



**Media Release // FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 6, 2022**

## **MOVIES & SO MUCH MORE AT CIFF 2022**

### **Special Experiences Include Screening of HIGH SCHOOL with Q&A and Acoustic Performance by Tegan and Sara!**

**Calgary, AB** - In addition to an exciting lineup that features over 200 features and short films, The Calgary International Film Festival is thrilled to announce numerous special experiences taking place at the festival, including the Western Canadian premiere of Amazon Freevee's **HIGH SCHOOL**, based on Calgary musicians Tegan and Sara Quin's best-selling memoir of the same name, followed by a live Q&A and acoustic performance by the musical duo.

CIFF is also excited to announce that the festival will open on **September 22** with a screening of **THE LOST KING**, directed by Academy Award®-nominated director Stephen Frears (*THE QUEEN*, *HIGH FIDELITY*, *DANGEROUS LIAISONS*), and starring Academy Award®-nominee Sally Hawkins.

Additional special experiences at CIFF will include the Interactive Digital Media hub that highlights virtual reality and video games, local Instagrammable art installations courtesy of PARK Productions, and a CIFF Video Palace, to name just a few.

"Movies are the heart of CIFF. At the same time, the world of screen-based art is wondrously broad. Not limited by our name, this year we're excited to punctuate the broader film lineup with special experiences ranging from music crossover events, to interactive digital media, to quirky art installations that enliven the festival site" said Steve Schroeder, CIFF's Executive Director.

### **OPENING NIGHT FILM**

#### **THE LOST KING, Directed by Stephen Frears (United Kingdom)**

**September 22 | 7:30 at Eau Claire**

In 2012, having been lost for over 500 years, the remains of King Richard III were discovered beneath a parking lot in Leicester. The search had been orchestrated by an amateur historian, Philippa Langley, whose unrelenting research had been met with incomprehension by her friends and family and skepticism by experts and academics.

THE LOST KING is the life-affirming true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most infamous kings in England's history. From Academy Award®-nominated director Stephen Frears (THE QUEEN, HIGH FIDELITY, DANGEROUS LIAISONS) and starring Academy Award®-nominee Sally Hawkins (THE SHAPE OF WATER)

## **CLOSING NIGHT FILM**

### **BROTHER, Directed by Clement Virgo**

**October 2 | 6:30 p.m. at Eau Claire**

Propelled by the pulsing beats of Toronto's early hip hop scene, BROTHER is the story of Francis and Michael, the sons of Caribbean immigrants, maturing into young men. Exploring themes of masculinity, identity and family, a mystery unfolds during the sweltering summer of 1991 and escalating tensions set off a series of events that change the course of the brothers' lives.

Director Clement Virgo crafts a timely story about the profound bond between siblings, the resilience of a community and the irrepressible power of music.

## **SPECIAL EXPERIENCES - MUSIC**

### **HIGH SCHOOL, SEASON 1 (Episodes 1 - 3), Directed by Clea Duvall**

**Thursday September 29 | 8:00 PM at Eau Claire**

Based on musicians Tegan and Sara Quin's best-selling memoir, *HIGH SCHOOL* is a story about finding your own identity—a journey made even more complicated when you have a twin whose own struggle and self-discovery so closely mimics your own. Told through a backdrop of '90s grunge and rave culture, the series weaves between parallel and discordant memories of sisters growing up down the hall from one another.

The screening of HIGH SCHOOL will be followed by a live Q&A and short acoustic performance by Tegan and Sara.

CIFF will host a Red Carpet with Tegan and Sara ahead of the screening at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to [publicist@ciffcalgary.ca](mailto:publicist@ciffcalgary.ca) if you're able to cover this red carpet.

### **Previously announced:**

### **NOSFERATU with Live Score by Chad VanGalen**

**(performing as Black Mold)**

**Wednesday September 28 | 8 p.m. at Contemporary Calgary Dome**

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of F.W. Murnau's horror classic, CIFF joins forces with Calgary's own Chad VanGalen (performing as Black Mold) as he brings his unique sound to the Dome at Contemporary Calgary, where he'll perform a live score to one of the most influential films from the silent era.

## **SPECIAL EXPERIENCES - INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MEDIA HUB**

CIFF is following up on last year's Arcade to bring its audience the chance to get their game on at the CIFF Interactive Digital Media Hub! Bringing all the action and adventure to Eau Claire Market with an impressive lineup of games and Virtual Reality pieces, here are the exciting VR and Video Game experiences:

### **VIRTUAL REALITY**

#### **GORN, Free Lives / Devolver Digital**

GORN is a ludicrously violent VR gladiator simulator, made by Free Lives, the developers of Broforce. Featuring a unique, fully physics driven combat engine, GORN combatants will be able to creatively execute their most violent gladiatorial fantasies in virtual reality. Savagely strike down an infinite supply of poorly-animated opponents with all manner of weapons – from swords, maces, and bows to nunchuks, throwing knives, massive two-handed warhammers or even your blood-soaked bare hands. The only limits to the carnage are your imagination and decency.

