

NFB FILM CLUB 2022–2023 PROGRAM

FILMS FOR EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR!

CONTACT

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JOIN THE CLUB!

The NFB Film Club gives public libraries the opportunity to offer their patrons free screenings of films from the NFB's rich collection. In each Film Club program, you'll find films for both adults and children: new releases exploring hot topics, timely and thought-provoking documentaries, award-winning animation, and a few timeless classics as well.

The NFB Film Club offers free memberships to all Canadian public libraries.

ORGANIZING A SCREENING IN YOUR LIBRARY OR ONLINE

STEP 1

Decide which film(s) you're interested in from the available titles in this program or other titles that can be found by clicking on the NFB Film Club page.

STEP 2

Send your selection(s) by e-mail to f.francois@nfb.ca and include your screening date(s), time(s) and location (online and/or in-person).

STEP 3

Specify the film format required (DVD or MP4) for your venue or for your online screening. We can send an MP4 file or a hyperlink.

STEP 4

Sign the licence agreement for each title you choose.

STEP 5

To avoid surprises prior to your screening, as soon as you receive the film(s), test the format that was delivered to you (digitally or by mail) using your equipment.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

To help you promote your screenings, you'll also have access to our media space and all archived promotional materials (photos, posters, information sheets, etc.).

FREE FILM LOANS

Since the films in our collection are bound by public performance copyright restrictions, admission to screenings must be free of charge, and DVDs must be returned to us by regular mail after your screening or destroyed if they cannot be returned. Downloaded film files must also be destroyed. The NFB is committed to complying with these copyright restrictions and thereby respecting the work of the artists, technicians and professionals involved in these productions.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

To assist us in tracking the outreach of the NFB's films, please make note of the number of people who attended each library or virtual screening. You can provide us with an estimate if you don't have exact figures. This data helps give us an idea of the public's interest in the NFB.

FILM PURCHASES

If you want to keep a film, you can always buy it and add it to your collection. Please contact our customer service department: info@nfb.ca.

KEY

- On-site screening
- Online screening (Vimeo)
- Online suggestions or postings (NFB.ca)
- **F.V.** French version
- E.V. English version
- **O.F.V.** Original French version
- **O.E.V.** Original English version
- **E.ST.** English subtitles
- L.S. Languages spoken





STAR WARS KID: THE RISE OF THE DIGITAL SHADOWS

● | MATHIEU FOURNIER | 2022 | 79 MIN | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Ghyslain Raza was 15 years old in 2003, when his two minutes of fame would make him the "patient zero" of web virality. He'd filmed himself letting it all hang out in a static-shot video. An amateur video. Overnight, it was made public by other students and downloaded millions of times—long before social media came onto the scene. Suddenly, "sharing" became synonymous with meanness, intimidation and a mob mentality. Unwittingly, Raza became the "Star Wars Kid."

Over the next two decades, Ghyslain built—or, rather, rebuilt—his life away from the camera. Today, he is a man with a keen emotional intelligence, and a doctoral student in law. In the film, Ghyslain Raza breaks his silence, reflecting publicly for the first time on his story in conversation with other participants. This intimate documentary, shot in Trois-Rivières, New York and Portland, tells the story of the first viral phenomenon of the digital age.



WINTOPIA

● | MIRA BURT-WINTONICK | 2019 | 88 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, SPANISH

"When my dad found out he was sick, the first thing he said was that he wanted to make one final film. A tribute to his life's work. [...] Eventually, he got busy with other projects and stashed the footage in the basement. There were some 300 tapes in all and, by the time he died, they were covered in dust. Lots of fathers leave their children with some dying wish, to scatter their ashes someplace significant perhaps. Mine left me with the task of completing his lifelong search for Utopia."

Wintopia traces the enigmatic footsteps of renowned documentary filmmaker Peter Wintonick through the lens of his daughter, Mira, as she tries to decipher the map he has left behind. Reverberating with emotion and whimsy, the film guides us on a journey through possible worlds in pursuit of reconciliation, both between artist and family and between dreams and reality.



KÍMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY

● | ELLE-MÁIJÁ TAILFEATHERS | 2021 | 124 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, BLACKFOOT

Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers' film witnesses radical and profound change in her community. *Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy* is an intimate portrait of survival, love and the collective work of healing in the Kainai First Nation in Southern Alberta, a Blackfoot community facing the impacts of substance use and a drug-poisoning epidemic.

Community members active in addiction and recovery, first responders and medical professionals implement harm reduction to save lives. This work is contextualized within the historical and contemporary impacts of settler colonialism; *Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy* draws a connecting line between the effects of colonial violence on Blackfoot land and people and the ongoing substance-use crisis.

Held in love and hope for the future, K*immapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy* asks the audience to be a part of this remarkable change with the community.



IN FULL VOICE

● | SAÏDA OUCHAOU-OZAROWSKI | 2021 | 52 MIN | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Trapped in a straightjacket of misconceptions about them created by headlines and stories in the news, Muslim women are often are often seen as disruptive or polarizing.. But while the media tend to portray them as submissive and silenced, filmmaker Saïda Ouchaou-Ozarowski has rejected these blatant stereotypes. She sat down with six Muslim Canadian women who were eager to talk about what shapes their identities. *In Full Voice* offers an intimate perspective on the journey taken by these women, all of whom share a desire to convey their vision of Islam.

From Montreal to Toronto, New York City and Canada's West Coast, Sonia, Kenza, Asmaa, Loubna, Eman and Farheen open up about their experiences with poise and sensitivity, discussing their relationship to freedom, religion and culture, and revealing their hopes and doubts in the process. Their individual quests for identity reflect our own, reminding us that ultimately, we are not so different.



THE MAGNITUDE OF ALL THINGS

● JENNIFER ABBOTT | 2020 | 86 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, SPANISH

"It was grief. I knew it well. And this time it was for the changing world around me."

When Jennifer Abbott lost her sister to cancer, her sorrow opened her up to the profound gravity of climate breakdown. Abbott's new documentary *The Magnitude of All Things* draws intimate parallels between the experiences of grief—both personal and planetary. Stories from the frontlines of climate change merge with recollections from the filmmaker's childhood on Ontario's Georgian Bay.

