



# FASCINASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Winnipeg Program Guide, May 22-25, 2025

The organizers of FascinAsian Film Festival 2025 welcome you! This year, we're excited to have you join us in-person in Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg. **Enjoy the show.** 

#### Thank you to all of our Funders, Sponsors and Partners!











**FONDS DES MÉDIAS** DU CANADA





















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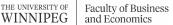


























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Tito Boy Restaurant Little Moons Photography Jeepney Young's Market Masagana Flower Farm & Tinta Studio Basta! Filipino Cuisine P.F. Changs NorthStar Tea Co. True North Sports & Entertainment

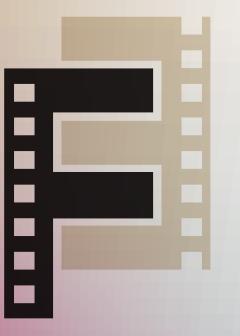
FascinAsian Film Festival envisions a world where North American Asian storytellers, performers, and other film & media creatives can have equal access to resources and opportunities to shape and enhance cultural understanding in an insightful and positive way.

#### Mission

FascinAsian is committed to promoting and celebrating Asian perspectives, culture and integrity in film and media. F3 works to foster understanding and appreciation of Asian arts and culture within the Canadian mosaic.

F3 aims to highlight the talent of local, national, and international Asian filmmakers, performers, and other media arts creatives.

F3 strives to create programming that inspires, educates, and brings the community together in appreciation of the artform and the collective effort by its members.



#### Goals

- To share and highlight stories from the Asian diaspora and feature Asian talent from Canada and around the world.
- To educate and inform audiences about the unique Asian-Manitoban, and Asian-Canadian experience.
- To offer opportunities for education and training in film and media.
- To create an inclusive, safe and fun environment for Asian artists to share and celebrate their work.
- · To create meaningful dialogue about issues of equal opportunity and equity in the media arts.
- To build bridges within the community through partnerships and collaboration.
- · To facilitate a multi-day festival of events, supporting these goals
- To operate an organization that will be fiscally and ethically responsible and sustainable.



# Welcome to the 2025 FascinAsian Film Festival

On behalf of the FascinAsian Film Festival Board of Directors, we are thrilled to welcome you to the 5th annual festival in Winnipeg – 2025, The Year of the Snake, Year of Being Bold! As we continue our mission to celebrate and amplify Asian voices in cinema, this year's programming showcases an extraordinary array of films that highlight the fearlessness, depth, and creativity of Asian filmmakers from Canada and around the world.

## YEAR OF THE SNAKE, YEAR OF BEING BOLD!

Our amazing team has curated another excellent program that reflects the richness of storytelling from an Asian diasporic perspective, while also highlighting exceptional local filmmakers from this strong filmmaking community. This year's lineup features emotional narratives, bold documentaries, and visionary works that push artistic boundaries while exploring themes of identity, belonging, resilience, and cultural heritage.



All of this is accompanied by informative and invaluable discussion panels to take your filmmaking journey to the next level, with wonderful conversations with filmmakers and film professionals. And as usual, we will be hosting fun networking events to further build and solidify our community, with entertainment and delicious food!

Speaking of food, the annual Taste of Asia food festival and Asian Heritage Showcase will be taking place just across the street in Memorial Park the same weekend! Come visit our info tent and play some games, find out more about the festival and its offerings, while tasting what the Taste of Asia has to offer! May is also Asian **Heritage Month**, so what better way to celebrate, than coming out to eat some food, watch a live performance at the showcase, then come inside to catch a movie!

For the second year, FascinAsian is partnering with the Dave Barber Cinematheque to bring you a series of films by acclaimed Japanese arthouse filmmaker, Daisuke Miyazaki. These three films will play from May 30th to June 1st and FascinAsian passholders will get in for free!

Our organization has grown again this year, with a new Edmonton festival joining Calgary and Winnipeg in bringing our communities closer together and spreading our festival's mission! Thank you to the amazing Board of Directors and the teams in each of our cities for their dedication, commitment, passion and energy. This festival could not exist without the grassroots efforts of an expanding family of hard-working volunteer organizers and all the stakeholders who support us. Here's to the best FascinAsian Film Festival yet!



President & Board Chair

## Message from Julie Roy Telefilm CEO

Festivals like FascinAsian Film Festival play a vital role in connecting Canadian cinema with audiences at home and abroad. They showcase our stories, our artists and our creativity, while strengthening the bond between filmmakers and audiences around the world. Canadian cinema plays a key role in shaping and promoting our cultural identity. As audiences seek out stories that resonate with them, festivals bring us together.

At Telefilm Canada, our core mission is to invest in and highlight the importance of film. We support productions every step of the way, from development to distribution, so that Canadian stories are seen and celebrated. By working with our industry partners, we contribute to a strong and vibrant film ecosystem.

Beyond their screenings, festivals are places of dialogue, collaboration and exchange. They bring together professionals, emerging and established talent, as well as film lovers and audiences of all kinds. In pursuing our mission to support Canadian cinema, we recognize that festivals are essential to the vitality of our industry.

We're proud to partner with FascinAsian Film Festival to celebrate the unifying power of cinema. Enjoy the festival!



## Julie Roy

Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada







# Summary

#### Thursday, May 22

◆ The Hive Climbing & Fitness - 960 Lorimer Blvd #7
 9:00 PM ASHIMA (Feature Documentary)

#### Friday, May 23

♥ Film Training Manitoba – 204-245 McDermot Ave.

3:00 PM Panel Discussion:

REEL Careers - FascinAsian Edition!

Ilipvik Learning Steps

Qaumajuq-Inuit Art Centre at the WAG – 300 Memorial Blvd

7:00 PM Opening Night Feature Film

LUCKY STAR

+ Q&A with Writer/Director, Gillian McKercher

9:30 PM Opening Night Reception

### Saturday, May 24

Ilipvik Learning Steps

Qaumajuq-Inuit Art Centre at the WAG - 300 Memorial Blvd

10:00 AM Panel Discussion:

The Business of Showbusiness

11:15 AM A Conversation with Ian Bawa:

Behind the Movies

12:30 PM Case Study:

LUCKY STAR with Gillian McKercher

1:45 PM Shorts Program 1

LOVE AND LOST

4:00 PM Feature Film

PAPER FLOWERS + CAST Q&A

6:30 PM Shorts Program 2

YEAR OF BEING BOLD

8:45 PM Saturday Night Late Show

PIERCE

2:45 PM Yamato (California)

5:00 PM Videophobia

7:00 PM Plastic

### Sunday, May 25

Ilipvik Learning Steps

Qaumajuq-Inuit Art Centre at the WAG – 300 Memorial Blvd

11:30 AM CRAZY TALENTED ASIANS:

An On-Camera Panel Discussion

1:00 PM Shorts Program 3

FAMILY MATTERS

3:15 PM Shorts Program 4

DOC LIFE

5:30 PM Closing Night Film

7 BEATS PER MINUTE + Director Q&A

7:30 PM Closing Night Dinner and Awards Presentation

### Special Programming

#### The Films of Daisuke Miyazaki - Multiple screenings

Friday, May 30 - Sunday, June 1

◆ Dave Barber Cinematheque – 100 Arthur St

Friday, May 30

5:00 PM Plastic

7:30 PM Videophobia

9:30 PM Yamato (California)

Saturday, May 31

2:30 PM Plastic

5:00 PM Plastic

7:15 PM Yamato (California)

9:30 PM Videophobia

Sunday, June 1

2:45 PM Yamato (California)

