



Vaughan International Film Festival

presented by



June 19-22, 2023



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• FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



ANTONIO IENCO, MPSE
VFF Co-Founder

To be able to navigate through two years of a pandemic and arise from it with not only an appreciation for what we do, but to be reminded of the important role that art plays in our lives is truly a blessing.

In our case, we use film as a catalyst to bring community together and it's this celebration of short film that has nestled its way into all of our hearts. From dramas like "Mi ojo derecho" that brought a full theatre to tears, and comedies like "Made Public" having us burst out into communal laughter, to heartfelt animations like "One Small Step", encouraging us all to dream big. These stories have captivated our audiences and continue to bring filmmakers and goers back year after year.

And why short film? Because it's a stepping stone for emerging filmmakers; it peeks the interest of people that may not otherwise be interested in independent film; it creates the ability to travel the globe in under two hours; and because it aligns with the appetite for short format videos on social media. For these reasons and many more I believe short film is truly the future of the industry and I cannot wait to see what new stories these incredible Creatives come up with next.

So, to you reading this, if there was ever a time that you wanted to tell your story and didn't know where to start, it starts here and now with an idea that is fuelled by a passion to have your stories heard. I quote the all inspiring Ted Lasso: "Just listen to your gut, and on the way down to your gut, check in with your heart. Between those two things, they'll let you know what's what."

So cheers to all the Creatives. Keep doing your thing because the world needs your stories and VFF is happy to share them through the power of short film.

Sincerely,
The real AI!

A handwritten signature in orange ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Ienco'.

Antonio Ienco, MPSE



HON. STEVEN DEL DUCA
Mayor of Vaughan

Welcome to the Vaughan International Film Festival! Throughout its ten-year history, this vibrant event has captured the imagination of artists and movie lovers from across Canada and around the globe.

One of the greatest gifts we can share with future generations is our appreciation of the arts — they are a vital part of the diversity that enhances our city in many beautiful ways. Enriching people's lives with art and cultural expression helps foster a welcoming, vibrant and inclusive society for all.

Film has the power to captivate and inspire; it can be joyful, thrilling or heart-wrenching. It is more than just a medium. It is truly a defining element of our personal and national identities. I want to thank everyone who breathes life into this exciting event, including the committee members, organizers, volunteers, creators and artists.

So let's drop the lights and call action on this year's festival — enjoy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Del Duca', written in a cursive style.

