

19TH ANNUAL REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER
17-21
2019

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 @Reelworld  @ReelworldFestival

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REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL



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WELCOME LETTER



Welcome to the 19th Annual Reelworld Film Festival. Our Programming Team did an outstanding job seeking out the best Canadian content from talent we don't always see or hear. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) content creators have continued the renaissance of diverse voices carving out a space for themselves in the Canadian landscape. For many decades mainstream media has spoken for the diverse communities and now it is time for these communities to claim their own stories and showcase their unique perspectives.

Beyond the festival screenings, Reelworld supports filmmakers and strives to create a community of connected BIPOC talent. We have a slate of popular Industry Panels and our longstanding E20 program is one of the highlights of the festival. Each year, 20 outstanding BIPOC creators develop and hone their pitching skills at Reelworld workshops and then present their ideas to industry professionals.

I congratulate this year's Visionary and Trailblazer recipients. We honour the work they do everyday to impact Canadian artists. Make sure to come and support them on our Awards Night October 20th

Reelworld would not be able to accomplish as much as it has over its almost two decade history, without the commitment and dedication to our cause from our sponsors. We consider them true partners. TD Bank Group, Cineplex, and Telefilm have been the cornerstone of our success for more than 15 years. They are as passionate as we are about the importance of diverse stories and storytellers reaching a broader audience.

Thank you to our Board, Staff, Interns and Coops who have gone above and beyond expectations to bring the excellence that is Reelworld to you all each year.

FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL
REELWORLD SCREEN INSTITUTE

Tonya Williams

Tonya Williams is an actress, advocate and filmmaker. She founded Reelworld in 2001 to give racially diverse filmmakers a platform to tell their stories for the advancement of social change.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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April Mullings



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL • LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

Welcome to the 19th Annual Reelworld Film Festival in Toronto.

Since its foundation in 2001, the Reelworld Film Festival has been showcasing and celebrating the works of talented Indigenous and racially diverse media artists and filmmakers. It provides them with a platform to share unique stories that spark dialogue and inspire positive changes in our society.

For almost two decades, Reelworld has been promoting racial harmony and cultural diversity, which is a responsibility we all share. Through your continued support of this festival, you help foster relations between members of our communities and create a fairer, more equal world for all.

I wish all of you a wonderful festival.



1 SUSSEX DRIVE • 1, PROMENADE SUSSEX
OTTAWA • CANADA • K1A 0A1 • WWW.GG.CA



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

October 17–21, 2019

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2019 Reelworld Film Festival.



Founded in 2001, this festival offers a wonderful opportunity for participants to celebrate Canada's rich cultural diversity through film. I am certain that everyone in attendance will enjoy this artistic showcase, and I would like to commend all of the filmmakers for their hard work and dedication to bringing their stories to the screen.

I would also like to thank the organizers for their commitment to supporting Canadian artists and to fostering unity and inclusion. This event stands as an important reminder that our country is made great not in spite of its diversity, but because of it.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable festival.

Sincerely,

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

WELCOME TWEETS



THE HONOURABLE PABLO RODRIGUEZ | MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE AND MULTICULTURALISM

Hats off to @reelworldfilm! Thanks for showcasing filmmakers from Indigenous communities and a multitude of cultures by presenting films that highlight our diversity. Enjoy the movies!



PREMIER DOUG FORD | PREMIER OF ONTARIO

Welcome to the Reelworld Film Festival! It's great to see everyone here at this terrific forum for diverse filmmakers. Have a wonderful and inspiring time!



THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL TIBOLLO | MINISTER OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND SPORT

Wishing @reelworldfilm filmmakers & everyone a great festival season! Thank you for bringing inspiring stories and thought-provoking discussions to Ontario.



CHRISTA DICKENSON | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TELEFILM CANADA

Festivals play a vital role in ensuring that Canadian films from all corners of our country are discovered and enjoyed. Thank you and congratulations to Reelworld Film Festival and all those who work to bring the diversity of our cinema to the screen.



ANDREA BARRACK | GLOBAL HEAD, SUSTAINABILITY AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP, TD BANK GROUP

Through The Ready Commitment at TD, we are proud to support the Reelworld Film Festival, an important platform for Canadian talent and diverse voices. Talk, engage and enjoy!



MICHAEL KENNEDY | EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, FILMED ENTERTAINMENT, CINEPLEX

Cineplex has a long legacy of supporting the Canadian film industry and our partners in the arts. For the past 18 years, Cineplex and Reelworld have worked together towards a shared vision of creating opportunities for diverse Canadian filmmakers to express their vision. We look forward to this year's festival and for many more to come.



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

Congratulations to Reelworld on their 19th annual Festival. Diversity is one of our greatest values and the work Reelworld does contributes enormously to the vibrancy of the Toronto Film Industry.



KAREN THORNE STONE | PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ONTARIO CREATES

Ontario Creates is proud to support the Reelworld Film Festival; celebrating and spotlighting diverse stories, storytellers and important issues from around the world. Enjoy the festival!



DAVID SPARROW | PRESIDENT OF ACTRA NATIONAL
ACTRA's 25,000 members are proud to sponsor the Reelworld Film Festival and support Indigenous and racially diverse filmmakers telling uniquely Canadian stories.



THERESA TOVA | PRESIDENT OF ACTRA TORONTO
ACTRA Toronto applauds the Reelworld Film Festival for its long history of bringing diverse stories to diverse audiences. Thank you for leading the way and for continuing to inspire real social change.



