



OFFICIAL 2024 PROGRAM

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August 9 & 10, 2024
Canadian Short Film Festival
3 screenings - 3 industry events - 2 days

Message from the Festival Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural Dufferin Film Festival! We are thrilled to have you join us for this exciting celebration of Canadian cinematic artistry, storytelling, and community.

This year marks a significant milestone for the Dufferin region as we gather to showcase a diverse array of films that span genres, cultures, and perspectives. Our carefully curated lineup highlights the talent of filmmakers from across Canada, each bringing unique narratives and creative visions to the screen.

Our mission at the Dufferin Film Festival is to create a platform where Canadian filmmakers and audiences can connect, inspire, and engage in meaningful conversations. We believe in the power of film to transcend boundaries, spark dialogue, and reflect the complexities of our world. This festival is not just about watching movies; it's about fostering a community that values and celebrates the art of storytelling.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, partners, volunteers, and the dedicated lead festival team whose support and hard work have made this event possible. A special thank you goes to the filmmakers who have entrusted us with their creations and to you, our audience, for your enthusiasm and participation.

Our board strongly believes Canadians need to support and celebrate Canadian filmmaking and filmmakers who tell our stories and reflect the world through our nation's unique creative perspective.

Thank you for being a part of the Dufferin Film Festival 2024. We look forward to sharing this unforgettable experience with you.

Warm regards,



Kelly McDowell
Festival Director
Dufferin Film Festival



PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY

Your opinion REALLY matters to us! We want to know what worked, what didn't and how we can make this event an even better experience. This Film Festival was made for YOU!

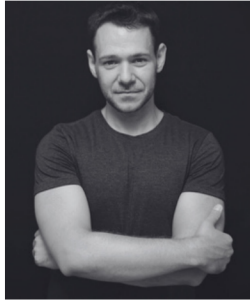
Scan the QR code to the right with your phone camera and click the link to participate.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



2024 DFF FILM CRITICS



Andrew Martin-Smith – Based in Toronto, Andrew Martin-Smith is a seasoned production manager and line producer specializing in documentary projects. His extensive experience includes advising emerging filmmakers through the National Film Board of Canada's Filmmaker Assistance Program. A native of Orangeville, Martin-Smith brings his local roots and industry expertise to the Dufferin Film Festival.



Tristan Barrocks – Tristan Barrocks is a renowned Afro-Canadian film and commercial director from Toronto. Co-founder of Mid-Career Productions, Barrocks is celebrated for his human-centred narratives that enrich the Black experience. His portfolio includes acclaimed works such as "A Letter From The Fathers" and "Dear Black Dad." Barrocks is dedicated to fostering inclusive communities and nurturing future BIPOC creatives. @tristanbarrocks



Timothy Moran – An award-winning writer, director, and producer, Timothy Moran hails from Niagara Falls, Ontario. With over two decades of filmmaking experience, Moran has crafted short documentaries and narrative films for Goalcast, amassing over a billion views globally. His accolades include the Show Canada Showmanship Prize for his work on "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring." Moran currently heads production at Goalcast Media Inc., producing content across their studios. @timothymoran04



Alex Caucean – An award-winning writer, director, and editor from Waterloo, Ontario, Alex Caucean's journey began in Romania. His trailers have broken YouTube viewership records, and his production company, Filmmetry, has produced over 15 short films showcased at festivals across Canada. Caucean's current projects include a feature-length bodybuilding documentary and a short narrative film, "The Calming Water." @alexthefilmmaker

DFF VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kelly McDowell
Festival Director
@kellyannemaki



Nick Rose
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Christine Hann
Event Manager
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Lead Volunteers



Alex Caucean
Film Manager
@alexthefilmmaker

Elizabeth Bryan
Volunteer Coordinator
@weaverbee



Megan Hollett
Marketing Assistant
@_meganhollett_

Stephanie Chiasson
Event Coordinator
@chiasson33



We thank all festival volunteers and hope our audience and filmmakers enjoy the festival we have presented for 2024

INTRODUCING OUR 2024 FESTIVAL HOST



Andrew C. James

After winning the Dramatic Arts Award for his High School graduating class, Andrew went off to New York City to pursue an acting career and attended the [New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts](#) (formerly New York School for Film and Television.) While living in the Big Apple, he performed at the legendary Apollo Theatre and even appeared on the Ricki Lake Show.

