



**Media Release // FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 27, 2025**

## **LIFE'S TOO SHORT NOT TO WATCH SHORTS**

### **CIFF 2025 Shorts Lineup Revealed!**

**CALGARY, AB** - In addition to the exciting special presentations, features and documentary films screening at the 2025 Calgary International Film Festival, the shorts line-up is always a fan favourite, with shorts packages curated for a diverse range of interests. With over 100 shorts screening from **September 18 – 28, 2025**, audiences can expect varied film styles, international viewpoints, local gems and diverse stories from around the world, including **HOW TO SHOOT A GHOST**, directed by **Academy Award-winner Charlie Kaufman**, which will have its North American Premiere, the Canadian Premiere of John Kelly's **RETIREMENT PLAN**, which just won awards at both SXSW and Palm Springs ShortsFest, and two-time Academy Award-nominee Cordell Baker's **GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL** will screen at CIFF 2025 - and so much more!

"Our team is so excited about the short film lineup this year. We've put in a lot of work to balance between newer filmmakers and more established ones," said Adam Keresztes, CIFF's Lead Shorts Programmer. "There are many fantastic films from alumni directors, a handful from Oscar®-nominated and Oscar®-winning directors, and many first-time CIFF selected short filmmakers. This shows that no matter how far along you are in your career, you can make great films that deserve to be seen at CIFF."

### **SHORTS: AM I DREAMING?**

A showcase of animated shorts from around the world including the United States, Ireland, Canada, Egypt, Norway/Sweden, and Germany. This package highlights the imagination, and creativity that define contemporary animation on the world stage.

**THE GIRL WHO CRIED PEARLS**, directed by Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski  
**(Canada)** *Alberta Premiere.*

**WEDNESDAYS WITH GRAMPS**, directed by Chris Copeland and Justin Copeland **(United States)** *Canadian Premiere.*

**HYPERSENSITIVE (HYPERSENSIBLE)**, directed by Martine Frossard **(Canada)** *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**RETIREMENT PLAN**, directed by John Kelly (Ireland) *Canadian Premiere*. [Trailer](#)

**GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL**, directed by Cordell Barker (Canada) *Alberta Premiere*.

**UNE FUGUE**, directed by Agnès Patron (France) *Alberta Premiere*.

**OVARY-ACTING**, directed by Ida Melum (Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom) *Canadian Premiere*.

**DETLEV**, directed by Ferdinand Ehrhardt (Germany) *Alberta Premiere*.

**MY BROTHER, MY BROTHER**, directed by Saad Dnewar and Abdelrahman Dnewar (Egypt, France, Germany) *Alberta Premiere*.

**A SPARROW'S SONG**, directed by Tobias Eckerlin (Germany) *Alberta Premiere*.

### [SHORTS: MAKE SOME NOISE](#)

This collection of six shorts explores the injustices humans face and the noise made standing up against them.

**TWO PEOPLE EXCHANGING SALIVA**, directed by Alexandre Singh and Natalie Musteata (France) *Canadian Premiere*. [Trailer](#)

**COYOTES**, directed by Said Zagha (Palestine, Jordan, United Kingdom) *North American Premiere*.

**BUICK**, directed by Michael Godere (United States) *Alberta Premiere*.

**GENEALOGY OF VIOLENCE**, directed by Mohamed Bourouissa (France) *Alberta Premiere*.

**HONEY BARE**, directed by Jasmine J. Johnson (United States) *International Premiere*.

**TAPEWORM**, directed by Daniel Rands (United Kingdom) *Alberta Premiere*. [Trailer](#)

### [SHORTS: IF I WERE A MOVIE](#)

A short film package about...films?! Turning the spotlight on cinema, film-loving, and filmmaking, each short has a direct (or indirect) connection to the movies!

**VIVA LA REVUE**, directed by Christian Bunea (Canada) *World Premiere*. [Trailer](#)

**REPLAY**, directed by Phil Mazo (United States) *International Premiere*.

**CANDY BAR**, directed by Nash Edgerton (Australia) *Canadian Premiere*.

**A MUST-SEE MOVIE BEFORE YOU DIE**, directed by Razny Mahardhika (Indonesia) *International Premiere*. [Trailer](#)

**STAND IN**, directed by Hiromu Yamawaki (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**I WANT TO GO TO MOSCOW**, directed by Sarah Baskin (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**HOW TO SHOOT A GHOST**, directed by Charlie Kaufman (United States, Greece) *North American Premiere.*

**PREMIERE**, directed by Omer Ben David (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

### **SHORTS: ALBERTA SPIRIT**

A selection of some of the best Alberta films! Spanning different genres and styles, this package celebrates both emerging and established filmmakers from our province..

