



[CANADANOWFESTIVAL.COM](http://CANADANOWFESTIVAL.COM)

**NEW FILMS FROM CANADA**  
**APRIL 12-15**

AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE AT THE AERO THEATRE  
1328 MONTANA AVENUE AT 14TH STREET, SANTA MONICA

**TELEFILM**  
CANADA

Movies  
on the  
Big Screen!  
**AMERICAN**  
**CINEMATHEQUE.COM**

# CANADA NOW

**NEW FILMS FROM CANADA**

**APRIL 12-15, 2018**

**AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE AT THE AERO THEATRE  
1328 MONTANA AVENUE, SANTA MONICA**

If you thought that Canada was just an exporting nation of cinematic natural resources like the two Ryans (Gosling and Reynolds), Denis Villeneuve, Jean-Marc Vallée, and even Margaret Atwood (with a pair of series, *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Alias Grace*) think again. Yes, there is a long, distinguished history of Canadians working south of our border, but just wait until you see what's being made by Canadian film artists on their own northern terra firma. If you're curious about what's going on up there above the 49th parallel, here are eight excellent examples to help you find out.

After all, so we've been told, the world needs more Canada. Proudly but modestly echoing those sentiments, we are thrilled to present Canada Now 2018: a diverse, engaging, decidedly entertaining selection of the best in contemporary Canadian cinema. From time-travel adventure to comedy to psychological drama to politically charged personal cinema, this Canadian cinematic octet reveals the seismic shifts underway in Canada (and globally) in relation to such potent, urgently relevant issues as the history of indigenous peoples, the immigrant experience, race relations, and gender politics.

In this Canada Now showcase you'll find impressive new works by veteran filmmakers and rookie directors alike. As always, the Canada Now showcase celebrates the independent spirit that has always been a hallmark of Canadian cinema.



**Thursday, April 12, 7:30PM**

## **VENUS**

2017, 95 MINUTES

**EISHA MARJARA**

At once hilarious and serious, smart and sassy, Eisha Marjara's articulate, absorbing, and lively gender shifting comedy, *Venus*, is the witty tale of Sid (featuring New York-based actor Debargo Sanyal in a brilliant performance), a transitioning woman whose life takes a surprising turn when a 14-year-old boy named Ralph arrives at her door with the surprising announcement that he is her son. It seems that back in his youth, before Sid's gender identity was clear to him, he and his girlfriend did what young people do; and now the result of that earlier life has sought out his biological father. While Sid is stunned by this news, Ralph meanwhile is as surprised to discover he has a trans 'father' as he is intrigued at the sheer coolness of it. Suddenly, Sid must ponder the consequences of this profound news and share it with her Indo-Canadian parents and with Daniel, the love of her life. Just when she thought transitioning was complicated, Sid quickly learns that she ain't seen nothing yet!

**Eisha Marjara** is a Montreal-based filmmaker, photographer, and novelist. Her earlier films include the satirical *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* (1994), the multiple award winning feature docudrama, *Desperately Seeking Helen* (1999), the shorts *House For Sale* (2012), and *The Tourist* (2016). In addition to her film and photography work, Marjara also wrote the critically acclaimed novel, *Faerie* (2016). *Venus* is her first fiction feature.

"Heartwarming and an absolute delight to watch, *Venus* also presents us with the hopeful notion that if a kid can embrace one's gender identity, anyone can." *Georgia Straight*

**Eisha Marjara will attend the screening to introduce and discuss her film.**

**Friday, April 13, 7:30**

## **CROSS MY HEART/ LES ROIS MONGOLS**

2017, 104 MINUTES

**LUC PICARD**

Luc Picard's engaging family drama is set in Montreal in 1970 during an actual historical period known as the 'October Crisis'. The radical left-wing nationalist group, 'Front de libération du Québec' (FLQ), forced the province into a state of emergency with kidnappings, bombings, and assassination. This means very little to twelve-year-old Manon, though, because she is watching a more immediate crisis happening in her own family, watching helplessly it falls apart. With her father dying of cancer and her depressive mother unable to cope, Manon and her younger brother Michel are to be sent to separate foster families. Manon, however, has sworn to her brother that she will never leave him alone. In desperation, she hatches a daring plan. Inspired by the political fervour in the city, she forms a 'revolutionary' group of her own with her older cousins. They plot to kidnap their elderly neighbour and take off to a cabin the country. Struggling to manufacture a normal childhood in very abnormal circumstances, they spend the initial days enjoying their newfound freedom far from the influence of the grown-up world. Meanwhile, that adult world is actively on the hunt for them. Superbly crafted and very moving, the film was a hit the 2018 Berlin International Film Festival.

