

DISCOVER THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT OF CANADIAN CINEMA



NEW FILMS FROM CANADA

CURZON SOHO 24-28 APRIL 2019
NATIONWIDE TOUR FROM 1 JULY

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CANADA NOW

Canada Now 2019 is a showcase of New Canadian Cinema in the UK, beginning with a series of screenings, Q&As, talks and panel discussions from the 24th-28th April in London, featuring nine outstanding new pieces of filmmaking over one invigorating weekend in the heart of London's West End. From the 1st July onwards the films will begin a nationwide tour of cinemas and venues across the UK.

This year's edition of *Canada Now* features another bold and diverse selection of the finest fiction and documentary features coming out of the Great White North. With new offerings from established veterans such as Don McKellar's genre-defying thriller *Through Black Spruce* and Patricia Rozeman's triumphant family drama *Mouthpiece* playing alongside breakthrough works from emerging artists such as Akash Sherman's stargazing exploration *Clara* and Yan Giroux's poetic debut *For Those Who Don't Read Me*, this year's festival showcases more so than ever the sheer depth and range of New Canadian Cinema.

Brigitte Berman's documentary *Hugh Hefner's After Dark: Speaking Out In America* casts revelatory new light on a infamous public figure, whilst *Prosecuting Evil* highlights the extraordinary life of unsung hero Ben Ferencz - who witnessed the Holocaust and went on to prosecute 22 senior Nazi leaders in Nuremberg at the tender age of 27. Keith Behrman's uplifting coming-of-age saga *Giant Little Ones* highlights the power of love without labels, whilst Sébastien Pilote's *The Fireflies Are Gone* boasts the finest of Quebec filmmaking and *Edge Of The Knife* represents a truly ground-breaking piece of indigenous cinema. We're also very excited to include Daniel Cockburn's hilarious one-man performative lecture *How Not To Watch A Movie* in this year's programme - providing some live entertainment with the filmmaker's signature blend of humour and insight.

Canada Now is presented by Telefilm Canada in partnership with the High Commission of Canada in the UK and with support of the Québec Government Office in London.



CLARA

2018 | 105 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: AKASH SHERMAN

Astronomy professor Isaac Bruno is obsessed with searching the cosmos for evidence of extraterrestrial life. Moreover, he is certain that he's close to a major celestial revelation. When this obsession raises eyebrows and scepticism within his university department, he ignores a colleague's advice to slow down and get his life together. Haunted by a personal tragedy, Isaac instead resolves to work even harder. Denied further university funding but determined to continue his research, he advertises for an unpaid research assistant. In walks a young woman named Clara, an artist who shares with Isaac a deep fascination with space. Their unlikely scientific collaboration soon brings them to the brink of making a monumental discovery. It also brings them closer together and, although Isaac states that 'outer space is a safer bet than love,' Clara's arrival just might change his mind.

EDGE OF THE KNIFE

2018 | 100 MINUTES

DIRECTORS: GWAIL EDENSHAW, HELEN HAIG-BROWN

Set in the 19th century on the island of Haida Gwaii on British Columbia's north Pacific coast, *Edge of the Knife* is the legendary indigenous tale of Adiits'ii, who retreats alone into the forest after a tragic accident at sea takes the life of his beloved nephew. Wracked with grief and hounded by spirits, he slowly transforms himself into the Wildman, or Gaagiixit. Will he ever be forgiven? Can he forgive himself? Can he ever re-enter his community? A daring, groundbreaking film made entirely in two dialects of a nearly extinct Haida language (note: 2019 is UNESCO's the Year of Indigenous Languages), *Edge of the Knife* is a startling, absorbing drama; from the producers of *The Fast Runner* and *Searchers*.



FOR THOSE WHO DON'T READ ME

2018 | 107 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: YAN GIROUX

All his life, Yves has dedicated himself to writing poetry, regardless of the cost to his life and lifestyle. After a chance meeting at a book launch, the now middle aged Yves storms into Dyane's life, a graphic designer who falls for his charms and invites him into her home and her life. Her son Marc immediately disapproves of this eccentric stranger in his mother's bed. Soon enough, however, the studious teenager finds Yves' rebellious ways attractive and, inspired by the bedraggled poet, begins to explore his own artistic side. Meanwhile, Yves feels increasingly trapped and decides to reinvent himself again. But is it too late? Loosely based on the life and work of the late Quebec poet Yves Boisvert (1950-2012), Giroux's debut feature is an impressive tale of one man's unusual quest for and expression of the meaning of life.

GIANT LITTLE ONES

2018 | 93 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: KEITH BEHRMAN

Franky Winter (Josh Wiggins) and Ballas Kohl (Darren Mann) have been best friends since childhood. They are high school royalty: handsome, stars of the swim team and popular with girls. They live a perfect teenage life, until the night of Franky's epic 17th birthday party, when Franky and Ballas are involved in an unexpected incident that changes their lives forever. *Giant Little Ones* is a heartfelt and intimate coming-of-age story about friendship, self-discovery and the power of love without labels.



