

OKOTOKS FILM FESTIVAL
FF!
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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**OKOTOKS. NOT
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ARE BIG.**

**2026 FILM FESTIVAL
JUNE 4TH TO 13TH**



OUR 10TH YEAR!

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Welcome from Wynn Brown **Okotoks Film Society President**

Welcome to the 2026 Okotoks International Film Festival!



It's an honour to be stepping into the role of president this year, and to continue to be a part of bringing this festival forward. Film to me has always been about more than just what's on screen. But how they use that technical excellence to tell stories that stay with you longer and in ways you don't expect.

This year marks the tenth year of the festival, and we're celebrating it properly, with ten days of packages. Over this time, we'll be showing a wide range of work from different genres and voices, all bringing a unique vision of their own. Some may bring tears, some might scare the life out of you, and others might make you laugh. There's something here for everyone to enjoy, and that's part of what makes this festival so special.

A lot of work has gone into making this year happen, from us on the board and others in this community. And I hope that in all that effort, you take something away from it, whether that's a good laugh, a conversation, or just a film that sticks with you a bit longer than the rest.

Thank you for being part of this milestone for the festival.

And... ACTION.

Welcome from Katie Fournell

Okotoks Film Society Festival Director

Hello film lovers and filmmakers,



We are back at it again with another edition of the Okotoks Film Festival...and not just any edition...this is the 10 year anniversary. I have mixed feelings about this; on the one hand, how the heck did we get to this milestone so fast, on the other, I am so proud of the growth and accomplishments myself and the team have achieved. The Okotoks Film Festival has evolved into a staple of the Okotoks summer calendar and we are so thankful for all that our audience, filmmakers, and community have given us.

We have sponsors with such amazing enthusiasm for promoting and encouraging artists, we have filmmakers giving us more and more spectacular films that raise our profile on the local and global stage, and we have an audience that is ever growing, celebrating, and enthusiastic. All of you keep pushing the envelope and pushing us to be better. I hope you feel we are rising to the challenge.

For 10 years I have celebrated, cried, laughed, and grown along with this festival. In year one I put a goofy little dream goal on the board: "what if we had a 10 day festival"...and now we do. It has not always been easy, but it has always been rewarding. The support I have received in creating this Festival made that crazy goal never feel quite out of reach; and so I hope you love the inclusion of five extra days at this year's Festival. You asked us to go big, you deserve us going big, and so we are here to prove that in Okotoks, not just our rocks are big.

Thank you Okotoks and Okotoks Film Festival fans! I have had the best and most accomplished 10 years of my life with you; here's to 10 more!



Welcome from Mayor Tanya Thorn

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 10th Annual Okotoks Film Festival as we celebrate a decade of storytelling, creativity, and community in the friendly, charming, and uniquely vibrant town of Okotoks. On behalf of the Town of Okotoks, I extend a warm welcome to our visitors, filmmakers, and festival audiences both near and far. As you enjoy the festival, I encourage you to explore our town and the beautiful Foothills region.

From our stunning natural surroundings to our welcoming community spirit, Okotoks offers a backdrop that is as inspiring as the films being showcased over the next 10 days.

For the past ten years, the Okotoks Film Festival has played an important role in enriching our community. It fosters imagination, celebrates individuality, and brings people together through the shared experience of cinema. The festival continues to be a platform where emerging and established filmmakers can share their voices, while audiences are challenged, entertained, and inspired.

It is fitting that 10 years brings us 10 days of creativity and connection. A milestone anniversary like this happens due to the unwavering dedication of the Okotoks Film Society. Their commitment has shaped this festival into an internationally recognized cultural event that not only celebrates the arts but also contributes meaningfully to the social and economic vitality of Okotoks.

Having experienced the powerful stories and range of emotions presented over the past decade, I look forward with excitement to the films, conversations, and discoveries that await us in 2026.

Thank you to the Okotoks Film Society for their tireless efforts, to the filmmakers whose work brings stories to life, and to our audiences for continuing to support and celebrate the art of cinema. Here's to ten years of film and many more to come.

Sincerely,

Tanya Thorn, BA, ICD.D (she/her)
Blackfoot Name: Óóhkotok Aakíí
Mayor



Hey Okotoks!