**Luc Picard** began his career as a theatre actor in Montreal, and became well known to television audiences for his starring role in the series *Omertà* (1996). He began writing scripts and directing in 2004. His feature film debut *L'audition* (2004), in which he also played the leading role, screened worldwide at festivals and won several awards. His films *Babine* (2008), *Ésimésac* (2012), and *9 le film* (2016) have also enjoyed international success.

"With deft direction for his young actors, a feel for gentle comedy and an almost-too-precise eye for period detailing, Picard polishes the film to a fine gleam, enhanced by the control of François Dutil's warm, chocolate, mustard and claret-colored images." *Variety*

**Luc Picard will attend the screening to introduce and discuss his film.**



**Friday, April 13, 9:30PM**

## **THE LITTLE GIRL WHO WAS TOO FOND OF MATCHES/ LA PETITE FILLE QUI AIME TROP LES ALLUMETTES**

2017, 111 MINUTES

**SIMON LAVOIE**

Based on Quebec author Gaétan Soucy's critically acclaimed novel, Simon Lavoie's stylish, black and white coming-of-age film charts the disintegration of a strange and haunted family in a remote rural region of Quebec in the 1930s. This gothic noir psychodrama unfolds within the troubled, isolated, and motherless Soisson family. The solitary alcoholic Soisson patriarch drinks every night and delivers intense, perplexing sermons to his teenaged son and daughter in a ramshackle chapel in their house. He also forbids them any contact with the outside world. After his sudden death, however, the children have to fend for themselves and, as the outside world begins to encroach, they begin to doubt their father's teachings and soon uncover disturbing family secrets. Revolving principally around the daughter (enigmatically named 'Brother by Son'), Little Girl's unique, claustrophobic drama explores the tensions between sexuality and religion, tradition and modernity, as well as examining the dark, murky consequences of repression.

**Simon Lavoie's** films include the award-winning short *A White Chapel* (2005), and the feature films, *The Deserter* (2008) and *The Torrent* (2012). He also co-directed, with Mathieu Denis, *Laurentie* (2012) and *Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves* (2016), which was presented in last's year's Canada Now showcase in Los Angeles. *The Little Girl Who Was Too Fond of Matches* is his most recent feature film.

"Shot in artful black-and-white... this is art house fare that's challenging but also rewarding..." *The Hollywood Reporter*

**Simon Lavoie will attend the screening to introduce and discuss his film.**

**Saturday, April 14, 5:00PM**

## **MARY GOES ROUND**

2017, 86 MINUTES

**MOLLY MCGLYNN**

Thoughtful and self-assured, Mary is an intelligent and compassionate substance abuse counsellor. Trouble is, she has a serious drinking problem that she struggles mightily to conceal. She's also got a tangled family history and her romantic life is, well, not very romantic at all these days. After getting charged for drunk driving and subsequently leaving her job, Mary finds herself alone and adrift. Returning to her hometown of Niagara Falls in order to attempt to rebuild her shattered life, she instead discovers that her estranged father Walt is dying of cancer and that she has a teenage half-sister she's never met. Needless to say, these are not the best of times for Mary. Or are they? With its finely calibrated blend of humour and pathos, McGlynn's semi-autobiographical first feature is a surprising, insightful exploration of addiction, sisterhood, and the possibilities of redemption.

**Molly McGlynn** is a Montreal-born filmmaker who was raised in New Jersey. A graduate of the Writer's Lab at the Canadian Film Centre in Toronto, her short films include *I Am Not a Weird Person* (2012), *Shoes* (2013), and *3 Way (Not Calling)* (2016). *Mary Goes Round* is her debut feature.

"*Mary Goes Round* handles its story beats with a canny mixture of rueful humor, warmth and realism." *Variety*

**Molly McGlynn will attend the screening to introduce and discuss her film.**



**Saturday, April 14, 7:30PM**

## **MEDITATION PARK**

2017, 94 MINUTES

**MINA SHUM**

Mina Shum's new film is a touching, amusing, and finely observed tale of Maria, an Asian-Canadian grandmother who arrives at her own declaration of personal independence after discovering that her longstanding husband may not be as worthy of her reverential treatment as she once believed. A dedicated homebody utterly devoted to her husband, Maria's life is tossed into disarray when she finds another woman's underwear in amongst her husband's clothes. Her initial shock, sadness, and fear propel her life in unexpected directions involving her daughter, her neighbours, and the world beyond the confines of her own home. Facing her fears, Maria soon discovers that these new life directions just might make things better. Deftly directed and brilliantly acted, *Meditation Park* stars Cheng Pei Pei and Sandra Oh.

**Mina Shum** is a Hong Kong-born, Vancouver-raised filmmaker who studied theatre and film production at the University of British Columbia. Her impressive career includes the award-winning films, *Me, Mom and Mona* (1993), *Double Happiness* (1994), *Drive, She Said* (1997), *Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity* (2002), and *The Ninth Floor* (2015).