5:00 PM Videophobia

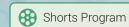
7:00 PM Plastic

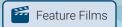




# Schedule







| Time      | Thursday May 22                                       | Friday May 23  | Saturday May 24   | Sunday May 25   |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|
|           |   |  | <ul> <li>Saturday events at<br/>Ilipvik Learning Steps,<br/>Qaumajuq</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Sunday events at<br/>Ilipvik Learning Steps,<br/>Qaumajuq</li> </ul> |
| 10:00 AM  |   |  | ⊙ 10:00 AM−11:00 AM   |   |
|           |   |  | <ul><li>★ Industry Panel:<br/>The Business Of Film<br/>&amp; Media</li></ul>    |   |
| 11:00 AM  |   |  | ⊙ 11:15 AM−12:15 PM   |   |
|           |   |  | ★ Speaker Session In Conversation With  | ⊙ 11:30 AM−12:30 PM   |
| 12:00 PM  |   |  | lan Bawa:<br>Behind the Movies  | ★ Industry Panel<br>Crazy Talented Asians!<br>On Camera Roles                 |
|           |   |  | ● 12:30−1:30 PM   |   |
| 1:00 PM   |   |  | ★ Speaker Session   | ⊙ 1:00−3:00 PM  |
|           |   |  | Case Study:<br>Lucky Star with<br>Gillian Mckercher                             | Shorts Program 3 FAMILY MATTERS 14A   |
| 0.00 51.4 |   |  | ⊙ 1:45−3:45 PM  |   |
| 2:00 PM   |   |  | Shorts Program 1 LOVE AND LOST  |   |
| 3:00 PM   |   | ⊙ 3:00−4:30 PM   | PG  | 0.15 5.15 0.1   |
|           |   | ★ Reel Careers Panel:<br>Fascinasian Edition                 |   | <ul><li>⊙ 3:15−5:15 PM</li><li>⊕ Shorts Program 4</li></ul>                   |
| 4:00 PM   |   | • Film Training Manitoba Office                              | © 4:00−6:00 PM  | DOC LIFE PG   |
|           |   | ⊙ 4:30−5:30 PM   | Feature Film  |   |
| 5:00 PM   |   | ★ Reception  | PAPER FLOWERS Virtual Q&A   |   |
|           |   | Film Training Manitoba Office                                | PG  |   |
|           |   |  |   | ⊙ 5:30−7:30 PM  |
| 6:00 PM   |   | 6:00 PM: Box Office Opens  • Ilivut Entrance Hall - Qaumajuq | 0.000.000.001   | Closing Night Film 7 BEATS PER MINUTE   |
| 7:00 PM   | ⊙ 7:00−9:00PM   | ⊙ 7:00 PM  | <ul><li>⊙ 6:30−8:30 PM</li><li>⊕ Shorts Program 2</li></ul>                     | PG  |
| 7.001101  | Pop-Up Movie Event:                                   | © 7.00 PM  ■ Opening Night Film                              | YEAR OF BEING BOLD  | ⊙ 7:30 PM−10:30 PM  |
| 8:00 PM   | ASHIMA  | LUCKY STAR  Q&A with Writer/Director                         | 14A   | ★ Closing Night Reception   |
|           | <ul><li>The Hive</li><li>2-960 Lorimer Blvd</li></ul> | Gillian McKercher  | ● 8:45−10:45 PM   | & Awards Presentation   |
| 9:00 PM   |   | 14A<br>◆ Ilivut Entrance Hall - Qaumajuq                     | ■ Late Show Feature PIERCE  | ♥ Ilivut Entrance Hall,<br>Qaumajuq   |
|           |   | ⊙ 9:30 PM-Midnight   | 18A   |   |
| 10:00 PM  |   | ★ Opening Night Reception                                    |   |   |
|           |   | • Ilivut Entrance Hall - Qaumajuq                            |   |   |
| 11:00 PM  |   |  |   |   |
|           |   |  |   |   |

# **Box Office**

The Box Office is where you pick up your passes and programs, buy individual film tickets, FascinAsian merchandise, and find other information about the FascinAsian Film Festival. Look for the signs in the lobby of Qaumajuq-WAG!

#### Hours

| <ul> <li>Friday, May 23</li> </ul> | 6:00 PM-10:00 PM |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Saturday, May 24                 | 9:30 AM-9:00 PM  |
| • Sunday, May 25                   | 11:00 AM-8:00 PM |

#### **Festival Prices**

| • Regular Price Festival Pass | \$60      |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| • 25 and Under Pass           | \$25      |
| Senior Pass                   |           |
| Single Tickets                | \$10-\$20 |
| Awards Dinner & Ceremony      |           |

#### Passes & Tickets

Tickets can be purchased online at the festival Eventive site, or at the venue box office. There are a limited number of tickets available, so reserve your tickets early!



#### Pass Holder Advance Tickets

Avoid the rush line and book your tickets in advance!

- Advance tickets can be reserved with your digital pass until an hour before the film screening. You will receive it via email after purchasing your ticket.
- Pass holders must show your pass with your ticket to enter the theatre in the Advance Ticket Holders line.
- It is highly recommended that you arrive 15-20 mins prior to the film screening. We start to fill all empty seats 5 mins before the screening time.

#### Pass Holder Rush Tickets

Didn't reserve an advance ticket with your F3 Pass? No problem! We reserve several of our seats for rush ticket buyers.

- If you don't have an advance ticket for an event, you can always arrive early and join the Rush Ticket Line.
- First come, first served for rush tickets, whether you are a passholder or not.
- We greatly recommend that you purchase/book your ticket in advance.

### Rush tickets and 25 and Under Pass holders

In the event of a sold-out program, a limited number of rush tickets may become available immediately before the show. A separate line for each sold out program will be formed outside the venue box office approximately one hour before showtime. As tickets become available, they will be sold to individuals in line order while supplies last

25 & Under Pass holders can only get seats in the rush line, no advance ticket purchases allowed!

# Refunds and Exchanges and Lost Passes

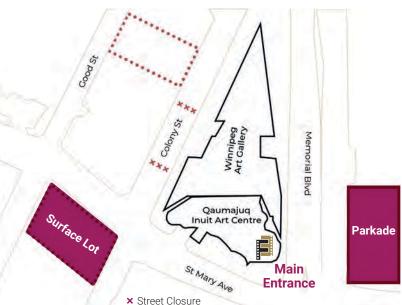
No refunds or exchanges on general admission tickets and special event tickets. Only in the case of program cancellation. Please keep your ticket stub or electronic ticket for a refund.

