



NEW FILMS FROM CANADA

MARCH 21 - 24, 2019

AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE AT THE AERO THEATRE

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Movies
on the
Big Screen!
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CANADA**

Canada



CANADA NOW 2019

Look up. Way up. Up above that 49th parallel. Soon you will begin to see the swirling illuminations of those northern cinematic lights: Canada Now 2019 is here.

Yes, your Canadian neighbours are again coming south, bringing tales of restless youth, indigenous stories of tragedy and healing, compelling personal dramas about reinventing our world with the power of our imaginations, as well as a riveting documentary about the search for social justice in right here in the United States of America.

This latest Canada Now selection includes daring and impressive works by both veteran filmmakers and new Canadian visions by emerging directorial talents.

As always, the 2019 Canada Now showcase celebrates the independent spirit that has always been a hallmark of Canadian cinema.

**Follow us on Facebook at @CanadaNowFilm
www.CanadaNowFestival.com**

**Directors of the CANADA NOW films will be present
at screenings for Q & A.**

*The Fireflies Are Gone/
La disparition des lucioles*



THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 7:30 PM

THE FIREFLIES ARE GONE/ LA DISPARITION DES LUCIOLES

Director: **Sébastien Pilote**

2018 | 96 MINUTES | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

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.

"Karelle Tremblay has something of compatriot Ellen Page's naturalness, self-possession and dry delivery." "Beautifully crafted and emotionally effective drama."
Demetrios Matheou, *Screen Daily*

► **Canada's Top Ten 2018; Best Canadian Feature Film, Toronto International Film Festival 2018**
► **Official Competition at Karlovy Vary Film Festival 2018; Palm Springs Film Festival 2019**

Sébastien Pilote will attend the screening to introduce and discuss his film.

Born in the Saguenay Lac Saint-Jean region of Quebec, writer-director **Sébastien Pilote** has emerged as one of the most talented filmmakers of his generation. His first feature, *The Salesman* was selected to screen in the competition at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, while his second, *The Auction*, captured the Best Screen Play Award at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival.

DOUBLE FEATURE NIGHT! ► FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 7:30 PM

THROUGH BLACK SPRUCE

Director: **Don McKellar**

2018 | 111 MINUTES | ENGLISH

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.

Part murder mystery, part family drama, part interrogation of conditions facing Canada's Indigenous peoples, this multi-layered and stylish drama features an incredible cast, including established performers such as Graham Greene, Tantoo Cardinal, and Brandon Oakes, as well as electrifying newcomer, Tanaya Beatty as Annie.

► **Official Selection: Toronto International Film Festival; Vancouver International Film Festival**

"McKellar provides ample space for Brandon Oakes and Tanaya Beatty to deliver career-making performances." Barry Hertz, *Globe & Mail*

Actor Brandon Oakes will attend the screening to introduce and discuss the film.

Actor, writer, and director, **Don McKellar** is one of Canada's most accomplished film and television artists. He is also the creator of the Broadway smash hit musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. As director, McKellar's feature films include, *Last Night* (1999), *Child Star* (2004), and *The Grand Seduction* (2013).



DOUBLE FEATURE NIGHT! ► FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 7:30 PM

CLARA

Director: Akash Sherman

U.S. Distributor: Screen Media

2018 | 105 MINUTES | ENGLISH

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.

"And more than anything, the film is admirably ambitious. Sherman is in his early 20s and *Clara* is his first narrative feature, and it's about nothing less than the meaning of life and the quest to find if we're alone in the galaxy. ... Sherman's idealism is infectious." Alex Hudson, *Exclaim!*

► Toronto International Film Festival 2018

Originally from Edmonton, **Akash Sherman** moved to Toronto to study film at Ryerson University. In addition to his second feature, *Clara*, Sherman has made the low budget feature, *The Rocket List* (2016), and has extensive experience as a visual effects artist for television shows including *Four In The Morning*.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 5:00 PM

FIRECRACKERS

Director: Jasmin Mozaffari

US Distributor: Good Deed Entertainment

2018 | 93 MINUTES | ENGLISH

Bored and restless, best friends Lou and Chantal have made big plans to get out of their barren small town for the glamour and excitement of New York City. These two vital young women don't want to be deterred by the judgment of their community, but on the eve of their departure, the alarmingly raw and immediate forces of conformity - namely Chantal's ex-boyfriend and his friends - start to press in on them. To their surprise and shock, it appears that their open ambitions to seek broader horizons beyond the town are regarded as profound threats to the social order, and even seem to be triggering some kind of existential crisis in their contemporaries. After one particular night of debauchery and in the face of such pressures, their friendship is challenged: will Lou and Chantal be able to stick together? Will they realize their dreams after all?

