



Media Release // For Immediate Release
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AWARD-WINNING SHORTS, ALL IN ONE PLACE

Full 2026 Short Films Lineup Revealed!

CALGARY, AB - Some of the most unforgettable festival experiences happen in just a few minutes. From laugh-out-loud comedies and gripping dramas to bold animation and powerful documentaries, the **Calgary International Film Festival's Shorts Program** continues to showcase remarkable storytelling in its most impactful form. With more than 100 short films screening throughout CIFF 2026, presented by **Servus Credit Union**, from **September 24 – October 4** audiences can discover fresh voices, acclaimed filmmakers, local talent and compelling stories from around the world.

"We are extremely excited to share our lineup of short films for the 2026 festival. A major highlight this year is the incredible number of films that have received major recognition at festivals around the world, including the Cannes Palme d'Or-winning **FOR THE OPPONENTS**, Sundance Documentary Short Film Award winner **THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL**, the award-winning animated short **PAPER TRAIL**, which has received recognition at Sundance, SXSW, and Annecy film festivals, and **CRISIS ACTOR**, which earned the U.S. Dramatic Short Film Award at Sundance. Together, these films represent the calibre and breadth of this year's program, giving Calgary audiences the opportunity to experience acclaimed short-form cinema from some of the most celebrated filmmakers working today," said Adam Keresztes, CIFF's Canadian Features and Shorts Programmer.

"At the same time, we're thrilled to have a record number of Alberta-made shorts in this year's program. There is such an incredible pool of talented filmmakers and storytellers coming out of Alberta that we couldn't possibly fit them into a single package. This year, audiences can experience **two dedicated Alberta Shorts programs**, alongside additional Alberta-made films throughout the lineup. It's a truly exciting mix of exceptional films from around the world and some of the best work being made right here at home."

From emerging filmmakers making their mark to established voices pushing the boundaries of short-form storytelling, the 2026 Shorts Program offers something for every kind of film lover. Audiences can expect a dynamic mix of genres, perspectives, and filmmaking styles, with stories that are funny, thought-provoking, moving, and unexpected. With two dedicated Alberta Shorts packages alongside international selections from across the globe, this year's program is an opportunity to discover new talent, champion homegrown filmmakers, and experience some of the most exciting short films being made today.

SHORTS: 9 TO 5

Jobs suck, but they don't have to! Experience work/life balance from around the world.

THE CALL CENTER, directed by Juan Crespo Lejbruder (Argentina) *Canadian Premiere.*

BETTY ST. CLAIR, directed by Syra McCarthy and Kyle Casey Chu (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

SOLE, directed by Haneol Lee (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A GREY ANT, directed by CARAZ (Canada, France) *Canadian Premiere.*

FOUND & LOST, directed by Reza Rasouli (Austria) *Alberta Premiere.*

DEAR MAE, directed by Josiah Mendoza, Mona Patterson, and Zoey Franklin (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

DADDY'S LITTLE MEATBALL, directed by Yael Grunseit (Australia, United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

FINGER GUNS, directed by David Feehan (Canada)

SHORTS: ALBERTA SPIRIT SHORTS (Night One)

The Night 1 collection of some of the best short films made in Alberta this year.

EVERYTHING MUST GO, directed by Kaito Nyunoya (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

THE ELDEST DAUGHTER, directed by Rhia Aden (Canada) *World Premiere.*

RENDERFAMILY, directed by Tyler Longmire (Canada) *World Premiere.*

GATES, directed by gbohunmi (Canada) *World Premiere.*

QUAY QUEENS: CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY, directed by Anna Andrews (Canada)

GRRRL STYLE YYC, directed by Cass Gayowski (Canada) *World Premiere.*

PORRIDGE WITH LOVE, directed by Mary Yohannes (Canada)

ITSEETAMAPI, directed by Adam Solway (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

THE LEGACY OF A BUTTERFLY, directed by Monique Barrie (Canada)

KAADIKI - POOL PARTY, directed by Jordan Harvey (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

PEOPLE WATCHING, directed by Alexis Grace Alvendia (Canada) *World Premiere.*

GOING NOWHERE FAST, directed by Dylan Paffe (Canada) *Canadian Premiere.*

SHORTS: ALBERTA SPIRIT SHORTS (Night Two)

The Night 2 collection of some of the best short films made in Alberta this year.

LUBE CITY, directed by Guillaume Carlier (Canada)

THIS IS MY BODY, directed by Rino Mioc (Canada) *World Premiere*.

BOOB JOBS SAVE LIVES PART 2, directed by Mykah Obrigewitch (Canada) *Calgary Premiere*.

YOLKLESS PRESS, directed by Vicki Van Chau (Canada)

THE PREDUTCHIAN, directed by Dallas Soonias (Canada) *World Premiere*.

THE GIFT, directed by Alexandra Gavillet (Canada) *Canadian Premiere*.