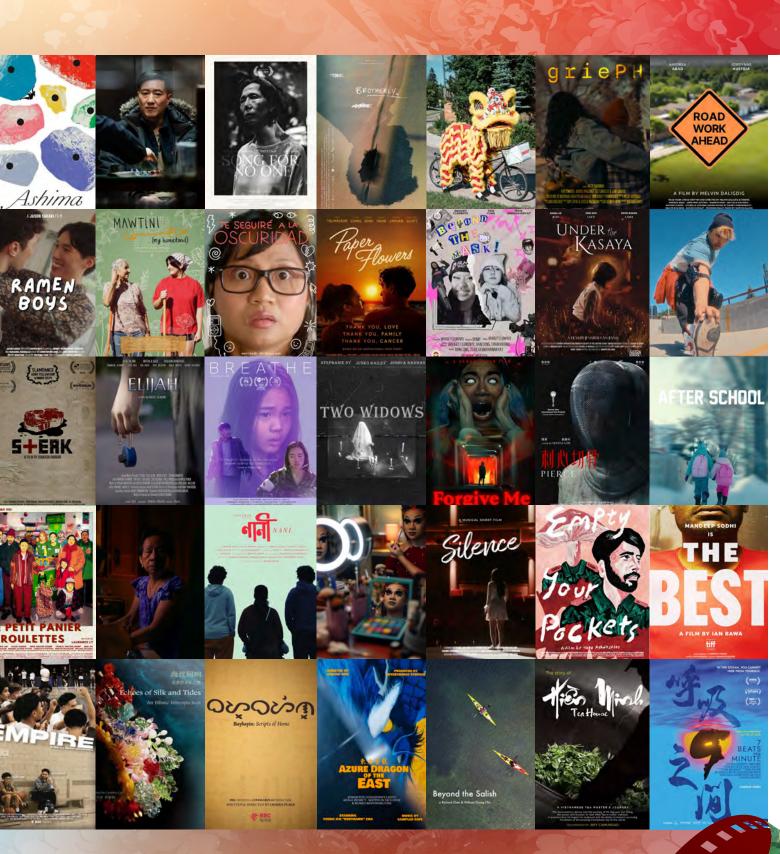


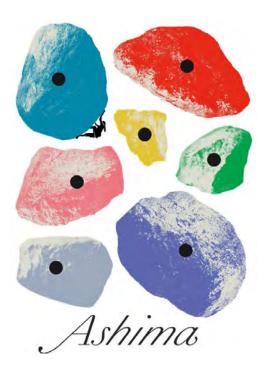


Qaumajuq - Inuit Art Centre at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

300 Memorial Blvd







9:00 PM
SPECIAL PRE-FESTIVAL POP-UP!

Ashima



Tickets: \$10

One of the world's youngest elite rock climbers, Ashima Shiraishi spent her formative years breaking numerous age-based climbing milestones, spurred on by her number one fan and coach, her father, Poppo a retired Butoh dancer and avant-garde performer with no formal climbing experience. When these New Yorkers travel to South Africa to conquer a V14 boulder problem, father and daughter must face their interpersonal struggles in tandem with the challenging ascent.

Director Kenji Tsukamoto
Runtime 86 minutes
Language Japanese & English with English Subtitles

Country of Origin USA Completion Year 2023 Rating G





Sponsored by The Hive Climbing & Fitness, FRANK Gear and the Winnipeg Film Group







3:00-4:30 PM

**Panel Discussion:** 



Join us for a special edition of Film Training Manitoba's REEL Careers Series, featuring a Page of distinguished guests of Asian heritage from the film-making community! The Pageists will share insights into the industry from their unique perspectives. There will be a Q&A portion of the program, and the session will be followed by a networking reception.



### **Panelists**

#### Yuqi Kang Documentary Filmmaker (7 Beats Per Minute – NFB)

Yuqi Kang is a Mongol Chinese Canadian filmmaker. She is driven by a passion for crafting psychological profiles set in extreme circumstances. Her directorial feature debut, A Little Wisdom, premiered at Busan, SXSW, Karlovy Vary and Hot Docs, where it won Best Canadian Feature. It was released by Amazon Prime worldwide. Yuqi was nominated for the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and the Directors Guild of Canada's Discovery Award and was awarded 40 Under 40 by DOC NYC.



#### Quan Luong Cinematographer

Quan Luong is a Vietnamese Canadian filmmaker and cinematographer whose work has been showcased at prestigious film festivals, including Hot Docs, DOC NYC, and the Canadian Film Festival. His television credits include "Finding Diamonds" (CBC Gem), "Almost Unsolved Heists" (Superchannel), and "Taken" (Season 5, APTN), where he travelled across Canada to capture compelling interviews while expertly shooting both studio segments and dramatized recreations.

Known for his efficiency and ability to craft heightened, realistic cinematography, Quan played a pivotal role in photographing the feature film "Don't F\*\*k With Ghosts", executive produced by Kevin Hart. His short-format work includes the acclaimed documentaries "I Hurt Myself" and "Tailor Made", both of which earned Best Short Documentary Cinematography nominations at the Canadian Society of Cinematographers Awards.



### George Orallo Editor

George has been involved in the Manitoba film industry for over 20 years. He is the 1st assistant editor on multiple MOW for Lifetime, Hallmark, GAF and feature films. He has worked in the post-production department on numerous Movies and TV series, most recently, George was the 1st Assistant Picture Editor on the feature film "A Mother" and Guys Maddin's, "Rumours". Orallo also directs and edits Indie and Short Films. He has worked with Frantic Films in Winnipeg as the editor in the Branded Content and Commercial Division and recently branched out into directing. George also mentors those interested in post-production independently through Film Training Manitoba.



#### Jesse Miki Award-winning Producer and Consultant, Edmonton

Jesse Miki has been working in the film industry for 14 years and has been a part of countless productions. He first got his start in the industry as a graphics person and now works as art director. He's currently working on Acting Good season 4, and in his spare time enjoys teaching at MTYP and producing the DnD improv show every year at the Winnipeg fringe festival. He's got talent and moxy, wow what a cool guy!



Moderated by Alan Wong FascinAsian President

Presented in Partnership with Film Training Manitoba



O Ilipvik Learning Steps, Qaumajug - Inuit Art Centre at the WAG



Proudly sponsored by the Director's Guild of Canada Manitoba District



#### 7:00 PM **OPENING NIGHT FILM Tickets: \$20**

# Lucky Star + Director Q&A

When reformed gambler Lucky falls victim to a tax scam, he returns to playing poker to make the money back. Meanwhile, his family tries to make ends meet by resorting to their own morally dubious strategies. Lucky Star is a family drama about fatherly love, deceit, and redemption, and a slice of life from the Chinese-prairie diaspora.

Gillian McKercher Director Runtime 85 minutes Language English Country of Origin Canada Completion Year 2024 Genre Drama Rating 14A



#### Gillian Mckercher **Writer and Director**

Gillian McKercher is a Canadian writer, director, producer, and co-founder of Kino Sum Productions. Gillian's first feature film as writer/director. Circle of Steel, won an Audience Award at the 2018 Calgary International Film Festival. She developed her sophomore feature film, Lucky Star, while a director resident at the Canadian Film Centre and with the additional support of the CFC/Netflix Project Development Accelerator and Harold Greenberg Fund. Orphaned, a documentary on oil well cleanup which she wrote, directed, and stars in, is streaming on CBC Gem.

Through Kino Sum, she has produced numerous short films, music videos, and documentaries for other filmmakers, premiering at festivals like Fantastic Fest, Vancouver International Film Festival, and imagineNative Film + Media Arts Festival. Commercially, she has worked with clients like Bytedance, Telus, and Karhu Shoes. Gillian's work often explores family, labour, and the intersection of energy and the environment. She has a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Calgary and was awarded a Young Artist Prize from the Alberta Foundation from the Arts when she was an emerging filmmaker.





## ★ Opening Night Reception

Join us for the FascinAsian 2025 Opening Night Reception in Ilavut Entrance Hall following the screening



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



**FONDS DES MÉDIAS** 

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# Saturday, May 24

♦ Ilipvik Learning Steps, Qaumajuq - Inuit Art Centre at the WAG 300 Memorial Blvd

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

**Panel Discussion:** 

# ★ The Business of Showbusiness

Get an insider's look at the business side of filmmaking in this engaging industry Page. From financing and producing to marketing and publicity, our expert Panelists will share their experiences and strategies for getting films made, seen, and sold. This conversation offers valuable insights into the behind-the-scenes work that brings stories to audiences around the world.





