



**Media Release // For Immediate Release**  
**August 27, 2025**

## **CIFF HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

**2025 Film Lineup Revealed; Centrepiece Gala Returns; Luca  
Guadagnino's AFTER THE HUNT makes Canadian Premiere**

**Calgary, AB** - The Calgary International Film Festival, presented by Servus Credit Union, reveals the complete film lineup for the 2025 Festival. This includes the return of the **CIFF Centrepiece Gala on September 23** at The GRAND, with the Alberta premiere of **THE PITCH**, directed by Michèle Hozer. **THE PITCH** is a Canadian documentary that offers a rare behind-the-scenes look at Olympic soccer star **Diana Matheson** and fellow players as they set out to build a professional women's soccer league in Canada. Along with Matheson, retired Canadian professional soccer player and Olympic gold and bronze medallist **Christine Sinclair** will be in attendance on the red carpet.

The 26th annual Calgary International Film Festival runs from **September 18 – 28, 2025 and will** close with Cannes Grand Prix winner **SENTIMENTAL VALUE**, written and directed by Academy Award-nominee Joachim Trier. **SENTIMENTAL VALUE** stars Cannes Award-winning actress **Renate Reinsve**, Golden Globe-winner **Stellan Skarsgård**, and Emmy-nominee **Elle Fanning**.

"We're so excited to bring these Gala Presentations to The Grand and show off our new projectors. The Grand is the second venue in Calgary to host a CIFF cinema projector and a key partner in our Constellation project to light up new cinemas in the city. **THE PITCH** is such a great portrait of perseverance, and Diana Matheson is truly a hero for what she's done for Canadian women's soccer, and **SENTIMENTAL VALUE** is a surefire player in this year's awards season. Renate Reinsve and Stellan Skarsgård exude such amazing chemistry," said Brian Owens, CIFF's Artistic Director.

This year's lineup also features the international premiere of **ON A STRING**, where director-actor Isabel Hagen uses her magnetic eye and feel for tone to breathe life into the world of classical music in her feature directorial debut. **AFTER THE HUNT**, directed by Academy Award-nominee Luca Guadagnino and starring Academy

Award-winner Julia Roberts; **IN COLD LIGHT**, directed by Maxime Giroux and starring Maika Monroe alongside Academy Award-winner Troy Kotsur; and **MATTER OF TIME**, a benefit concert documentary directed by Matt Finlin featuring Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, will all make their Canadian premieres at CIFF 2025.

Having its Alberta premiere at CIFF, **GROW**, directed by John McPhail (and produced by Calgary based company Orogen Entertainment), is a heartwarming, **family-friendly film**, which recently had its world premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival and is sure to be a fan favourite in the lineup. McPhail **will be in attendance** all the way from Scotland.

"This is one of the strongest line-ups in the festival's history. With films featuring Julia Roberts, Ayo Edebiri, Andrew Garfield, Jodie Foster, Jennifer Lopez, Rami Malek, Ethan Hawke, Andrew Scott, and the Palme d'Or winning **IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**, there are Academy Award-winning and nominated filmmakers in nearly every section, as well as some delightfully over-the-top horror and comedy films in the After Dark section. Hosting the Canadian Premiere of Luca Guadagnino's **AFTER THE HUNT** is especially thrilling. There is so much to choose from for cinephiles of all stripes," added Owens.

"Servus is pleased to return as presenting partner for the 2025 Calgary International Film Festival and to help Albertans celebrate the power of storytelling," said Ian Burns, President and CEO of Servus Credit Union. "As Canada's largest credit union, we take a full-circle approach to banking, offering expert advice and tailored solutions that help individuals, entrepreneurs and businesses, including those in Alberta's growing film industry, thrive at every stage. That full-circle journey is also reflected at CIFF, where ideas become stories and stories come to life on the big screen. CIFF is an unforgettable festival experience, and we can't wait to share it with all attendees."

