soundtrack and editing choices pull inspiration from all directions. Using various types of mixed animations and a soundtrack that utilizes influences from video games to folk music, the directors imbue the film with a tactical chaos. It’s all held together by an ensemble cast that seems lifted off the street, led by the director Gavin Baird as Menace. This film is an ode to local dirtbags, Métis pride and the spirit of indie filmmaking.

- SAFIA ABDIGIR

PRODUCER(S): Gavin Baird, Jacob Farrell, Kayla Peters

CAST: Gavin Baird - "Mitchell 'Menace' Dubois"
Bernadette Mullen - "Trixie"
Olly King - "Olly"

Kayla Peters - "Dez"
Ryan Wray - "Butch"

COUNTRY: Canada
PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:07:00
LANGUAGE: English



Boxcutter

DIRECTED BY REZA DAHYA



Reza Dahya is known for his work as a host and producer of OTA Live on Flow 93.5 FM in Toronto. He transitioned into filmmaking with his short films *Esha* and *Five Dollars*, which premiered at the TIFF Kids International Film Festival and aired on CBC’s *Canadian Reflections*. He is a 2015 alumnus of the Canadian Film Centre’s Directors’ Lab.

FILM NOTES

Tonight could be Rome’s big break. All he needs to do is get his tracks in front of a Grammy Award-winning producer rumoured to be dropping in at an invite-only event. But when his computer—and, with it, his music—is stolen, Rome finds himself racing against time to recover it. Joined by childhood friend Jenaya, they embark on a quest through every corner of Toronto, encountering an array of vibrant characters who either help or throw them off course.

In the director’s words, *Boxcutter* is “an ode to a vibrant and underappreciated music scene.” It is also unabashedly Toronto in a way rarely seen on screen, reflecting the city we live and breathe in our neighbourhoods. Director Reza Dahya’s debut feature film inhabits the town; the rich imagery and soundscapes beautifully exhibit the movement and complexities of its characters and the place they call home.

Dahya’s love of music runs deep. Formerly the co-host of OTA Live on FLOW 93.5 FM, he channels his passion for hip-hop into *Boxcutter* and, like the two artists at its centre, stakes his claim on the scene and the city by capturing it on screen for the first time.

-MARINA HANNA

PRODUCER(S): Reza Dahya, Soko Negash

CAST: Ashton James - “Rome”
Zoe Lewis - “Jenaya”

COUNTRY: Canada
PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:28:42
LANGUAGE: English





Drop
DIRECTED BY RAMIN ESHRAGHI-YAZDI



Ramin Eshraghi-Yazdi is an award-winning Canadian BIPOC writer, producer and director. For over 17 years Ramin has amassed credits in over 600 projects ranging from commercial work, music video, short form and feature documentary as well as show-running two seasons of a sketch comedy VOD show and a slew of short narratives. *Drop* is his debut feature narrative.

FILM NOTES

While grappling with an unknown future, an aging dancer struggles to find redemption by rescuing a troubled young man from a life of crime.

Clip (Christopher Clare) is a contemporary dancer whose career seems over when his criminal past comes back to haunt him in the form of a young man, Stephan (Shemar Herbert), who is seemingly on the run from cops and criminals alike. With the goons closing in, it seems like there may be no way out for Stephan. And though he is reluctant, Clip is nonetheless determined to help Stephan escape even if it means going back to his old ways.

If you're looking for a run-of-the-mill crime flick, you've come to the wrong place. Calgary filmmaker Ramin Eshraghi-Yazdi has a distinct vision for his first feature, and that approach places just as much emphasis on the dance scenes as the chase sequences. With *Drop*, he engages and challenges the audience with an original take on the crime drama and announces himself as a rising tal

– RICHARD B PIERRE

PRODUCER(S): Ramin Eshraghi-Yazdi
CAST: Christopher Clare - "Clip"
Shemar Herbert - "Stephan"
COUNTRY: Canada
PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:36:00
LANGUAGE: English



Les Filles du Roi
DIRECTED BY COREY PAYETTE



Corey Payette is an interdisciplinary storyteller, writer, composer, producer, and director in film and theatre. He is a member of the Mattagami First Nations, with Oji-Cree, French Canadian and Irish ancestry. His next project is a musical titled *Starwalker*, which began development as a TV series under the WBD Access x Canadian Academy Writers Program and is currently in post-production as a feature film, to be released in 2025.

FILM NOTES

Adapting his original musical of the same name, Corey Payette's *Les Filles du Roi* weaves a story told in English, French, and Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) about the settlement of the Les Filles du Roi (single or orphaned French women brought over to populate the new world) and the Mohawk People. Centered on Kateri, a young Kanien'kehá girl, and her brother Jean-Baptiste, the musical follows their interactions with the new settlers, and one in particular, Marie-Jeanne Lespérance. With a dynamic score by Payette that blends traditional rhythms and contemporary melodies, the musical celebrates resilience, connection, and finding home in unimaginable circumstances.

Accompanying the feature is short film *Oshki-aya'aa*, directed by Jordan Wanakamik. An Anishinaabe teenager, Daniel, is caught stealing after struggling with no food at home. Picked up by his uncle Bernie, he's given a meal and learns about his uncle's relationship with traditional dance. Steadily paced, Wanakamik creates a meditative atmosphere as Daniel connects with his culture through art, and finds healing along the way.

–SAFIA ABDIGIR

PRODUCER(S): Garrett VanDusen
Corey Payette
Julie McIsaac
CAST: Kaitlyn Yott - "Kateri"
Julie McIsaac - "Marie-Jean Lespérance"
Raes Calvert - "Jean-Baptiste"
Chelsea Rose - "Clan Mother"
COUNTRY: Toronto
PREMIERE STATUS: Toronto Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:41:58
LANGUAGE: English, French



Oshki-aya'aa
DIRECTED BY JORDAN WANAKAMIK



Jordan Wanakamik is an Anishinaabe, Cree and Vietnamese filmmaker and photographer based in Toronto. Jordan was selected for the LIFT and imagineNATIVE mentorship program, and wrote and directed a short film named *Burned*, which premiered at the 2023 imagineNATIVE Film Festival. Jordan is currently the Program Facilitator at POV Film.

PRODUCER(S): Victoria Anderson-Gardner
CAST: Jordan Fiddler - "Daniel"
Thurston Kwisiwa - "Bernie"
Crystal Harrison Collin - "Emma"
Birdie Cantin - "Anne"
Sean Morriveau - "Store Manager"
COUNTRY: Canada
PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere
RUN TIME: 20:47
LANGUAGE: English



SAT. OCT. 26
5:30 PM
@ PARADISE
THEATRE

Lovely

DIRECTED BY SERVILLE POBLETE



Serville is a Filipino-Canadian filmmaker based in the vibrant highrise community of Bleecker Street in downtown Toronto. He is known for his unique exploration of boyhood and sports culture within urban and familial settings. His debut feature film *Altar Boy* was released in November 2022 by Mongrel Media and is now available on Apple TV and Netflix.

FILM NOTES

In *Lovely*, Liam “Lee” (Mark Bacolcol), a boxer on the road to becoming a pro, is confronted by life-changing news—he’s about to become a father. Confronted by this revelation, he feels trapped as he grapples with the limitations of his circumstances and the fact that all he knows how to do is fight. What initially appears to be a straightforward boxing film evolves into an exploration of a young man struggling to understand his identity beyond that of a local boxing champ.

Set against the bustling highrise community of Bleecker in downtown Toronto, *Lovely* is a heartfelt portrayal of boyhood and masculinity. It’s enriched by its vibrant setting, expertly captured by director Serville Poblete. It’s the relationships in the film that lend it authenticity. Lee is challenged and supported by his girlfriend Briana (Victoria Lenhardt), his best friend Nate (Melika Ghali), and his coach (Elton Tannis).

This film marks the second collaboration between Poblete and writer-actor Mark Bacolcol. Like *Altar Boy* (2021), it tackles a daunting passage into adulthood, grounded in intimate moments and made more engaging by its understated humour.

- MARINA HANNA

PRODUCER(S): Jason Gosbee
Shai Barcia, Mark Bacolcol,
Serville Poblete
CAST: Mark Bacolcol - “Lee”
Victoria Lenhardt - “Briana”

COUNTRY: Canada
PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:48:00
LANGUAGE: English



FRI. OCT. 25
5:00 PM
@ PARADISE
THEATRE

Morningside

DIRECTED BY RON DIAS



Ron Dias, a Toronto-based filmmaker, commenced his creative journey with a compelling web series in 2016. His subsequent foray into filmmaking saw further achievements, including the presentation of a short film at the esteemed Cannes Short Corner and his remarkable feature film debut, *Bite of a Mango*, which premiered at the American Black Film Festival and the Reelworld Film Festival in 2022. His latest endeavour, *Morningside*, showcases Dias’s commitment to storytelling and his knack for assembling talent.

FILM NOTES

Fresh off his feature-length debut *Bite of Mango*, Ron Dias confidently tackles an ambitious script that celebrates community, supported by a stellar ensemble cast including Kiana Madeira, Lovell Adams-Gray, and Fefe Dobson.

Morningside is first and foremost a love letter to the Scarborough neighbourhood it’s named for, and is crafted with care and authenticity that celebrates the resilience of its community. The film offers a vivid portrait of the intertwining lives of a vibrant set of characters within a community centre, set against the backdrop of looming gentrification.

This is the story of a young man with a dream of starting his own resort in Jamaica as he struggles to be a better man. It’s the story of a teen influencer who aspires to musical stardom and may actually possess the talent to realize that goal. It’s the story of a security guard with hopes of making it on the police force. But it’s also the story of the tragic ripple effect of gun violence and how that shatters these lives...

In *Morningside*, Dias attempts a far more challenging narrative than his first feature and that risk pays off.