### **Panelists**

#### Grace Park Publicist, Social Grace Communications Inc.

My career in entertainment publicity began over 24 years ago when I moved from Vancouver to Toronto to earn a post-diploma in Corporate Communications. A student placement at the Toronto International Film Festival opened doors to Astral Media's The Movie Network and Global Television. Each role gave me invaluable hands-on experience and the chance to collaborate with key industry players in fast-paced, creative environments.

In 2013, I returned home and launched Social Grace Communications Inc., which led to my first unit publicity role with ICG 669. I've since worked on projects including *The Romeo Section, A Series of Unfortunate Events, Family Law, Snowpiercer, Joy Ride, and Woman of the Hour.* I also serve on ICG 669's e-board as Publicity MAL.



#### Liz Jarvis Buffalo Gal Pictures

Liz Jarvis has worked in the film industry for over 35 years. She joined Buffalo Gal Pictures in 1995 and is an experienced producer, business affairs executive, post-production producer, and assistant director. Her first feature, Seven Times Lucky, premiered at Sundance in 2004. She co-produced You're Killing Me, Susana, Borealis, Mad Ship, The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom, and High Life. She also co-produced Amreeka, which screened at Sundance and Cannes, winning the FIPRESCI Critics Prize. Liz worked on The Stone Angel with Kari Skogland and was Production Executive for Sean Penn's Flag Day. She produced Rumours, which premiered at Cannes 2024. Liz teaches Producing for Film at the University of Winnipeg.



#### Kay Rondonneau NFB

Kay Rondonneau (she/her) is currently a Senior Marketing Advisor, International Market and Theatrical Release, at the National Film Board of Canada, overseeing the release of documentaries such as *Siksikakowan: The Blackfoot Man* (NFB, 2025), *7 Beats Per Minute* (Intuitive Pictures/NFB, 2024), *Anything For Fame* (North of Now/NFB, 2023), *Kimmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy* (Seen Through Woman/NFB, 2021), among others. Kay is based in Vancouver, BC and has worked in documentary marketing and distribution for over 15 years.



#### Kyle Bornais Farpoint Films

Kyle Bornais is the CEO and co-founder of Farpoint Films, Farpoint Distribution and Refuge 31 Films. Selected projects he has produced include the feature films Aberdeen, Levels, The Swearing Jar, Wintertide, From The Vine, Sorry For Your Loss and Room For Rent, as well as the documentary series' Ancient Bodies: Secrets Revealed, Ghosts off Grid, Cruise Ship Killers, The Illegal Eater, Ice Vikings and The Medicine Line; and the feature documentaries Wandering Barber, Raw Almond, The Devil's Handshake, Seeking Fire, Bachman, We're The Weakerthans; We're From Winnipeg and The Science Fiction Makers. He lives in Winnipeg with his wife and two children.



### Hosted by Ava Jerao

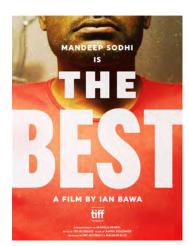
Ava (she/her) is a marketing professional with over 14 years of experience spanning non-profits, B2B, and B2C sectors in Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg. Based in Treaty 1 Territory, she currently serves as a Marketing Instructor in the Department of Applied Commerce and Management Education at Red River College Polytech.

In addition to teaching, Ava provides freelance marketing services to small businesses and entrepreneurs. She is also passionate about social and environmental sustainability and lends her skills to support D'Arcy's Animal Rescue Centre through fundraising and marketing initiatives. Outside of work, she's an avid consumer of pop culture, enjoying everything from books and television to films to podcasts.

Presented in Partnership with the University of Winnipeg Faculty of Business and Economics



Faculty of Business and Economics





11:15 AM This event is FREE to the public

# \* A Conversation with Ian Bawa: Behind the Movies

Join CBC's Faith Fundal for an introspective look at filmmaker-on-the-rise, lan Bawa's journey from short filmmaker to television creator, to Director's Lab participant at the prestigious Canadian Film Centre, to recently completing production on his first feature film.

This hour-long conversation with Ian will also feature two Manitoba Premieres; a special profile video on Ian produced through CBC's Creator Network, and two short films by Bawa - Strong Son, followed by a clip from the feature with the same name, and his latest. The Best!

Content Warning: Offensive Language

#### **Profile Video Crew:**

Producer/Director: Sidney Phommarath Cinematographer: Vince Tang Editor: Tommy Inthirath Sound: Toby Zheng

Presented in partnership with CBC Manitoba





## Ian Singh Bawa Director Biography

Kamloops and Prince George.

Hosted by Faith Fundal CBC Radio

inspired by Faith's own journey exploring gender identity.

Ian Bawa is a South Asian filmmaker from Winnipeg, Manitoba. He's best known for his films Offline, The Champ, Imitations, and Tapeworm. His short 'Strong Son' premiered at 2020 Toronto International Film Festival. His last film, 'My Son Went Quiet,' premiered at the 2024 Slamdance Film Festival and 2024 Fantasia Film Festival. Ian is the director and host of SuperChannel's feature documentary, 'Seeking Fire', and the CBC Gem documentary series 'Finding Diamond', which also stars and is co-hosted by lan's dog, Diamond. In 2024, Ian won the Hot Docs/Doc Institute Breakthrough pitch contest for his feature documentary, Brown Envelope, which also awarded him a development deal with CBC for the film.

Faith Fundal is host of CBC Manitoba's Up to Speed, bringing you the day's top local, national and

international stories. Faith is an award-winning News and Current Affairs multimedia journalist

Faith is also host of They & Us, a national award-winning podcast from CBC British Columbia,

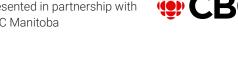
Institute of Technology Broadcast and Media Communications Journalism program. Prior

to joining CBC in 2008, they worked as a writer, radio reporter and news reader in Vancouver,

Born in the Philippines and raised in Metro Vancouver, Faith is a graduate of the British Columbia

well known for getting to the heart of stories that spark meaningful conversation.

Ian is an alumni of the 2021 TIFF Filmmakers Lab, 2021 ReelWorld E20 Lab, 2021 Netflix's Diversity of Voices Initiative, and in 2023 completed his residency at the Norman Jewison Canadian Film Center - Director's Lab. lan's latest short film, 'The Best,' will have its World Premiere at the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival. He is the recent recipient of Telefilm's Talent to Watch program, to which awarded him funding for his first feature film, 'Strong Son,' set to shoot in the fall of 2024.





This event is FREE to the public

# Case Study: Lucky Star with Gillian McKercher

What does it take to make a movie? Join host, Jessica Gibson and Writer/Director, Gillian McKercher as they break down Gillian's feature, Lucky Star as a case study on getting a film from page to screen!

Presented in partnership with On Screen Manitoba



#### Hosted by Jessica Gibson OSM Board Member

Jessica is a manager of programs and development at the National Screen Institute. Prior to that she spent the last decade building a successful career as a film and television producer and production manager. Jessica also serves as a Board Member of FascinAsian Film Festival.



# Saturday, May 24

Ollipvik Learning Steps, Qaumajuq - Inuit Art Centre at the WAG

1:45-3:45 PM





MEDIA FUND DU CANADA

#### **SHORTS PROGRAM 1**

A selection of 8 short films about love, relationships, and loss. Moving and thought-provoking, with a bit of humour sprinkled in-between, these wonderful Canadian (and one American) films will fill your soul with the highs and lows, the yin and the yang of life.