## **FEATURE FILMS 2025**

### **[Special Presentations](#)**

#### **AFTER THE HUNT, directed by Luca Guadagnino (United States)**

From visionary filmmaker Luca Guadagnino, AFTER THE HUNT is a gripping psychological drama about a college professor (Julia Roberts) who finds herself at a personal and professional crossroads when a star student (Ayo Edebiri) levels an accusation against one of her colleagues (Andrew Garfield), and a dark secret from her own past threatens to come into the light. *Canadian premiere.*

**BLUE MOON, directed by Richard Linklater (United States, Ireland)**

Lorenz Hart (Ethan Hawke) confronts his shattered self-confidence, as his former collaborator Richard Rodgers celebrates the opening night of his hit musical "Oklahoma!" *Alberta premiere.*

**HEDDA, directed by Nia DaCosta (United States)**

Tessa Thompson delivers a riveting performance in CANDYMAN director Nia DaCosta's bold, feminist reimaging of Henrik Ibsen's classic play. *Alberta premiere.*

**IN COLD LIGHT, directed by Maxime Giroux (Canada)**

Fresh out of prison, reformed drug dealer Ava's attempt to go straight is obliterated when she witnesses the murder of her twin brother and is forced to run for her life. *Canadian premiere.*

**\*Director in attendance**

**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT, directed by Jafar Panahi (Iran, France, Luxembourg)**

What begins as a minor accident sets in motion a series of escalating consequences in Jafar Panahi's Palme d'Or winner. *Alberta premiere.*

**WINNER:** Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival 2025

**JOHN CANDY: I LIKE ME, directed by Colin Hanks (Canada)**

Featuring a wide array of John Candy's loved ones, Colin Hanks' wildly entertaining documentary celebrates one of the most beloved Canadian actors of our time. *Alberta premiere.*

**KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN, directed by Bill Condon (United States)**

Argentina, 1983. An unlikely bond forms between Valentín, a political prisoner, and his cellmate, Molina, as he recounts the plot of a Hollywood musical. *Alberta premiere.*

**THE MASTERMIND, directed by Kelly Reichardt (United States)**

Josh O'Connor is a carpenter turned amateur art thief who is relegated to a life on the run after his first big heist. *Alberta premiere.*

**MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG, directed by Maria Friedman (United States)**

Jonathan Groff, Daniel Radcliffe and Lindsay Mendez star in this Tony Award-winning revival of one of Sondheim's most personal musicals. *Alberta premiere.*

**NIRVANNA: THE BAND - THE SHOW - THE MOVIE, directed by Matt Johnson (Canada)**

When their plan to book a show at the Rivoli goes horribly wrong, Matt and Jay accidentally travel back to the year 2008. *Alberta premiere. \*Guest in attendance*

**NO OTHER CHOICE, directed by Park Chan-wook (South Korea)**

After being unemployed for several years, a man devises a unique plan to secure a new job: eliminate his competition. From OLDBOY director Park Chan-wook. *Alberta premiere.*

**NOUVELLE VAGUE, directed by Richard Linklater (France, United States)**

From American filmmaker Richard Linklater comes the story of the making of Jean-Luc Godard's BREATHLESS, told in the style and spirit of the French auteur. *Alberta premiere.*

**NUREMBERG, directed by James Vanderbilt (United States)**

1945. World War II has ended. The Allies have the task of ensuring the Nazi regime and Herman Göring answer for the horrors of the Holocaust. *Alberta premiere.*

**PEAK EVERYTHING, directed by Anne Emond (Canada)**

A doomsday-fearing kennel owner finds an unexpected adventure on the other end of the tech support line for his therapy lamp. *Alberta premiere.*

**A PRIVATE LIFE, directed by Rebecca Zlotowski (France)**

When a renowned psychiatrist (Jodie Foster) learns that one of her patients has taken her own life, she recruits her ex-husband to help her investigate the death. *Alberta premiere.*

**Canadian Documentary Competition**

**AGATHA'S ALMANAC, directed by Amalie Atkins (Canada)**

Defying modernity, 90-year-old Agatha forges a solitary existence on her ancestral farm, preserving heirloom seeds in her handmade universe. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**EVEREST DARK, directed by Jereme Watt (Canada, Nepal)**

Renowned mountaineer Mingma Tsiri Sherpa risks everything to retrieve a fallen climber's body in an act of devotion to Everest, the gods and his own legacy. *Alberta premiere. \*Guests in attendance*

**LOVE, HAROLD, directed by Alan Zweig (Canada) \*Previously announced**

Shocked by a friend's suicide, renowned documentary filmmaker Alan Zweig seeks understanding from 23 individuals grieving a similar loss. *World Premiere.*

**THE NEST, directed by Chase Joynt and Julietta Singh (Canada)**

In a house full of secrets, centuries of forgotten matriarchs emerge to reveal untold stories of resistance and resilience. *Alberta premiere.*