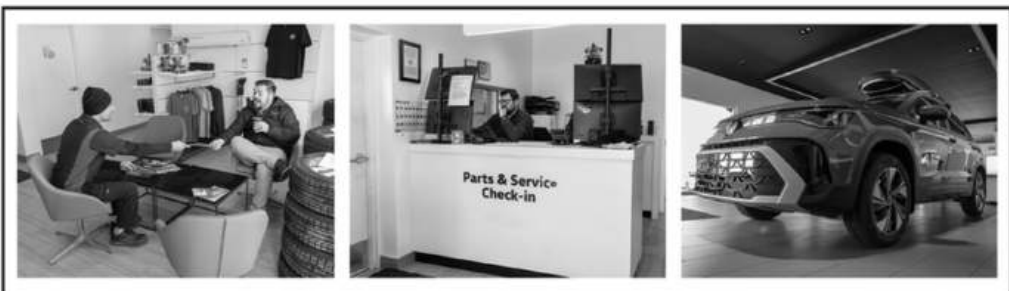
We've Been Waiting to Meet You.

For the past four years, our team has been proud to serve this community. We've gotten to know lots of our neighbours, and there are still so many friendly faces we're looking forward to meeting.

Skip the drive to the city to visit your local Volkswagen dealer, right here in town, and find out why we're known as **Alberta's Friendliest Dealership!**



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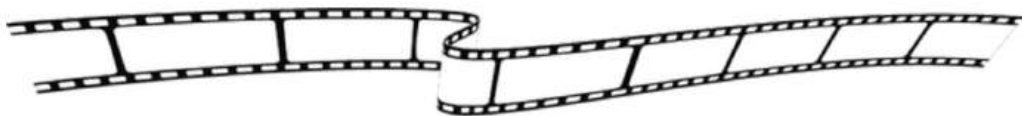
Founded in March 2016, the Okotoks Film Society exists to bring world-class cinema and the people who make it to our community. The 2026 Festival marks the **10th** season of film events in Okotoks, and we're just getting started.

Beyond the Festival, we've created events including the Okotoks Festive Film Festival, the 24-Hour Horror Filmmaking Challenge, and screenings of the Oscar-Nominated Short Films. **Up next: Filming in the Foothills**, a mentorship program for anyone ready to make their first film.

Interested in joining the team? Email anne-marie@okotoksfilmfestival.ca — she'll keep you in the loop on our upcoming AGM.

Festival Screenings

Looking for a specific screening?



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 Nominated  Foothills  Alberta  Canadian

For warning on screening content visit www.okotoksfilmfestival.ca

Festival Screenings

Looking for a specific screening?



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 Nominated  Foothills  Alberta  Canadian

For warning on screening content visit www.okotoksfilmfestival.ca

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Opening Night - Eyes in the Woods - 7PM

Thursday, June 4 

For 10 years, we've been kicking off our festival with local cinema! This Alberta-made film begins the Okotoks Film Festival in style, taking us back to rural Alberta in the summer of 1986 and the filmmakers themselves will be in the house! After the credits roll, ask questions of the filmmakers and hear the stories from behind the scenes.



Director: Morgan Ermtter

From: Alberta

Deep in the woods, Sam and Brooklyn grapple with two vastly different secrets. One that feels inevitable. One that is too strange to ignore. As fractured histories, park rangers, and the pull of the unknown converge, they must decide whether to fear what waits in the dark unknown, or embrace it as the only truth left to trust.



Opening Night Red Carpet Gala - 9PM


Thursday, June 4

Following the screening of *Eyes in the Woods* this event takes the party to the lobby for a Red Carpet Gala complete with mocktails, light apps, and live music! Dress to impress as we celebrate the 10th annual Festival take-OFF!



Festival Awards

Live online announcement of award winners on June 3rd at 7pm:
watch.okotoksfilmfestival.ca

Keep an eye out for our nominees in the program, they are marked with this symbol: 

BEST PICTURE — This award goes to the film selected best overall by our Jury. The prize: \$1000
Sponsored By: HCR HVAC & MECHANICAL LTD.

BEST YOUTH FILM — All youth films are considered by our Jury.
The winning film will receive a film scholarship to the YouthWrite film camp.

AUDIENCE CHOICE — All films are nominated for this award!
Make sure to fill out your ballot by visiting vote.okotoksfilmfestival.ca
after each screening you attend.

We will announce this winner at the 48-hour Filmmaking Challenge screening. The prize: \$1000
Sponsored By: HCR HVAC & MECHANICAL LTD.

Other awards that will receive recognition are: **BEST PERFORMER, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY, BEST SOUND DESIGN, BEST ART DIRECTION, BEST SCREENPLAY, BEST ANIMATION, BEST VISUAL/SPECIAL EFFECTS, BEST DOCUMENTARY, and BEST EDITING.**

Thank you to our talented juries for helping to select our winners.