Tickets: \$12



## Song For No One

From his apartment in Brooklyn, Gene hosts an independent radio show to platform his music in hopes of one day finding a dedicated audience. Instead, his radio show reaches his recently deceased mother, Sook-Ja, in the after life, through a radio powered by the stationary bikes that Sook-Ja and her interpreter, Han-Sol, ride each day.

| Director | Liam Ma                         | Country of Origin | United States |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime  | 6:23                            | Completion Year   | 2024          |
| Language | American Sign Language, English | Rating            | 14A           |
| Genre    | Drama                           |                   |               |



## **Brotherly**

A deeply personal film inspired by true events, "Brotherly" follows two brothers grappling with mental illness and the complexities of euthanasia. When one brother makes a life-altering decision, the other must confront his own beliefs and navigate the emotional turmoil of their shared journey.

Adapted from a screenplay that won the Writers Guild of Canada prize at SODEC's Cours Écrire ton Court (Sprint for your Script) competition, this powerful drama offers a nuanced exploration of a timely and challenging subjects through the unique lens of South Asian Canadian brothers in middle age.

| Director | Gavin Seal | Country of Origin | Canada        |
|----------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime  | 8:43       | Completion Year   | 2024          |
| Language | English    | Rating            | 14A           |
| Genre    | Drama      | Content Warning   | Mature themes |



### **Takeout**

A strange new immigrant searches for community in his strange new home.

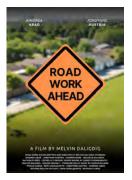
| Director | Ginger Beef | Country of Origin | Canada |
|----------|-------------|-------------------|--------|
| Runtime  | 5:42        | Completion Year   | 2024   |
| Language | No Dialogue | Genre/Rating      | G      |
| Conro    | Drama Danoo |                   |        |



## griePH

An introverted Filipinx (a non-binary Filipino) returns to their hometown on a work trip. Excited to reunite with their best friend, their journey redirects to sudden loss, grief, and inability to cope.

| Director | MC de Natividad | Country of Origin | Canada     |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Runtime  | 17:31           | Completion Year   | 2025       |
| Language | English         | Rating            | 14A        |
| Genre    | Drama           | Content Warning   | Mature the |



#### Road Work Ahead

Aindrea and Jordynne's girls trip takes an unexpected turn when they run over a stranger with their car. Now dealing with the consequences of their actions they must figure out what to do without drawing suspicion

| Director | Melvin Daligdig  | Country of Origin | Canada |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Runtime  | 2:59             | Completion Year   | 2024   |
| Language | English, Spanish | Rating            | PG     |
| Genre    | Comedy           |                   |        |



## Ramen Boys

Kevin finally takes a chance to connect with James, the lifeguard he's admired from afar, leading to an extremely expected first kiss and a summer of love and laughter.

| Director | Jason Sakaki    | Country of Origin | Canada        |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime  | 13:20           | Completion Year   | 2024          |
| Language | English         | Rating            | 14A           |
| Genre    | Comedy, Romance | Content Warning   | Strong Langua |



## Mawtini (My Homeland)

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

| Director  | Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller | Country of Origin | Canada           |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Runtime   | 18:46                      | Completion Year   | 2023             |
| Language  | Arabic, English            | Rating            | 14A              |
| Subtitles | English                    | Content Warning   | Strong Language, |
| Genre     | Drama                      |                   | Cannabis use     |



## Te Seguiré a la Oscuridad

A driven high school sophomore obsessively studies Spanish all year so she can test up a level into her crush's class in this stylized coming of age comedy set in 2005.

| Director | Nicholas Luciano | Country of Origin | United State |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Runtime  | 10:19            | Completion Year   | 2024         |
| Language | English, Spanish | Rating            | G            |
| Genre    | Comedy           |                   |              |







#### 4:00 PM FEATURE FILM

# Paper Flowers

Based on a true story, Paper Flowers picks up recent USC graduate and Peace Corps volunteer Shah (Talwalkar) as he receives a terminal cancer diagnosis, embarking on a mission to live his remaining life to the fullest.

Director(s) Mahesh Pailoor
Runtime 101 minutes
Language English
Country of Origin United States
Completion Year 2024
Genre Drama
Rating PG



## Mahesh Pailoor Director

Mahesh Pailoor is an award-winning filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Raised in a seaside town in Maine to immigrant Indian parents, Mahesh's films often grapple with divergent notions of South Asian identity. His work has been championed at festivals and institutions, including SXSW, Cannes Lions and the Smithsonian. Pailoor directed and co-wrote the acclaimed independent feature film "Brahmin Bulls" which The New York Times praised as a "warm debut". He has also directed multiple episodes of marquee shows like NBC's "The Blacklist" and CBS's "S.W.A.T." showcasing his versatility across genres. Mahesh is an alumnus of the NBC Emerging Director Program, Disney's TV Directing Program, Berlinale Talent Campus, and Film Independent's Screenwriting Lab and Project:Involve. He is a graduate of NYU Tisch and earned an MFA in directing from the American Film Institute. Pailoor's latest feature "Paper Flowers" is based on the viral Huffington Post article, "Thank You, Cancer" and captures an Indian American's poetic meditation on mortality after a terminal cancer diagnosis, further representing an evolving diaspora experience.

## Cast Q&A

This screening will be followed by a virtual Q&A with stars, Olivia Liang and Kapil Talwalkar. Hosted by CBC's Iris Yudai.



#### Olivia Liang Actor

Olivia Liang is an actress best known for her roles on the CW as Nicky Shen in the Warner Bros. Produced series "Kung Fu", and as Alyssa Chang in the Vampire Diaries spinoff "Legacies". Her portrayal of Nicky Shen earned her two nominations for "Best Actress in an Action Series" at the Critics Choice Super Awards with IndieWire also naming her one of the "Breakthrough Performances" in TV. Born and raised in Southern California, Olivia resides in Los Angeles with a less than healthy addiction to Hot Cheetos and matcha. She is repped by M88 and Prototype.



Kapil Talwalkar Actor

Kapil Talwalkar is an Indian American actor known for his starring roles on NBC's Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist, Night Court, and CW's Charmed. He will be seen next in Peacock's horror comedy The Burbs alongside Keke Palmer. He is repped by Industry Entertainment.



### Hosted by Iris Yudai

Iris is a Senior Advisor with Content Development for CBC News, where she spends most of her time helping creative teams lean into change. She's an award-winning programmer with decades of experience in launching, refreshing and sustaining shows. You might have caught her name in the credits of shows like Now or Never, DNTO, Absolutely Manitoba and Recovering Filipino. She's committed to championing underrepresented voices and mentoring the next generation of leaders and storytellers.



# Saturday, May 24

Ilipvik Learning Steps, Qaumajuq - Inuit Art Centre at the WAG 300 Memorial Blvd

6:30-8:30 PM



#### **SHORTS PROGRAM 2**

The Year of the Snake - Year of Being Bold. Join us for eight BOLD short films that are not for the faint of heart.