**PAUL, directed by Denis Côté (Canada)**

Depressed and socially anxious, Paul finds solace in cleaning homes for women who hire him. Sharing his quirky routines online helps him cope with loneliness. *Alberta premiere.*

**THE PITCH, directed by Michèle Hozer (Canada) [Centre Piece Gala](#)**

Diana Matheson leaves the pitch to launch Canada's first women's pro soccer league—her biggest fight yet against a system that previously sidelined women. *Alberta premiere. \*Guests in attendance*

**SAINTS AND WARRIORS, directed by Patrick Shannon (Canada)**

Leaders of the Indigenous basketball team the Skidegate Saints compete at the All Native Basketball Tournament while battling for the title to their land. *Alberta premiere. \*Guests in attendance*

**SIKSIKAKOWAN: THE BLACKFOOT MAN, directed by Trevor Solway (Canada)**

With tenderness and grace, filmmaker Sinakson Trevor Solway offers an intimate exploration of Indigenous masculinity rarely seen on screen. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**SILVER SCREAMERS, directed by Sean Cisterna (Canada)**

SILVER SCREAMERS follows eight spirited senior citizens embarking on an extraordinary adventure far outside their comfort zones: creating a horror film. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**STILL SINGLE, directed by Jamal Burger and Jukan Tateisi (Canada)**

Canada's only Michelin two-star chef, Masaki Saito, traces his journey from rural Japan to transforming Toronto's food scene. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

[Contemporary World Cinema](#)

**ARCO, directed by Ugo Bienvenu (France)**

In 2075, 10-year-old Iris sees a boy in a rainbow jumpsuit fall from the sky. He's from the future—and she'll do anything to help him get back. *Alberta premiere.*

**BLAZING FISTS, directed by Takashi Miike (Japan)**

kuto and Ryoma meet in juvie, bond over martial arts and pursue their dreams—until rivalry sparks unexpected conflict. *Alberta Premiere.*

**THE BLUE TRAIL, directed by Gabriel Mascaro (Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Netherlands)**

To avoid a government mandate that orders older adults to be sent away, Tereza embarks on a journey that will change her destiny forever. *Alberta premiere.*

**DEPARTURES, directed by Lloyd Eyre-Morgan and Neil Ely (United Kingdom)**

A gripping Manchester-made comedy-drama about love, loss, and addiction. Benji falls for Jake—then spirals after their toxic romance falls apart. *Canadian Premiere.*

**DJ AHMET, directed by Georgi M. Unkovski (North Macedonia, Czech Republic, Serbia, Croatia)**

In rural North Macedonia, a 15-year-old Yörük boy finds freedom in music as he struggles with tradition, strict parents, and love for a girl he can't have.

**GROW, directed by John McPhail (United Kingdom)**

When pumpkin farmer Dinah reluctantly takes in her niece, their love for each other grows like a prize-winning pumpkin. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**MAMA, directed by Or Sinai (Israel, Poland, Italy)**

After years away, Mila leaves her seaside mansion and secret romance to return to her family in a remote Polish village. *Alberta premiere.*

**MIRRORS NO. 3, directed by Christian Petzold (Germany)**

After a car crash kills her boyfriend, Laura is taken in by Betty. Living with Betty's family brings comfort, but Laura begins to question their intentions. *Alberta premiere.*

**MY UNCLE JENS, directed by Brwa Vahabpour (Norway, Romania)**

A young literature teacher lives a comfortable life in Oslo until his estranged uncle from the Iranian part of Kurdistan unexpectedly arrives for a visit. *Canadian Premiere.*

**A POET, directed by Simón Mesa Soto (Colombia, Germany, Sweden)**

An aging and obscure poet finds purpose in mentoring a talented teen. *Alberta premiere.*

**THE PRESIDENT'S CAKE, directed by Hasan Hadi (Iraq, United States, Qatar)**

In 1990s Iraq, amid war and food shortages, Saddam Hussein orders every school to bake a cake for his birthday. *Alberta premiere.*

**THE SECRET AGENT, directed by Kleber Mendonça Filho (Brazil, France, Germany, Netherlands)**

Brazil, 1977. Marcelo flees to Recife during Carnival in search of his son—but the city proves far more dangerous than the refuge he had imagined. *Alberta premiere.*