Content advisory: gun violence

- RICHARD B PIERRE

PRODUCER(S): Ron Dias,
Joanne Jansen, Craig Fleming
CAST: Olunike Adeliyi - “Fi”
Kiana Madeira - “Nicki”
Alex Mallari Jr. - “Josh”
Joanne Jansen - “Shanice”
Lovell Adams-Gray - “Jay”

Fefe Dobson - “Steph”
Kiki Hammill - “Amber”
COUNTRY: Canada
PREMIERE STATUS: Toronto Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:30:01
LANGUAGE: English



SAT. OCT. 26
3:30 PM
@PARADISE
THEATRE

Simply Johanne

DIRECTED BY NADINE VALCIN



Nadine Valcin is an award-winning bilingual filmmaker and media artist whose practice spans documentary, experimental and narrative film as well as installation and virtual reality. She recently completed an MFA in Digital Futures at OCAD University and an artist's residency at Library and Archives Canada through Archive/Counter Archive.

FILM NOTES

"She was a very beautiful woman. She wasn't too Black for people," says Haitian-Canadian academic and archivist Frantz Voltaire in *Simply Johanne*, a documentary about Johanne Harrelle, the first Black fashion model to rise to prominence in Canada in the 1950s.

Nadine Valcin's film about the renegade model/actress, who passed away in 1994, paints an intriguing picture of a complicated and mostly-forgotten woman. Abandoned at an orphanage in Montreal, Johanne overcame her difficult childhood and grew up to make a mark on the Quebec fashion scene at a time when there were no women of colour modelling high-end clothing.

Valcin stitches together a rich tapestry of Johanne's life, with a mix of archival footage from fashion campaigns, stylized re-enactments, narrations from her autobiography, and interview clips. The documentary also features footage from films in which Johanne appeared, most significantly the 1963 film *À tout prendre* directed by Claude Jutra, her former lover.

Despite the many tragedies of her life, Johanne was a bold and provocative woman ahead of her time, who changed the landscape of fashion and film in Canada.

— PAHULL BAINS

PRODUCER(S): Josiane Blanc, Ania Jamila, Nadine Valcin
CAST: N/A
COUNTRY: Canada, France, Morocco

PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:15:00
LANGUAGE: French



SUN. OCT. 27
1:30 PM
@PARADISE
THEATRE

The Madman

DIRECTED BY AKRAM ADOUANI



Arrested after the publication of his debut novel at just 15 years old, a dystopian vision of Tunisia titled *Without Identity*, **Akram** turned to filmmaking. He co-directed the award-winning documentaries *The Enemy Within* and *Papy, How Did You Spend Your Youth?* He is now an African immigrant living in Canada and has produced his first feature, a film about cannibalism and inequalities in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal.

FILM NOTES

With his feature debut, writer-director-producer Akram Adouani weaves a thriller that is a perplexing story of inequality, corruption, revenge, and of course cannibalism...

Like any compelling thriller, this film opens with a corpse. There's a killer on the loose targeting the city elite and gruesome deaths are piling up across the city. Soon we're introduced to Fly, a taxi driver portrayed by the moustached Olivier Ross-Parent, who may hold the key to the authorities unravelling the killing spree. We flash back to how Fly met his idealistic friend Otto, who is played with panache by Vlad Alexis. What unfolds is a curious journey into a corrupt world, in which the duo ultimately find themselves thrust into a position where they must fight against injustice.

Adouani is a writer and it shows in a script obsessed with words and a film crammed with books. *The Madman* is a wholly original revenge thriller that will leave audiences guessing, because nothing is quite what it seems in this beguiling gem.

—RICHARD B PIERRE

PRODUCER(S): Akram Adouani
CAST: Olivier Ross - Parent "Fly"
Vlad Alexis - "Otto"
Lorna Kidjo - "Aïsha"
Justine Salette - "Mary"
Aksel Leblanc - "Tammer"

COUNTRY: Canada
PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere
RUN TIME: 1:32:00
LANGUAGE: English, French



SAT. OCT. 26
11:00 AM
@PARADISE
THEATRE

Words Left Unspoken

DIRECTED BY JOSIANE BLANC



Josiane is a writer, director and producer who has worked in Canada, Europe, South America and Africa. Her past projects include *Tales of Ordinary Fatphobia*, a short documentary that premiered on Radio-Canada in 2020; *Ainsi va Manu*, a 7-part short form scripted series that was broadcast on the online platform of French broadcaster TV5 & TFO in 2021; and *Loud & Here*, a short documentary that premiered at Hot Docs in 2023.

FILM NOTES

Josiane Blanc's immersive documentary follows Joze Piranian, a comedian and motivational speaker, as he tries to make peace with the stutter that held him back from public speaking for over two decades. Piranian is a charming and likable character, and the film offers viewers an intimate window into his life through a combination of vulnerable interviews, scenes observing him going about his daily routine, frank conversations between him and his family, and re-enactments of his childhood (these are used sparingly and more to convey a mood than depict a literal memory, a choice that works well).

Blanc showcases her skills as a documentary filmmaker, delivering a final product that's dynamic and engaging, and not always easy to watch. Rather than tell a feel-good tale of overcoming adversity, she demonstrates intentionality by showing us scenes of Joze interacting with his friends and family that are often awkward or uncomfortable. In a dinner scene, for example, his friends unintentionally keep talking over him, not realizing that he often needs to take an extra beat before speaking. It's a discomfiting scene but one that really puts the viewers in Joze's shoes. It's this sort of truthful storytelling that makes *Words Left Unspoken* an impactful film.

-PAHULL BAINS

PRODUCER(S): Rayne Zuckerman

CAST: N/A

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 52:00

LANGUAGE: English

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**SHORTS
PROGRAM 1
FEELS LIKE
HOME**



What does it take to build a home, or feel at home? Four short films interpret and answer the question in different ways. In Quan Luong's *Tailor Made*, a charming clothier in Winnipeg traces his journey from Vietnam to Canada, reflecting on a decision that altered the lives of not just his family but generations of Vietnamese children. In *Johnny Libertella: One Million Smiles*, filmmaker Bruno Dramatik focuses on the introverted owner of a shop in Montreal selling cowboy boots. Living above the shop and working seven days a week, Johnny blurs the line between work and home in pursuit of his passion. Two women, one Palestinian and one Indigenous, living in the same apartment building find common ground in their shared histories and learn what it takes to build a home connected to nature in *Mawtini (My Homeland)*, directed by Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller. In Ayesha Siddqui's *Parc-Ex: The Heart of MTL*, a former resident of Park Extension, a working-class Montreal neighbourhood, reflects on how the community there helped shape the man he grew up to be.

- PAHULL BAINS



FEELS LIKE HOME

Johnny Libertella: One Million Smiles

DIRECTED BY SUNNY MOHAJER



FEELS LIKE HOME

Mawtini (My Homeland)

DIRECTED BY FATEEMA AL-HAMAYDEH MILLER



FEELS LIKE HOME

Parc-Ex The Heart of MTL

DIRECTED BY AYESHA SHEIKH



FEELS LIKE HOME

Tailor Made

DIRECTED BY QUAN LUONG



Jocelyn Bruno, who goes by Bruno Dramatik, is a Quebec director, multidisciplinary artist and singer-songwriter. As a member of Muzion, he won two ADISQ Félix awards for best hip-hop album of the year. As a solo artist, he has received several Juno nominations for best urban album of the year.

SYNOPSIS 60-year-old Johnny Libertella has spent his entire life in the Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie neighbourhood. Like his parents before him, he lives just above his shop on Plaza St-Hubert. For over three decades, he has religiously manned the counter of his footwear shop that specializes in cowboy boots, only straying away from the Plaza to visit his daughter every Sunday.

PRODUCER(S): Nada Cheddadi**CAST:** N/A**COUNTRY:** Canada**PREMIERE STATUS:** Ontario Premiere**RUN TIME:** 10:17**LANGUAGE:** French

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

SYNOPSIS Together Nawal, a young Palestinian woman, and Tanya, an older Indigenous woman, start a guerrilla garden on the lawn of their apartment building and battle middle management to make it to harvest..

PRODUCER(S): Kevin Dong, Malachi Ellis**CAST:** Rena Dine - "Nawal"

Monique Mojica - "Tanya"

COUNTRY: Canada**PREMIERE STATUS:** World Premiere**RUN TIME:** C**LANGUAGE:** Arabic, English

Ayesha Sheikh was born in Montreal. The only daughter of a Peruvian mother and a Pakistani father, she spent her early childhood in Cusco with her grandparents. Upon returning to Canada, she went to school in French and then studied art and film at the Université de Montréal. Ayesha has been working in the audiovisual industry for over a decade.

SYNOPSIS Every Sunday, Hudson returns to Parc-Ex to see his father. Along the way, he runs into his childhood friend, Baki. Together, they wander their old stomping grounds, just like when they were kids. As they walk, Hudson reminisces about how the neighbourhood shaped who he has become.

PRODUCER(S): Patrick Saad**CAST:** N/A**COUNTRY:** Canada**PREMIERE STATUS:** Ontario Premiere**RUN TIME:** 12:53**LANGUAGE:** French

Quan Luong is a Vietnamese filmmaker based in Winnipeg, Canada. His first feature documentary *Seeking Fire* premiered on Prime Video in November 2022 and has been sold to broadcasters around the world. Quan's current projects include a six-episode docu-series with CBC Gem called *Finding Diamonds* and short documentary *Tailor Made*.

SYNOPSIS *Tailor Made* is a documentary about the passion and perseverance of Tam Nguyen, a refugee from Vietnam who came to Canada in the '80s as part of the Vietnamese "boat people" and used his masterful tailoring skills to craft a new life for himself and others. *Tailor Made* captures his reflections on his life's journey and how he fulfilled a promise to dedicate his life to helping others..

PRODUCER(S): Quan Luong, Stephen Ground

Sarah Koehn, Meegwun Fairbrother

CAST: N/A**COUNTRY:** Canada**PREMIERE STATUS:** World Premiere**RUN TIME:** 12:40**LANGUAGE:** English, Vietnamese

SHORTS PROGRAM 2

NSFW



FRI. OCT 25
1:00PM

Prepared to be unsettled. The directors in this program have exited off the mundane route and entered the realm of horror, each in their own macabre and playful way. The result is a collection of films with a sinister edge, filled with twists and bleak humour.