MAUREEN PARKER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WRITER'S GUILD OF CANADA

The Writers Guild of Canada is proud to support Reelworld Film Festival's ongoing commitment to showcasing the work of emerging and diverse storytellers. Congratulations to everyone participating in this year's inspiring film program.

WELCOME LETTER



This year, we're delighted to share a programme that exclusively showcases work by the many diverse voices of BIPOC filmmakers from Canada.

With a renewed focus on Canadian talent, the theme for our 2019 programming is Home. In all of our selections this year, you'll see stories about people that are forging new homes for themselves or struggling to correct the complex relationships within their families. Some of these households have incredibly dark problems to deal with and some remind you just how important home can be to the life and success of someone.

These are stories about finding a home in community, in culture, and in people. There is anxiety, joy, and revelation in these homes and you'll find characters that are running away from it or running to it. Thank you for supporting these voices, and we hope you enjoy the festival.

LEAD PROGRAMMER

Ammar Keshodia

WELCOME LETTER



The industry panels this year continued the tradition of the professional development Reelworld is famous for.

We focused our panels to engage BIPOC Canadian filmmakers from every stage of their careers. We also focused on having strong BIPOC industry mentors on those panels. Having Telefilm back with their famous Case Study continues to be one of the highlights of the industry programme.

We remind the filmmakers it's not always about content, but it's also about building the relationships you need to learn from and trust. With the E20 program this year we tapped into some of the most influential industry professionals to guide our group into how they could execute their amazing story ideas. Each building block of the program is designed to give the participants the best chance at success.

I look forward to seeing how the seeds we plant in our talent this year will bear fruit in the future.

INDUSTRY PROGRAMMER

Kulbinder Saran Caldwell

FESTIVAL TEAM

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AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**
Tonya Williams



**DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR**
Emily-Jane Williams



FINANCE MANAGER
Rodrigo Diaz Varela



LEAD PROGRAMMER
Ammar Keshodia



**INDUSTRY
PROGRAMMER**
Kulbinder Saran
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FILM PROGRAMMER
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FILM PROGRAMMER
Ella Cooper



FILM PROGRAMMER
Marina Hanna



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ASSISTANT**
Aisha Evelyn



OPERATIONS
Meredith Chou



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**OUTREACH
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**GUEST SERVICES AND
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Marie-Emmanuelle Sako



**FESTIVAL ARTWORK
AND PROGRAM DESIGN**
X Height Media



VIDEO TRAILER
Cecilio Escobar



BOOKKEEPER
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COORDINATION**
Simran Dharamsey
Victoria Pat

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



Glenn Gould Studio

Toronto Reference Library (TRL)

Famous Players Canada Square

THURS. OCT. 17

FRI. OCT. 18

SAT. OCT. 19

SUN. OCT. 20

MON. OCT. 21

11:00AM						11:00AM
12:00PM						12:00PM
12:30PM		VIRTUAL REALITY ZONE (12:30-5:30PM)		CLASSIC SCREENING: THE SPIRIT WITHIN dir. Will Campbell And Gil Cardinal 51 Minutes Followed by Panel Discussion		12:30PM
1:00PM		How Writers and their Agents Build a Strong Relationship (PANEL SPONSORED BY WGC)			ACTRA YEMA Shorts Programme	1:00PM
1:30PM		TELEFILM CASE STUDY: "Queen of the Morning Calm" (Panel sponsored by telefilm)				1:30PM
2:00PM				BECAUSE WE ARE GIRLS dir. Baljit Sangra 85 Minutes Followed by Panel Discussion	XALKO dir. Semi Mermer and Hind Benchekroun 100 Minutes Preceded by I Created Memories (3 mins, dir. Sammy Gadois) Followed by Panel Discussion	2:00PM
2:30PM						2:30PM
3:00PM		Come Shadow Me: Mentorship and Shadowing on the Set				3:00PM
3:30PM						3:30PM
4:00PM						4:00PM
4:30PM		The Lucrative Business of Kids' and Family Content Creation			CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION	4:30PM
5:00PM						5:00PM
5:30PM		BIPOC Film & TV Panel				5:30PM
6:00PM				FAREWELL REGENT dir. Christine Browne 90 Minutes Followed by Panel Discussion	AWARDS CEREMONY	6:00PM
6:30PM	OPENING NIGHT GALA RECEPTION					6:30PM
7:00PM	OPENING NIGHT FILM: THE INCREDIBLE 25TH YEAR OF MITZI BEARCLAW (97 MINUTES) DIR. SHELLEY NIRO (97 MINUTES)				CLOSING NIGHT FILM: BECOMING LABRADOR DIR. ROHAN FERNANDO, TANARA SEGURA, JUSTIN SIMMS 70 MINUTES	7:00PM
7:30PM		SHORTS PROGRAMME 90 Minutes				7:30PM
8:00PM				THE POT AND THE OAK dir. Kiarash Anvari 75 Minutes		8:00PM
8:30PM						8:30PM
9:00PM		RECEPTION FOR ARTISTS AND GUESTS				9:00PM
9:30PM						9:30PM
10:00PM						10:00PM

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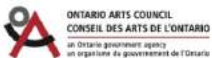
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TICKETING / VENUES

ABOUT REELWORLD

Reelworld Film Festival empowers BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) filmmakers, media artists, and talent in the Canadian Entertainment Industry. As a home for BIPOC talent, Reelworld Film Festival showcases narrative features, documentaries, shorts, and Virtual Reality/360 Films that explore untold Canadian stories that spark conversation and inspire social change. Alongside the festival, Reelworld hosts industry panels, workshops and talks designed to grow and develop the Canadian BIPOC talent pool.