Steven Del Duca
Mayor of Vaughan

• FESTIVAL ITINERARY



DAY 1 • MONDAY JUNE 19

STUDENT SCREENING

7:00pm • sandra faire & ivan fecan theatre at york u

83 york boulevard, north york

NETWORKING EVENT

9:00pm • theatre lobby

sponsored by

Panasonic

sponsored by

BENAFASTENINGS



DAY 2 • TUESDAY JUNE 20

INTERNATIONAL BLOCK 1 SCREENING

7:00pm • the terrace banquet centre

1680 creditstone road, vaughan

AFTERPARTY

9:00pm • chop steakhouse & bar

41 colossus drive, vaughan

sponsored by

TREASURE HILL



DAY 3 • WEDNESDAY JUNE 21

INTERNATIONAL BLOCK 2 SCREENING

7:00pm • the terrace banquet centre
1680 creditstone road, vaughan

AFTERPARTY

9:00pm • chop steakhouse & bar
41 colossus drive, vaughan



DAY 4 • THURSDAY JUNE 22

AWARDS SHOW

6:00pm • the terrace banquet centre
1680 creditstone road, vaughan

AFTERPARTY

10:00pm • the terrace banquet centre
red carpet

• PRESENTING SPONSOR



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**Spirit of
Generosity**



**Steven
Del Duca**

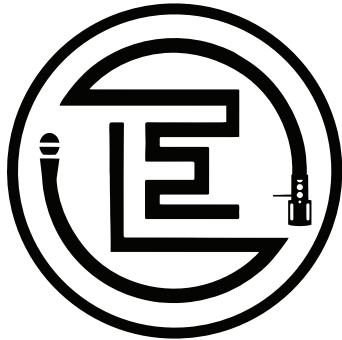
Vaughan's Commitment to Change Lives

ASSEMBLY PARK

STUDENT SCREENING SPONSOR •

Panasonic

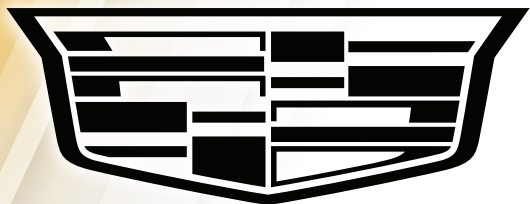
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TREASURE HILL







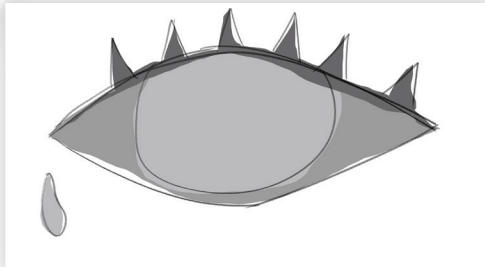
THE ADVENTURES OF MARG: NEW WHEELS

aurora high school

DRAMEDY

4:00

Marg discovers a misplaced letter asking for help. A new adventure begins as she rushes to get to her destination in time.



AMBEDO

st. joan of arc
catholic high school

ANIMATION

0:36

A woman who has become completely absorbed in vivid sensory details; to try and forget her past, she must learn to move forward and appreciate life again.



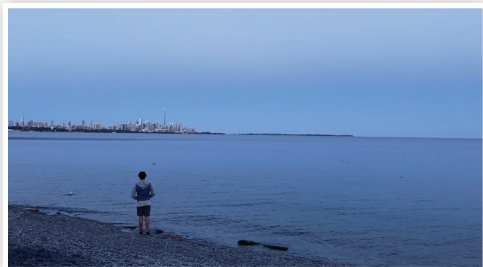
OPERATION CRACKDOWN

tommy douglas
secondary school

COMEDY

7:01

A high school teacher is determined to get his skipping students back to class by any means necessary.



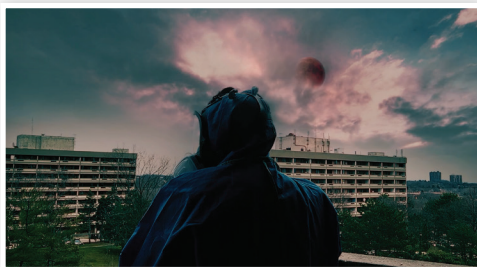
NO TIME TO WASTE

father bressani
catholic high school

DOCUMENTARY

1:29

As time flies and adulthood looms around the corner, Adriano understands that every moment counts. Reflecting on the good, the bad and even the ugly.



ALONE

john cabot
catholic secondary school

SCI-FI

9:55

A young man alone in a world seemingly destroyed by extraterrestrial beings.



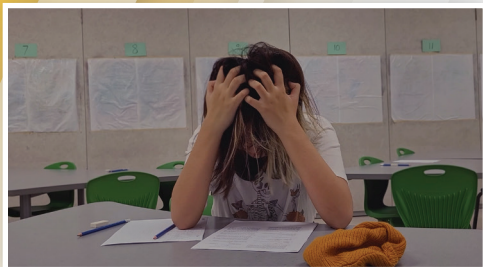
GIVE BACK

st. elizabeth
catholic high school

DRAMA

1:58

A young woman who has just got lucky, is eager to embark on a new journey; but first helps out a friend who is in need.



THE TEST

richmond hill
high school

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER 8:01

A brilliant student rushes to take a crucial exam, but when she finally stumbles in, a far more perplexing challenge presents itself - how does she pass?