What do these stories have in common? The answer, surprisingly, is everything.

For the people featured, climate change is not happening in the distant future; it is kicking down the front door, flooding homes, poisoning water and destroying communities. The connection between humanity and the environment is stated plainly by Australia's Wonnarua Traditional Custodians: "If this land hurts, we hurt."



SOMEONE LIKE ME

\bullet \blacktriangleright \triangleright | SEAN HORLOR & STEVE J. ADAMS | 2021 | 80 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Leaving everything he knows behind, Drake, a vibrant 22-year-old gay man from Uganda, aspires to the universal freedoms everyone deserves: to be who he is and love whomever he chooses without fear of discrimination, persecution or violence.

Tasked with a year-long commitment as Drake's primary support network, a group of strangers from Vancouver's queer community unite under the banner of Rainbow Refugee, a non-profit that connects LGBTQ+ asylum claimants with sponsors. In the months

following Drake's arrival, facets of his turbulent experience and day-to-day challenges begin to parallel those of certain group members. As problems are compounded by the unexpected complication of a global pandemic, the group must ask themselves difficult questions about their capacity, commitment and conditions of support. Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams' feature documentary *Someone Like Me* takes a verité approach to the generous and rough-edged nuances of what it means to sponsor an asylum seeker.



STATELESS

● | MICHÈLE STEPHENSON | 2020 | 95 MIN | ORIGINAL VERSION IN SPANISH AND HAITIAN CREOLE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In 1937, tens of thousands of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent were exterminated by the Dominican army, based on anti-Black hatred fomented by the Dominican government. Fast-forward to 2013, when the Dominican Republic's Supreme Court stripped the citizenship of anyone with Haitian parents, retroactive to 1929. The ruling rendered more than 200,000 people stateless, without nationality, identity or a homeland.

In this dangerous climate, a young attorney named Rosa Iris mounts a grassroots campaign, challenging electoral corruption and advocating for social justice. Director Michèle Stephenson's documentary *Stateless* traces the complex tributaries of history and present-day politics, as state-sanctioned racism seeps into mundane offices, living room meetings, and street protests.



SOVEREIGN SOIL

● ▶ DAVID CURTIS | 2019 | 91 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

At the far-flung edge of Canada's boreal forest, outside the tiny sub-Arctic town of Dawson City, Yukon, a handful of unlikely farmers are growing everything from snow-covered Brussels sprouts to apples. These modern-day agrarians have carved out small patches of fertile soil in an otherwise unforgiving expanse of isolated wilderness to make a living and a life.

Dawson filmmaker David Curtis follows these resilient, unassuming farmers over the course of a year, watching as the heavy dark of winter gives way to the incessant summer sun. And as the seasons pass, time slows and transforms, reshaping notions of what really matters through the simple, rich day-to-day of people deeply tied to a life in the wilds.

Sovereign Soil is an ode to the beauty of this ferocious, remote land and the wisdom of those who've chosen to call it home.



WALL

● D CAM CHRISTIANSEN 2017 79 MIN 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

WALL is a feature-length animated film written by and starring preeminent British playwright and two-time Academy Award® nominee (*The Hours, The Reader*) David Hare, whom The Washington Post referred to as "the premiere political dramatist writing in English." Hare's body of work spans 35 years and deftly explores socio-political issues at home and abroad. The film follows the writer on a trip to the Middle East to explore the impact the wall separating Israel and Palestine has had on the people of the region.

Using advanced animation tools and 3D motion-capture footage, filmmaker Cam Christiansen employs a distinctive handcrafted approach that conveys the reality of the 708-kilometre barrier as no film has before. Rich with rhythmic, raw imagery, the film is framed by Hare's journey, as both his heart and mind are shaken by the incongruities and contradictions of life in the shadow of the wall.



LUBEN & ELENA

● ▶ | ELLIE YONOVA | 2019 | 75 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, BULGARIAN

Luben and Elena is a modern-day love story about renowned artists Luben Boykov and Elena Popova, who escape repressive communist Bulgaria in the early 1990s. In this visually stunning film, we are immersed in Luben and Elena's creative process and witness the rigorous work behind their artistic practice—as well as their commitment to holding an honest mirror to each other. As they traverse social systems and borders, Luben and Elena actively challenge

the current climate of nationalism. We see them encompass all the places they call home, showing there is no universal definition of any of these identities. The challenge is not to inhabit one or the other, but to appreciate the freedom to express all of them at the same time. Embracing the love of art and the art of love, the protagonists remind us that the greatest risk of all is to take either for granted.



UNSPOKEN TEARS

● ▶ | HÉLÈNE MAGNY | 2022 | 75 MIN | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

Despite their young age, some Quebec school children have already experienced unspeakable horrors. Like their classmates, they're learning to read and write, but, as refugees who've fled war and violence in their homelands, they must also readjust to normal life.

Garine Papazian-Zohrabian, a psychologist specializing in conflict-related trauma, carries the memory of the Armenian genocide and the Lebanese Civil War. Today, she trains Quebec schoolteachers to address the psychosocial issues of refugees arriving in their classrooms. Their devastating psychological scars can result in nightmares, violence, depression, antisocial behaviour and muteness. Rather than prematurely diagnosing autism or ADHD, Papazian-Zohrabian advocates a patient, progressive and in-depth approach.

Unspoken Tears pays tribute to the admirable resilience and survival strategies of these "small adults."



KENBE LA, UNTIL WE WIN

● ▶ | WILL PROSPER | 2019 | 83 MIN | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH, HAITIAN CREOLE

Some dreamers have the power to inspire us, bring us together and help us reconnect with our humanity. Alain Philoctète, a Haitian artist and activist who settled in Quebec, returns to the country of his birth to develop a permaculture project with local farmers. There, he has an emotional reunion with family members and his former comrades in arms, whose ideals remain unshaken despite the lingering aftermath of the 2010 earthquake and political

instability. However, Alain, who is suffering from cancer, has to undergo treatment in Montreal, where his loved ones provide the same degree of affection and solidarity as he receives in Haiti. Director Will Prosper films this inspiring dreamer on his hopeful quest, chronicling the challenges of exile and illness with the personal, knowing touch of a longtime friend.