HOW TO FESTIVAL

Pick your film. Reelworld has an exciting lineup of films, virtual reality, and events. Look through this book or check out the program on our website at www.reelworld.ca.

Purchase your tickets. You can buy single tickets or, if you're attending multiple events, we offer an All Access Festival Pass, which enables you to get tickets for every festival event. Tickets and passes can be purchased in advance online at www.reelworld.ca/boxoffice.

Be on time. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to a screening to pick up your ticket and/or reserve your seat. We allow latecomers a 15 minute window before we close the doors.

Get involved. Continue the conversation after the screening and connect with us on social media

 Reelworldfilm  @Reelworldfilm  @reelworld

 YouTube ReelworldFestival

TICKETING

(ALL PRICES INCLUDE HST)

SINGLE TICKETS

Opening Night Screening \$20
Film Screenings \$12

PASSES

All Access Festival Pass - \$50
All Access + Guest Pass - \$90

ONLINE BOX OFFICE TICKETS

www.reelworld.ca/boxoffice



FESTIVAL VENUES

(BOX OFFICE HOURS)
Thursday and Friday
6pm to 9pm
Saturday and Sunday
10:00am to 9:00pm

Glenn Gould Studio at CBC
250 Front St. W, Toronto, ON
Thursday, October 17th

Famous Players Canada
Square Cinemas
2190 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON
Friday to Sunday,
October 18th - 20th

Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON
Friday, October 18th
***No box office at this location**

CSI
192 Spadina Ave
Toronto, ON
Monday, October 21st
***By invitation only**



HOW TO REDEEM YOUR ADVANCE ONLINE TICKETS AND PASSES

Festival Pass

Bring your proof of purchase to the venue or use your pass to redeem single tickets online.

In-person Box Office starts Thursday
October 17th, 2019

Single tickets

Print your tickets at home or bring proof of purchase to the Box Office to obtain the tickets.

REELWORLD FILMS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17-
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

THURS OCT. 17

FEATURE: GALA RECEPTION 5:30PM
SCREENING 7PM / GLENN GOULD STUDIO



We're proud to kick off Reelworld's 19th Annual Film Festival with the feature film,

THE INCREDIBLE 25TH YEAR OF MITZI BEARCLAW

When she's forced to return to her home reserve, Mitzi has to abandon her urban life and put dreams of being a fashion designer on hold. At first resentful of her sick mother and overdramatic father, she soon finds the quirks of her family growing on her.

Leaving her boyfriend back in the city, Mitzi has a hard time keeping down the bush coffee when she makes the long trip back to Owl Island. Spending her mornings doing chores around the house and taking care of her miserable mother isn't quite what she had in mind for her 25th birthday. Is it isn't long though before she take a liking to Honeyboy, an old acquaintance who enjoys his simple life on the reserve.

As the months roll on, Mitzi continues to cling on to the life she imagines for herself out in the world. Surreal visions begins to invade her mind, and she struggles with a bittersweet goodbye, while forging new meaning for what home means to her. The Incredible 25th Year of Mitzi Bearclaw is a comedic, but grounded look at life on an Indigenous Reserve with a story that ultimately reverberates as a universal tale of familial responsibility.



Shelley Niro is a multi-disciplinary artist, and a member of the Six Nations Reserve, Turtle Clan, Bay of Quinte Mohawk. She has worked in a variety of media, including beadwork, painting, photography and film. Her work challenges stereotypical images of Aboriginal peoples and though it delves into serious issues and is rich with poignant imagery, Niro inserts humour into her practice. She has received considerable attention for her work in film, including her short, *The Shirt*, which was presented at the 2003 Venice Biennial as well as at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Her first feature film, *Kissed By Lightning*, about a Mohawk painter in a state of grief, won the Santa Fe Film Festival's "Milagro Award for Best Indigenous Film".

GENRE: Comedy, Family
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 96 minutes
DIRECTOR: Shelley Niro
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Michael Caterina
PRODUCERS: Shelley Niro, Amos Adetuyi
EDITOR: Angelica Falco
PRINCIPAL CAST: MorningStar Angeline, Vance Banzo, Andrew Martin, Ajuawak Kapashesit, Billy Merasty, Gail Maurice



BECAUSE WE ARE GIRLS

After decades of silence, Three sisters from a conservative South Asian family reveal that they were sexually abused by an older relative. *Because We Are Girls* gives no oxygen to the abuser or his crimes, instead focusing on the healing process for the victims and their struggle to discuss this issue within their family and community.



Baljit Sangra is a three-time Leo Award nominee, having her films at festivals around the world. Her previous documentaries include *Hockey United*, *Many Rivers Home*, and *Warrior Boyz*. Sangra has previously sat on the board of the Documentary Organization of Canada and the Vancouver Asian Film Festival. *Because We Are Girls* is her most recent project, produced by the NFB.

GENRE: Documentary,
LANGUAGE: English, Punjabi
COUNTRY: Canada, Turkey
LENGTH: 85 minutes
DIRECTOR: Baljit Sangra
PRODUCER: Selwyn Jacob
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Grant Baldwin
EDITORS: Carmen Pollard
Jessica Dymond

CO-PRESENTED BY
HOT DOCS



FAREWELL REGENT

In a documentary that charts the complex canvas of Regent Park, Christene Browne puts a human face on the unique tensions and fellowships of the country's most infamous social housing project. *Farewell Regent* eschews the storied violence of the community to focus on the activism and resilience that has always been in the DNA of its people.