Upon returning to Toronto, Andrew went on to start his own Christian entertainment company—S4 Entertainment—which focused on artist development, artist management, and event production. S4 Entertainment contributed to the success of award-winning groups and urban artists. S4 also produced a nationally distributed music magazine—[Inspired](#)—and an annual drumming skills competition—[The Drumoff](#).

In Recent years, Andrew published his first book; '[Bird Words](#): Inspirational thoughts for everyday life in 140 characters or less', produced an Urban Gospel Music talk show called "City Gospel Presents" which aired weekly on the Miracle Channel, as well as served as a youth & young adult pastor for 6 years in the Rexdale area of Toronto.

Currently, Along with his wife, Juli-Anne, Andrew is the co-founder of [Streams Community Hub](#)— a registered charity in Shelburne, Ontario focused on helping youth discover their passion, potential, and purpose through the arts. Andrew is also the owner of [Town Tees](#), an apparel decoration company and an emerging social enterprise focused on youth employment and development.

Andrew and his wife, [Juli-Anne](#), have been married for 15 years, have three lovely daughters and live in the town of Shelburne, Ontario.

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Unleashing the power of storytelling through the lens of SteveFrench Productions. Let's create art that resonates!

Event Videography & Photography
Full Commercial Production House

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**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST YEAR!
MAY IT BE A CELEBRATION OF STORYTELLING
AND A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR ALL.**

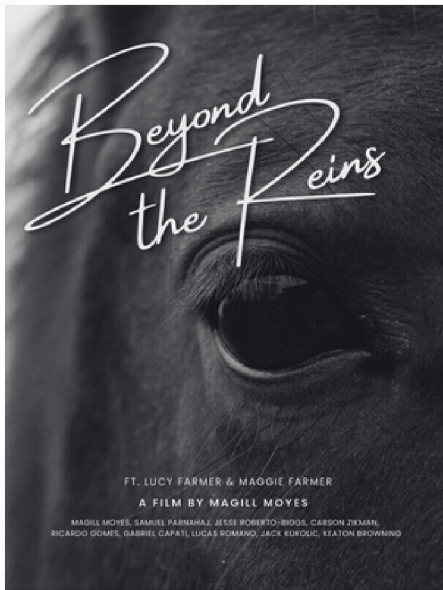


DFF | DUFFERIN
FILM
FESTIVAL



HEAP
Dark Comedy/Thriller - Toronto, ON
Director: Kyle Marchen
DoP: Max F. Sims

Caught in a lie, Isha is forced to live a double life after discovering a "utopian" society in the building next door to her dilapidated apartment.



BEYOND THE REINS
Documentary - Mississauga, ON
Director: Magill Moyes
DoP: Samuel Parnahaj

Beyond The Reins tells the heartwarming story of a 16-year-old Lucy living with an intellectual disability. Cognitively functioning at the age of 9, Lucy's world is small, and the lack of understanding and acceptance from our society makes it even smaller. However, her life takes a transformative turn when she's introduced to Jasmine, her new equine partner. Stepping into the world of horses provides Lucy with a sense of belonging and acceptance, allowing her to truly flourish! In her remarkable journey of navigating the complexities of riding she finds her sense of belonging in a heartwarming tale of courage, passion, and the unbreakable bond between a girl and her horse.

FT. LUCY FARMER & MAGGIE FARMER
A FILM BY MAGILL MOYES

MAGILL MOYES, SAMUEL PARNAHAJ, JESSIE ROBERTO-IRIGOS, CARSON ZEMAN,
RICARDO GOMES, GABRIEL CAPATI, LUCAS ROMANO, JACK KUKOLIC, KATON BROWNING



SPEAKER SERIES - AUG 10, 12PM

ORANGEVILLE LIBRARY MILL STREET LUNCH PROVIDED

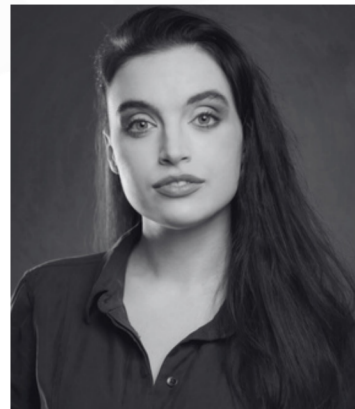


Sophie Vertigan has been a Special Effects Coordinator for 20 years successfully overseeing the design, creation, and operation of on-set mechanical, atmospheric, electrical, and explosive effects. She loves to create SPFX that brings the Director's visions to fruition. She's worked on a number of exceptional Canadian projects like Locke and Key, Star Trek and Umbrella Academy.



