

EDMONTON SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2025





Stories WITHOUT Limits



Message from His Worship Mayor Amarjeet Sohi



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the Edmonton Short Film Festival!

When we immerse ourselves in cinema, we become exposed to stories that broaden our understanding of diverse perspectives. Thank you to the many film fanatics for supporting this industry and enhancing our city's reputation as an arts hub.

For 13 years, this festival has been uplifting Alberta indie filmmakers and is one of the few film festivals in the world to offer year-round programming. I congratulate the Edmonton Short Film Festival for helping to advance and educate emerging, diverse and underrepresented filmmakers.

Thank you to the organizers, volunteers and sponsors of the Edmonton Short Film Festival. The commitment to promoting Alberta's independent film community helps to showcase quality shorts and inspire local filmmakers and audiences.

Enjoy the films and don't forget to silence your phone!

A. Sohi

Amarjeet Sohi

MAYOR, CITY OF EDMONTON



GALA FILMS

murder, a love story Darren McInnes

Page. Michael Kohlweg

What a Beautiful Day Cherise Keown

**Dear God
by Shawnee Kish** Justin Kueber

The Book of Dragons Joshua Barry

Doom Scroller Justin David Wiesinger
& Adriel Rosenfeldt

Alone Ken Nemetchek

Bareback Kenny Heintz

The Brothers Crom Luke Banville

15 Minute

INTERMISSION

Free Puppies 6:59AM Michelle Huynh Tran

**The Hunter and
His Apprentice** Reamonn Joshee

Queen Of The Night Justice
Christopher-Shah

Lean On Me Rosvita Dransfeld

Breaking Chains Steven McMichael

Meat Tegan Dobrich

The Death of Somnus Zane JA Olson

Guess Who? * Sebastian Larranaga,
Angus Crawford

VOTE!
Ballot Collection

Chance Encounter Daniel Foreman

AWARDS CEREMONY

* WINNER OF 48 HOUR MOBILE DEVICE FILMMAKING CHALLENGE

2025 Gala Films



murder, a love story

Directed By: Darren McInnes

Mountain View County

A starchy birdwatcher runs for his life after witnessing Tess burying her husband's body.

Page.

Directed By: Michael Kohlweg

Calgary

Page discovers a magical world where books come to life after the Library closes.

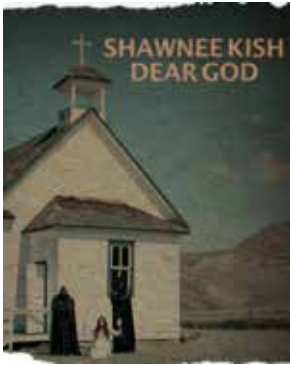


What a Beautiful Day

Directed By: Cherise Keown

Calgary

A daughter struggles to connect with her mom, due to Alzheimer's.



Dear God

by Shawnee Kish

Directed By: Justin Kueber

Edmonton

Shawnee confronts pain, faith, and identity in a powerful journey of healing and resilience.

The Book of Dragons

Directed By: Joshua Barry

Edmonton

A boy sets out to slay a mystical dragon pursued by raiders who threaten to shatter his belief in knights.



Doom Scroller

Directed By: Justin David Wiesinger

Gunn

A take on the plight of our social media addicted society, and our distracted, doomed, overindulged world.



Alone

Directed By: Ken Nemetchek

Edmonton

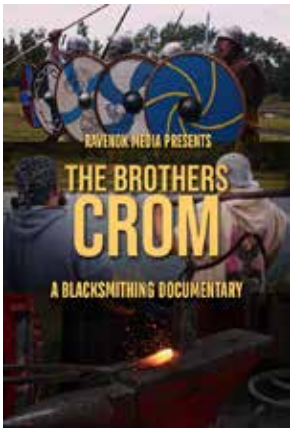
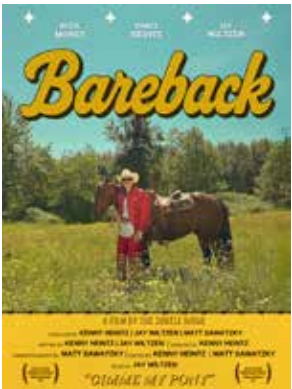
A pioneer woman faces her worst nightmares as she battles injury and madness.