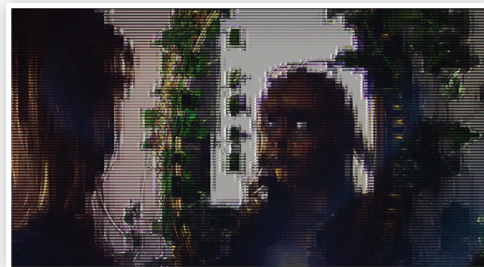


CHIAROSCURO

st. elizabeth
catholic high school

HORROR 3:16

After a face-off with a hungry dog, a shadowy figure travels through an abstract space where he must face both darkness and light.

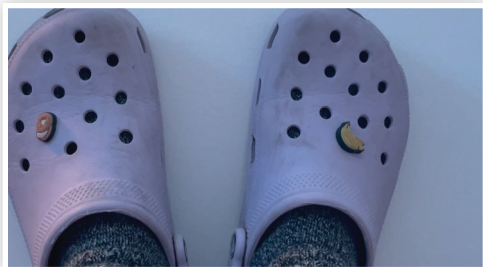


TRIP SWITCH

maxwell heights
secondary school

ANIMATION 3:10

A film representing what one feels during a panic attack, as expressed through a video game. The cause is unknown in the moment, and it feels like a sensory overload. A fuse with too much current.



YOU MESS WITH THE CROC, YOU GET THE GLOCK

Alexander Mackenzie
High School

HORROR-COMEDY

6:50

A string of grisly murders within a high school marks the start of a fatal countdown. As pieces of this murder mystery fall into place, high schooler, Celeia Murphy, has only one choice: fight against the clock or get glocked by the croc.



THE NEW YOUTH OF DIGITAL NATIVES

Alexander Mackenzie
High School

DOCUMENTARY

7:49

An investigation of prominent issues within the new generation of modern teenagers. From Instagram to the pandemic, this documentary is a peek into the minds of Gen Z.



WE CAN TOO

Bill Crothers
Secondary School

DOCUMENTARY

4:25

Through judgemental commentary, We Can Too addresses the unfair treatment women receive in the world of sport. But the ultimate goal to uplift young women involved in sport is stronger than ever.



YOU ARE NOT JUST YOUR WORK

queen's collegiate

DRAMA

5:17

The daily tedious routine of a teenager as she navigates through school and life. While the everyday routine can be very exhausting, this film reminds us how important it is to get some rest.



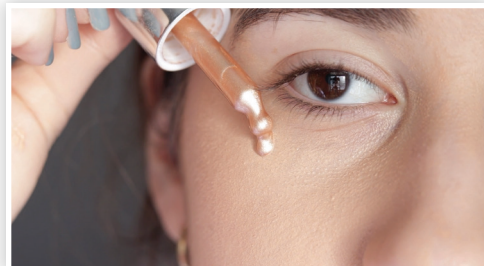
TO SEE HER AGAIN

our lady queen of the world
catholic academy

THRILLER

2:05

A year after the death of his wife, Ronald is befriended by a woman who promises to reunite them. When a routine meal with the woman takes a turn, he is taken away by the woman - to a new beginning, to see his wife again.



INFLUENCE(D)

st. elizabeth
catholic high school

DRAMA

6:24

A teen influencer has had enough of hiding her true identity. Instead of posting her normal weekly video, she posts an insightful self-monologue video to show others what it truly is like to be an influencer today.



WHO'S OUR CULPRIT

thornlea secondary school

DRAMEDY

6:50

A student vandalizes a classroom beyond repair. Five suspected students are locked in a classroom and are given an hour to admit who was in the wrong. But in this world, it doesn't matter who did it; it matters who goes down.



STICK AROUND AFTER THE SHOW

to network with other student filmmakers and industry professionals!

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IT'S A FORMAL AFFAIR

dress to impress
at the awards
show to be
featured on
our site!