THE SILENCE

● | RENÉE BLANCHAR | 2020 | 108 MIN | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

From the 1950s to the 1980s, Catholic priests sexually abused many young boys in the francophone towns of New Brunswick. These scandals only came to light when the victims were in their fifties, provoking shock and outrage in the media and the public. Why did the affected communities keep silent so long, preferring secrecy to justice and truth? Profiting from their positions of influence to impose a "pious silence" on their parishioners, authority figures built an abusive system that tells us as much

about the type of oppression specific to the Acadian population as it does about the blanket denials issued by the Catholic Church. Called to confront the power of this collective silence, veteran filmmaker Renée Blanchar meets with survivors in an attempt to untangle the deeply rooted reasons for this secrecy, revealing the forces that, today as in the past, have the power to unite or divide Acadian communities.



BEYOND PAPER (coming soon to public libraries)

OANA SUTEU KHINTIRIAN | 130 MIN | 2022 | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH, ROMANIAN, ITALIAN, ARABIC, SPANISH

In the era of the digital revolution, the transmission of knowledge is going through a profound upheaval as humanity's archives migrate from paper to the cloud. In a personal quest with universal resonance, filmmaker Oana Suteu Khintirian embarks on a journey to understand how to preserve her cultural history and share it with her son. This poetic and inspiring film essay introduces us to various "guides" from around the world—in locations including Milan, San Francisco, Bucharest, Copenhagen and

Montreal—while freely navigating the continuum between the physical and virtual worlds. From the hot colours of the Sahara to the shelves of a legendary bookstore in Buenos Aires, and from the delicate grain of centuries-old manuscripts to the blinking servers of new digital libraries, *Beyond Paper* blends reflection and emotion, reminding us that human knowledge is above all an affair of the soul and the spirit.

SHORT FILMS



SATURDAY NIGHT

A short documentary essay on solitude, filmed in Spanish and narrated by filmmaker Rosana Matecki, *Saturday Night* offers a poetic and bittersweet snapshot of aging in an urban setting, viewed through the lens of dance. An immersive soundscape and a delicate tempo set the mood for this intimate exploration of resilience and nostalgia.



PERFECTING THE ART OF LONGING

▶ ▷ | KITRA CAHANA | 2021 | 12 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Cut off from his loved ones due to the pandemic lockdown, a quadriplegic rabbi in a long-term-care facility is filmed remotely by his daughter. Offering powerful meditations on love and hope, *Perfecting the Art of Longing* shows us what it means to be alive in a state of profound isolation.



love, amma (coming soon to public libraries)

PRAJWALA DIXIT | 2022 | 14 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, KANNADA

love, amma is a letter from the filmmaker to her five-year-old daughter. Reflecting on her newly diagnosed invisible disability and her search for answers from her mother and her grandmother, Prajwala journeys between St. John's and Bengaluru. An intergenerational story that blends observational documentary with personal essay, love, amma invites us to reimagine the mental illness label.



INTO LIGHT

▶ ▷ | SHEONA MCDONALD | 2021 | 19 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

When a child reveals who they truly are on the inside, how does a parent set aside their own expectations to help them become their most authentic self? Set against the Northern landscape of Yellowknife, *Into Light* captures a season of change as a mother and child navigate the complexities of gender identity together.

SHORT FILMS



HONOUR TO SENATOR MURRAY SINCLAIR

● ▶ D | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | 2021 | 29 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Senator Murray Sinclair was a key figure in raising global awareness of the atrocities of Canada's residential school system. Alanis Obomsawin shares the powerful speech the Senator gave when he accepted the WFM-Canada World Peace Award, interspersing the heartbreaking testimonies of former students imprisoned at residential schools.



NALUJUK NIGHT

● ▶ | JENNIE WILLIAMS | 2021 | 13 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, INUKTITUT

Run as fast as you can, the *Nalujuit* are here! *Nalujuk Night* is an up-close look at an exhilarating, and sometimes terrifying, Labrador Inuit tradition. Every January 6, from the dark of the Nunatsiavut night, the *Nalujuit* appear on the sea ice.



MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN

● ▶ | COURTNEY MONTOUR | 2020 | 34 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Mary Two-Axe Earley: I Am Indian Again shares the powerful story of Mary Two-Axe Earley, who fought for more than two decades to challenge sex discrimination against First Nations women embedded in Canada's Indian Act and became a key figure in Canada's women's rights movement.



EVAN'S DRUM

◆ ▶ ○ | OSSIE MICHELIN | 2021 | 14 MIN | O.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

An adventurous young boy and his determined mother share a passion for Inuit drum dancing in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. *Evan's Drum* is a joyful visit to a family's loving home, and an uplifting story of cultural pride. After generations of silence, the rhythm of the traditional Inuit drum has returned to Labrador, and seven-year-old Evan is part of the new generation that will keep its heart-beat strong.



ARCTIC SONG

● | GERMAINE ARNATTAUJUQ (ARNAKTAUYOK), NEIL CHRISTOPHER AND LOUISE FLAHERTY | 2021 | 6 MIN INUKTITUT WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Arctic Song, by Inuit artist, storyteller and co-director Germaine Arnattaujuq (Arnaktauyok), is an animated short about Inuit creation stories from the Iglulik region in Nunavut: the raven who brings daylight to the world, the giants who turn into mountains, and the animals that create shimmering constellations and northern lights.



CENTRE-SUD CHRONICLES

lackbox | RICHARD SUICIDE | 2021 | 4 MIN | E.V.

L.S.: ENGLISH

From his shabby apartment in Montreal's Centre-Sud borough, an author with writer's block discovers the subject of his next book while observing his neighbour Piton, a larger-than-life character who navigates poverty with some incredible ingenuity.



4 NORTH A

▶ ▷ | JORDAN CANNING AND HOWIE SHIA | 2020 10 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

A woman sits in a hospital room, alone with her dying father. As the din of hospital noises pushes her to confront her inevitable loss, she escapes into a series of lush childhood memories. *4 North A* is a celebration of the fleeting joys of life and a bittersweet reminder that we don't always get the closure we seek.



THE TURTLE SYNDROME

▶ ▷ | SAMUEL CANTIN | 2021 | 4 MIN | E.V.