Feature Film - Broken Voices

7PM, Friday, June 5

Cinema has no borders. This international feature brings a powerful story to the Okotoks Film Festival screen, reminding us why we all show up in the dark to watch strangers' lives unfold. Come for the film, stay for the feeling it leaves you with.



Director: Ondřej Provozník

From: Slovakia

In early 1990s Prague, 13-year-old Karolína earns a place in a world-famous girls' choir, joining her older sister and other driven young talents. Her voice soon catches the attention of the admired and enigmatic choirmaster. Being singled out feels like a triumph, until she begins to understand the unsettling price of that privilege. Inspired by real events, the film explores the fragile line where innocence collides with abusive power.

Note: Strong content warning, see triggers

Horror TwistedReels - 10PM, Friday, June 5

Sleep is overrated anyway! This collection of horror short films will have you questioning every dark hallway, suspicious noise, and friendly neighbour you've ever encountered. Some of these films are international, and many of them come straight out of Alberta! Come alone if you dare, or bring a friend you don't mind screaming with.

Films in this Package:

- Chapter 9 - Director: Benzi Pichhadze - Calgary
- Never Come Home Again - Director: Kaeley Jade Wiebe - Alberta
- BIKEMANIAC - Directors: Arturo Artal, Juan Carrascal Ynigo - Spain
- SPLICE - Director: Dylan MacGregor - Calgary
- Caged - Director: Ben Caplan - United States
- Berta - Director: Lucía Forner Segarra - Spain
- What Remains - Director: Corey Bond - Calgary
- The Veil - Director: Gabriel Motta - Brazil ★

14 NOMINATIONS: BEST ART DIRECTION

Saturday Morning Animated Short Films - Family Friendly

11AM, Saturday, June 6

Presented by Lori and Ted Zutz

Roll out of bed, grab a coffee (or a juice box, no judgment), and bring the whole crew down for a morning of animated short films made for the whole family. These are the kinds of stories that make kids laugh out loud and secretly make the adults tear up a little too. It's wholesome, it's colourful, and it's the best possible way to start a Saturday. Pajamas are not required but encouraged.

Films in this Package:

- **La Ferme de Papi** - Directors: Elise Coupet, Matthis Acker, Yseult Duval, Yves Dubois, Anaïs Mulier, Camille Majorczyk - France
- **Le Tour de Canada** - Director: John Hollands - Canada 🍁 ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST EDITING
- **Lights** - Directors: Aitana Cantero Velasco, María Isabel Sáiz Romero - Spain
- **Shaping a Dress** - Director: Aaren Rackett - Calgary 🍷
- **Look at me** - Director: Fabrice Garcia-Carpintero - France
- **Bourreau des Coeurs** - Directors: Inès Moussard, Antoine Genza, Ilian Belkilani, Sam Ripart, Alexandre Julhe, Camille Duvere - France
- **The Strange Case Of The Human Cannonball** - Director: Roberto Valencia - Ecuador
- **The Piano** - Director: Avery Kroll - United States
- **Curious Friend** - Director: Erik Sémarshkin - France
- **Queen Molly** - Director: Rae Farrer - Calgary 🍷

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Still from La Ferme de Papi

Country Highlight on Brazil

2PM, Saturday, June 6

Presented in Partnership with the Brazilian Community Association of Alberta
and The Brazil Film Festival in Toronto



Brazilian Community
Association of Alberta

Lights, samba, action! Join us for a full-on celebration of Brazilian culture, with food, art, music, and incredible films by Brazilian filmmakers. Come hungry, come curious, and come ready to be swept up in the energy and soul of one of the world's most vibrant cultures.

NOTE: This event includes food with your ticket



Still from Get your love back

Films in this Package:

- **Get your love back** - Director: Raíssa Anjos Silva - Brazil
- **S.A.D.** - Director: Vanessa Sandre - Canada 🍁
- **Carnival Stars** - Director: Leo Kaczorowski - Brazil
- **Try Your Luck** - Director: Guenia Lemos - Brazil
- **Amarela** - Director: André Hayato Saito - Brazil ★

NOMINATIONS: BEST PERFORMANCE

Prime Time Short Films

7PM, Saturday, June 6

No theme, no rules, no problem. This international collection of short films has a little bit of everything: drama, humour, heart, and probably a few things you won't see coming. Short films are where filmmakers take their biggest swings, and this Prime Time package is proof that great storytelling doesn't need two hours to leave a mark. Settle in and let the world surprise you!