Christene Browne is an award-winning filmmaker and novelist with over 30 years experience in the film and television industry. Her work, which most often deals with marginalized communities, has been sold and screened all over the world. Browne is the first Black woman to direct and write a dramatic feature film in Canada. She was named a visionary by the Women In Film and Television Showcase for her ground-breaking documentary series on the history of language. She is currently working on her third novel, an animated documentary and teaching at Ryerson University. Browne grew up in Regent Park.

CANADIAN PREMIERE
GENRE: Documentary
LANGUAGE: English
COUNTRY: Canada
DIVERSITY: Black
LENGTH: 90 minutes
DIRECTOR: Christene Browne
PRODUCER: Christene Browne
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Jonah Zapparoli
EDITOR: Christene Browne

CO-PRESENTED BY
REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL



THE POT AND THE OAK

In a searing indictment of the male ego, Kiarash Anvari announces himself as a new Iranian-Canadian voice with this dark satire about a failing playwright whose life begins to collapse when he learns he's sterile. In keeping with Iran's great cinematic tradition, Anvari toys with the boundary between fiction and reality as his bitter protagonist stumbles toward a deliciously dark conclusion.



Kiarash Anvari began his filmmaking career in Iran and relocated to France, where he got his master's degree in film studies from the University of Provence Aix-Marseille I. Anvari is the co-founder of the Montreal-based production company Sweet Delight Pictures and also produced and edited *Ava*, which had its premiere at TIFF 2017. *The Pot and the Oak* is his first feature film.

GENRE: Drama, Satire
LANGUAGE: Persian
COUNTRY: Canada, Iran
LENGTH: 72 minutes
DIRECTOR: Kiarash Anvari
PRODUCERS: Kiarash Anvari, Majid Barzegar, Sadaf Foroughi
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Sina Kermanizadeh
EDITOR: Emad Khodabakhsh
PRINCIPAL CAST: Banipal Shoomoon, Sadaf Foroughi

CO-PRESENTED BY
CYRUS INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL



XALKO PRECEDED BY I CREATED MEMORIES

A small village in Turkish Anatolia slowly becomes a ghost town as families move abroad, leaving behind a group of dedicated women who keep things running, in a rare document of the hidden consequences of migration. These women are the life of the film as they work the livestock together and make bread to feed their families while joking about their absent husbands.



Born in Turkey and based in Montreal, **Sami Mermer** first directed *The Box of Lanzo* in 2006. Forming a partnership with **Hind Bencheckroun**, the two shot and co-directed *Turtles Do Not Die of Old Age*, which won the Grand Prize at the International Film festival of Tétouan in Morocco, among other prizes. They went on to make *Callshop Istanbul*, another award winning documentary about the hardships of undocumented immigrants in Istanbul, playing at festivals such as Hot Docs and RIDM.



ONTARIO PREMIERE
GENRE: Documentary
LANGUAGE: Kurdish, Turkish
COUNTRY: Canada
LENGTH: 100 minutes
DIRECTOR: Sami Mermer, Hind Bencheckroun
PRODUCERS: Sami Mermer, Hind Bencheckroun
CINEMATOGRAPHER: Sami Mermer
EDITOR: René Roberge

CO-PRESENTED BY THE MUNK
SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS &
PUBLIC POLICY'S GLOBAL
MIGRATION LAB



THE LANE

Set in 1993, 11 year-old Scott lives in a Toronto housing project, trying to maintain some semblance of a family, with a mother that works long hours and an estranged brother who has his own problems at school. Johnny Vong delivers a grounded coming-of-age drama in his return to the Reelworld Film Festival.



Johnny Vong is a Thai-born Canadian Chinese-Vietnamese filmmaker based in Toronto and Los Angeles. Before becoming a writer/director, he worked as a unit stills photographer in the Canadian film industry for over a decade and a digital content producer for two national ballet companies. He holds an MFA in Film and Television Production from USC School of Cinematic Arts and a BFA in Integrated Media from OCAD University. His short films have screened internationally at Montreal World Film Festival, Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, Tampere Film Festival.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, Coming-of-age

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 19 minutes

DIRECTOR: Johnny Vong

PRODUCERS: Steven Pukin, Johnny Vong

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Ryan Glover

EDITOR: Johnny Vong



MILK

In this portrait of childhood angst, grounded by a piercing lead performance, a young girl is forced to confront her mother and father's difficult relationship with each other.



Samiramis Kia is a director and writer based in Toronto. Graduating from an Interior Architecture programme, she decided to pursue her life-long passion in filmmaking after immigrating to Canada. Since 2012, her work has been shown at a variety of photography and film venues around the world, including Iran, China, and Canada.

TORONTO PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, Coming-of-age

LANGUAGE: Russian, English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 13 minutes

DIRECTOR: Samiramis Kia

PRODUCER: Samiramis Kia

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Samuel Robert Willets

EDITOR: Siddharth Devalla



THREE CENTIMETRES

Shot in a single long take, four friends take a ride on a ferris wheel where they begin to question whether they really know each other. We feel the energy shift in real time - Three Centimetres premiered at the Berlin Film Festival to an award winning reception.



Lara Zeidan is a Lebanese-Canadian filmmaker based in London. After completing a BA in Graphic Design at the American University of Beirut, she enrolled at the London Film School, MA in Filmmaking course, where she developed her skills as a writer/director. Her graduation film "Three Centimetres" had its world premiere at the Berlinale 2018, where it won the 32nd Teddy Award for Best Short Film. Since then, it has been selected for more than 60 festivals over the world.

