



ALL THAT MATTERS, Canadian Premiere

Coraci Bartman Ruiz | Brazil | 2024 | 20:00 | Portuguese with English Subtitles

All That Matters tells the story of three Brazilian families of trans people and their processes of understanding and celebration of their identities. These mums, dads and grandparents take a step forward and decide to fight for a society that respects and values diversity. Directed by a filmmaker who is herself the mother of a young trans person, the film connects generations by showing stories of love, transformation and learning.

ASK THE PLANTAIN

Jaime Leigh Gianopoulos | Canada | 2023 | 12:33 | English

Alternating between myth and reality, Jaime Leigh Gianopoulos unravels the intricate tapestry of grief and the liminal space that exists between not belonging to the lands one was born on nor the lands one's ancestors once came from. In a powerful exploration of her Greek Canadian heritage, she embarks on an introspective journey through the depths of her heart, akin to traversing a black hole, in search of the gifts hidden within her wounds. Guided by the presence of the plantain, a resilient plant often referred to as "white man's footprints" due to its association with European settlers, she disentangles the fragmented threads of an ancient myth and pre-Hellenic ceremony. Through this profound exploration, she seeks to rediscover the art of navigating the loss of identity and the cyclical nature of life's transitions.

AUGUST & EBONY, Canadian Premiere

Sunyin Zhang | USA | 2023 | 12:51 | English

Four-month pregnant Ebony isn't ready for this baby and a podcast about wild childbirth stories only heightens her anxieties. Her wife of 3-months, August, comforts and reassures her...and it almost works until Justin, her best friend and hook-up-turned-father of her child, bursts into the house, armed with his binder of research. Determined to save these two wholly unprepared mothers-to-be, he invites himself to stay over—much to August's dismay. Reviewing Justin's research only leads Ebony to a crisis of confidence, worsened when August and Justin clash. When Ebony asks for their help to create a birth plan, she's ignored. She finally scolds August and Justin to work together for her and the baby. The two rivals sheepishly put their rivalries aside to build a plan to get Ebony to the hospital and the throuple form a united front, choosing to weather this lifelong co-parenting journey together.

AUTOPHAGY, Canadian Premiere

Edie Lawrence | UK | 2024 | 11:04 | English

A waterborne disease ravages a town, the affliction slowly morphing you into an octopus. With the societal hatred towards those suffering building, a couple have the limited choice: afford the medication to carry on living, or drink the water and suffer being shunned.

DETOURS AHEAD

Esther Cheung | Canada | 2024 | 7:45

A young woman embarks on a road trip making her way inland from the coast. As she travels, the landscape transforms from idyllic and blissful to cold and unwelcoming. She struggles with independence and self-reliance as she moves through the harsh landscape. It all comes to a head when she strikes a deer—she reckons with herself, with grief and with moving on.

FEBRUARY SIXTEENTH NINETEEN FORTY-SEVEN

Jessica Miinguuaqtii | Canada | 2023 | 4:00 | English

Inuk Elder Levinia Brown shares the oral history of how she was born on February 16, 1947 while her family was travelling by dogsled across the open tundra from Tavani to Dawson Inlet. Her story is illustrated by cutout stop motion animation of hand sewn Inuit wall hanging designs in the style of her own artwork.

HENDERSON, Canadian Premiere

Lori Watt | Canada | 2024 | 11:06 | English

Ally, a mid 30s professional from Vancouver who has travelled to Vegas for her friend's wedding, wakes up confused in a hotel room she doesn't recognize to see her clothing, purse, boots and a condom on the floor. Suddenly panicked, Ally quickly dresses and runs to a local gas station for help. With a dead cell phone and no money on her to pay for a cab, Ally must rely on the kindness of strangers to get her back to the Vegas strip in time for her friend's wedding. Then she meets Nicholas, a young divorced Spanish father who is on his own timeline as he delivers 'eviction notices' to neighbourhoods outside of Ally's destination. Will Ally make it back in time to greet the bride?