Derek Wallis and Jordan Connor pay homage to the wild genre films they love from the 1970s with a cautionary tale about the dangers of falling for the allure of fame in *Skimmer*. Yuqi Kang ramps the tension and psychological horror by exploring oppression and rebellion in a mother-daughter relationship in the allegorical *Thorn*. Lindsay Owen Pierre merges comedy and suspense in unexpected and vengeful ways in the not-so-romantic *Répercuté*. Kenny Wong takes inspiration from the found footage genre and one-take-style films to haunt us, and a group of friends gathered at a cabin in *Reunion*. Aidan Cheetow leans into camp and kitsch in the absurd family film about saying goodbye to a beloved dog in *Deadpan*.

- MARINA HANNA



Deadpan

DIRECTED BY AIDEN CHEEATOW



Aidan Cheetow is a filmmaker from Toronto. He studied at York University, where he earned a BFA in film production. He also produces and directs factual television series for Blue Ant Media. Aidan's directorial work largely explores family structure and weighing the importance of nature versus nurture. He is currently developing his first feature film.

SYNOPSIS A family bids farewell to their beloved pet dog.

PRODUCER(S): Cristian Gomes

CAST: Paloma Nunéz "Alison",
Trevor Martin (he/him) "Fred",
Ashley Comeau (she/her) "Cindy",
Edith Martin (she/her) "Clare"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 4:55

LANGUAGE: English



NSFW

Répercuté

DIRECTED BY LINDSAY OWEN PIERRE



Lindsay Owen Pierre is a Calgary-born, Montreal-raised, Toronto-dwelling actor of 25 years who is making his directorial debut with the film *Répercuté*. He has appeared as Malcom X opposite Angela Bassett and Mary J Blige in Lifetime's *Betty and Coretta*, as O'Sir on *Star Trek Discovery*, and as Detective Hastings on *Law and Order: Toronto*.

SYNOPSIS A man comes home to his lover on their anniversary expecting a romantic night of celebration only to find his lover has another plan in mind... revenge.

PRODUCER(S): Lindsay Owen Pierre

CAST: Lindsay Owen Pierre - "Frederick"
Phillip Van Martin - "Sébastien"
Kim Sue Murray - "Véronique"
Patrick Kwok Choon - "Vincent"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 15:00

LANGUAGE: French



NSFW

Reunion

DIRECTED BY KENNY WONG



Kenny is an actor, writer and violinist, most notable for his four-season turn as Arnold on the award-winning CTV/NBC series *Transplant*. Kenny is an alumni of both BIPOC TV and Film's TV Writers Lab (mentor Jeremy Boxen – *Orphan Black*) and Banff-Netflix Diversity of Voices.

SYNOPSIS Six friends gather at a cabin for their annual post-university reunion. One friend, Eric, an amateur videographer, documents their outing, as he always does. The weekend takes a turn when Eric is killed on tape by a masked intruder, an unexpected former schoolmate arrives, and the camera continues to record...

PRODUCER(S): Jen Viens, Kenny Wong

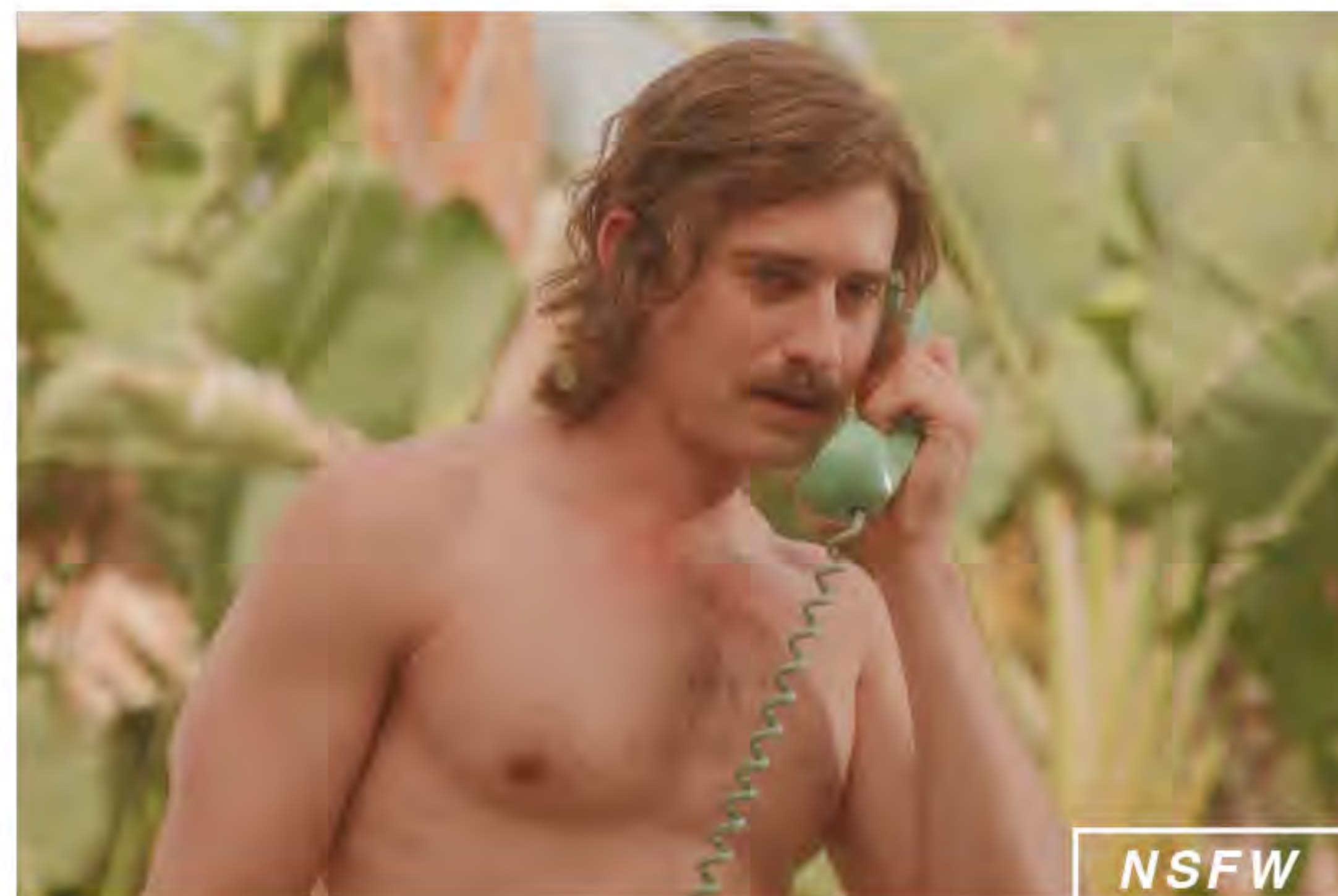
CAST: Alex Gravenstein - "Mike", Amanda Ip - "Charlotte", Kenny Wong - "Eric" Max Laferriere - "John", Maxine Denis - "Quinn" Pierre Fanzhu - "Ben", Rosemarie Sabor - "Barb"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 26:15

LANGUAGE: English



NSFW

The Skimmer

DIRECTED BY DEREK WALLIS, JORDAN CONNOR



Based in Vancouver, **Jordan Connor** and **Derek Wallis** have collaborated since 2017. Over the last few years they have honed their work, writing shorts, pilots, and features. Their approach to filmmaking is all hands on deck. With a minimal cast and crew, they challenge themselves to produce work that outshines a limited budget.

SYNOPSIS Ring....BRRring...

BRRRIING!! Paul, a pool boy, picks up a telephone he has no business answering. The voice on the line invites Paul to a party in exchange for a favour. But Paul doesn't realize what is truly at stake..

PRODUCER(S): Jordan Connor, Derek Wallis, Alex Frankson

CAST: Derek Wallis - "Paul", Jordan Connor - "Osprey", Alex Franson - "Vicky"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere

RUN TIME: 11:24

LANGUAGE: English



NSFW

Thorn

DIRECTED BY YUQI KANG



Yuqi Kang is a Mongol Chinese Canadian film director and producer whose works focus on crafting narratives that delve into the intricacies of human experiences, exploring the depths of the human psyche and showcasing the complexities of our shared existence through raw and emotive storytelling. Her debut feature documentary, *A Little Wisdom* (2017), premiered at Busan International Film Festival, SXSW, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and Shanghai International Film Festival.

SYNOPSIS On the evening of an unseasonably warm Moon Festival, a Chinese immigrant mother goes about her ordinary routine of cooking dinner while controlling her daughter's every move with a sharp tongue. But what is brewing beneath the surface? As night falls, a sinister figure emerges to threaten this small household.

PRODUCER(S): Lee Marshall, Isoken Ogiemwonyi

CAST: Rachel Jay Kuang - "Daughter", Sandy Lynch - "Mother"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 15:00

LANGUAGE: Mandarin Chinese

SHORTS
PROGRAM 3

OTHERWORLDLY

FRI. OCT 25
3:30PM

Time bends, fantasies flourish and pain creates structure breaks in Otherworldly, a program of works by directors creating dream worlds to explore the mundane. Swaroop Elamon plays with time travel in the comedy short, *Champion*. Chris Gaudry creates a lush internal world for a janitor stuck in routine in *Into the Void*. A seemingly innocuous interview with an American customs officer becomes a site of relationship trouble for the couple in Shirley Yip's *Marriage Interview*. Iranian airport customs become the stage of a moral dilemma in Tara Aghdashloo's *Empty Your Pockets*. Rosie Choo Pidcock uses a young girl's love of acting to explore grief in the charming *Sorry For Your Cost* and Yari, a young trans woman, experiences reality shifts as she tries to reach home in Emily Bendeck Garay's world-bending *Snakeskin*.

— SAFIA ABDIGIR

**Champion**

DIRECTED BY SWAROOP ELAMON



Swaroop Elamon is an independent filmmaker/scriptwriter with over 10 years of experience in the industry. He has created 13 short films, two music videos, two documentaries and has been part of several digital content videos as a director-writer-editor. As a script writer, he has written 10 short films, three spec feature screenplays, and two documentaries.

SYNOPSIS In a race against time, a forgetful husband must utilize his own time-travel app to retrieve his lunch box from a friend's house before his wife arrives, to prevent disastrous consequences.