Co-presented with Canada Media Fund



Tickets: \$12



## Beyond the Mask

Unmasking stereotypes in Alternative Subcultures is a is an engaging participatory documentary featuring two inspiring high school graduates starting in their industry. It showcases their journey of self-expression as they challenge and deconstruct stereotypes. Meet Natalie, who is passionate about education, and Bridget, who is dedicated to filmmaking. Stay tuned as Bridget explores the truth behind these stereotypes in her local scene.

| Director | Bridget Hans Jose Clemente | Country of Origin | Canada |
|----------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Runtime  | 12:48                      | Completion Year   | 2024   |
| Language | English                    | Rating            | G      |
| Genre    | Documentary                |                   |        |



## **Under The Kasaya**

After an unexpected interaction with her Buddhist mentor, 14-year-old Jean faces a terrifying dilemma: to stay silent, or to risk it all by confessing the ugly truth to her deeply devout Buddhist mother.

| Director  | Jennifer Fan Jiang | Country of Origin | Canada      |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Runtime   | 14:56              | Completion Year   | 2024        |
| Language  | Chinese            | Rating            | 14A         |
| Subtitles | English            | Content Warning   | Mature Them |
| Genre     | Drama              |                   |             |



## Footin'

A modern day poet who writes inside of society's lines. A skateboarding video minus the skateboard.

| Director | Luke Roach        | Country of Origin | Canada |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Runtime  | 3:00              | Completion Year   | 2024   |
| Language | English           | Rating            | PG     |
| Genre    | Comedy, Absurdist |                   |        |



## The Steak

On an ordinary day, a mother prepares a cake and food for her daughter's birthday.

| Director | Kiarash Dadgar | Country of Origin | Canada, Islamic Republic of Iran |
|----------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Runtime  | 8:00           | Completion Year   | 2024                             |
| Language | No Language    | Rating            | 14A                              |
| Genre    | Drama, War     | Content Warning   | Mature Themes                    |
|          |                |                   |                                  |



## Elijah

Haider, a Bengali Muslim taxi driver faces the reality that the American Dream may never be his. Grueling hours, rude customers, a collapse in medallion values and suicides among fellow drivers continually chip away at his hope for the future. Under this backdrop, crisis spills into his family life as his daughter, Shoshi, is consumed by her own struggle, a desire to live life fully as man in a trans-phobic immigrant culture. While Haider had never been knowledgeable or supportive of LGBTQ rights and issues, starts to change as he does not want to lose his only child, whom he loves more than life itself.

| Director(s) | Razid Season               | Country of Origin | United States |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime     | 19:00                      | Completion Year   | 2024          |
| Language    | Bengali, English subtitles | Rating            | 14A           |
| Genre       | Drama                      | Content Warning   | Mature them   |



## **Breathe**

In a future war, A defecting soldier is faced with caring for an orphan she encounters as they try to escape a dictatorship.

| Director(s) | Andrew Chiu | Country of Origin | Canada      |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Runtime     | 11:52       | Completion Year   | 2024        |
| Language    | English     | Rating            | 14A         |
| Genre       | Drama       | Content Warning   | Mature then |



## Two Widows

A woman is given the chance to reunite with the man whom she mourns.

| Director(s) | Sidney Phommarath       | Country of Origin | Canada |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Runtime     | 3:21                    | Completion Year   | 2024   |
| Language    | No Dialogue             | Rating            | 14A    |
| Genre       | Drama, Romance, Tragedy |                   |        |



## Forgive Me

Horror, Drama

Genre

Jessica is the only Asian girl in her American suburb. While navigating cultural expectations and casual racism, she is stalked by a menacing shadow with a tragic past

| Director(s) | Cameron Sun               | Country of Origin | Canada                              |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Runtime     | 9:00                      | Completion Year   | 2024                                |
| Language    | English, Mandarin Chinese | Rating            | 14A                                 |
| Subttitles  | English                   | Content Warning   | Strong Language, Frightening Scenes |

11:30 AM This event is FREE to the public

# \*

# Crazy Talented Asians: An On-Camera Page Discussion

WINNIPEG'S GOT TALENT! Join us for an informative discussion about the art of performing on camera, the different types of roles there are, and what it takes to book. Whether you're an actor, stunt performer, or want to try being an extra, this Page will provide the information you need to get started and excel!



## **Panelists**

#### Alan Castanaga Actor/Stunt Performer

A University of Winnipeg Theatre and Film graduate (2011), Alan Castanaga is a Winnipeg-based stunt performer known for Nobody, Violent Night, and Fractured, with upcoming roles in The Long Walk and Clown in a Cornfield. An ACTRA member, Muay Thai practitioner, and Rick Skene student, Alan has worked in film, TV, and theatre for 16 years.



#### Leah Erum Background Casting Director

Leah has over 20 years of experience in Winnipeg's film and television industry, specializing in extras casting. Since starting at Kari Casting in 2004, she's worked on a range of Canadian, American, and international productions. Originally from Manila, Leah immigrated to Canada at 12 and brings a passion for inclusive storytelling. She's also assisted in principal casting and supports local casting directors. Leah enjoys participating in panels that celebrate diversity and community in the film industry.



### Mandeep Sodhi Actor/Filmmaker

Mandeep Sodhi is an actor based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, who has been fortunate to work in various areas of filmmaking, including writing, cinematography, editing, and teaching. In his free time, he enjoys creating personal projects, using them as opportunities to keep learning and growing. Through years of experience in different aspects of film production, he has developed a deep appreciation for the many roles that come together to bring a story to life. Mandeep's latest role is the lead in lan Bawa's feature film, *Strong Son*.



## Stephanie Sy Actor/Singer

Stephanie Sy (she/they) is a Filipino Chinese Canadian Actor, Producer, Director, and Writer from Winnipeg (Treaty No.1 Territory). Starting in musical theatre across North America, she transitioned to film/TV in 2016 with credits including *Violent Night, Fubar, Nobody, The Porter, Burden of Truth*, and more. She Co-Directed *DJ Burnt Bannock* (APTN), Executive Produced *Finality of Dusk.* She was of the 2021 recipients of the Harold Greenberg Fund where she wrote, directed & produced her very first short film, *Knots* 



### Hosted by Tommy Inthirath

Tommy Inthirath is a Winnipeg-based Producer and Post-Production Editor. With a Broadcast Media Diploma, he works in film and online content creation. He co-founded the FascinAsian Film Festival, where he serves as Technical Coordinator. The festival highlights and celebrates Asian perspectives, culture, and integrity in film and media.

Presented in partnership with ACTRA Manitoba





#### 8:45 PM SATURDAY NIGHT LATE SHOW



Rating

When his beloved but dangerous older brother is released from prison, high school fencer Zijie believes he is innocent and goes behind their mother's back to help him, only to realize the brother he has idealized might only be a fantasy.

Cast: Liu Hsiu-Fu, Tsao Yu-Ning, Ding Ning

Awards: Best Director - Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

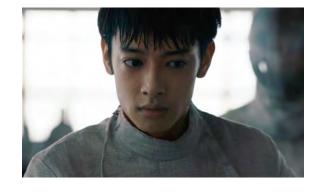
Content Warning: Depictions of violence and murder

Filmmaker Nelicia Low
Runtime 109 minutes
Language English, Mandarin
Subtitles English
Country of Origin Taiwan
Completion Year 2024
Genre Drama/Thriller

18A









# Sunday, May 25

Ilipvik Learning Steps, Qaumajug - Inuit Art Centre at the WAG 300 Memorial Blvd

1:00-3:00 PM





#### **SHORTS PROGRAM 3**

For better or for worse, it's true that blood is thicker than water. These 8 short films pay homage to the loving, complex, and sometimes annoying relationships we have with family members.