**SIRÂT, directed by Olivier Laxe (Spain)**

A father, accompanied by his son, goes looking for his missing daughter in North Africa. *Alberta premiere.*

**URCHIN, directed by Harris Dickinson (United Kingdom)**

Mike, a rough sleeper in London trapped in a cycle of self-destruction, attempts to turn his life around. *Alberta premiere.*

**New American Cinema**

**THE BALTIMORONS, directed by Jay Duplass (United States)**

After cracking a tooth on Christmas Eve, newly sober Cliff embarks on an unexpected May/December adventure through Baltimore with Didi, his emergency dentist. *Canadian premiere.*

**CONCESSIONS, directed by Mas Bouzidi (United States)**

On closing day of the Royal Alamo Cinema, employees, outcasts and oddballs cross paths in interwoven stories of rejection, redemption, and fate. *North American Premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**EASTERN WESTERN, directed by Biliana Grozdanova and Marina Grozdanova (United States)**

A recent immigrant and widower, Igor struggles to raise his young son in the mountains of the American West. *Canadian Premiere. \*Directors in attendance*

**IF I HAD LEGS I'D KICK YOU, directed by Mary Bronstein (United States)**

With her life crashing down, Linda attempts to navigate her child's mysterious illness, her absent husband and a hostile relationship with her therapist. *Alberta premiere. \*Guest in attendance*

**OUR HERO, BALTHAZAR, directed by Oscar Boyson (United States)**

Wealthy teenager Balthazar makes gun control videos to impress his activist crush. When an online troll messages him, he journeys to Texas to confront them. *Canadian premiere.*

**SLANTED, directed by Amy Wang (United States)**

An insecure Chinese-American teenager undergoes experimental surgery to appear white, hoping to secure the prom queen title and peer acceptance. *Canadian premiere.* **\*Director in attendance**

**UNDER THE BURNING SUN, directed by Yun Xie (United States)**

In a land where abortion is banned, Mowanza drives across the desert toward Iropus, hoping for freedom and choice with only a water bottle and a worn-out car. *Canadian premiere.*

**International Narrative Competition**

**CIELO, directed Alberto Sciamma (United Kingdom)**

How far would you go to reach heaven? *Alberta premiere.* **\*Director in attendance**

**DEAF, directed by Eva Libertad (Spain)**

Entering motherhood forces Angela, a Deaf woman, to confront the reality of raising a baby with a hearing partner in a world not built for her. *Canadian premiere.*

**HEN, directed by György Pálfi (Germany, Greece, Hungary)**

Following his cult films *Taxidermia* and *Final Cut*, György Pálfi is back with a tragicomic tale full of heart and feathers. *Alberta premiere.*

**LUCKY LU, directed by Lloyd Lee Choi (United States, Canada)**

A New York City delivery rider has his world turned upside down when he loses his only source of income. *Alberta premiere.*

**ON A STRING, directed by Isabel Hagen (United States)**

A Juilliard-trained violist lives with her parents in New York City, playing gigs with friends in strangers' homes to make ends meet. *International premiere.*

**PATERNAL LEAVE, directed by Alissa Jung (Germany, Italy)**

A teen seeks her birth father on Italy's coast. Her quest for answers stirs up confrontation, complex emotions and hope. *Canadian premiere.*

**PEOPLE AND MEAT, directed by Yang Jong-hyun (South Korea)**

An elderly trio comes together over their shared minuscule pensions and love of barbecued meat to become the infamous "Dine and Dash Trio." *Canadian premiere.*

**THE PLAGUE, directed by Charlie Polinger (United States, Australia, Romania)**

At a boys' water polo camp, a shy 12-year-old is drawn into a cruel game targeting an outcast—until he fears the "joke" may be something real. *Alberta premiere.* **\*Guests in attendance**

**ROSEMEAD, directed by Eric Lin (United States)**

An ailing woman discovers her teenage son's violent obsessions and must go to great lengths to protect him, and possibly others, from harm. *Canadian premiere.*

**SEASIDE SERENDIPITY, directed by Satoko Yokohama (Japan)**

In a seaside town, the lives of free-spirited children become intertwined with enigmatic adults caught up in secrets and lies. *Alberta premiere.*