Marcus Feher is a professional in the film and film-related industry specializing in VFX and directing, with a career spanning over 16 years. Born in Sweden and now based in Canada, Marcus has contributed to a variety of high-profile projects, including Marvel's "What If?", "Nimona," "Sausage Party," and "Umbrella Academy." His portfolio includes collaborations with major studios and platforms such as Disney, Netflix, Amazon, and HBO.

In addition to his work on these acclaimed shows, Marcus founded his own company, Aero Orange, where he is currently developing his own TV show, comic book, and video game. His expertise also extends to medical animation and corporate animation/motion graphics, showcasing his versatility and commitment to his craft.



Lauren Saarimaki is a producer, actress and mental health advocate. Her interest in the film and television industry started in her childhood when she began pursuing an acting career. She is an alumna of TMU's Creative Industries program. Her focus is producing, however she has had the opportunity to work with a multitude of creative organizations. She also has contributed to film sets in roles such as production manager, location manager and production coordinator.

She works as the Media Training Program Facilitator at POV. While working at the company she has had the opportunity to co produce Streams Flow From A River (dir. Christopher Yip) and co produced Queen Tut (dir. Reem Morsi). She hopes to continue to build a career in film and mental health advocacy.

DFF | DUFFERIN FILM FESTIVAL SCREENWRITING COMPETITION

In late 2023, the Dufferin Film Festival held a screenwriting competition for local youth and adult writers. This program was designed to celebrate local talent and foster creativity in the Headwaters area. After receiving an overwhelming response from aspiring screenwriters of all ages, the festival selected two exceptional winners.

As part of their prize, both winners joined Rose Digital Media Group, the lead producing sponsor, in the production of these films, from planning to casting to shooting. The films were both shot locally and are being premiered in Screening A. We would like to once again congratulate these writers and are excited to showcase their work. Thank you to our sponsors for making this competition a success.



Youth Category Winner
LAKEWEED
By: Danielle Hawkins

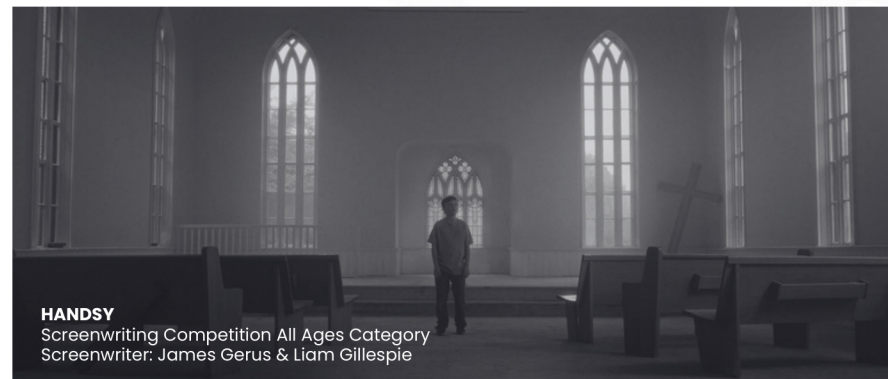


Adult Category Winner
HANDSY
By: James Gerus & Liam Gillespie



FOR ROY
Drama – Vancouver, BC
Director: Vivian Cheung
DoP: Ernest NG

Inspired by true events, an imaginative Asian-Canadian girl attempts to fold a thousand cranes as she learns to lose her father during his final days in the hospice.



HANDSY
Screenwriting Competition All Ages Category
Screenwriter: James Gerus & Liam Gillespie

A young boy goes into a haunted house in search of his dog, only to be greeted by a monster from hell.



