

oct 2024 22-26

join us for our 35th annual festival

(a) /WomensFilmFestival (a) @ (a) @sjiwff #sjiwff35
WomensFilmFestival.com

FEMFEST NL FEMINIST PLEDGE

FIGHT SEXISM

FIGHT RACISM, FIGHT ABLEISM, FIGHT CLASSISM, FIGHT AGEISM, FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA, FIGHT TRANSPHOBIA

THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL

PRACTICE SELF CARE AS RESISTANCE

BE A LEADER, BE ACTIVE

organize, agitate, girlcott, lobby, sign petitions, demonstrate, protest GET INVOLVED IN THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT DEMAND AN END TO LOW PAY AND PRECARIOUS WORK

BELIEVE SURVIVORS DON'T SLUT-SHAME

DON'I VICTIM BLAME DON'T FAT-SHAME, DON'T BODY-SHAME RESPECT WOMEN'S CHOICES

SAY YES TO LEADERSHIP

DEMAND EQUAL REPRESENTATION
IN PARLIAMENT, IN THE MEDIA, IN BOARDROOMS, IN SPORT, IN STEM
CREATE A FEMINIST EDUCATION SYSTEM

FIGHT SETTLER COLONIALISM

RESPECT CARE AND CAREWORK
SEX WORKER RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
GIVE CHILDREN GENDER-NEUTRAL TOYS
SUPPORT ONE-PARENT FAMILIES
PROMOTE INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY
CELEBRATE INTERSECTIONALITY

CELEBRATE TRANS WOMEN

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS SUPPORT WOMEN WRITERS, ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, AND PIONEERS CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR FULL REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS DEMAND AN END TO MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FIGHT RAPE CULTURE AND STREET HARASSMENT CONSENT IS ACTIVE, ENTHUSIASTIC, ONGOING

FEMINISM IS NECESSARY

#FEMFESTNL

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We respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we work as the ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We commit to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation.



As Canada's longest-running women's film festival, the St. John's International Women's Film Festival has advanced **gender equity** in the screen industries since 1989.

Our vision champions the creative work of women and genderdiverse artists worldwide, establishing SJIWFF as a respected leader in the Canadian film circuit. We are crucial in nurturing artist development and creative vitality in Newfoundland and Labrador.

join us

Together, we can address the unique challenges of today's industry and build a sustainable, equitable screen ecosystem. Join us in our mission to elevate our province's incredible arts community. Please reach out if you're interested in partnership or sponsorship opportunities or if you can support us through a tax-deductible donation.

www.WomensFilmFestival.com





a community-building festival like no other

Every October, SJIWFF hosts a vibrant five-day festival and forum that invites audiences to celebrate the best new cinema from around the globe. Our festival brings together delegates from across Canada and internationally, serving as a powerful catalyst for the province's film industry. It offers a rare opportunity for local audiences to engage with contemporary independent cinema and meet the filmmakers behind the stories. As one of Atlantic Canada's largest gatherings of film professionals, the festival fosters growth, innovation, and artistic development.

SJIWFF is about more than just film; it's an invitation to experience the vibrant culture of Newfoundland and Labrador. We encourage everyone to explore our stunning landscapes and connect with the creative and generous community that makes St. John's truly unique.

the future of sjiwff

In an exciting evolution, SJIWFF has become the new home of **Women In View**, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing gender representation in film and television. This merger marks a significant milestone, uniting two organizations with a shared mission to amplify women and gender-diverse voices across various media, a commitment that is at the heart of our festival.

We are also thrilled to announce the soft launch of Canada's first gender equity in film institute. This initiative will formalize our commitment to inclusion-focused programming, providing vital resources for women and gender-diverse filmmakers to tell their stories and shape the future of the Canadian screen industry.



what's on screen

Our film programming showcases women and gender-diverse directors and writers. Our values as an organization are reflected on our screens:

82% of this year's films are Canadian

21% are made by local filmmakers

50%
are made by
Indigenous, Black,
or People of Colour

it takes a village

SJIWFF extends a heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors, donors, and all community partners. A special thank you goes to our incredible volunteers, whose efforts make our work not only possible but truly excellent!

We also express our gratitude to our Board of Directors, as well as our jurors and prescreeners: Allison Moira Kelly, Ane Christensen, Angie Rico, Anna Wheeler, Anubhuti, Ashley Sugimoto, Baptiste Neis, Bridget A. Ricketts, Britney Canzi, Caroline A. Godin, Cassondra Murray, Cindy O'Neill, Deidre Gillard-Rowlings, Emily Diana Ruth, Erin Samant, Florentina Stroia, Francine Zuckerman, Gloria Williams, Heidi Bonnell, Jacki St. Croix, Jackie Hynes, Janell Boone, Jenne Nolan, Jillan Rees-Brown, JoJo Guevara, Johanna Silver, Kayla Costello-Hearn, Kristine Breen, Linda Dunn, Lovina Yavari, Lymari Graciano, Meagan Cole, Megan McNeill, Meghan Dhawan, Mehzabin Chowdhury, Meng Li, Michelle Bush, Romi Robinson, Shachi Sharma, Skye R. Regan, Stephanie Manuel, Tane, Tara Keefe, Tegan Keefe, Tera McDonald, Terry Ombaka, Tonya Kearley, Tonya Powell, Vaida Nairn, and Vanessa Cardoso-Whelan.

We appreciate our Michelle Jackson Emerging Filmmaker Award jurors: award alumni Elizabeth Hicks, Emily Bridger, Jackie Hynes, and Latonia Hartery, along with Director Mentor Jordan Canning.

Thank you to the **Women in View** team and to **Andria Wilson Mirza** for their expert guidance and support. We send our love to every artist who shares their work and talents with us. Finally, thank you to our wonderful audience for joining us this week and year-round.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jenn Brown



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Ana Maria Borges de Alcantara Sabioni



Marlayne Hardy





michelle jackson emerging filmmaker award

congratulations to this year's winner Alexa Jane Jerrett



Alexa Jane Jerrett is an emerging multidisciplinary filmmaker and owner of Bedlamer Pictures Inc. She is a graduate of FAMU's (Czechia) Writing & Directing Fiction Program and a recent participant of NIFCO's Picture Start 16. In 2023, Alexa won the Arts & Letters Awards Senior Dramatic Script Division with an original folk horror script and went on to direct and co-produce the ambitious short film, Bedlamer, Bedlamer premiered at the 2024 Atlantic International Film Festival's Reel East Coast Shorts Gala and has been selected to screen at various international film festivals. Alexa is a member of the Directors Guild of Canada, WIFT-AT, and 2024 AIFF Filmmaker Lab. With a fondness for folk horror and genre-based storytelling, her upcoming works in development explore themes of identity, mental health, and generational unity among women.