**STEAL AWAY, directed by Clement Virgo (Canada, Belgium)**

A teen grows obsessed with a refugee her family shelters, drawn into a world of desire, jealousy and secrets that shatter her reality. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**THIS WILL NEVER WORK, directed by Marina Tempelsman & Niccolo Aeed (United States)**

**\*Previously announced**

The family has decided there's a problem. That problem is you. *International Premiere.*

**\*Director & Guests in attendance**

**International Documentary Competition**

**COME SEE ME IN THE GOOD LIGHT, directed by Ryan White (United States)**

Two poets, one incurable cancer diagnosis. Andrea Gibson and Megan Falley go on an unexpectedly funny and poignant journey through love, life, and mortality. *Alberta premiere.*

**COMPARSA, directed by Vickie Curtis and Doug Anderson (Guatemala, United States)**

Two sisters from a Guatemalan neighbourhood, scared into silence, lead a luminous rebellion—unleashing joy, art and radical truth in a fight for survival. *Canadian premiere.*

**THE DATING GAME, directed by Violet Du Feng (United States, China)**

Three perpetual bachelors join an intensive seven-day dating boot camp led by one of China's most sought-after dating coaches in a last-ditch effort to find love. *Alberta premiere.*

**THE EYES OF GHANA, directed by Ben Proudfoot (United States, Ghana)**

From Executive Producers Barack and Michelle Obama and Oscar®-winner Ben Proudfoot comes this ode to the power of cinema and its ability to alter history. *Alberta premiere.*

**\*Producer in attendance**

**LOVE+WAR, directed by Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin (United States, United Kingdom)**

Oscar winners Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin turn the camera on Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Lynsey Addario as she documents the war in Ukraine. *Alberta premiere.*

**LOWLAND KIDS, directed by Sandra Winther (Denmark) \*Previously announced**

Two teenagers and their uncle face an uncertain future as their community has to resettle before their island in Louisiana succumbs to the sea. *North American Premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN, directed by Pavel Talankin and David Borenstein (Czech Republic, Denmark)**

A brave and resilient teacher secretly exposes Putin's aggressive militarization of Russia's primary schools at the start of the invasion of Ukraine. *Alberta premiere.*



**ORWELL: 2+2=5, directed by Raoul Peck (United States, France)**

Academy Award®-nominated director Raoul Peck masterfully explores George Orwell's prescient genius and the vital lessons it holds for our times and future. *Alberta premiere.*

**SPEAK., directed by Jennifer Tiexiera and Guy Mossman (United States)**

Five high school students spend a year crafting the perfect speech with the dream of winning the world's most prestigious public speaking competition. *Calgary premiere.*

**THIRD ACT, directed by Tadashi Nakamura (United States)**

Generations of artists call Robert A. Nakamura "the godfather of Asian American media," but filmmaker Tadashi Nakamura calls him Dad. *Canadian premiere.*

**ZODIAC KILLER PROJECT, directed by Charlie Shackleton (United Kingdom)**

Set against desolate landscapes, a filmmaker revisits his abandoned Zodiac Killer documentary, diving deep into the inner workings of the true crime genre. *Canadian premiere.*

**[Alberta Spotlight](#)**

**A DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS, directed by Gillian McKercher (Canada) \*Previously Announced**

At a Victorian Christmas dinner, a skeptical lawyer meets a charming renovator and receives a ghostly gift that might just restore her faith in love. *World Premiere. \*Director, cast & crew in attendance*

**DO US PART, directed by Clare Preuss (Canada) \*Previously Announced**

After years of propping up her husband's fledgling eco-architecture business, a matriarch upends their carefully constructed world igniting a family firestorm. *World Premiere. \*Director, cast & crew in attendance*

**DUSK & DAWN, directed by Roseanne Supernault (Canada)**

Sometimes love rises from the ashes. *World premiere. \*Director, cast & crew in attendance*

**FRUIT IS RIPE, directed by Yuqi Kang (Canada) \*Previously Announced**

Through seasons of change, a Chinese farmer named Caicai and a group of immigrant fathers navigate work, longing, and the search for home in Canada. *World Premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**INFLUENCERS, directed by Kurtis David Harder (Canada, United States)**

In southern France, a young woman's chilling fascination with murder and identity theft sends her life into a whirlwind of chaos. *Alberta premiere. \*Director, cast & crew in attendance*

**MEADOWLARKS, directed by Tasha Hubbard (Canada)**

Inspired by BIRTH OF A FAMILY, MEADOWLARKS follows four Cree siblings reuniting in Banff after a lifetime of separation. *Alberta Premiere. \*Director, cast & crew in attendance*