PERFORMING LIVE ON JUNE 22
AT THE VFF AWARDS



VIRGINIA TO VEGAS





A ROADSIDE BANQUET

china

DRAMA

16:03

Mai, an eleven year old Chinese girl, turns into a feather duster at her baby brother's first birthday party; soon after learning her parents only ever wanted a boy.



PASAJERO (PASSENGER)

argentina

ANIMATION

10:00

A journey through the conflictive relationship between a man, his social environment and codes.



DEATH AND RAMEN

usa

COMEDY

14:15

A ramen chef spends his final night alive hanging out with the Grim Reaper. Through a bowl of ramen, they discover the joyous side of Death.

nominations: best actress

nominations: best actor,
best cinematography



SCALE

united kingdom

ANIMATION-SURREALISM 14:53

Driving along the motorway, Will loses his sense of scale. As his crippling drug addiction deepens, he struggles to unpick the sequence of events that led to his predicament, before he's lost forever.



TRAIL

canada

DARK COMEDY-THRILLER 14:40

During one of his trips into the wilderness, a lone hiker will make a macabre discovery. What started as a tranquil weekend getaway will soon transform into a fight for survival.



UN MARIAGE HEUREUX (JUST MARRIED)

belgium

DRAMA 14:59

A happy marriage, a beautiful dress, a romantic wedding night, the children, the time of happiness... Years passing and leaving traces, lies, broken promises, distance, betrayal... Chronicle of a death foretold, autopsy of a marriage like so many others, or maybe not.

nominations: best cinematography

nominations: best film



**L'AUTRE RIVE
(A SHORE AWAY)**

canada

DRAMA

17:44



MAKE THE CALL

usa

THRILLER

15:00

Newly employed in an emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness, Genevieve is shocked to meet again with Camille, a young woman whom she believed to have successfully reinserted while being her social worker.

Two former best friends reunite in a changed world, finally confronting the demons that ripped them apart.

nominations: best actress, best film

nominations: best actress



**GOT PLANS AFTER THE
INT'L SCREENINGS?**

come celebrate these incredible
films at chop steakhouse & bar

.....
june 20 sponsored by

TREASURE HILL
.....

june 21 sponsored by





FAIRPLAY

switzerland

DRAMA

17:34

A teenager in search of recognition, a worker ready to do anything to hit the jackpot, a senior executive at the end of his career who wants to prove to himself that he is still alive. Three characters who are losing speed on the competition highway...

nominations: best director



I DO(N'T)

canada

COMEDY

10:14

Carrie questions the institution of marriage in this feel-good rom-com with a modern twist.

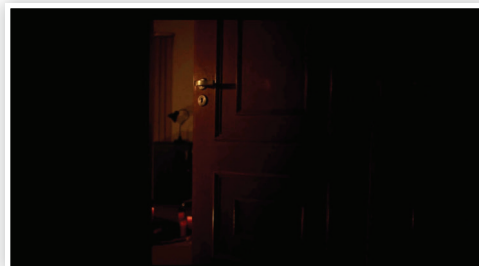


FEELING THE APOCALYPSE

canada

ANIMATION-DOCUMENTARY 7:02

A psychotherapist struggling with climate anxiety explores what it means to live in a dying world.



SAME OLD

canada
DRAMA

15:10

One bad night for a New York City delivery driver.

GOING AWAY PARTY

canada
DRAMEDY

8:46

Jimmy has been chosen to be one of the Mars colonizers due to a rare biological attribute. Alison has planned a party for Jimmy, the love of her life, at their local bar. No one shows up. Jimmy and Alison are left alone to confront their future apart.

APERIO

brazil
HORROR

17:58

After the death of her mother, a 10-year-old girl gone quiet and her aching father must confront grief in its most nefarious form.

nominations: best cinematography

nominations: best director, best film



THE SPRAYER

islamic republic of iran

ANIMATION

8:57

In the land occupied with the sprayers army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plant- in public or in private. One day, a soldier finds a seed buried deep down in the dust, and his curiosity is just the beginning of something extraordinary, something big, something revolutionary.