DECADES: IN THE SALT DARKROOM WITH GEORGE WEBBER, directed by Xavier La Prairie (Canada)

AS THE BANNOCK BURNS, directed by Nathaniel Arcand (Canada) *Alberta Premiere*.

MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, directed by Alex Eskandarkhah and Warin Era (Canada) *World Premiere*.

SHORTS: CELEBRATE THE DREAMER

A unique mix of experimental short films developed with a wide array of techniques. Come experience a selection of films that push boundaries on what contemporary cinema can be.

HOW TO MAKE PAPER, directed by Jeff Wielki (Canada)

FIREFLIES, directed by Noah Shin (United States) *World Premiere*.

FINE BLACK FRAME, directed by Leah Doz (Canada) *Canadian Premiere*.

VOLKLORE, directed by Viktorie Štěpánová (Czechia) *International Premiere*.

SENSUAL, directed by Tanja Nuijten (Germany) *Alberta Premiere*.

INSECTICIDE, directed by Paula Gallego (Spain) *Alberta Premiere*.

WITH COFFEE (TALES WITH THE LETTER C), directed by María Manero Muro (Spain) *Canadian Premiere*.

BARI, directed by Jiyeon Woo (Germany) *World Premiere*.

DREAM SYNTH™, directed by Ryley O'Byrne (Canada) *Canadian Premiere*.

BLACK SEAS, directed by Erin Weisgerber (Canada) *Alberta Premiere*.

SHORTS: COAT OF MANY COLOURS

A beautiful array of international films with varying animation styles. Including selections from Cannes and the award winner from Sundance.

CARTOON PHYSICS, directed by Ru Kuwahata and Max Porter (France, The Netherlands, Switzerland) *Canadian Premiere*.

APART, directed by Pola Maneli (United States, South Africa) *International Premiere.*

SABA, directed by Liron Topaz (United States, France) *Canadian Premiere.*

ULTRA STRONG, directed by Catherine Lepage (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

BECAUSE TODAY IS SATURDAY, directed by Alice Eça Guimarães (Portugal) *Alberta Premiere.*

LIVING WITH A VISIONARY, directed by Stephen P. Neary (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

PAPER TRAIL, directed by Don Hertzfeldt (United States) *Calgary Premiere.*

THE END, directed by Niki Lindroth von Bahr (Sweden, France, Denmark) *Alberta Premiere.*

SHORTS: THE DARK AT THE END OF THE STREET

The bizarre, the weird, the terrifying, the laugh-out-loud darkly funny. Come to scream, gasp, and laugh your faces off with this After Dark package of short films.

DOUGH MAN, directed by Brittney Gavin and Amy Mielke (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

BEFORE THE SUN, directed by Douglas Cook (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

THE PIGS UNDERNEATH, directed by Charlie Dennis (United Kingdom) *Alberta Premiere.*

BALL FACE, directed by Laurence Thérien (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

COSMONAUTS, directed by Leo Černic (Slovenia, Italy) *Calgary Premiere.*

BISOU SAUVAGE, directed by Bahij Jaroudi (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

MATCHES, directed by Jake Delaney (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

GOD IS SHY, directed by Jocelyn Charles (France) *Alberta Premiere.*

SCISSORS, directed by Hannah Alline (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

MAN EATING PUSSY, directed by Emily Lawson (Canada, United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

SHORTS: EACH SEASON CHANGES YOU

Whether it's physical body modifications, internal personality shifts, or changes forced upon you by exterior forces, we are all human, and change is inevitable.

THE WADDLES, directed by Max Jenkins (United States) *International Premiere.*

PLUMPED, directed by Nora DeLigter and Faye Tsakas (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

FAUX BIJOUX, directed by Jessy Moussallem (France, Lebanon) *Canadian Premiere.*

FATHERFUCKER, directed by Grégory Camoli (Belgium) *Canadian Premiere.*

SHES'S NONBINARY, directed by Jess McLeod (Canada) *Calgary Premiere.*

METHOD COWBOY, directed by Carlos Valdivia (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

WE WERE HERE, directed by Pranav Bhasin (India)

BID16, directed by Mick Robertson and Margaret Rose (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

SHORTS: A FOOL LIKE ME

Everyone can benefit from a little self-work.

THIRTEEN CATS, directed by David Gaspar (Spain) *Canadian Premiere.*

THE DREAM IS A SNAIL, directed by Thien An Nguyen (Vietnam, South Korea) *Alberta Premiere.*

SUNDOWN, directed by Lucien Lepoutre (Belgium) *Canadian Premiere.*

THE LAST WISH, directed by Kimberley Ann Surin (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

SISTER'S SWIM, directed by Lola Degove (France, Belgium) *Calgary Premiere.*

JAZZ INFERNAL, directed by Will Niava (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

COFFIN THERAPY, directed by Zéré Turlykhanova (Kazakhstan) *Canadian Premiere.*

SHORTS: LIFE'S LIKE POETRY

Real life IS stranger than fiction, but also sometimes sweeter. This package includes documentary short film award winners from Sundance, Cannes, and Festival REGARD.

THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL, directed by Ben Proudfoot and Stephen Curry (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

AIR HORSE ONE, directed by Lasse Linder (Belgium, Switzerland) *Canadian Premiere.*

FOR THE OPPONENTS, directed by Federico Luis (Chile, Mexico, France) *Canadian Premiere.*

MON TAXI, directed by Meriem Sakrouhi (United States, Morocco) *Calgary Premiere.*

PANTHER PAT, directed by Ashley Brandon (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

PUOLANKA PUSSY RALLY, directed by Inka Achté and Einari Paakkanen (Finland) *Canadian Premiere.*

A WOLF IN THE SUBURBS, directed by Amélie Hardy (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

SHORTS: SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME

Date Night! Relationships aren't always fun, but movies about them are. Love, break-ups, shared history, meet-cutes. Connections of all sorts in these fantastic short films.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD, directed by Vassili Schneider (France) *Canadian Premiere.*

CRISIS ACTOR, directed by Lily Platt (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

BLUE, directed by Ethan Romaine (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

FANTASIES OF A RESCUE DUMMY, directed by Adrian Maganza (United Kingdom)

BOWL CUT, directed by Tamara Vittoz (France) *Canadian Premiere.*

I DON'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE, directed by Diane Obomsawin (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

THE PORTRAIT, directed by Julia Hogg (Canada) *Canadian Premiere.*

PLEASE, directed by Anna Mantzaris (Finland, France, Norway, Sweden, Czechia) *Alberta Premiere.*

THE CURSE OF DANNY RIZZO, directed by Ilevy Stamatov (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

SEND NUDES, directed by David Sick (Germany) *Canadian Premiere.*

HOW'S ARCHIE?, directed by Jessie Posthumus (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

KILORAN BAY, directed by Michael Bruce (United Kingdom, United States) *Calgary Premiere.*

SHORTS: WHERE DO THE CHILDREN PLAY?

A family-friendly shorts package including animation and documentary films from around the world.

SUNSPARK, directed by Danny Bourque (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

ChikaBOOM!, directed by c. Craig Patterson (United States) *International Premiere.*

CHRISTINE SINCLAIR: KIND OF A BIG DEAL, directed by Eoin Duffy (Canada)

DODGEBALL, directed by Jesse Van Norman (United States) *Canadian Premiere.*

GATORVILLE, directed by Freddie Gluck (United States) *International Premiere.*

WHALE 52 - SUITE FOR MAN, BOY, AND WHALE, directed by Daniel Neiden (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

ROCKETSHIP MAI, directed by Arlyn Nertomb, Katie Winchester, Crystal Woo, Michelle Lorimer, Airin Budiman, Nattasha Shrestha, Bec Cranswick, and Anastasia Walker (Canada) *Alberta Premiere.*

PITCHIN' STONES, directed by Bex Jones (Canada)

BEAST OF THE SEINE, directed by Jon Portman (United States) *Alberta Premiere.*

SHORTS: YOUTH BY YOUTH CINEMA

Youth By Youth Shorts are short films made by filmmakers under the age of 18. Calgary-made films and international films alike.

THE ART OF BEING IN DEBT, directed by Gage Pili (Canada)

CHECKIMS, directed by Jack Zhu (Canada) *International Premiere.*

ATTACK OF THE MUTATED MELONS, directed by Zlata Kovalenko (Czechia) *International Premiere.*

BORN TO DARKNESS, directed by Winslow Burnett (United States) *World Premiere.*

HIDE&SEEK, directed by Mackenna Fletcher (Canada) *Calgary Premiere.*

THE BUNNY, directed by Isaiah Supadi and Oscar Smith (Australia) *Calgary Premiere.*

INSTANT, directed by Hudson Hillin (United States) *International Premiere.*

GROW UP, directed by Dari Justin (Australia) *Canadian Premiere.*

FORGOTTEN, directed by Artin Hadipour (Canada) *World Premiere.*

DEAR ELLA, directed by Laura Vanessa Schultz (Germany) *International Premiere.*

GEM STICKERS, directed by Thea Kasinos (Canada)

TAKE A BREATH, directed by Aime Novoa Samaniego (Canada) *World Premiere.*

SHORT FILMS BEFORE FEATURES

These short films will be played before feature films at the festival.

THE FLAMES OF ME, directed by Daniel Léger (Canada) Alberta Premiere.

(HABOOLM KSINAALGAT) SOUL CATCHER, directed by Amanda Strong and Pamela Post (Canada) Alberta Premiere.

Single tickets are on sale August 28, 2026, at 10 a.m. MST. For more information, please visit <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/>

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CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival

September 24 - October 4, 2026

ciffcalgary.ca | @CIFFcalgary

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 27th festival from September 24 – October 4, 2026, with in-cinema screenings celebrating stand-out stories and offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

CIFF Thanks their Presenting Partner



CIFF Thanks their 2026 Public Funders

