

PROGRAM GUIDE

5 DAYS • 75+ DOCUMENTARIES

SEPTEMBER 23–27, 2026

13TH EDITION

LUNENBURG DOC FEST

AN EXAMINED LIFE IS
WORTH VIEWING





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A LOVINGLY RESTORED HISTORIC BUILDING AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE SOUTH SHORE

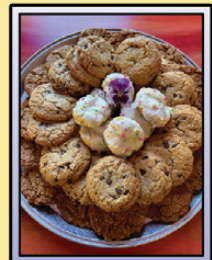
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Message from the Festival Director

Welcome to the 2026 Lunenburg Doc Fest. Looking at the schedule for these five jam-packed days, I'm reminded of the extraordinary power of documentary film to bring us together. Films draw us into other people's lives, challenge what we think we know and sometimes, encourage us to see the world differently.

This year's festival is our biggest yet, with over 75 films, and I'm incredibly proud of the program we have assembled. From powerful international stories to remarkable gems made right here in Nova Scotia, we have films that entertain, provoke, inspire and hopefully, have you talking about them long after the credits roll.

A festival of this size is only possible because of an extraordinary group of people. To our sponsors, thank you for believing in Doc Fest and investing in the cultural life of our community. To our Board of Directors, thank you for your leadership and countless hours behind the scenes. To the staff and volunteers, thank you for the creativity, energy and dedication that make this festival possible. What a team we have!

To the filmmakers, thank you for trusting us with your work and for joining us in Lunenburg. To our industry representatives, decision

makers, mentors and guests, thank you for sharing your knowledge and helping create opportunities for the filmmakers and emerging talent who are an important part of our future.

And finally, to the Town of Lunenburg and its residents, thank you for opening your doors and embracing Doc Fest, with special thanks to those who have billeted artists. This festival is truly at home in this community. We gratefully acknowledge that we gather on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, the ancestral and present-day stewards of this land. We recognize the deep history of Mi'kma'ki and extend our respect and gratitude to the Mi'kmaq people, past and present.

Take a chance on a film you know nothing about. Stay for the Q&A. Strike up a conversation with a filmmaker. Most of all, enjoy the experience of seeing the world brought to you on the big screen.

Enjoy the films!

Walter Forsyth
Festival Director
Lunenburg Doc Fest

Land Acknowledgement

Lunenburg Doc Fest acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and we acknowledge them as past, present and future caretakers of this land. We respect the Treaties of Peace and Friendship and are thankful for the Mi'kmaq people. We also pay our respects to the Elders, past and present, as we continue to work in our community toward reconciliation. As stewards of culture and as community builders, we are in the process of learning more about how our organization can improve relations with Indigenous People and uphold the values of collaboration and inclusivity in all that we do.



Message from the Chair of the Board

On behalf of the Board of Directors I am happy to have you join us as we once again gather to celebrate the art of documentary film with friends and family.

This event can only take place with a supportive community. Thanks to all the sponsors and supporters who provided us with the resources to host this event. I would also like to thank everyone who has spread the word about our boutique event.

We are delighted to have a growing global community of filmmakers and media professionals who are meeting at Doc Fest. If you are here for the first time, or are a returning delegate, take the time to experience the food, colours and stunning oceanfront fall scenery of Lunenburg in September.

Our ability to present this event is thanks to the extraordinary team of staff and volunteers working at the festival. Once again, they have managed to organize all of the moving pieces and keep things running smoothly. Please take a moment to thank them if you happen to see any of them standing still.

My thanks also go to my colleagues on the Board of Directors who give generously of their time and experience to ensure the long-term viability of the event.

We are proud to welcome you to the 13th Lunenburg Doc Fest.

Enjoy the show!

Bruce MacCormack
Chair of the Board



Message from Telefilm Canada

Festivals such as Lunenburg Doc Fest hold a vital place in the global film ecosystem. As spaces for discovery and dialogue, they put films at the heart of the conversation and spark collective reflection, contributing to the vitality and reach of cinema from here and around the world.

Canadian and Indigenous films stand out for their ability to connect with diverse audiences through stories that invite reflection, recognition, and emotional engagement. They reflect the richness of Canadian identity.

Beyond serving as an important showcase for films, festivals are essential gathering places for the industry. They are where works find their first audiences, professional relationships are strengthened, and new projects take shape.

At Telefilm Canada, supporting creators throughout their journey and fostering meaningful connections between their works and audiences is central to our mission. That is why we are proud to partner with Lunenburg Doc Fest, which plays a key role in the vitality of our sector.

Congratulations to the team, and we wish everyone a wonderful festival!

Julie Roy
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



Message from Province of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia is a place of breathtaking landscapes, vibrant communities, and a rich cultural spirit. The Lunenburg Doc Fest offers a rare and welcoming opportunity to share some of this charm with filmmakers and audiences from around the world.

This festival is more than a series of screenings. It is a gathering that celebrates creativity, diversity, and the distinctive voices of Nova Scotia's filmmakers while connecting them with a global audience. Through this event, the unique allure of our province can be experienced and celebrated by all who attend.

We are proud to support the Lunenburg Doc Fest and to help bring together filmmakers and audiences in a celebration of film and the extraordinary spirit of Nova Scotia.

Honourable Dave Ritcey

Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage



Welcome from Mayor, Town of Lunenburg

On behalf of the Town of Lunenburg, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2026 edition of the Lunenburg Doc Fest.

This festival serves to showcase the important work of documentary filmmakers, sharing stories that inspire, inform, and connect us. We are proud to host this annual event that celebrates creativity and culture while also adding to the vibrancy of our community and supporting our local economy.

While you're here, I encourage you to explore all that Lunenburg has to offer - from our historic waterfront and cultural landmarks to our wonderful restaurants, shops, and galleries.

Congratulations and thank you to the organizers, volunteers, and filmmakers who make this festival possible each year.

Welcome to Lunenburg, and enjoy the 2026 Doc Fest!

Jamie Myra

Mayor of Lunenburg

We all have stories worth telling.

Proud sponsor of Lunenburg Doc Fest.



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Lunenburg Venues



Off-site Locations

Shelburne

Osprey Arts Centre
107 Water St., Shelburne

Halifax

Carbon Arc Cinema
1747 Summer St., Halifax

Riverport

Old Confidence Lodge
3831 NS-332, Riverport

Liverpool

Astor Theatre
219 Main St., Liverpool

Chester

Chester Playhouse
22 Pleasant St., Chester

1 Box Office and Theatre
Lunenburg Opera House
290 Lincoln Street

2 Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic
68 Bluenose Drive

2 Ice House Theatre
68 Bluenose Drive

3 Lightship Brewery
93 Tannery Road

4 The Main Gaff
229 Lincoln Street

5 Tide and Trail Outfitters
146 Bluenose Drive, Unit 101

5 Zwicker Building
146 Bluenose Drive

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Benjamin Bridge
Carbon Arc Cinema
Chester Playhouse
Susan Crocker

Devour! The Food Film Fest
Roma Dingwell
Alex Hickey
Timothy Hogan
Hot Docs International
Documentary Festival

Jackie Kinley
Laughing Whale Coffee Roasters
Lightship Brewery
Lunenburg Arms Hotel
David MacInnes

Osprey Arts Centre
Susan J. Seltzer
Smugglers Cove Inn
The Old Confidence Lodge
WIFT-AT

Festival Schedule

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 12:00pm Boatbuilders** (103 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 2:30pm My Father And Qaddafi** (88 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 5:30pm Being Still** (52 MIN) 🍁 with **The Bookstore That Never Sleeps** (27 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 7:00pm Derek Vs Derek** (87 MIN)
Osprey Arts Centre, Shelburne
- 7:30pm Great White Highway** (54 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A and panel**
- 7:30pm Tide and Trail Photo Gallery Reception**
Tide and Trail
- 9:00pm The Main Gaff Community Reception**
The Main Gaff
- 9:30pm American Doctor** (91 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **★ Showcase**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 10:00am In Tye Country** (90 MIN) 🍁 with **Buffalo** (15 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 11:30am A Fox Under A Pink Moon** (76 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 12:00pm Shorts: No Easy Answers** (99 MIN)
Ice House Theatre
- 1:30pm Silenced** (97 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 3:00pm See the World Better**
Ice House Theatre | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 3:30pm Union Town** (106 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 5:00pm Sunset Gala Reception**
Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic
- 7:00pm Union Town** (106 MIN)
Carbon Arc Cinema, Halifax
- 7:30pm Gala Film: Yo (Love Is A Rebellious Bird)** (78 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **★ Showcase**
Q&A with filmmakers
- 10:00pm Captain Newfoundland** 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmakers**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 9:00am Burning Planet** (90 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Free for students**
Q&A with filmmakers
- 9:30am tøm k'w'aθ nan Namesake** (90 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre
- 12:00pm Shorts: CBC Program** (82 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre | **★ Free** | **Q&A with filmmakers**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 CONTINUED

- 12:30pm Derek Vs Derek** (87 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 2:30pm Kikuyu Land** (93 MIN)
Ice House Theatre
- 3:00pm The Delivery Line: Midwives On The Frontlines** (87 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A and panel**
- 5:00pm A War On Women** (95 MIN)
Ice House Theatre
- 6:30pm Everybody To Kenmure Street** (95 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **★ Showcase**
Q&A with filmmaker
- 7:00pm Yo (Love Is A Rebellious Bird)** (78 MIN)
Carbon Arc Cinema, Halifax | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 8:30pm Ladies And Gentleman, Brian Mulroney** (105 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre
- 9:00pm The Ultra Runner** (98 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 9:00pm Friday Showcase After-Party**
Lightship Brewery

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 9:30am Ba's Book** (93 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmaker**
- 10:30am The Launch 2026: Documentary Pitch Contest**
Ice House Theatre
- 11:30am The Launch 2025 Winner's Work-in-Progress**
Ice House Theatre
- 12:00pm Once Upon A Time In Harlem** (100 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 12:30pm Shorts: Meanwhile Elsewhere** (85 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House
- 2:00pm Second Nature** (81 MIN)
Old Confidence Lodge, Riverport
- 2:00pm The Cycle Of Love** (98 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House
- 2:30pm Run Terry Run** (111 MIN) 🍁
Astor Theatre, Liverpool
- 3:00pm Joan's Kitchen Table** (75 MIN) with **The Kitchen School** (12 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 4:30pm The Last Days Of April** (75 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 5:30pm The Theft** (85 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre | **Q&A with filmmakers**
- 7:00pm Steal This Story, Please!** (98 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **★ Showcase**
Q&A with filmmakers
- 8:00pm Black Zombie** (90 MIN)
Ice House Theatre | **Q&A with filmmaker**

Festival Schedule CONTINUED

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 CONTINUED

9:30pm **Modern Whore: A Crave Original** (80 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House
Q&A with filmmaker and subject

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:00am **All About The Money** (95 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmaker**

10:00am **SAGED: Garden Musings** (60 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre | ★ **Free** | **Q&A with filmmakers**

11:30am **Shorts: This Is Where We Live** (97 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre | **Q&A with filmmakers**

11:30am **Wild Inside** (96 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmaker**

2:00pm **The Cycle Of Love** (98 MIN)
Chester Playhouse, Chester

2:00pm **The Golden Spurtle** (75 MIN) with **The Baddest Speechwriter of All** (29 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmaker**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 CONTINUED

2:30pm **The Gymnasts Of Fisherman Colony** (92 MIN) 🍁
Ice House Theatre | **Q&A with filmmaker**

4:30pm **Jane Elliott Against The World** (99 MIN)
Lunenburg Opera House | **Q&A with filmmaker**

5:00pm **Bucks Harbor** (98 MIN)
Ice House Theatre

7:00pm **To Hold A Mountain** (103 MIN)
Ice House Theatre

7:00pm **13th Annual Lunenburg Doc Fest Award Presentation**
Lunenburg Opera House

7:30pm **Closing Night Film: Run Terry Run** (111 MIN) 🍁
Lunenburg Opera House | ★ **Showcase**

9:00pm **Closing Night Social**
Zwicker Building

Purchasing Passes/Tickets



Box Office Hours & Locations

Everyone is encouraged to buy tickets online.

Festival Box Office

Location: The Lunenburg Opera House, 290 Lincoln St., Lunenburg, NS

Dates: September 23-27, 2026

Hours:

Wednesday 10 am - 11:15 pm

Thursday 8:30 am - 11:30 pm

Friday 8:30 am - 10:45 pm

Saturday 9 am - 11:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 am - 9 pm

Phone: (902) 523-3456

Online Box Office

Location: 2026 Festival, lunenburgdocfest.com

Close: 1 hour before show time.

Ticket/Pass Pricing

Maximize your experience with a pass or go a la carte with a ticket.

All prices include taxes and fees. General admission seating. Pass holders are encouraged to pre-select their tickets.

Gala & Film Pass Bundle ca\$160

Experience everything! Includes access to every screening, every gala, and every special event.

For the maximalist film fan

Film Pass ca\$100

All the films, everywhere! Includes access to every film screening. Excludes Gala & Gala Film.

Special \$50 offer for students and first-time attendees.

For the passionate film fan

Gala Pass ca\$100

Celebrate with us! Includes reception, screening, and after party. Excludes all other screenings.

Special \$50 offer for students and first-time attendees.

For the party people person

Industry Pass ca\$110

Connect! For industry professionals only. Includes the Gala & Film Pass Bundle, The Dock Market, DOC Atlantic Breakthrough, and The Launch events. (Sept 25-27).

For professionals who like a mix of business and fun

Individual Ticket ca\$17

Admission to one regular film screening, with the exception of \$10 at Osprey Arts Centre.

Festival Team



Ashley Bradford
Box Office Coordinator



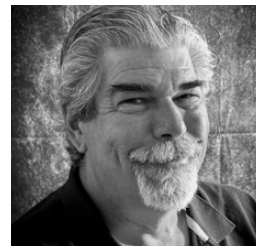
Adam Adler
Technical Director



**Lynnette Alford,
Allyssa Gomez, and
Erin Movold**
On-site Social Media Crew



Envi Attwood
Filmmaker Lab Assistant



Wayne Brown
Docs on the Dock Coordinator



Audrey Chan
Industry Programs Manager



Chelsea Doherty
Operations Manager



Art Eaton
Sound Tech



Walter Forsyth
Festival Director



Peter Hall
Jury Coordinator



Meghan Hanlon
Volunteer Coordinator



Ava Jackson
Eventive Coordinator



Nancy Kovachik
The Dock Market Coordinator
and Docs on the Dock Manager



Moya Walsh
Hospitality Lead



Brea McAllister
Birdhouse Bookkeeping



Ron McDougall
Art Director



Kasia Morrison
Marketing and
Communications Director



Tanya Preyde
The Dock Market and Print
Traffic Manager



Sterling Shannon
Advertising



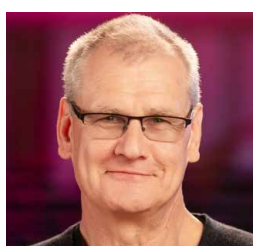
**Alexandra
Schmittmann**
Assistant Volunteer
Coordinator



Beatrice (Bea) Schuler
Photographer



Kyle Whittaker
Audio Technical Director



Stewart Young
The Dock Market Director

Festival Board of Directors



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Chair



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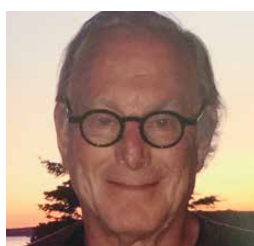
Meghan Hanlon
Board Member



Carole MacNeil
Board Member



John McLennan
Board Member



Allan E Rubenstein, MD
Board Member



John Walker
Board Member

Festival Senior Programmers



Aisha Jamal
Senior Programmer



Matthew McCarthy
Senior Programmer



Lorne Price
Senior Programmer

Festival Advisory Board



Christopher Ball
Festival Advisor



Sue Dando
Festival Advisor



Richard Huggard
Festival Advisor



J.C. Mills
Festival Advisor



Peter Raymont
Festival Advisor





MEET THE FILMMAKERS OF *YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD)*

Lunenburg Doc Fest Sunset Gala Night

Thursday, September 24



Reception at 5pm (FISHERIES MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC)
Film with Q&A at 7:30pm (LUNENBURG OPERA HOUSE)
After-Party at 9:30pm (THE MAIN GAFF)

Red carpet, refreshments, photos, time well spent with the directors Anna Fitch and Banker White, and party

Free Community Events

Lunenburg Doc Fest proudly presents a range of free-admission community initiatives during the festival each year. We invite you to join us at the following events!



On Sundays, from August 30 - September 20, we transformed Zwicker Wharf into a free outdoor theatre to screen four documentaries.

COOKIE QUEENS

2026 | US | 91 min

A quartet of determined Girl Scouts, Ara, Olive, Nikki, and Shannon Elizabeth dive into cookie season with charm, grit, and unmistakable ambition. As they chase the coveted title of *Cookie Queen*, their world becomes a lively mix of childhood joy and sharp entrepreneurial instinct. Alys Nahmias' film captures their spirited hustle within an \$800 million industry, revealing the real sacrifices families make as weekends transform into cookie booth marathons. What emerges is a warm, funny, and inspiring portrait of young girls learning confidence, strategy, and resilience, with underlying proof that capitalism still dominates as America's religion.

THE OLDEST PERSON IN THE WORLD

2026 | US | 87 min

Director: Sam Green

Perhaps the best premise ever for a feature documentary, acclaimed filmmaker Sam Green spends a decade chasing the world's oldest person and asking each of them what's their secret. More than a film about longevity, Sam turns the camera around, asking himself hard life questions. Funny, poignant and deeply contemplative, *The Oldest Person in the World* is a cinematic journey through time, chance and the mysteries of existence.

Atlantic Canadian Premiere



THE OLDHAM MAN AND THE SEA

2026 | UK | 76 min

At 70, Frank Rothwell decides to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean alone. With a sense of humour and extraordinary determination, Frank battles exhaustion, isolation, weather and the vastness of the ocean. What begins as an audacious adventure to set a world record becomes a deeply human story about courage, love, ageing and refusing to accept the limitations others put on you. Inspiring and funny, this is one old man against the sea.

North American Premiere

TIME AND WATER

2026 | ICELAND/US | 93 min

Director Sara Dosa returns after the success of *Fire and Water* (LDF2022) where we saw many volcanoes erupting. This time she shows us lots of glaciers melting. A mesmerizing and mind blowing meditation on life. Facing the death of his country's glaciers and the loss of his beloved grandparents, Icelandic writer Andri Snær Magnason turns his archives into a time capsule to hold what is slipping away - family, memory, time and water.

Nova Scotian Premiere

Shorts: CBC Program

A selection of the best shorts on offer from CBC this year, showcasing local stories of people finding their place in the world.

Friday, September 25 | 12:00pm | Ice House Theatre

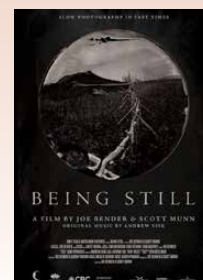
Run time: 82 min | A Q&A with director Doug Karr will follow the films.

Being Still Art Show

Runs September 19-27

Open hours at Tide and Trail Photo Gallery

Enjoy the beautiful images on display from the *Being Still* documentary featuring local Maritime photographers.



Free Community Events CONTINUED

SAGED

Filmmaking Program

Shorts: Garden Musings

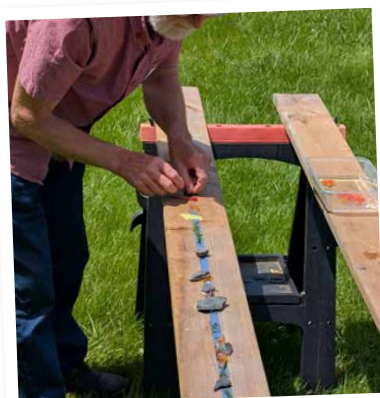
Date: Sunday, September 27

Time: 10:00am

Location: Ice House Theatre

A Q&A with the filmmakers will follow the films.

Seven Super 16mm film experiments offering insights into the joy, humour, and peace gardens bring to the soul. This program is supported by **Arts Nova Scotia** and **Support4Culture**.