**NIGHT OF THE REAPER, directed by Brandon Christensen (Canada)**

After the brutal murder of a teenage babysitter, college student Deena returns home for the weekend and is roped into a babysitting gig of her own. *Canadian premiere.* **\*Director, cast & crew in attendance**

**PULSE OF THE CONTINENT, directed by Eric Gonzalez (Canada) \*Previously Announced**

Amid the largest railway merger in North American history, a century-old steam locomotive is brought back to life for a journey unlike any before. *World Premiere.* **\*Director & guests in attendance**

**SINGHS IN THE RING, directed by Akash Sherman (Canada) \*Previously announced**

A ride through the legacy of Gama Singh— a Punjabi immigrant turned Canadian wrestling icon—and his son Raj, who fights to carry the family name into a new era. *World Premiere.* **\*Director, cast & crew in attendance**

**New Canadian Cinema**

**BEST BOY, directed by Jesse Noah Klein (Canada)**

After their cruel father's death, a family reunites at their summer home for a twisted contest that shattered them 30 years ago. *Canadian premiere.* **\*Director in attendance**

**BLUE HERON, directed by Sophy Romvari (Canada, Hungary)**

A family of six settles into their new home on Vancouver Island as tensions are slowly revealed through the experiences of the youngest child, Sasha. *Alberta premiere.*

**FOLLIES, directed by Éric K. Boulianne (Canada)**

François and Julie open their relationship to rediscover themselves—but after 16 years and two kids, can exploring desire really be that simple? *Alberta premiere.* **\*Director in attendance**

**HONEY BUNCH, directed by Dusty Mancinelli and Madeleine Sims-Fewer (Canada)**

After an accident, Diana loses her memory. At a treatment centre, dark truths about her marriage begin to surface. *Alberta premiere.*

**MIDDLE LIFE, directed by Pavan Moondi (Canada) \*Previously announced**

Andie saves Ryan from a car wreck, sparking a tumultuous year that might just prove life could be great. Starring July Talk's Leah Fay Goldstein and Peter Dreimanis. *World Premiere.* **\*Director, cast & crew in attendance**

**MILE END KICKS, directed by Chandler Levack (Canada)**

Set in Montreal's 2011 music scene, a young music critic becomes romantically entangled with a local indie band. *Alberta premiere.*

**NESTING, directed by Chloé Cinq-Mars (Canada, Switzerland)**

Haunted by the horrific death of her sister, a young insomniac mother sinks into postpartum depression. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**NIKA & MADISON, directed by Eva Thomas (Canada)**

Two young Indigenous women go on the run after defending themselves during a violent police assault. *Alberta premiere.*

**RACEWALKERS, directed by Phil Moniz and Kevin Claydon (Canada)**

A struggling racewalking coach and a washed-up professional baseball player with a surprisingly natural stride team up to take on the best walker in the sport. *Alberta Premiere. \*Directors/Actors in attendance*

**SK+TE'KMUJUE'KATIK (AT THE PLACE OF GHOSTS), directed by Bretten Hannam (Canada, Belgium)**

A supernatural thriller and modern-day ghost story about reconciling with the past. *Alberta premiere.*

**SPACE CADET, directed by Kid Koala (Eric San) (Canada)**

A guardian robot is left to his own devices after his ward blasts off on a solo mission to outer-space. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**THE THINGS YOU KILL, directed by Alireza Khatami (France, Poland, Canada, Türkiye)**

Haunted by the suspicious death of his mother, Ali, a university professor, coerces his enigmatic gardener to execute a cold-blooded act of vengeance. *Alberta premiere.*

**YOUNGBLOOD, directed by Hubert Davis (Canada)**

Hockey prodigy Dean Youngblood joins the Mustangs, where he must confront toxic rivals—and his own inner demons—for a shot at the NHL. *Alberta premiere.*

**[After Dark](#)**

**DEAD LOVER, directed by Grace Glowicki (Canada)**

A corpse-stinking gravedigger brings her drowned lover back to life with wild science, triggering messy love, bad choices and an unexpected body count. *Alberta premiere.*

**DEATHSTALKER, directed by Steven Kostanski (Canada)**

Lone warrior Deathstalker is sent by a witch to retrieve a sword, a chalice, and an amulet—two of which are held by the evil king and sorcerer, Munkar. *Alberta Premiere*