Bareback

Directed By: Kenny Heintz

Edmonton

Broken-hearted and a little lost, Buck drifts back to when life was simpler, and his best friend was a horse named Bareback.



The Brothers Crom

Directed By: Luke Banville

Edmonton

Twin blacksmiths, immigrants from Mexico, forge fine medieval armour and weapons.

INTERMISSION

Featuring a performance from:

WIESINGER



WIESINGER is a zany husband/wife led pop/rock band from Barrhead. They make genre-bending alternative pop rock music with a hint of pop rap and dance pop and are advocates of mental health teach teens songwriting. WEISINGER recently surpassed 50 million views on YouTube reels using the sound of their new summer song "Garage Sailing" They just released their third studio album "Say the Quiet Thing Out Loud", which is their most ambitious project to date.

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Free Puppies 6:59AM

Directed By: Michelle Huynh Tran

Edmonton

A boy and a pup cross paths and form a bond.

The Hunter and His Apprentice

Directed By: Reamonn Joshee

Cochrane

A young apprentice struggles with the harsh expectations of his hunter mentor, who hunts elves for survival.



Queen Of The Night

Directed By: Justice Christopher-Shah

Calgary

A mesmerizing visualizer that captures the enchanting, otherworldly nature of love.



Lean On Me

Directed By: Rosvita Dransfeld

Edmonton

The owner of the Edmonton moving company helps scores of people struggling with the lousy hands life has dealt them.



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Breaking Chains

Directed By: Steven McMichael

Cochrane

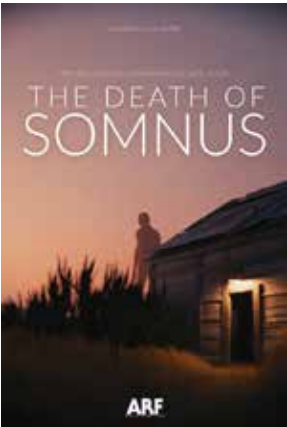
A haunting journey into the mind of madness and the cost of justice.

Meat

Directed By: Tegan Dobrich

Edmonton

Lured into a grotesque dinner filled with meat and unsettling tension, a rabbit confronts her own traumas as the atmosphere shifts from eerie charm to psychological horror.



The Death of Somnus

Directed By: Zane JA Olson

Calgary

After the sudden arrival of massive humanoid figures all over the world, humanity loses the ability to sleep.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER



We are proud to present the world premiere of *Chance Encounter*, created through the Edmonton Short Film Festival's **Film Career Development Program**.

This unique initiative paired emerging filmmakers with seasoned industry mentors, giving participants the chance to create a short film from writing to post-production. With the support of our generous sponsors, *Chance Encounter* stands as a powerful example of what's possible when creativity, guidance, and opportunity come together.

Join us in celebrating the talent of our **mentees**, the generosity of our **mentors**, and the vision of our **sponsors**—all of whom helped make this film possible.

Mentees. Mentors. Sponsors. Together, we create stories without limits.

Mentees: Abdullah Al-Nono, Asal Andarzipour, Julieann Marie Burghardt, Eva Byn, Sebastian Gomez, Glen Ryder Hartman, Sebastien Howard, Steven Joseph Roy, Taghreed Saadeh, Tatyana Alexys Savoury, Simran Singh Sidhu, Naz Sohni Uppal

Mentors: Neil Chase, Wes Doyle, Daniel Foreman, Chase Gardiner, Cherie Howard, Jessi Luce, Luke MacPhee, John McMillan, Sharlene Millang, Jared Sanchez

ESFF Staff: Isabella MacKenzie Brown, Jed Emms, Candace Makowichuk

Actors: Dimitrije Dimitrijevic, Tom Edwards, Redi Zyka

Sponsors: Neil Chase, Daniel Foreman, Edmonton Production World, Edmonton Short Film Festival, Guerilla Sound, Cherie Howard, John McMillan, Sharlene Millang, Studio Post, Treaty 6 Productions

Funder: Edmonton Screen



Guess Who?