L.S.: ENGLISH

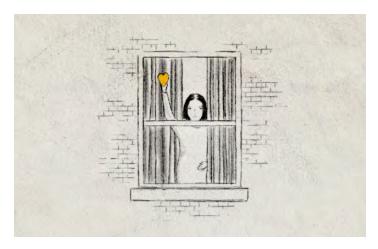
What could the illness afflicting Henri Castagnette be? Filled with anxiety, the young man puts his fate in the hands of medical science. Nervous and impatient, he sits in the examination room awaiting a diagnosis from the strange and off-puttingly exuberant Dr. Von Strudel.



THE GREAT LIST OF EVERYTHING – SEASON 2

▶ | FRANÇOIS PAPILLON | 202213 EPISODES X 3 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Based on a French-language comic book, *The Great List of Everything* features artists Cathon and Iris, two wildly imaginative young women who share their unbridled passion for everyday objects. The two friends' quirky humour, broad knowledge and endless curiosity will make you want to learn more about these objects.

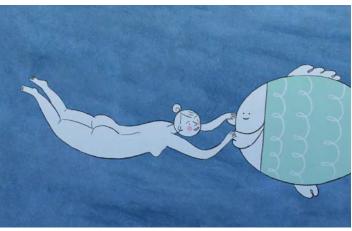


THE STORM

● ▶ | MONICA KIDD | 2021 | 4 MIN | E.V.

L.S.: ENGLISH

A doctor as well as a filmmaker, Monica Kidd finds signs of hope in an uncertain pandemic universe. With *The Storm*, she collaborates with animator Duncan Major, employing sparsely elegant imagery to reflect on what it means to bring a baby into a world gripped by a global health crisis.



MAGICAL CARESSES

(available starting October 2022)

▶ ▷ | LORI MALÉPART-TRAVERSY | 2022 5 EPISODES X 4 MIN | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

Magical Caresses is a series of animated documentaries by Lori Malépart-Traversy. These four-minute episodes provide a range of female perspectives, taking a healthy and uninhibited approach to demystifying masturbation. The films' source material is adapted from intimate accounts published in the Caresses magiques book series written and edited by Sarah Gagnon-Piché and Sara Hébert.

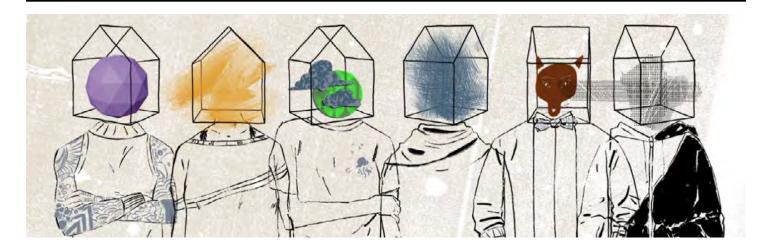


WHAT RHYMES WITH TOXIC

(coming soon to public libraries)

LYNN SMITH | 2022 | 5 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Chemical sludge is spilling into the lake. For the city councillor responsible, it's just a big nuisance. For the wildlife, it's a catastrophe. One turtle, in her desperate hour, summons up the courage to leave her home and speak truth to power. Turns out there's more at stake than just the lake.



HOTHOUSE 13

GRACE AN, LOUIS BODART, LUKAS CONWAY, NONCEDO KHUMALO, KARLA MONTERROSA, TARUN PADMAKUMAR 2022 | 6 X 1 MIN

Now celebrating its 13th edition, Hothouse is a 12-week apprenticeship program for emerging Canadian filmmakers. Created in 2003 by NFB Animation Studio producer Michael Fukushima and executive producer David Verrall, Hothouse offers a paid apprenticeship in real-world animation filmmaking for six successful candidates. Key aspects of the program include the active participation of an experienced mentoring director, a team of NFB technical and post-production experts who support the filmmakers,

and emphasis on the role of the producers and associate producers as creative partners, all of which highlight the collaborative process of NFB filmmaking.

Hothouse is about reimagining ways of making animation—ways that are faster, more flexible and that embrace the many possibilities in the animation process while maintaining creative and technical excellence.





BAEK-IL

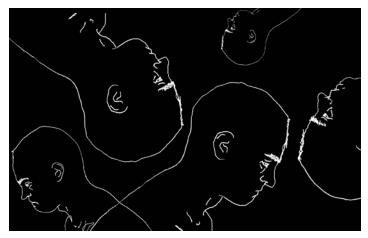
▶ ▷ | GRACE AN | 2022 | 1 MIN | 0.E.V. WITHOUT WORDS

The Korean legend of *ungnyeo*, a bear reborn as a woman, becomes a percussive and mesmerizing riff on the themes of transformation and quarantine. Hothouse creator Grace An is a character-maker working in film and animation based in what is now known as Toronto. Her shorts have been screened at various Canadian festivals.

100 MILES

◆ ▶ ○ | LOUIS BODART | 2022 | 1 MIN | 0.E.V. WITHOUT WORDS

Are we there yet? When the kids act up in the back seat, a family road trip gets knocked hilariously off course. Originally from Belgium, Hothouse creator Louis Bodart grew up in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie regions in Quebec. He studied at the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema at Concordia University in Montreal.



BANG

▶ ▷ | LUKAS CONWAY | 2022 | 1 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

In a frenzied attempt to break the isolation, a man drums his head against the wall, unleashing a battery of brightly hued hallucinations. Hothouse creator Lukas Conway is an animator living and working in Tiohti:áke (Montreal). Situated between experimental and narrative film, Lukas's work emphasizes stripped-down narratives, allowing the audience's personal experience to fill the space between frames.



LO 100TO

► ► | KARLA MONTERROSA | 2022 | 1 MIN | 0.E.V. SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

When Delia announces a breakup on group chat, she's bombarded with inappropriate and comic remarks from her Salvadoran family. Born and raised in El Salvador, Hothouse creator Karla Monterrosa now lives in Vancouver, making her home on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She's obsessed with the awkwardness of the human body.