PHYTOGRAMS FROM THE L.A.B. (LUNENBURG ACADEMY BUILDING)

2026 | Canada | 4:11 min

Workshop Participants: Nancy Archibald, Vincent Dieras, Gerald Porrier, Jo Tingle, and Terrie Zweep

Workshop Instructor: Dawn George

A group film made from results of the experiments during the SAGED Phytoqram Workshop on the Lunenburg Academy Building grounds. Phytoqrams are a camera-less image making technique made by combining the natural internal chemistry of plants with light-sensitive film emulsion. The plants used to create this film were collected from participant's gardens and the greenery around the Lunenburg Academy.

GARDEN ENVY & GARDEN ECSTASY

2026 | Canada | 3:22 min

Director: MJ Sakurai

Not everyone is blessed with a green thumb. This short film promotes a glorious alternative to *Garden Envy*: *Garden Ecstasy*.

CONTAINED GARDEN

2026 | Canada | 2:15 min

Director: Vincent Dieras

A contained garden, setting limits, protection, cover, extending the seasons that will bring you beauty with flowers, food security, harvesting fresh produce, interacting with nature and community, and providing friends with joy.

SKYWARD-FLYING DOG

2026 | Canada | 3:50 min

Director: Gary Knowles

Finding a path to grieve the loss of a canine companion through the memorial gardens and the skyward-flying dog Memory Bell at ElderDogLand.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

2026 | Canada | 2:31 min

Director: Christina J. Andrews

Like a hypnotic dream, my mixed urban garden always grabs my attention, and trades for food, flowers, and the incredible secrets of life.

BACKYARD RELATIONS

2026 | Canada | 2:30 min

Director: Charlene Morton

A metaphorical look at our plant relatives, living in wild or domestic gardens all around us, but only some of whom we celebrate or even acknowledge as Earth family.

THE PEONY MYSTIC

2026 | Canada | 1:15 min

Director: Carol Millett

It has been said "The peony is a mirror. It reflects whatever a civilization cares about most." A hopeful reassurance for our civilization today.



Receptions and Parties

All receptions and parties are free and open to the public. After 9:00pm, all attendees must be 19+.



The Bookstore That Never Sleeps

Tide and Trail Photo Gallery Reception

Wednesday, September 23

7:30pm reception at Tide and Trail Photo Gallery

Following the screenings of *The Bookstore That Never Sleeps* and *Being Still*. Enjoy live music, refreshing drinks, and delicious local eats.



The Main Gaff Community Reception

Wednesday, September 23

9:00pm at The Main Gaff

Enjoy time together after the screening of *Great White Highway* and to celebrate the first day of the festival.



Friday Showcase After-Party

Friday, September 25

9:00pm party at Lightship Brewery

Following the Friday Night Showcase, *Everybody To Kenmare Street*, everyone is invited to keep the festival vibe going. We'll have a DJ on deck and room to dance.



Closing Night Unwind

Sunday, September 27

9:30pm at Zwicker Building

A final meet and greet for filmmakers, staff, volunteers, and ticket/pass holders.

Free Industry Events



The Launch 2026: Documentary Pitch Contest

Saturday, September 26

10:30am start at the Icehouse Theatre

Support five filmmakers as they pitch their next short film with hopes of winning \$20,000 in cash and services.

Stick around to catch a work-in-progress screening of *Letters to my Children* by Reva Bhardwaj, one of the winning projects of The Launch 2025.



Festival Awards

Juried Competitions

- CBC Presents The Launch Best Live Pitch: \$20,000 cash and services
- Best Atlantic Canadian Filmmaker: \$500 and \$10,000 in services (sponsored by Equifilm)
- The Pamela Segger Best Canadian Feature: \$1,000 cash
- Best International Feature: \$1,000 cash
- Best Environmental Sustainability (sponsored by Kaia Sustainability Project): \$1,000 cash
- Best Canadian Short: \$500 cash
- Best International Short: \$500 cash

Audience Awards

The Audience Choice Award for Best Feature Documentary is \$1000.

The Audience Choice Award for Best Short Documentary is \$500.

How to vote:

Rate each film individually by attending the screening(s):

1. Get a ballot from the box office.
2. Tear the ballot at the appropriate rating.
3. Deposit the torn slip into the Audience Award box.

BONUS: Add your name and email for a chance to win a Film Pass to **Lunenburg Doc Fest 2027**

Audience Award winners will be announced **September 28**.

2025 Audience Choice Award for Best Feature
Last Ride Home



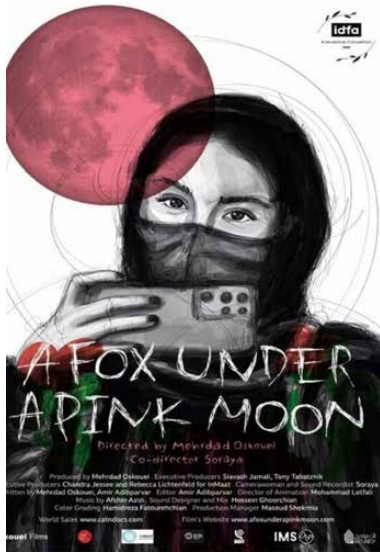
2025 Audience Choice Award for Best Short
The Muse



Feature Documentaries



Feature Documentaries



A FOX UNDER A PINK MOON

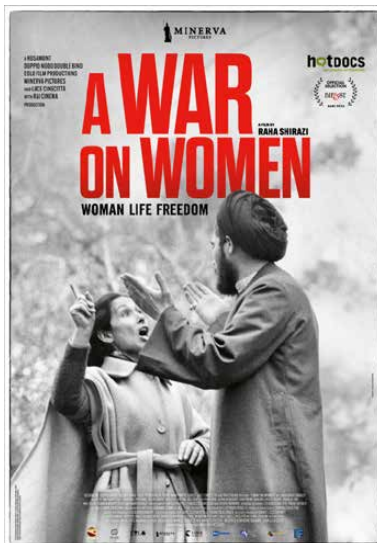
2025 | Iran/France/UK/US/Denmark | 77 min

Directors: Soraya Akhlaghi, Mehrdad Oskouei

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

At just sixteen, Soraya, an Afghan woman living in Iran, channels her turbulent world into hauntingly beautiful drawings and sculptures, as she attempts long and dangerous escapes to reunite with her mother in Austria. Filmed entirely on Soraya's phone over five years, Mehrdad Oskouei's intimate portrait blends Soraya's self-recorded journeys with her political reflections, bruises, dances, and surreal animations. Through recurring animated figures of a loyal fox, a watchful pink moon and a laughing clown, Soraya reveals her resilience and imagination as she fights to break free from a violent marriage and regime to shape her own future.

Content warning: portrayals of domestic violence



A WAR ON WOMEN

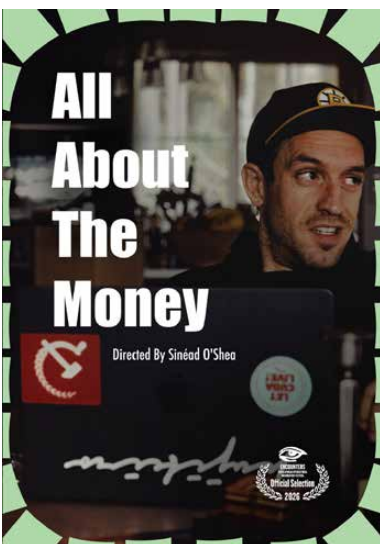
2026 | Italy | 94 min

Director: Raha Shirazi

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

A War On Women tells fifty years of female resistance through private footage, testimonies, and clandestinely filmed images in Iran. Four generations of women have challenged the regime of the Ayatollahs and the control imposed over their bodies and lives, transforming oppression into a movement capable of enduring revolution, repression, and exile. Activists, mothers, actresses, prisoners, and exiles form an unbroken chain of resistance. An intimate and direct look at a country often misunderstood, placing at its center the voices of those who chose not to remain silent.

Warning: violence



ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

2026 | Ireland | 95 min

Director: Sinéad O'Shea

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

What happens when one of America's wealthiest heirs decides to destroy capitalism with his own money? Fergie Chambers is young, fabulously wealthy and determined to reinvent the world. He finances a communist collective in rural Massachusetts, convinced that his fortune can help dismantle the system that created it. But idealism, privilege and money make for a combustible combination. Sinéad O'Shea returns (last year's *Blue Road: The Edna O'Brien Story*) to follow Chambers through a wildly unpredictable story of wealth and power.

A Q&A with director Sinéad O'Shea will follow the film.

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



AMERICAN DOCTOR

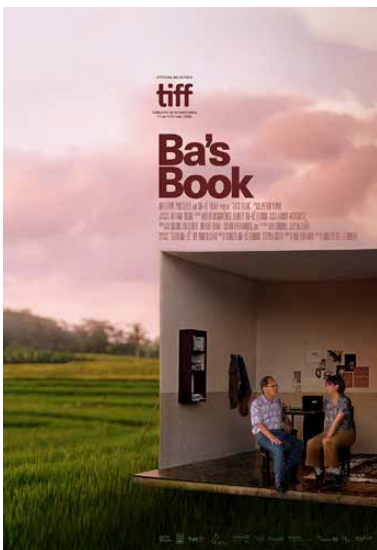
2026 | US | 93 min

Director: Poh Si Teng

SHOWCASE

As Gaza's hospitals buckle under Israeli bombardment, three American physicians enter the crisis from different places and perspectives, united by a shared commitment to save lives. Palestinian American emergency doctor Thaer Ahmad, Jewish American surgeon Mark Perlmutter, and Zoroastrian trauma surgeon Feroze Sidhwa confront unimaginable choices inside a devastated medical system, where shortages, danger, and loss redefine the meaning of care. Returning home, their work continues in the halls of Congress, where they demand accountability from the government they represent. Urgent and unflinching, *American Doctor* is a powerful meditation on medicine, moral courage, and the responsibility to bear witness.

Content warning: violence and disturbing images



BA'S BOOK

2026 | Canada | 105 min

Director: Ashley Duong

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

When Montreal-based filmmaker Ashely Duong's father entrusts her with a memoir of his experiences during the Vietnam War and Iranian Revolution, the past becomes an unexpected conversation between generations. Duong responds with a film, returning with her father and relatives to his ancestral village to revisit memories shaped by war, displacement, and political upheaval. Blending intimate vérité, archival traces, and participatory re-creations, *Ba's Book* gently unsettles the boundaries between memory and history, parent and child, storyteller and witness. *Ba's Book* explores how families inherit the wounds of war and find ways to move forward.

A Q&A with director Ashley Duong will follow the film.


NOVA SCOTIA

THANK YOU
FROM THE
LUNENBURG
DOC FEST

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



BLACK ZOMBIE

2026 | Canada | 90 min

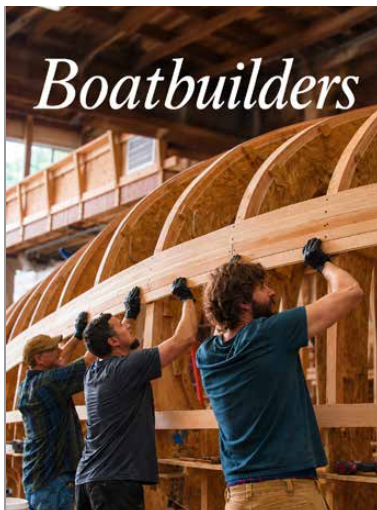
Director: Maya Annik Bedward

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Maya Annik Bedward's *Black Zombie* is a masterpiece digging up the history of horror as she journeys from Hollywood to Haiti, unearthing the buried story of the zombie and its roots in Haitian Vodou, enslavement, and resistance. Through archival imagery, movie clips galore and artists who helped shape our understanding of the undead, the film reveals how a symbol born from the loss of freedom was transformed into one of cinema's most enduring figures of fear. It is both a cultural reckoning and a clever reclamation.

A Q&A with director Maya Annik Bedward will follow the film.

Content warning: gore



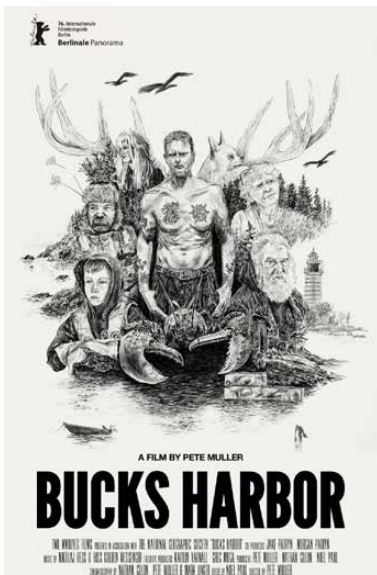
BOATBUILDERS

2026 | US | 103 min

Director: Luke Lorentzen

CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Come into the boat shop and experience the craftsmanship that goes into building a wooden sailboat. Over the course of 16 months, director Luke Lorentzen follows the meticulous construction of a 56-footer at the Brooklin Boat Yard, while immersing us in the lives of the boatbuilders and their close-knit Maine community. As the seasons change and the vessel takes shape, we see a town rooted in time-honored craft, shared joys, and mutual respect. Premiering at Venice.



BUCKS HARBOR

2026 | US | 98 min

Director: Pete Muller

CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Pete Muller's accomplished debut is a fascinating profile of the boys and men of Downeast Maine. In this rugged place, winter hardens bone, tradition sets strict expectations, and the ocean becomes both livelihood and teacher. The film follows fishermen across generations as they navigate identity, pride, and the quiet emotional weight of proving one's worth. Their pursuit of lobsters mirrors the resilience, vulnerability, and survival demanded on shore. What emerges is a vivid, intimate portrait of a community where strength is celebrated, but tenderness is often kept just out of sight. A must see and 2026 Berlinale award winner.

Content warning: disturbing bodily harm

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



BURNING PLANET

2026 | Canada | 90 min

Directors: Phyllis Ellis, Ziya Tong

Award winning filmmaker Phyllis Ellis teams up with member of Order of Canada and award-winning science journalist and filmmaker, Ziya Tong to explore the origins of global fire in the 21st century. The documentary focuses on the visceral evolution, escalation, and devastating impact of contemporary mega-wildfires, framing 21st-century global fire through both a scientific and investigative lens.

Q&A with filmmakers



CAPTAIN NEWFOUNDLAND

2026 | Canada | 94 min

Directors: Jamie Miller, Mike Feehan

Drifting between reality and cosmic imagination, *Captain Newfoundland* uncovers the surreal legacy of Geoff Stirling, the mystic media mogul who reshaped Newfoundland's cultural landscape. Through archival footage, bold animation, and Stirling's own mixed media aesthetic, the film traces how his interdimensional superhero became a late night cult icon, blending sci-fi, spirituality, and counterculture in ways that influenced generations. What emerges is an irresistible portrait of creativity and rebellion, revealing how Stirling's mythology leapt beyond television to spark a movement of artistic freedom across Newfoundland. Directed by Jamie Miller (LDF's 2018 Best Short Film Award winner) and Mike Feehan.

A Q&A with directors Jamie Miller and Mike Feehan will follow the film.



DEREK VS DEREK

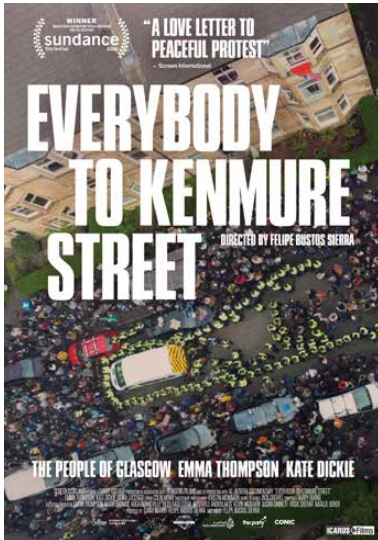
2026 | UK | 88 min

Director: James Dawson

Derek Gow, the renegade farmer who reintroduced beavers to Britain, is remaking his land into a sweeping, untamed refuge, a vision that horrifies his neighbour, Derek Banbury, a typical 'green revolution' farmer. As wild boar charge through fields, storks circle overhead and tempers flare across fence lines, their conflict unfolds like a battle for the soul of the countryside. Against the backdrop of collapsing biodiversity and a farming system under immense strain, director James Dawson asks whether these clashing worlds can forge a shared future, one where nature's return doesn't come at the cost of the food that sustains us.

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



EVERYBODY TO KENMURE STREET

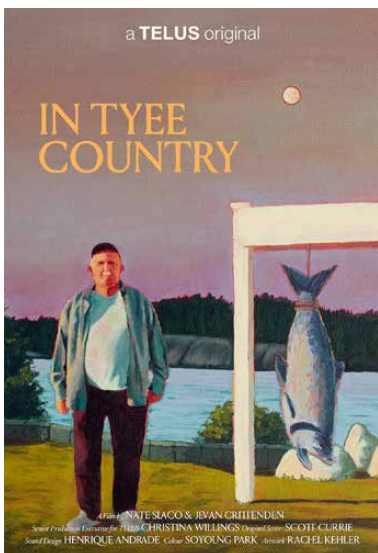
2026 | UK | 95 min

Director: Felipe Bustos Sierra

On a quiet morning in Glasgow, an immigration enforcement van arrives to arrest two men. Within minutes, word spreads through the neighbourhood. Students, neighbours, residents and members of the local mosque rush to the scene. Soon hundreds, then thousands, gather in an extraordinary act of collective resistance. Felipe Bustos Sierra's gripping documentary captures the people behind one remarkable day of protest, solidarity and courage. Starring two-time Academy Award winner Emma Thompson and winner of a Special Jury Award at Sundance, *Everybody To Kenmure Street* is a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community decides to stand together.

A Q&A with cinematographer Kirstin McMahon will follow the film. Followed by a party at LightShip Brewery.

SHOWCASE



IN TYEE COUNTRY

2025 | Canada | 71 min

Directors: Jevan Crittenden, Nate Slaco

A once-booming industry town on Canada's west coast is home to the legendary Tyee Club of British Columbia, an exclusive fishing club whose membership is strictly restricted to those who can catch a Chinook salmon weighing at least 30 pounds from a traditional rowboat. As the club approaches its centennial celebration, dwindling salmon populations and climate change force an existential crisis. Longtime members live in the glow of past bountiful years, while conservationists and other members push for drastic changes to save both the fish and their historic community tradition.

A Q&A with director Matt Harris and producer Michelle Tweed will follow the films.

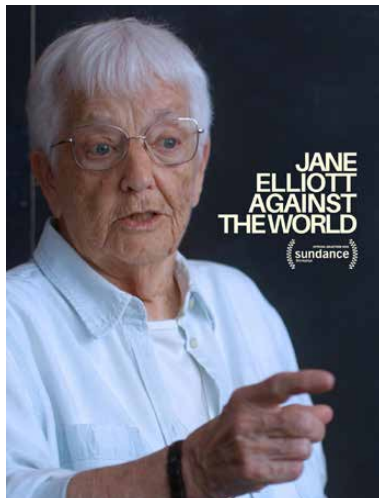
Co-presented by Devour! Food Film Fest

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Canada

THANK YOU
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Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



JANE ELLIOTT AGAINST THE WORLD

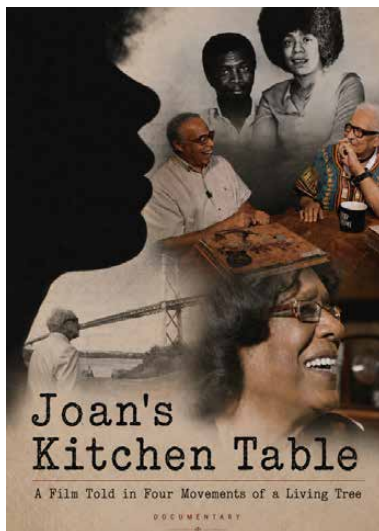
2026 | US | 99 min

Director: Judd Ehrlich

For over fifty-five years, Jane Elliott has refused to shut up. Her Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes exercise transformed a small Iowa classroom into a national reckoning. Now, as battles over race and censorship intensify, director Judd Ehrlich follows Elliott back to the front lines of a fight she has spent her life warning about. Featuring voices including Killer Mike and Ibram X. Kendi, the film explores the power, controversy and enduring impact of Elliott's work in the ongoing fight over history and power in America.

A Q&A with director Judd Ehrlich will follow the film.