Created and administered by the St. John's International Women's Film Festival, the Michelle Jackson Emerging Filmmaker Award was founded in honour of the late St. John's filmmaker and student mentor Michelle Jackson. This annual peer-juried award is open to emerging women and gender-diverse directors who reside in

Newfoundland and Labrador and have not yet directed a feature film. With a total value of over \$35,000, the prize includes mentorship, in-kind services, and \$15,000 cash towards creating a short six-minute film. The completed film premieres at the Closing Night Gala of the 36th annual St. John's International Women's Film Festival.



Foundation









MO Entertainment Inc.







Pages to Screen
Ruth Atkinson





Message from the Minister



The St. John's International Women's Film Festival offers us hope for a society without barriers. Now in its 35th year, this celebration of women in the arts has become a leader in championing gender equity and celebrating a diverse range of voices and stories. Not only does it give emerging filmmakers a platform to share their talents, it also invites

audiences to think about ways we can work toward a truly open, diverse society. Our government applauds all our dedicated arts champions across Canada who ensure that our culture shines. Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication. Enjoy the shows!

The Honourable Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Canadian Heritage



Message from the Minister



Welcome to the 35th annual St. John's International Women's Film Festival! Since 1989, this festival has celebrated the growth of thousands of women and gender–diverse filmmakers and artists, while showcasing a wide range of stories that inspire, challenge and uplift audiences. The Government of Canada, through the

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, is proud to support the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador. The arts play a vital role in shaping our culture, sharing our stories, and raising voices that have historically been underrepresented. To the festival organizers, filmmakers, volunteers and participants, congratulations on your hard work and dedication. Participants look forward to watching the incredible films and hearing the stories that will be shared throughout the festival. Wishing you a wonderful week filled with the magic of filmmaking.

The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency



Message from the Minister



The St. John's International Women's Film Festival is vital in highlighting the province's film and television industry and boosting the global presence of our film, television, and digital media sectors. We're thrilled that the lineup features numerous films produced in the province, including Melanie Oates's Opening Night film, Sweet

Angel Baby, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival just a few weeks ago. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador proudly supports the festival and the Trailblazers Award, honouring five local women producers who have significantly shaped our province's film industry over the past 35 years. Congratulations to the festival's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and all the creative contributors involved.



Message from Telefilm



Telefilm Canada is proud to promote and celebrate stories that reflect the diversity of voices and communities of our country. That is why we are happy to partner with St. John's International Women's Film Festival, to champion Canadian and Indigenous creators and their work! Investing in films and reinforcing the importance of cinema is at the

centre of our mission. Festivals such as St. John's International Women's Film Festival play an invaluable role in boosting the visibility of Canadian and Indigenous films, supporting the growth of the audiovisual sector so that Canadian stories continue to touch hearts and help bring us closer together. We thank you for encouraging our storytellers and we invite you to watch Canadian and Indigenous films in festivals, in theatres or on your screens.

Julie Roy, Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



Message from ArtsNL



ArtsNL is proud to stand alongside the St. John's International Women's Film Festival as it continues its vital mission to amplify women's voices in film. For over three decades, this festival has been a beacon of creativity, resilience, and progress, elevating the presence of women in an industry where they have long been underrepresented.

Their contributions to the film community and gender equity in

Newfoundland and Labrador are profound, driving the growth of local cinema and inspiring change far beyond. May this festival bring new connections, insights, and opportunities to fuel your creative journey. In this city rich with energy and artistic spirit, there's no shortage of inspiration—carry some home to keep your creative fires burning bright.

Melanie Martin, Executive Director, ArtsNL



Message from PictureNL



On behalf of PictureNL, we are thrilled to celebrate the 35th Annual St. John's International Women's Film Festival! This incredible event continues to champion the creativity, resilience, and brilliance of women in the film industry. PictureNL is proud to support this platform, which empowers women storytellers and brings diverse voices to the

screen. As we mark this milestone year, we look forward to seeing the powerful stories that will inspire audiences, spark important conversations, and contribute to the ongoing growth of women's representation in film. Congratulations to the festival, the filmmakers and participants!

Laura Churchill, Chief Executive Officer, Picture NL



Message from the Board



This year marks 35 years of the St. John's International Women's Film Festival, and it feels more vital than ever. Since our inception, we've aimed to amplify the voices of women and gender-diverse filmmakers, whose stories often go unheard in the mainstream. Our festival challenges the industry to make space for new voices and diverse perspectives, fostering growth both internationally and

within Newfoundland and Labrador's film community. SJIWFF isn't just a celebration—it's a movement, a community, and a catalyst for progress. Whether you're a filmmaker, an artist, or simply someone who loves unique stories, we hope you'll join us.

Chelsey MacNeil, Chair, SJIWFF



Message from the Executive Director



This year's Festival celebrates the evolution and growth of the SJIWFF and Newfoundland and Labrador's film industry. We proudly showcase remarkable talent from here and afar, honour the trailblazers who have shaped our legacy, and open the door to what's yet to come. There's magic in gathering in our spaces. We invite you

to come as your authentic self, share your craft, be inspired, and celebrate the incredible work of your fellow artists. Explore our vibrant city and arts community and all it offers. Take a moment to breathe in the calm of our ocean air and remember that joy is an act of resistance. Together, we can cultivate a space where joy flourishes, systems change, narratives shift, and opportunities arise. We are so happy you're here.

Jenn Brown, Executive Director, SJIWFF



Message from the Lead Programmer



As the Festival celebrates its 35th year, I'm reminded of the legendary storytellers who have guided us to this moment. Despite the systemic barriers that necessitated our founding—barriers that still exist—women and gender-diverse filmmakers have persevered, consistently pushing the boundaries from intimate indie productions to internationally acclaimed masterpieces. This festival, especially this year's

program, celebrates resilience, pays tribute to the talent that has flourished here, and serves as a beacon for the future. As you immerse yourself in the films, discussions, and events, I encourage you to reflect on the stories these cinema walls have witnessed and those yet to be told. Let us honour our incredible talent, recognize those who paved the way, and look forward with hope to the future.