THE ONE-WAY TICKET

germany

DRAMA

10:10

The story is being narrated from the point of view of Taha, a six-year-old boy who has been raised by a misogynist father and lives in a society where women have no freedom of choice. He finds out that his sister wants to escape with her lover. Now the decision is his whether to reveal the secret to his father or not.



CEMENTO Y ACERO (CONCRETE AND STEEL)

spain

DARK COMEDY

16:53

Lifetime friends and mafiosos, Victor and Nacho, have been tortured and chained to a cement block. While Nacho struggles desperately to break free, Victor tries to figure out why their boss has betrayed them. They reflect on their lives and their past, but then Nacho makes a confession that will change their lives forever.

nominations: best actor, best director

• NOMINATIONS

BEST ACTOR

daniel guzmán
cemento y acero
(concrete and steel)

luis tosar
cemento y acero
(concrete and steel)

bobby lee
death and ramen

BEST ACTRESS

sarah zhai
a roadside banquet

rosalie fortier
l'autre rive
(a shore away)

camille chen
make the call

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

stefan nachmann
death and ramen

norm li
same old

nicolas abaunza
trail

BEST DIRECTOR

patrick hanser
aperio

oriol villar
cemento y acero
(concrete and steel)

zoel aeschbacher
fairplay

BEST FILM

aperio
brazil

l'autre rive
(a shore away)
canada

un mariage heureux
(just married)
belgium



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john wick: chapter 2 • jurassic world: dominion



@dinamorrone

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2023 INDIE LEADER RECIPIENT

LAURA VANDERVOORT

Best known for...

- Bitten
- Smallville
- Jigsaw

Indie projects include...

- Age of Dysphoria
- My Soul to Take
- Unspeakable

• PARTNERS

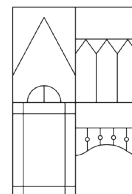
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**2023 SANDRA PICCOLO
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MARK LANZA

Best known for...

- Independence Day
- Reacher
- True Lies



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• HOSTS



**RESHMI
NAIR**

spring
launch
host



**DR. SARAH
BAY-CHENG**

student
screening
host



**JULIA
SUPPA**

int'l
block 1
host



**LEE-ANNE
GALLOWAY**

int'l
block 2
host



**NICOLE
SERVINIS**

awards
show red
carpet
host



**STEPHANIE
HENRY**

awards
show
host

Congratulations to our friends at VFF on another successful year. We are very proud of them and look forward to supporting their team for many more years to come!



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• MEDIA PARTNERS



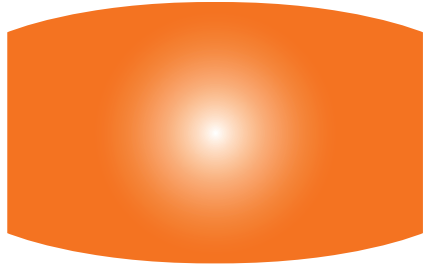
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• AUTOGRAPHS

VAUGHAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023

A GAME CHANGER PRODUCTION

STARRING RESHMI NAIR, JULIA SUPPA, LEE-ANNE GALLOWAY, DR. SARAH BAY-CHENG,
NICOLE SERVINIS AND STEPHANIE HENRY MUSIC BY VIRGINIA TO VEGAS

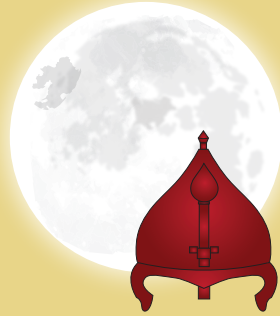
DIRECTOR OF CINEMATOGRAPHY DOOR 24 DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MAPLE STAR PHOTOGRAPHY

PRODUCTION DESIGN EMPIRE AUDIO VISUAL AND MINUTEMAN PRESS VAUGHAN

DIRECTED BY ANTONIO IENCO, JESSICA GUIDO, JANE RANJANANTHAM, ALEX LAPPANO AND BRITTANY VARGAS

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