**THE DEATH OF SOMNUS**, directed by Zane Olson (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**THE HUNTER AND HIS APPRENTICE**, directed by Reamonn Joshee (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**BREAKTHROUGH**, directed by Mide Kadiri (Canada)

**DOMES**, directed by Mave Ky (Canada)

**TIGERS SKATE CLUB**, directed by Jeff Khounthavong and Denise Biziaev (Canada) [Trailer](#)

**HORSE TEETH**, directed by Ethan Clark and Mason McConnell (Canada) *Calgary Premiere.*

**GOOD DAZE**, directed by Jonelle Belcourt (Canada) *Canadian Premiere.*

**MOTHER**, directed by Hrachya Tokmajyan (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**HOW TO WRITE THE PERFECT SCREENPLAY**, directed by Shae Kubur (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**NOW, I AM A BEAR**, directed by Jason Filiatrault (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**WE CALL HIM "SIR CHARLES"**, directed by Cheryl Foggo (Canada)

**MY STORY**, directed by Jemmy Lu (Canada) *World Premiere.*

### **SHORTS: REAL AND TRUE**

These nonfiction films offer perspectives on the human experience spanning cultures, communities, memories, and memorials. What's real and true is defined through the eyes of these documentary filmmakers.

**IT WILL ALWAYS END IN THE END**, directed by Nancy Pettinicchio (Canada) *Calgary Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**LIVESTREAMS WITH GRANDMAPUZZLES**, directed by Emily Sheskin (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**MY MEMORY-WALLS**, directed by Axel Robin (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**GRANDMA'S FOUR COLOR CARDS**, directed by Sally Phuong Tran (Vietnam, United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**UNFOLDING FAITH**, directed by Elyse Bouvier (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**ICEBREAKERS**, directed by Jocelyn Glatzer and Marlo Poras (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**TIGER**, directed by Loren Waters (United States) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**DEATH EDUCATION**, directed by Yuxuan Ethan Wu (China) *Canadian Premiere.*

### [\*\*SHORTS: NIGHT CRAWLING\*\*](#)

Things that make your skin crawl and that go bump in the night. NIGHT CRAWLING offers a lineup of horror and genre bending shorts that are scary, strange, hilariously dark, and just plain off-the-wall bonkers. A CIFF audience favourite package that's sure to scratch your After Dark itch.

**BREAD WILL WALK**, directed by Alex Boya (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**PLATANERO**, directed by Juan Frank Hernandez (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**WHITCH**, directed by Hoku Uchiyama (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

**A BRIGHTER SUMMER DAY FOR THE LADY AVENGERS**, directed by Birdy Wei-Ting Hung (Taiwan) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**BIRTH CONTROLLED**, directed by Isa Fraga-Abaza (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**FIVE STAR**, directed by Kai Hamada Hasson (United States) *Canadian Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**LE TOUR DE CANADA**, directed by John Hollands (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**LUZ DIABLA**, directed by Gervasio Canda, Paula Boffo, and Patricio Plaza (Argentina, Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**LOUD**, directed by Adam Azimov (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**VEGAN MAYO**, directed by Luca Tóth (Hungary) *Alberta Premiere.*

**EARWORM**, directed by Patrik Eklund (Sweden) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

### **SHORTS: MY HEART BEATS FOR LOVE**

Wanting a fun night out with a loved one? Look no further! The CIFF classic “Date Night” shorts package is back! A rollercoaster of romance, awkwardness, and everything in between, including life lessons from a puppet.

**THE BEGUILING**, directed by ishkwaaazhe Shane McSauby (United States) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**SOLEMATES**, directed by James Rathbone and Mike Feswick (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**YOUR OWN FLAVOUR**, directed by Alisha Ketry (United States) *Canadian Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**NO SKATE!**, directed by Guil Sela (France) *North American Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**BUGSICK**, directed by Venya Aggarwal (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**DISC**, directed by Blake Rice (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

**BRAD**, directed by Eugene Kolb (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**TWO BLACK BOYS IN PARADISE**, directed by Baz Sells (United Kingdom) *Alberta Premiere.*

**SOFIA**, directed by Camila De Ilhéus (United States) *International Premiere.*

### **SHORTS: WRECKING BALL**

This collection of experimental shorts showcases how film can be challenged and reimagined. Through mind-blowing imagery and unconventional narratives, this package highlights the creativity and ingenuity of filmmakers from around the world.