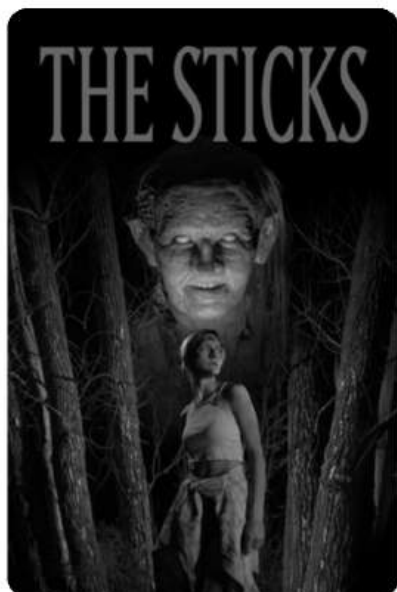
Still from The Ugly Chickens

Films in this Package:

- **Peaches** - Director: **Justine Prince** - Canada 🍁★
NOMINATIONS: BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
- **Of All the Days** - Directors: **Kara Francisco, Chris Scheuerman** - Alberta 🍷
- **Les Forcenés** - Director: **Guillaume Chevalier** - France ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST SCREENPLAY
- **Good Daze** - Director: **Jonelle Belcourt** - Calgary 🍷
- **The Ugly Chickens** - Director: **Mark Raso** - Canada 🍁★
NOMINATIONS: BEST ART DIRECTION

Late Night Feature - The Sticks

10PM, Saturday, June 6



It's late, it's dark, and we're about to show you an Alberta-made horror film shot right here in the Foothills. What could possibly go wrong? *The Sticks* is the perfect way to end your evening if you like your adrenaline served after 10pm and your walk home just a little more unsettling than usual. Sheep River has never looked so creepy, and we mean that as the highest compliment.

Director: Peter Kominek

From: Alberta 🍷

What little survival knowledge Beth has learned from her outdoorsman husband is put to the test after their car wreck leaves her stranded in a forest full of supernatural entities.

Bonus Short: The Nest - France

2026 FILM FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH

7:00 PM — Opening Night Film - "Eyes in the Woods"

9:30 PM — Opening Night Red Carpet Gala

FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH

5:00 PM — Workshop #1 - Film Festivals: What the Audience Never Sees

7:00 PM — Feature Film - "Broken Voices"

10:00 PM — Horror TwistedReels

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

11:00 AM — Animated Short Films - Family

2:00 PM — Country Highlight on Brazil

5:00 PM — Workshop #2 - Flipbook Animation with QAS

7:00 PM — Prime Time Short Films

10:00 PM — Late Night Feature - "The Sticks"

SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH

1:00 PM — Our Alberta Stories - Documentaries

4:00 PM — Feature Film - "If I Go Will They Miss Me"

7:00 PM — Weekend Wrap Up Shorts

MONDAY, JUNE 8TH

7:00 PM — Monday Night Shorts

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH

7:00 PM — 2026 Okotoks Film Festivals Winners Collection

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH

6:00 PM — Feature Film - "Do Us Part"

8:30 PM — Hump-Day Films

THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH

7:00 PM — Next-Gen Screening

9:00 PM — Next-Gen After Party at The Point

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH

12:00 PM — Lunch Break Comedy Shorts

4:00 PM — Late Afternoon Shorts

7:00 PM — Justice Short Films - Pressures on Women

10:00 PM — Weird and Wild TwistedReels

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH

11:00 AM — Animated Short Films - Rated PG13

2:00 PM — Feature Film - "Invasion of Qatar"

5:00 PM — Workshop #3 - Looking to the Future of
Filmmaking

7:00 PM — 48 Hour Filmmaking Challenge Films Screening

9:30 PM — Wrap Party

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After each screening don't forget to vote in the Audience Choice and stick around for Q&As with the filmmakers



Our Alberta Stories - Documentaries

1PM, Sunday, June 7

Alberta is full of people doing extraordinary things! These films shine a light on the real stories, real people, and real moments happening right here in our own backyard. Inspiring, surprising, and occasionally jaw-dropping, this is the package that will make you proud of where you live.