Celebrate NL is a Crown corporation with a focus on event attraction and the delivery of special celebrations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

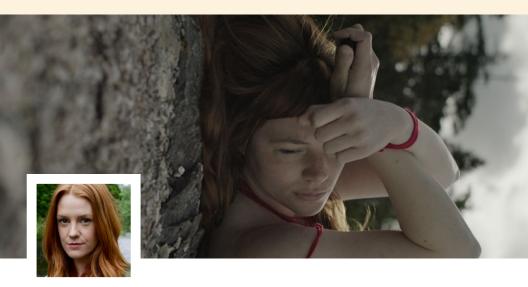
celebratenl.ca



२ opening night gala 7 pm, the majestic

Presented with support from Telefilm Canada

TELEFILM PARTNER OF CHOICE



Sweet Angel Baby

Local Film

Filmmaker in attendance

Eliza is an unassuming Newfoundland woman adored by the community of her small fishing town as salt of the earth. Their perception of Eliza begins to unravel as rumours circulate about who might be the owner of a rather risque online persona. In a violent clashing of morals and betrayal, Eliza struggles to maintain her status in the community while fighting to figure out who she really is and which version of herself she can live with.

Content warning: themes of sexual violence; sexual content

Director/Writer Melanie Oates

Producers Chris Hatcher Matt Power Melanie Oates

Canada (NL) **English** 95 mins

day 2

wednesday 23 oct

@ evening feature

7PM, LSPU HALL



A Mother Apart

Filmmaker in attendance

How do you raise a child when your own mother abandoned you? In a remarkable story of healing and forgiveness, Jamaican–American poet and LGBTQ+ activist Staceyann Chin, renowned for performances in *Def Poetry Slam* and hit solo shows like *MotherStruck!*, radically re-imagines the essential art of mothering. In seeking her elusive mother—a trail that leads to Brooklyn, Montreal, Cologne and, finally, Jamaica—Staceyann and her daughter forge a new sense of home.

Director

Laurie Townshend

Writers

Laurie Townshend Alison Duke **Producers**

Alison Duke

Ngardy Conteh George

Justine Pimlott

Canada

English, German

89 mins





@ evening shorts

7PM, THE MAJESTIC

feels like home

From the comforting embrace of cherished traditions to the emotional turbulence of unresolved conflicts, there are many things that define familial relationships. This collection of films capture the profound impact of these connections on our hearts, our histories, and our paths forward.

Director/Writer
Rosie Choo Pidcock

Producers Angelica Stirpe Geoffrey Manton Athena Russell Rosie Choo Pidcock

Canada English 15 mins



Sorry For Your Cost

When her mom dies the day she gets into theatre school, a scrappy teenager faces giving up her acting dreams to pay for the funeral.

Director/Writer Kaia Singh

Producer Line Sander Egede

Canada English, Hindi, French 16 mins



Moving Water

A young biracial woman must navigate her grief amidst her extended family while attending the Hindu cremation of her Baba (grandfather).



wednesday 23 oct

⊕ evening shorts

7PM, THE MAJESTIC



Director/Writer/Producer
Clara Chan

Canada English 6 mins

Have I Swallowed Your Dreams?

A poetic conversation between an immigrant daughter and her mother about sacrifices and dreams.



Directors/Writers
Jaime Leigh Gianopoulos
Kayah George

Producers
Angelica Stirpe
Shelby Manton

Canada English 9 mins

Our Grandmother the Inlet

A hybrid documentary film that examines the lives of Kayah George, a young Indigenous woman, and her grandmother Ta7a, the daughter of the renowned Chief Dan George.



② evening shorts 7PM, THE MAJESTIC

Director/Writer Alexa Jane Jerrett

> Producer Vaida Nairn

Canada (NL) **English** 15 mins



Bedlamer

Local Film

On the shores of a small fishing village lives a lonely settlement of men-capturing and domesticating otherworldly creatures that were never meant to be tamed.

Content warning: violence, mild body horror

Director/Writer/Producer Sara Bourdeau

> Canada French 24 mins



Sylvie On The Loose

Sylvie's out of jail and back in town with two goals in mind: reuniting with her old lover, Coyote, and freeing her mother from her violent husband.

Content warning: domestic violence



wednesday 23 oct

@ evening shorts

7PM, THE MAJESTIC



Director/Writer/Producer
Vanessa Sandre

Brazil
Brazilian Portuguese
19 mins

The Pleasure is All Mine

When 76-year-old Amélia realizes she has never had an orgasm in her life, she becomes determined to have one at any cost.

Content warning: nudity, sexual content



ENRICHING CREATIVE LIVES

AFBS is proud to be a Bronze Sponsor of SJIWFF 2024.

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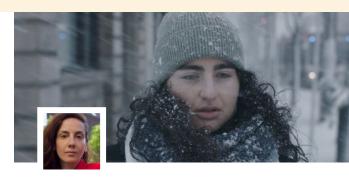
cross my heart

Whether love of self, place or other, there is no greater concept to explore. This collection of shorts reveals how love, in all its forms, can be a catalyst for personal growth, a source of comfort, and a bridge to understanding the world around us.

> **Director/Writer** Teyama Alkamli

> **Producers** Luke Gallagher Teyama Alkamli

Canada **English, Arabic** 20 mins



I Never Promised You a Jasmine Garden

Tara, a queer Palestinian woman in her late 20s, attempts to suppress her internal emotional turbulence during a phone call with her best friend Sarab, with whom she is in love.

Director/Writer/Producer shalan joudry

> Canada Mi'kmaw 5 mins



welima'a

welima'q (it smells good) is a poetic doc, witnessing a sweetgrass landscape on the shores of Mi'kma'ki. Between the salt water and forest line, a family weaves themselves within the grasses.

day 2

wednesday 23 oct

⊗ late shorts

9:30PM, THE MAJESTIC



Director/Writer Stacy Gardner

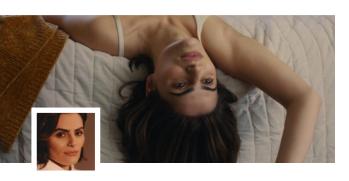
Producer Vaida Nairn

Canada (NL) English 9 mins

73 Seconds

Local Film

In her 7^{th} grade class, Shannon is caught between the ordinary calamity of being herself after getting bullied and the extraordinary catastrophic event of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.



Director/Writer

Producer Elle B

USA English 18 mins

all the words but the one

A dinner with her partner's new boss becomes precarious when Maya realizes she's also dining with someone from her past.

Content warning: intimate partner violence, nudity

@ late shorts

9:30PM, THE MAJESTIC



Director Sonia Sanjari

Writers Sonia Sanjari Siavash Farhadi

Producer Emad Khodabakhsh

> Iran Persian 16 mins



A Long Walk

After losing Saeed on their trip to see fireflies, Mona feels and sees things she couldn't before.