PRODUCER(S): Swaroop Elamon,
Soma Narayan

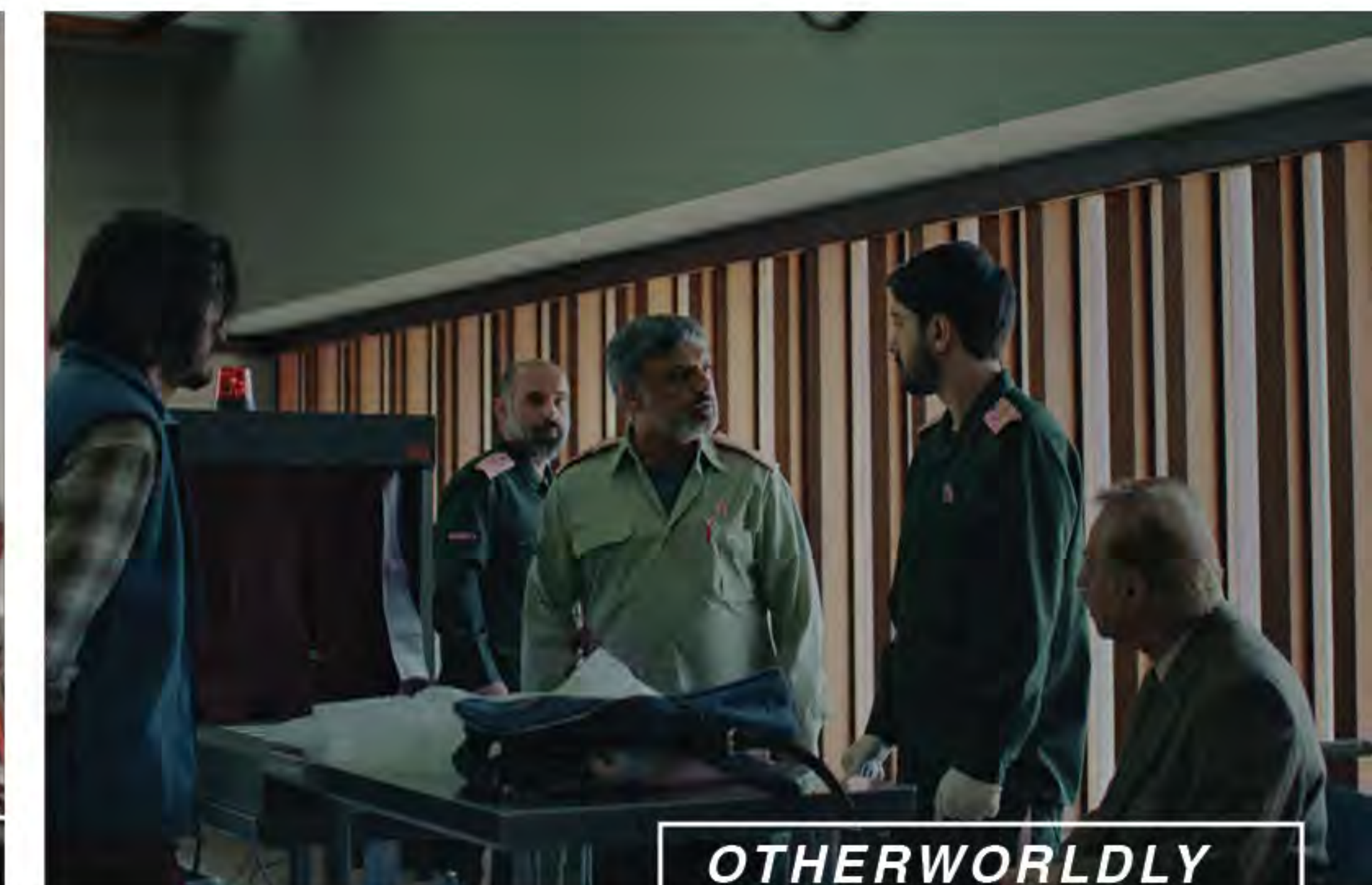
CAST: Soma Narayan - Kris

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: Toronto Premiere

RUN TIME: 5:00

LANGUAGE: English

**Empty Your Pockets**

DIRECTED BY TARA AGHDASHLOO



Tara Aghdashloo is a writer, filmmaker, and multidisciplinary artist born in Iran. As a former journalist, she worked on docs and series for television and published essays, short stories, and poetry on current affairs and culture in the Middle East and the global south. In 2020, Tara completed a masterclass with renowned director Mohsen Makhmalbaf and participated in the Sundance Collab Directing Actors Workshop..

SYNOPSIS Hassan is a young airport customs officer who must secure an advance on his salary to afford his mother's medication. On this day, he deals with various passengers at the busy airport all with different situations. As the dark side of his job becomes more clear, Hassan must decide what matters to him the most, and what cost he is willing to pay.

PRODUCER(S): Michelle Koerssen,
Nedda Sarshar

CAST: Kiarash Dadgar - "Hassan",
Amir Zavosh - "Reza",

Toomaj Danesh Behzadi - "Qasemi",

Nikta Atapour - "Mina",

Leyla Shamshiri - "Nahid",

Bahman Dadui - "Bijan",

Payman Shariaty - "Sarvan",

Banafsheh Taherian - "Woman Officer 1"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: Canadian Premiere

RUN TIME: 19:58

LANGUAGE: Persian



OTHERWORLDLY

Into the Void

DIRECTED BY CHRIS GAUDRY



Chris Gaudry is a director, writer, and producer from Winnipeg, Canada. Over the past decade, he has worked on various TV shows, including *Michif Country*, *La Terre En Nous*, *Nation Untamed* and *Manaachihow*. He founded 4/4 Films, a Winnipeg-based video production company, enabling diverse projects from music videos to commercials.

SYNOPSIS This film focuses on the necessity of our mental retreats from everyday monotony and disappointment, portraying these acts as vital means of survival.

PRODUCER(S): Chris Gaudry, Martin LaFrenière

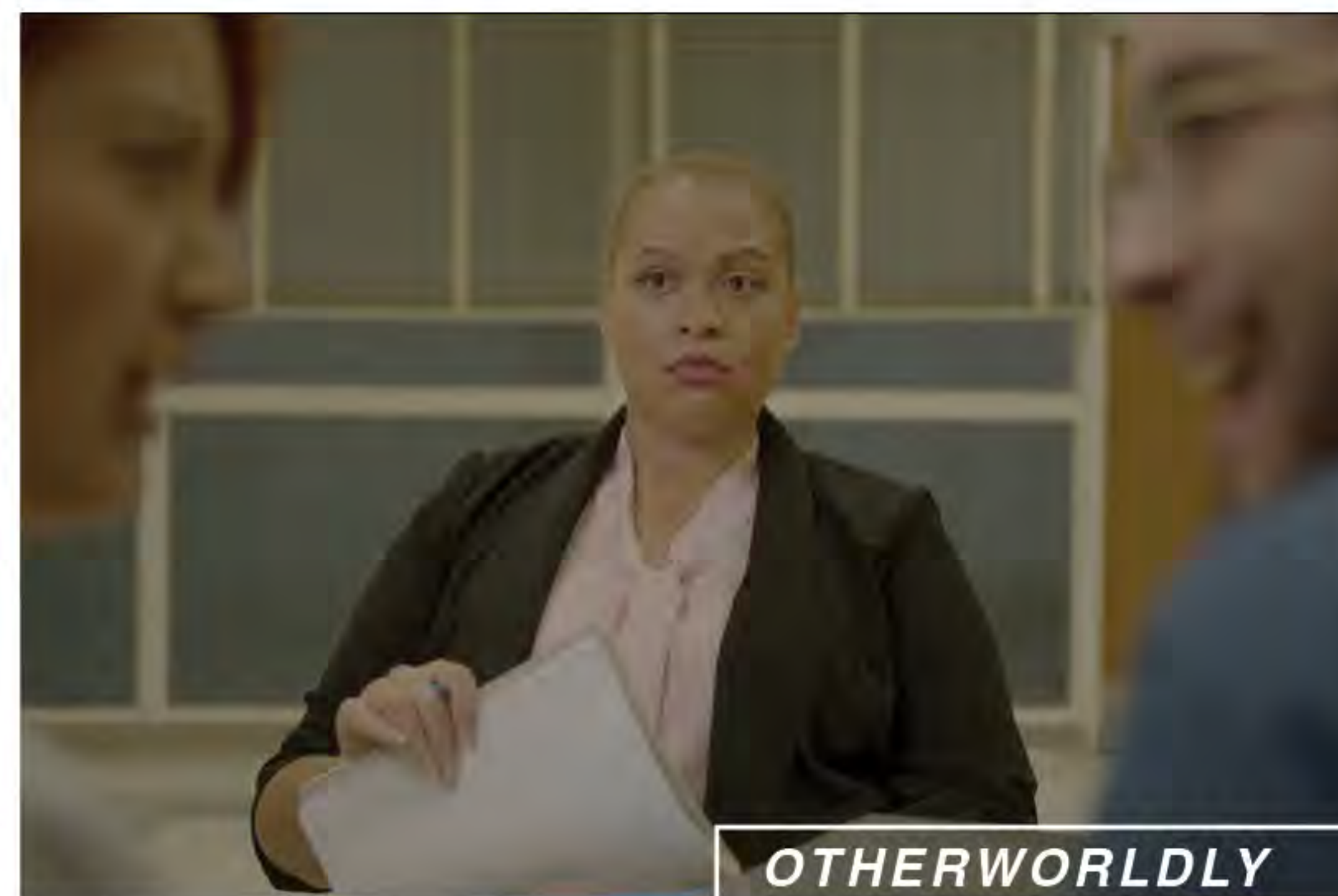
CAST: Barney Morin - "Bruno"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 5:20

LANGUAGE: French



OTHERWORLDLY

Marriage Interview

DIRECTED BY SHIRLEY YIP



Shirley Yip is a trilingual Chinese Canadian writer-director who likes to explore cross-cultural experiences and complicated relationships in her storytelling. Shirley was selected to participate in the 2022 Reelworld E20 Program with her feature script *Orchid Dream*, and her original pilot *Peeping Tam* was shortlisted for the 2022 Sundance Episodic Lab.