Tickets: \$12



## **After School**

After School is a drama about young sisters who are newcomers to Canada who, due to the long hours their parents work, often end up alone after school. During this time, they explore Winnipeg's downtown area, despite their parents' instructions to go straight home.

| Director  | Faustina Dalmacio | Country of Origin | Canada        |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime   | 8:59              | Completion Year   | 2023          |
| Language  | English, Tagalog  | Genre             | Drama, Comedy |
| Subtitles | Tagalog           | Pating            | C             |



## The Little Shopping Trolley

Living on a shoestring in Montreal, a Vietnamese mother must act in bad faith to assert her right to buy 12 discount laundry detergents that she's been refused at a grocery store. A little Christmas story of family and capitalism.

| Director              | Laurence Ly                   | Country of Origin         | Canada          |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Runtime               | 19:00                         | Completion Year           | 2024            |
| Language<br>Subtitles | French, Vietnamese<br>English | Rating<br>Content Warning | 14A<br>Language |
| Genre                 | Drama, Social                 | -                         |                 |



## I Want To Be A Princess

Lola and his grandson cook chicken adobo together

| Director | Nathan Flores    | Country of Origin | Canada |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Runtime  | 7:00             | Completion Year   | 2024   |
| Language | English, Tagalog | Genre/Rating      | PG     |
| Genre    | Documentary      |                   |        |



### NANI

As Ramadan draws to a close, a young woman returns home, stirring up buried tensions and unspoken truths that refuse to stay in the past.

| Director  | Mainak Dhar               | Country of Origin | United States |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime   | 9:44                      | Completion Year   | 2024          |
| Language  | Bengali, English, Spanish | Rating            | PG            |
| Subtitles | English                   | Content Warning   | Strong Langua |
| Genre     | Comedy, Drama             |                   |               |



## **Becoming Ruby**

BECOMING RUBY follows Ruby Chopstix's emotional journey as they embark on Canada's inaugural drag residency, navigating the pressure that comes with this position and the stigmas confronting a young BIPOC drag artist. Hosted by Winnipeg's Rainbow Resource Centre, this unprecedented residency marks a historic milestone for the LGBTQ+ community, elevating drag from a nightlife novelty to a respected art form.

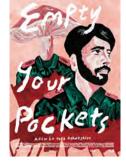
| Director | Quan Luong  | Country of Origin | Canada        |
|----------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime  | 10:02       | Completion Year   | 2025          |
| Language | English     | Rating            | PG            |
| Genre    | Documentary | Content Warning   | Mature themes |



### Silence

A high school senior and her mother navigate cultural barriers during their nightly routine of watching TV. As college dreams clash with familial expectations, unspoken tensions rise, and music becomes the language of their hidden desires and unexpressed love.

| Director  | Katherine Lynn-Rose | Country of Origin | Canada, United States |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Runtime   | 9:56                | Completion Year   | 2024                  |
| Language  | English, Chinese    | Genre             | Drama, Musical        |
| Subtitles | English             | Rating            | PG                    |



## دىنك ى اخ ار ناتى اه بىج/Empty Your Pockets

Hassan is a young airport customs officer who must secure an advance on his salary to afford his mother's medication. As the dark side of his job becomes clearer, Hassan must decide what matters to him the most, and what cost he is willing to pay.

| Director  | Tara Aghdashloo | Country of Origin | Canada         |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Runtime   | 19:56           | Completion Year   | 2024           |
| Language  | Persian         | Rating            | 14A            |
| Subtitles | English         | Content Warning   | Discrimination |
| Genre     | Drama           |                   |                |



## The Best

A South Asian bodybuilder internally pumps himself to hide his true feelings in the wake of a life-changing tragedy.

| irector | Ian Singh Bawa | Country of Origin | Canada   |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| untime  | 9:45           | Completion Year   | 2024     |
| anguage | English        | Rating            | 14A      |
| enre    | Drama, Comedy  | Content Warning   | Language |

# Sunday, May 25

Ilipvik Learning Steps, Qaumajuq - Inuit Art Centre at the WAG 300 Memorial Blvd

3:15-5:15 PM



# Doc Life

Co-presented with
Canada Media Fund



FONDS DES MÉDIAS DU CANADA

#### **SHORTS PROGRAM 4**

7 Short Documentaries to give you a glimpse into the lives of Asians around the world, most made by Winnipeg-based filmmakers!

West Kildonan Asian Heritage Club Documentary Project.
A student film project by members of the Asian Heritage Club of West Kildonan Collegiate.

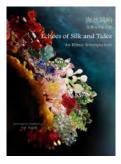
Tickets: \$12



## **Empire**

When player-turned-coach, Jacob Macalalad finds a new passion in basketball through his team Empire, he must find a way to lead his team to the top.

| Filmmaker | Sean Monfero | Country of Origin | Canada |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| Runtime   | 13:43        | Completion Year   | 2024   |
| Language  | English      | Rating            | G      |
| Copro     | Dogumentary  |                   |        |



## Echoes of Silk and Tides: An Ethnic Introspection

This summer, as a 16-year-old, I ventured to Quanzhou, my mother's seaside hometown in southern China and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. What began as a casual family visit evolved into a profound exploration of a place brimming with cultural riches. Here, I discovered a rare religious harmony, a captivating blend of modernity and deep-rooted traditions, and an appreciation for finding beauty in the most unexpected of places. This ancient maritime emporium awakened my senses and unveiled the extraordinary within the ordinary, igniting a journey of self-discovery intertwined with my roots.her right to buy 12 discount laundry detergents that she's been refused at a grocery store. A little Christmas story of family and capitalism.

| Filmmaker | Cynthia Cai               | Country of Origin | United States |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime   | 14:59                     | Completion Year   | 2024          |
| Language  | English, Mandarin Chinese | Genre             | Documentary   |
| Subtitles | English                   | Rating            | G             |



## Baybayin: Scripts of Home

A documentary about the study of an ancient Filipino script, Baybayin.

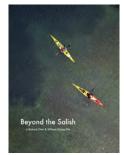
| Filmmaker | Chaira Ghale Plaga | Country of Origin | Canada     |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Runtime   | 10:21              | Completion Year   | 2024       |
| Language  | English, Tagalog   | Genre             | Documentar |
| Subtitles | Tagalog            | Rating            | G          |



## The Azure Dragon of the East

The film chronicles the creation of BusyRawk's second piece in his Four Guardians of Chinatown mural series. Dive into the creative and collaborative process behind the new mural in Edmonton's Heritage Chinatown and engage with the big question: How can we honour our ancestors and the struggles they endured while also upholding our treaty responsibilities? Is there a way to do both?

| Director  | Jordon Hon              | Country of Origin | Canada     |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Runtime   | 7:11                    | Completion Year   | 2025       |
| Language  | English,                | Genre             | Documentar |
|           | Yue Chinese (Cantonese) | Rating            | G          |
| Subtitles | English                 |                   |            |



## Beyond the Salish

Two kayakers take on a once-in-a-lifetime journey off the Pacific Coast of Vancouver Island, breaching into relentless waves, unpredictable weather, and the uncharted depths of their own fears. The duo finds themselves in a life-altering struggle against the elements. As their journey unfolds, a near-death experience forces them to confront the raw power of the open ocean, pushing the boundaries of their friendship, endurance, and luck.

| Filmmakers | Richard Chen, William Chong | Country of Origin | Canada        |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Runtime    | 17:57                       | Completion Year   | 2023          |
| Language   | English                     | Rating            | 14A           |
| Genre      | Documentary, Adventure      | Content Warning   | Mature themes |



## The Story of Hien Minh Tea House

The documentary delves into the journey of Mr. Hung Viet Hung, the owner and founder of Hien Minh Tea in Hanoi, Vietnam. It explores how he began his endeavor and his ability to balance pursuing his dream of showcasing Vietnamese tea to the world.

| Filmmakers | Jeff Camungao | Country of Origin | Canada     |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| Runtime    | 12:29         | Completion Year   | 2024       |
| Language   | Vietnamese    | Genre             | Documentar |
| Subtitles  | Vietnamese    | Rating            | G          |



5:30 PM **CLOSING NIGHT FILM TICKETS: \$12** 

# 7 Beats Per Minute

## + Director Q&A

In the world of competitive freediving, Jessea Lu (Lu Wenjie) is a legendary figure. The Chinese freediving champion came late to the sport, vaulting into the top tier of talent with remarkable ability and a compulsive drive to challenge her limitations. But in the ocean, you cannot hide from yourself.