CANADIAN
PREMIERE



JOAN'S KITCHEN TABLE

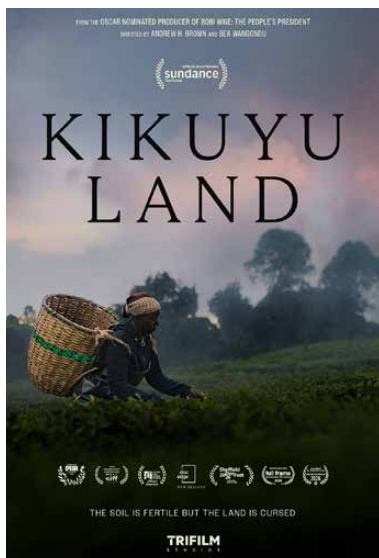
2026 | Canada | 77 min

Director: Olesya Shyvikova

At Joan's kitchen table, history is not remembered, it is served, argued over, mourned, and kept alive. Through the life of Joan Jones, and the revolutionary legacy of Burnley "Rocky" Jones, this intimate documentary enters the heart of a Black Nova Scotian family whose private conversations shaped public struggle. Blending memory, love, resistance, and the quiet labour behind movements, *Joan's Kitchen Table* reveals how change is often born not in grand halls, but around a table where people gather, tell the truth, and refuse to be forgotten.

A Q&A with directors Olesya Shyvikova, Anne Verrall and Sheryl Grant will follow the films. Followed by a reception.

WORLD
PREMIERE



KIKUYU LAND

2026 | US/Kenya | 93 min

Directors: Andrew H Brown, Bea Wangondou

When journalist Bea Wangondou investigates a local man's fight to reclaim ancestral land seized during British colonial rule, she uncovers a story that reaches far beyond the courtroom. In Kenya's tea highlands, land is more than just property. Beneath the lush tea fields lies a legacy of exploitation, corporate power, and families forced to labour on land that was once their own. As Bea follows workers and land claimants, the investigation turns inward, confronting her with her own family's complicated history. *Kikuyu Land* reveals how colonialism continues to shape the present.

Content warning: systemic violence and abuse

CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



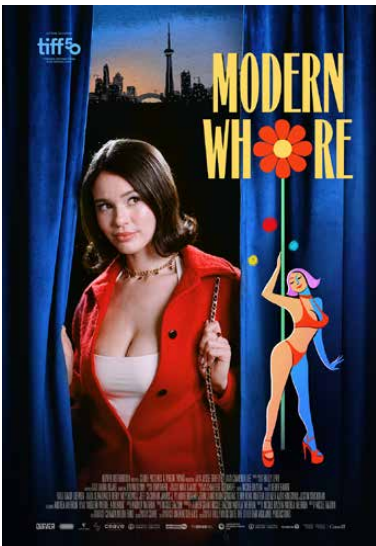
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BRIAN MULRONEY

2026 | Canada | 105 min

Director: Matthew Rankin

From Baie Comeau to Parliament Hill, this electrifying documentary traces the unlikely rise of a young Quebecer who would become Canada's 18th prime minister. Guided by the spectral voices of Diefenbaker and Trudeau himself, he sets out to win Quebec, unite the nation and usher in a new brand of 1980s conservatism. Filmmaker Matthew Rankin (Cannes audience award winner with *Universal Language*) transforms 80,000 archival clips into a kaleidoscopic remix of political theatre and pop culture. The result is a wild, witty, and unsettling portrait of a man whose charisma and ambition reshaped the country.

Co-presented by Available Light Film Festival



MODERN WHORE: A CRAVE ORIGINAL

2025 | Canada | 80 min

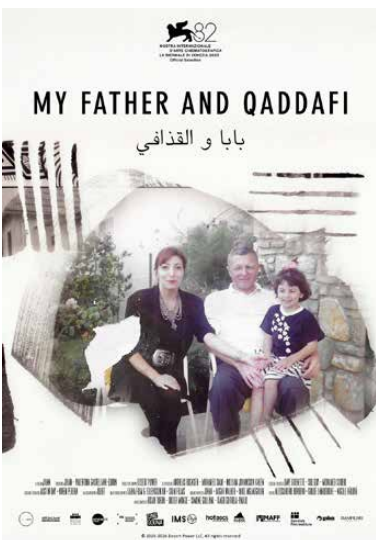
Director: Nicole Bazuin

Forget everything you think you know about sex work. In this audacious and deeply personal hybrid documentary, sex worker, writer and performer Andrea Werhun shares her own story. Based on her memoir, *Modern Whore* tears apart stereotypes and explores sex, power, stigma, pleasure and survival through candid storytelling, animation, performance and interviews. Director Nicole Bazuin invites us into a world that is far more complicated than the clichés suggest. Bold, intimate and often hilarious, this is a film that will challenge assumptions and keep the conversation going long after the credits.

A Q&A with director Nicole Bazuin and subject Andrea Werhun will follow the film.

Content warning: some nudity and sexual situations

NOVA
SCOTIA
PREMIERE



MY FATHER AND QADDAFI

2025 | Libya/US | 88 min

Director: Jihan (Virtual)

When Jihan was six, her father, Libyan opposition leader Mansur Rashid Kikhia, disappeared in Cairo leaving behind a family suspended between hope and grief. Decades later, she begins to reconstruct the father she barely remembers, following her mother's search for answers and confronting the political forces that erased him. Through family archives and intimate encounters, Jihan's investigation becomes more than a search for truth, exploring her own identity and Libya's fractured history. Tender and deeply personal, *My Father and Qaddafi* explores what remains when political violence enters the most intimate spaces of family.

Content warning: war and political violence

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



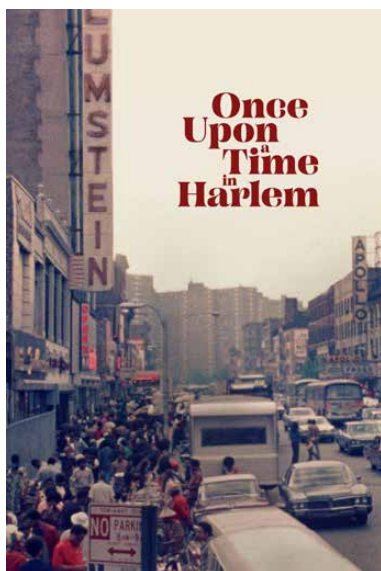
TƏM KʷAΘ NAN NAMESAKE

2026 | Canada | 76 min

Director: Łɛsłā Dr. Evan Adams , ʔagəm Eileen Francis

What's in a name? For the Tla'amin Nation, the answer is inseparable from land, language, memory, and belonging. When the Nation asks Powell River, BC, to reconsider a name honouring Israel Powell, whose policies helped establish residential schools and suppress Indigenous cultural practices, a community is forced to confront the history beneath its feet. Through interviews, Tla'amin oral storytelling, archival imagery, and charged community meetings, *təm kʷaθ nan Namesake* captures reconciliation as an ongoing, deeply human process. Thoughtful and timely, the film asks whether changing a name can help make space for a different future.

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE



ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM

2026 | US | 100 min

Directors: William Greaves (deceased), David Greaves, Liani Greaves.

A vivid, living archive of the Harlem Renaissance. In August 1972, filmmaker William Greaves engineered an intimate cocktail party at Duke Ellington's townhouse. He gathered nearly two dozen surviving luminary artists, writers, musicians, and intellectuals of the 1920s and 30s movement. Shot on 16mm film, the documentary follows these historic figures as they drink, debate, laugh, and reflect on Black cultural identity and their shared artistic legacy across a rapidly shifting landscape.

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



RUN TERRY RUN

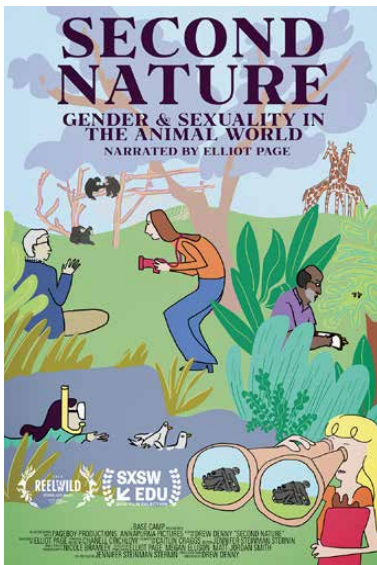
2025 | Canada | 111 min

Director: Sean Menard

SHOWCASE

Run Terry Run offers an intimate, deeply human portrait of Terry Fox, revealing the determined young man behind one of Canada's most enduring symbols of courage. Drawing on never before seen family footage, filmmaker Sean Menard traces Fox's extraordinary Marathon of Hope, a 143 day odyssey that saw him run a marathon every day on a rudimentary prosthetic leg, transforming personal hardship into national purpose. As the film uncovers Fox's charm, humour, and hard won wisdom, it shows how his vision continues to unite people across generations and countries, reminding us that change begins with one person's unwavering hope.

Reception to follow at Zwicker Building.



SECOND NATURE

2026 | US/Netherlands | 81 min

Director: Drew Denny

NOVA
SCOTIA
PREMIERE

Nova Scotia's own Elliot Page narrates this hilarious and heartening romp through the animal world, led by brave scientists fighting censorship as they reveal the truth about our nature. Follow trailblazing trans Evolutionary Biologist Dr. Joan Roughgarden as she meets other groundbreaking scientists exploring the 1500+ animal species who engage in same-sex sexual behavior and parenting, change sex, form matriarchies, and more. Witness pregnant male seahorses to matriarchal monkey troops. Everything you didn't learn in high school biology. Queer animals represent! Myths busted.

Co-presented by *Petite Queer Pride*

Content warning: animals having sex



SILENCED

2026 | Australia | 97 min

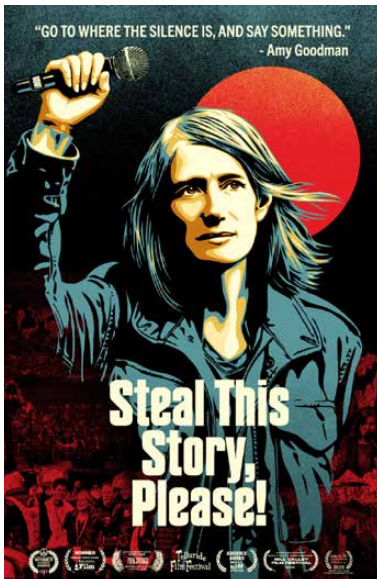
Director: Selina Mills (Virtual)

CANADIAN
PREMIERE

In the wake of #MeToo, speaking out against gendered violence has become a powerful act. *Silenced* looks at the cost of this act following international human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson as she confronts a legal system that can be weaponized to discredit, intimidate, and ruin those who dare tell their stories. Revisit the media spectacle and legal battle between Amber Heard and Johnny Depp, exposing the extraordinary scrutiny surrounding allegations of abuse. Alongside the experiences of journalists and survivors around the world, *Silenced* is an examination of power, justice, and the courage it takes to speak.

Content warning: discussion of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!

2025 | US | 101 min

Director: Tia Lessin and Carl Deal

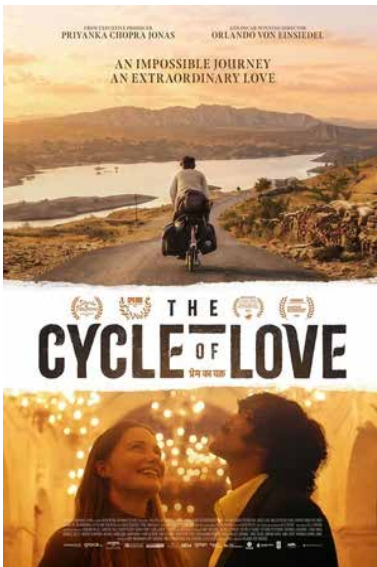
SHOWCASE

NOVA
SCOTIA
PREMIERE

For more than three decades, Amy Goodman has reported from the frontlines of conflict, political upheaval and social change, building Democracy Now! into a fiercely independent voice in American media. From confronting powerful politicians to covering stories ignored by mainstream outlets, Goodman has made a career out of challenging authority. Oscar-nominated filmmakers Tia Lessin and Carl Deal offer an intimate and entertaining portrait of the woman behind the microphone and a passionate defender of independent journalism. Timely, provocative and energizing, this is a film about why truth still matters.

A Q&A with director Carl Deal and subject Amy Goodman will follow the film. DOC Atlantic Reception to follow at the Zwicker Building.

Content warning: images of war and violence



THE CYCLE OF LOVE

2025 | UK/Sweden | 98 min

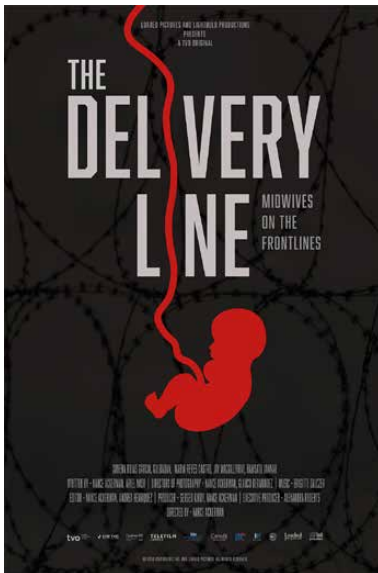
Director: Orlando von Einsiedel

An inspiring, heart-warming, epic true-life adventure about self-belief, destiny, and the courage to risk everything for love. The film follows the extraordinary true story of PK, a 23-year-old street artist from Delhi who sets off with a handful of paint brushes and a second-hand bicycle on a 6,000 mile journey across Europe and Asia to find Lotta, the woman who captured his heart during her visit to India.

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MUSEUM**
OF THE
ATLANTIC
A PART of THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

THANK YOU FROM THE
LUNENBURG DOC FEST

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



THE DELIVERY LINE: MIDWIVES ON THE FRONTLINES

2026 | Canada | 88 min

Director: Nance Ackerman

NOVA
SCOTIA
PREMIERE

Around the world, giving birth can be a matter of life and death. From Afghanistan, Nigeria, Colombia, Mexico and Toronto, five extraordinary midwives work on the front lines of conflict, migration and isolation, often risking their own safety to bring babies into the world. Nova Scotian filmmaker Nance Ackerman's deeply humane documentary transforms global crises into intimate stories of courage, compassion and hope. *The Delivery Line* is an urgent reminder that even our most fundamental human act cannot be safe while war and poverty persist.

Co-presented by WIFT-Atlantic

A panel on midwifery with director Nance Ackerman and co-producer Sergio Kirby following the film with special guests Kalyn Moore, NS certified midwife working in Lunenburg.

Content warning: images of violence and war



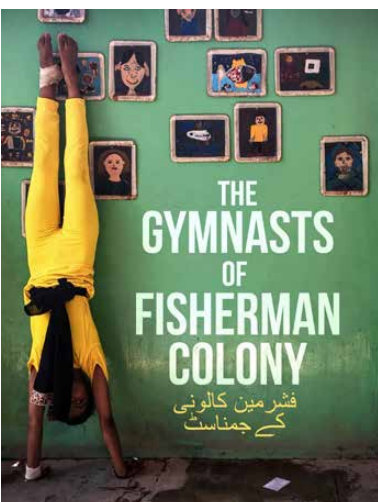
THE GOLDEN SPURTLE

2025 | UK/Australia | 75 min

Director: Constantine Costi

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Did you know that you have to stir clockwise when you stir your oatmeal? Otherwise you're letting the devil in. For 30 years the town of Carrbridge has hosted the World Porridge Championships. This year it's a special championship because it's the last time Charlie Miller will be in charge of the festivities. As the contenders from around the globe arrive in the Scottish Highlands to compete for the title, we witness the intense rivalries, steaming bowls of porridge, and the lives of the charmingly eccentric locals. A feast to behold.



THE GYMNASTS OF FISHERMAN COLONY

2026 | Pakistan/Canada/US | 93 min

Director: Habiba Nosheen

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

In Karachi, Pakistan's sprawling neighbourhood of Machar Colony, where poverty and deeply rooted expectations shape the futures of girls, gymnastics offers an unexpected path toward possibility. Habiba Nosheen's intimate documentary follows Sonia, Kiran, and Anwara as they train alongside their teammates, discovering discipline and ambition, but especially a rare space to imagine lives beyond the boundaries prescribed for them. As competition approaches, their joy and determination collide with family pressures and social constraints. *The Gymnasts Of Fisherman Colony* is a tender coming-of-age story about girlhood, friendship, and the transformative power of being given the chance to dream.

A Q&A with producer.

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



THE LAST DAYS OF APRIL

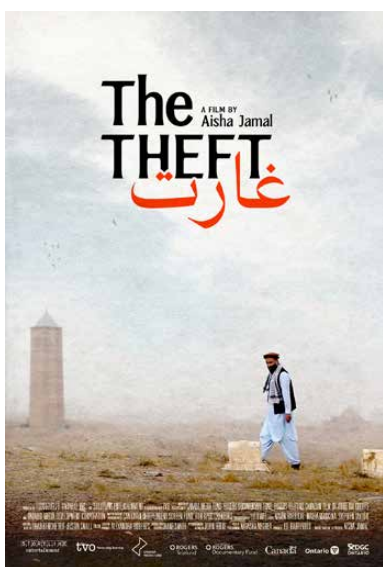
2026 | Canada | 75 min

Director: Ree Wright, Meaghan Wright

The Wright twins are back (*See and the Pine* in 2020) with *The Last Days of April* daring to ask the viewer how much society can make someone with incurable, painful, but not-yet-fatal disabilities suffer in mental and physical agony. The film follows Halifax native April Hubbard, living with spina bifida and chronic pain, as she faces the end of her life, on her own terms. Through her Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) journey and advocacy for inclusivity, April explores bodily autonomy and inspires a more compassionate, understanding world.

A Q&A with director Meaghan Wright and producer Melani Wood will follow the film.

Content warning: discussions on euthanasia



THE THEFT

2026 | Canada | 85 min

Director: Aisha Jamal

Canadian-Afghan director Aisha Jamal's *The Theft* follows the fragmented journey of the Ghazni marbles, 12th century Afghan sculptures displaced by war and now dispersed across Western museums. As curators, researchers, and artists weigh in, the film probes the moral tensions of preservation, ownership, and cultural loss. Through the marbles' odyssey, Jamal opens a vivid conversation about restitution and imagines what a truly postcolonial museum might become. Their story becomes a powerful lens for asking why artifacts matter and what is erased when objects are severed from the communities that give them meaning.

A Q&A with director Aisha Jamal will follow the film.

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE



THE ULTRA RUNNER

2026 | Canada | 98 min

Director: Mila Aung-Thwin

Mila Aung-Thwin has crafted a beautiful film exploring the world of endurance running and one of its stars, Romanian, Tiberiu Ușeriu. Through well curated competition footage, luscious reenactments and an impeccable score and soundtrack (Bela Lugosi's *Dead* is a highlight) we learn of Ușeriu's difficult childhood and his years-long stint in a high-security German prison for armed robbery. *The Ultra Runner* is about obsession, resilience and the strange, compelling reasons human beings choose to do really hard things.

Co-presented by RIDM

A Q&A with director Mila Aung-Thwin and associate producer Katie McKay will follow the film.

Content warning: disturbing bodily harm

Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



TO HOLD A MOUNTAIN

2026 | Serbia (France/Montenegro/Slovenia/Croatia) | 105 min

Director: Biljana Tutorov, Petar Glomazić

High in Montenegro's mountain plateau, Gara and her daughter Nada return each summer to a mountain they call "Mother," tending animals and living by traditions passed through generations. But their home is threatened by plans for a NATO-backed military training ground. As Gara rallies her community, the fight awakens memories of violence that have shaped their family. With intimate attention to the rhythms of rural life, *To Hold A Mountain* becomes a powerful portrait of maternal love and resistance, asking what it means to protect a place, a legacy, and a future. Sundance world cinema jury prize.



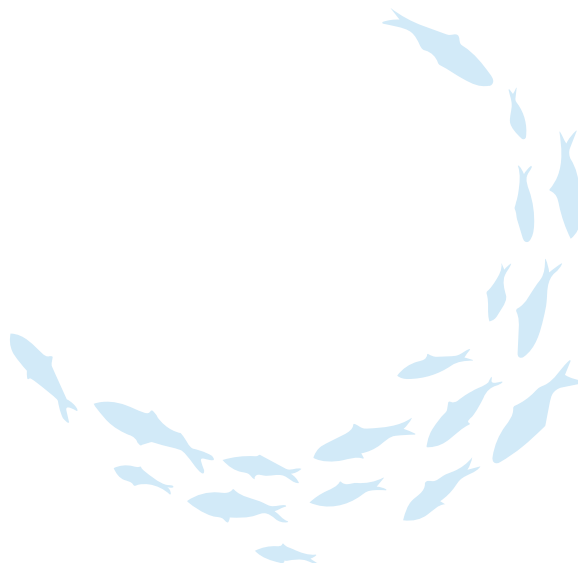
UNION TOWN

2026 | US | 106 min

Director: Barbara Kopple

ATLANTIC
CANADIAN
PREMIERE

At 80, Barbara Kopple completes what has become a five-decade trilogy exploring the fight for workers' rights. After documenting the struggles of coal miners in her Oscar-winning 1976 classic *Harlan County Usa* and the meatpacking industry in 1990's *American Dream*, Kopple turns her camera on New York City's delivery workers in *Union Town*, as they take on some of the world's most powerful corporations. Observational and deeply empathetic, Kopple finds a familiar story of workers fighting their corporate oppressors, but with an unsettling new twist of automation and a robotic workforce looming on the horizon.