Directed By: Sebastian Larranaga
& Angus Crawford

Lethbridge
48HR. Mobile Device Filmmaking Challenge Winner

Two podcasters revisit an investigation into the peculiar vanishing of two siblings in a perfect suburban neighbourhood.

Chance Encounter

Directed By: Daniel Foreman

Edmonton

A chance encounter between two men in a park becomes a poignant reflection on a world on the brink of change.





Your Story Belongs Here.

And we're here to help you tell it.

Edmonton Screen champions local creators with funding, programs, and support to help bold ideas grow, right here in our city.



Explore support built for local creators like you at edmontonscreen.com



LONG SHORTS/ INTERNATIONAL

Although It Hurts Dylan McDonald
& Doyle C Marko · Canada

Teodoro Esteban Roel · Spain

Impossible Choices Andrew Litten · Canada

Gone Fishing Tracy Lee Pickett · Canada

Paper Warriors Aisa Uchimura &
Brianna Salazar · U.S.A.

Reliefs Juan Manuel
Gonzalez Fernandez · Mexico

Bros Before and After* Skye Venice Sather
Noah Hall · Canada

Sister Josephine Stefen Harris · New Zealand

INTERMISSION

**Today I Will Only
Come Home Tomorrow** Diego Lacerda · Brazil

The Table Between Us Nikki Rae Hallow · Canada

Stickman: Art for the Rebel Soul Kalynd Edworthy · Canada

Darcine's Day Aaron Goffman · U.S.A.

Through the Little Door... * Jacob Hasell & Jonathan Ho · Canada

FIRST DATE Luís Filipe Borges · Portugal

OLIVE Tom Koch · France/U.S.A.

Chores? What Chores? * Adam Carlin · Canada

No More War Nauzanin Knight · Canada

*WINNER OF 48 HOUR MOBILE DEVICE FILMMAKING CHALLENGE

Long Shorts / International



Although It Hurts

Directed By: Dylan McDonald &
Doyle C Marko

Canada

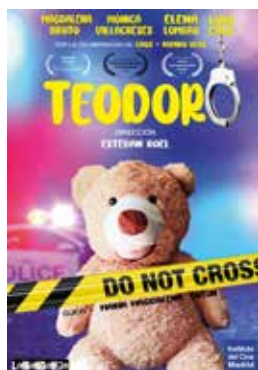
The struggle between desire and reality, truth and yearning, reminding us that even in heartache, love can feel worth holding onto.

Teodoro

Directed By: Esteban Roel

Spain

A woman is accused of the alleged sexual abuse of her teddy bear by her maid and friend.



Impossible Choices

Directed By: Andrew Litten

Canada

A spotlight on the tough decisions many Canadians face every day.



Gone Fishing

Directed By: Tracy Lee Pickett

Canada

Set in the 1970s, an abusive father takes his two children "fishing" at a rural fishing-hole.

Sponsored in Part By:

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Paper Warriors

Directed By: Aisa Uchimura
& Brianna Salazar

U.S.A.

Two samurai—a reckless pupil and his
tempered sensei— maintain an uneasy accord.



Reliefs

Directed By: Juan Manuel
Gonzalez Fernandez

Mexico

An aging woman and her son must come to
terms with who will make the greatest
sacrifice as they decide how to face the
rest of their lives.

Bros Before and After

Directed By: Skye Venice Sather
& Noah Hall

Canada
48HR. Mobile Device Filmmaking Challenge Winner

A young man struggles with the growing
pains of adulthood and must decide between
the comforts of his old life and the excitement
of getting married.



Sister Josephine

Directed By: Stefen Harris

New Zealand

A Nun confronts a frightened young boy to fight. Overwhelmed by her rough-house boxing lessons, he is forced to find his fighting spirit from within that he will carry for life.



Today I Will Only Come Home Tomorrow

Directed By: Diego Lacerda

Brazil

A woman who seeks the ecstasy of carnival as seen through the eyes of ten different characters.