SYNOPSIS Newlyweds Rachel and Eddie must prove their love is real to a U.S. immigration officer during their green card interview.

PRODUCER(S): Shirley Yip

CAST: Cecilia Jing - "Rachel"

Jacob Gallo - "Eddie"

Danielle Johnson - "Officer Gomez"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 11:48

LANGUAGE: English



OTHERWORLDLY

Snakeskin

DIRECTED BY EMILY BENDECK GARAY



Emily Bendeck Garay is a Honduran filmmaker based in Vancouver. She comes from a digital art background and has experience in the film/TV world in the Production, Locations and Art departments. She describes her style as dreamy, magic-realist, and colourful.

SYNOPSIS A trans girl misses her train stop one night and embarks on a surreal journey back home as her dreams start leaking into her reality.

PRODUCER(S): Ronald Lee

CAST: Veronica García - "Yari"

Ana Sarem - "Emma"

Raven Light - "Sharise"

Leopoldo Vieytes - "Andrés"

Phil Boutros - "Sammy"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 12:00

LANGUAGE: English



OTHERWORLDLY

Sorry For Your Cost

DIRECTED BY ROSIE CHOO PIDCOCK



Rosie is a Chinese-Canadian writer and director who grew up on the northern shores of the Sto:lo (Fraser River) in South Vancouver. Her debut short film *Esther & Sai*, a portrait of the friendship between two immigrant nursing students in the 1970s, is currently in series development with the support of CMF, Reelworld and the TIFF Series Accelerator.

SYNOPSIS The day after Ren is accepted into theatre school, her mother dies in a car accident. The family can't afford to host a 'proper' funeral so Dying+, an eerily zen-inspired funeral home, offers them a last resort: they can abandon Mom's body at Dying+ to be cremated and placed in a mass grave. Ren is faced with an impossible choice: use her hard-earned tuition money to pay for the funeral, or pursue her dreams and leave Mom behind.

PRODUCER(S): Angelica Stirpe, Geoff Manton
Athena Russel,

CAST: Adeline Lo - "Ren"

Simon Chen - "Randal"

Enid-Raye Adams - "Tatiana"

Lucas Mocchi - "Bodie"

Olivia Cheng - "Anna"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 14:50

LANGUAGE: English

SHORTS PROGRAM 4

OUT OF THE PAST



FRI. OCT 25
8:00 PM

Seven talented filmmakers explore the past in these six separate, sharply directed films. Starting with *The Other Stuff*, Bernard Gray tells the complicated story of a 30-year-old Black man and the uncle who raised him. Next, in *Contiguity*, Sammy Mohamed examines the harsh realities of the criminalization of young Black men. In *Strangers*, Leah Doz explores a childhood memory with a confrontation between a young girl and her mom, stranded at a bus stop on a cold winter night. Filmmaker Ian Singh Bawa delivers a moving film about grief, depression, and how men deal with emotions in *My Son Went Quiet*. With their film *Hatch*, directing duo Alireza Kazemipour and Panta Mosleh tackle the lingering effects of trauma on an Afghan refugee boy. Finally, in Amir Zargara's *A Good Day Will Come*, a professional wrestler must make a difficult choice between remaining silent or using his platform to stand against tyranny.

- RICHARD B PIERRE



A Good Day Will Come

DIRECTED BY AMIR ZARGARA



Amir Zargara is an Iranian-Canadian writer/director whose immigrant journey and stutter influence his filmmaking. Starting with *Become the Wounded* in 2021, his work explores moral complexities and has been recognized at festivals like Amnesty, Hollyshorts, and Nashville. His work has been featured on The Black List and he has participated in the 2024 Berlinale EFM Fiction Toolbox Program and the 2024 Reykjavík International Film Festival Talent Lab.

SYNOPSIS Arash is a professional wrestler with dreams of representing his country and winning gold medals. The country is in turmoil and its people are suffering. Arash must decide between using his platform to stand up to tyranny, or put his head down and remain silent.

PRODUCER(S): Amir Zargara, Iman Tahsin

CAST: Sia Alipour - "Arash"

Mehdi Bajestani - "Coach"

COUNTRY: Turkey

PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere

RUN TIME: 22:38

LANGUAGE: Persian



Contiguity

DIRECTED BY SAMMY MOHAMED



Sammy Mohamed is a Black writer and filmmaker from Ottawa, Ontario. Born in Somalia, he immigrated in the early '90s. Inspired by his writer parents, he pursued a passion for storytelling, studied scriptwriting at Algonquin College, and made the award-winning short film *Pierre St. Denis*.

SYNOPSIS Abdullah, a part-time student and full-time security guard, is implicated in a drug sting by his cousin Latif. Now at the mercy of the court, his freedom and immigration status in Canada are in jeopardy.

PRODUCER(S): Amir Zargara

CAST: Ryan Rosery - "Abdullah Aden"

Oyin Oladejo - "Julissa Henry"

Clyde Whitham - "Judge Matthews"

David Bronfman - "Larry Daniels"

Anthony Parise - "Detective O'Mally"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 14:30

LANGUAGE: English




OUT OF THE PAST

Hatch

DIRECTED BY ALIREZA KAZEMIPOUR,
PANTA MOSLEH

 **Alireza Kazempour** is an Iranian-Canadian filmmaker with two decades of experience as a screenwriter in Iran. He has directed award-winning shorts including *The Gold Teeth* and *Split Ends*, recognized in over 150 film festivals worldwide.

 **Panta Mosleh** is a queer Middle Eastern-West Asian-Canadian director, writer and producer who splits her time between Vancouver and LA. She has directed TV movies for A&E, Lifetime, TF1, NBC Peacock and Hallmark.

SYNOPSIS An Afghan refugee boy hides with his mother inside a moving water tanker trying to cross the border to safety. Losing his mother in the process, he forever tries to find a way to relive his last memory of her.

PRODUCER(S): Sina Nazarian, Panta Mosleh, Alireza Kazempour

CAST: Ali Eldurssi - "Naaji"

Aixa Kay - "Robabah"

Helena Marie - "Susan"

Craig March - "Border Patrol Worker"

Araz Yaghoubi - "Ayoob"

Daniella Eldurssi - "Habibah"

Thomas Cadrot - "Khalid"

Hani Mefti - "Maalik"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere

RUN TIME: 10:57

LANGUAGE: English, Arabic



OUT OF THE PAST

My Son Went Quiet

DIRECTED BY IAN SINGH BAWA

 **Ian Bawa** is a filmmaker from Winnipeg, Manitoba. He's best known for his films *Offline*, *The Champ*, *Imitations*, and *Tapeworm*. His film *Strong Son* premiered at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival. A Reelworld E20 Program alum, Ian is currently adapting *Strong Son* into a feature film, set to shoot in the fall of 2024.

SYNOPSIS After the death of his wife, a South Asian father and his son begin seeing a shadow around the walls of their home, who the son believes to be his mother.

PRODUCER(S): Ian Singh Bawa,
Markus Henkel

CAST: Harkaran Jhinger - "Father"

Jay Vaidyanathan - "Son"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: Ontario Premiere

RUN TIME: 13:40

LANGUAGE: English



OUT OF THE PAST

Strangers

DIRECTED BY LEAH DOZ

 **Leah Doz** is a Canadian filmmaker and actor. Her films have screened at festivals internationally, and her short 'tips' was licensed for Canadian broadcasting. 'Strangers' is her first auteur project. She is a Reelworld Emerging 20 alumna, a graduate of the National Theatre School, and a founding member of the Gracemoon Arts Company in New York.

SYNOPSIS After missing their bus on a cold winter night, a young girl confronts the limits of her mother's love.

PRODUCER(S): Leah Doz, Augustus Oicle

CAST: Lauren Brady - "Daughter"

Gabrielle Graham - "Mom"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: World Premiere

RUN TIME: 13:38


LANGUAGE: English



OUT OF THE PAST

The Other Stuff

DIRECTED BY BERNARD GRAY

 After over twelve years of working as a producer in the agency production industry, **Bernard Gray** has spent the last three years writing and directing uncomfortable stories. Having worked with brands like Nike, NBA, Roots, Lego, Samsung and BMW, Bernard is a proven and accomplished storyteller.

SYNOPSIS After a breakthrough moment during couples therapy, Winston, a 30-year-old black man, must confront his uncle about their abusive relationship.

PRODUCER(S): Anthony Q Farrell, Lionnel Mends, Anthony Aranega

CAST: Nigel Shawn Williams - "Oliver"

Dwain Murphy - "Winston"

Golden Madison - "Shannon"

Linda Carter - "Leslie"

COUNTRY: Canada

PREMIERE STATUS: Canadian Premiere

RUN TIME: 14:20

LANGUAGE: English



**Bell
FUND**

Bell Fund is a proud supporter to Reelworld Film Festival and the Reelworld Screen Institute and its work to advance opportunities and celebrate stories from Indigenous and racialized Canadians

www.bellfund.ca

ACTRA Toronto is a proud supporter of Reelworld and the #HerFrameMatters Protocol Guideline. Congratulations on 24 years of supporting and celebrating Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and Artists of Colour in Canada.

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ACTRA National is a proud sponsor of the 2024 Reelworld Film Festival+Summit.

Thank you for championing equity in our industry and for celebrating Indigenous and Canadian talent.