ONTARIO PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, LGBTQ

LANGUAGE: Arabic

COUNTRY: Canada, Lebanon

LENGTH: 9 minutes

DIRECTOR: Lara Zeidan

PRODUCER: John Giordano

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Pierfrancesco Cioffi

EDITOR: Emanuele Bonomi



INT'MAA

Reliving a cycle of old conversations with her mother, a young woman finds herself encased in oppressive isolation. With a background in experimental filmmaking, Rolla Tahir builds a penetrating sense of anxiety in this fiction debut.



Rolla Tahir is a filmmaker and director of photography currently based in Toronto. She's lensed short, narrative and experimental films, which screened across Canada and internationally, including the UK, the States and Guatemala. Rolla is currently in post-production of her latest short film, Déraciné.

WORLD PREMIERE

GENRE: Experimental

LANGUAGE: Arabic

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 6 minutes

DIRECTOR: Rolla Tahir

PRODUCER: Rolla Tahir

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Khanseng Mein

EDITOR: Rolla Tahir



TEETHING

Tessa begins to develop an agonising toothache as she tries to clear out the house with her husband before they can put it up for sale. There's more than meets the eye in this surreal depiction of a painful process, experienced by a quiet couple.



Tyler Evans was born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario. Ever since he was 12 years old, he would escape the mundanity of the suburbs by going to the movies every week. After becoming obsessed with the escapism that films brought, he decided that he want to tell stories of his own.

WORLD PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, Horror, Mystery

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 13 minutes

DIRECTOR: Tyler Evans

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Evan Ciniello

PRODUCERS: Isaiah Sepidoza, Tyler Evans

EDITOR: Tyler Evans



WILDFIRE

Two brothers on the run from their father meet an indigenous teen who helps them get in touch with their roots in this beautifully shot story of a family found through language and tradition.



Bretten Hannam is a two-spirit Mi'kmaw filmmaker living in Kespukwiltk, Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia) where they was raised. Their films deal with themes of community, culture, language, and tradition with a focus on Two-Spirit and LGBTQ identity. They co-wrote the short CHAMPAGNE which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. In 2015 they wrote and directed a Telefilm Micro-budget feature, NORTH MOUNTAIN, a Two-Spirit thriller, which won Best Original Score at the Atlantic Film Festival, and the Screen Nova Scotia Award for Best Feature.

ONTARIO PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, Thriller

LANGUAGE: English, Mi'kmaq

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 12 minutes

DIRECTOR: Bretten Hannam

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Catherine Lutes

PRODUCERS: Gharrett Patrick Paon

EDITOR: Shaun Rykiss



SHOOK

When Ash is forced to meet with his estranged father, he struggles to sympathise with his problems. Shook is a light hearted story of two men trying to reconnect in Amar Wala's return to fiction filmmaking, inspired by a personal experience.



Born in India and raised in Toronto, **Amar Wala's** work often explores themes of immigration, justice and identity. Working in both documentary and fiction, Wala's debut feature The Secret Trial 5 won him the Emerging Filmmaker Jury Award at Hot Docs, and the Magnus Isacson Award at RIDM. Often using his cinema as activism, Wala has firmly planted himself as a daring and vital young voice in Canadian film.

WORLD PREMIERE

GENRE: Drama, Family

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 12 minutes

DIRECTOR: Amar Wala

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Mikhail Petrenko

PRODUCER: Amar Wala

EDITOR: Alex Shutsa



I CREATED MEMORIES PLAYS WITH XALKO

With a montage of his experiences, Sammy Gadbois reflects on his desire to remember in a sincere portrait of a young life. Despite a looming anxiety - Will there even will be future generations to share with? - his voice feels like a warm hand, reaching out.



Sammy Gadbois is Inuk. He was born in Kuujuaq on December 29th 1999. Sammy discovered a passion for photography and filmmaking a few years ago, when he acquired his first camera. Sammy first collaborated with Wapikoni in 2016. His film /Kuujuaq/ was presented at the Asinabka Arts Festival in 2017 and at the Rendez-vous de Québec cinéma in 2018. Since then, his passion and talent continued to grow immensely through various personal and professional video projects.

ONTARIO PREMIERE

GENRE: Documentary

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 3 minutes

DIRECTOR: Sammy Gadbois

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Sammy Gadbois

PRODUCER: Wapikoni Mobile

EDITOR: Sammy Gadbois



THE SPIRIT WITHIN

REELWORLD RETROSPECTIVE

In a trend that's worsened over the last decade, Indigenous people are overrepresented in Canada's prison system and it's a pattern that shows no signs of slowing down. We take a look back at Gil Cardinal and Wil Campbell's 1990 documentary on Native spirituality programmes that helped Indigenous men get in touch with their roots and avoid the revolving door that would see them back in prison after release. Join us for this special retrospective screening, followed by a panel discussion.



Born to a Métis mother and raised by a non-Indigenous foster family, the late **Gil Cardinal** was a groundbreaking filmmaker who embodied the complicated history of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. "Gil made it possible for us to think about putting our own stories on the screen—and that was something new and important," says Jesse Wente, Director of Canada's Indigenous Screen Office. Cardinal's autobiographical *Foster Child* (1987) is considered a landmark of Indigenous cinema. Along with **Wil Campbell**, who has had a wide range of experience working with Indigenous Men's healing programmes, the two co-directed *The Spirit Within* as a portrait of the mental state of Indigenous men in 1990.