Films in this Package:

- **Liam & Friends** - Director: Chad Blain - Calgary
- **Embers** - Director: Trixie Pacis - Alberta ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST DOCUMENTARY
- **Path Unpaved** - Director: Daniel Chamberlin - Alberta
- **The Brothers Crom** - Director: Luke Banville - Alberta
- **Winter Kooks** - Director: Katie Tozer, Teegan Neame - Calgary



Still from Embers

Feature Film - If I Go Will They Miss Me

4PM, Sunday, June 7

Alberta Premiere

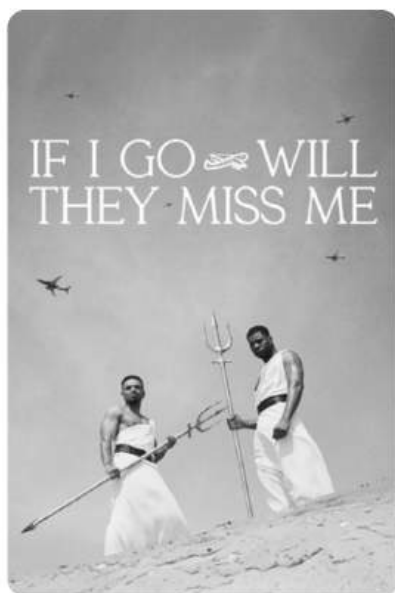
This Sundance Festival film is a rich and vibrant celebration of Black culture, brought to the Alberta big screen for the first time. These are the stories that film festivals were made for, the kind that expand your world and stay with you long after the lights come up. Come ready to be moved.

Director: Walter Thompson-Hernández

From: United States

Twelve-year-old Lil Ant transforms his working-class neighborhood beneath the LAX flight path into a living mythology, where family members become gods and the sky is crowded with endless departures.

Bonus Short: Night Games - Sweden ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST EDITING



Weekend Wrap Up Shorts

7PM, Sunday, June 7

Wrap up your weekend with a mixed bag of international shorts! This package has a little something for everyone, with unexpected stories, wholesome laughs, and at least one film that will stick with you for days. There's no single thread tying these together except that they're all genuinely worth watching.

Films in this Package:

- **I have three photos left.** - Director: Maxwell Couture - Calgary 🇨🇦 ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST ART DIRECTION
- **Superbi** - Director: Nikola Brunelli - Italy ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST PICTURE
- **Finir au Soleil** - Director: Ephrem Koering - France ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
- **The Little Prince** - Director: Amar Khati - Iran ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST PICTURE
- **Only for a Day** - Director: Kyungbin Park - Canada 🇨🇦



Still from *Superbi*



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Monday Night Shorts - 7PM, Monday, June 8

Who says Mondays have to be the worst night of the week? Swap the couch for a cinema seat and treat yourself to a curated mix of short films from around the world. Just show up, settle in and let us bring the unexpected to you. Come after work, come as you are, and come ready to be entertained.

Films in this Package:

- **Head on the wall** - Director: Manuel Manrique - Spain ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
- **C'è da comprare il latte** - Director: Pierfrancesco Bigazzi - Italy ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST OVERALL SOUND
- **Be a Man** - Director: Lucas Parra - Spain ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST PICTURE
- **Self-Tape** - Director: Christopher Duthie - Calgary ▼
- **3000 elephants** - Directors: Miguel Piedrafita, Israel Carrill - Spain ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST SCREENPLAY



Still from 3000 elephants

2026 Okotoks Film Festival Winner's Collection 7PM, Tuesday, June 9

Do you feel you are missing the best of the festival? Every film in this package is an award-winner from this year, which means if you missed them the first time around, now you have no excuse. Consider this your second chance to see what everyone has been talking about.



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Feature Film- Do Us Part 6PM, Wednesday, June 10



Presented by IATSE Local 212 Calgary
Alberta can do drama, Alberta can do comedy, and "Do Us Part" proves it can do both at the same time. This homegrown feature film is the kind of story that makes you laugh, then think, then maybe laugh again at yourself for thinking so hard. Support local film and treat yourself to one of the most entertaining nights of the festival.

Director: Clare Preuss

From: Alberta ▼

After years of propping up her husband's eco-architecture business, a matriarch upends their carefully constructed world igniting a family firestorm.

Bonus Short: Estonia on the Seine - Director: Roger Gariépy - Canada 🍁

Hump-Day Films

8:30PM, Wednesday, June 10

Hump day ...hehe, these films are all about sex. Not necessarily sexy but bold, funny, and refreshingly honest! Hilarious, deeply human and barely covered!