INAY (MAMA), Hometown screening

Thea Loo | Canada | 2024 | 56:00 | English and Kapampangan with English subtitles

With the desire to help answer unresolved questions and heal lingering wounds, INAY investigates the flawed immigration pathways between the Philippines and Canada that kept so many Filipino children from their mothers.

IS GAY MARRIAGE NEXT?

Emily Clark | USA | 2024 | 16:00 | English

Responding to a Supreme Court case in 2003, a groundbreaking cover of Newsweek featured a lesbian couple and asked: Is gay marriage next? A young, closeted woman saw the magazine and found the courage to come out. Two decades later, she searches for the couple who gave her hope. Together, they explore the LGBTQ political landscape then and now. In a post-Roe era, this compelling story asks a familiar question with a haunting twist: is gay marriage next—to go?

KARATEKA

Florence Fauquet | France | 2024 | 16:40 | French with English Subtitles

Gabrielle and Alix are about to compete in the finals of the regional karate championship. But when Gabrielle discovers that she is having her period when she wasn't expecting it, things get complicated and the fight becomes unequal. But the two young women will then realize that they are in reality on the same team.

LITTLE MISS SLEEPY

Jenny Lee-Gilmore | Canada | 2024 | 23:00 | English

A filmmaker explores her journey of being diagnosed with Narcolepsy at age 21 and documents her participation in a scientific research study to help raise awareness for the condition that currently has no known cure.

LOVIN' HER

day | Canada/USA | 2024 | 14:58 | English

The breadth of a trans woman's life is shown as she navigates the complexities of a fading memory. Blending the past and present, glimpses of her struggles with love and her evolving gender identity showcase a heartfelt portrait of humanity.

LUMEN, BC Premiere

Stéphanie Bélanger | Canada | 2024 | 13:21 | French with English Subtitles

It has been raining heavily for months and the sixth wave is depressing humanity. In this prevailing darkness, Claude, 70 years old, compulsively buys lamps online to break his solitude and bring light into his life, at any cost.

MAWTINI (MY HOMELAND), Western Canadian Premiere

Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller | Canada | 2023 | 18:46 | English and Arabic with English Subtitles

Nawal, a young Palestinian woman grieving the death of her grandmother & clinging to the task of keeping a fig sapling alive as her last thread of connection to Palestine, builds an unlikely friendship with Tanya, an older Indigenous woman growing a guerilla garden on the lawn of their apartment building. As Nawal helps Tanya with her garden & battle against middle management, the two women find home in their connection with each other on the margins.

MOTHER'S TONGUE

Vanesa Millado | Canada | 2023 | 13:25 | English

Gurleen is learning how to cook pakoras from her mother. She is eager to gain this knowledge, recognizing the importance of maintaining cultural traditions. However, when the lesson shifts towards the importance of being a good cook to service her future husband, she pushes back against the misogynic rhetoric. Unable to see eye-to-eye with Chandani, an argument ensues, causing Gurleen to abruptly end the lesson. A year passes, and Gurleen is living on her own, estranged from her mother. It isn't until she witnesses a loving interaction with Lilly, a student she tutors, and her mother, Mrs. Leung, that Gurleen attempts to learn the pakoras dish again on her own. After a failed attempt and Gurleen giving up, she's led to have a heart-felt conversation with Mrs. Leung, who encourages her to reconcile with her mother.

MY WEEK WITH GEORGE CLOONEY, Canadian Premiere

Emilie Sornasse | Belgium | 2023 | 18:35 | French with English Subtitles

On vacation in the south of France in November, I experience the emptiness of an out-of-season Banyuls. A handsome actor buddy of mine arrives to rehearse the scripts for his

next shoot. I watch him from breakfast, in the privacy of our Airbnb. And outside, I watch him interacting with the others; the villagers, suddenly numerous. By the end of the week, we're bound to be closer. But better that I don't think about it too much.

NOOJ GOJI/ ANYWHERE

Evelyn Pakinewatik | Canada | 2024 | 20:13 | English

The global pandemic rages on as authorities loosen regulations, leaving two immunocompromised Anishinaabe lovers vulnerable to a world that wants to abandon them. George lives with his Gokmis on a northern reserve, while his partner Eileen lives in Toronto. The universal stressors of long-distance relationships are exacerbated by eugenics, colonial violence, and misogyny. After an intense day, George and Eileen find themselves at a crossroads, prompting George to find answers in their traditional Anishinaabe medicine ways.