Feature Documentaries CONTINUED



WILD INSIDE

2026 | US | 95 min

Director: Penny Lane

On February 2, 2023, a Eurasian eagle-owl named Flaco escaped from New York City's Central Park Zoo. Despite a lifetime in captivity, he embarked on a magical odyssey across Manhattan, overcoming his lack of survival skills to answer the call of the wild. Observed by a chorus of enchanted New Yorkers, Flaco's journey raises deeper questions about freedom, captivity, and how humans coexist with urban wildlife. From filmmaker Penny Lane whose film, *Confessions Of A Good Samaritan* played LDF in 2023.

A Q&A with producer Gabriel Sedgwick will follow the film.

CANADIAN
PREMIERE



YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD)

2026 | US | 78 min

Director: Anna Fitch, Banker White

When Anna Fitch lost her old friend Yo, she refused to let their extraordinary friendship end. Instead, she spent a decade building a miniature version of Yo's world. Through intimate footage, imaginative recreations and Yo's remarkable stories, this beautifully unconventional film explores friendship, memory, grief and the freedom to live life on your own terms. Their friendship began when Yo was 73 and Anna was 24, and grew into something that transcended age, convention and even death. Co-directed by Anna and her partner Banker White, the film took home Berlin's Silver Bear. It's a magical, funny and unforgettable celebration of friendship not to be missed.

A Q&A with directors Anna Fitch and Banker White will follow the film at both the Lunenburg Opera House and Carbon Arc Cinema (Halifax) screenings.

SHOWCASE

CANADIAN
PREMIERE



CANADA
MEDIA FUND

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DU CANADA

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Filmmakers



Feature Filmmakers

Lunenburg Doc Fest is proud to feature the following artists whose works are screened during the festival. Select filmmakers will participate in on-site or virtual post-screening Q&As. 

A FOX UNDER A PINK MOON

Mehrdad Oskouei

Mehrdad Oskouei is an acclaimed Iranian documentary filmmaker, producer, and photographer whose poetic, humanistic films explore marginalized communities, women, and adolescents. He has directed more than 25 documentaries, earning over 180 international awards, including honors from IDFA, Berlinale, Hot Docs, and True/False. His latest film, *A Fox Under A Pink Moon*, premiered at IDFA 2025, winning Best Film in the International Competition and ranking among the festival audience's top ten favorites.



Soraya Akhlaghi

Soraya Akhlaghi is a multidisciplinary artist working across sculpture, painting and film. She began sculpting in 2016, creating around 150 papier-mâché sculptures by 2025. In 2018, she expanded her practice to painting, with over 50 works. From 2019 to 2025, she worked as a Co-director and cinematographer of *A Fox Under a Pink Moon*, in which she also appears as the main protagonist. Her new film, *A Fox Under A Pink Moon* premiered in the International Competition section of the 2025 IDFA, where it won the Best Film in International Competition award and was named among the top ten favorite films of the IDFA audience.



A WAR ON WOMEN

Raha Shirazi

Raha Shirazi is an award-winning Iranian-Canadian filmmaker, visual artist, and alumnus of the prestigious Berlinale Talent Campus. Born in Tehran and currently based in Toronto, Shirazi's cinematic vision blends striking visual poetry with urgent, investigative journalism. Her early work garnered critical acclaim with the short films *Four Walls* and *Acqua*, both of which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).



Known for her deeply personal and uncompromising lens, Shirazi centers her filmmaking on human rights, systemic censorship, and gender politics in the Middle East. Her feature documentary debut, *A War on Women*, showcases her unique ability to handle high-stakes, sensitive material. By blending covertly smuggled underground footage with intimate, character-driven storytelling, Shirazi captures the raw reality of resistance, solidifying her voice as a vital force in contemporary political cinema.

ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

Sinéad O'Shea

Sinéad O'Shea is an award-winning Irish filmmaker, journalist, and writer known for compelling, investigative documentaries that tackle social justice, systemic abuse, and radical human profiles. Born in Navan, County Meath, and currently based in Dublin, she frequently collaborates with major global media outlets like *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, the BBC, and RTÉ.



AMERICAN DOCTOR

Poh Si Teng

Poh Si Teng is an Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning Malaysian-American journalist and documentary filmmaker. She previously produced the Academy Award-nominated short *St. Louis Superman* and served as an executive producer on *Patrice: The Movie*. She has held notable creative and editorial leadership positions at Al Jazeera English, *The New York Times*, ABC News Studios, and the International Documentary Association. *American Doctor* marks her feature-length directorial debut.



BA'S BOOK

Ashley Duong

Ashley Da-Lê Duong is a Tiohtià:ke/Montréal-based filmmaker with over a decade of experience crafting hybrid and documentary cinema. Her directorial debut, *A Time to Swim*, won the Special Jury Prize at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. She recently directed *Space Explorers: Moonrise on the ISS*, distilling a film from over 300 hours of footage captured on the International Space Station—the largest production ever filmed in space. Her producing credits include *Bedrock* (Berlinale 2025). Her latest project is *Ba's Book*, winner of the Documentary Magazine Award at Cannes Docs.



BLACK ZOMBIE

Maya Annik Bedward

Maya Annik Bedward is an Afro-Caribbean Canadian filmmaker whose work blends history, resistance, and pop culture through genre-bending storytelling. She is a founding member of the Black Screen Office and has directed short films like *The Haircut* (2018) and *Why We Fight* (2021), as well as the television series *Lido TV* and *BLK: An Origin Story*. *Black Zombie* marks her feature documentary debut.



Feature Filmmakers CONTINUED

BURNING PLANET

Phyllis Ellis

Phyllis Ellis is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker and former Olympian whose prestigious three-decade career centers on human rights and systemic justice. Best known for her International Emmy-nominated documentary *Toxic Beauty*, she also directed the highly acclaimed films *Category: Woman* and *About Her*. Ellis utilizes powerful, investigative storytelling to expose deep corporate corruption and champion vital global institutional accountability.



Ziya Tong

Ziya Tong is an acclaimed science journalist, author, and filmmaker appointed to the Order of Canada for her vital contributions to environmental advocacy. The long-time co-host of Discovery Channel's *Daily Planet*, she recently co-directed the award-winning, festival-hit documentary *Plastic People*.

Tong's extensive media work spans major networks like PBS and CBC, making complex scientific realities universally accessible.



BOATBUILDERS

Luke Lorentzen

Luke Lorentzen is an Emmy Award-winning American filmmaker and Stanford University graduate known for his immersive, self-shot documentary style. He directed and shot *A Still Small Voice* (Sundance 2023 Best Director) and *Midnight Family* (Sundance 2019 Special Jury Award), which was shortlisted for an Academy Award. His work also includes directing and editing episodes of the Netflix documentary series *Last Chance U*, earning him an Emmy for Outstanding Editing.



BUCKS HARBOR

Pete Muller

Pete Muller is an American visual artist and documentarian based between New York City and Machias, Maine. He uses photography, film and other media to examine issues related to masculinities, conflict and human ecology. Since 2017, he has been a Storytelling Fellow at the National Geographic Society. From 2005-2020, he was based in the Middle East and Africa exploring conflict dynamics in post-colonial states. He has won premier awards from World Press Photo, Pictures of the Year International, the Overseas Press Club, *TIME Magazine* and others. In 2022, he won the Emmy Award for Best Documentary for his role as Co-Producer of *The First Wave*. His photographic work has been exhibited in solo and group shows in London, New York City, Geneva, Cape Town and elsewhere. Muller served as the Cyrus Vance Visiting Professor of International Relations at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts.



CAPTAIN NEWFOUNDLAND

Jamie Miller QA

Jamie Miller is an award-winning filmmaker who is passionate about crafting poetic human portraits in a moment of transformation. She has been nominated for a Canadian Screen Award, ECMA & Music NL awards, and won the SJWFF's 2020 Emerging Filmmaker award. Jamie earned her BFA in Film Production from York University in 2012 and is an alumna of DOC Breakthrough and Women in the Director's Chair.



Mike Feehan QA

Mike Feehan is an illustrator and storyboard artist from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador whose work spans film, animation, and comic books. His storyboard credits include projects for Marvel Studios, Apple TV+, and Netflix, as well as commercials and music videos for artists including The Chainsmokers and Kehlani. His comic book work includes the acclaimed miniseries *Exit Stage Left: The Snagglepuss Chronicles* for DC Comics and the *Star Trek* series from IDW Publishing.



DEREK VS DEREK

James Dawson

James Dawson is an award-winning British documentary filmmaker. *Derek vs Derek* marks his second feature-length documentary. His work is deeply characterized by a human-centric approach, utilizing observational storytelling and a unique blending of humor with pressing environmental and social issues.



EVERYBODY TO KENMURE STREET

Felipe Bustos Sierra (DOP QA)

Felipe Bustos Sierra is a Chilean-Belgian filmmaker based in Scotland with Debasers Films. His debut feature-length documentary, *Nae Pasaran* (2018), won the Best Feature award at the 2018 BAFTA Scotland Awards. Bustos Sierra is an alumnus of the Eurodoc, Berlinale Talent Campus, the Independent Filmmaker Programme, and the EIFF Talent Lab. *Everybody to Kenmure Street* is his second feature.



Feature Filmmakers CONTINUED

IN TYEE COUNTRY

Jevan Crittenden and Nate Slaco

Jevan Crittenden and Nate Slaco are Canadian documentary filmmakers based out of British Columbia. They specialize in capturing regional West Coast subcultures, environmental conservation efforts, and human relationships with nature. Their collaborative work focuses on finding small-town, character-driven adventures that reveal larger global impacts like climate change and resource depletion. Slaco previously directed the acclaimed British Columbia marine conservation short film *Moonless Oasis*.



JANE ELLIOTT AGAINST THE WORLD

Judd Ehrlich

Judd Ehrlich is an Emmy, Grand Clio, and Cannes Lion Award-winning documentary filmmaker. His storytelling is deeply informed by his early career as a caseworker, blending raw empathy with a sharp lens to spotlight stories of human resilience. His notable past directorial works include *We Could Be King* (2014), *Keepers of the Game* (2016), and *The Price of Freedom* (2021). His projects are frequently utilized by the U.S. Department of State's American Film Showcase to encourage cross-cultural dialogue.



JOAN'S KITCHEN TABLE

Olesya Shyvikova

Olesya Shyvikova is an independent documentary filmmaker who specializes in human-centric stories and social movements. Her filmography focuses primarily on micro-histories and survival. Notable past credits include *Ukraine: One Life At A Time* (2022), *Rocky and Joan* (2020), and the short *With an eye of an eagle* (2016). Her work frequently centers on localized heroism and systemic resilience.



KIKUYU LAND

Bea Wangondu

Bea Wangondu is a tenacious Kenyan investigative journalist making her feature film directorial debut with this project. Her reporting bridges personal ancestry with broader post-colonial struggles across East Africa.



Andrew H. Brown

Andrew H. Brown is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker who explores the deep connection between people, memory, and stolen land. He lived and worked across sub-Saharan Africa for over a decade. He previously directed the acclaimed documentary *Between the Rains* (2023), which won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary Feature at the Tribeca Festival.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BRIAN MULRONEY

Matthew Rankin

Matthew Rankin was born in Winnipeg and studied Quebec history at McGill University and Université Laval. His work has been presented at TIFF, Sundance, SXSW, Annecy, the Berlinale, Cannes Critics Week and the Directors' Fortnight, as well as on the Criterion Channel. His first feature, *The Twentieth Century*, won the FIPRESCI Prize at the 2020 Berlin Film Festival and his second feature, *Universal Language*, was awarded the 2024 Chantal Akerman audience award at Cannes and the 2024 Best Canadian Discovery Award at TIFF.



MODERN WHORE: A CRAVE ORIGINAL

Nicole Bazuin

Nicole Bazuin is a Canadian filmmaker, writer, and visual artist. *Modern Whore* marks her feature-length directorial debut, expanding upon her previous collaborative work with writer Andrea Werhun on the 2020 short film adaptation of the same title. She specializes in creating hybrid documentaries that blend scripted narrative reenactments, animation, and intimate first-person interviews to confront complex social stigmas.



MY FATHER AND QADAFI

Jihan K

Jihan was born in exile and raised in Paris while her father, a Libyan human rights lawyer, was the peaceful opposition leader to Qaddafi's regime. After her father disappeared from Cairo, her family lived between the United States and France, while her mother, a Syrian artist, fought for justice in an international campaign. Jihan received her BA in International and Comparative Politics with a concentration in Human Rights, Philosophy, and International Law and her MA in Art Education and Storytelling.



Feature Filmmakers CONTINUED

TŌM KʷAŌ NAN NAMESAKE

ᑭagēm Eileen Francis

She is a Tla'amin citizen and filmmaker who previously directed the poetic documentary short *tiskʷat* in 2025.



ᑭesla Dr. Evan Adams

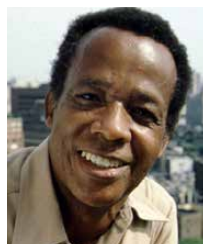
He is a Coast Salish physician, actor, and filmmaker widely known for his roles in *Smoke Signals*, *Reservation Dogs*, and *Bones of Crows*. He previously co-directed the treaty process documentary *Kla Ah Men: As Far Back as the Story Goes*. He currently serves with the First Nations Health Authority.



ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM

William Greaves (deceased), David Greaves, Liani Greaves

William Greaves (1926–2014): An iconic, Harlem-born filmmaker and member of the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. He produced over 200 documentaries—including *Symbio-psychotaxiplasm: Take One* and *Nationtime*—highlighting African American history and social struggles. *Once Upon a Time in Harlem* serves as his posthumous final masterpiece.



David Greaves: An award-winning independent journalist, filmmaker, and Columbia University MFA graduate. He was one of the original 16mm cameramen during the 1972 shoot. He spearheaded the restoration and final completion of the footage following his father's passing. He is also the founder of DBG Media.



RUN TERRY RUN

Sean Menard

Sean Menard is an award-winning, Toronto-based filmmaker recognized for compelling pop-culture and sports documentaries. His notable past works include *The Carter Effect* (Netflix, executive produced by Drake and LeBron James) and *299 Queen Street West*, which covered the history of MuchMusic.



SECOND NATURE

Drew Denny

Sundance Lab Fellow Drew Denny is an award-winning filmmaker championing women and LGBTQ+ voices through trauma-informed productions. Her diverse portfolio includes the Elliot Page-narrated documentary *Second Nature*, the Tribeca-premiered action-comedy *Momster*, and the acclaimed feature *The Most Fun I've Ever Had With My Pants On*. Beyond directing, Denny is the founder of the non-profit *Allies in Arts*, which has supported over 14,000 marginalized artists since 2015.



SILENCED

Selina Miles

Selina Miles is an Australian Director with a global reputation. In 2019, Selina made her feature debut with *Martha: A Picture Story*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. The film received critical acclaim and won numerous awards. Selina's second feature documentary, *Harley & Katya* won an International Emmy Award and was released globally on Netflix. Selina's work includes award-winning music videos for artists like Barkaa, The Hilltop Hoods, and UK pop star Anne Marie. Her dedication to social justice saw her volunteer in Uganda in 2023, documenting the work of the nonprofit organization Operation International. The resulting short film, *Saving Face*, premiered at Sydney's Flickerfest.



STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!

Tia Lessin and Carl Deal

Tia Lessin and Carl Deal are veteran, Academy Award-nominated documentary filmmakers best known for directing and producing *Trouble the Water* (2008), which won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize. They also directed *Citizen Koch* (2013) and served as producers on Michael Moore's acclaimed features, including *Bowling for Columbine* and *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Individually, Lessin also co-directed the Emmy-winning documentary *The Janes* (2022).



THE CYCLE OF LOVE

Orlando von Einsiedel

Orlando von Einsiedel is an Oscar-winning British documentary filmmaker known for directing powerful, human-centric stories. He won the Academy Award for Best Documentary (Short Subject) for *The White Helmets* (2016) and received an Oscar nomination for his gripping feature documentary *Virunga* (2014). His work typically focuses on resilience, hope, and social justice across global boundaries.



Feature Filmmakers CONTINUED

THE DELIVERY LINE: MIDWIVES ON THE FRONTLINES

Nance Ackerman

A visual storyteller for over 35 years, Nance's documentary photography work has been featured in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Canadian Geographic*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The New York Times*. In 2005, she turned her eye to writing, directing, shooting and editing her own award-winning, social documentary films: *Cottonland* (2005, NFB, three Gemini Award nominations); *Four Feet Up* (2009, NFB, TVO); *Little Thunder* (2010, APTN, NFB); *Conviction*, (2019, documentary Channel, NFB, WGC award); *Behind the Bhangra Boys* (2019 CBC, GEM); and *In the Quiet and the Dark* (2023, CBC GEM). She directs, shoots, edits and composes soundtracks for her films at her Nova Scotia studio, Heartstring Productions.



THE GOLDEN SPURTLE

Constantine Costi

Constantine Costi is an award-winning Australian filmmaker and theater director who works across film and opera. A graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), his prior works include the feature film *A Delicate Fire* (awarded Best Australian Feature Film at the Sydney Women's Film Festival) and extensive operatic staging for companies like Opera Australia and the Berlin Philharmoniker.



THE GYMNASTS OF FISHERMAN COLONY

Habiba Nosheen (Producer)

Habiba Nosheen is a Pakistani-born Peabody and three-time Emmy award-winning journalist and filmmaker. Her film *Outlawed in Pakistan* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival where it was called "among the standouts" of Sundance by *The Los Angeles Times*. Habiba received the 2025 Chicken and Egg Award. Previously, she was named DOC NYC's 40 under 40. Her films have been supported by PBS FRONTLINE, JustFilms, The Firelight Media, ITVS, The Center for Asian American Media, CBC, The National Film Board of Canada, Canada Media Fund and others. She has taught filmmaking at Columbia University. She splits her time between Toronto and New York. She is a proud adoptive mom.



THE LAST DAYS OF APRIL

Ree Wright and Meaghan Wright (Producer Melani Wood)

Ree and Meaghan Wright are queer filmmakers and twin siblings from Halifax, Nova Scotia who co-founded Mirror Image Media. Mirror Image Media is a full service video production company that creates documentaries and branded stories. Their mission is to use film as a vehicle to create social and environmental impact, specifically empowering and uplifting marginalized voices.



Ree and Meaghan are award-winning filmmakers who wear many hats as producers, directors, and cinematographers. Some of her documentaries include *Freedom Swell*, a CBC Gem feature length documentary on the North Preston Surf Program (Screen Nova Scotia's 2022 "Best Documentary"), which explores the historical reasons behind the lack of diversity in surfing, *Living in Flow*, a VICE & Telus Fund docuseries on mental health and using water as a transformational outlet (Screen Nova Scotia's 2023 "Best Television Series Unscripted"), *The Social Shift*, a feature length documentary on social entrepreneurship across Canada (Screen Nova Scotia's 2019 "Best Documentary" and FIN's 2018 "Best Edited Documentary"), *Transform*, a short documentary on people living with spinal cord injuries (Mosaic Film Festival's 2019 "Best Documentary"), and *My STEM Job*, an NFB series featuring 20 females in STEM across Canada as an educational tool for the next generation of young women.

THE THEFT

Aisha Jamal

Aisha Jamal is a Toronto-based Afghan-Canadian filmmaker. Her feature documentary debut, *A Kandahar Away* (2019), follows her family's journey from Afghanistan to Canada and their symbolic connection to a small Saskatchewan hamlet named Kandahar. The film premiered at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and played on CBC and the Documentary Channel. Jamal's short films include the award-winning *The Long Way Home* (2017) and *Seeds of the Past* (2016). She also co-directed, co-produced, and co-wrote the documentary web series *How We Die*, which reimagines cultural approaches to death and dying. *The Theft* is her second feature documentary.