The Table Between Us

Directed By: Nikki Rae Hallow

Canada

Seven years after her husband's death at the hands of her sister, the sisters meet within the confines of prison.





Stickman: Art for the Rebel Soul

Directed By: Kalyn Edworthy

Canada

A hard and fast micro documentary about the power of art and music.

Sponsored in Part By:



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independent film producers.



Darcine's Day

Directed By: Aaron Goffman

U.S.A.

Divorced and jobless, a woman struggles to get back on her feet.

Through the Little Door...

Directed By: Jacob Hasell
& Jonathan Ho

Canada
48HR. Mobile Device Filmmaking Challenge Winner

A man enters a mysterious building with infinite stories, searching for something—or someone.



FIRST DATE

Directed By: Luís Filipe Borges

Portugal

An American arranges to meet a man from Lisbon whom she met while flirting on a dating app ... but she thinks she is meeting an author she is crazy about ...



OLIVE

Directed By: Tom Koch

France/U.S.A.

While caring for Grandma, Sam begins to question the nature of their relationship.

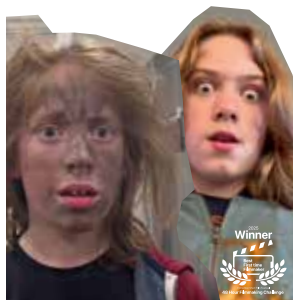
Chores? What Chores?

Directed By: Adam Carlin

48HR. Mobile Device Filmmaking Challenge Winner
Canada

Two brothers try to avoid doing their chores, but when their Mom sees through their trick they scramble to get them done.

DIRECTED BY: ADAM CARLIN
Chores?
What Chores?



