



Media Release // For Immediate Release
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AWARD WINNING FILMS COMING TO CIFF 2024

Calgary, AB - The Calgary International Film Festival is thrilled to announce more exciting films to screen at the 25th Anniversary festival, running from **September 19 – 29, 2024**, including can't-miss award winners including:

DAHOMEY, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Mati Diop, is the winner of the coveted Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival - a poetic and immersive work of art that delves into real perspectives on far-reaching issues surrounding appropriation, self-determination and restitution.

GRIFFIN IN SUMMER, directed by Nicholas Colia, explores the initial experiences of unrequited love in a way that's both hilarious and refreshingly original. The film won Best U.S. Narrative Feature and Best Screenplay, U.S. Narrative Feature at Tribeca Film Festival 2024.

Directed by Hu Guan, **BLACK DOG** was the winner of the Un Certain Regard Award at Cannes Film Festival 2024; **UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE**, directed by Matthew Rankin, a CIFF alumnus who won an award for his first feature, is the 2024 Directors' Fortnight Audience Award winner at Cannes Film Festival. Àlex Lora's **THE MASTERPIECE**, was the winner of the Short Film Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival 2024.

"We love having these award-winning films here in Calgary for our audience to experience. In addition to these amazing award winners, CIFF audiences will see a lot of familiar faces. **Aubrey Plaza, Danielle Deadwyler, Melanie Lynskey, Sandra Oh, and Margaret Cho** can be seen in these titles. There are great new films by **Sook-yin Lee** and **Rashida Jones**," said Brian Owens, CIFF's Artistic Director.

"Another cool offering this year is our partnership and participation in **PECHAKUCHA NIGHT #46**, which will explore the theme of LENS. This speaker series is fast-paced and community driven and filled with interesting ideas. We can't wait to see what the night brings and hope you'll be able to join us."

[EVENT DETAILS:](#)

PECHAKUCHA 46: LENS

In partnership with the Calgary International Film Festival

Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 6:45 p.m.

Venue: [Cineplex Chinook](#) – Scotiabank Theatre Chinook

About PKN #46: LENS

Join us for a night of inspiration and connection as we dive into the theme of ‘Lens’ with an incredible lineup of speakers. We all see things uniquely. What lens are you looking through? What's your viewpoint? Explore these questions and more at PechaKucha #46: Lens. As always, each speaker will prepare 20 slides which auto-advance every 20 seconds, giving them a total of 400 seconds to express their view.

FEATURE FILMS 2024

40 ACRES, directed by R.T. Thorne (Canada)

In a famine-decimated near future, the last descendants of African American farmers settled in rural Canada struggle to safeguard their farm against those hell-bent on taking it. *Alberta Premiere.*

BLACK DOG, directed by Hu Guan (China)

On the edge of the Gobi Desert in Northwest China, Lang returns to his hometown after being released from jail. *Canadian Premiere.*

WINNER: Un Certain Regard Award, Cannes Film Festival

CAN I GET A WITNESS, directed by Ann Marie Fleming (Canada)

In a future where we've solved all the world problems, but humans must end life at 50, and teenage artists must document it. *Alberta Premiere.*

DAHOMEY, directed by Mati Diop (France/Senegal/Benin)

Winner of the coveted Golden Bear at the 2024 Berlin Film Festival, DAHOMEY is an affecting though altogether singular conversation piece that is as spellbinding as it is essential. *Alberta Premiere.*

WINNER: Golden Bear, Berlin International Film Festival 2024

DISCO'S REVENGE, directed by Omar Majeed and Peter Mishara (Canada)

DISCO'S REVENGE is a pulsating deep dive into the very soul of disco music and its impact across genres and history, as told by the people who lived it.

Alberta Premiere.

FAMILY THERAPY, directed by Sonja Prosenc (Slovenia/Italy/Croatia/Norway/Serbia)

A seemingly perfect family's life is thrown into disarray when a young stranger arrives, exposing their hidden fears, flaws, and dreams, and unravelling the deep-seated dysfunction in their relationships. *Canadian Premiere.*

THE GIRL WITH THE NEEDLE, directed by Magnus von Horn (Denmark/Sweden/Poland)

A young, pregnant factory worker takes on the job of a wet-nurse for a woman in order to escape poverty. Under a fake storefront, the woman runs a hidden adoption agency. *Alberta Premiere.*

GRIFFIN IN SUMMER, directed by Nicholas Colia (United States)

Fourteen-year-old Griffin Nafly is the most ambitious playwright of his generation. But once he meets local handyman Brad, his life (and play) will never be the same. *Canadian Premiere.*