LAKEWEED
Screenwriting Competition Youth Category
Screenwriter: Danielle Hawkins

The Lakweed is moody, it will take you. The water was usually happy when Charlie was little, but she grew older and lonelier and it grew angrier. When Charlie met Missy things got better for a while. They were best friends, maybe something more. But in the face of Missy's new budding relationship with a boy named Jake, Charlie grows bitter and resentful. When the Lakweed takes Missy, Charlie is horrified at first, but then she realizes Missy can never leave her now. She will never be lonely again.





CANCELLED

Horror/Comedy - Kitchener, ON
 Director: Nick Dragas
 DoP: Angel Navarro III

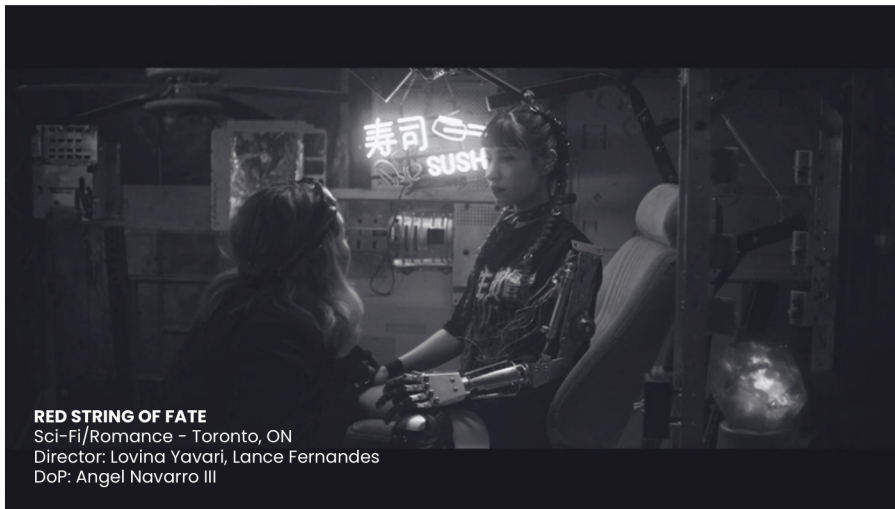
After being stripped of her professorship for being wrongfully accused of perpetuating racism to her classroom, Mary was made to believe she was a deeply depraved individual. In response to this she created a secret organization of like-minded members called The Guild. Their mission - To remove privileged individuals they deem "toxic" from the world and create a safe, inclusive, morally-forward society. How do they do this? Execution by lethal injection - A practice they refer to as being "Cancelled." Her son Adam has been raised in this cult environment his entire life and as a young man is now trained to acquire one of The Guild's most honoured positions: "Auditor." This story follows Adam's journey as he captures and cancels three subjects with the guidance and supervision of his mother and The Guild. As a test of loyalty, The Guild surprises him by selecting his final victim and forcing him to complete his training by executing his boyfriend, Miles. As Adam, Mary and Miles reach a stalemate, Adam must decide whether to honour his mother and everything he's been taught about the world or save his first true love.



ON THE WINDOWSILL

Drama/Student Short - Oakville, ON
 Director: Emma Kutlesa-Jagodic
 DoP: Stephanie Mckenzie

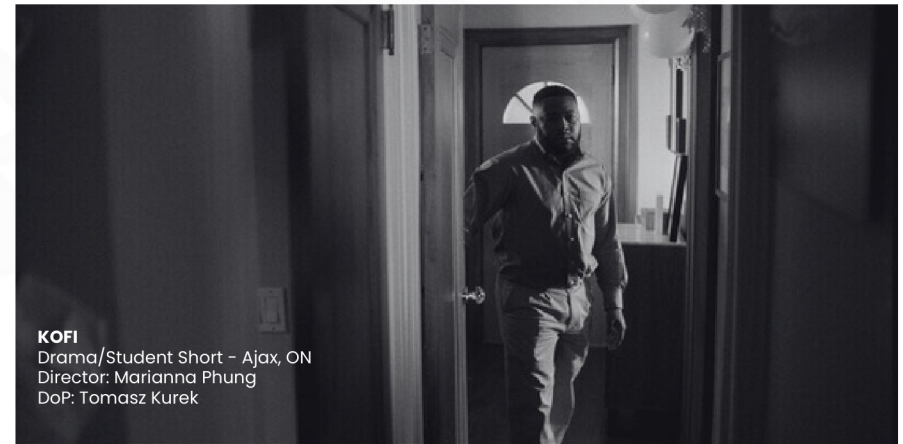
On the Windowsill follows Mauve, a passive young woman, as she becomes trapped in a timeless loop of making pie for her partner after he rejects her dinner. Her idealistic life, portrayed as the 1950's sitcom her partner watches on tv, begins to meld with her undesirable reality as she struggles to accept the truth she faces; she is in an abusive relationship. It is not until Mauve's realization and acceptance of the truth that she can see the world for what it really is. Her idealistic world is the sitcom, but the sitcom is still riddled with misogyny. It is a display of her own internal dilemma; is her ideal world what she truly wants or is she wanting to conform to this idealistic sitcom housewife because it is what her partner wants?