Content warning: brief blood and gore

Director/Writer
Evelyn Pakinewatik

Producer Melanie Nepinak Hadley

> Canada English 20 mins



Anywhere

George lives a quiet life with his Gokmis on reserve. His girlfriend, Eileen, lives alone in the big city down south. Facing isolation, George must choose to love radically, at times through impossible means.

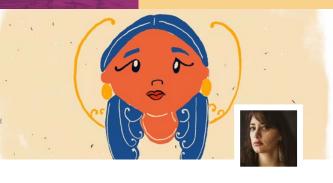
Content warning: ableism, anti-Indigenous misogyny



wednesday 23 oct

& late shorts

9:30PM, THE MAJESTIC



Director/Producer Stephanie Joline

Writer
Rebecca Thomas

Canada English 4 mins

What Good Canadians Do

A captivating poetic film that explores the intersection of Indigenous perspectives with the broader Canadian identity, creating a rich tapestry that reflects the multifaceted nature of the country and its people.



Director/Writer Shuyao Chen

Producers Yuanxing Hu Yumeng Han Haozheng Li

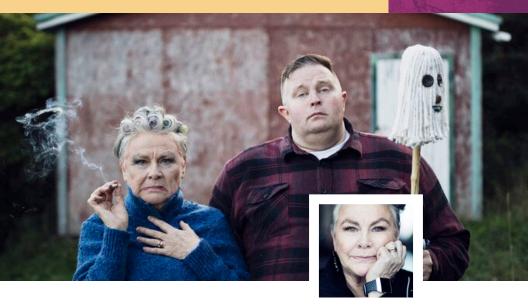
China, USA Chinese 16 mins

Manting

Manting, a Chinese woman in her 60s, reconnects with the lesbian lover from her adolescence and they spend a night roaming the city.

⊗ coffee & culture

2:30PM, THE ROOMS



Meet the Missus

Local Series

Filmmaker in attendance

Join us for a screening of selected episodes of the hit TV series *The Missus Downstairs*—an oddball comedy about unexpected pals—followed by a conversation between Mary Walsh, Ruth Lawrence and Renée Hackett.

Director/Writer/Producer Mary Walsh Writer

Canada

Dave Sullivan

English 90 mins

Producer

Ruth Lawrence



PRESS PLAY

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what a way to make a living

Whether we clock in at an airport, in a kitchen, or a wrestling ring, most of us can relate to the ups and downs of what it takes to make a living. This collection of shorts reveals the human stories behind the daily grind.

> **Director/Writer** Tara Aghdashloo

Producers Michelle Koerssen

Tara Aghdashloo Nedda Sarshar

> Canada, UK Persian 20 mins



Empty Your Pockets

As the dark side of Hassan's job as a customs officer becomes more clear, he must decide what matters to him the most and what cost he is willing to pay to help his family.

Director **Ruth Lawrence**

> Writer **Grace Shears**

Producers **Grace Shears Kalem Mahoney**

> Canada (NL) **English** 22 mins



Finding Grace: A Soul Song

Local Film

Finding Grace: A Soul Song chronicles the transformative path of Veteran Grace Shears as she traverses through her PTSD journey to discover the healing potential of music and songwriting.



thursday 24 oct

@ evening shorts

7PM, THE MAJESTIC



Directors/Producers Aisha Evelyna Natalie Novak Remplakowski

Writer Aisha Evelyna

Canada English 9 mins

NOLA

A Black woman working as a sous-chef navigates toxic restaurant culture and her wavering mental health, until a chance encounter changes her.

Content warning: anxiety, bullying



Director/Writer/Producer
Cathy van Ingen

Canada English 23 mins

What Ales Us?

Two women reckon with a broken beer industry in Canada and start a movement to change it.

Content warning: sexual harassment



⊕ evening shorts

7PM, THE MAJESTIC

Director/Writer Asia Youngman

Producer Mike Johnston

> Canada **English** 26 mins



Delta Dawn

Delta Dawn explores the early life and career of Indigenous wrestling sensation Dawn Murphy, AKA "Princess Delta Dawn," who rose to fame in the 1980s and early 1990s.







We all have stories worth telling

Proud sponsor of the St. John's International Women's Film Festival





@ evening feature

7PM, LSPU HALL



There, There

Filmmaker in attendance

There, There tells the parallel stories of Ruth, an elderly woman with dementia obsessed with feeding the neighbourhood birds and playing TV bingo, and Shannon, her pregnant young homecare worker who has been deserted by her baby's father. As Ruth's mind drifts further away and Shannon's future feels increasingly uncertain, their lives converge in a surprising bond that transcends age and circumstance. As they navigate the isolation that looms over them, they discover in each other the connection they may need to defy the precarity of their changing worlds.

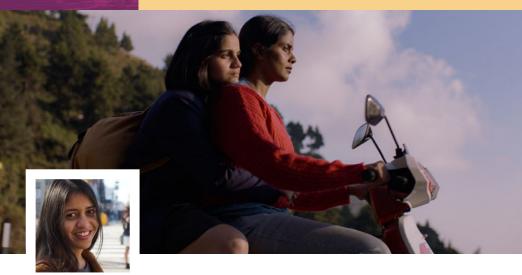
Director/Writer	Producers	Canada
Heather Young	Britt Kerr	English
	Martha Cooley	105 min

day 3

thursday 24 oct

& late feature

9:30PM, THE MAJESTIC



Girls Will Be Girls

In a remote Himalayan boarding school, 16-year-old Mira's world is turned upside down with the arrival of Sri, a charismatic new student, who awakens her desire and sets her down a path of sexual discovery. But Mira's burgeoning feelings face an obstacle: her mother, a woman who never experienced her own coming-of-age, and who has discovered her own connection with the young man. As Mira's rebellious spirit intensifies, the tension between mother and daughter escalates and the showdown for Sri's attention threatens their already fragile bond.

Director/Writer Shuchi Talati Producers Richa Chadha Claire Chassagne Shuchi Talati India, France, USA, Norway English, Hindi 118 mins





@ evening feature

7PM, THE MAJESTIC



Seguridad

Local Film

Filmmaker in attendance

In her feature documentary, *Seguridad*, Newfoundland-based filmmaker Tamara Segura—once named "Cuba's youngest soldier" by the island's highly militarized system—portrays her troubled relationship with her father in the context of the Cuban Revolution. Using personal and national archives, Segura focuses on an average Cuban family—her own—as she unpacks painful truths about their past and her birthplace, while navigating toward recovery.