ONE MUST WASH EYES, BC Premiere

Sepideh Yadegar | Canada | 2023 | 1:28:23 | English and Persian with English Subtitles

Sahar, an Iranian international student in Vancouver, embodies the courage and resilience of a generation. Torn between her academic dreams and her yearning for justice, she secretly writes feminist blogs exposing Iran's oppressive laws. When Mahsa Amini's death sparks global outrage, Sahar joins a Women, Life, Freedom protest, igniting a chain of events that upends her life. Abandoned by her family and employer, Sahar loses her financial support and faces the looming threat of deportation. With Iran's government branding her a danger, returning home is no longer an option. As she navigates heartbreak, betrayal, and impossible odds, Sahar's journey mirrors the struggles of countless Iranian women fighting for their voices to be heard. One Must Wash Eyes is a powerful testament to the universal fight for freedom, justice, and identity; a reminder that even in the darkest moments, courage can inspire change and hope for a brighter future.

PASSAGEWAYS (VOIES DE PASSAGE), Western Canadian Premiere

Geneviève Tremblay and Milla Cummings | Canada | 2024 | 4:41 | French with English Subtitles

Passageways is a stop-motion documentary that takes a positive look at the emotional and physical transformations women experience during menopause. Drawing on the authentic confidences of five women who share their personal experiences of this natural stage of life. In a poetic and sensitive visual framework, the film offers an intimate portrait of resilience, growth and self-discovery through the journey of a female character who tames a new environment and welcomes new ways of perceiving and projecting her femininity.

pîkîwî

Olivia Marie Golosky | Canada | 2024 | 4:10 | English

In the quiet, haunting landscapes where memory and reality intertwine, pîkîwî follows a Two-Spirit Métis person on a deeply personal and transformative journey of healing. Set in the fractured spaces of trauma and resilience, the film explores the nuanced process of self-discovery and reclaiming one's identity in the aftermath of violence. pîkîwî presents the tender meditation of a Survivor returning not only to a physical place, but to a spiritual self. The path through swirling visions, fragmented memories, and moments of raw vulnerability echoes

the complexities of rebuilding a world shattered by the echoes of past trauma. Through evocative animation and tender imagery, the film captures the intimate process of healing, honoring, and embracing one's true self—moving beyond the pain toward a radical place of self-love, joy, and resurgence.

SAIGON KISS, Canadian Premiere

Hồng Anh Nguyễn | Vietnam | 2024 | 22:00 | Vietnamese

Mơ roams through the rush hour traffic to avoid an unwanted phone call. When she meets Vicky by the side of the street with her broken motorbike, a visceral chance encounter unfolds between the two young queer women on the loud streets of Saigon.

SEEDS

Kaniehtiio Horn | Canada | 2024 | 01:23:57 | English & Kanien'kéha

Ziggy receives her first internet influencer job offer to promote the seed and fertilizer company Nature's Oath. When her cousin calls her back to the reservation, she is compelled to fight to preserve the history of her people and discovers her strength in the process.

SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO

Tasha Hubbard | Canada | 2024 | 01:38:30 | English

In a time of immense environmental degradation and global uncertainty, the buffalo can lead us to a better tomorrow. After a dark recent history, the buffalo herds of North America are awaiting their return, aided by dedicated Indigenous activists, leaders and communities, including award-winning Cree filmmaker Tasha Hubbard (nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up). Together with Blackfoot Elder Leroy Little Bear, Hubbard weaves an intimate story of humanity's connections to buffalo and eloquently reveals how their return to the Great Plains can indeed usher in a new era of sustainability and balance. On her journey, Hubbard explores the challenges faced by buffalo allies and shares the positive steps already taken towards the ultimate - but uncertain - goal of buffalo repatriation. Richly visualised and deeply uplifting, Singing Back the Buffalo is an epic reimagining of North America through the lens of buffalo consciousness and a potent dream of what is within our grasp.