#### **JORDAN JONES DIES IN SPACE, Director Shaun Crawford / Mammoth XR**

In this immersive first-person virtual reality experience, a maintenance worker on an interstellar cruiser goes on a routine space walk for repairs when the ship suddenly has to make an emergency jump, leaving him stranded alone in space.

#### **THE ORCHID AND THE BEE, Director Frances Adair Mckenzie**

Nature craves balance and is capable of just about anything to achieve it. Flowing freely between unsettling disembodiment and empowering creation to offer an uplifting vision of our evolutionary future, THE ORCHID AND THE BEE is an expressionistic VR ode to life's struggle for existence, explored through a chain of genetic love affairs.

#### **TENTACULAR, Firepunchd / Devolver Digital**

Ever felt like a squid out of water? Tentacular plunges you into the ocean-dwelling hulk of a gigantic, kind-hearted tentacled beast trying to figure out its place in the world.

#### **THIS IS NOT A CEREMONY, Director Ahnahktsipiitaa (Colin Van Loon)**

Niitsitapi writer and director Ahnahktsipiitaa (Colin Van Loon) takes us beyond the veil of traditional media and transports us directly into another realm, where past,

present and future are one; where colonial rules and assumptions are forgotten; and where we can finally get to the truth of the matter.

Presented in stunning cinematic VR, the narrative unfolds all around us, on a dream-like plane of existence. Panoramas flow and merge, stories come to life and dance before our eyes, and community protocols confront our notions of personal responsibility. Here, we are asked to witness some of the darker sides of living life in Canada while Indigenous.

## **VIDEO GAMES**

### **THE CLUCKENING, Vancouver Film School**

A 3rd chicken action adventure sandbox game where you play as Nugget, a chicken on his quest for revenge. Rebel against the humans that have mistreated you and free your captured brethren. Created by 6 students in the Unity engine over a period of 4 months.

### **CULT OF THE LAMB, Massive Monster / Devolver Digital**

Start your own cult in a land of false prophets, venturing out into diverse and mysterious regions to build a loyal community of woodland Followers and spread your Word to become the one true cult. <https://www.cultofthelamb.com/>

### **INSURGENCY: SANDSTORM, New World Interactive**

INSURGENCY: SANDSTORM is a team-based, tactical FPS based on lethal close quarters combat and objective-oriented multiplayer gameplay.

Prepare for the fight of your life in a gritty, tactical team-based shooter. Death comes fast so the road to victory means becoming a key element to your team. Cooperate, move with speed and precision, carefully manage ammunition, and tactically navigate the environment with every step. (Please note, this game is intended for adults).

### **TOWNSCAPER, Oskar Stålberg / Raw Fury**

Build quaint island towns with curvy streets, small hamlets, soaring cathedrals, canal networks or sky cities on stilts. Build the town of your dreams, block by block. No goal. No real gameplay. Just plenty of building and plenty of beauty.

In addition to music and Interactive Digital Media, patrons can also look forward to Instagrammable installations, red carpets, Q&A's with filmmakers and even a trip down memory lane with CIFF's video palace.

## **CIFF VIDEO PALACE**

Presented by connectFirst Credit Union

The CIFF Video Palace is bringing its audience back to the classic video store with an interactive and nostalgic way to view CIFF's film schedule and see what's coming up, with daily giveaways from connectFirst Credit Union.

## **RAINBOW CARPET WITH FRANCHESKA: PRAIRIE QUEEN**

**Friday September 23 | 6:30 p.m. at Eau Claire**

Sponsored by connectFirst Credit Union

Join Francheska Dynamite, star of FRANCHESKA: PRAIRIE QUEEN, on the rainbow carpet ahead of the film's screening. There will be a DJ and other fun guests, and of course, a rainbow carpet.

<https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/films/2022/francheska-prairie-queen/>

## **RED CAR-"PET"**

**Saturday October 1 | 2:45 p.m. at Globe Cinema**

Presented by connectFirst Credit Union

The CIFF audience and their beloved pets are invited to attend the RED CAR"PET" to get their photos taken by the CIFF professional photography team.

## **PARK PRODUCTIONS**

Experience local art from PARK Productions at Eau Claire Market during the festival, which includes a balloon drop, mobile photo booth and other Instagrammable moments not to be missed!

## **ADDED SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**WOMEN TALKING, Directed by Sarah Polley**

**October 1 | 8:30 p.m. at Eau Claire**

Sarah Polley returns to the big screen as a director for the first time in nearly a decade with this searing adaptation of Miriam Toews' acclaimed novel about a group of women in an isolated religious colony who struggle to reconcile with their faith after a series of sexual assaults. Starring Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, Jessie Buckley, Judith Ivey, Ben Whishaw and Frances McDormand, WOMEN TALKING is a film about rage, grief, wisdom and hope.

**MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca>**

**TICKETS: Single tickets are on sale September 8, 2022.**

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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 experiences.

**CIFF's Presenting Partner is**



**CIFF Thanks their 2022 Public Funders**