Not X-rated, just the kind of stories that make you laugh, squirm a little, and maybe nudge the person next to you. Come with an open mind, bring someone you're comfortable blushing next to, and save the awkward questions for after.

Films in this Package:

- **Sex at 70 - Director: Vanesa Romero - Spain**
- **Summer Cemetery - Director: Valèria Cuní Capellà - Spain**
- **The Pleasure Is All Mine - Director: Vanessa Sandre - Brazil** ★
- NOMINATIONS: BEST PERFORMANCE*
- **Cris - Director: Jonay García - Spain**
- **Boob Jobs Save Lives Part 2 - Director: Mykah Obrigewitch - Calgary** ▼
- **Thin Walls - Director: Ariana Andrade Castro - Peru** ★
- NOMINATIONS: BEST OVERALL SOUND*

Next-Gen Screening - 7PM, Thursday, June 11

Presented by Pizzaberg Cafe 

The future of filmmaking is here! This screening celebrates films made by local youth filmmakers who are telling stories with confidence, creativity, and courage!

After the films, the party moves to the Point for a pizza celebration, from Okotoks' own Pizzaberg Cafe, because great art deserves great pizza. Come cheer on the next generation!

Films in this Package:

- **COMA-PHOBIA** - Director: Fletcher Martin - Okotoks
- **Can I Kick It?** - Directors: Mo Cook and Felix Powers - Okotoks
- **Never Forgotten** - Director: Charlotte Winter - Calgary
- **Nature's Little Serial Killers** - Director: Dezirae Flasch - Okotoks
- **Gemstone Time Machine** - Director: Artist Avenue Summer Camp - Okotoks
- **Group Project** - Director: Charlotte Winter - Calgary

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Lunch Break Comedy Shorts

12PM, Friday, June 12

You've got an hour, we've got comedy. This package of funny short films is perfectly timed so you can slip away from work, laugh until your sides hurt, and get back to your desk before anyone notices you had more fun than them. Your ticket includes lunch, so yes, this is genuinely one of the best deals of the entire festival. Treat yourself, you've earned it.

NOTE: This event includes food with your ticket

Films in this Package:

- **Candy Bar** - Director: Nash Edgerton - Australia
- **Bikelash** - Director: Adam Stevenson - Canada 🍁
- **Mystic Murder** - Director: Gracie Heeg - Okotoks 🏠
- **Annual Review** - Director: Camille Bégin - France
- **Finger Guns** - Director: David Feehan - Calgary 🍷★

NOMINATIONS: BEST PERFORMANCE

Late Afternoon Shorts

4PM, Friday, June 12

Settle in for two hours of short films that hit differently when the day is winding down. This mix of stories has depth, warmth, and the kind of unrushed humanity that pairs perfectly with a good seat and nowhere to be. It's about appreciating stories told with a little more heart and a little less chaos. Pull up a seat and let the afternoon take its time.

Films in this Package:

- **Francine, East-West** - Director: Elvira Barboza - France ★

NOMINATIONS: BEST OVERALL SOUND

- **VULTURES** - Director: Dian Weys - South Africa ★

NOMINATIONS: BEST SPECIAL AND VISUAL EFFECTS

- **The Third Child** - Director: Serna Amini - Iran ★

NOMINATIONS: BEST DOCUMENTARY

- **The Hunter and His Apprentice** - Director: Reamonn Joshee - Calgary 🍷

- **Place under the sun** - Director: Vlad Bolgarin - Moldova (pictured below)



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Justice Short Films - Pressures on Women

7PM, Friday, June 12

Presented on partnership with the Calgary Justice Film Festival

These films don't look away, and neither will you. This powerful collection of short films from around the world shines a light on the social pressures women face, from reproductive rights to the most remote and dangerous corners of the globe. We'll be joined by a speaker from the Calgary Justice Film Festival to ground the conversation in the real-world impact of these stories. This is cinema as it should be: urgent, human, and impossible to forget.

Films in this Package:

- **INGRID** - Director: Raquel Colera - Spain
- **Another Daughter** - Director: Hongyu Chen - China
- **Dissonance** - Director: Raquel Larrosa - Spain ★
- **COYOTES** - Director: Said Zaghera - Jordan
- **Phases** - Director: Kainat Javed - Calgary ▼

NOMINATIONS: BEST DOCUMENTARY



Weird and Wild Twisted Reels

10PM, Friday, June 12

We genuinely cannot explain these films to you, and that is exactly the point. This collection of wonderfully strange short films defies genre, logic, and occasionally the laws of physics. If you're the kind of person who loves being delightfully confused and then talking about it for weeks afterward, you have found your people and your programme.