STRANGERS, Western Canadian Premiere

Leah Doz | Canada | 2024 | 13:42 | English

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

THE WISH BAKER, World Premiere

Carolyn Irwin | Canada | 2024 | 6:30 | English

Birthdays are special, like your very own personal Christmas. And we all know about Santa, but this short film allows us to finally answer the question of "who is the person who is making your wishes come true when you blow out the candles on your birthday cake?" This concept is of who that magical person is, how she uses her power to make our wishes come true, but at the same time, there's also something a little dark and terrifying about this person. With the ultimate power to make your wishes come true, there's also the immense pressure of trusting that people

won't break the one and only rule around wish making... and when they do...well you'll have to just watch and find out what happens.

THROUGH MY EYES: AN ARTIST'S RE-CREATION

Kaileigh Coles | Canada | 2024 | 15:42 | English

Vancouver artist, Maureen Coles, shares her journey as an artist with low vision and takes us along as she prepares for an accessible exhibition of new paintings, adapting her artistic voice to her changing vision.

TOMORROW, Canadian Premiere

Ingrid Pérez López | Colombia | 2023 | 14:29 | Spanish with English Subtitles

On the eve of her First Communion, Rocío is taken by her father to pick up the dress that she will wear at the ceremony, but, unexpectedly, she will experience the pain of heartbreak. For her, the ceremony and life must go on.

UNDER THE KASAYA

Jennifer Fan Jiang | Canada | 2024 | 15:17 | Chinese with English Subtitles

The film opens at the temple with Jean sitting happily with Lama as they catch up on life. Suddenly, Lama's hand slides down Jean's back, and Jean's world has never since been the same. At home, Jean's mother Lucy is shaken by her daughter's sudden coldness, and scolds her instead of showing empathy. Their relationship frays. On her father's death anniversary, Lucy forces Jean to come with her to visit the temple to gain blessings from Lama. Jean only agrees to avoid a fight, but when Lama begins to touch her leg under the table, Jean runs out of the room and courageously spills the secret to her mother in a fit of tears. Now, with the truth out, they decide to choose each other.

UNIBROW

Nedda Sarshar | Canada | 2023 | 14:17 | English and Persian with English Subtitles

Unibrow follows Leyla, a second-generation Irani-Canadian girl striving for the perfect brows, as she befriends a new student from Iran, Sahar, who introduces her to the cultural significance of eyebrows.

VILLAGE KEEPER

Karen Chapman | Canada | 2024 | 01:21:38 | English

Village Keeper follows a family grappling with secrets that uphold domestic abuse and unresolved rage. After life's precarious scale tips her fortune back into poverty, Jean relocates her children with their grandmother to the community housing project where she grew up. Jean lives in constant fear of everything that could go wrong, going to great lengths to shelter her children, so when a spree of violence comes to her doorstep, she secretly cleans an abandoned crime scene, which unknowingly leads her on a path that exposes generational chains of silence, self-discovery and finally putting herself first.

VIVIE, Canadian Premiere

Hweiling Ow | New Zealand | 2024 | 9:20 | English

Sexually frustrated Amy has a love-hate relationship with her vagina, Vivie. Every time she tries to have sex with a new lover Vivie absolutely refuses to open up. Amy gets increasingly frustrated with Vivie while Vivie is increasingly frustrated with Amy for not listening to her, and this leads to a huge argument between the two. When Amy's "the one who got away", Matthew, suddenly arrives back in town, Amy wonders if he is the missing key to cracking Vivie. Amy goes out on a date with Matthew and is surprised to get a positive response from Vivie. When Amy finds herself in bed with Matthew, things start to go to plan... or so she thinks.

NiiMisSak: SISTERS IN FILM, Hometown Screening

Jules A. Koostachin | Canada | 2024 | 1:10:16 | English

NiiMisSak weaves shared truths with the raw personal experiences of being an IsKweWak storyteller in the film/documentary industry, specifically in British Columbia. Now is the time to share these important stories of resiliency and power because we are experiencing a revolutionary shift in Indigenous cinema in Canada. Iskwewak (Indigenous women) are taking control of their own STORIES, more so than in any other time in film herstory.