"Shum mines her favourite theme - immigrant experience in Canada - in what seems at first to be a gentle slice of life but eventually develops a powerful emotional force." *Now Magazine*

**Mina Shum will attend the screening to introduce and discuss her film.**

**Sunday, April 15, 5:00PM**

## **CARDINALS**

2017, 84 MINUTES

**GRAYSON MOORE, AIDAN SHIPLEY**

When Valerie Walker (portrayed in a towering performance by *I've Heard The Mermaids Singing's* Sheila McCarthy) returns from prison after serving her sentence for killing her neighbour in an apparent drunk driving accident, she wants nothing more than to move on, reconnect with her daughters, and reconstruct her life. When the deceased man's son Mark shows up at her door, however, it becomes clear that the past will not easily be forgotten. Despite being given her version of the tragic events, Mark wants to push further into what he believes really happened, whatever the consequences. An austere and tautly constructed psychological drama, as well as a thoughtful exploration of the challenges of both surviving and living with the many-sided after effects of trauma, *Cardinals* is an assured directorial debut for Moore and Shipley.

**Grayson Moore** studied film production at Ryerson University in Toronto. His short films include *Running Season* (2014) and *Boxing* (2015), which he co-directed with Aidan Shipley.

**Aidan Shipley** is a Toronto-based filmmaker. After acting in Atom Egoyan's *The Captive* (2014) he went on to study directing at Ryerson University. His shorts include *Dorsal* (2014), and *Boxing* (2015). *Cardinals* is Moore's and Shipley's feature debut.

"From its opening scenes, *Cardinals* sets a standard of no-holds-barred storytelling." *Cinemascope*

**Grayson Moore and Aidan Shipley will attend the screening to introduce and discuss their film.**



**Sunday, April 15, 7:30PM**

## **BLACK COP**

2017, 91 MINUTES

**CORY BOWLES**

An explosive examination of race relations in Canada, Nova Scotia director Cory Bowles' incendiary debut feature film follows an African-Canadian cop who is racially profiled (by his own police force!) while off duty in his home city of Halifax. His growing frustration and indignation with Canadian society's racial divide soon leads him to take justice into his own hands. Despite his justifiable and intense frustrations, what will be the consequences of his actions? Moreover, can he himself justify them? Bowles' film combines a gritty street realism with more stylish passages filled with a startling poetry of anguish and anger, and features a powerful performance by Ronnie Rowe Jr. *Black Cop's* bold confrontation with some not too appealing truths about today's society makes for hard-hitting drama. A multiple award-winner (Best Film, Best Director at the 2017 Atlantic Film Festival; Best Canadian Feature, 2017 Vancouver International Film Festival), *Black Cop* announces the arrival of a potent, provocative new voice in contemporary Canadian cinema.

**Cory Bowles** is a multidisciplinary artist from Nova Scotia. Over the course of a diverse, prolific career, he has been a writer, actor, choreographer, and director. Bowles wrote and directed several award winning short films *The Scavengers* (2008), *Heart of Rhyme* (2011), *Anatomy of Assistance* (2013) and *Righteous* (2014). In addition, he has been both a longtime cast member and director in the popular TV series, *Trailer Park Boys*. *Black Cop* is his first feature film.

"A nervy, queasy combination of jet-black satire and stylized psychodrama, *Black Cop* lands smack in the middle of the Black Lives Matter debate. The timing couldn't be more opportune - and better still, the movie genuinely engages with the issue of racial profiling and police violence." *Now Magazine*

**Cory Bowles will attend the screening to introduce and discuss his film.**

*Series compiled by Gwen Deglise, American Cinematheque.*

*Program notes by Tom McSorley, Executive Director, Canadian Film Institute.*

## **SCHEDULE**

THURSDAY, APRIL 12	7:30PM	<b>VENUS</b>
FRIDAY, APRIL 13	7:30PM	<b>CROSS MY HEART</b>
FRIDAY, APRIL 13	9:30PM	<b>THE LITTLE GIRL WHO WAS TOO FOND OF MATCHES</b>
SATURDAY, APRIL 14	5:00 PM	<b>MARY GOES ROUND</b>
SATURDAY, APRIL 14	7:30PM	<b>MEDITATION PARK</b>
SUNDAY, APRIL 15	5:00PM	<b>CARDINALS</b>
SUNDAY, APRIL 15	7:30PM	<b>BLACK COP</b>

**TELEFILM**  
CANADA

Movies  
on the  
Big Screen!  
**AMERICAN  
CINEMATHEQUE.COM**

**Canada** 

 **AIR CANADA**

**Québec**   
Délégation  
Los Angeles

Canada Now is presented by American Cinematheque and Telefilm Canada with the support of the Consulate General of Canada, the Québec Government Office in Los Angeles and Air Canada.