

For Your Consideration

The renowned American poet T.S. Eliot once famously wrote that April is “the cruelest month.” We disagree. (Politely, of course; we’re Canadian.) In fact April brings optimism to the many Oscar hopefuls.

CANADA NOW’s April 2021 selection not only features some of Canada’s Oscar-nominated and Oscar-winning films, but also some new arrivals from the North to U.S. streaming services, as well as the exciting addition to our site of arguably the most important film organization in Canadian cinema history, the **National Film Board of Canada (NFB)**.

In addition to producing many of the best films ever made in Canada, the NFB has seen its documentary and animated films nominated for and win dozens of Academy Awards since its first Oscar in 1941. Notably, the NFB itself was given an honorary Oscar in 1989 on the occasion of its 50th birthday. From now on, you’ll be able to sample this amazing organization’s many and varied cinematic riches.

As you will see, at CANADA NOW we like to think that April is not the ‘cruellest’ but rather the ‘coolest’ month. We hope you’ll agree and that you’ll enjoy this rich selection of contemporary and classic Canadian cinema.

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WATCH NOW ON TELESCOPE

NEW ARRIVALS



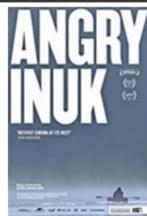
Our new arrivals this month feature Oscar-nominated Quebec director, Philippe Falardeau’s latest film, **MY SALINGER YEAR**. Based on Joanna Rakoff’s bestselling memoir, it’s the story of a young literature graduate student and aspiring writer who lands a job at a literary agency that handles none other than the fabled author, J.D. Salinger. Also arriving are: **NIGHT OF THE KINGS**, a powerful prison drama set in Ivory Coast, Africa; the finely observed and perceptive coming-of-age drama about two young women in a remote community, **KUESSIPAN**; and the chilling **VIOLATION**, a horror film that will definitely make you think twice about renting a cottage in the Canadian wilderness.

OSCAR LOVES CANADA



This month we showcase six Canadian films that have either been nominated for or captured that elusive gold statuette. Denys Arcand’s **THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS** won the Best Foreign Language Film award, Torill Kove’s **THE DANISH POET** captured Oscar for Best Animated Short, and **THE MAN WHO SKIED DOWN EVEREST**, the Oscar winning documentary. Our selection also includes three high-profile Oscar-nominated films: Atom Egoyan’s **THE SWEET HEREAFTER** (Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director), Deepa Mehta’s **WATER** (Best Foreign Language Film), Philippe Falardeau’s **MONSIEUR LAZHAR** (Best Foreign Language Film).

INDIGENOUS VOICES



For over three decades, and since the international sensation caused by the arrival of **THE FAST RUNNER** in 2001, Indigenous filmmakers in Canada have produced some of the most daring and urgent work in all of Canadian cinema. Each month we will feature a film by an Indigenous filmmaker. This month we present **ANGRY INUK** (2016, Director: Alethea Arnaquq-Baril), an engaged and engaging documentary about the ancient tradition of seal hunting in Canada’s north, a tradition now under attack by those who know little about it and live far away from it.

CLASSIC



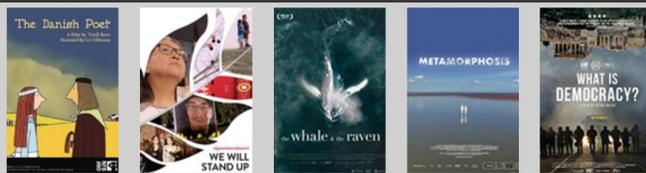
Our classic of Canadian cinema this month is the extraordinary Oscar-winning feature documentary, **THE MAN WHO SKIED DOWN EVEREST** (1975). It is the breathtaking story of Japanese daredevil skier Yuichiro Miura’s effort to ski down the world’s tallest mountain. From his demanding and dangerous trek up Everest to his stunning descent, the film’s action is narrated by passages from Miura’s journal, read by Canadian actor Douglas Rain (the voice of HAL in 2001: A Space Odyssey). Rare, electrifying viewing.

SPOTLIGHT ON JAZZ



Don’t miss our special film selection celebrating International Jazz Day on April 30. Director Robert Budreau’s **BORN TO BE BLUE**, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2015, is a stylish biopic of jazz legend Chet Baker, starring the incomparable Ethan Hawke as Baker.

NFB GEMS



We are pleased to announce that each month from this April onward, there will be a specially curated selection of films from the extraordinary catalogue of the National Film Board (NFB). In the NFB’s debut appearance, there are five outstanding documentaries covering such timely, absorbing, and urgent topics as the rights of Indigenous peoples (**ANGRY INUK**, **WE WILL STAND UP**), the pressing problems of climate change (**METAMORPHOSIS**, **THE WHALE AND THE RAVEN**), and the very notion of democracy itself (**WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?**). All this, plus the Oscar-winning short animation, **THE DANISH POET**. Now that’s what we call a grand entrance!

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