100 GHOSTS

▶ NONCEDO KHUMALO | 2022 | 1 MIN | 0.E.V. WITHOUT WORDS

A woman awakes to mysterious sounds—and confronts an astonishing surreal world summoned forth by her innermost fears. Raised in Swaziland and South Africa, Hothouse creator Noncedo Khumalo is a multi-dimensional filmmaker. She is interested in telling stories that explore the depth of Black life and reflect her forever-shifting environment.

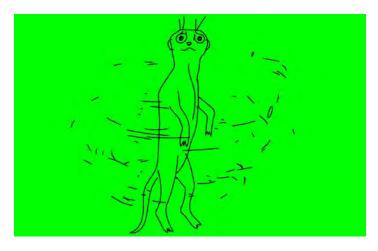


THE COMMUTE

► TARUN PADMAKUMAR | 2022 | 1 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

The distinctive three-note chime of the Toronto subway kicks off a zippy tale of bike theft and survival in an unfamiliar new town. Hothouse creator Tarun Padmakumar is an animator based in Toronto. Hailing from the state of Kerala in South India, Tarun studied film and video and specialized in digital character animation.

NEW INTERACTIVE PRODUCTIONS



BRAINSTREAM

● | CAROLINE ROBERT | 2021 | 5 MIN/19 MIN | E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Brainstream is an interactive animated film in which a young girl, D., is livestreaming her thoughts during a new kind of treatment session. The piece explores, with sensitivity and humour, the fascinating workings of our brain. D. opens up as her mind wanders—perhaps a little bit like your own mind.

THE BOOK OF DISTANCE

● | RANDALL OKITA | 2020 | 25 MIN | 0.E.V. VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) EXPERIENCE

In 1935, Yonezo Okita left his home in Hiroshima, Japan, and began a new life in Canada. Then war and state-sanctioned racism changed everything—he became the enemy. Three generations later, his grandson, artist Randall Okita, leads us on an interactive virtual pilgrimage to recover what was lost.



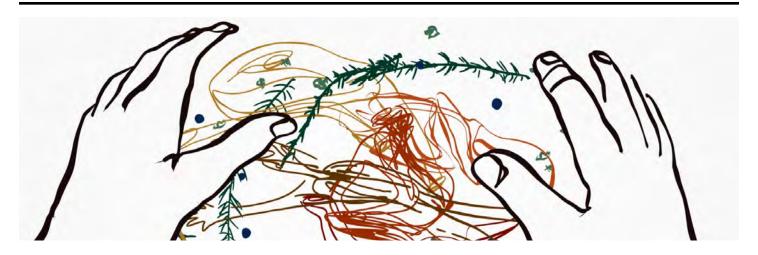
THIS IS NOT A CEREMONY

● | AHNAHKTSIPIITAA | 2022 | 20 MIN 56 S | 0.E.V. | VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) EXPERIENCE L.S.: ENGLISH, BLACKFOOT

Niitsitapi writer and director Ahnahktsipiitaa (Colin Van Loon) takes us beyond the veil of traditional media and transports us directly into another realm, where past, present and future are one; where colonial rules and assumptions are forgotten; and where we can finally get to the truth of the matter.

Inside this immersive virtual world, two Indigenous trickster poets in mirrored red suits and long braids guide us on a journey,

in which community protocols confront our notions of personal responsibility. Matriarchs and *Inii* (buffalo) rule this virtual realm. They pull no punches, yet they lead us with kindness, bringing us face-to-face with some of the grim realities Indigenous Peoples have experienced. We explore the stories of Indigenous men wounded by the colonial tradition of systemic racism. These stories disrupt the status quo and dare to ask, "Now that you know, just what are you going to do about it?"



IMPROMPTU

This short animation takes a look at the redemptive power of food, wine, music and love through the eyes of our protagonist, Chuck. A husband and father, Chuck is jovially cooking dinner and listening to Chopin when his wife Sylvie spontaneously invites a group of boisterous colleagues over for dinner. The festivities begin to spiral out of control, and Chuck must find his way through a planned diner à deux that has turned into pandemonium. The

preparation of a meal becomes a vehicle for exploring the grand themes of love and life through simple yet evocative line drawings.

More recently, director Bruce Alcock created with Jeremy Mendes Far Away From Far Away, a web experience written by Michael Crummey and designed exclusively for smartphones. Inspired by the early life of visionary Zita Cobb, it tells the story of a young girl growing up on the remote Fogo island during the 1960s and '70s.





NAKED ISLAND: WE DRINK TOO MUCH

● ▶ CHRIS LAVIS AND MACIEK SZCZERBOWSKI 2016 | 47 S | O.E.V. | WITHOUT WORDS | INTERTITLES IN **ENGLISH**

An unapologetic take on the vicious cycle of earning too little and consuming too much. This film is part of Naked Island, a series of 15 super-short and incisive films framed as "Public Service Alerts," blending the art of animation and advertising to promote self-reflection by dissent, satire and wit.



RUNAWAY

▶ ▷ | CORDELL BARKER | 2009 | 9 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Happy passengers are having a great time on a crowded train, oblivious to the unknown fate that awaits them around the bend. The ensuing crisis leads to a class struggle that is as amusing as it is merciless. Naturally there are victims, but in the end everyone is equal.

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH



JOHN WARE RECLAIMED

● ▶ | CHERYL FOGGO | 2020 | 72 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

John Ware Reclaimed follows filmmaker Cheryl Foggo on her quest to re-examine the mythology surrounding John Ware, the Black cowboy who settled in Alberta, Canada, before the turn of the 20th century. Foggo's research uncovers who this iconic figure might have been, and what his legacy means in terms of anti-Black racism, both past and present.



ICE BREAKERS

▶ ▷ | SANDI RANKADUWA | 2019 | 15 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Josh Crooks is a young, gifted African-Canadian hockey player in an overwhelmingly white sport. In its intimate story of transgenerational identity, *Ice Breakers* reveals the buried history of how Black athletes helped pioneer modern hockey, as Crooks discovers that his passion is tied to a remarkable heritage.



TRUE NORTH: INSIDE THE RISE OF TORONTO BASKETBALL (feature)

▶ ▷ | RYAN SIDHOO | 2019 | 90 MIN | 0.E.V. L.P.: ENGLISH

On the heels of the Toronto Raptors' historic NBA Championship and the record-setting number of Canadian draft picks, the Toronto hoop dream is more alive than ever.