Director/Writer
Tamara Segura

Producers
Annette Clarke
Rohan Fernando

Canada (NL) Spanish 76 mins

SJIWFF35 schedule

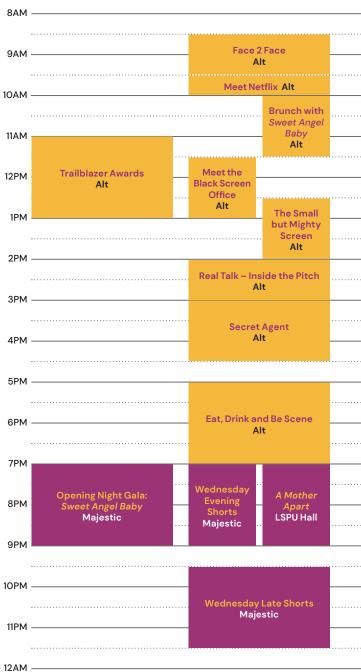
Scan for full schedule details

Forum Event

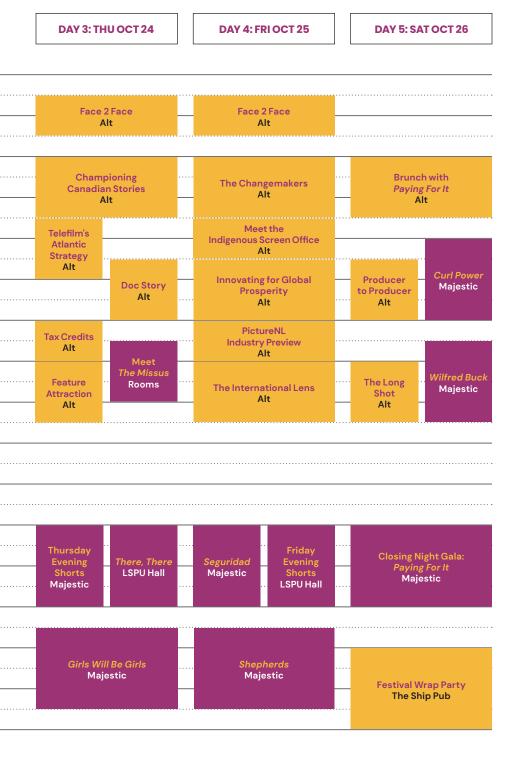
Festival Event

DAY 1: TUES OCT 22

DAY 2: WED OCT 23









friday 25 oct

⊗ evening shorts 7PM, LSPU HALL

two of a kind

Young girls and their unibrows, lesbians and their trusty carabiners, and young folks and their phones. This collection of shorts explores the diverse and often surprising dynamics of duos, capturing the essence of collaboration, conflict, and camaraderie.



Director/Writer/Producer Brianna Schatt

USA **English** 15 mins

When Beverly Met Reita

87-year-old former Hollywood star, Reita, overcomes tragedy and finds joy wallpapering Los Angeles homes with her best friend, Beverly, almost 60 years her junior.



Director/Writer Laurence Lévesque

Producer Line Sander-Egede

Canada French 22 mins

Perseids

Julie knows that she will eventually lose her sight but doesn't know exactly when it will happen. Supported by her great friend Marina, she confronts the destabilizing journey towards darkness.

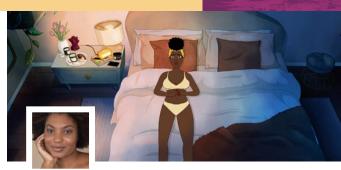


⊗ evening shorts 7PM, LSPUHALL

Director/Writer Bianca D. Lambert

> Producer Kiah Clingman

> > USA **English** 9 mins

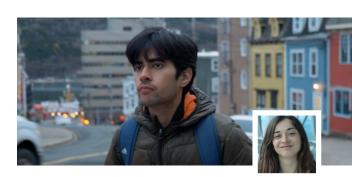


Super High: A Period Piece

Desperate for relief from period pain caused by fibroids, Amanda experiments with cannabis edibles. An unfortunate dosage mishap catapults her into a surreal, anxiety-filled journey. Content warning: blood (animated)

Director/Writer/Producer Maïka Hearson

> Canada (NL) **English** 4 mins



Look Up

Local Film

Samuel is challenged by an elderly man to give up his phone for a week and connect with the people around him.

day 4

friday 25 oct

@ evening shorts

7PM, LSPU HALL



Director/Writer
Andrea Dorfman

Producers

Liz Cowie Rohan Fernando

Canada English 17 mins

Hairy Legs

Questioning why she "has to" shave her hairy legs launches one 13-year-old girl on a journey of self-discovery. Content warning: blood (animated)



Director Brianna Russell

Writer Niko Chu

Writer Mehgan Fahmy

Canada (NL) English 12 mins

Flight 487

A traumatized social media influencer, and survivor of the Flight 487 crash, is met with public backlash on the anniversary of the fatal accident.



⊗ evening shorts 7PM, LSPU HALL

Director/Writer Gianna Mazzeo

Producer Alexia LaFeuille

> Netherlands English 11 mins



The History of the Carabiner

A tongue-in-cheek, historical documentary/fashion film hybrid that takes viewers on a journey through queer history to trace the origins of the carabiner as a lesbian symbol.

Director/Writer

Producer Rabiya Mansoor Shreya Patel

> Canada English, Farsi 14 mins



Unibrow

In an attempt to get rid of her unibrow, Leyla accidentally makes things worse. Luckily, the new girl at school offers a helping hand and a new perspective. day 4

friday 25 oct

& late feature

9:30PM, THE MAJESTIC



Shepherds

Filmmaker in attendance

Mathyas trades in his Montreal life as a young advertising executive to become a shepherd in the South of France. But the harsh realities of the pastoral world force him to question his romantic vision of the profession. A visit from Elise, a civil servant who has abruptly quit her job, gives Mathyas' quest a new direction. Together, with a herd in their care, they embark on a journey towards a new way of life in the mountains.

Director
Sophie Deraspe

Producers Luc Déry Kim McCraw Canada, France French 113 mins

Writers
Sophie Deraspe
Mathyas Lefebure

⊗ noon feature

12PM, THE MAJESTIC



Curl Power

Filmmaker in attendance

Curl Power follows a team of teenage girls as they pursue their unusual dream of becoming Canadian National Curling Champions, and seek out their own paths amid the legacies of their world champion mothers. This intimate and imaginative coming-of-age documentary tells a story of angst and ecstasy, following the funny and tender evolution of five best friends as they reckon with their bodies, minds, and the great unknown.