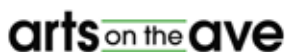
No More War

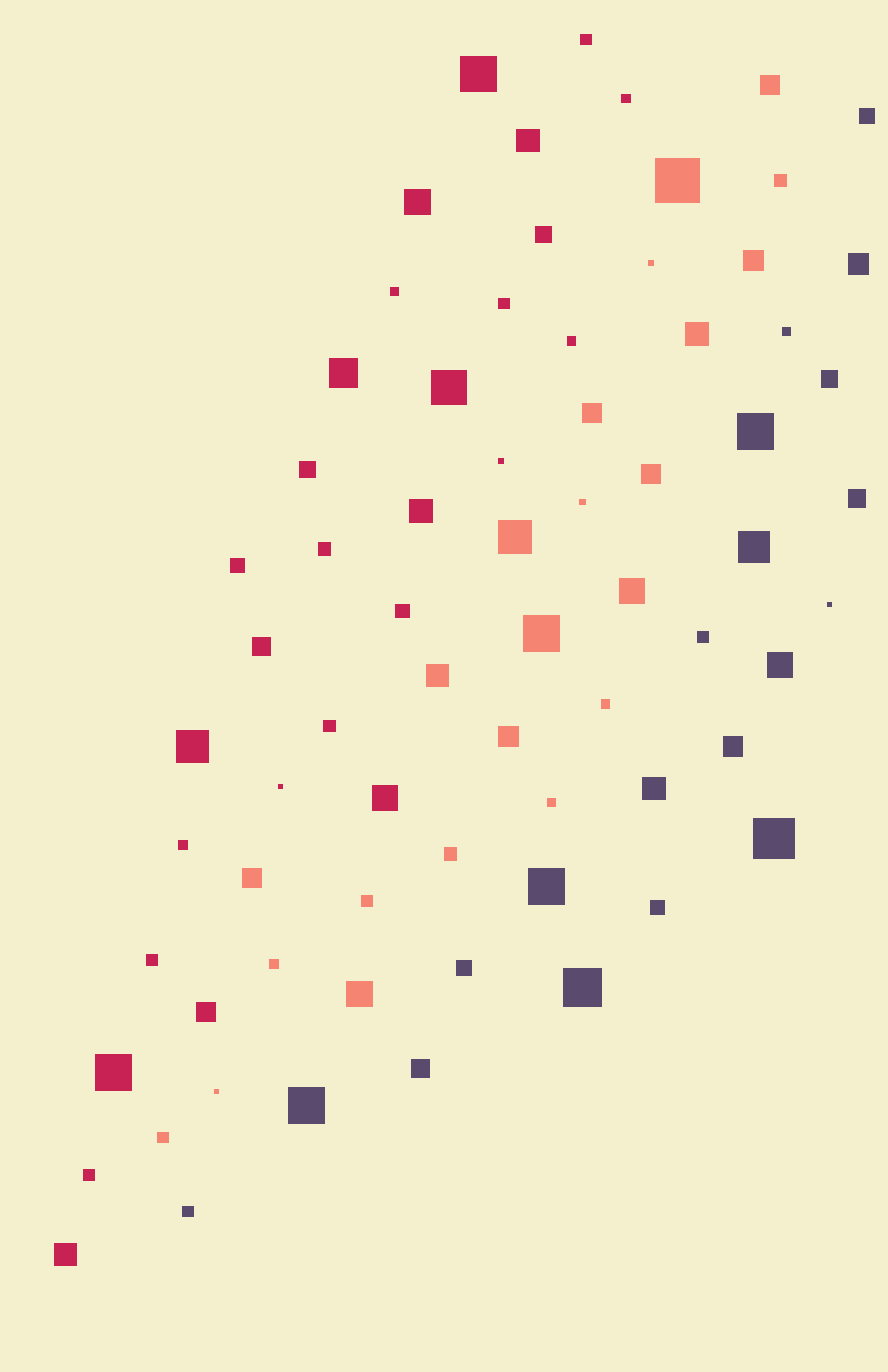
Directed By: Nauzanin Knight

Canada

No More War is a passionate invocation to the nations and leaders of the world, begging them to cease fire, and to consider true justice for humanity, and for our planet.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, FUNDERS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS





THE EDMONTON SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Since our beginnings as a grassroots festival in 2012, the Edmonton Short Film Festival (ESFF) has grown from a small local festival into a vibrant international celebration of independent film—reaching audiences both in-person and online.

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to encourage, support, and elevate independent filmmakers, with a special focus on highlighting the incredible talent right here in Alberta. Through our Long Shorts program, we proudly extend this opportunity to international artists, fostering creative exchange and connection across borders.

Our annual festival, workshops and pop up screenings bring people together through hands-on, interactive experiences, while our virtual programs expand accessibility and ensure that great stories reach wider audiences.

At ESFF, we believe in the power of film to inspire connection, conversation, and community. We are committed to fostering an inclusive space that uplifts diverse stories and voices, celebrating the creativity and perspectives that make our film community thrive.

 **yegfilmfest**

 **@edmontonshortfilmfest**

 **@yegfilmfest**

esff.ca



Our Thanks

Thank you to all our patrons who support and attend our events and to the filmmakers who share their work with us!

Volunteers

Ernest Augustus	Cale Humphreys
Darrell Portz	Rebekah Borst
Elizabeth Grierson	Francine Umulisa
Laird Borst	Randy Liu
Wayne Kerr	Alisha Gonzalez
Finn Blatz	Kade Wilson
Bob Fehr	Mehraj Singh
Goran Savic	Amanda Sprague-Cole
Walter Kehl	

**A special thank you to Pixel Blue College
for creating this year's interstitials:**

Madison Beaver · Adrian Brusi · Aadi Kandasamy · Bria Mackay · Rudolph Reyes
Kassidy Shoemaker · Shawn Steinke · Hope Tischer · Andrew Wright
And Instructors: Buchanan Kohl · Scott Carmicheal · Tony Grillo



ESFF Board

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Rebecca Riddell · Mitra K night

Adjudicators

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Ije Nnabuo · Spencer Shortt

ESFF Staff

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Isabella McKenzie Brown · Lillian Jewers · Noah Fithen · Harold Abuan

Vote!

**FOR YOUR FAVOURITE ALBERTA FILM ON
THE BACK OF YOUR GALA TICKET**