In this feature-length doc, director Ryan Sidhoo shines the spotlight on Elijah Fisher, Keone Davis and Cordell Veira as they navigate in pursuit of their own NBA dreams.



BLACK SOUL

▶ ▷ | MARTINE CHARTRAND | 2000 | 9 MIN | E.V. WITHOUT WORDS

Martine Chartrand's animated short dives into the heart of Black culture with an exhilarating trip though history. Watch as a young boy traces his roots through the stories his grandmother shares with him about the events that shaped their cultural heritage.

MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



IN FULL VOICE

▶ | SAÏDA OUCHAOU-OZAROWSKI | 2021 | 52 MIN | O.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Trapped in a straightjacket of misconceptions about them created by headlines and stories in the news, Muslim women are often are often seen as disruptive or polarizing. But while the media tend to portray them as submissive and silenced, filmmaker Saïda Ouchaou-Ozarowski has rejected these blatant stereotypes. She sat down with six Muslim Canadian women who were eager to talk about what shapes their identities. In Full Voice offers an intimate perspective on the journey taken by these women, all of whom share a desire to convey their vision of Islam.

From Montreal to Toronto, New York City and Canada's West Coast, Sonia, Kenza, Asmaa, Loubna, Eman and Farheen open up about their experiences with poise and sensitivity, discussing their relationship to freedom, religion and culture, and revealing their hopes and doubts in the process. Their individual quests for identity reflect our own, reminding us that ultimately, we are not so different.





MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN

▶ | COURTNEY MONTOUR | 2020 | 34 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Mary Two-Axe Earley: I Am Indian Again shares the powerful story of Mary Two-Axe Earley, who fought for more than two decades to challenge sex discrimination against First Nations women embedded in Canada's Indian Act and became a key figure in Canada's women's rights movement.

ZAB MABOUNGOU

▶ ▷ | CARMINE PIERRE-DUFOUR | 2021 | 5 MIN 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

A portrait of choreographer Zab Maboungou that provides insight into the meticulous training and physical strength behind one of her pivotal works: Mozongi. This pioneer of a new contemporary dance movement in Canada reveals herself to us, sharing what ignites her passion for her craft and what drives her to continue.



THE MAGNITUDE OF ALL THINGS

● ▶ | JENNIFER ABBOTT | 2020 | 86 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, SPANISH

"It was grief. I knew it well. And this time it was for the changing world around me."

When Jennifer Abbott lost her sister to cancer, her sorrow opened her up to the profound gravity of climate breakdown. Abbott's new documentary *The Magnitude of All Things* draws intimate parallels between the experiences of grief—both personal and planetary. Stories from the frontlines of climate change merge with recollections from the filmmaker's childhood on Ontario's Georgian Bay. What do

these stories have in common? The answer, surprisingly, is everything.

For the people featured, climate change is not happening in the distant future: it is kicking down the front door. Battles waged, lamentations of loss, and raw testimony coalesce into an extraordinary tapestry, woven together with raw emotion and staggering beauty that transform darkness into light, grief into action.





BOREALIS

▶ ▷ | KEVIN MCMAHON | 2020 | 93 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Borealis is a unique cinematic documentary that travels deep into the heart of Canada's iconic wilderness to explore how the plants and animals that live there communicate and survive the destructive forces of fire, insects and human encroachment.

SOVEREIGN SOIL

▶ ▷ | DAVID CURTIS | 2019 | 90 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

At the far-flung edge of Canada's boreal forest, outside the tiny sub-Arctic town of Dawson City, Yukon, a handful of unlikely farmers are growing everything from snow-covered Brussels sprouts to apples. Over the course of a year, Dawson filmmaker David Curtis follows these resilient, unassuming people.

MAY ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

▶ ▷ | SANDRA IGNAGNI | 2019 | 16 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH AND MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

This short symphonic documentary offers a glimpse into the unique religious co-existence found along No. 5 Road in Richmond, British Columbia. *Highway to Heaven* takes audiences into many of the temples, mosques and churches that call No. 5 home, revealing unity despite difference across these diverse cultural spaces.

JIA

● ▶ | WEIYE SU | 2020 | 10 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, MANDARIN

A young Chinese-Canadian couple is visiting family in Wuhan, epicentre of the virus, at the very moment the pandemic is declared. Interviewing his subjects in a novel socially distanced mode, director Weiye Su explores the culturally specific concept of *Jia*—an idea evoking family or home that acquires sharp new meaning during COVID times.



ANGEL PEACOCK

▶ ▷ | PETER SVATEK | 2019 | 24 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, KURDISH

In 2014, ISIS launched a genocidal campaign that targeted the Yazidi community of northern Iraq, resulting in the imprisonment of thousands of women and children. Twelve-year-old Dawod and his mother managed to escape and have been resettled in London, Ontario, where *Angel Peacock* follows his first year in his Canada.



FAR FROM BASHAR

● ▶ ▷ | PASCAL SANCHEZ | 2020 | 73 MIN O.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARABIC

A few years ago, the al-Mahamids fled Bashar al-Assad and Syria to settle in Montreal. A nuanced portrayal of a courageous family coping with a seemingly interminable war, thousands of kilometres away, that continues to affect their lives.

JUNE

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH



ARCTIC SONG (available starting November 2022)

● | GERMAINE ARNATTAUJUQ (ARNAKTAUYOK), NEIL CHRISTOPHER AND LOUISE FLAHERTY | 2021 | 6 MIN INUKTITUT WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Arctic Song, by Inuit artist, storyteller and co-director Germaine Arnattaujuq (Arnaktauyok), is an animated short about Inuit creation stories from the Iglulik region in Nunavut: the raven who brings daylight to the world, the giants who turn into mountains, and the animals that create shimmering constellations and northern lights.



MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN

Mary Two-Axe Earley: I Am Indian Again shares the powerful story of Mary Two-Axe Earley, who fought for more than two decades to challenge sex discrimination against First Nations women embedded in Canada's Indian Act and became a key figure in Canada's women's rights movement.