GENRE: Documentary

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY: Canada

YEAR: 1990

LENGTH: 51 minutes

DIRECTORS: Gil Cardinal, Wil Campbell

PRODUCERS: Jerry D. Krepakevich, Graydon McCrea

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Jame Jeffrey

EDITOR: Gerald K. Wilson

CO-PRESENTED BY *imagineNATIVE*



BECOMING LABRADOR

A whole generation of Filipino men & women have travelled halfway across the world to work in Labrador, leaving behind families and friends as they struggle to adjust to a remarkably different climate and culture in Canada. The 12-hour time difference doesn't help them keep in touch with the people back home in this emotional portrait of three families trying to make a better future for themselves.



Rohan Fernando's first documentary, *Cecil's Journey*, won Best Film at the Atlantic International Film Festival and was nominated for a Gemini Award. Snow marked Fernando's feature drama debut, opening the Reelworld Film Festival in 2011. His documentaries include *Trudeau's Other Children*, *Blood and Water*, and *The Chocolate Farmer*, which had its world premiere at the Hot Docs.



Based in Newfoundland since 2012, **Tamara Segura** studied film directing and screenwriting at the Instituto Superior de Arte in Cuba and the International Film and Television School in San Antonio de los Baños. Her second Canadian short film, *Song for Cuba*, was produced by the NFB, and in 2013 she received the RBC Michelle Jackson award for emerging female filmmakers.



One of the most prolific and acclaimed filmmakers in Eastern Canada, **Justin Simms** is especially focused on sharing the Newfoundland experience with a wide range of audiences. He debuted with his feature film, *Down to Dirt* in 2009, followed up by *Hold Fast* in 2013, and the award-winning docudrama *Hard Light*, with the premiere of his third feature film, *Away from Everywhere*, in 2016.

ONTARIO PREMIERE

GENRE: Documentary, Biography

LANGUAGE: English, Tagalog

COUNTRY: Canada

LENGTH: 70 minutes

DIRECTOR: Rohan Fernando, Tamara Segura, Justin Simms

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Justin Simms

PRODUCERS: Annette Clarke, Rohan Fernando

EDITOR: Hannele Halm

PRINCIPAL CAST: Epitacia Bruce, Kukai Hunter, Edeta Verzosa, Rey Villanueva

CO-PRESENTED BY
KWENTONG BAYAN COLLECTIVE

Since 2011, Reelworld has put the spotlight on our ACTRA partners with our ACTRA shorts program. The films are created by YEAA: Young Emerging Actors Assembly - A chapter of creators and screen actors between the ages of 17-30.

Join us Sunday afternoon and discover the city's next generation of creators.



PUNCHLINE



SHRINK SESH

DIVERSITY HIRE | DIRECTOR: Christer Harris

After interviewing with the best marketing firm in the city, Juliana and Ricky argue over which one of them stands a better chance of filling the new position.

FUN & GAMES | DIRECTOR: Justine McCalla

Two long time friends find huge success with their online prank show. When tensions build and a prank goes awry, they learn first hand that some people can get away with more than others.

LOVERS, LEFTOVERS | DIRECTOR: Darrell Faria

After a lackluster second date, Josh and Suraya encounter a canvasser collecting for charity. While each tries to out-donate the other, the pair are forced to confront their socio-political values and get down to brass tax about how they really feel about each other.

OVERCOVER | DIRECTOR: Samy Osman

OVERCover is an action-comedy following two undercover cops during an operation that doesn't quite go as planned...because SOMEONE over acted their role. Join Elyas and Phong as they maneuver their way out of a den of criminals.

PUNCHLINE | DIRECTOR: Natalie Dale

Two comediennes are forced into an intense debate, neither right or wrong, about navigating the tricky waters of Comedy in the light of #MeToo.

SHRINK SESH | DIRECTOR: Colin Mercer

A couple tries to save their love life by getting advice from the most eccentric therapist in town.

SISTER CULT | DIRECTOR: Lora Campbell

When sisters reunite for the first time in years, an unexpected update in one of their lives leads to an evening of drinks, drugs, mysterious cloaked visitors, and pizza that's, like, 70% probably vegan.

At Reelworld, we want you to experience the power of story in every form. In our Digital Storytelling zone, you'll have the chance to dive deep into new worlds through immersive VR films.



TIDAL TRACES

DIRECTOR: Nancy Lee, Emmalena Fredriksson

Tidal Traces is a 360-video VR dance piece that places viewers in the centre of the performance. In it, three characters explore a new and uncertain world—moving between tranquility and ominousness, beauty and peril. Entangled in this tension, the viewer becomes the fourth character, directly composing the dance through their gaze.



DANCING POLAR BEAR

DIRECTOR: Derrald Taylor

Inuit sculptor and visual artist Derrald Taylor creates a snow sculpture of the North's most iconic animals, a polar bear. Filmed on the frozen Arctic Ocean, under the northern lights, this piece represents both the eternal permanence of the North, as well as the transience and fragility of our delicate environment. While the creation of the sculpture can be experienced in Virtual Reality, the natural destruction of the piece is a view reserved only for those in the community of Tuktoyaktuk.



FISH EYES

DIRECTOR: Casey Koyczan

Multi-instrumentalist/artist Casey Koyczan creates a sculptural installation on the shore of Marian Lake. The installation is constructed not only to serve as a form of shelter in the future for local hunting, fishing, berry picking, and cookouts, but also serves as a stage, as Koyczan performs his brand of live-looping electro-alternative music, interacting with the surrounding environment to create a kaleidoscopic experience influenced by the landscape.