Feature Filmmakers CONTINUED

THE ULTRA RUNNER

Mila Aung-Thwin QA

Mila Aung-Thwin is a Burmese-Canadian director, producer, editor, and co-founder of Montréal's EyeSteelFilm. Across dozens of feature documentaries, he has helped shape internationally acclaimed nonfiction cinema, including the Emmy-winning *Last Train Home*, *Up the Yangtze*, *Midwives*, and *Softie*, for which he shared a Sundance Special Jury Award for Editing. He directed, produced, and edited *Let There Be Light*, a cinematic investigation into the quest for fusion energy. A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and past president of RIDM, Aung-Thwin is also a committed mentor to emerging documentary filmmakers in Canada and internationally.



TO HOLD A MOUNTAIN

Biljana Tutorov

Biljana Tutorov is a writer, director and producer of feature and documentary films, video works and performances focused on women-driven stories that examine contemporary political reality, the state of democracy and environmental protection. After graduating in Art History from Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium, Biljana studied Visual Anthropology at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris and acting at the Jacques Lecoq School. She is the founder of Wake Up Films (www.wakeupfilms.net), an independent production company, as well as the founder and Head of CIRCLE (www.doccircle.me), an international training initiative supporting women and gender-expansive filmmakers. Biljana is an inaugural Diane Weyermann Fellow, an EAVE and EURODOC alumna, member of European Film Academy and an advisory board member of DAE Documentary Association of Europe.



Petar Glomazić

Petar Glomazić graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Belgrade in 1995, specializing in Aerospace Engineering, and worked for more than 25 years as an expert in civil aviation. In 1996, he also completed the Serbian Radio-Television School for documentary and began working as editor in their Educational Program Department. In 2014, he entered the world of film production as an associate producer at Wake Up Films in Novi Sad, and in 2021 he founded the production company Ardor Films. A passionate life-long mountain climber, Peter has extensively researched regional traditions, people and landscapes. He is a member of the Documentary Association of Europe (DAE), the International Documentary Association (IDA) and a co-founding member of the Save Sinjajevina Association. In 2023, he received the inaugural Diane Weyermann Fellowship championing three non-fiction projects worldwide. *To Hold a Mountain* is his debut feature documentary.

UNION TOWN

Barbara Kopple

Barbara Kopple is an acclaimed American documentary filmmaker best known for her landmark cinéma vérité work on labor rights. She has won two Academy Awards for Best Documentary Feature: first for *Harlan County, USA* (1976) and later for *American Dream* (1990). Her multi-decade career centers on giving working-class people a voice on screen.



WILD INSIDE

Penny Lane (Producer) QA

Penny Lane is an acclaimed American independent documentary filmmaker known for her disarming, humorous, and thought-provoking approach to complex subjects. Named a 2020 Guggenheim Fellow, her extensive non-fiction directing credits include *Our Nixon* (2013), *Nuts!* (2016), *Hail Satan?* (2019), *Listening to Kenny G* (2021), and the SXSW award-winning *Confessions of a Good Samaritan* (2023).



YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD)

Anna Fitch

She is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, director, and puppeteer known for her deeply creative and human-centered approach to storytelling. She has a background as a trained entomologist, which frequently inspires her creative integration of the natural world into her films. Her prior notable works include co-directing *The Genius of Marian* (2013) and *Survivors* (2018).



Banker White

He is an interdisciplinary artist, award-winning filmmaker, and the Executive Director of Mirabel Pictures. His documentary filmography focuses heavily on compassionate humanism, covering complex dimensions of social issues, war, aging, and illness. His acclaimed projects include *Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars* (2005), *The Genius of Marian* (2013), and the Peabody-nominated *Survivors* (2018).



An Abstracted Buoy Asks

WHAT IS ART



In Film we Sculpt Time, Behaviour and Light
David Fincher

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free
Michelangelo

The main thing is to be **MOVED**,
TO LOVE, TO HOPE, TO TREMBLE, TO LIVE
Auguste Rodin

Art is not about what you see, but what you make others see.
Edgar Degas

An Actor is a Sculptor, who carves in snow.
Edwin Booth

Creativity takes Courage.
Henri Matisse

To be an Artist is to believe in Life
Henry Moore

Movies touch our hearts
& awaken our vision and change the way we see things.
Martin Scorsese

Creativity is Intelligence having fun.

You can't use up creativity.
The more you use, the more you have
Maya Angelou

A. Einstein

The aim of art is to represent, not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.
Aristotle

There is no End
There is no Beginning, there is only the infinite passion of life.

F. Fellini

Have no Fear of Perfection you'll never reach it.
Salvador Dali

Painted Saltbox Fine Art Gallery

Artists Tom Alway & Peter Blais

Short Films



Shorts: CBC Program

A selection of the best shorts on offer from CBC this year, showcasing local stories of people finding their place in the world.

Friday, September 25 | 12:00pm | Run time: 82 min

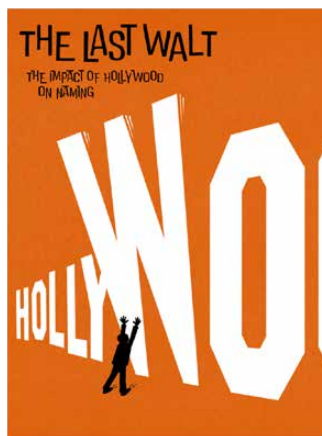


DELTA DAWN

2025 | Canada | 26 min

Director: Asia Youngman

Princess Delta Dawn becomes the first Indigenous Canadian woman wrestler in Japan, experiencing fame, and showing resilience.



THE LAST WALT

**2025 | Nova Scotia/
Atlantic Canada | 19 min**

**Director: Doug Karr,
Walter Forsyth**

What's in a name? This playful documentary from Doug Karr and Walter Forsyth traces the ups and mostly downs of the beleaguered name, Walter. Is Hollywood to blame?



LOVE, LEYMO

2024 | Canada | 12 min

Director: Randall Okita

Leymo writes a loving letter to his late mother, sharing struggles, victories, and dreams. He details his belonging, confidence, and his place in the world as a young Black autistic man.

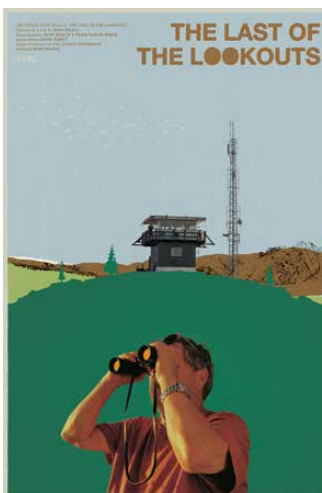


RICKY LEE

2026 | Canada | 5 min

**Director: Vanessa
Tignanelli**

Ricky Lee's gay journey from Texas to Charlottetown becomes a radiant rebirth, as he finally discovers safety, community, and the freedom to live openly and joyfully as himself.



THE LAST OF THE LOOKOUTS

2026 | Canada | 19 min

Director: Ryan Wilkes

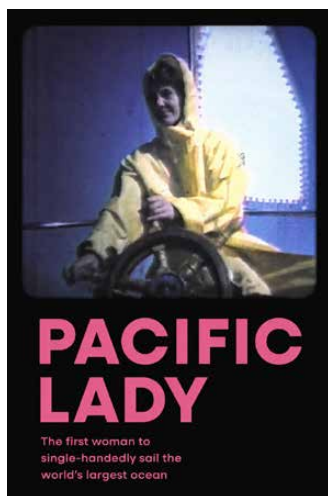
Bart Vanderlinde scans for fire atop Sinkut Mountain, his solitary rituals forming a cinematic portrait of a fading lookout tradition and the quiet endurance of constant vigilance.

Shorts: Meanwhile Elsewhere

From oceans to filmmaking to wars to nutcrackers, this is a journey through passion and conscience that is truly moving.

Warning: Images of war and violence.

Saturday, September 26 | 12:30pm | Run time: 85 min



PACIFIC LADY

2026 | US | 20 min

Director: Zada Clarke

Follows Sharon Sites Adams's daring solo Pacific crossing, blending her 16 mm memories with present-day grace.

Canadian Premiere



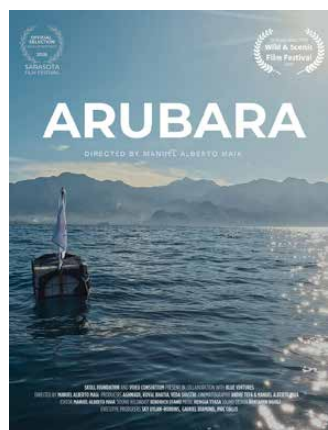
THE CHIMNEY SWEEPER (ENGLISH, GERMAN)

2025 | US | 9 min

Director: Jack Raese

A playful, heartfelt reflection as an eighth-generation nutcracker maker revisits the choices shaping his legacy, celebrating tradition, invention, and the magic carried through family craft.

Canadian Premiere



ARUBARA (INDONESIAN)

2025 | Indonesia | 12 min

Director: Manuel Alberto Maia

A fishing community In Arubara, Indonesia, pauses its livelihood to revive a dying reef, risking hardship to preserve ancestral values and safeguard the future of their village.

Canadian Premiere



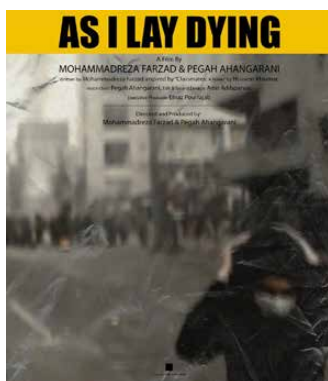
THE ECHO OF THE GAZE (CATALAN, SPANISH)

2025 | Spain | 10 min

Director: Carles Bover

An incredibly powerful reflection on filmmaking ethics and beyond by a Gazan journalist.

Nova Scotian Premiere



AS I LAY DYING (PERSIAN)

2025 | Iran | 15 min

Director: Mohammadreza Farzad, Pegah Ahangarani

Iran's 2009 uprising, captured on phones. The chaotic scenes halt with a pause. In the stillness our narrator recalls protesters' lives, and their fates. Intimate stories of bravery, loss, and shared resistance.

Atlantic Canadian Premiere



WE WERE THE SCENERY (VIETNAMESE)

2025 | Canada/US | 15 min

Director: Christopher Radcliff

Hoa Thi Le and Hue Nguyen Che revisit their roles in Apocalypse Now, weaving tender, funny, and haunting memories in this vivid portrait of resilience and reclaimed storytelling. Sundance winner.

Atlantic Canadian Premiere

Shorts: No Easy Answers

A Potpourri of puppets, politics, protests and people power to ponder.

Warning: Images of war and violence.

Thursday, September 24 | 12:00pm | Run time: 99 min



IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT LOOK AWAY / AU BAIN DES DAMES (FRENCH)

2025 | FRANCE | 30 min

Director: Margaux Fournier

Joëlle and her lively crew take over Marseille's Bain des Dames beach each day, swapping cheeky stories, bold opinions, and sun-drenched mischief with nothing left to prove.

Nova Scotian Premiere

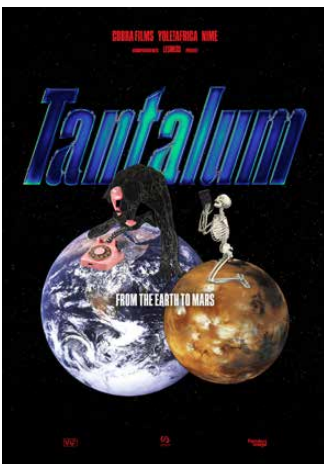


THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

2026 | US | 27 min

Director: Gene Gallerano, Bob Ray

Joshua Ray Walker confronts mortality while returning to the Grand Ole Opry, creating a tender meditation on music, legacy, and resilience in the face of life's limits.



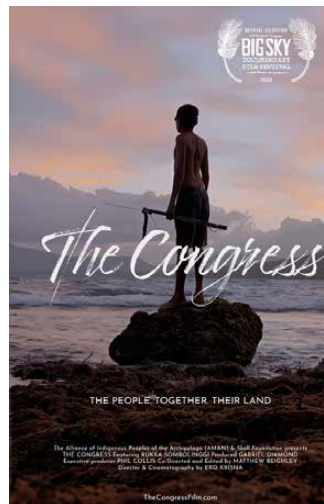
TANTALUM (FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, SWAHILI)

2026 | Belgium/Brazil/Democratic Republic of Congo | 16 min

Director: Matthias De Groof

A wandering piece of tantalum mined in Congo takes absurd detours toward space, exposing myth, childhood, technology, and colonisation in a satirical critique of global political and economic systems.

North American Premiere



THE CONGRESS

2026 | Indonesia | 11 min

Director: Eko Krisna

Indonesian leader Rukka Sombolinggi unites thousands of Indigenous communities in a powerful democratic gathering, forging consensus and defiance as they confront land rights, dignity, and the escalating climate crisis.

Canadian Premiere



WINTER IN MARCH (RUSSIAN, ARMENIAN)

2025 | Armenia (Belgium, Estonia, France) | 16 min

Director: Natalya Mirzoyan

Helpless in the face of a repressive state, a young couple leaves their home, an escape that turns into a surreal nightmare.

Atlantic Canadian Premiere

Shorts: This Is Where We Live

From BC to Newfoundland, we've got you covered. If you like to brag about seeing tons of films at a festival, this screening is for you!

Sunday, September 27 | 11:30am | Run time: 97 min

A Q&A with directors Geoff D'Eon, Tim Tracey, Hannah Walsh, Katie Keizer, Sarah El-Chaar, Greg Kedward, and Juliet Belisario, and producer Ronald Rudin will follow the films.



A CAPE BRETON STORYTELLER

2026 | Canada | 4 min

Director: Geoff D'Eon

The beloved writer and filmmaker Mike Melski (1969-2025) muses about what it means to be a Cape Bretoner, filmed beside a river of peace and contentment. A charming tribute.

Nova Scotian Premiere



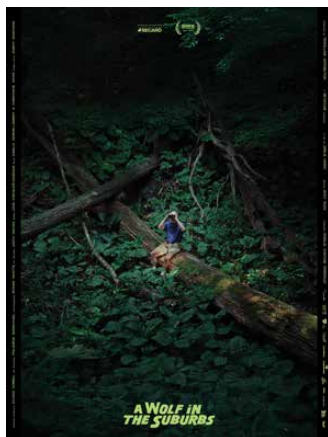
ART STRONG

2026 | Canada | 5 min

Director: Tim Tracey

Tim Tracey explores the work and journey of Lunenburg artist, Gregg Tracey in this stop-motion animation tribute.

World Premiere

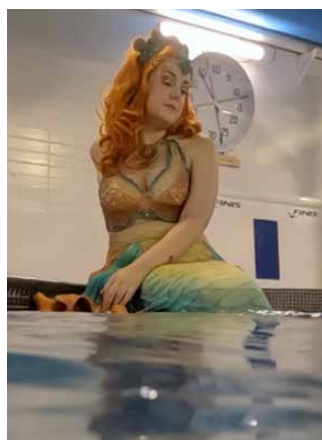


A WOLF IN THE SUBURBS

2026 | Canada | 19 min

Director: Amélie Hardy

A wild lawn stirs suburban nerves as Wolf Ruck's untamed patch disrupts Mississauga's tidy order, revealing humour, tension and the beauty of letting nature breathe.



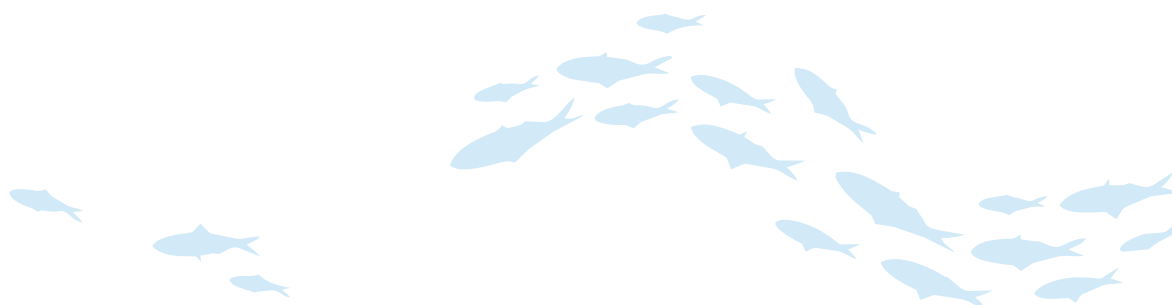
CHANGING TALES

2026 | Nova Scotia/ Atlantic Canada | 8 min

Director: Katie Keizer, Sarah El-Chaar

A mermaid performer faces industry change, illness, and responsibility, navigating whether her lifelong devotion to the art can survive the realities reshaping her world.

World Premiere



Shorts: This Is Where We Live CONTINUED



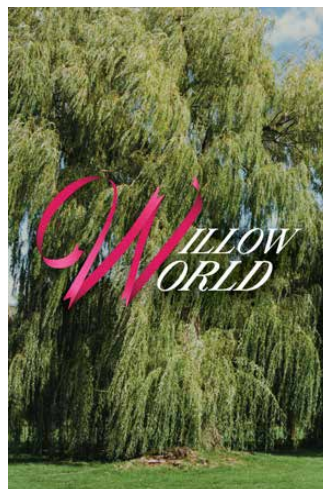
IF THEY'RE NOT DEAD, THEY'RE STILL ALIVE

2025 | Atlantic Canada | 10 min

Director: Maïka Hearson

A French language storyteller keeps Franco-Newfoundland memory alive. The language endures through pride and the stubborn beauty of those who refuse to let it fade.

Nova Scotian Premiere



WILLOW WORLD

2026 | Canada | 11 min

Director: Juliet Belisario

Filmmaker Juliet Belisario revisits her childhood, interweaving 16mm vignettes with her old child services documents to uncover the truth she couldn't voice as a child.

Canadian Premiere



SILVER SURFERS OF THE SOUTH SHORE

2026 | Nova Scotia/
Atlantic Canada | 12 min

Wave riders with experience chase South Shore thrills as they find a life renewed by ocean freedom. "It's really the last surf frontier out here. It's a good place to escape the end of the world."

World Premiere



BE LIKE BETTY

2026 | Canada | 20 min

Director: Hannah Walsh

Meet Betty, a 99-year-old world record holder whose resilience, humour, and hard-won wisdom turns her hundredth year into a triumphant reminder that dreams don't expire.

Canadian Premiere



VIOLET AFTER THE STORM

2026 | Canada | 10 min

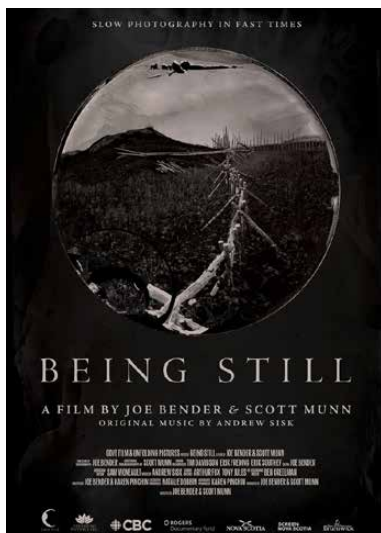
Director: Bekky O'Neil

In this delightful animation, we meet Violet Kingston. Widowed in the 1959 New Brunswick fishing tragedy, she unexpectedly steps into public life, embodying hope and determination as she represents families seeking support.

Atlantic Canadian Premiere



Shorts Before Features, and Mid-Lengths



BEING STILL

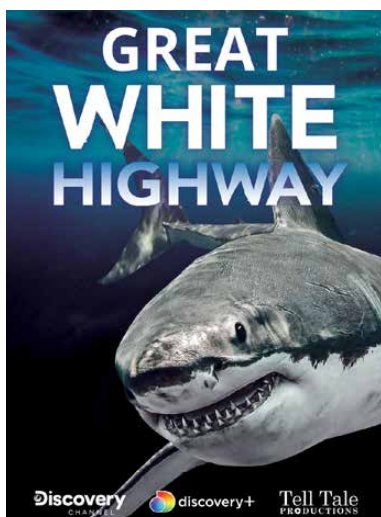
2026 | Canada | 52 min

Director: Joe Bender, Scott Munn

In Lunenburg, photographer Alanah Corriea takes old-time tintype family portraits, developed on the spot and shrouded in an antique patina. This is one of the four analog photographers in this film by locals, Scott Munn and Joe Bender. You'll also meet Allen Crooks in Halifax, Saint John photojournalist Chris Donovan, and Karen Stentafor from Sackville, NB. In a world of distorted truths built by AI and spread on social media, their photography offers quiet activism and a saner way to navigate modern life.