HUGH HEFNER'S AFTER DARK: SPEAKING OUT IN AMERICA

2018 | 101 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: BRIGITTE BERMAN

From Brigitte Berman, Oscar winning director of *Artie Shaw: Time Is All You've Got* (1985), comes this remarkable documentary of one of America's most influential and controversial cultural icons, Hugh Hefner. In addition to its considered portrait of Hefner as a man of his times who also transcended them, this film features an incredible array of archival footage from Hugh Hefner's landmark TV series, *Playboy's Penthouse* (1959-1960) and *Playboy After Dark* (1968-1970). Amongst the martinis and bonhomie, Hefner's shows offered urgent cultural and political commentaries from pop culture luminaries such as Lenny Bruce, Dick Gregory, and Gore Vidal, as well as sensational live musical performances by Nina Simone, Joan Baez, Steppenwolf, Ray Charles, and Sammy Davis, Jr.

MOUTHPIECE

2018 | 91 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: PATRICIA ROZEMA

Faced with the sudden death of her mother and wrestling with the daunting responsibility of delivering the eulogy, aspiring writer Cassandra finds solace and inspiration in her imagination and in her memory, which rapidly become indistinguishable. As the funeral service approaches, Cassandra's conflicted, complex reflections on and memories of her mother intensify and push her life in new and unexpected directions. Moving back and forth in time, the film's multifaceted narrative probes the intimacies and emotional complexities of how we remember, what we remember, and why we remember. Based on the award-winning play by Norah Sadava and Amy Nostbakken (who also brilliantly co-star in the film as two 'versions' of Cassandra), *Mouthpiece* is an inventive, engaging narrative of personal rebirth from the acclaimed director of *I've Heard The Mermaids Singing*, *Grey Gardens*, and *Into The Forest*.



PROSECUTING EVIL: THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLD OF BEN FERENCZ

2018 | 83 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: BARRY AVRICH

Barry Avrich's gripping new documentary tells the fascinating story of Ben Ferencz – the last surviving Nuremberg prosecutor and lifelong advocate of “law not war.” After witnessing Nazi concentration camps shortly after liberation, Ferencz became lead prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen case at Nuremberg, which has been called the biggest murder trial in history. His fight for justice for victims of atrocity crimes continues today. *Prosecuting Evil* also poses some tough and incisive questions. Most pointedly: What does the film say about our time?*



Screening at Phoenix East Finchley Sunday 28 April
In partnership with Jewish Film

THE FIREFLIES ARE GONE

2018 | 96 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: SÉBASTIEN PILOTE

On the verge of her high school graduation, a brilliant, high-spirited young 18 year-old woman named Léo can't wait to get out of her drab small town in Quebec's hinterland. Tired of her mother's nagging, her stepfather's relentless and reactionary right wing opinions, and her absent father who lives and works far, far away, Léo is restless, alienated, and bored. She's also weary of adults telling her what is best for her future. All of Léo's ennui and frustration changes, however, when she meets Steve, a quietly charismatic 30-something guitar teacher who still lives in town in his mother's basement. Taking guitar lessons from Steve proves to be a catalyst for change for Léo, and their growing, unlikely friendship will transform them both forever.



THROUGH BLACK SPRUCE

2017, 102 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: DON MCKELLAR

A thoughtful and timely dramatic exploration of the crisis in Canada regarding missing and murdered Indigenous women, *Through Black Spruce* revolves around Annie Bird, a young Cree woman from the remote James Bay region of Northern Ontario who travels south to Toronto in search of her sister, Suzanne. Suzanne left the community over a year ago to become a fashion model and has not been heard from since. Once in Toronto, Annie herself enters the seductive but predatory world of high fashion, and begins a relationship with Jesse, a hotshot photographer who was the last person to work with Suzanne before she disappeared. Digging deeper into her sister's life will soon lead Annie into dark and dangerous territory that will test her resolve and send shock waves back home to her family.



HOW NOT TO WATCH A MOVIE

60 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: DANIEL COCKBURN

Filmmaker Daniel Cockburn presents this one-man show that's been likened to the work of Spalding Gray and Charlie Kaufman. What begins as a look at 1990s horror films quickly goes down a cinephilic rabbit hole, becoming a weird, funny, mind-bending autobiographical journey through two decades of overinterpretation and paranoia.

"Smart and amusing" (Village Voice)

"Strange, recursive, and enthralling" (NOW Magazine)

CANADA NOW

AN INCREDIBLE SEASON
OF BRAND NEW FILMS

LONDON 24-28 APRIL 2019
UK TOUR FROM 1 JULY

Tickets just £8, or £6 for Curzon members. Book tickets now at CanadaNowFestival.com

GIANT LITTLE ONES

WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 6.45pm CURZON SOHO

Followed by Q&A with writer/director Keith Behrman

THROUGH BLACK SPRUCE

THURSDAY 25 APRIL 6.15pm CURZON SOHO

Followed by Q&A with director Don McKellar

EDGE OF THE KNIFE

THURSDAY 25 APRIL 8.45pm CURZON SOHO

**HUGH HEFNER'S AFTER DARK: SPEAKING OUT
IN AMERICA**

FRIDAY 26 APRIL 6.30pm CURZON SOHO

Followed by Q&A with director Brigitte Berman

CLARA

FRIDAY 26 APRIL 9.00pm CURZON SOHO

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T READ ME

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 1.00pm CURZON SOHO

Followed by Q&A with writer/director Yan Giroux

THE FIREFLIES ARE GONE

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 3.45pm CURZON SOHO

HOW NOT TO WATCH A MOVIE

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 6.00pm CURZON SOHO

MOUTHPIECE

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 7.30pm CURZON SOHO

Followed by Q&A with director Patricia Rozema

PROSECUTING EVIL

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 8.00pm PHOENIX EAST FINCHLEY