Director/	Writer
Josephir	ne Anderson

Producer Mike Johnston Canada English 85 mins



saturday 26 oct

⊗ afternoon feature 2:30PM, THE MAJESTIC



Wilfred Buck

Filmmaker in attendance

Lisa Jackson's portrait of Cree Elder Wilfred Buck moves between earth and sky, past and present, bringing to life ancient teachings of Indigenous astronomy and cosmology to tell a story that spans generations. Adapted from Buck's rollicking memoir I Have Lived Four Lives, the film weaves together stories from his life, including his harrowing young years of displacement and addiction. Seamlessly fusing present-day scenes with cinematic re-enactments and archival footage, this intimate yet expansive documentary takes us on an inspiring journey to the space beyond, and to the spaces between us all.

Dire	ctor/	Writ	е
Liea	Inch	rean	

Producers Lisa Jackson Lauren Grant

Alicia Smith

Canada English, Cree 96 mins

Empowering Gender Equity.

We proudly support the St. John's International Women's Film Festival in its mission to promote women's work in screen-based industries.

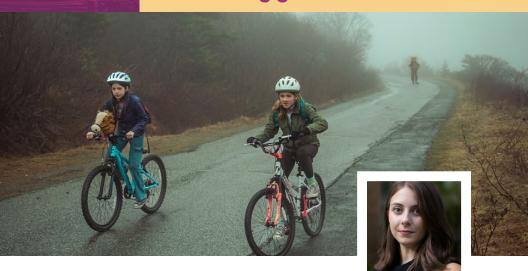


day 5

saturday 26 oct

⊗ closing gala

7PM, THE MAJESTIC



I Need to Get This Off My Chest

Local Film

12-year-old Grace is a criminal. After shoplifting lingerie from a discount department store, she goes to great lengths to cover up the crime. Enjoy this world premiere from our 2023 RBC Michelle Jackson Emerging Filmmaker Award winner, Elizabeth Hicks.

Director/Writer

Producer Jamie Miller Canada (NL) English 9 mins





Paying For It

Filmmaker in attendance

Paying For It is a live-action adaptation of acclaimed alternative-cartoonist Chester Brown's best-selling graphic novel. In the late 90s, Chester and Sonny are a long-term, committed, romantic couple. When Sonny wants to redefine their relationship, Chester, an introverted cartoonist, starts sleeping with sex workers and discovers a new kind of intimacy in the process. Paying For It is a delightfully unexpected tale of love, sex and non-monogamy. Content Warning: sexual content, nudity

Producers

Sook-Yin Lee

Matt Code Sonva Di Rienzo **Aeschylus Poulos** Canada **English** 85 mins

Writers Sook-Yin Lee Joanne Sarazen

Director

community events

We're showcasing incredible musicians and performers throughout the week alongside our film events. With red carpet and industry parties featuring DJ Cleo Leigh, Valmy, and iconic trad musicians, our Wrap Party is just one of the many public events to look forward to!

Wed, Oct 23 The Ship Pub



Folk Night + SJIWFF

Join Maria Cherwick and fellow musicians at the iconic Ship Pub for an authentic Newfoundland trad session. Connect with the heart of Newfoundland's musical heritage in this lively, intimate event.

\$10 cover or free entry with Festival Pass (19+).

Thurs, Oct 24 The Ship Pub



Karaoke Night with Thelma & Louise

Thelma & Louise (Krista Power, Kelly McMichael, and Mara Pellerin) host Women and Songs Karaoke from R&B to pop ballads, Lillith fair folk tunes, classic country crooners, hits from the 70's to the Riot Grrrl Era. Expect costumes, silliness, and too much fun. \$10 cover or free entry with Festival Pass (19+).

Sat, Oct 26 LSPU Hall

Family Fun Pop-Up

Join us for some family fun on Saturday morning! Stay tuned to our social media for exciting announcements and details. Free to attend, all-ages.

Sat, Oct 26 The Ship Pub 10pm–Late

Festival Wrap Party

With performances by Xia-3 and the NL Latin Band, capping it off with an epic dance party. Hosted by *Phlegm Fatale* Eda Kumquat. Free with Festival Pass or \$20 cover at the door.







Retro art vibes, not retro funding.





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SJIWFF film industry forum

Newfoundland & Labrador's flagship industry event.

While the Film Festival celebrates its 35th Anniversary, the SJIWFF Film Industry Forum expands yet again to provide unmatched opportunities for impactful development in the best interest of our ever-growing community of creatives.

In 2024, the Forum brings you a dynamic lineup of industry luminaries, a global network of changemakers, an incredible cast of trailblazers, and a space for artists to show up as they are for candid, real-talk in a supportive and accessible space.

The Alt Hotel is our official Industry Hub, hosting all Film Industry Forum events. Forum events are open to Industry or Delegate Passholders, with some available to the public. Please check our website for full details at WomensFilmFestival.com/Forum.

face 2 face industry meetings

Face 2 Face has expanded yet again to offer you the opportunity to introduce yourself and your projects to some of the industry's biggest broadcasters, funders, producers, distributors, marketing experts and financiers. Whether you are ready to make the pitch or seeking consultation on your first moves, these experts are waiting to give you their undivided attention.

Featuring representatives from Netflix, Amazon, NFB, Bell Fund, Telefilm, Rogers Group of Funds, Pope Productions, PictureNL, National Screen Institute, CBC Films, Elevation Pictures, Warner Bros Discovery, and more.

Learn more at WomensFilmFestival.com/ Face2Face



day 1

tuesday, oct 22

11am-1pm Alt Hotel





Trailblazer Awards

As part of its 35th anniversary, the St. John's International Women's Film Festival will celebrate and honour women at the helm of film production in Newfoundland and Labrador with the *Trailblazer Award*. The award will recognize and toast five iconic local film producers to kickstart festival week: Annette Clarke, Barbara Doran, Rosemary House, Mary Sexton, and Allison White. Hosted by Mary Walsh. Tickets available online.

The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador proudly supports this event through its Celebrate NL Year of the Arts Initiative.

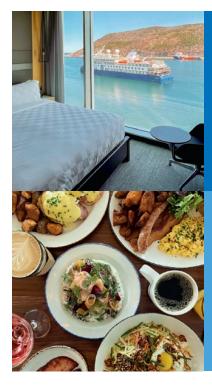












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wednesday, oct 23

8:30am-9:30am Alt Hotel

Face 2 Face

One-on-one meetings between filmmakers and industry leaders. By invitation only.