Films in this Package:

- **HECKIN' WEENS** - Director: Vinson Chan - Calgary ▼
- **RE: RE: RE:** - Director: Eric Génier - Canada ★
- **Paradise Buffet** - Director: Santi Amézqueta, Héctor Zafra - Spain ★
- **Whispers of Nature** - Director: Dominique Sankovic - Alberta ▼
- **GAME** - Director: Önder Menken - Turkey
- **Brave Rebel Army** - Director: Michelle D'Alessandro Hatt - Canada ★
- **The Woodsman** - Director: Hrachya Tokmajyan - Calgary ▼ ★
- **FLOW** - Director: Laila Blue - Calgary ▼
- **Basement Dweller** - Director: Jonas CJ Williams - Calgary ▼
- **Siren Call** - Director: MJ Hansen - Okotoks 🏠
- **You Can Do It Alone** - Director: Silvia Pradas - Spain ★

NOMINATIONS: BEST SPECIAL AND VISUAL EFFECTS

Animated Short Films - PG13

11AM, Saturday, June 13

These are not your Saturday morning cartoons. This collection of animated short films is bold, boundary-pushing, and very much intended for grown-up eyeballs. Animation is one of the most expressive art forms on the planet, and these filmmakers use every pixel to prove it. Leave the kids with a sitter and come see what animation looks like when it's set completely free. You can still wear your jammies, though.

Films in this Package:

- **La Reine** - Director: **Anaëlle Perthuis, Jeanne Trupin, Nour Baz, Mathilde Le Men, Liam Pavie, Lauryne Grisin** - France
- **Sunday** - Director: **Elkie Leonie Hershberg, Tom Kouris, Hani Dombe** - Israel
NOMINATIONS: BEST ANIMATION ★
- **Off-Time** - Director: **Nata Metlukh** - United States
- **The Death Of Somnus** - Director: **Zane JA Olson** - Calgary
- **Orange Blossoms** - Director: **Mathilde Nicolas, Emilien Blancquaert, Timothée Adens, Raphaël Debroize** - France
- **Pearl** - Director: **Alice Il Shin** - Canada
- **Two Ships** - Director: **McKinley Benson** - Portugal ★
NOMINATIONS: BEST ANIMATION

Feature Film - Invasion of Qatar

2PM, Saturday, June 13



Someone streaked at the World Cup, and a Canadian filmmaker made a mockumentary about it, and honestly, this is the content we all deserve. This one is pure, glorious, pants-free absurdity from start to finish.

Director: Greg Crompton

From: Canada

Invasion of Qatar follows Alex Frobez's journey to the World Cup of Soccer in Qatar. Can he invade the field before he gets arrested and thrown in Qatari prison? Complicating things, he is also on a mission to reconnect with his father, a famous pitch invader in his own right, at the expense of his pregnant wife back home in Canada.

48-Hour Challenge Screening - 7PM

Saturday, June 13

Presented by Canadiana



Every single film in this programme was written, shot, and edited in 48 hours, so please take a moment to let that sink in. Made under pressure, on no sleep, and with the kind of creative desperation that produces magic, these films are going to genuinely blow you away.

Make sure you cast your Audience Choice vote and stick around after the screening to see if your favourite won.

Okotoks Volkswagen Sponsored: Awards given are Best Use of Line, Best Use of Prop, Best Use of Genre, Best Comedy, Jury's Choice and Audience Choice. Cash prizes for those awarded.



WRAP PARTY!! - 9PM, Saturday, June 13

After the screening, we close out the entire 10th anniversary festival in style with a tailgate party featuring BBQ, a DJ, and arcade games, because the people who made movies in two days deserve the best send-off we've got. This is the last night of ten incredible days, and proves that in Okotoks, NOT JUST OUR ROCKS ARE BIG.



Workshop #1

Film Festivals: What the Audience Never Sees

5PM, June 5

How do hundreds of films get selected, handled, and brought to the screen? What does it actually take to run a festival, and what happens when it grows?

OFF Festival Director Katie Fournell and special guest, Katherine Penhale (Exec Director of CIFF), go behind the “screens” on the work that happens long before the lights go down and the team runs a 10-day marathon.

From programming decisions and filmmaker logistics to audience experience and awards, this session covers the full picture. We'll also explore how festivals scale, what it means to be an arts-presenting organization in Alberta, and what ten years of running a festival in Okotoks has taught us.