RED STRING OF FATE

Sci-Fi/Romance - Toronto, ON
 Director: Lovina Yavari, Lance Fernandes
 DoP: Angel Navarro III

In the year 2090, a robotics engineer tries to bring her fallen lover back to life.



KOFI

Drama/Student Short - Ajax, ON
 Director: Marianna Phung
 DoP: Tomasz Kurek

While Kofi throws a birthday party for his child, an old "friend" arrives to urgently call in an old debt steeped in loyalty and sacrifice — one which threatens to lead Kofi back to a life he's worked hard to leave behind.



PRISM
Drama/Comedy - Montreal, QC
Director: Gina Hara
DoP: Hans Bobanovits

Prism is a visually striking short experimental fiction film, following Miranda as she bursts from her beige cocoon and embraces her queer identity for the first time. In a hyper-sexual world, there are very few movies exploring what it feels like to be on the asexual spectrum. Director Gina Hara sets out to create refreshingly unique asexual representation on the silver screen, while taking inspiration from movies by Maya Deren and Roy Andersson.



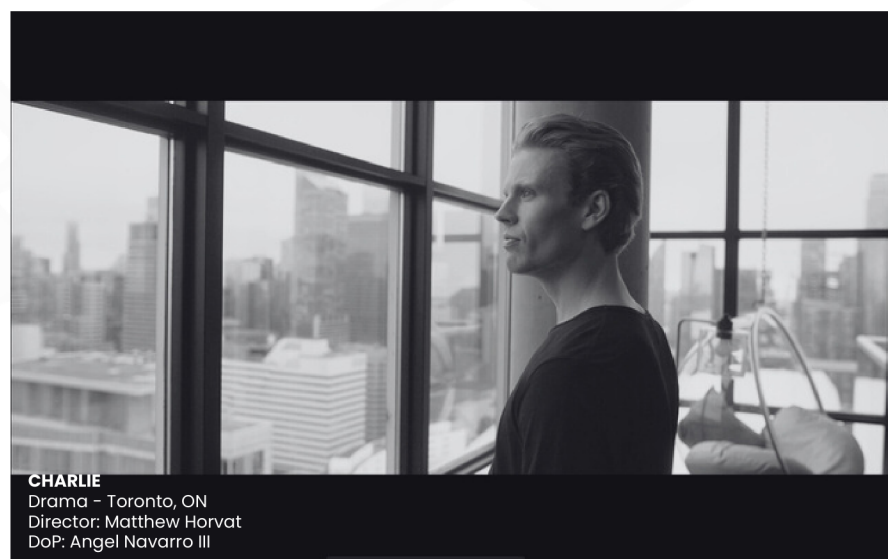
GOOD GIRL
Drama - Scarborough, ON
Director: Sunita Miya Muganza
DoP: Ashley Iris Gill

Halima, a single mother living in a close-knit, East African community in Calgary, is thrust into a precarious situation when she makes a last-minute decision to stop her 13-year-old daughter Salama's trip back to Kenya to be circumcised. Halima knows that choosing to flout tradition may cost her everything; her community, reputation, and way of life. Once Salama's secret relationship is exposed by Neema, the Grande Dame of the community, Halima is forced to demand the very thing that she has been conditioned to disregard: autonomy, and sexual liberation, for her daughter and herself.