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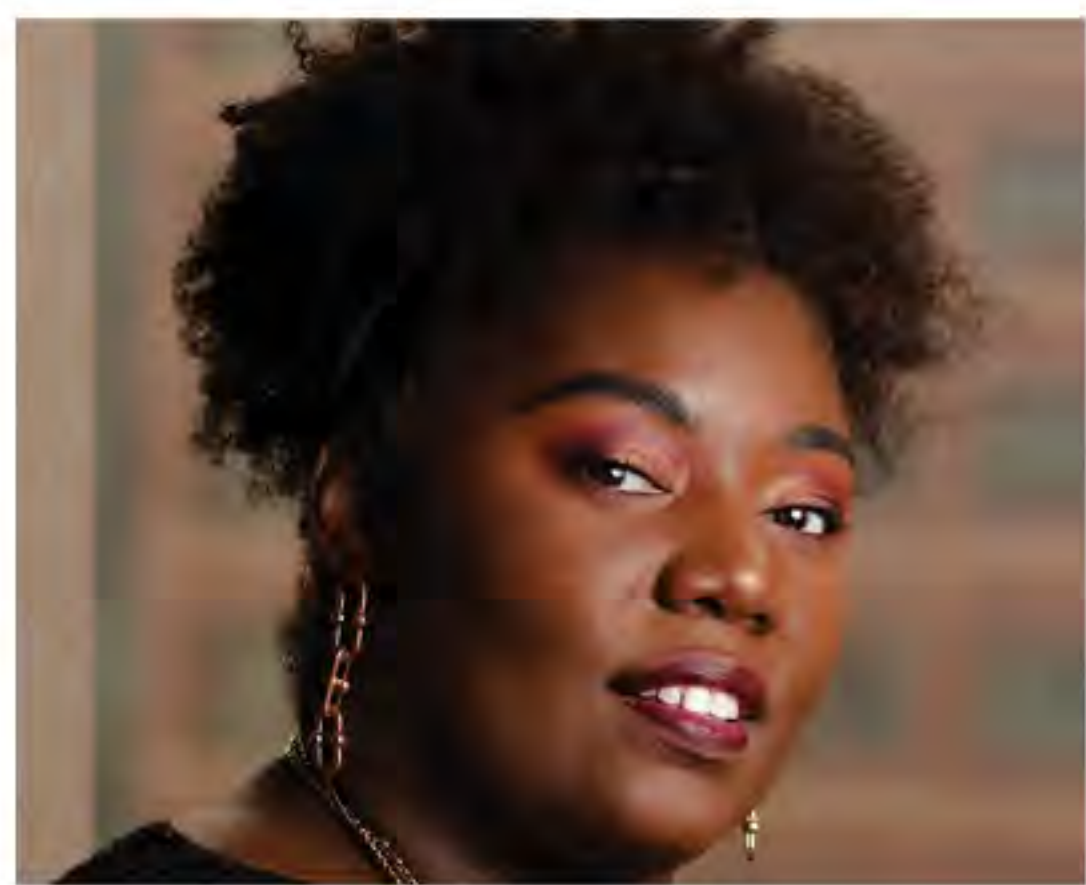
2024 Reelworld Jurors

Reelworld takes pride in our unwavering commitment to celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding Canadian films and filmmakers. Annually, we present festival awards chosen by an independent jury of filmmakers and industry leaders. Our profound gratitude goes out to our distinguished 2024 jurors for dedicating their time and expertise in handpicking this year's deserving honourees.

FEATURES



ABDUL MALIK
Screenwriter



TARA TAYLOR
Festival Director & Co-Founder, Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival



MARY GALLOWAY
Writer, director, showrunner

SHORTS



RAVI STEVE KHAJURIA
Writer, director



LADAN M. SIAD
Producer



MARWA SIAM-ABDOU
National Outreach Manager at the Directors Guild of Canada

Reelworld Festival Awards

Reelworld Film Festival is proud to present up to \$47,000 in cash prizes to the recipients of this year's Festival Awards, including \$20,000 for Outstanding Feature Film and \$10,000 for Outstanding Short Film.

We would like to thank the 2024 Reelworld Film Festival Jurors for their time and expertise in selecting this year's award recipients, and all the audience members who rate the films they watch and contribute to the selection of the Reelworld Audience Choice Award.

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD FOR FEATURE FILM



FEATURE FILMS

- Outstanding Actress
- Outstanding Actor
- Outstanding Director
- Outstanding Writer
- Outstanding Cinematographer
- Outstanding Producer
- Outstanding Feature Film

SHORT FILMS

- Outstanding Actress
- Outstanding Actor
- Outstanding Director
- Outstanding Writer
- Outstanding Cinematographer
- Outstanding Producer
- Outstanding Short Film





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2024 Reelworld Trailblazers

Each year the Trailblazer Awards recognize outstanding achievements by racially diverse professionals in the Canadian media and entertainment industry. These 6 remarkable individuals inspire others and blaze a trail of excellence through their constant efforts to improve and diversify our vibrant film and television industry.



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ANTHONY Q FARRELL | WRITER/PRODUCER

Anthony is a BAFTA-winning, Emmy-nominated writer/producer. He created CTV's *Shelved*, *Overlord* and *the Underwoods*, and the BBC's *Secret Life of Boys*. He also was showrunner of *Run the Burbs* and *The Parker Andersons/Amelia Parker*. His writing credits also include *The Office*, *The Thundermans*, and *Little Mosque on the Prairie*.



RYAN MOCCASIN | COMEDIAN/PRODUCER/AUTHOR

Ryan is an author, satirist, and comedian from Saskatoon, Canada. He is president of The Feather Entertainment Inc. and produces *The Feather News*, an online satirical show on APTN Lumi. His work has been featured on APTN, CTV, and CBC. He released a comedy album with Just For Laughs and performs at major US comedy festivals.



ZARRAR KAHN | WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Zarrar is a Canadian-Pakistani writer, director and producer whose debut film *In Flames* premiered at the 76th Cannes Film Festival as part of the Director's Fortnight, followed by stops at TIFF, Busan and Sitges. Born in Karachi, and currently based out of Toronto, Kahn is committed to telling stories that amplify historically marginalized communities.



OMAYRA ISSA | ANCHOR, CPAC

Omayra is an award-winning journalist and anchor at CPAC and a former national reporter for CBC News. She co-produced the groundbreaking series *Black on the Prairies*, which led to impactful changes in education policies and garnered several RTDNA Canada awards. Fluent in five languages, her voice is helping guide national conversations around inclusion and diversity in Canadian newsrooms.



AISLING CHIN-YEE | PRODUCER/WRITER/DIRECTOR

Aisling is a producer, writer, and director based in Montreal and Los Angeles. She won the Directors Guild of Canada award for directorial achievement in a mini-series for the CBC series *Plan B* in 2023. She also won the DGC Award for Best Editing in Documentary in 2021 for *No Ordinary Man*. Aisling has also produced critically acclaimed films such as *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*, *The Saver*, and *Last Woman Standing*.



LEENA MINIFIE | PRODUCER

Leena Minifie (Gitxaala/British) is a Vancouver-based film and television producer. Her work includes producing *Bones of Crows*, *Lily Gladstone: Far Out There*, and *British Columbia - An Untold History*. An award-winning series producer, Leena has led impact campaigns for *Indian Horse* and *The Grizzlies*. She's an alumna of the Reelworld Producer Program.



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2024 Reelworld Visionary Award

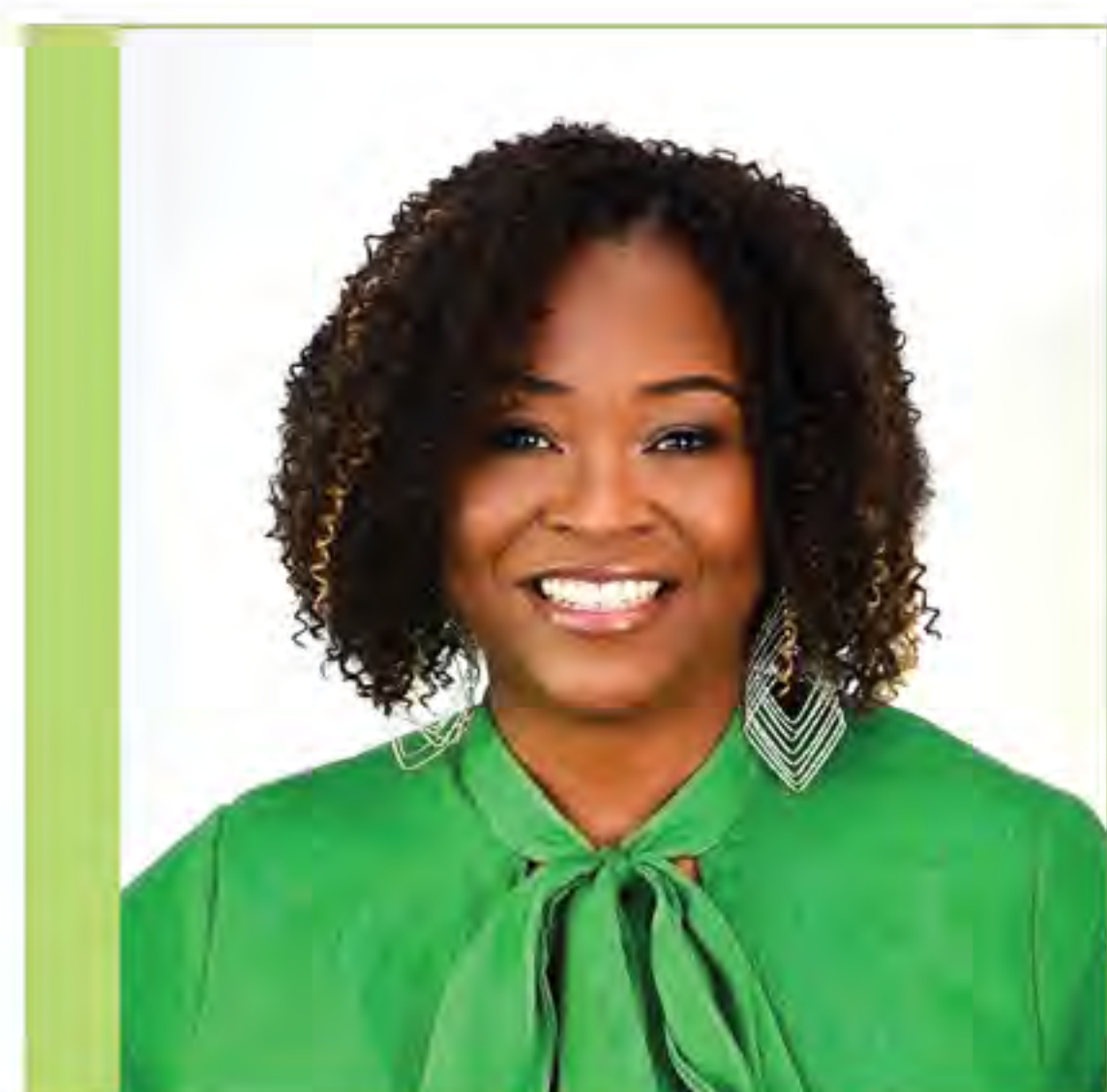
The Reelworld Visionary Award recognizes individuals whose lifetime of work behind the scenes has shaped the Canadian media industry. Through advocacy, entrepreneurship and leadership they have contributed to advancing our industry and making it a more inclusive and equitable place for all.