A Q&A with directors Scott Munn, Joe Bender, Justin Zoras will follow the films. Followed by a reception at Tide and Trade

Co-presented by Lunenburg Foundation for the Arts



GREAT WHITE HIGHWAY

2026 | Canada | 52 min

Director: P.J. Naworynski

Following Canada's first great white shark attack, researchers in Nova Scotia deploy real-time receiver buoys to track great white shark movements, identify high-risk zones, estimate population growth, and hopefully prevent another potentially fatal encounter. The third film from this team sees the Lunenburg men and women risk life and limb to learn more about these apex predators using new technologies developed right here.

A Q&A panel with director P.J. Naworynski, producer Edward Peill, and scientists will follow the film. Followed by a reception at Main Gaff

WORLD
PREMIERE



BUFFALO

2026 | Nova Scotia | 16 min

Director: Matt Harris

Michelle Tweed leads a communal journey in Rockfield, crafting a buffalo-hide drum with forestry students, celebrating land, learning, and Indigenous craft as handmade drums unite the community.

Q&A with the Filmmakers

Plays before In Tyee Country

CANADIAN
PREMIERE

Mid-Lengths and Shorts Before Features CONTINUED



THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL

2026 | US | 29 min

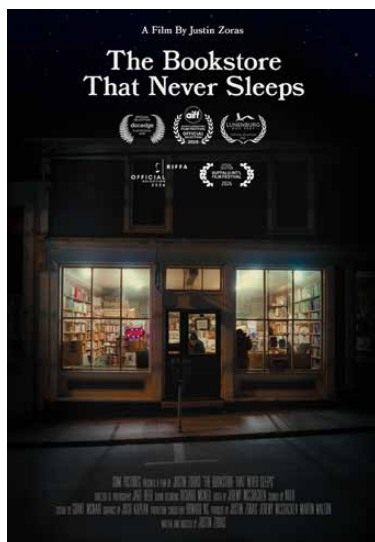
Directors: Ben Proudfoot, Stephen Curry

At 95, Martin Luther King Jr.'s lawyer and speechwriter reflects on the personal cost and surprising truths of making history, offering an intimate insider's view of the Civil Rights Movement. Directed by Nova Scotia's Oscar-winning Ben Proudfoot and Steph Curry. Short Film Grand Jury Prize at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival.

A Q&A with director Ben Proudfoot will follow the film.

[Plays before *The Golden Spurtle*](#)

CANADIAN
PREMIERE



THE BOOKSTORE THAT NEVER SLEEPS

2026 | Nova Scotia | 27 min

Director: Justin Zoras

As moonlight settles over Lunenburg, a bookstore awakens for night owls and wanderers, its shelves holding stories and the silent memory of a friend never forgotten. A poignant and touching depiction of a unique local landmark.

Q&A with the Filmmakers

[Plays before *Being Still*](#)



THE KITCHEN SCHOOL

2025 | Nova Scotia | 13 min

Directors: Ann Verrall, Sheryl Grant

Maxine Gough and Freda Henry, now in their 80s, revisit Middle Sackville's Kitchen School, illuminating segregation's injustice and the community courage that defied it.

Q&A with the Filmmakers

[Plays before *Joan's Kitchen Table*](#)

See the World Better

Whether making art or music to beautify the world, or shooting the breeze with some pals, humans are great at expressing themselves.

Thursday, September 24 | 3:00pm | Run time: 88 min

A Q&A with directors Wanda Nolan, Bryanna Reynolds, and Catherine Bussiere will follow the films.



HOOKED

**2026 | Nova Scotia/
Atlantic Canada | 20 min**

**Director: Catherine
Bussiere**

An intimate look at rug hooker and Order of Canada recipient Deanne Fitzpatrick as she reflects on her lifelong devotion and creative journey.



THE LAST EIGHT

2026 | US | 18 min

**Director: Bryanna
Reynolds**

Thousands unite to build a pirate ship of dreams, weaving millions of flowers into a Rose Parade marvel and revealing the untold story of devotion behind its magic.

Canadian Premiere



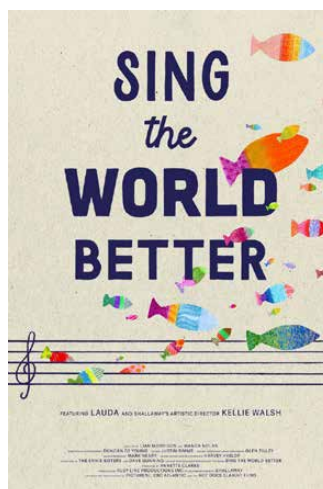
PUOLANKA PUSSY RALLY

2026 | Finland | 6 min

**Director: Inka Achté,
Einari Paakkanen**

Teenage boys drive endlessly, circling the same few streets in Puolanka, a tiny village in Northern Finland, famous for its population decline.

Atlantic Canadian Premiere



SING THE WORLD BETTER

**2026 | Atlantic Canada |
44 min**

**Directors: Bryanna
Reynolds, Lian Morrison,
Wanda Nolan**

Young neurodivergent singers in a Newfoundland inclusive choir forge friendships, resilience, and luminous harmonies as they rehearse for the big show.

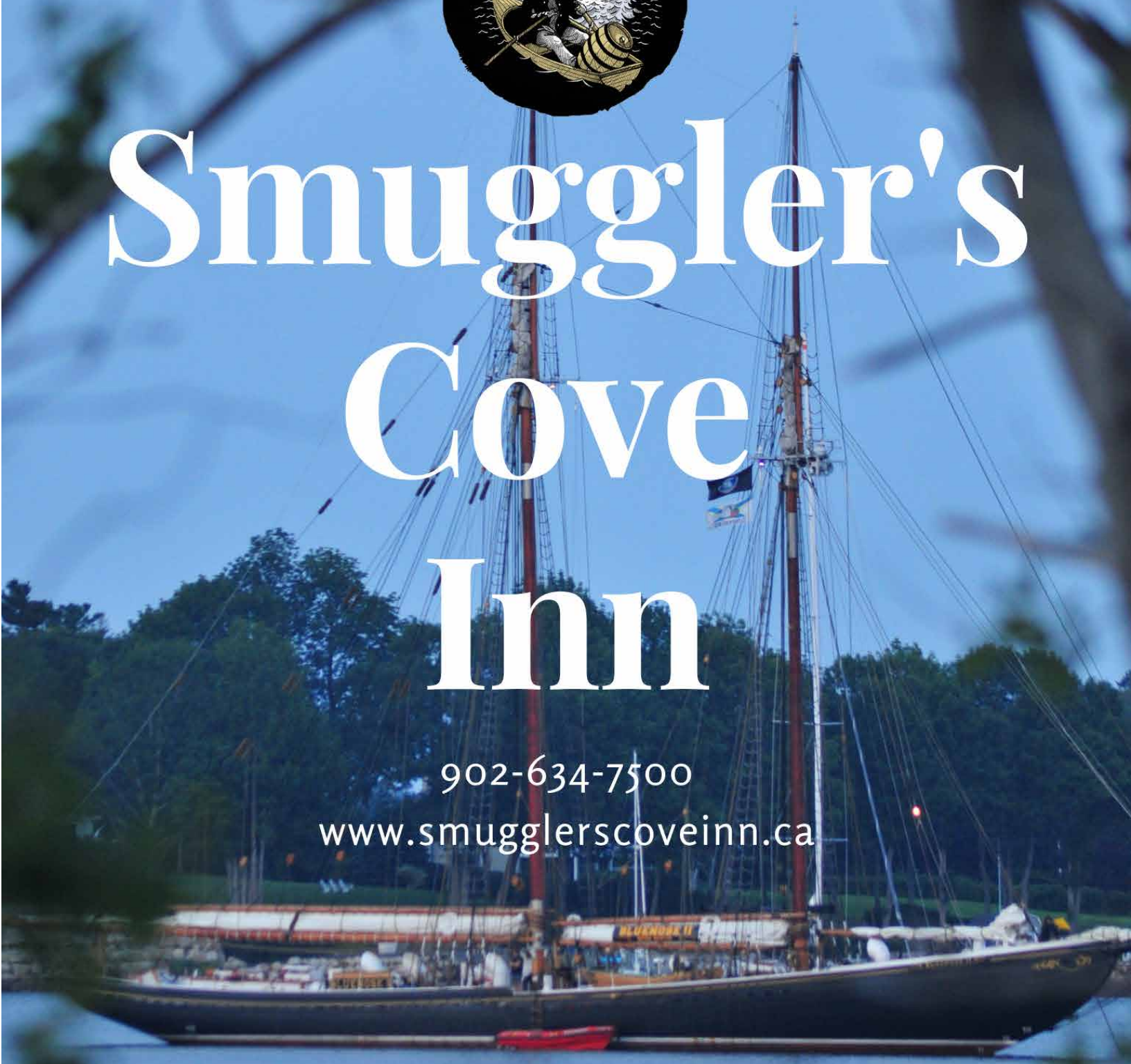
World Premiere



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2026 Festival Jurors

Peter Hall

Jury Coordinator

Peter Hall is happily retired after nearly four decades working in Canadian broadcasting. He was a story editor, producer, director and executive producer at various information and news programs at the three major networks. As a senior manager with CBC Atlantic Peter worked closely with independent producers commissioning documentaries and other programs for broadcast in the region and on network television.



Tazeen Ahmed

DOC

Tazeen is a lifelong cinephile who found her way into the film industry and has been watching, discussing, arguing about, and obsessing over films for most of her life. Currently Associate Director, Operations & Programming at the Documentary Organization of Canada, she also serves on screening and programming committees for Canadian festivals. A former lecturer in film and media studies, her interests include Indigenous storytelling, contemporary Canadian cinema, and Asian cinema.

Her work with independent filmmakers has included producing, festival consultancy, subtitling, and script supervision. She is the associate producer of *Things I Could Never Tell My Mother*, which screened at Visions du Réel and IDFA in 2022. A member of Gidree Bawlee Foundation of Arts, Tazeen supports its work with rural and Indigenous communities in north-western Bangladesh. Her writing has explored film viewing habits in Bangladesh and the representation of women on screen.



Andre Anderson

Filmmaker

Andre Anderson is a historical African Nova Scotian documentary filmmaker based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He creates documentaries that explore history and identity, with a particular focus on Black Canadian voices.

Andre has been recognized as the Black Business Initiative's Youth Entrepreneur of the Year and as a Volunteer of the Year by the Halifax Regional Municipality. He is also a recipient of an Atlantic Canada 30 Under 30 award and a human rights award from the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. He is currently nominated for Business Leader of the Year by the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.



Annette Clarke

Producer

Annette Clarke has produced and co-produced 100+ films with some of Canada's leading directors and nurtured the careers of numerous emerging filmmakers. During a successful NFB career, her documentary, animation and interactive productions have garnered awards and screened at Sundance, TIFF, IDFA, CPH: DOX, Hot Docs, the Berlinale, and many other festivals around the globe.



Annette returned to independent production in 2022 with Ruby Line Productions Inc. and a commitment to develop stories with a deep resonance in the place she is proud to call home. She recently completed the documentary *Sing the World Better* co-directed by Lian Morrison and Wanda Nolan; and is in pre-production with Tamara Segura's first feature film *Migratory Birds*.

She has received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Memorial for her contributions to Canadian culture; and the inaugural St. John's International Women's Film Festival Trailblazer Award.

Andrew Connors

Director & Producer

Andrew Connors is the Executive & Artistic Director of the Yukon Film Society and director of the Available Light Film Festival which he co-founded in 2002. He is the producer of the NFB co-produced environmental feature documentary, *Sovereign Soil*, the environmental portrait doc *The Ballad of Caveman Bill* and the silent-film and theatre feature *The Grubstake Remix* with filmmaker and composer, Daniel Janke. He's executive producer on a feature doc by filmmakers, Jackie Olson and David Curtis, about Yukon River salmon currently in co-production with the NFB. Andrew has directed and written short and medium length film and television productions that have broadcast internationally and at film festivals around the world. Andrew's own passion for the Canadian North informs the heart of his work.



Pauline Dakin

Producer & Author

Pauline Dakin is a journalism professor at the University of King's College in Halifax, where she specializes in audio and podcasting. She spent more than 20 years with the CBC, where she was the national health reporter, a senior producer, and host of the regional documentary program *Atlantic Voice*. Pauline is also the author of *Run, Hide, Repeat: A Memoir of a Fugitive Childhood*, which won the prestigious 2018 Edna Staebler Prize for Creative Non-fiction and was named one of the best 100 books of 2017 by *The Globe and Mail*. The CBC podcast series *Run, Hide, Repeat* based on the book topped international podcast charts, had more than a million downloads in Canada, and won a prestigious New York Festivals award.



Pauline's first novel will be published by Vagrant Press in spring of 2027.

2026 Festival Jurors CONTINUED

Donna Davies

Writer/Producer/Director

Donna Davies is a filmmaker based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her career began with NFB feature documentaries *The Kitchen Goddess* and *A Sigh and a Wish*, Helen Creighton's *Maritimes*. She went on to build a strong reputation in genre documentary with *Nightmare Factory* — which pulled back the curtain on Hollywood's monster makers and played in over 30 territories — along with *Pretty Bloody*, *Zombieman*, and *Fanarchy*. Her work has aired on Netflix, HBO, Shudder, CBC, and other major platforms, and collected dozens of festival awards.

Her most recent feature, *1000 Women in Horror*, premiered at Melbourne International Film Festival and went on to SITGES, SXSW Sydney, Brooklyn Horror Film Festival, and Imagine Film Festival Amsterdam, ahead of its Shudder premiere. An alumna of NBC Universal's Feature Film Incubator and the Trans-Atlantic Partners program, Donna is recognized with the Women in Film and Television WAVE Award for leadership in the Atlantic Canadian film community.



Samara Grace Chadwick

Writer/Producer/Director

Samara is an Acadian filmmaker, curator, scholar, union organiser, and mother. Her critically acclaimed debut feature *1999* premiered at Visions du réel and Hot Docs and has since played 50+ festivals and educational institutions worldwide. She has served as the Executive Director of The Flaherty in NYC, Senior Programmer at the Points North Institute and Camden International Film Festival in Maine, Programmer for Hot Docs in Toronto (2011-2012) and RIDM in Montreal (2015-16), and has served on film festival juries across Canada, the US, as well as in Poland, France, Switzerland, and the UK. Samara lives in Lunenburg county with her family.



Robert Hardy

ScreenSask

Robert Hardy is the Executive Director of ScreenSask, an association of over 250 creatives, producers, crew & stakeholders in Saskatchewan's film and television industry. In this role Robert advocates for this dynamic and growing industry which adds tens of millions of dollars to the province's economy every year. Robert has been working in Canadian television production for over 25 years as an executive, writer, producer & director focusing on documentary, lifestyle and scripted television. Among his recent credits are *Pamela's Cooking With Love* (StackTV/Flavour), *Pamela's Garden of Eden* (HGTV/Hulu), *Big Timber* (History/Netflix) and *Extracted* (Fox/Crave). Robert helped create one of the world's first web series in 1997 and has built an extensive network within the media industry since then. He has served as President, Canada for Fireworks Media Group, Senior Vice President Development at Entertainment One, VP Development at Paperny Entertainment, network executive with Bell Media and Senior Communications Officer with CBC-Radio Canada. Before that he was a fundraiser, communications director and advertising writer & director.



Christine McLean

Director

Christine McLean is an accomplished documentary director based in Halifax. With more than thirty shows to her credit, she has earned a reputation for strong storytelling and innovative visual approaches. Christine wrote and directed *The Berg*, for CBC's *The Nature of Things*. This followed *Dad Bods*, a cheeky episode on the science of fatherhood, *The New Human*, an entertaining look at the future of human evolution and *The Power of Play*, a show exploring the impact of outdoor play on human intelligence. Previously Christine was head writer and story editor on the Science Channel series *Mega Marine Machines* and the second season of *If We Built it Today*. She has also written and directed several wildlife documentaries for CBC's *Land and Sea*.



Christine has taught language, writing and TV broadcasting at the University of Kings College, Université de Moncton and St. Thomas University. In 2017 she received a Wave Award from Women in Film and Television for her professional dedication and mentorship.



2026 Festival Jurors

Peter Raymont **Filmmaker/Producer**

Peter Raymont is a Canadian filmmaker and producer and the president of White Pine Pictures, an independent film, television and new media production company based in Toronto.

He is the recipient of three Emmy Awards, a Sundance Audience Award and many other honours.



Christopher Richardson **Filmmaker/Producer/Educator**

Christopher Richardson is a Newfoundland-based documentary filmmaker, producer and educator whose career in film and television spans more than three decades. He has directed and produced more than 35 documentaries, including more than 20 films for CBC's *Land & Sea*, and films for Documentary Channel that have been broadcast regionally, nationally and internationally.



Christopher developed the curriculum for College of the North Atlantic's Television and Film Production program and has taught documentary filmmaking at Memorial University. Today, he leads immersive media initiatives for CNA, exploring how virtual reality, immersive video and emerging technologies can open new possibilities for storytelling, education and audience experience.

Marie Thompson **Journalist/Producer/Director**

Marie Thompson is a retired CBC television journalist with an extensive body of work as a documentary producer and director. Her focus over 35 years has been to highlight struggles of resource producers on land and sea in Atlantic Canada. More recently these stories included the arrival of refugees to small towns in Nova Scotia and the challenges they faced in their new lives.



Inaugural Environment and Sustainability Jury

Maggie Burns **Ecology Action Centre**

Maggie Burns is the Ecology Action Centre's Executive Director. Her involvement with EAC goes back 25 years and includes 10 years as the Managing Director (2007-2017). Maggie has a BA (Philosophy) and BSc (Biology) from Dalhousie University.

Her non-profit career spans sub-sectors including entrepreneurship, international development, experiential education and inclusion as well as consulting work in facilitation, strategic planning and conflict resolution.

She is the owner of Re-cover Journals which creates one-of-a-kind journals out of discarded hardcover books. She enjoys poison dart frogs, urban cycling, wooden canoes and being called a scientist by her nieces.



Carole MacNeil **Journalist/Writer/Producer**

Carole is an award winning journalist who was born and raised in Nova Scotia. Her career started in private radio, including working for Annapolis Valley Radio, and CKBW in Bridgewater. Since then, she moved into television news and her work has taken her all over the world. Carole is equally at home writing and producing documentaries as she is doing live unscripted news events such as 9-11, the War in Afghanistan, politics, religion, the economy and more. An intense curiosity has driven a career that spanned almost 4 decades, multiple disciplines and numerous countries. Carole now lives full time on the South Shore of Nova Scotia.

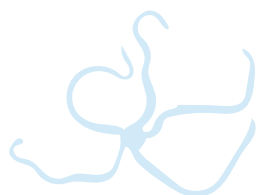


Brooke Nodding **Coastal Action**

Brooke is the Executive Director of Coastal Action. Since 2001 she has led the successful development and growth of the organization from a small 2-person to a highly credible professional corporation with a staff of 50. Her background is in fluvial dynamics, conservation management planning, and community-based stewardship initiatives. She worked with both Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada before joining Coastal Action.



Brooke currently leads numerous programs and projects on the South Shore of NS, collaborates on Atlantic regional projects, and has worked on international projects in Uruguay and Sweden. Brooke lives with her husband, Jeff, and daughter, Morgan, in Lunenburg and is an active volunteer within the community.





ARRIVE ON THE TIDE

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Industry

The Dock Market

SEPTEMBER 25-27



The Dock Market at the Lunenburg Doc Fest is designed by filmmakers and industry professionals for our peers. The format provides ample time and opportunities for delegates to form professional connections and discover emerging talent, while enjoying a small town setting that is both intimate and inspirational.

At the Market, we all get to stay productive yet enjoy a peaceful departure from the creative pace we maintain throughout the year.

Registering for the Dock Market is a two-step process.

1. **Buy an Industry Pass**
2. **Complete your registration form using the link provided in the pass confirmation email.**

Your Industry Pass also includes: Opening gala reception, opening night gala film, access to all Dock Market presentations, panels, 1-TO-1 pitch meetings, The Launch Pitch competition, networking social activities, and all film screenings.