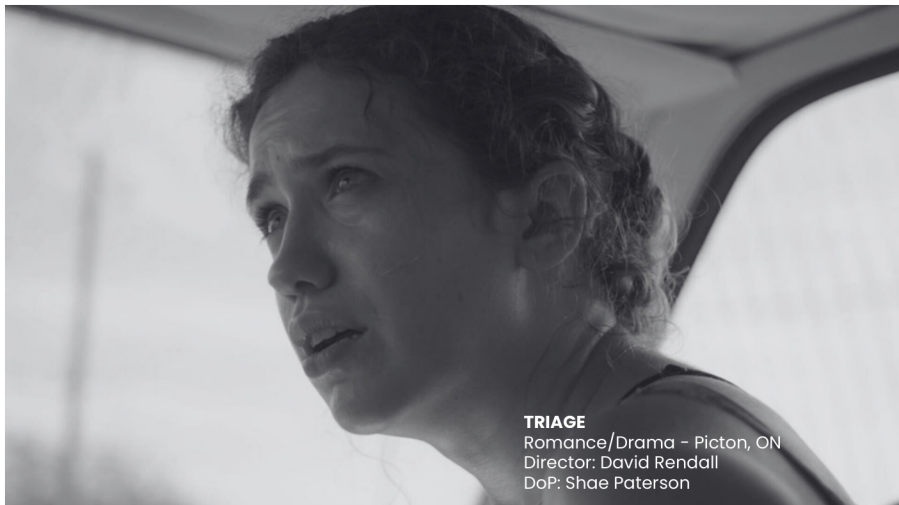
CINCHING SADDLES
Comedy/Mockumentary - Vancouver, BC
Director: Kevin Sengara, Aman Pannu

In the mockumentary "Cinching Saddles," we follow the wild journey of Calvinder, aka Cinch, who adopts a fake Texas accent and genuinely believes he's a cowboy, despite lacking any authentic cowboy skills. The series captures Cinch's comedic attempts to fit into the ranch's cowboy culture. As the ranch continues to thrive without his intentional assistance, the mockumentary unfolds with a humorous exploration of identity and the unexpected impact Cinch has on the community. Through interviews and candid moments, "Cinching Saddles" showcases the quirky dynamics of a South Asian cowboy's misadventures in the heart of a Canadian small town, offering a delightful twist on the mockumentary genre. Meanwhile, Cinch's family is adjusting to the presence of this new cowboy in their lives, adding an extra layer of amusement to the unfolding story.



CHARLIE
Drama - Toronto, ON
Director: Matthew Horvat
DoP: Angel Navarro III

Based on a true story, a young man successfully orchestrates a double-ended rental scam until the weight of his own ego compromises everything.



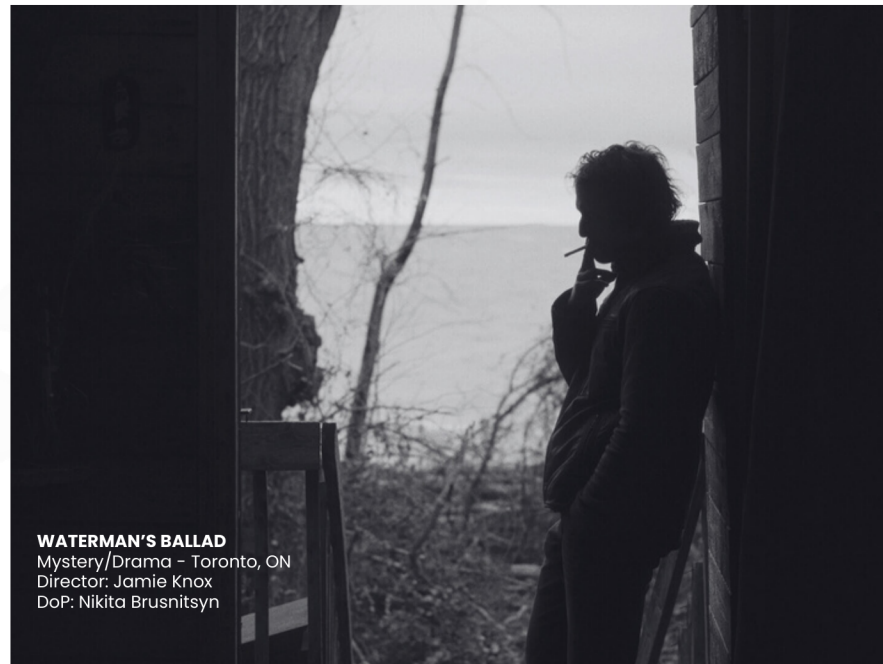
TRIAGE
Romance/Drama - Picton, ON
Director: David Rendall
DoP: Shae Paterson