LIVE AT THE REELWORLD SUMMIT!

Reelspeak Luncheon and Fireside Chat with Fennella Bruce and Priya Sam

OCT 22, 1-1.45PM
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
DOWNTOWN TORONTO

SPONSORED BY



FENNELLA BRUCE

Founder, FKB Media Solutions and FKB Media Productions Inc.

Fennella Bruce is a veteran television producer and writer. She is now at the helm of FKB Media Solutions, a media consulting company, and FKB Media Productions Inc, a television and film production company. Having worked in the field of journalism for over 20 years, Fennella has produced both of Canada's national morning shows – Your Morning and Canada AM – and has been the senior writer or producer at CTV News Channel, CTV National, CP24, CityTv, Toronto 1 and BET. Under FKB Media Productions Inc, she has produced The Black Diamond Ball (aired on Citytv/ Rogers TV, 2022-24), In The Director's Chair with Frances-Anne Solomon (aired on CaribbeanTales TV) and Miami Broward Carnival Live Stream.

2024 Reelworld Award of Excellence

The Reelworld Award of Excellence honours individuals whose decades of creative excellence in film and series led to more authentic stories being told on screen, inspiring new generations of young artists in the process.

LIVE AT THE REELWORLD SUMMIT!

Reelspeak Luncheon and Fireside Chat with Sugith Varughese and Stephanie Henry

OCT 23, 1-1.45PM
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
DOWNTOWN TORONTO

SPONSORED BY



SUGITH VARUGHESE

Screenwriter, actor, director, playwright

Born in India and raised in Saskatoon, Sugith graduated summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota in Theatre Arts, received the first MFA in film in Canada from York University and was the first minority to attend the prestigious Canadian Film Centre as a writer-director. He went on to become an award-winning television writer, short film and children's TV episodic director and actor with over 150 IMDb credits, numerous radio credits and many stage appearances. He is best known for writing the famed Muppet TV series *Fraggle Rock* and acting in hit TV series *Kim's Convenience* and *Transplant*.

 **ROGERS**
Documentary Fund

 **ROGERS**
Series Fund

 **ROGERS**
Telefund

REELWORLD SUMMIT

Day 1

Tuesday, October 22

Welcome Breakfast & Opening Remarks

Courtyard Room / 8.30-9.30am

Meet the Power Players

Shaping the Canadian Screen Industry

Courtyard Room / 9:45 - 10:30am

Learn How to Access Funds From the Sangster Foundation

Spadina Room / 10.30-11am

Law & Order Toronto: Bringing It North

Courtyard Room / 10:45 - 11:30am



Roundtable with the Canadian Racial Screen Leadership Collective [Invite Only]

Alexander Room / 11am-12:30pm

How to Enter and Navigate the World of Episodic Directing

Courtyard Room / 11:45 - 12:30pm



Lunch / Courtyard Room / 12.30-1.30pm

Reelspeak Luncheon with 2024 Reelworld Visionary Award Recipient Fennella Bruce

Courtyard Room / 1:00 - 1:45pm



CMF's New EDIA Strategy: How Does it Impact You?

Courtyard Room / 2:00 - 2:45pm



Understanding Film & Media Tax Credits

Spadina Room / 2.30-3.15pm



How Unions are Putting Reelworld's #HerFrameMatters Protocol Guideline Into Practice

Courtyard Room / 3:00 - 3:45pm

Open Dialogue Between Producers & CMF

Spadina Room / 3.30-4pm



Creating a Successful Writer & Story Editor Relationship

Courtyard Room / 4:00 - 4:45pm



Meet the DGC National's BIPOC Members Committee

Spadina Room / 4.30-5pm



Getting Your First Feature into a Canadian Film Festival

Courtyard Room / 5:00pm - 5:45pm

End of Day Networking Event / 5.45-7pm

Day 2

Wednesday, October 23

Breakfast

Courtyard Room / 8.30-9.30am

Keynote Speech with Jennifer Podemski

Courtyard Room / 9:15 - 9:35 am

All Around Champion: Diversity in Unscripted Television

Courtyard Room / 9:45 - 10:30 am



Face2Face [By Prior Registration Only]

Alexander Room / 10am-4.30pm



Finding and Building an Audience for Your Content

Courtyard Room / 10:45am - 11:30am

How Hollywood Suite Can Support Your Next Project

Courtyard Room / 11:45 am - 12:30 pm



How the Editor-Filmmaker Relationship Can Make or Break a Documentary

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 / 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

On Set with DGC Ontario

Spadina Room / 12-12.30pm

Lunch / 12.30-1.30pm

Reelspeak Luncheon with 2024 Award of Excellence Recipient Sugith Varughese

Courtyard Room / 1:00-1:45pm

The 20-Year Journey To Overnight Success

Courtyard Room / 2:00 - 2:45pm

Get to Know the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund

Spadina Room / 12-12.30p

Framing the Scene: How Cinematographers Create a Film's Visual Language

Courtyard Room / 3:00 - 3:45 pm

Hidden Messaging: The Challenge of Writing Big Ideas into an Episodic Bo

Courtyard Room / 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Meet the Canadian Independent Screen Fund For BPOC Creators

Spadina Room / 4.30-5pm

Big Impact With Short Films

Courtyard Room / 5:00 - 5:45 pm

End of Day Networking Event / 5.45-7pm

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DIGITAL DAY

Day 1

Monday, October 28th

Virtual Panel: How to Develop a Values-Informed Filmmaking Practise

Time: 12-1pm ET

Register [Here](#)

Virtual Panel: In conversation with the 2024 Reelworld Trailblazer Award Recipients

Time: 2-3pm ET

Register [Here](#)

Virtual Mixer: 2024 Reelworld Industry Mixer (Invite Only)

Time: 6-7:30pm ET

Day 2

Tuesday, October 29th

Virtual Workshop: Harness Social Media to Connect With Your Audience

Time: 12-1pm ET

Register [Here](#)

Virtual Panel: Developing the Director-Actor Relationship

Time: 4-5pm ET

Register [Here](#)



2024 Reelworld Emerging 20 Program

WWW.REELWORLD.CA

The Reelworld Emerging 20 Program is tailored to support writers and is split into two specific streams: Series and Film. There are ten participants in each stream, and each participant is paired with a story editor who helps polish their screenplays into a final draft over the course of the six-month program. The E20 Program wraps with one-on-one pitch sessions designed to hone their pitching skills and expand their professional network.

FILM



AUGUSTO BITTER
Project: *Congregation*



MARK HARNETT
Project: *Rock*



NORMAN HO
Project: *One Marriage, Two Ceremonies*



RAMI KHAN
Project: *The Last Samosa*



BEREND MCKENZIE
Project: *Hockey Night in Canada*



FATEEMA AL-HAMAYDEH MILLER
Project: *Waves/ 'Amwaj*



GISELLE MILLER
Project: *Young, Single and Black*



TAMMY TSANG
Project: *All of Charlotte*



AARON MAXWELL WILLIAMS
Project: *The Neverlands*



PHILLIP HENRY WU
Project: *My Own Funeral*

SERIES



JEZABEL BAMBERG
Project: *Newcomers*



ZAKI FAROW
Project: *Empowered*



SHAELYN JOHNSTON
Project: *Sadie's Move*



TANNAZ KESHAVARZ
Project: *Suburban Girls*



HALEN KING
Project: *I Feel Everything.*



NEHA KOHLI
Project: *Crazy, Reckless Accountants*



KENNETH MOHABIR
Project: *The Extractors*



CHRISTINE RODRIGUEZ
Project: *The Good King*



OKSANA SIRJU
Project: *Rich People*



KATHARINE KING SO
Project: *PARTY GIRL #3*



Reelworld Producer Program

The **Reelworld Producer Program** provides learning opportunities, and creates pathways to build a career as a producer in the television industry. The program candidates will be immersed in the business side of the Canadian entertainment field. After choosing a project, they will learn valuable skills such as creating a corporation, retaining intellectual property rights, choosing and optioning scripts, creating deal memos, choosing key creatives and casting directors, opportunity to attend markets, plus much more.