WINNER: Best U.S. Narrative Feature and Best Screenplay U.S. Narrative Feature, Tribeca Film Festival

HOME FREE, directed by Avi Ronn Federgreen (Canada)

Three estranged sisters return to their childhood home to learn their father is dying; his final wish of repairing familial relations before he passes sends everyone into a whirlwind of long-lost secrets and personal conflict. *Alberta Premiere.*

THE ISLAND BETWEEN TIDES, directed by Austin Andrews and Andrew Homes (Canada)

A young woman follows a mysterious melody onto a remote tidal island. When she crosses back over at the next low tide, she emerges into a world where 25 years have passed. *Canadian Premiere.*

LARRY (THEY/THEM), directed by Catherine Legault (Canada)

A look at the intimate world of young non-binary trans photographer Laurence Philomène as they put together their first book, PUBERTY, a series of self-portraits documenting their transition during hormone therapy. *World Premiere.*

LUCKY STAR, directed by Gillian McKercher (Canada)

When reformed gambler Lucky falls victim to a tax scam, he returns to playing poker to make the money back. *Alberta Premiere.*

MATT AND MARA, directed by Kazik Radwanski (Canada)

A young professor struggles in her marriage, only to reunite with Matt (Matt Johnson), a man from her past who wanders onto her university campus. *Alberta Premiere.*

THE MILKY WAY, directed by Maya Kenig (Israel/France)

A dystopic dark comedy about a human breast milk bank. *Canadian Premiere.*

MONICA'S NEWS, directed by Pamela Gallant (Canada)

In 1974, in a small repressive village, an intrepid nine-year-old girl wages a battle for equal rights, but sees her idealism crushed when her beloved feminist cousin is murdered. *Alberta Premiere*.

MY OLD ASS, directed by Megan Park (Canada/United States)

A mushroom trip brings free-spirited Elliott face-to-face with her 39-year-old self. But when Elliott's "old ass" delivers warnings to her younger self, Elliott realizes she has to rethink everything about her family, life, and love.

NEW WAVE, directed by Elizabeth Ai (United States/Vietnam)

Mile-high hair. Synthesized sounds. Teenage rebellion. Elizabeth Ai was on a mission to excavate an untold story of rebellious punks in the chaotic world of 80s Vietnamese new wave, until she uncovered a hidden past. *Alberta Premiere*.

NOCTURNES, directed by Anirban Dutta and Anupama Srinivasan (India)

In the dense forests of the Eastern Himalayas, moths are whispering something to us. In the dark of night, two curious observers shine a light on this secret universe. *Alberta Premiere*.

ONE MUST WASH EYES, directed by Sepideh Yadegar (Canada)

A timely drama about Sahar, an international student from Iran who struggles to stay in Canada after her visa is compromised when she participates in the women-led revolution in Iran. *Alberta Premiere*.

PAYING FOR IT, directed by Sook-Yin Lee (Canada)

When a painfully introverted cartoonist's girlfriend wants to redefine their relationship, he begins sleeping with sex workers and discovers a new kind of intimacy in the process. *Alberta Premiere*.

THE QUIET MAID, directed by Miguel Faus (Spain)

A Colombian maid works tirelessly at a luxurious mansion in Spain, where a wealthy family spends their summer. Under false promises of decent conditions, she will strive to remain obedient and discreet. *Canadian Premiere*.

REALLY HAPPY SOMEDAY, directed by J Stevens (Canada)

Z, a transmasculine theatre performer, bombs a pivotal musical theatre audition, unable to control his voice after starting testosterone 12 months earlier. To save his own life and livelihood, Z must rediscover himself and his voice. *Alberta Premiere*.

SCARED SHITLESS, directed by Vivieno Caldinelli (Canada)

A plumber and his germophobic son are forced to get their hands dirty to save the residents of an apartment building, when a genetically engineered bloodthirsty creature escapes into the plumbing system. *Alberta Premiere*.