For Gemma and James, a simple car ride to the vet escalates into a full-blown crisis, exposing hard truths beneath the surface of their relationship. Set in the early days of the pandemic, TRIAGE is a claustrophobic pressure cooker and exploration of who we truly love when our worlds fall apart.



THE TWO OF US
Coming of Age, Drama - North York, ON
Director: Conor Straun Forrest
DoP: Michael Cao

11-year-old Jerry is a regular kid with an "evil" big sister, Madison, and pretty ordinary parents. He starts to develop a crush on a girl and in the process becomes confused by the relationships around him. Discovering his parent's open non-monogamous relationship, he comes to understand that what may appear complicated, isn't necessarily so; Sometimes it just works.



WATERMAN'S BALLAD
Mystery/Drama - Toronto, ON
Director: Jamie Knox
DoP: Nikita Brusnitsyn

Haunted by the shadows of his past, a grieving man seeks solace in his family's lakeside cabin. As night falls, he engages in a poignant and otherworldly conversation with a lost friend, unravelling the threads of memory and loss. "Waterman's Ballad" is a haunting and poetic meditation on the enduring echoes of grief, the ethereal dance of memory, and the spectral presence of ghosts that linger in the quiet spaces of our hearts.

HELP SUPPORT DFF CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE CANADIAN FILM

It's as simple as completing our survey or making a small donation of \$5. DFF is a non-profit organization in its first year and your support makes a HUGE difference.



DONATE



Let's continue to celebrate Canadian film and filmmakers in Dufferin!

SURVEY



QR Codes: Open your phone camera and hold over image. A website will appear at the bottom of the screen. Click on it to open!

OFFICIAL 2024 EVENT SCHEDULE

ALL EVENTS ARE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE IN DOWNTOWN ORANGEVILLE

09 AUG

12:00 – 5 PM

DFF Film Hub
Lavender Blue Catering, Broadway

4:00 PM

Red Carpet Opens
Orangeville Opera House

5:00 PM

Screening Block A with Live Q & A
Heap
Charlie
Beyond the Reins
For Roy
Handsy
Lakewood

7:00 PM

Friday Night Social
Live music, food & refreshments
Bluebird Cafe & Grill
Entry off *Armstrong St*



DONATE HERE & HELP BRING DFF BACK IN 2025

10 AUG

8AM-1 PM

DFF Film Hub
Orangeville Famers Market

8:30 AM

Red Carpet Opens
Orangeville Opera House
Networking & Barista Bar by
Mochaberry Coffee

9:30 AM

Screening Block B with Live Q & A
Cancelled
Cinching Saddles
Good Girl
On the Windowsill
The Two of Us

12:00 PM (Doors open at 11:30AM)

Speaker Series
Orangeville Library, Mill Street
Featuring industry professionals & lunch service

2:45 PM

Red Carpet Opens
Orangeville Opera House

3:45 PM

Screening Block C with Live Q & A
Red String of Fate
Kofi
Prism
Waterman's Ballad
Triage

7:45 PM

VIP Awards Cocktail Event
Greystones Restaurant

EVENT MAP - DFF 2024



Orangeville Opera House

87 Broadway
Screenings A, B, C
Dress: Dressy Casual

Orangeville Library

Mill St & Broadway
Speaker Event
Dress: Dressy Casual

Lavender Blue Catering

125 Broadway
Friday Film Hub 12-5PM



Bluebird Cafe & Restaurant

Entry to event off Armstrong
Friday VIP Social
Dress: Dressy Casual



Greystones Restaurant

Entry from Third St
VIP Awards Cocktail
Dress: Formal Cocktail



Orangeville Farmers Market

2nd St & Broadway
Saturday Film Hub 8AM-1PM

Film Hub is your location for event information & special pass holders pick up
Orangeville Farmers Market is open 8am-1pm on Saturday - be sure to check it out