An intelligent, fearless debut feature film by Jasmin Mozaffari, *Firecrackers* is a startling, intense coming-of-age story with an impressive edge.

► Best Film and Best Actress at the Stockholm International Film Festival
► Official selection: Toronto International Film Festival, Filmfest Hamburg, São Paulo International Film Festival, Zurich Film Festival

"This highly anticipated feature debut from Jasmin Mozaffari marks the bold arrival of a vital new voice. In the same vernacular as social-realist auteurs Andrea Arnold and Lynne Ramsay, Mozaffari's searing drama brims with explosive intensity." Danis Goulet, *Toronto International Film Festival*.

Jasmin Mozaffari will attend the screening to introduce and discuss her film.

Based in Toronto, writer-director **Jasmin Mozaffari's** short films include *sleep on the tracks* (2018), *Wave* (2015), *Firecrackers* (2013) and *4:44* (2012). *Firecrackers* is her first feature film.



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 7:30 PM

MOUHPICE

Director: Patricia Rozema

2018 | 91 MINUTES | ENGLISH

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*.

"A thoughtful interrogation of modern womanhood, leavened by gallows humour."
Scott Tobias, *Variety*

- **Canada's Top Ten 2018; WIFTV Artistic Merit Award (Drama)**
- **Vancouver Film Festival; Toronto International Film Festival 2018; Palm Springs Film Festival 2019**

Patricia Rozema will attend the screening to introduce and discuss her film.

Patricia Rozema is a prominent member of the 'Toronto New Wave' group of filmmakers that burst on the international film scene in the mid-1980s. Her debut film, *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* (1987), was a huge success at the Cannes Film Festival and launched her long, productive career in cinema and television. Her other films include *When Night Is Falling* (1994), *Mansfield Park* (1999), *Happy Days* (2000), *Grey Gardens* (2013), and *Into The Forest* (2015).

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 5:00 PM

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T READ ME/ À TOUS CEUX QUI NE ME LISENT PAS

Director: Yan Giroux

2018 | 107 MINUTES | ENGLISH WITH FRENCH SUBTITLES

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.

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.

"This is an unusual creature, first of all because it refuses to follow the biopic genre's well-worn path [...] The [filmmaker's] invigorating directing style reminds me a little of Scorsese, but a Scorsese who substitutes unbridled energy for a trance-like, almost hypnotic feel." Helen Faradj, *Médium Large*

**Festival du cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue 2019;
Festival Trois-Rivières, Images, Fêtes et Films 2019**

Yan Giroux will attend the screening to introduce and discuss his film.

Director, writer, and editor, **Yan Giroux** began his artistic career writing poetry before turning to filmmaking. His short films include, *Il faut que je parle à mon père* (2007), *Surveillant* (2012), *Mi Nina Mi Vida* (2014), and *Rendez-vous* (2016). *For Those Who Don't Read Me* is his first fiction feature film.



SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30 PM

HUGH HEFNER'S AFTER DARK: SPEAKING OUT IN AMERICA

Director: Brigitte Berman

2018 | 101 MINUTES | ENGLISH

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.

"An illuminating glimpse at a time when Hugh Hefner was on the cultural cutting edge."
Todd McCarthy, *The Hollywood Reporter*

► **Audience Award at the Whistler Film Festival 2018**

► **Telluride Film Festival 2018; Santa Barbara Film Festival 2019**

Brigitte Berman will attend the screening to introduce and discuss her film.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany and educated in Canada, **Brigitte Berman** is one of Canada's most celebrated documentary filmmakers, whose work spans film and television production. Her other films include *The Circle Game* (1994), *Testing the Limits* (1998), *Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel* (2009), and *The River of My Dreams: A Portrait of Gordon Pinsent* (2016).

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 - 7:30 PM

Opening Night! Los Angeles Premiere!

THE FIREFLIES ARE GONE / LA DISPARITION DES LUCIOLES

Join us in the lobby at 6:30 PM for a reception for all ticket buyers.
Discussion following the feature with director Sébastien Pilote.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 - 7:30 PM

Double Feature:

Los Angeles Premiere!

THROUGH BLACK SPRUCE

Discussion following with actor Brandon Oakes.

Los Angeles Premiere!

CLARA

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MOUTHPIECE

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Discussion following with director Brigitte Berman.

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. Series assembled by Gwen Deglise and Tom McSorley. Program notes by Tom McSorley, Executive Director, Canadian Film Institute.

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 **AIR CANADA**