Conference Formats

1-TO-1 Meetings

1-TO-1 Meetings are our main event for filmmakers. The meetings help delegates find potential collaboration opportunities across a range of interests by placing them face-to-face with decision-makers and other potential partners and stakeholders. Delegates must pre-register for the 1-TO-1 meetings format. Details on how to register will be communicated closer to the festival.

Industry Presentations

The industry presentations create a forum for information sharing. Key industry players speak directly to filmmakers about their role in the documentary community, and answer questions about the funding programs available to support and develop their projects.

Industry and Filmmaker Panels

The Dock Market panels get to the point. By featuring senior-level industry professionals, we all benefit from their sharing of diverse perspectives on a single topic, sparking enriching conversations throughout our time at the Market.

Networking Events

The program is business plus. Our networking events give us time to enjoy the full beauty and hospitality that Lunenburg naturally provides. Delegates will be invited on a number of informal social activities to explore the harbour town while interacting with fellow filmmakers and decision makers in the industry.

Decision Makers

The Dock Market has curated a robust roster of industry stakeholders and decision makers to meet with filmmakers virtually and on-site during the Doc Fest. Decision makers working in programming, international sales, marketing, distribution (traditional and virtually), funding and commissions, will join us September 25-27, 2026.

Many thanks to the esteemed decision makers taking part in Lunenburg Doc Fest's 2026 The Dock Market.

All on-site events take place at the Industry Centre, located on 2nd and 3rd floors of the Zwicker Building (on the waterfront), 146 Bluenose Drive, Lunenburg.

Note: there is an elevator available for participants. Participants can also join in virtually via Zoom sessions.

Industry Schedule For Filmmakers

All times are listed in Atlantic Daylight Time. **Please note these times and overall schedule are subject to change.**

All sessions are in-person and virtual, except for those in-person only events marked with an asterisk (*).



To register for a scheduled session scan the QR Code, or go to the **INDUSTRY** tab on lunenburgdocfest.com

Please note these times are subject to change.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:30am - 9:00am	Coffee and Conversation (<i>informal</i>)
9:00am - 10:45	Presentations by Decision Makers
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:15am - 12:00am	PANEL - <i>Trends, Challenges, Opportunities</i>
12:00pm - 1:15pm	Lunch (<i>explore the town!</i>)
1:15pm - 1:45pm	Presentations by Decision Makers
2:00pm - 2:45pm	PANEL - <i>Creative ways to showcase your docs</i>
2:45pm - 3:00pm	Break
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Dock Market 1-TO-1 meetings (<i>must pre-register in advance</i>)
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Industry Cruise #1 aboard the Eastern Star (<i>by invitation only due to limited space</i>)
8:00pm - 11:00pm	Festival Party - Light Ship Brewery

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:30am - 9:00am	Coffee and Conversation (<i>informal</i>)
9:00am - 10:00am	Presentations by Decision Makers
10:30am - 12:00pm	THE LAUNCH pitch contest*
12:00pm - 1:15pm	Industry Lunch (<i>provided on 2nd Floor Zwicker Building</i>)
1:15pm - 2:00pm	Presentation by Decision Makers
2:00pm - 2:45pm	Case Study - <i>Modern Whore</i> documentary
2:45pm-3:00pm	Break
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Dock Market 1-TO-1 meetings (<i>must pre-register in advance</i>)
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Industry Cruise#2 aboard the Eastern Star (<i>by invitation only due to limited space</i>)
8:00pm - 11:00pm	Industry Event - Doc Atlantic Reception - Tide and Trails Outfitters

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:30am - 9:15am	Coffee and Conversation (<i>informal</i>)
9:15am - 10:00am	Presentations by Decision Makers
10:00am - 10:45am	PANEL - <i>Documentary Ethics</i>
10:45am - 11:00am	Break
11:00am - 11:15am	Presentations by Decision Makers
11:15am - 12:00pm	PANEL - <i>The view from here: Veteran doc makers share their tips</i>
12:00pm - 3:00pm	Conference wraps at Noon but stick around for more informal conversations



The DOC Atlantic Breakthrough-Momentum Reception

Saturday, September 26

8:00 - 11:00pm at Tide and Trail Outfitters

Industry delegates are invited to join DOC, DOC Atlantic, and filmmakers from our Breakthrough and Momentum programs to connect with the next generation of Atlantic documentary storytellers. Light refreshments will be provided.

Open to Industry Pass holders only.

Dock Market Decision Makers

Luke Brawley **VIRTUAL** INDOX Films

Luke Brawley is the Founder of INDOX and a non-fiction film specialist with over a decade of experience working across the international festival landscape. Throughout his career, he has built an extensive global network of filmmakers, programmers, producers and distributors, alongside an in-depth understanding of the documentary industry. Luke specialises in positioning and launching exceptional non-fiction films on the international stage, successfully placing titles at festivals including Cannes, Venice, Sundance, TIFF, IDFA, CPH, Sheffield DocFest and Hot Docs.



John Buffone **IN-PERSON** Fibe TV1

John began his career 30 years ago as an ENG camera operator before quickly moving to CTV. There he moved through a variety of roles eventually becoming Bureau Manager at CTV National News. He founded a production company through which he produced documentaries and lifestyle programming. Eventually, he returned to news, becoming the Executive Producer at CTV News Channel. In 2014 he moved to Fibe TV1 where he has expanded programming, giving emerging and experienced creators a platform to share their stories.



Julian Carrington **VIRTUAL** Documentary Organization of Canada (DOC)

Along with leading DOC, Julian is a film programmer, curator, and industry consultant. He previously programmed for Hot Docs, the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival, and is the founder of For Viola, the Hot Docs Cinema's community screening series dedicated to celebrating BIPOC filmmakers and expanding documentary audiences. He has also served as a project evaluator for Telefilm Canada and the Jamaica Screen Development Initiative.



Andrew Connors **IN-PERSON** Yukon Film Society and Available Light Film Festival

Andrew is the co-founder of Available Light Film Festival in 2002 and the producer of the NFB co-produced environmental feature documentary, *Sovereign Soil*, and the environmental portrait doc *The Ballad of Cave-man Bill*. He's executive producer on a feature doc by filmmakers, Jackie Olson and David Curtis, about Yukon River salmon currently in co-production with the NFB. Andrew has directed and written multiple productions that have broadcast internationally and at film festivals around the world.



Liz Cowie **IN-PERSON** National Film Board

Liz has been with the NFB for just over three years, and during this time she has had the privilege to collaborate with numerous Atlantic directors and creatives on projects like *The Muse*, Wanda Nolan's CSA winner for Best Short Film, Justin Simms' feature films *Sons*, and *Smash & Grab: The Rebel Lens of Mike Jones*, and Andrea Dorfman's acclaimed animated short, *Hairy Legs*. Prior to joining the NFB, Liz worked with Vice Media for over 15yrs. Before her departure from Vice, Liz was the Senior Manager of Development for VICE TV. In this role, she created and oversaw a variety of original series for the network; *The Devil You Know*, *Betraying the Badge*, *Devoured* and the Emmy-nominated *Fringe Nation*.



Naomie Décarie-Daigneault **IN-PERSON** TENK

Fascinated by all forms of cinema, Naomie co-founded the broadcasting platform Tënk.ca, of which she has been co-director and artistic director since its inception. Committed to her community, Naomie sat for five years on the board of directors of Réalisatrices Équitables, campaigning for parity in filmmaking, and recently on the board of directors of Panorama-Cinéma and La Distributrice. At the same time, she develops a documentary practice that is preoccupied with the construction of identity - between determinism and freedom -, interiority, feminism and psychoanalysis.



Aidan Dennison **VIRTUAL** TVO

Aidan Denison is a seasoned producer and executive in the factual and documentary space. In March 2024 Aidan joined the TVO Docs team as a Documentary Programmer and Production Executive where he has been across TVO Originals such as *Saigon Story*, *The Pitch*, *Play it Loud*, *Tripping the Muskoka Lakes*, and *Dangerous Games*. Prior to joining TVO, Aidan was the Director of Development for English-language unscripted content at Sphere Media where he helped build a diverse slate across all genres. He is currently serving as the Interim Commissioning Editor for the TVO Docs team.



Natalie Dobbin **IN-PERSON** CBC Atlantic

Natalie is the Senior Producer of the Creative Content Unit at CBC Atlantic, where she oversees video and audio content that reflects life on the East Coast today. Her work includes pre-licensing and acquiring documentaries for the *Absolutely Canadian* stream on CBC Gem, CBC TV and other CBC platforms. Natalie and the Creative Content team are driven by collaboration, community and change.



Dock Market Decision Makers CONTINUED

Amanda Feder VIRTUAL APTN

Amanda is responsible for all the network's acquisitions of Canadian and international content for linear television. She also oversees APTN's original feature documentaries, and several factual series. Prior to joining APTN, she worked in film and television production on both scripted and unscripted series, as well as many award-winning documentaries.



Sophie Gilbert VIRTUAL Visit Films

Sophie is the Acquisitions Coordinator at Visit Films, having also worked across the festivals and sales teams during her tenure. She holds a degree with honors in Film Studies from Wesleyan University and has a background in film education, film criticism, and repertory programming. Her work in independent film began with Brainstorm Media, in acquisitions and distribution.



Danelle Granger IN-PERSON CBC

Danelle is working across feature documentaries, doc series and factual content. She is Metis from Treaty One Territory and based in Winnipeg, MB. Prior to CBC, she worked as the Development and Scripted Production Executive at APTN.



Jamie Hammond IN-PERSON National Film Board

Jamie is the Senior Marketing Advisor for Impact and Audience Engagement at the National Film Board of Canada, where she's responsible for leading marketing strategies for impact documentaries. In her spare time, she produced the award-winning short horror-comedy *Gaslit*, which had its world premiere at the 2024 Atlantic International Film Festival.



Robert Hardy IN-PERSON ScreenSask

Robert has been working in Canadian television production for over 25 years focusing on documentary, lifestyle and scripted television. Among his recent credits are *Pamela's Cooking With Love* (StackTV/Flavour), *Big Timber* (History/Netflix) and *Extracted* (Fox/Crave). He has served as President, Canada for Fireworks Media Group, Senior Vice President Development at Entertainment One, VP Development at Paperny Entertainment, and network executive with Bell Media. ScreenSask is an association of over 250 creatives, producers and stakeholders in Saskatchewan's film and television industry.



Hilary Hart VIRTUAL Game Theory Films

Hilary's career in film began in short film distribution at Ouat Media, before moving onto the Canadian Film Centre. While at the CFC she contributed to an online film magazine, *The Seventh Art*. She then worked in talent management, before partnering in 2018 with Will Woods to create Game Theory Films, a Toronto based independent film distribution company where she serves as Co-President. Hilary is a Berlinale Talents alumnus, voting member of the Academy Of Canadian Cinema & Television, and was named one of *The Globe and Mail's* 22 Most Influential People in Canadian Film.



Aisha Jamal IN-PERSON Hot Docs

Aisha Jamal is a filmmaker and festival programmer whose work spans directing, producing, and curating films. Her short films and features have played festivals and venues worldwide. Aisha has been programming Canadian and International films for Hot Docs International Documentary Festival since 2016. She also curates special programs and series for various venues and organizations. Her experience making films shapes her approach to programming, where she enjoys discovering new voices, championing independent cinema, and creating opportunities for audiences to engage with diverse perspectives on screen.



Raphaëlle Kaufmann IN-PERSON TENK

With a master's degree in film studies, Raphaëlle has had a diverse career in the cultural sector. After co-directing four editions of the Festival Résistances (France), she explored other avenues such as photography, communications, and public library management. Since January 2026, she has been co-director of Tënk Canada and is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Montreal to continue her research on the relationship between the filmmaker-survivor and the archival image.



Shelley MacDougall IN-PERSON Telefilm Canada

Shelley MacDougall is the Feature Film Executive for Indigenous Content and Development at Telefilm Canada. Prior to joining Telefilm, Shelley was a broadcast executive at APTN in Winnipeg, where she managed film and series of all genres in production and development. She was previously a business affairs and script clearance specialist in Vancouver. With over twenty-five years in screen-based media, Shelley brings deep expertise to all facets of storytelling. She is currently based in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Dock Market Decision Makers CONTINUED

Ken Macintosh IN-PERSON CBC Atlantic

Ken oversees music and documentary programming for CBC Atlantic Canada. His portfolio of programs and content streams include *Absolutely Canadian* documentaries, *Creator Network Atlantic*, *Land & Sea*, *Atlantic Voice*, *East Coast Music Hour* and *Weekend Mornings*. Based in Halifax, Ken has worked for CBC for more than 20 years, including a decade-long stint as Executive Producer of News for Nova Scotia.



Megan MacLaurin IN-PERSON Hot Docs

Megan MacLaurin (she/her) is the Manager, Public Sector and Foundations at Hot Docs, where she secures organizational funding from all levels of government, arts councils, and media agencies. With a background in media arts programming, Megan has curated programs for BIG on Bloor, InterAccess, Vector Festival, and as part of the curatorial collective Bunker 2. Megan is currently based in Kijipuktuk/Halifax and is currently a board member at the Centre for Art Tape and Programming Director for the art-at-night festival Nocturne.



Karen Magee IN-PERSON Content Development - Eastern Canada, AMI

Karen is responsible for content development for Canada East and has developed several shows for AMI including *Mind Your Own Business*, *The Squeaky Wheel Canada* and the award-winning Nova Scotia produced comedy *Pretty Blind*. Karen is responsible for screening pitches, show development, and ensuring that all content meets AMI's standard bearing qualities with respect to disability storytelling and inclusivity in all areas of original production – both on camera and behind the scenes.

Karen has over 35 years of production experience, having previously worked at Rogers TV and Ross Video.



Katie Rowe IN-PERSON CBC Atlantic

Katie Rowe is the Creator Network producer for CBC Atlantic. She works with emerging creators throughout the region to produce short form content for CBC platforms. The goal of CBC's Creator Network is to bring more diverse stories to CBC and to support creators in sharing their stories.



Scott Simpson IN-PERSON Telefilm Canada

Scott is a content analyst representing the Atlantic region on the English feature film financing team at Telefilm Canada. Most recently, he worked as a producer at the National Film Board, after spending over two decades as a freelance filmmaker - writing, directing, and producing short films, features, documentary television, commercials, and music videos. He is also a passionate advocate for the arts community, a teacher and mentor, father of two, hockey coach, dog lover, carpenter, and pizza chef.



Stephen Slater IN-PERSON Archive Producer

Stephen Slater has over fifteen years of experience in documentary making, starting with directing the 2011 BBC documentary *Destination Titan*. His work as an archive producer has seen him specialising in films relating to space exploration. He curates a large collection of historic NASA footage, and has acted as a consultant to Hollywood movies on the subject. He also produced the visitor experience for the restoration of the Johnson Space Centre's Historic Mission Control Centre in 2019.



Ania Trzebiatowska VIRTUAL Feature Film Programmer - US and World Documentary Features, Sundance Film Festival

Prior to Sundance, Ania was the Sales and Acquisitions Executive for the documentary sales agency, Outlook Filmsales, and Senior Director of Acquisitions for the NYC-based agency, Visit Films. Aside from her work at Sundance, Ania runs Sands: International Film Festival of St Andrews, Scotland. She was also the artistic director of the Off Camera IFF (Krakow, Poland), which she programmed between 2008-2020.



Mariam Zaidi IN-PERSON

Mariam Zaidi is a film programmer, producer, and arts manager based in Toronto, Canada. Currently, she works as an International Programmer for TIFF Short Cuts, International Programmer for the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival (Reel Asian), and Senior International Shorts & Canadian Programmer for Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival (Hot Docs). Previously, Zaidi was the Executive Director of Breakthroughs Film Festival, and the Managing Director of Toronto Animated Image Society.



Aside from festival programming and arts management, Zaidi continues to produce films and has worked on several distribution and impact campaigns for Canadian films, including the Academy-Award Nominated, *To Kill a Tiger* (TIFF, 2023) and *An Unfinished Journey* (Hot Docs, 2024).

LUNENBURG
FOLK HARBOUR
*Weekends at the
Opera House*



Oct. 2 Aquakultre @ 7:30pm



Aquakultre is a Halifax singer, composer, and storyteller. His live show is a warm-hearted party where all are welcomed by his big voice and bigger stage presence. His Polaris-nominated album, 1783, is deeply rooted in his own family's African Nova Scotian history. He is bringing an all-star cast to help deliver this culturally important story.

Oct. 4 David Francey @ 3:00pm



David Francey is an award-winning Canadian folk singer-songwriter celebrated for his plainspoken poetry and deeply human storytelling. A three-time Juno Award winner, he's known for turning everyday experiences into songs that resonate across generations.

Oct. 16 Rose Cousins @ 7:30pm



Rose Cousins is an acclaimed Canadian singer-songwriter whose luminous voice and cinematic folk writing captivate audiences everywhere she performs. Her JUNO awards and Grammy nomination are testaments to the emotional power and artistry she brings to every stage.

Oct. 18 Garnet Rogers @ 3:00pm



Garnet Rogers is a celebrated folk musician known for his resonant baritone voice and poetic, emotionally rich songwriting. He's earned wide acclaim for his influential solo career, including multiple national folk award recognitions that cement his place as a pillar of modern folk music.

Nov. 6 Jah'Mila @ 7:30pm



Jah'Mila is a Halifax-based reggae artist whose rich vocals and roots-driven sound carry forward the legacy of Jamaican music with unmistakable East Coast soul.

Nov. 8 Rachel & Darren @ 3:00pm



Rachel & Darren are a Halifax-based musical duo known for soulful harmonies and warm, roots-inspired songwriting.

LUNENBURG OPERA HOUSE

FOLKHARBOUR.CA

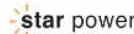


Canadian
HeritagePatrimoine
canadienSUNBELT
RENTALS

VILLAGESWORKS



afcoop

star power
ATLANTIC

NIFCO



902POST inc

creative
for
all
types

Saturday, September 27 | 10:00am | Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic

Presented with the support of CBC, **The Launch 2026** gives emerging filmmakers the chance to pitch their short documentary project for the opportunity to win a prize package of over \$20,000 in cash and in-kind filmmaking support — plus the training, connections, and industry access to help take their project from idea to screen.

Open to underrepresented filmmakers across Atlantic Canada, The Launch is designed as a low-barrier entry point into the documentary industry. Five filmmakers will be selected to pitch their projects live at Lunenburg Doc Fest 2026, gaining valuable industry experience, mentorship, and connections along the way.

Prize

One winning filmmaker will receive a prize package valued at over \$20,000, including:

- **\$3,000 cash prize**, generously provided by CBC, to kickstart production
- **Over \$20,000 in-kind filmmaking services**, including production and post-production support
- **Nine months of ongoing support** from Lunenburg Doc Fest throughout development and production
- **The opportunity to screen their completed short** documentary at the 14th Lunenburg Doc Fest in 2027

The Launch Reception

Saturday, September 26

12:00 - 1:15pm at Zwicker Building, 2nd floor

Celebrate a pitch well done with The Launch competitors and other delegates.

Open to Industry Pass holders only.

The Launch Instructors

Shasha Nakhai

Shasha is a storyteller whose work has taken her to the Hawaiian coastline, the ski slopes of Davos, a Cold War bunker, Philippine sugar mills and the front lines of Nigeria's energy crisis. Her work has aired on the BBC, CBC, ZDF, and Arte; screened at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA); been nominated for 16 Canadian Screen Awards; named TIFF's Top 10; and shortlisted for an Oscar. After over a decade of experience in documentary, Shasha released her first drama feature, *Scarborough*, adapted from the award-winning novel by Catherine Hernandez, and co-directed with Compy Films partner Rich Williamson



Danelle Granger

Danelle Granger is currently the Executive in Charge of Production, Unscripted Content, for CBC, working across feature documentaries, doc series and factual content mainly focusing on Indigenous stories. She is Metis from Treaty One Territory and based in Winnipeg, MB. Prior to CBC, she worked as the Development and Scripted Production Executive at APTN.



The Launch Participants

David Gosine

David is a Halifax-based documentary filmmaker and clinician. He directed and produced *Lorraine*, a portrait of trailblazing Lebanese Newfoundlander Lorraine Michael, and created two CBC series, *Home Cooking* and *Wine with Gosine*. He is currently producing *What Is Fascia*, a short documentary exploring fascia's role in the body and chronic pain. The project is expanding into *It's Not Magic, It's Just Anatomy*, a six-part series tracing the history of fascia research, developed with Dr. Anna Davenport under ConnectPix Inc.