NALUJUK NIGHT

▶ ▷ | JENNIE WILLIAMS | 2021 | 13 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, INUKTITUT

Run as fast as you can, the *Nalujuit* are here! *Nalujuk Night* is an up-close look at an exhilarating, and sometimes terrifying, Labrador Inuit tradition. Every January 6, from the dark of the Nunatsiavut night, the *Nalujuit* appear on the sea ice.



EVAN'S DRUM

▶ ▷ | OSSIE MICHELIN | 2021 | 14 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

An adventurous young boy and his determined mother share a passion for Inuit drum dancing in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. *Evan's Drum* is a joyful visit to a family's loving home, and an uplifting story of cultural pride. After generations of silence, the rhythm of the traditional Inuit drum has returned to Labrador, and seven-year-old Evan is part of the new generation that will keep its heart-beat strong.

JULY PRIDE MONTH



LOVE, SCOTT

▶ D | LAURA MARIE WAYNE | 2018 | 75 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

While walking on the street one night in a small town in Canada, Scott Jones, a gay musician, is attacked and becomes paralyzed from the waist down; what follows is a brave and fragile journey of healing and the transformation of a young man's life. *Love, Scott* is an intimate and visually evocative window into queer experience.



INTO LIGHT

► | SHEONA MCDONALD | 2021 | 19 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

When a child reveals who they truly are on the inside, how does a parent set aside their own expectations to help them become their most authentic self? Set against the Northern landscape of Yellowknife, *Into Light* captures a season of change as a mother and child navigate the complexities of gender identity together.



BEAUTY

▶ CHRISTINA WILLINGS | 2018 | 23 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Christina Willings' documentary *Beauty* explores the lives of five gender-creative kids, each uniquely engaged in shaping their ideas of what it means to be fully human. Claiming your own sense of gender when everything around you insists that you comply and conform can be challenging, and sometimes scary. But luckily, family and friends are there to help.



STANDING ON THE LINE

▶ ▷ | PAUL ÉMILE D'ENTREMONT | 2019 | 80 MIN 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Breaking the code of silence that prevails on the field, on the ice and in the locker room, *Standing on the Line* takes a fresh and often moving look at some of our gay and lesbian athletes. They've set out to overcome prejudice in the hopes of changing things for the athletes of tomorrow.

AUGUST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY (AUGUST 12)



THE MOUNTAIN OF SGAANA

● ▶ CHRISTOPHER AUCHTER | 2017 | 10 MIN | E.V. WITHOUT WORDS

The Mountain of SGaana spins a magical tale of a young man who is stolen away to the spirit world, and the young woman who rescues him. Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter's dream-like gem brilliantly entwines traditional animation with formal elements of Haida art, which are brought to life by a rich, evocative palette and stylized effects.



IF I WAS GOD

▶ | CORDELL BARKER | 2014 | 8 MIN | 0.E.V L.S.: ENGLISH

A Grade 7 boy's mind starts to wander while dissecting a frog in Biology class. Oh to have the power to toy with life and death, to create monsters who can punish those who torment him daily, or better yet, to create that one perfect day with Lily, the love of his 12-year-old life!



THE DINGLES

● ▶ | LES DREW | 1990 | 7 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Created by award-winning animator/director Les Drew, this animated short features Doris Dingle and her family of three cats. The Dingles shows what happens when an unexpected violent wind disrupts the family's idyllic life. The film is based on the book The Dingles, written by Helen Levchuk and illustrated by John Bianchi.



THE CAT CAME BACK

▶ CORDELL BARKER | 1988 | 7 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

This hilarious Oscar®-nominated animation is based on the century-old folk song of the same name. Old Mr. Johnson makes increasingly manic attempts to rid himself of a little yellow cat that just won't stay away... Also won the 1989 Genie Award for best animated short film.

AUGUST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY (AUGUST 12)



WASETEG

▶ | PHYLLIS GRANT | 2010 | 6 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Waseteg is the story of a young Mi'kmaq girl whose name means "the light from the dawn." Sadly, her mother dies while giving birth and, though her father works very hard to provide for his family, Waseteg is surrounded by the bitterness and loneliness felt by her sisters. The film is beautifully narrated by legendary filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin.

MIND ME GOOD NOW!

● ▶ CHRIS CORMIER AND DEREK CUMMINGS 2006 | 8 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

In this animated short, two children, Tina and Dalby, disobey their mama with almost tragic consequences. Having strayed away from home, they run afoul of a local "cocoya," a wicked spirit that loves to eat little boys! But through Tina's resourcefulness and cunning, the cocoya is vanquished and the children run back to mama's forgiving arms.



FROM FAR AWAY

● ▶ SHIRA AVNI AND SERENE EL-HAJ DAOUD 2003 | 6 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

This is the touching story of Saoussan, a young girl struggling to adjust to a new world after being uprooted from her war-torn homeland. She has come to seek a quieter and safer life in Canada, although memories of war and death linger, and she must cope with a new language and culture.



BIG DRIVE

▶ ▷ | ANITA LEBEAU | 2011 | 9 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Set in the 1970s, this animated short tells the story of a family road trip across the Canadian Prairies. Four sisters squeeze into the back of the family car for a long journey. The sisters are inspired to combine their creative energy, and the big drive becomes an even bigger adventure.

SEPTEMBER NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION (SEPTEMBER 30)



HONOUR TO SENATOR MURRAY SINCLAIR

▶ ▷ | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | 2021 | 29 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Senator Murray Sinclair was a key figure in raising global awareness of the atrocities of Canada's residential school system. Alanis Obomsawin shares the powerful speech the Senator gave when he accepted the WFM-Canada World Peace Award, interspersing the heartbreaking testimonies of former students imprisoned at residential schools.

HOLY ANGELS

● ▶ | JAY CARDINAL VILLENEUVE | 2017 | 13 MIN O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

In 1963, Lena Wandering Spirit became one of the more than 150,000 Indigenous children who were removed from their families and sent to residential school. Jay Cardinal Villeneuve's short documentary Holy Angels powerfully recaptures Canada's colonialist history through impressionistic images and the fragmented language of a child.





WE WERE CHILDREN

► TIM WOLOCHATIUK | 2012 | 83 MIN | 0.E.V.