9:30am–10am Alt Hotel

Meet Netflix

Netflix doesn't really do film festivals, but they're coming to ours! Eager to meet and make meaningful connections with local filmmakers, Tara Woodbury (Director of Content—Canada, Netflix) will join us for an intimate roundtable discussion. By invitation only.



10am-11:30am Alt Hotel

Brunch with Sweet Angel Baby

Join the team behind our Festival's opening night feature, Sweet Angel Baby, for a welcoming brunch panel that takes you behind the scenes of this homegrown original. Featuring writer/director Melanie Oates (Body and Bones) in conversation alongside cast members Michaela Kurimsky (Firecrackers), Rhiannon Morgan (Little Orphans), and is moderated by Ruth Lawrence (Party Pirate).









wednesday, oct 23



9:30am-10am Alt Hotel

Meet the Black Screen Office



The Black Screen Office joins us to network and share opportunities with local Black filmmakers, further opening the doors to diversity and representation in our province's film sector.

12:30pm-2pm Alt Hotel

The Small but Mighty Screen

I broke into television, and all I got was this stinking panel gig. Welcome this special cast of TV makers and shakers as we delve unapologetically into what it's like getting there, being there, and holding on while the industry is swirling. Featuring directors Jordan Canning (Schitt's Creek), Joyce Wong (Baroness Von Sketch Show), writer/director Linsey Stewart (Being Erica) and writer/producer Naledi Jackson (Anne With an E) in a conversation hosted by Renée Hackett (What Odds).











2pm-3pm Alt Hotel

Real Talk - Inside the Pitch

Join Gosia Kamela (CBC Films) and special guests for an insightful discussion that demystifies the pitch meeting process in the world of filmmaking. What really happens behind closed doors with filmmakers and executives? Whether you're an aspiring filmmaker or a seasoned professional, this session will equip you with the tools to approach your next pitch with greater clarity and confidence.





wednesday, oct 23

3pm-4:30pm Alt Hotel

Secret Agent

We're down to the brass tacks with this stellar panel of agents: Courtenay Bainbridge (Meridian Artists), Jennifer Irons (Meta Talent Agency), and Lesley Harrison (Harrison Artist Management). Guided by filmmaker and producer Sherry White (Maudie), this conversation aims to untangle the mystery of whether you need an agent and why (or why not).









5pm-7pm Alt Hotel

Eat, Drink & Be Scene

Join our Festival meet-and-greet reception to network, celebrate, and raise a glass to the filmmakers, supporters, and talents behind this year's Festival. *By invitation only*.

Special thanks to our sponsors:





thursday, oct 24

8:30am-9:30am Alt Hotel

Face 2 Face

One-on-one meetings between filmmakers and industry leaders. By invitation only.

10am-11:30am Alt Hotel

Championing Canadian Stories

Explore the ever-evolving landscape of film and television through the perspectives of leading industry experts Julie Roy (Telefilm), Liz Shorten (CMPA) and Valerie Creighton (CMF). This panel will delve into topics such as funding, distribution, original content creation, and how to champion Canadian content in the global market. Guided by *Playback* editor Kelly Townsend.









11:30am-1pm Alt Hotel

Telefilm's Atlantic Strategy

Telefilm joins us to present their new Atlantic strategic plan, discuss funding opportunities and connect with local filmmakers. Featuring Telefilm's Mehernaz Lentin (National Director, Feature Film – English Market), Lori McCurdy (Regional Feature Film Executive – Atlantic Region) and Alison Zimmer (Regional Lead, National Promotion – Atlantic & Ontario).







thursday, oct 24

12:30pm-2pm Alt Hotel

Doc Story

This stacked panel features documentary filmmakers who will share their filmmaking journeys and explore what keeps us coming back time and time again to this gold standard of storytelling. Featuring Tamara Segura (Seguridad), Laurie Townshend (A Mother Apart), Lisa Jackson (Wilfred Buck) and Josephine Anderson (Curl Power) and moderated by Gerry Rogers (My Left Breast). Additional support from the Canada Media Fund.











2pm-3pm Alt Hotel

Film & Media Tax Credits with the CRA

Discover from the Canada Revenue Agency how filmmakers and producers can benefit from the Government of Canada's film and media tax credits. Don't miss this opportunity to find out who can qualify for the federal tax credits, how to apply, what production costs are eligible, and more.

3pm-4:30pm Alt Hotel

Feature Attraction

Take a deep dive into the craft of feature filmmaking through the lens of award-winning filmmakers Heather Young (There,There), Aisling Walsh (Maudie), Sophie Deraspe (Shepherds), and Kathleen Hepburn (The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open). Explore their unique creative processes, from concept development to bringing their films to the screen, in a conversation with WIFT-Toronto Director. Karen Bruce.











friday, oct 25

8:30am-9:30am Alt Hotel

Face 2 Face

One-on-one meetings between filmmakers and industry leaders. By invitation only.

SJIWFF Global Summit On Equity In Film

In 2014, SJIWFF hosted the St. John's Summit on Women in Media. A group of national leaders joined us to build a communique that would become the catalyst for Canada's 50/50 x 2020 parity goals. Ten years later, we're opening our doors even wider with a Global Summit on Equity in Film. Reflective of this global day of connection, Friday's programming will convene a diverse mix of Canadian changemakers, international allies, industry decision–makers, and creative visionaries for a transformative day of dialogue, education, and innovation.

10am-11:30am Alt Hotel

The Changemakers

Sometimes, leadership means building the door before you can open it for others. Welcome visionaries in our media sector who know this reality well and have dedicated their careers to creating opportunities for underrepresented and marginalized creators. With maxine bailey (Canadian Film Centre), Cynthia Lickers-Sage (Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance), Dr. Carol Whiteman (Women in the Directors Chair), and Tonya Williams (Reelworld Screen Institute), and hosted by Naomi Johnson (ImagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival).













friday, oct 25

11:30am-12:30pm Alt Hotel

Meet the Indigenous Screen Office

Join the Indigenous Screen Office for an engaging roundtable discussion as they provide an overview of their programs and opportunities available for Indigenous filmmakers. Discover how ISO supports Indigenous stories, talent, and productions across Canada.

12:30pm-2pm Alt Hotel

Innovating for Global Prosperity

In a world where binge-watching has become an Olympic sport, the screen industry stands at a fascinating crossroads. To navigate this dynamic landscape, we must embrace innovation, foster collaboration, and cultivate a global perspective that drives prosperity for all. Join Wendy Parkies (FAST Channels, South Africa), Renee Robinson (Film Commissioner, Jamaica), Sasha Leigh Henry (Bria Mack Gets A Life), and Tania Thompson (Bria Mack Gets A Life) in a Black Screen Office presentation moderated by founder and industry trailblazer, Joan Jenkinson.