**CHICKEN SALAD**, directed by CK Thornton (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**SKRFF**, directed by Corrie Francis Parks and Daniel Nuderscher (Austria) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**IMPRINT**, directed by Duncan Major (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**WORLD AT STAKE**, directed by Susanna Flock, Adrian Jonas Haim, and Jona Kleinlein (Austria) *Alberta Premiere.*

**LAMENTO**, directed by Jannik Giger and Demian Wohler (Switzerland) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**WHERE DO BIRDS DIE?**, directed by Daniela Estay Castillo (Chile) *Canadian Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**A DYING TREE**, directed by Vincent René-Lortie (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**WITNESS: AN ORGANIMA FILM**, directed by Nik Arthur (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**PIDIKWE (RUMBLE)**, directed by Caroline Monnet (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**HANDSOME DEVIL**, directed by Daniel Barrow (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

### **SHORTS: TAKE ME ALONG**

Bring your bestie to this package that celebrates friendship in all forms! These eight short films explore the highs, lows, and define what it means to be a BFF.

**THE SENTRY**, directed by Jake Wachtel (Cambodia, Norway, United States) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**LITTLE MONSTERS**, directed by Pablo Leridon (France) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**AND LIFE FOR ALL**, directed by Mohsen Asdaghpour (Iran) *Canadian Premiere.*

**WANNABE**, directed by Kat Cattani (Ecuador) *Canadian Premiere.*

**ANYWAY, I PISS SITTING DOWN**, directed by Zak Slattery (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**HOLY SMOKES**, directed by Isabella Ares and Gabby Fiszman (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**MA MAO**, directed by Thanh Ngo (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**SUSANA**, directed by Gerardo Coello Escalant and Amandine Thomas (Mexico, United States) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

### **SHORTS: WE (ARE) A FAMILY**

Who says film festivals are only for adults? This shorts package is for all ages and is perfect for the whole family to enjoy together!

**SNOW BEAR**, directed by Aaron Blaise (United States) *Canadian Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**CHRISTOPHER & THE BUG**, directed by Vanessa Esteves and Kevin Micallef (Canada)  
*Calgary Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**ON A SUNDAY AT ELEVEN**, directed by Alicia K. Harris (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**SOAP BOX**, directed by Jimmy G. Pettigrew (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**CARDBOARD**, directed by J.P. Vine (United Kingdom) *Canadian Premiere.*

**THE WILD SHERIFF**, directed by Sarah Houle (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**DRAGFOX**, directed by Lisa Ott (United Kingdom, Switzerland) *Alberta Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

**SIHYEON'S SUMMER DAY**, directed by Yeajoon Cho (United States) *World Premiere.*

**POW!**, directed by Joey Clift (United States) *Canadian Premiere.* [Trailer](#)

### **[SHORTS: YOUTH BY YOUTH CINEMA](#)**

A selection of short films made by filmmakers under the age of 18, from around the world.

**KEEPER OF THE NIGHT SKY**, directed by Karina Loerchner (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**THE SECRETS**, directed by Edie Sawyer, Kaliya Paul, Zoe Maier (Canada)

**ACTING OUT**, directed by Mellony Ledo (United States/Australia) *Calgary Premiere.*

**WOULD YOU RATHER**, directed by Tatum Matthews (United States) *World Premiere.*  
[Trailer](#)

**JUST ONE MORE**, directed by Bingqing Liu (Singapore) *World Premiere.*

**EMPTY**, directed by Rose Steel (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**SKYFALL**, directed by Daniel Evan Ta (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**SNOW**, directed by Ruoyi Dong (Canada) *Calgary Premiere.*

**OUT OF SPITE**, directed by Eoin Tamura and Kaliya Paul (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**SEVENTH HEAVEN**, directed by Syrus Gupta and Davis Knocke (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

**DANCING IN THE STARS**, directed by Lazar Jovanović (Serbia) *World Premiere.*

**JOURNEY TO JOY**, directed by Kaylee Chu (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**SILENCED**, directed by Zeynab Mousavi and Houri Shafieioun (Iran) *Canadian Premiere.*

### **SHORTS FILMS BEFORE FEATURES**

Short film selections that are playing before feature films throughout the lineup.

**THIS BLOWS**, directed by Talia Smith (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

**THE SINGERS**, directed by Sam Davis (United States) *International Premiere.*

**SEED**, directed by Cameron Macgowan (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**COMPTROL**, directed by Nick Johnson (Canada)

**ELVIRA**, directed by Sarah Segal-Lazar (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**FLAT**, directed by Suri Parmar (Canada) *World Premiere.*

**IN LIEU OF FLOWERS**, directed by Jessie Posthumus (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**THE RUG**, directed by Sean Cisterna (Canada)

**MANGO**, directed by Joan Iyiola (United Kingdom) *Canadian Premiere.*

**A SPARROW'S SONG**, directed by Tobias Eckerlin (Germany) *Alberta Premiere.*

**MUDDY WATER**, directed by Drezus (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**SEND AND RECEIVE**, directed by Dominique Keller (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

**[See the full lineup announcement 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>**

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**CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival**

**September 19 – September 29, 2024**

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**#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**