Maria de Fátima Lima

Maria is an emerging Brazilian-Canadian documentary filmmaker and screenwriter based in Moncton, New Brunswick. Her work explores identity, memory, mental well-being, and belonging, shaped by curiosity, deep listening, and genuine human connection. This curiosity and connection with others led her to create *Crossing Borders*, an intimate and authentic documentary series that reflects the richness and diversity of the communities she engages with. Her work also includes scripted projects for stage and screen.



Evan Thompson-MacKay

Evan Thompson-MacKay is an HRM-based screenwriter, photographer, and cinematographer originally from Westville, Nova Scotia. A graduate of NSCC's Applied Media & Communication Arts, Screen Arts, and Start-Up Accelerator programs, Thompson-MacKay has spent the past five years working across both union and independent film and television sets. In addition to his freelance career, he is a Co-Founder and Director of Photography at Down Beat Media, a commercial video production company launched alongside fellow Screen Arts alumni.



Israel Ekanem

Israel is a Halifax-based storyteller, producer, creative organiser, and the founder of Ubuntu Media. Across his work, he strives to platform African, immigrant, racialised, and queer communities. His films include *Kill Your Masters*, winner of Best Short at the Calgary Independent Film Festival, and *Good Earth: The Pots and Passion of Walter Ostrom*, a Best Documentary nominee at the Atlantic International Film Festival. He also directs the Mosaic International Film Festival of Arts and Culture and hosts the Blackout Podcast.



Caroline A. Godin

Caroline is a St. John's-based writer, artist, and filmmaker whose practice spans screenwriting, playwriting, poetry, fiction, and mixed media. A dual Canadian-Finnish citizen and Newfoundlander by choice, her work is deeply inspired by home. Her upcoming short film *Haul Up* is a black comedy using folklore to explore intimate partner violence in outport communities. When not creating her own work, she is an in-demand crew member on productions like *Below* (Netflix), *Son of a Critch* (CBC), and *Umbrella Academy* (NBC).



Jury Members

Katie Rowe (CBC)

Katie Rowe is the Creator Network producer for CBC Atlantic. She works with emerging creators throughout the region to produce short form content for CBC platforms. The goal of CBC's Creator Network is to bring more diverse stories to CBC and to support creators in sharing their stories.



Aisha Jamal

Aisha is a filmmaker and festival programmer whose work spans directing, producing, and curating films. Her short films and features have played festivals and venues worldwide. Aisha has been programming Canadian and International films for Hot Docs International Documentary Festival since 2016. She also curates special programs and series for various venues and organizations. Her experience making films shapes her approach to programming, where she enjoys discovering new voices, championing independent cinema, and creating opportunities for audiences to engage with diverse perspectives on screen.



Maya Annik Bedward

Maya Annik Bedward is an Afro-Caribbean Canadian filmmaker whose work blends history, resistance, and pop culture through genre-bending storytelling. She is a founding member of the Black Screen Office and has directed short films like *The Haircut* (2018) and *Why We Fight* (2021), as well as the television series *Lido TV* and *BLK: An Origin Story*. *Black Zombie* marks her feature documentary debut.





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Now in its fifth year, the DOC Atlantic Breakthrough Program – led by Lunenburg Doc Fest in partnership with DOC Atlantic — supports emerging documentary filmmakers from Atlantic Canada who identify as Indigenous, Black, and/or People of Colour (IBPOC).

From late August 2026 to May 2027, six filmmakers will embark on a 10-month journey designed to help transform promising ideas into strong, market-ready documentary projects. Through workshops, mentorship, and real-world industry experiences, they will build their creative and professional toolkits while connecting with the people who can help move their careers forward.

Program Timeline

Phase 1: Launch the Project (July – September 2026)

Includes two workshops, a welcome mentorship session, and the 13th Lunenburg Doc Fest (September 23–27, 2026) including The Dock Market industry conference, The Launch pitch competition, and other industry social events.

Phase 2: Develop the Documentary (Fall 2026 – Winter 2027)

Includes six workshops, three group mentorship sessions, and three one-on-one mentorship sessions.

Phase 3: Pitch & Connect at Hot Docs (Spring 2027)

Includes a trip to the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and a pitch competition for the chance to receive a \$5,000 development prize, supported by the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), to help bring their documentary project to the next stage.

What's Included:

Hands-on workshops covering storytelling, interviewing, producing, budgeting, financing, distribution, and the business of documentary filmmaking.

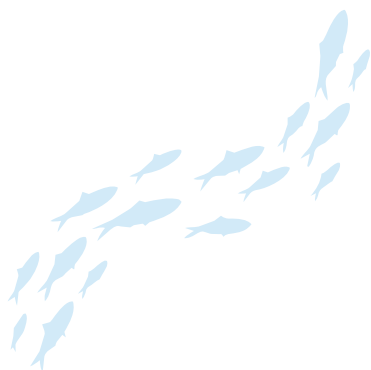
One-to-one mentorship from experienced Canadian documentary filmmakers.

Tailored pitch coaching to help participants confidently present their project.

Full access and covered travel to the Dock Market industry conference at the 13th Lunenburg Doc Fest (September 23–27, 2026).

A delegate pass and covered travel to industry events at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto (Late April/ early May 2027).

A participant honorarium upon successful completion of the program.



DOC Atlantic Breakthrough Program Participants

David Gosine Nova Scotia

David Gosine (he/they) is a Canadian producer, director, and healthcare practitioner whose work sits at the intersection of science, human experience, and storytelling. A registered acupuncturist and co-founder of a multidisciplinary pain clinic, he brings a clinician's curiosity and a systems-level perspective shaped by an earlier career in international trade and intergovernmental relations. His creative work includes directing and producing short-form documentary projects, including *Lorraine*, as well as work with the CBC Creator Network. David is currently developing an international documentary series exploring fascia, medicine, and the people whose discoveries are reshaping how we understand the human body. He is drawn to documentary because they can make complex ideas deeply human, preserving first-hand stories while creating the conditions for audiences to see familiar subjects in entirely new ways.



Jia Yi Fan New Brunswick

Jia Yi Fan (she/her) is an Asian-Canadian, 2SLGBTQIA+ mapping/environmental professional by day and emerging filmmaker by night. Based in Kouchibouguac, New Brunswick, she is currently developing her filmmaking practice through documentary, narrative, and socially engaged media projects. Her work explores themes of identity, environment, social justice, and human connection.



M'taya Bradford-Gear Newfoundland and Labrador

M'taya Bradford-Gear (she/her) is a filmmaker from Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, currently based in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. A Nunatsiavummut and settler mix, she is a student in the Television and Film Creation program at the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), where she is developing her skills as a storyteller and visual artist.



M'taya is passionate about creating Indigenous and female-driven narratives that highlight underrepresented voices and lived experiences. She has already earned film credits in directing, screenwriting, producing, acting, and set design, demonstrating a versatile approach to filmmaking. She also participated in the imagineNATIVE Youth Filmmaker Program, where she directed a short documentary.

Brian Amadi Newfoundland and Labrador

Brian Amadi (he/they) is a multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker, and tattooist based in Newfoundland. With a background in political science, criminology, and public policy, Brian blends fine line tattooing, filmmaking, and painting to explore identity, belonging and social structure. He is the founder of *Fawk Your Walls*, *Rebels At the Walls*, and *The Art of Being Black*. His work has been exhibited locally and internationally, including at The Rooms, rOGUE Gallery, and the Canadian Embassy in Portugal. A poet and advocate, Brian's art bridges personal narrative with collective history, often using art as a tool for transformation, resistance and social cohesion. Ultimately, he aims to use his work to reflect the current systems of social organization.



Nathan Lacroix Prince Edward Island

Nathan Lacroix (he/him) is a Black queer filmmaker based in Prince Edward Island with a growing presence in the local film community. His work is driven by a passion for storytelling that centers BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ experiences, spanning both scripted and non-scripted projects that build connection, spark dialogue, and reflect the richness of underrepresented voices.



Reva Bhardwaj Nova Scotia

Reva Bhardwaj (any/all) is a young Canadian queer filmmaker known for her unique storytelling and niche aesthetics. Bhardwaj grew up in Nova Scotia and always held a passion for the performing arts. They wanted to use their gift and love of creativity to impact others and express themes of identity, relationships, and wonder through nuanced media. His goal is to give a voice to the people who have trouble using theirs, and to spread a message of love, understanding, and acceptance to all.





MOMENTUM

Sept 2026 – May 2027

Supporting the next stage of
Atlantic documentary storytelling.



Building on Lunenburg Doc Fest's DOC Atlantic Breakthrough and The Launch initiatives, the Atlantic Momentum Program (AMP) supports six mid-career Atlantic Canadian IBPOC filmmakers who are ready to move their one-off feature documentaries from development into production.

AMP is designed for filmmakers with strong projects who face barriers accessing national funding, industry networks, and professional support. Through mentorship, funding guidance, and industry access, the program helps participants strengthen their projects and build a pathway toward production.

The Atlantic Momentum Program is supported by the Canada Media Fund, Innovation PEI, PictureNL, NB Film and TV Strategic Initiatives Fund, Nova Scotia Creative Industries Fund, CBC Atlantic, and Bell Fund, with in-kind support from Lunenburg Doc Fest and Hot Docs.

Timeline

September 2026 – May 2027

Over nine months, participants will develop their projects and prepare for key Canadian funding opportunities, with the goal of being funding-ready by May 2027.

Key funding opportunities include:

- Canada Council for the Arts – Creation Grant
- Telefilm Canada – Talent to Watch
- Canada Media Fund – POV Program

Participants will also have opportunities to attend Lunenburg Doc Fest's Dock Market and Forum RIDM in Montréal.

What's Included:

Three experienced IBPOC mentors providing tailored guidance throughout the program

High-level funding workshops focused on major Canadian funding opportunities

Individual mentorship sessions to develop projects, applications, and funding strategies

Professional development supporting the transition from development into production

Industry access and networking through Dock Market and Forum RIDM

Support developing applications for Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada, and Canadian Media Fund

Connections with funders, producers, broadcasters, and other documentary professionals

Momentum Participants

Israel Ekanem

Nova Scotia

Israel Ekanem is a storyteller, filmmaker, and founder of Ubuntu Media, a Halifax-based production company committed to amplifying diverse voices through film. Shaped by his grandmother's gift for storytelling, he has written, directed, and produced work for CBC, Bell, and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, with films screening at the Toronto Black Film Festival and festivals across North America. His award-winning shorts include *Kill Your Masters* and *Drown the Lovers*. His feature *The Space Between* was selected for Berlinale's EFM Fiction Toolbox Programme. He founded All Voices Society because stories have the power to change the world, one person at a time.



Momentum Participants CONTINUED

Jessica Brown Newfoundland and Labrador



Maria de Fátima Lima New Brunswick

Maria is a Brazilian Canadian emerging documentary filmmaker and screenwriter based in Atlantic Canada. Her creative work explores identity, memory, mental well-being, migration, and belonging, with a focus on the human stories behind social issues. Her documentary series *Crossing Borders* examines the lives, contributions, and experiences of newcomers in Atlantic Canada, asking what happens when a community truly makes room. Through filmmaking and writing, I'm interested in creating intimate, thoughtful stories that foster connection, challenge assumptions, and give space to voices and experiences that are often overlooked.



Man Long Ho Nova Scotia

Man Long "Norman" Ho is a Hong Kong born writer and director based in Nova Scotia. He is an alum of ReelWorld Emerging 20, RBC YFF Mentorship, and DOC Atlantic Breakthrough Program, as well as a 2025 writer in residence at Eyelevel Artist Run Centre. His debut short documentary, *Spud Island?*, was nominated at the 76th Yorkton Film Festival. His works have received the 2026 Charles R. Saunders Prize, the 2025 ScreenCraft Family Screenplay Competition Grand Jury Prize, and the 2022 IRSA Newcomers to Canada Award.



Obediya Wonderful Jones-Darrell Nova Scotia

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Obediya Jones-Darrell is a Canadian filmmaker and producer who is classically trained as a music composer & sound design artist. In addition to being an alumnus of the DOC Atlantic Breakthrough documentary program, Reelworld E20 Program, and the Warner Bros. Diversity Showrunner bootcamp, he studied writing for animation at Vancouver Animation School, music composition at Simon Fraser University, and sound engineering at Douglas College. As a documentary film maker he primarily focuses on stories that connect music and culture with our understanding of the human condition.



Chan Polchies New Brunswick

Chan is a Wolastoqiyik filmmaker, Co-Director and Writer of a documentary exploring the legacy of Ned Bear's cultural and artistic teachings through Gordon Sparks' life and arts practice. He recently directed his first short film, *Apathy is a Blueberry*, and edited the short film *Expresso*, both airing on Bell Media. His next project is a TV series script. Chan's storytelling is informed by his experience as an Indigenous Two-Spirit person navigating religion, mixed-race identity, and LGBTQIA+ communities.



Mentors

Aisha Jamal

Aisha is a filmmaker and festival programmer whose work spans directing, producing, and curating. Her short and feature films have screened at festivals and venues worldwide. Since 2016, she has programmed Canadian and international films for Hot Docs International Documentary Festival. She also curates special programs and series for various venues and organizations. Drawing on her filmmaking experience, Aisha approaches programming with a focus on discovering new voices, championing independent cinema, and creating opportunities for audiences to engage with diverse perspectives.



Mariam Zaidi

Mariam Zaidi is a Toronto-based film programmer, producer, and arts manager. She is an International Programmer for TIFF Short Cuts and the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival, and Senior International Shorts & Canadian Programmer for Hot Docs. Previously, she served as Executive Director of Breakthroughs Film Festival and Managing Director of Toronto Animated Image Society. Zaidi also produces films and has worked on distribution and impact campaigns for Canadian films, including Academy Award-nominated *To Kill a Tiger* and *An Unfinished Journey*.



Maya Annik Bedward

Maya Annik Bedward is an Afro-Caribbean Canadian filmmaker whose work blends history, resistance, and pop culture through genre-bending storytelling. She is a founding member of the Black Screen Office and has directed short films like *The Haircut* (2018) and *Why We Fight* (2021), as well as the television series *Lido TV* and *BLK: An Origin Story*. *Black Zombie* marks her feature documentary debut.





Budding filmmakers in their senior years were asked if they would love to see their garden on the big screen at Lunenburg Doc Fest 2026. This invitation was for a filmmaking program, called SAGED, and 2026 is its inaugural year at the festival.

SAGED (Senior Artistic Garden Experimental Documentaries) is a free introductory experimental documentary filmmaking program for senior garden enthusiasts, living in the Lunenburg Area or along the South Shore at ages 65+ years old.

Selected participants received training, resources, and one-on-one mentorship to create short minute 16mm films focused on an aspect of their garden, community plot, or favourite outdoor plant. Applicants did not need to have a garden to apply, but they did require a love of greenery!

The training involved imparting new skills, such as how to film plants, how to use a Bolex camera, cinematography, sound recording, sound design, and digital editing.

Over the summer a public camera-less phytogram filmmaking workshop also took place. Members of the community learned how to work with plants to create images on emulsion and in the process made a trippy group film.

SAGED filmmaking program is supported by **Arts Nova Scotia** and **Nova Scotia Gaming Support 4 Culture**.



SAGED Mentor

Dawn George is a Halifax based artist working in film. Her DIY approach to filmmaking reflects her appreciation for nature, science, sound, and experimentation.

A skilled mentor, instructor, and speaker; Dawn has enthusiastically shared her knowledge of analogue filmmaking and plant-based film-processing techniques with emerging and established artists at artist run centers such as LIFT, Struts, AFCCOOP; as well as at the Canadian Media Skills Exchange and Dalhousie University; and through publications like the Analogue Cookbook.

Her hands-on eco-processing workshops focus on experimentation, discovery, process, and the environment; and have included topics such as plant-based developers, natural tints, phytograms, photograms, and the eco-reversal process.

As a founding member of the Handmade Film Collective (HFC) and former programmer with the Halifax Independent Film Festival, she has been an integral part of bringing experimental analogue handmade films to the Atlantic region, through screenings, workshops, and facilitating collaborations with visiting artists and the community. In 2023 she helped organize and facilitate the HFC, Cellulose Mentorship Program, a week-long immersive mentorship program for fibre and film artists interested in pursuing sustainable plant-based techniques.

Dawn is extremely proud of all the Sages and grateful to LDF for the opportunity to create a program that combines people, plants, and filmmaking - including a surprise appearance by an accordion.

SAGED Program Filmmakers

BACKYARD RELATIONS

Charlene Morton

As retired music educator Charlene remains interested in how music and soundscapes are taken up in film narratives, marketing, and the music industry. Since retiring, one of her creative outlets is photography where she experiments mostly with textures, form, and double exposures.



MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

Christina J. Andrews

Chris Andrews is a mixed media artist in Bridgewater NS Canada. As an entrepreneur, she worked in industrial training and community development. She is captain of a 50' steel motor sailor, *Melodeon of Halifax*, which she welded, built and sailed with her partner Frank Bemben, in the Bahamas.



THE PEONY MYSTIC

Carol Millett

Carol Millett produced and directed several NFB short docs during Halifax's vibrant film scene of the 80's and 90's. Today, photographing flowers on our flower farm, Carol explores the nuance of colour, the complexity of their inner lives, their interrelationship with the natural world around them.



SKYWARD-FLYING DOG

Gary Knowles

Once a visual learner, always a visual learner. Experiential learning is the heart of my life as a "roaming" child and adolescent, inquiring as a professional adult, and in my early years of freedom from paid work. To grow is to get stung from mistakes and to learn from them. Next film?



GARDEN ENVY & GARDEN ECSTASY

MJ Sakurai

Amerikan by birth. Canadian by choice. UC Berkeley BA, 1966. Two adult offspring, two adult grandkids, & a service Chihuahua grand-dog. Retired after >50 years work: inner-city street club worker; lab technician; secretary/administrative aid (clinical & search medicine, art school, international seaweed industry, environmental consultants, community health); freelance copyeditor; purchasing agent; newspaper ad sales. Modest short-film output (two counting present one), but boundless enthusiasm for the medium. Also, neither senile nor dead yet.



CONTAINED GARDEN

Vincent Dieras

From a very young age, Vincent was introduced to gardening and food from his grandmother and father. Vincent studied landscape design and green spaces where this passion took him to other countries where he learned and explored the different styles and purposes of gardens through history and culture.



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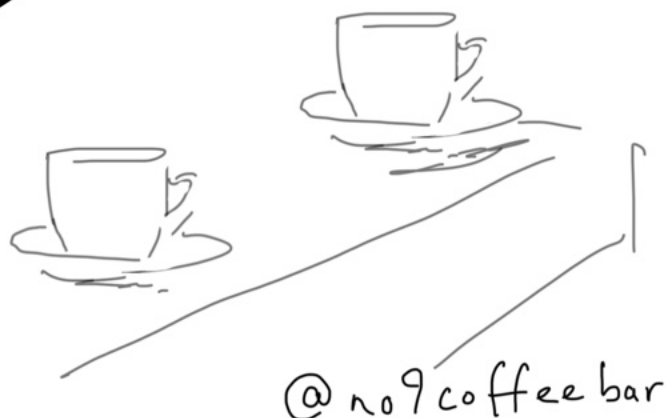
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MUSIQUE ROYALE

Truth and Reconciliation Day Events

Wednesday Sept 30 at 11 am - Hank Snow Museum Grounds, Liverpool

Cookie Concert: Oak Island Treasure

Saturday Oct 3 at 2 pm - Lunenburg School of the Arts, Lunenburg

Divine Dowland

Lucas Harris, lutenist; Students and faculty of Mount Allison University

Thursday Oct 8 at 7 pm - Venue tba

Symphony Nova Scotia

The musical legacy of the Bach dynasty

With Steven Devine, leader and harpsichord solo; Renaud Lapierre, violin

Friday Nov 6 at 7:30 pm - St John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg

Sinead White, soprano; Ian Tomaz, piano

Saturday Nov 14 at 11 am - Cecilia's Retreat, Mahone Bay

Jonathan Mak, piano

Saturday Nov 21 at 11 am - Cecilia's Retreat, Mahone Bay

Handel's Messiah - Ménestrel

Thursday Dec 17 at 7 pm - St John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg

A Chorister's Christmas - Capella Regalis Choir, dir. Nick Halley

Saturday Dec 19 at 4 pm - St John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg



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