



**Media Release // For Immediate Release**  
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## **CELEBRATING ALBERTA TALENT AT CIFF 2022**

**Calgary, AB** - As Alberta's film industry continues to thrive, the Calgary International Film Festival also continues to support, celebrate and spotlight local talent with the Alberta Spotlight section. This celebrated selection of films includes both narrative and documentary features, as well as the return of Alberta Spirit Shorts, expanded to two packages, all screening as part of the 23rd festival, **September 22 - October 2, 2022**.

"This year's Alberta lineup is as diverse as ever and we're excited to showcase the variety of talented home-grown filmmakers, cast and crew. The stories vary in genre from coming of age to horror, thriller, documentary and post apocalyptic! Featuring Alberta locations and local cast and crew, these films all highlight the strength of our industry and our storytellers," said Brenda Lieberman, CIFF Lead Programmer.

### **ALBERTA SPOTLIGHT // FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES**

#### **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?"

Fresh off its World Premiere at the Locarno Film Festival, long-time CIFF alumni Trevor Anderson's first feature is a unique '80s coming-of-age film with a nostalgic aesthetic and a lot of charm. <https://bit.ly/3cC3B6o>

#### **DARK NATURE, Directed by Berkley Brady**

A survivor of domestic violence, Joy (Hannah Emily Anderson, JIGSAW, X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX) joins her friend Carmen (Madison Walsh, DON'T SAY ITS NAME) and her therapy group on an isolated retreat in the Canadian Rockies. The experience eventually shatters the border between reality and delusion, thanks to the dubious experimental methods of the group leader, Dr. Dunnley. Joy fears her abuser is stalking the group, but, in truth, they're facing a threat more terrifying than the monsters of their past.

Beautifully shot, with an all-female cast, Calgary-based Metis director Berkley Brady's feature directorial debut takes you on a thrilling backwoods experience with an incredible soundtrack by local band Ghostkeeper.

**FATHER OF NATIONS, Directed by Aleisha Anderson**

After suffering a global, catastrophic event, the world is on the verge of extinction. Attempts to engineer humanity have dulled its sanctity, choking out new life. Resigned to hopelessness, Jacob attempts to end his suffering in the wasteland when a man finds him and takes him to Haven, the last settlement with a complicated past. Political unrest forces Jacob and the Haven Rebels to flee to the badlands where each of the survivors confront their mortality and purpose in this world.

FATHER OF NATIONS is the first feature by Calgary filmmaker Aleisha Anderson, whose team transformed Southern Alberta locations, from Hilda and Brooks to Calgary and the badlands, into a post-apocalyptic universe, and filmed with an entirely Albertan cast and crew.

**FRANCHESKA: PRAIRIE QUEEN, Directed by Laura Lynn O'Grady (Documentary)**

FRANCHESKA: PRAIRIE QUEEN follows the journey of Filipino care worker Francis (Kiko) Yutrago, as he tries to achieve drag star superstardom while still financially supporting his family back in the Philippines. Adding complexity to his quest is where Kiko and his fiancé Cody choose to live: a tiny bible belt town in southern Alberta, population 956. When a typhoon hits his parent's house, Kiko looks to his drag persona Francheska Dynamites to bring in the extra cash they desperately need. <https://bit.ly/3ouiv17>

**INSANITY, Directed by Wendy Marie Hill-Tout (Documentary)**

From the perspective of Calgary writer/director Wendy Hill-Tout, INSANITY looks at how society has transitioned from the asylums of old to the "asylums" of the streets and jail cells. Despite experiencing suicidal ideation and being diagnosed with schizophrenia, Hill-Tout's brother, Bruce, was released from the hospital and never seen again. 25 years later, the filmmaker recounts her family's journey as they search for Bruce on the streets of Vancouver.

**ALBERTA SPIRIT // SHORTS**

**COLD TEA, Directed by Asim Overstands & Alim Sabir**

A former couple unexpectedly reunites on a night out. They experience a mix of emotions as they attempt to gain closure on their relationship.

Asim Overstands is quickly making his name known in the local film community. His follow-up to 2021's MEAN HAKEEM, COLD TEA is a truly Calgarian project employing predominantly local creatives, pushing to raise Calgary's status in the filmmaking world.

**NOT THAT DEEP, Directed by Misha Maseka**

Awakened by a dream of the last time an unresolved love oiled her scalp, Lusa gets ready for a trip to a local grocery store with her two best friends, Fatima and Rose. As Lusa makes her way through Calgary, distinct memories of their first and last meeting keep coming to Lusa's mind. An unraveling of her true feelings about the relationship become apparent as her subconscious expresses itself in movement and poetry. She and her friends reach the store. Once inside, Lusa bumps into Amir. The couple attempt to have closure.

Multi-disciplinary artist Misha Maseka expertly weaves a tortured tale of love through interpretive dance. Not only a love story between characters, but with Calgary as the backdrop, a love story of the city.

**PIITA AAPASSKAAN, Directed by Brock Davis Mitchell**

Kyle Young Pine grew up skateboarding in Mohkinstsis (Calgary), Alberta. The community and the freedom he found there removed him from the substance use that was happening at home, a result of pervasive generational trauma. He was never taught the Blackfoot ways, his urban upbringing far from the Blood Tribe lands, which challenged Kyle to find his true identity. When skateboarding wasn't enough, Kyle turned to other means of coping, until he was introduced to Fancy Feather Dancing at a local powwow. Now Kyle uses the art form to express himself and educate others on the power of Blackfoot traditions.

<https://piitaaapasskaan.com/film>

**SAVJ, Directed by Tank Standing Buffalo**

Tank, the eldest of eight siblings, grapples with the memory of the moment his family was torn apart. Foraging for survival alone in a forest, the children fear a dangerous force, unaware that what lurks in the darkness is pure evil. Narrated by Corey Feldman (STAND BY ME, THE GOONIES).

Tank Standing Buffalo returns to CIFF with a pseudo-prequel to his previous short film, RKLSS, continuing his auto-biographical story with vibrant animation and raw energy.

Other shorts titles included in the Alberta Shorts Spotlight:

**AYOUNGMAN, Directed by Holly Fortier and Larry Day**

**GATHERING STORM, Directed by Jeff Khounthavong**

**QUINN, Directed by Eva Colmers**

**FOUL, Directed by Ted Stenson**

**HEARTH OF THE LION, Directed by Vicki Van Chau**

**KIKINO KIDS, Directed by Barry Bilinsky**

**REBECCA'S ROOM, Directed by Gillian McKercher**

Stay tuned as more films will be added to Alberta Spotlight as we get closer to the festival!

## **INDUSTRY WEEK PROGRAMMING**

One of the most vital gatherings of screen media creators in Western Canada is back! Curated with an eye to the future, CIFF sets the scene for riveting industry conversations regarding what matters most to industry members in Western Canada from Thursday, September 22 to Sunday, September 25.

Industry Week will feature informative and inspiring discussions with visionary filmmakers that answer the screen industry's big questions. Industry Accreditation is now open - visit <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/industry/industry-week/> to learn more and apply.

Ticket Bundles are on sale now - Stay tuned for the Full Festival Lineup Announcement on August 31, 2022 and single tickets will be on sale September 8. <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca>

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**CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival**

**September 22 - October 2, 2022**

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

**Media Accreditation opens on August 5 and now includes access to Industry Week panels and events.**

**CIFF Thanks their Presenting Partner**



## CIFF Thanks their 2022 Public Funders

