



Media Release // For Immediate Release
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ANNOUNCING THE RBC EMERGING CANADIAN ARTIST COMPETITION TITLES

Calgary, AB – Each year The Calgary International Film Festival brings together esteemed and celebrated voices in the film communities from around the world to serve on their jury panel to recognize the year's most exceptional films, screening at the festival from **September 22 - October 2**. CIFF's largest award is the RBC Emerging Canadian Artist award, which includes a cash prize of \$10,000 given to the Canadian director who creates the best first or second narrative feature film. The winning filmmaker also receives first right of refusal of a distribution deal from Gravitas Ventures. CIFF is thrilled to announce the 12 titles that are up for this year's award!

"This is an incredibly strong year for emerging Canadian filmmakers and what was selected only scratches the surface of the amazing work that was submitted. There is such a fun variety of stories in this year's lineup from across the country, with directors tackling coming of age, adolescence and unique and moving stories about adult relationships and circumstances," said Brenda Liberman, CIFF's Lead Programmer.

RBC EMERGING CANADIAN ARTIST COMPETITION TITLES

ADULT ADOPTION, Directed by Karen Knox

Rosy (Screenwriter, Ellie Moon), a 25-year-old former crown ward who aged out of foster care, has managed to build a stable life for herself. When her life unravels, Rosy finds herself compelled by a desire to know familial love. She then turns to a different kind of online dating, signing up for an adult adoption service that connects older adults looking for adult surrogate children. Rosy meets Jane (Calgary native, Rebecca Northan), a high school teacher estranged from her own daughter. The fast intimacy between the pair leads to an obsessive and complicated mother-daughter attachment.

BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND, Directed by Trevor Anderson

When new kid Robin arrives at a small-town middle school in 1987, the other students have one question: "are you a boy or a girl?" Robin forges a complicated bond with the school bully, making increasingly dangerous choices to fit in – and must soon answer a bigger question: "What kind of person am I?"

FALCON LAKE, Directed by Charlotte Le Bon

Bastien and Chloé spend their summer vacation with their families at a lake cabin in Quebec, haunted by a ghost legend. Despite their age gap, the two teenagers form a special bond. Ready to overcome his worst fears to earn a place in Chloé's heart, Bastien's holiday transforms into a turbulent, pivotal moment in his life.

I LIKE MOVIES, Directed by Chandler Levack

Burlington, Ontario, 2003. Hyper-ambitious, teenage cinephile Lawrence Kweller (Isaiah Lehtinen) dreams of attending film school at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. To fund the hefty tuition fee, he gets his dream job at the local video store, Sequels. Wracked with anxiety about his future, Lawrence begins alienating the most important people in his life: his best friend Matt (Percy Hynes White) and his single mother Terri (Krista Bridges.) On top of this, Lawrence also develops a complicated friendship with his older female manager, Alana (Romina D'Ugo). As graduation looms ever closer, a series of painful realizations force Lawrence to realize that he is a pretentious asshole.

THE MAIDEN, Directed by Graham Foy

A perfect summer day ends in tragedy, weaving a cosmic connection between three suburban teenagers. Best friends Colton and Kyle float the river, trade dreams and spray-paint in the local ravine. Like the boys, Whitney explores the ravine, writing and drawing in her diary. But when her best friend abandons her, Whitney disappears. The kids' lives swirl with natural wonder and beauty, but darkness and death loom not far behind. The discovery of Whitney's diary transports us to a mirror world with a magical ravine, a paranormal encounter and the return of a dead black cat. Is this a dream? Is it the afterlife? Once deeply connected, are we ever really alone?

NORTH OF NORMAL, Directed by Carly Stone

Based on her riveting memoir, NORTH OF NORMAL follows Cea Sunrise Person's unconventional childhood in the Canadian wilderness and her complicated relationship with her perpetually pot-smoking teen mom (Sarah Gadon, ALL MY PUNY SORROWS, CIFF 2021; BLACK BEAR, CIFF 2020; AMERICAN WOMAN, CIFF 2019.)

PUSSY, Directed by Joseph Amenta

PUSSY follows three adolescent queer friends living in the underbelly of Toronto, relishing the freedom of summer break. Julien, a runaway, has been taken in by Dawn, a trans woman who guides him through the challenges of carving out a place for himself in the world.

RICEBOY SLEEPS, Directed by Anthony Shim

Shot on 16mm, RICEBOY SLEEPS is the story of So-young, a Korean single mother raising her adolescent son, Dong-hyun, in 1990s suburban Canada. Determined to provide a better life for him than the one she left behind, So-young does her best to overcome the constant racial and cultural challenges that confront them. The mother is set on building her new life, which now includes a relationship with a Korean Canadian man who is eager to take on the role of Dong-hyun's father. Sudden devastating news prompts the mother and son to return to South Korea for the first time since their initial departure with hopes of reconnecting to their roots and reconciling their tragic past.

ROSIE, Directed by Gail Maurice

A film about family, love and misfits, ROSIE tells the story of a young, orphaned, Indigenous girl in the 1980s who is forced to live with her reluctant, street-smart Auntie Fred in Montréal.

THE SWEARING JAR, Directed by Lindsay MacKay

Carey, a music teacher, throws a birthday concert for her husband, Simon, which rekindles reminiscences of their past. Through comedy, music and memory, we follow the story of Carey and Simon's relationship, the birth of their child and the lie that threatens to f*ck it all up! Equal parts humour and heartbreak, it tells two love stories at once, exploring the blessings and challenges of romance, marriage, parenting, loss and moving on.

UNTIL BRANCHES BEND, Directed by Sophie Jarvis

Robin (Grace Glowicki, SUCK IT UP, CIFF 2017; STRAWBERRY MANSION, CIFF 2021) is a cannery worker in the idyllic orchard town of Montague who struggles to get an abortion. When she finds an invasive bug inside a peach at work, Robin puts her energy into proving to her community that the bug poses a serious threat. When her boss brushes away her concerns, Robin goes public with her findings. The parallel between these two invasions becomes clear as Robin loses herself in her obsession, alienating her from friends and family.

YOU CAN LIVE FOREVER, Directed by Mark Slutsky and Sarah Watts

In the early 1990s, after her father dies, queer teenager Jaime is sent to live with her devout Jehovah's Witness relatives. Jaime soon makes an unexpected connection with Marike, the daughter of a prominent Witness elder and the two begin a secret relationship. But when their attraction becomes too obvious to hide, the community moves to separate the two, forcing them to make a terrible choice between faith and love.

Stay tuned for the Full Festival Lineup Announcement on August 31, single tickets on sale on September 8, and for all of the Jury Award Winners for 2022 on September 27! <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca>

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CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival

September 22 - October 2, 2022

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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 hybrid festival from September 22 - October 2, 2022 with in-cinema screenings and at-home streaming, celebrating stand-out stories and experiences.

Media Accreditation is now open - <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/festival/media/>

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