2024 Reelworld Producers



OSRIC CHAU



DANIEL FOREMAN



LEILA KHALILZADEH



MORAA MOCHAMA



ADRIAN NEBLETT



KATHLYN ROSE-GARDINER



EDMON ROTEA



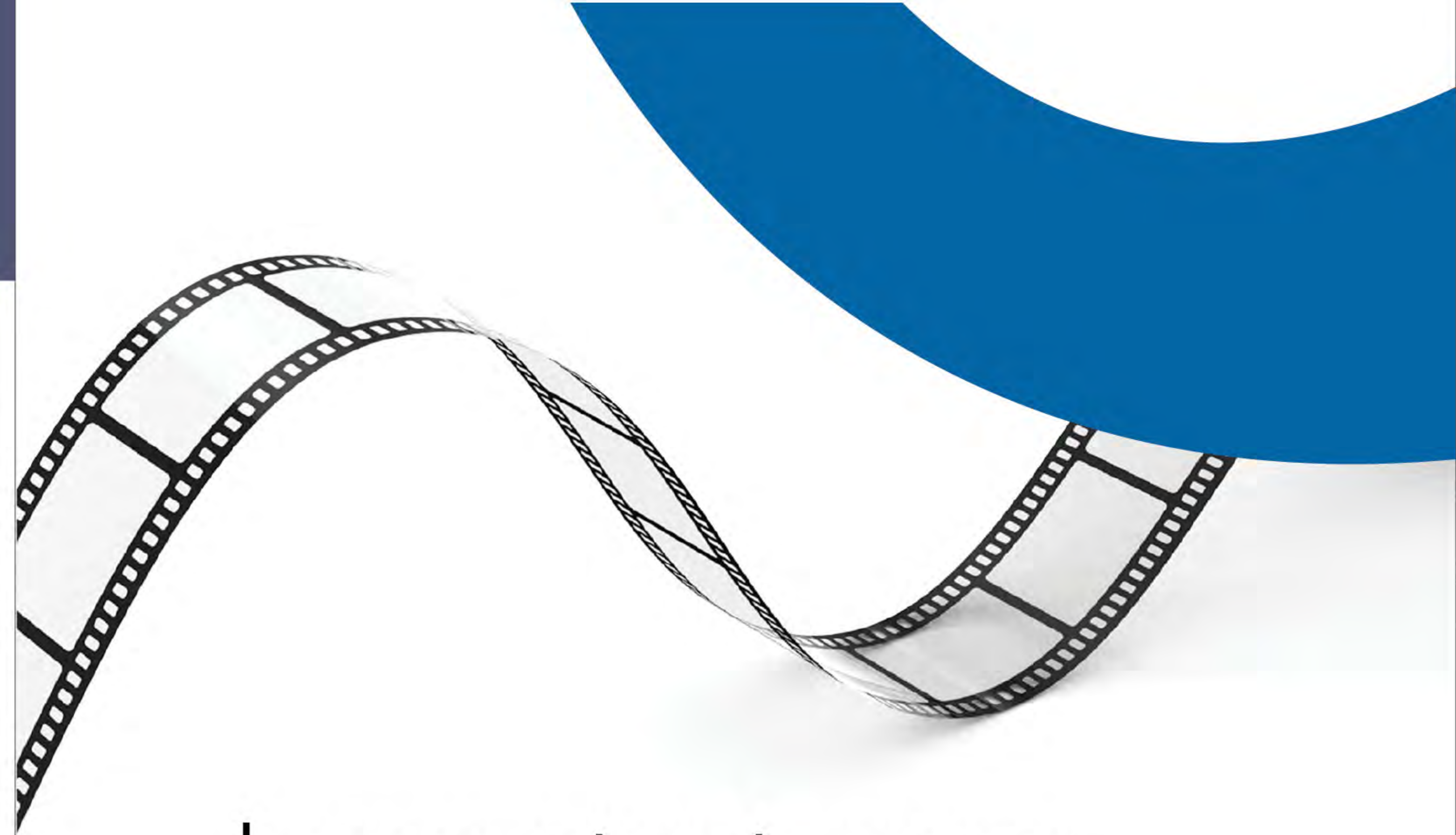
ASIS SETHI



JESSICA TO



AMIR ZARGARA



Jump start your producing career.

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presented by Bell Media.

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Reelworld Black Entrepreneurs Program

As we wrap up the final year of the Reelworld Black Entrepreneurs Program (BEP), we proudly celebrate the journey of 48 talented Black casting directors, agents, managers, and film producers who have completed this transformative program. Over the past three years, BEP has empowered three cohorts of creative entrepreneurs, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to thrive in the film and television industry. Through hands-on training in strategic planning, finance, human resources, and marketing, participants have been set up for long-term success in building and growing their companies.

In addition to their rigorous training, our participants have attended prestigious industry events such as the Cannes Film Festival, Content London, TIFF, and Prime Time. We celebrate their remarkable achievements, which include building rosters of emerging talent, casting racially diverse projects across the GTA, and producing award-winning films.

We are deeply grateful to the Government of Canada, through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, for their generous support in making this program a reality.

PRIMETIME 2024

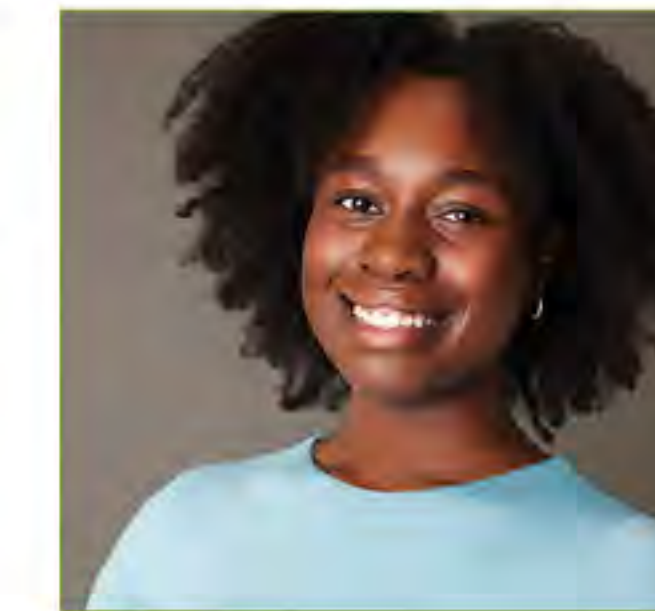


2024 Cohort

CASTING DIRECTORS



**NELIE
DIVERLUS**



**SHANI
MCKENZIE**



**CHLOE COKO
TOKA**



**BRE
WARNER**

PRODUCERS



**TEMILOLA
ADEBAYO**



**ALI
KELLOUGH**



**DANILO
REYES**



**ALICE
TEUFACK**

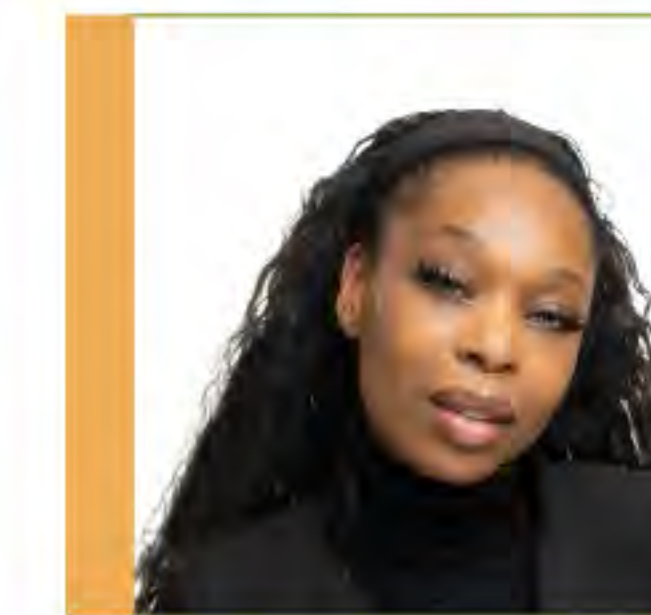
TALENT AGENTS



**KATHY-ANN
THOMAS**



**LETAY
WILLIAMS**



**DESIREE
COUTURE**



**MARC
RUTHERFORD**

TALENT MANAGERS



**MICHELLE
ALLMAN-
ESDAILLE**



**SHARON
HINDS**



**WAYNE
SAMUELS**



**WARDA
YUSEF**



Reelworld Training Lab presented by Amazon MGM Studios

Launched in 2024, the Reelworld Training Lab presented by Amazon MGM Studios is a new training program for Canadian line producers and series writers. The program offers training and upskilling opportunities to racially diverse and Indigenous talent in Canada, fostering a pipeline of Canadian production talent to help support Amazon MGM Studios' projects in Canada. Split into two streams, the 4-week virtual training program is followed by one week of in-person activities in Toronto at the Amazon MGM Studios offices.

LINE PRODUCERS



MALACHI ELLIS



VANESSA CACERES



TANIS PARENTEAU



TAMIKO POTTS

WRITERS



RAMIN ESHRAGHI-YAZDIMARION



MONIQUEA



PANTA MOSLEH



NATTASHA SHRESTHA



LINDA ST. PIERRE



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Reelworld Directors Immersion Program

Launched this year, the Reelworld Directors Immersion Program in partnership with NBCUniversal is an opportunity for emerging directors to take part in a four-month training initiative. Six selected participants are currently taking part in virtual and in-person training sessions. The purpose of the program is to help the participants gain directing credits for their resumes, to build relationships with industry professionals, and to learn how to navigate a successful career in the Canadian screen industries.



**YEIMY
DAZA**



**FITCH
JEAN**



**ANISHA
KUMAR**



**KIMBERLY
MILLER-PRYCE**



**IVAN
OSSA**



**KEN
PHAM**

NBCUniversal

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and their mission to advance opportunities for diverse creatives in the film industry.



Reelworld Market Ready

Reelworld's Market Ready initiative, in partnership with Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD) Access Canada, provides Reelworld program alumni with training, prep and access to key markets such as Prime Time, Cannes Film Festival, Banff World Media Festival, TIFF, Content Canada and Content London. These markets open doors to forge deals, build new relationships that lead to development, and help attendees gain visibility in an industry where who you know matters.

All Reelworld program participants chosen to participate in Market Ready go through two months of rigorous preparation (including training on Pitching, Sales and Financing, Marketing, and Network Building), making sure all their pitch assets are ready, and that they themselves are prepared to step into these arenas with all the skills and tools needed to make valuable industry connections. All expenses for the participating Reelworld alumni — including passes, travel, and accommodation — are covered.

The goal of the Market Ready initiative is to see delegates get their projects into development, be partnered with senior producers, and build relationships with their peers to foster a supportive network which is vital to their long term success.

CANNES 2024



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IN 2025, WE WILL
BE CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SUCCESS

In 2025, we will celebrate 25 years of driving change and elevating underrepresented voices in the screen industry. Be part of the journey with special events all year long.

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#HerFrameMatters

PROTOCOL GUIDELINE 2024



Reelworld's #HerFrameMatters Protocol Guideline addresses stereotypical depictions of Black, Indigenous, Asian and Women of Colour in Canadian film and TV. It is available for download in both English and French, along with the Research Study and Ipsos Audience Study, on the [Reelworld website](#).



Ideas bring dreams to life

Together with organizations like Reelworld Screen Institute, RBC is bridging the next generation of creators and storytellers from emerging to established, for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

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