During a world-record attempt in 2018, Jessea blacked out and was lifeless for four minutes.

Award-winning director Yuqi Kang's feature documentary 7 Beats Per Minute parallels Jessea's physical and mental journey back from the depths, with intimate cinéma vérité camerawork, astonishing underwater imagery and raw personal interviews.

| Filmmaker         | Yuqi Kang         |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Runtime           | 100 minutes       |
| Language          | English, Mandarin |
| Subtitles         | English           |
| Country of Origin | Canada            |
| Completion Year   | 2024              |

PG Rating



### Movie followed by a live Q&A with filmmaker, Yuqi Kang.

#### **Hosted by Jessica Gibson**

Yugi Kang is a Mongol Chinese Canadian filmmaker. She is driven by a passion for crafting psychological profiles set in extreme circumstances. Her directorial feature debut, A Little Wisdom, premiered at Busan, SXSW, Karlovy Vary and Hot Docs, where it won Best Canadian Feature. It was released by Amazon Prime worldwide. Yugi was nominated for the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and the Directors Guild of Canada's Discovery Award and was awarded 40 Under 40 by DOC NYC.

Sponsored by Canada Media Fund







FONDS DES MÉDIAS

Sponsored by:

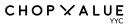








Awards custom created by Chop Value out of recycled chopsticks.



# **★** Closing Night Reception & Awards Presentation

Join us as we celebrate the best of FascinAsian Film Festival 2025 in Winnipeg with an awards reception at the beautiful Inuit Art Centre -Qaumajuq - WAG!

With live entertainment, delicious food, and a cash bar, let us close the festival with a toast to the award winners of SIX short film categories:

- Audience Choice Award
- Best Performance in a Short Film sponsored by ACTRA Manitoba
- Best Short Documentary sponsored by the Canada Media Fund
- Best Short Narrative Film sponsored by the Canada Media Fund
- Building Bridges Award sponsored by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation
- The Erin Hembrador Emerging Filmmaker Award sponsored by the Hembrador Family, Quan Luong, Sunbelt Rentals, and the Winnipeg

And a special **Volunteer Recognition Award** which will go to one of our amazing volunteers for their exceptional service!



## **Entertainment by Violent Affection & Rein!**

Violent affection is a whimsical musical duo comprised of theatre artists/classical music school survivors Brady Barrientos and Kris Cahatol. After finding that they shared a love of collaboration, infusing queerness in music, and not taking themselves too seriously, this dynamic duo was born.

Brady's jazz-pop background and Kris' indie folk roots intertwine naturally to create violent affection's signature playful acoustic sound. With inspirations from Sondheim to Chappell Roan, violent affection is sure to sway your heart with fresh takes on Broadway classics, pop hits, and moving original pieces. Don't forget to wear your seatbelt!



Rein is a 25-year-old Filipino singer-songwriter, vocalist, and producer known for blending indie pop with jazz, bossa nova, R&B, and folk. He gained international attention with tracks like the bossa-infused "Piggy Bank" and the jazzy ballad "I've Loved You."

Rein has performed on notable stages, including the Winnipeg International Jazz Festival, opening for Zack Tabudlo at Centennial Concert Hall, and selling out a solo show at The Emmet Ray in Toronto.

# Special Program

# The Films of Daisuke Miyazaki

#### Presented in collaboration with the Dave Barber Cinematheque

FascinAsian Film Festival Passholders can attend free of charge! Simply show your pass at the Dave Barber Cinematheque Box Office before the screening. Single Tickets can be purchased on site, or by visiting the DBC Box Office Website.



# DAVE BARBER CINEMATHEQUE

#### • 100 Arthur St.

| General            | \$11.50 |
|--------------------|---------|
| Students & Seniors | \$9.00  |
| Members            | \$7.50  |

Or FREE with a FascinAsian Pass!





## Filmmaker: Daisuke Miyazaki (Japan)

Daisuke Miyazaki was born in Yokohama, Japan in 1980. After graduating from Waseda University and working under such directors as Leos Carax and Kiyoshi Kurosawa, he made his debut with End of the Night (2011). His directing credits include the 2015 anthology film 5 to 9 (co-directed with Tay Bee Pin and Rasiguet Sookkarn), his 2016 feature Yamato (California), the 2018 drama Tourism, the 2019 thriller Videophobia and the 2023 neo-noir #Mito, plus contributions to the anthology films Made in Yamato (2021) and 10 Stories (2023). His two-part installation Specters and Tourists opened at the ArtScience Museum of Singapore in 2017.





#### Films Featured

#### Plastic

After his shot at a record deal falls through, Jun transfers to sleepy Nagoya and begins busking songs by his favourite 1970s glam rock band, Exne Kedy. The music catches the eye of fellow fan Ibuki and the pair soon fall in love over their shared musical taste. But as responsibilities mount, they drift apart... Until Exne Kedy announces a reunion tour. Part teenage romance, part fictitious vehicle for Ide Kensuke and producer Yo Ishihara's latest project (of Boris and Ogre You Asshole fame), Daisuke Miyazaki's Plastic is a colorful, rock-inflected coming-of-age tale.

• May 30 @ 5:00 pm Runtime 104 minutes • May 31 @ 2:30 pm Language Japanese • May 31 @ 5:00 pm Subtitles English • June 1 @ 7:00 pm Country of Origin Japan 2024 Completion Year Rating 18A



### Videophobia

A young woman discovers that a sex tape made without her knowledge is circulating online. Paranoia takes over, along with a sense of injustice. Her sudden terror of video triggers a downward spiral where she loses all social bearings.

Runtime 89 minutes
Language Japanese, Korean
Subtitles English
Country of Origin Japan
Completion Year 2019
Rating 18A

May 30 @ 7:30 pmMay 31 @ 9:30 pm

• June 1 @ 5:00 pm



Sakura is a moody teenage girl who lives close to the US military base in the city of Yamato, Japan. She is struggling everyday to become a rapper like the American rappers she admires but always gets stage fright when she sings in front of an audience. One day, her mother's American soldier boyfriend's daughter REI comes from California to visit her family.

Runtime 118 minutes
Language Japanese
Subtitles English
Country of Origin Japan
Completion Year 2016

18A

Rating

• May 30 @ 9:30 pm

• May 31 @ 7:15 pm

June 1 @ 2:45 pm





# Thank you!

The FascinAsian Film Festival is made possible through the incredible support of our sponsors, community partners, filmmakers, and dedicated volunteers. As a volunteer-run organization, we are deeply grateful for everyone who contributes their time, talent, and resources to help us celebrate Asian stories on screen.

Your support brings our vision to life and creates space for connection, creativity, and conversation. We welcome anyone who would like to be part of our growing community. To learn more or get involved, please contact us at info@fascinasian.ca

Thank you to our incredible Winnipeg team for their dedication and planning throughout the year and our volunteers for all their hard work during this year's festival!

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## We hope to see you all next year!

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