INDUSTRY PANELS

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1PM | GETTING AN AGENT, BUILDING A STRONG RELATIONSHIP

If you are interested in getting into a writer's room, then securing an agent is crucial. Learn how to communicate with agents, how to pick an agent that works best for you and how to ensure you and your agent are on the same page for the success of your career.

*Moderated by: Aaron Bala, WGC Writer (Cardinal - CTV)
Vivian Lin, WGC Writer (Hudson and Rex - CityTV)
Alejandro Alcoba, WGC Writer (Another Life - Netflix)
Sohrab Merchant, Literary Agent (The Characters Talent Agency)*

2 PM | TELEFILM CASE STUDY - "QUEEN OF THE MORNING CALM"

Join us as we take a dive into the production of Gloria Yi Young Kim's feature, *Queen of the Morning Calm*, about a Korean sex worker and Mother trying to escape poverty and abuse. A story about love, triumph and female self empowerment

*Moderated by: Sedina Fiati, Producer, Performer, Co-Chair (ACTRA National - Diversity Committee)
Dan Lyon, Regional Feature Film Executive - Ontario and Nunavut (Telefilm Canada)
Gloria Yi Young Kim, Director, Producer (Glorious Productions)
Sonya Di Rienzo, Executive Producer (Hawkeye Pictures)
Dmitry Lopatin, Cinematographer*

3 PM | COME SHADOW ME: MENTORSHIP AND SHADOWING IN THE INDUSTRY

Shadowing is a great way to learn your craft and accelerate your career. Find out what it takes to get into the industry. How to build those relationships, and how to set realistic expectations for both the mentee and mentor.

*Moderated by: Damon D'Oliveira, Producer, Partner (Conquering Lion Pictures)
Jennifer Podemski, Producer, Writer, Director, Founder (Redcloud Studios Inc.)
Adam Feigen, Development Executive (Incendo Media)
Floyd Kane, Creator, Executive Producer (Diggtown - CBC)*

4 PM | THE LUCRATIVE BUSINESS OF KIDS' AND FAMILY CONTENT CREATION

The newly launched DHX-CMF Kids and Family Development program is bringing funding to projects in a genre that has decreased over the years. This panel brings together top-level leaders in children's programming to discuss these challenges.

*Moderated by: Terry E. Markus, Executive Producer and Lawyer
Rod Butler, Director of Programs and Policy (CMF)
Drew Mullin, Executive in Charge of Production, Children's Content (CBC)
Christin Simms, Writer, Executive Producer (Dino Dana - Sinking Ship)
Shaleen Sangha, Vice President, Development and Production (Boat Rocker Studios, Kids and Family)
Michael Goldsmith, VP Original Production, Live Action (DHX Media)*



PRESENTS IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH
REELWORLD
FILM FESTIVAL

5 PM | ADAPTING TO A CAREER IN TV

Are you interested in transitioning into a career in television? The "Adapting to a Career in TV" panel hosts Directors, Writers and Filmmakers who have made the jump from music videos, theatre, short and feature films to directing broadcast television series. Join in for an in depth discussion how each made their transition.

*Moderated by: Nicole Mendes, Executive in Charge of Production for CBC Drama
Jasmin Mozaffari - Director, Writer
RT - Director, Writer, Producer
Motion - Screenwriter, Playwright, Poet and Emcee*

REELWORLD FESTIVAL AWARDS

Each year Reelworld presents awards selected by a jury of industry leaders. Reelworld is proud to continually support and recognize the achievements of its films and filmmakers. Congratulations to the 2019 awards recipients! Awards are presented at our Closing Night Gala October 20 - 6pm.



OUTSTANDING FEATURE FILM AWARD

Awarded to the director of the feature length film selected as the most impactful and capable of social change. Selection made by a panel of jurors.



OUTSTANDING SHORT FILM AWARD

Awarded to the director of the short film selected as the most impactful and capable of social change. Selection made by a panel of jurors.



AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

Awarded to the director of a feature length film. Chosen by the audience by way of ballot.

JURORS

We thank our 2019 Jurors for their time in selecting the winners.



ANELLE DEGHANI | CREATIVE CONSULTANT, RAVEN BANNER ENTERTAINMENT

Anelle Dehghani is a graduate of the Toronto Film School Production Program. Currently, Anelle is the Distribution Coordinator and Marketing Assistant at Raven Banner Entertainment where she manages film assets and deliveries as well as the VOD, Theatrical and Festival aspects of distribution.



TINA HASSANNIA | FILM CRITIC

Tina Hassannia is a freelance film critic, journalist and the author of Asghar Farhadi: Life and Cinema. She has written for The National Post, The Globe and Mail, The Guardian, The Atlantic, Village Voice, Variety, and others. She is a featured speaker on CBC Radio's Q's screen panel.



AL MAGEE | FOUNDER, MAGEE TV DIVERSE SCREENWRITERS AWARD

Al Magee is an award winning, Emmy nominated Producer, Showrunner, Writer and Mentor. He has over 50 feature film and television credits and has worked with many of Canada's most influential filmmakers. He is the founder of the Magee TV Diverse Screenwriters Award and Mentorship program.



RABIA KHAN | FOUNDER, THE PILOT PROJECT

Rabia Khan is a screenwriter, novelist, founder of The Pilot Project and global citizen splitting her time amongst Dubai, Canada, UK and Pakistan. The Pilot Project provides undiscovered writers an opportunity to have their work read by established industry professionals. Rabia speaks numerous languages including English, Urdu, Sindhi and Spanish.