L.S.: ENGLISH

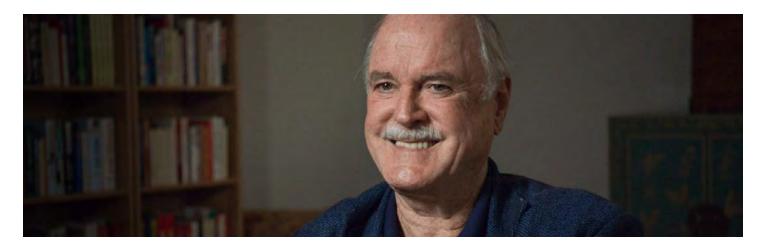
As young children, Lyna and Glen were taken from their homes and placed in church-run boarding schools. The trauma of this experience was made worse by years of untold physical, sexual and emotional abuse, the effects of which persist in their adult lives. We Were Children gives voice to a national tragedy and demonstrates the incredible resilience of the human spirit.

CHRISTMAS AT MOOSE FACTORY

▶ ▷ | ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | 1971 | 13 MIN | 0.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

Released in 1971, this lyrical short documentary marked the directorial debut of legendary Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin. Filmed at a residential school in northern Ontario, it is composed entirely of drawings by young Cree children and stories told by the children themselves. Listening has been at the core of Obomsawin's practice since the very beginning.

OCTOBER CANADIAN LIBRARY MONTH



ASSHOLES: A THEORY

● | JOHN WALKER | 2019 | 80 MIN | 0.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

With venomous social media, resurgent authoritarianism and rampant narcissism threatening to trash civilization as we know it, the time has come for Assholes: A Theory-an entertaining and oh-so-timely feature doc from acclaimed director John Walker.

Inspired by Aaron James' New York Times bestseller of the same name, Assholes investigates the breeding grounds of contemporary "asshole culture" and locates signs of civility in an otherwise rude-'n-nasty universe.

Venturing into predominantly male domain, Walker moves from Ivy League frat clubs to the bratty princedoms of Silicon Valley and bear pits of international finance. Why do assholes thrive in certain environments? What explains their perverse appeal? And how do they keep getting elected!



HIGGLETY PIGGLETY POP! OR THERE MUST BE MORE TO LIFE

◆ ► CHRIS LAVIS ANDN MACIEK SZCZERBOWSKI 2010 | 23 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

This live-action/animated film follows Jennie's suspenseful journey to gain new experiences and realize her dream. An adaptation of Maurice Sendak's book by filmmakers Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski (makers of the Oscar®-nominated and Genie Award-winning Madame Tutli-Putli), it features the voices of Meryl Streep and Forest Whitaker.



NADINE

▶ ▷ | PATRICK PÉRIS | 2017 | 4 MIN | E.V.

L.S.: ENGLISH

From out of nowhere, the most beautiful girl in the world sits at the table across from me at the library. Is this a stroke of good luck or bad? Her smile paralyzes me. I can't talk to her because I don't know her, but I can't get to know her because I won't talk

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE DAY



THE VAN DOOS: 100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL 22E REGIMENT

▷ | CLAUDE GUILMAIN | 2014 | 52 MIN | 0.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

This documentary marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal 22e Régiment, the only French-speaking Canadian battalion to fight in the First World War. Widely known by its colloquial name, "The Van Doos," the battalion served with distinction on several fronts, including both world wars, the Korean War, and in numerous U.N. peacekeeping operations. This film offers a moving tribute to both the living veterans and the lost soldiers of the Van Doos. Their personal stories and narratives bring a little-known page of our history books to life. This vibrant elegy features a moving score by Claude

Naubert performed live by the regimental formation La Musique du Royal 22e Régiment.

Claude Guilmain has written and directed a number of films for the NFB, including the documentaries High Wire, The Van Doos in Afghanistan and Portrait of a Perfect Stranger, along with the short films The Sentry and An Overwhelming Passion, produced for the GGPAAs.



FRONT LINES

▶ □ | CLAUDE GUILMAIN | 2008 | 33 MIN | E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

A tribute to the combatants in the First World War, this film traces the conflict through the war diary and private letters of five Canadian soldiers and a nurse. The film mingles war footage, historical photos and readings of excerpts from the diary and letters.

JOHN MCCRAE'S WAR: IN FLANDERS FIELDS

ROBERT DUNCAN | 1998 | 46 MIN | E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

This feature documentary profiles poet John McCrae, from his childhood in Ontario to his years in medicine at McGill University and the WWI battlefields of Belgium, where he cared for wounded soldiers. Generations of schoolchildren have recited McCrae's iconic poem "In Flanders Fields," but McCrae and Alexis Helmer have faded from memory.



THE GREAT LIST OF EVERYTHING - SEASON 2

● ▶ | FRANCIS PAPILLON | 2022 | WEB SERIES OF 13 EPISODES X 3 MIN | E.V | L.S.: ENGLISH

Cathon and Iris are inseparable. One likes to show off her knowledge, the other enjoys sharing off-the-wall theories. The two friends' quirky humour and free-floating imaginations will make you want to learn more about the objects that surround us. Travel with them through history as they explain the origins of everything from the fishing rod to the refrigerator to the toothbrush. But don't believe everything you hear!

Inspired by a French-language comic book, *The Great List of Everything* features two curious young women who share their unbridled passion for everyday objects. This web series takes us into a wacky world that makes us laugh and think in equal measure, providing an opportunity to apply critical thinking to the information imparted by our two wildly imaginative heroines.



THE GREAT TOY ROBBERY

◆ ▶ | JEFF HALE | 1963 | 6 MIN | 0.E.V.

L.S.: ENGLISH

This short animation stars the world's most-wanted good guy: Santa Claus. In this spoof of the Wild West, good triumphs over evil, but not before the evil robbers and their innocent victims have romped through some odd situations.

NOËL NOËL

● ▶ ▷ | NICOLA LEMAY | 2003 | 22 MIN | E. V. L.S. ENGLISH

Noël Noël, a misguided billionaire, is in love with Beatrice, a bespectacled fairy. But thanks to little Zoey, her dog Snooze and a blue-eyed reindeer, his eyes are finally opened. *Noël Noël* is an animated fantasy about Christmas, reminding us that happiness comes when the heart is allowed to speak.