Whether you're a filmmaker, a film lover, or curious about building your own event, there's something here for you.



Workshop #2

Flipbook Animation with Quickdraw Animation Society

5PM, June 6



The Quickdraw Animation Society (QAS) has been supporting independent animation creation for 42 years! Come learn about this non-for-profit, artist-run, member-driven charity from Production Director Erin Saunders, as she presents a quick history as well as dives into the industry standard animation resources, equipment, studio space, courses, and events QAS has to offer. Following the presentation will be a hands on Flipbook workshop where participants will create their own pre-film animation books.



Workshop #3

Panel: Film and AI "Friends or Enemies"

5PM, June 13

This panel explores how artificial intelligence is shaping both current and future video production workflows. Panelists will discuss how AI tools are being used today across concept development, scripting, editing, and post-production, as well as where they are starting to influence day-to-day creative decisions.

The conversation will also look ahead at how these tools may continue to evolve and what that could mean for production end products, including continuity, believability, production value, and overall fidelity in future video work. While grounded in real-world experience, the discussion will consider how these changes may reshape creative roles and production structures.

The panel, led by Sam Bechtel, brings together professionals working in video production and occasionally adopting AI-assisted creative tools to offer a balanced view of present-day application and future possibilities. Bechtel assembled the panelists and shaped the focus of the discussion.



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Filming in The Foothills

A FILMMAKING MENTORSHIP



Pitch your film April 1–June 13

MENTORSHIP START DATE: JUNE 20

Selected filmmakers get: workshops,
one-on-one coaching, and limited
funds to complete a film this summer

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**Do you want to be a Foothills
Filmmaker? We want to help!**

Filmmakers who complete our mentorship program will receive a \$500 grant to help fund their project!

We're proud to once again partner up with the High River Performing Arts Foundation to create the Filming in the Foothills Film mentorship! We are looking for aspiring filmmakers who want to create a film in the Foothills, to help them explore their passion, ideas, and stories! Let us help you tell your story.

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!!

How do you apply?

You will need to pitch the idea for your film and explain how this mentorship will help shape you as an artist and your film. Any genre, style, or story is welcome to be told. We will favour applications that explain how the resources made available during this mentorship will help them be a better artist and will help their film. We are excited to bolster the Filmmaking Community in the Foothills. *Scan the QR code above!*



Filming In The Foothills



What is included with the mentorship?

- **Three workshops with industry professionals** will take place over one weekend. These will be hands-on training for the filmmakers, focusing on areas of preproduction, production, and funding/grant writing
- **Two round table sessions** to chat with other filmmakers in the program. This is intended to create opportunities for the mentorship participants to find a crew for their projects and to create lasting relationships beyond the program.
- **A one-on-one session with a mentor** to chat specifically about each mentorship project. These pairings will be decided between the program creators and the filmmaker of the project. The program will connect the mentorship participant with the best mentor to talk about the specific area of film craft they would like to engage with.
- **Up to \$500 funding for each project.** This will require mentorship participants to create a proposal and budget for their project as well as report upon completion.
- **A Gala event** that will consist of a celebration of all completed film and following the screening, an adjudication panel of mentors to talk for 15-20 min specifically about your project.

Apply at www.okotoksfilmfestival.ca/mentorships



★ OFF! Bingo ★

Festivals are all about fun, so we are upping the ante.

Complete a line of OFF! Bingo during the Festival and fill out the information at the bottom of this sheet. Hand it into the box office or a volunteer and you will be entered into a draw for a *Festival goodie bag and 20 VIP Tickets* to next year's festival!!

F I L M S

Cried at a film	Sat in a VIP seat	Saw a Short Film Package	Saw an Alberta Made Film	Got a snack from concession (NOT POPCORN)
Took a Red Carpet Photo	Bought Festival Merch	Found a New Favourite Film	Thanked a Filmmaker	Took a Risk on a Screening
Thanked a Volunteer	Saw an International Film	Use #okotoksfilmfest in a Social Post	Ate Popcorn	Participated in Art other than Film
Attended an Event with Food included with your Ticket	Met Another Audience Member	Got Scared by a Film you Watched	Double Feature (2 events in one day)	Asked a Question During a Q&A
Attended a Workshop	Laughed Out Loud During a Film	Dinner and a Show (Went for dinner and a festival event in one day)	Saw a Film You Didn't Like	Saw a Feature Film

Name: _____

Email: _____

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