SEEDS, directed by Kaniehtiiio Horn (Canada)

After landing her first influencer gig, Ziggy is called back to the rez. Once back home, she begins a battle to preserve her people's history and discovers her inner strength. *Alberta Premiere.*

STORIES WE HAVE EARNED: THE STONEY NAKODA FILM PROJECT, directed by Cody Lefthand (Canada)

Examines the exploitation of the Stoney Nakoda people's culture and customs for entertainment purposes through their involvement in Banff Indian Days, the Calgary Stampede, and the dozens of Hollywood films they participated in. *World Premiere.*

TO A LAND UNKNOWN, directed by Mahdi Fleifel (United Kingdom/Palestine/France/Greece/Netherlands/Qatar/Saudi Arabia/Germany)

A Palestinian refugee living on the fringes of society in Athens gets ripped off by a smuggler and sets out to seek revenge. *Alberta Premiere.*

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE, directed by Matthew Rankin (Canada)

An absurdist triptych of seemingly unconnected stories finds a mysterious point of intersection in Matthew Rankin's autobiographical fever dream, set somewhere between Winnipeg and Tehran. *Alberta Premiere.*

WINNER: Directors' Fortnight Audience Award at Cannes Film Festival

WE FORGOT TO BREAK UP, directed by Karen Knox (Canada)

A band of misfits ditches their small town to chase their dreams as indie rock gods in the big city. *Alberta Premiere.*

SHORT FILMS 2024

AMARELA, directed by André Hayato Saito (Brazil)

AND GRANNY WOULD DANCE, directed by Maryam Mohajer (United Kingdom)

THE ASSISTANT, directed by Pierre Llanos (Peru)

BATH BOMB, directed by Colin G Cooper (Canada)

BEAUPRÉ THE GIANT, directed by Alain Fournier (Canada)

THE BLEACHER, directed by Nicole Daddona and Adam Wilder (United States)

BOUSSA (THE KISS), directed by Azedine Kasri (France/Algeria)

THE BROWN DOG, directed by Nadia Hallgren and Jamie-James Medina (United States)

BUG DINER, directed by Phoebe Jane Hart (United States)

COASTAL COMMUNITY CENTRE'S FLUFFY FRIEND, directed by Hannah Sy (Canada)

DRIER DOWN HERE, directed by Christopher Lorenz (Canada)

DYNASTY AND DESTINY, directed by Travis Lee Ratcliff (United States)

ENTROPIC MEMORY, directed by Nicolas Brault (Canada)
A FAMILY GUIDE TO HUNTING, directed by Zao Wang (United States)
HAPPY THANKSGIVING, directed by ishkwaazhe Shane McSauby (United States)
HELLO STRANGER, directed by Amélie Hardy (Canada)
IT'S NOT ME, directed by Leos Carax (France)
KOWLOON!, directed by Mona Xia and Erin Ramirez (United States)
THE MASTERPIECE, directed by Àlex Lora (Spain)
MERMAIDS, directed by Sarah Malléon (Martinique)
THE MIRACLE, directed by Nienke Deutz (Belgium)
A MOMENT LOST, directed by Cole Joliat (Canada)
MOTHERS & MONSTERS, directed by Edith Jorisch (Canada)
PALESTINE ISLANDS, directed by Nour Ben Salem and Julien Menanteau (Palestine)
PASTRANA, directed Melissa Brogni and Gabriel Motta (Brazil)
PEARL TEARS, directed by Noriko Ohsada (Canada/Alberta)
THE PUZZLE PALACE, directed by Jenny Schweitzer Bell and Brian Bell (United States)
QUEEN SIZE, directed by Avril Besson (France)
SHEEP, directed by Hadi Babaeifar (Iran)
A SWIM LESSON, directed by Rashida Jones and Will McCormack (United States)
THEY WILL BE GONE, directed by Claudia Nader (Lebanon)
VOLCELEST, directed by Eric Briche (France)
what YOU eat, directed by Ryo Sena (Japan)

Stay tuned for **CIFF's Full Festival Lineup Announcement** on **August 28, 2024**.
Single tickets will be on sale September 5, 2024.

For more information, please visit [CIFFcalgary.ca](https://ciffcalgary.ca)

Media Access to film photos and 25th Anniversary CIFF logos [HERE](#).

MEDIA ACCREDITATION is now open until September 2nd and includes access to Industry Week panels and events. Apply here: <https://vp.eventival.com/ciffcalgary/2024>

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CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival

September 19 – September 29, 2024
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About the Calgary International Film Festival

Founded in 2000, the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that brings films and filmmakers from around the world to Calgary for its annual Fall festival and year-round programming. CIFF is now the largest event of its kind in Alberta and the sixth-largest film festival in Canada, bringing audiences together for remarkable and engaging cinematic experiences. CIFF is proud to present its 25th Anniversary festival from September 19 – September 29, 2024 with in-cinema screenings, celebrating stand-out stories and offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

CIFF Thanks their Presenting Partner



CIFF Thanks their 2024 Public Funders