**FUCKTOYS, directed by Annapurna Sriram (United States)**

AP rolls into Trashtown, USA, on a grindhouse quest for \$1000, love, and freedom while navigating smut, psychics and filth in a wild and gritty odyssey. *Alberta premiere.*

**THE HOME, director Mattias J. Skoglund (Sweden)**

Joel believes his troubles are over after placing his mother in a care facility—but the worst is yet to come. *Canadian Premiere.*

**QUEENS OF THE DEAD, directed by Tina Romero (United States)**

An outbreak of flesh-eating zombies pushes a group of ragtag drag queens and party-goers to band together to survive through the night. *Alberta premiere.*

**REFLECTION IN A DEAD DIAMOND, directed by Bruno Forzani and H       Catt     (Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy)**

Ex-spy John D. is living in a hotel on the C       d'Azur. When his neighbour mysteriously disappears, he is forced to confront the demons of his past. *Alberta premiere.*

**[Music on Screen](#)**

**BIF NAKED, directed by Pollyanna Hardwicke-Brown (Canada) \*Previously Announced**

BIF NAKED is a raw and unfiltered look at the life of one of Canada's most iconic and fearless musicians. *World Premiere. \*Director, Bif & guests in attendance*

**BROTHER VERSES BROTHER, directed by Ari Gold (United States)**

Twin brothers roam the streets of San Francisco, playing music and searching for their dying father. *Canadian Premiere.*

**HAVE YOU HEARD JUDI SINGH?, directed by Baljit Sangra (Canada)**

Judi Singh was a trailblazer who, as a Punjabi-Black singer, stepped onto jazz stages during tumultuous times and left a musical imprint that is still being discovered today. *Alberta premiere. \*Director in attendance*

**JUST SING, directed by Angelique Molina and Abraham Troen (United Kingdom)**

A group of singers chase championship dreams in the world's largest a cappella competition —facing the music of change as college ends and something new begins. *Canadian premiere.*

**MATTER OF TIME, directed by Matt Finlin (United States)**

MATTER OF TIME follows Eddie Vedder and a passionate community of scientists and families uniting to cure a rare disease. *Canadian premiere.*

**THE ROSE: COME BACK TO ME, directed by Eugene Yi (United States, South Korea)**

An intimate documentary showcasing the dramatic rise of THE ROSE, a Korean indie rock band who chose to defy the K-pop training system. *Canadian premiere.*

**[GALA - Closing Night Film](#)**

**SENTIMENTAL VALUE, directed by Joachim Trier (Norway, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, France)**

Two sisters navigate their complicated relationship with their father after he casts an eager young Hollywood star in his latest film. *Alberta premiere.*

**WINNER:** Grand Prix, Cannes Film Festival 2025

<https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/festival/2025-films/>

## **SHORT FILMS 2025**

With over 100 shorts set to screen at the festival, the Shorts Film Program brings to the screen varied film styles, international viewpoints and diverse stories from around the world, all conveniently packaged into sections. **HOW TO SHOOT A GHOST**, directed by Academy Award-winner Charlie Kaufman will have its North American Premiere, and RON'S GONE WRONG director Jean-Philippe Vine's **CARDBOARD** will have its Canadian Premiere at CIFF 2025 - and so much more! [Find all the shorts titles here.](#)

**Single tickets are on sale August 28, 2025 at 10 a.m. MST. For more information, please visit <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/>**

**MEDIA IMAGES** - <https://vp.eventival.com/ciffcalgary/2025/film-catalogue>

Username: [media@ciffcalgary.ca](mailto:media@ciffcalgary.ca)

Password: CIFFAccess2025

-30-

**For Media Inquiries, please contact:**

Aldona Barutowicz (she/her), Publicist

**Telephone:** (403) 471-5308

**Email:** [publicist@ciffcalgary.ca](mailto:publicist@ciffcalgary.ca)

**CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival**

**September 19 – September 29, 2024**

**ciffcalgary.ca | @CIFFcalgary**

**#260, 999 8 St. SW Calgary, AB**

### **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 26th festival from September 18 – September 28, 2025 with in-cinema screenings, celebrating stand-out stories and offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

### **CIFF Thanks their Presenting Partner**



### **CIFF Thanks their 2025 Public Funders**