TREVOR MACK | FILMMAKER

Trevor Mack is an award-winning Tsilhqot'in nation filmmaker. His eclectic range of films have common themes, one of which being identity. Mack's work is known for its striking cinematography and experimentation while exploring themes which include his feelings of growing up between two worlds.



ROBYN CITIZEN | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS PROGRAMMER, TIFF

Robyn Citizen, PhD is the International Programmer for the Short Cuts programme at TIFF and a programmer for the Human Rights Film Festival. She has published her work in various journals and edited volumes and was a film lecturer at the UBC from 2012-2017.

2019 REELWORLD VISIONARY AWARD RECIPIENT HAMLIN GRANGE

Each year Reelworld honours one remarkable individual whose lifetime of work, passion and determination has made a significant contribution to Canadian film, television and media. Their dedication has opened doors for diverse artists and forever changed the Canadian entertainment landscape. Past recipients include: Andrew Cordozo (2002), Graham Greene (2006), Cameron Bailey (2007), Patricia and Moses Mawa (2011), Ana Serrano (2014), Raja Khanna (2015), Jesse Wente (2017).



This year Reelworld celebrates Hamlin Grange and his incredible achievements as a media broadcaster, and advocate for artists of colour in the entertainment industry.

Hamlin is one of the greatest pioneers of diversity initiatives in Canadian society, he has

been at the forefront of the entertainment industry fostering diversity for decades; his initiatives including round tables between government and broadcasters has opened up significant discourse on the topic of diversity and inclusion.

As co-founder of the Innoversity, an initiative that has built bridges between diverse communities, innovators and leaders for the past twenty years, he's played a critical role in opening the doors of media organizations to the stories and talents of diverse communities in Canada. Hamlin continues to create a wealth of opportunity for diverse Canadian artists in broadcast, and his dedication has changed the lives of Canadians forever.

TRAILBLAZERS

Created in 2002, the Trailblazer Awards recognizes outstanding achievements by racially diverse professionals in the Canadian 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. View our exclusive interviews with each trailblazer online at www.reelworld.ca



FARAH MERANI | ACTOR/FILMMAKER/ADVOCATE

Farah Merani is a graduate of the Drama Centre London, University of Toronto and Humber College. As an actor, she has several television and film credits and was a Producer on SUDDEN MASTER (OMNI TV) and GREAT GREAT GREAT. She is the co-founder of Women On Screen.



ALBERT SHIN | DIRECTOR

Albert Shin is an award winning producer, screenwriter, and director best known for his work on the award-winning short film, DAY OF JOHN (TIFF '05) and the feature film IN HER PLACE, that premiered at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival.



NYLA INNUKSUK | DIRECTOR

Nyla Innuksuk is a filmmaker, media artist and virtual reality creator. Her short film KAJUTAIJUQ premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. In 2017, Nyla started NKS, her own VR production company, she was the first to be awarded the imagineNative Indigenous VR/AR Residency.



EMMANUEL KABONGO | ACTOR

Emmanuel Kabongo made his debut in the critically acclaimed feature THE ANIMAL PROJECT. His supporting roles include the feature films POMPEI and ANTIBIRTH. He has several television credits and is a Canadian Screen Award nominee. He is an alumni of the Canadian Film Centre's Actors Conservatory.



NATALIE YOUNGLAI | WRITER/DIRECTOR

Nathalie Younglai credit's include: 'TIL DEBT DO US PART, TESSA & SCOTT, THE MAGIC SCHOOLBUS, DINO DANA, 16 HUDSON and BELLEVUE. She was the recipient of Telefilm's New Voices Award and ACTRA Toronto's Sandi Ross Award. She is the Founder & Director of BIPOC TV & Film.



MOHIT RAJHANS | FILM CRITIC

Mohit Rajhans is the co-founder of FILMI Festival, the longest running showcase of South Asian films. He has held coveted positions with Breakfast Television, Omni TV, CBC, as well as, been a panelist on Short Film Face Off and a juror for the International Emmy Awards.

E20s

Reelworld's E20 program works to empower its participants with invaluable hands-on experience through a series of workshops, industry introductions and a supportive space to nurture and develop their craft.



LORNA KIDJO
Project: *Interlocked*



DIANNE LOPEZ-MAHONEY
Project: *Disconnected*



ABHISHEK PRASAD
Project: *Who Among Us!*



JENNIFER IRONS
Project: *Meena's Journey*



DARREN ANTHONY
Project: *Dwayne Has Issues*



SARA ASYIED
Project: *Party Animals*



ADRIAN BOBB
Project: *Emissaries*



CHATTRISSE DOLABAILLE
Project: *Other Words*



SETH MOHAN
Project: *Namaste*



VANESSA MITCHELL
Project: *That Lonesome Road*



CHRIS STRIKES
Project: *Becoming a Queen*



JANET ROSE NGUYEN
Project: *Silvia*



JONATHAN GAJEWSKI
Project: *GNA*



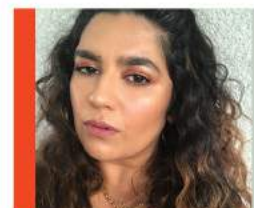
MONIQUEA MARION
Project: *Demon Child*



OBEDIYA JONES-DARRELL
Project: *Mancala*



ATEFEH KHADEMOLREZA
Project: *Home*



HONEY SINGH
Project: *Olivia Lee of Shophouse 333*



IAN STEAMAN
Project: *SHINE*



TSEHAIE MAKONNEN
Project: *Rhythms of Remembrance*



ALEJANDRO VALBUENA
Project: *My Fellow Americans*

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