



**Media Release // FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 9, 2025**

## **ANNOUNCING ACADEMY AWARD-WINNER CHARLIE KAUFMAN AS INDUSTRY WEEK KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**CALGARY, AB** - The Calgary International Film Festival's Industry Week is Alberta's premier annual gathering of creatives, innovators, and thought leaders across film and media and is proud to announce **Academy Award® Winner Charlie Kaufman as the keynote speaker for its 2025 edition**. Kaufman's latest short film, *HOW TO SHOOT A GHOST* - a darkly comedic surreal meditation on grief, memory, and the absurdity of closure, written by poet and author Eva H.D. - will have its **North American Premiere** at this year's festival. The film anchors CIFF's shorts package titled "SHORTS: IF WE WERE A MOVIE". The screening will be followed by an exclusive in-person Q&A with various filmmakers, including Kaufman, on September 20 at The Plaza Theatre.

Kaufman will be joined by writer Eva H.D., who previously collaborated with him on *JACKALS AND FIREFLIES*. She's acclaimed for both her bold style and playful, inventive voice.

"We are beyond thrilled to welcome Charlie Kaufman and Eva H.D. to CIFF Industry Week 2025," said Celina Vides, CIFF's Industry Specialist and Programmer. "His work continues to challenge convention and inspire a generation of storytellers. At a time when authenticity is more important than ever, Charlie's perspective is both vital and timely."

An Academy Award-winning screenwriter, director, and producer, Kaufman is known for his groundbreaking work on films such as *Being John Malkovich*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Adaptation*, and *Synecdoche, New York*. His fiercely original storytelling and unflinching exploration of the human psyche have cemented him as one of the most influential voices in modern cinema.

Industry Week 2025 will take place from September 19 - 21 at CIFF's INDUSTRY HUB located at the Delta Hotels - Calgary Downtown; September 26 - 27 at the IATSE 212 Building on September 26, followed by the Industry Career Fair at Chinook Mall September 27. Industry week brings together professionals and students and features panels, screenings, workshops, and networking opportunities with some of the most forward-thinking voices in the field.

See the full schedule here - <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/industry/2025-industry-schedule/>

## **IN CONVERSATION: CHARLIE KAUFMAN & EVA H.D.**

Sunday, September 21 | 10:00–11:30 AM (90 mins)

Contemporary Calgary Auditorium

Audience Access: Qualifying passes, ticket bundle access, single tickets available (\$17)

<https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/>

## **MEDIA IMAGES:**

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

**-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**