2pm-3pm Alt Hotel

PictureNL Industry Preview

Newfoundland and Labrador's film industry is thriving. Meet PictureNL, the province's Film Commission, to learn about their strategy, upcoming programming, funding opportunities, and our excellent tax incentives that support both local and external productions.

friday, oct 25



3pm-4:30pm Alt Hotel

The International Lens

Canadian women are not alone in the battle for gender equity in the filmmaking industry. The discussion is a global one that we are bringing to the SJIWFF community's doorstep with this impressive cast of influential leaders. Featuring Dr. Susan Liddy (President, WIFTI and WIFT-Ireland), Alexia Muiños Ruiz (European Women's Audiovisual Network) Barbara Rohm (Power to Transform!) and Natasha Gargiulo (Geena Davis Institute). Moderated by Women In View co-founder Jan Miller.















starpoweratlantic.ca





saturday, oct 26

10am-11:30am Alt Hotel

Brunch with Paying For It

Story, comic, memoir, music, film, and the female gaze. Join some of the cast and creative crew of this year's closing night feature *Paying For It* as they walk us through the passage of making intimate art from intimate lives. With writer/director Sook-Yin Lee (Octavio is Dead!), Chester Brown (author of the graphic novel *Paying For It*), editor Anna Catley (We Forgot to Break Up) and actor Emily Lê (Riceboy Sleeps) in conversation with writer and journalist Rhea Rollman.











12:30pm-2pm Alt Hotel

Producer to Producer

Are you sitting comfortably? Good. Then let's begin. SJIWFF proudly welcomes back Killer Film's Christine Vachon (Past Lives, Far From Heaven) for an engaging conversation with Tanya Lapointe (Dune: Part One, The Paper Man). These two powerhouse producers will discuss their experiences, challenges, and successes in the world of filmmaking, offering insight into their creative processes and what it takes to bring bold stories to life on screen. This dynamic conversation will be hosted by one of our festival founders, Noreen Golfman.







saturday, oct 26



3pm-4:30pm Alt Hotel

The Long Shot

Telling an authentic story is one thing – keeping it authentic through the industry journey is altogether another tale. When our art imitates our lives at its closest measure, we do what it takes to realize it. Hear stories of projects that reached production and audience success despite the hard parts. Featuring producer lori lozinski (*Little Bird*), theatre and TV creator Bilal Baig (*Sort Of*) and filmmakers Andrea Dorfman (*Hairy Legs*) and Asia Youngman (*Delta Dawn*). Moderated by Kadon Douglas, Executive Director of BIPOC TV & Film.



















how to festival

For the most up-to-date information about this year's Festival, please visit: www.WomensFilmFestival.com

Accessibility

We are always working towards making our events more inclusive, safe, and welcoming for all patrons. Our screening venues offer accessible entrances, seats, bathrooms, and Assistive Listening Devices. Please call the venues directly to reserve accessible seats or to book with your Attendant Pass. For up to date information, please visit: www.WomensFilmFestival.com/accessibility. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please call Inclusion NL at 1–844–517–1376, text 709–697–3323 or VRS Interpretation phone service is 709–800–6081.

Viewer discretion advised

Films at SJIWFF are not rated and are intended for adult audiences. Please review film descriptions and content warnings to ensure the film is suitable for you.

Arrive early

All film screenings are general admission with a strict no-latecomers policy. Please arrive early to find your seat and settle in.

Etiquette

To ensure a pleasant experience for everyone, please set your cell phones to silent and avoid talking while the lights are down. Recording films on screen is illegal and strictly prohibited in Canada.

We are hosting events throughout downtown St. John's. Please read the following information to find out when, where, and how you can buy tickets.

The Majestic Theatre

390 Duckworth Street, (709) 753-4900 MajesticTheatreHill.com/sjiwff35

The Majestic is our main Box Office and screening venue. You may purchase tickets for any film screenings at the Majestic and buy a Screening Pass.

LSPU Hall

3 Victoria Street, (709) 753-4531 x200 www.lspuhall.ca

Tickets to screenings happening at the LSPU Hall are available through their box office (not included in the Screening Pass).

The Rooms

9 Bonaventure Avenue, (709) 757-8090 www.TheRooms.ca

Buy tickets for Coffee & Culture here, or present eligible Passes at the door for entry.

Alt Hotel

125 Water Street, (709) 383-2125

The Alt will host all Film Industry Forum events and Delegate Registration.

Please visit womensfilmfestival.com/forum for full details.

box office

Ticket Prices

As a community-focused cultural organization, we strive to remove barriers whenever possible to ensure everyone can participate in our festival. We are committed to keeping ticket prices affordable and offer a 15% discount on single tickets for students, seniors, underwaged individuals, BIPOC, and patrons with disabilities.

We also participate in the Newfoundland & Labrador Public Library Connect Pass program and donate 50¢ from each ticket sold to the CAPE Fund, which provides critical support to artists and cultural workers in our province during times of crisis.

SJIWF35 ticket prices	General	Discounted	Venue Fees
Opening & Closing Night Gala (The Majestic)	\$30.00	\$25.50	\$2.30 per ticket + \$2.30 per transaction
Regular Screenings (The Majestic)	\$15.00	\$12.75	\$2.30 per ticket + \$2.30 per transaction
Screening Pass (8 Regular Screenings at The Majestic)	\$90.00	n/a	\$16.14 per pass
Regular Screenings (LSPU Hall)	\$15.00	\$12.75	\$4.00 per ticket
Coffee & Culture (The Rooms)	\$13.80	-	-

Transparency is important. Our base ticket prices include HST but are subject to venue fees.

Screening Passes

Screening Passes can be purchased through The Majestic Box Office for only \$90 (plus fees). Film lovers receive unmatched value and access to all regular film screenings at the Majestic.

Screening Pass benefits include:

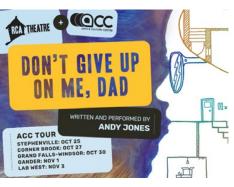
- Reserve a ticket in advance to all (8) regular film screenings at the Majestic Theatre.
- Present your receipt at The Rooms for Coffee & Culture screening.

Screening Passes do not include admission to screenings at the LSPU Hall, or the Opening and Closing Night Galas, these must be purchased separately. Passes are non-transferable. Once you've purchased your pass, claim your individual tickets by logging into your account or calling the Majestic Box Office. Screening Passes may also be used to access rush line tickets in the event of a sold-out show.















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