



Media Release // For Immediate Release
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CIFF'S COMPLETE FILM LINEUP IS HERE!

Alberta Feature LUCKY STAR Closing the Festival

Calgary, AB - The Calgary International Film Festival, presented by connectFirst Credit Union, reveal the remainder of the exciting 2024 film lineup, which includes Special Presentations by director heavy-hitters like Sean Baker, with the Alberta Premiere of ANORA, Palme d'Or Winner at 2024 Cannes Film Festival; Guy Maddin, Evan Johnson & Galen Johnson with RUMOURS, and other huge names you won't want to miss on the big screen. The festival's 25th anniversary runs from **September 19 – 29, 2024** and will close with the World Premiere of **LUCKY STAR**, Directed by Calgary Writer and Director Gillian McKercher.

"Closing the festival with an Alberta feature by Calgary Writer/Director Gillian McKercher is really exciting. McKercher's first feature film, CIRCLE OF STEEL, won an Audience Award at CIFF 2018 and having her sophomore feature LUCKY STAR, which was developed while a resident at the Canadian Film Centre, is the perfect note to end the festival on," said Brenda Lieberman, CIFF's Lead Programmer.

LUCKY STAR is a family drama about fatherly love, deceit, and redemption, and a slice of life of the Chinese-prairie diaspora.

"Sean Baker is one of America's best directors and ANORA is one of his most assured films. To have his work join the work of Canada's own Guy Maddin, festival alum Nora Fingscheidt and stars like Barry Keoghan, Soirsa Ronan, Jennifer Lopez and Don Cheadle makes for an amazing Special Presentations line-up," added CIFF's Artistic Director, Brian Owens.

At CIFF's 25th Anniversary, 31 Feature Films and 47 Short Films will make their World, North American, International or Canadian Premieres - that's 78 movies or nearly 40% of CIFF's 2024 selected films that Calgarians will be the very first to see in Canada.

"What an exciting time to be part of the Calgary International Film Festival, from celebrating their 25th anniversary to curating a world-class roster of films again this year. We're simply thrilled to be back as presenting partner," said Ian Burns, CEO of Connect First and Servus Credit Union. "As the largest credit union in Alberta, we're

beyond proud to support our home-grown filmmakers and artists in the creative industries and welcome the world to our local stages. We can't wait to see everyone at the festival!"

FEATURE FILMS 2024

ADRIANNE & THE CASTLE, directed by Shannon Walsh (Canada)

A true story of love and loss, ADRIANNE & THE CASTLE documents the life of one unique couple who built a castle to their love. *Alberta Premiere.*

ADULT BEST FRIENDS, Directed by Delaney Buffet (United States)

A woman takes her codependent best friend on a weekend trip to break the news that she's getting married. *International Premiere.*

ANORA, Directed by Sean Baker (United States)

Anora, a young sex worker from Brooklyn, meets and impulsively marries the son of an oligarch. Once the news reaches Russia, her fairytale life is threatened.

Alberta Premiere.

WINNER: Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival 2024

BIRD, Directed by Andrea Arnold (United Kingdom)

Bailey lives with her brother Hunter and her father Bug, who doesn't have much time to devote to them. Bailey looks for attention and adventure elsewhere.

Alberta Premiere.

BLACK BOX DIARIES, Directed by Shiori Ito (Japan/United Kingdom/United States)

A young journalist embarks on a courageous investigation of her own sexual assault in an improbable attempt to prosecute her high-profile offender. *Alberta Premiere.*

BOB TREVINO LIKES IT, Directed by Tracie Laymon, (United States)

Estranged from her father, a people-pleasing young woman befriends a childless man with the same name as her father on the internet. *Alberta Premiere.*

BONJOUR TRISTESSE, Directed by Durga Chew-Bose (Canada/France/United Kingdom)

Follows Cécile, a young woman spending the summer in a villa in the south of France with her widowed father Raymond and his latest love interest, Elsa. *Alberta Premiere.*

CAUGHT BY THE TIDES, Directed by Jia Zhang-ke (China)

A Chinese woman lives for herself in silence, celebrating the prosperous Belle Epoque with songs and dance. *Alberta Premiere.*

THE CODE, Directed by Eugene Kotlyarenko (United States)

A sexless couple, paranoid about the status of their relationship, embraces surveillance, spying and performance as a means to fall in love again, in this absurd, high-concept comedy. *Alberta Premiere*.

DEAD MAIL, Directed by Joe DeBoer and Kyle McConaghy (United States)

An ominous help note finds its way to a 1980s post office, connecting a dead letter investigator to a kidnapped keyboard technician. *Alberta Premiere*.

A DIFFERENT MAN, Directed by Aaron Schimberg (United States)

After undergoing facial reconstructive surgery, Edward becomes fixated on an actor in a stage production based on his former life. *Alberta Premiere*.

WINNER: Silver Bear for Best Leading Performances at Berlin International Film Festival 2024

DRIVE BACK HOME, Directed by Michael Clowater (Canada)

A small-town plumber from rural New Brunswick must drive his beat-up work truck 1000 miles to Toronto to get his estranged, gay brother out of jail. *Alberta Premiere*.

ERNEST COLE: LOST AND FOUND, Directed by Raoul Peck (United States)

Academy Award nominee Raoul Peck draws upon a trove of unpublished images to craft the moving portrait of Ernest Cole, the young man whose photographs exposed the evils of Apartheid to the world. *Alberta Premiere*.

WINNER: Golden Eye, Cannes Film Festival 2024

THE FRENCH ITALIAN, Directed by Rachel Wolther (United States)

An aggrieved NYC couple stage a fake play to get revenge on their noisy neighbours. *Canadian Premiere*.

THE FRESHLY CUT GRASS, Directed by Celina Murga (Argentina, Uruguay, Germany, Mexico, United States)

Two university teachers are being followed as they have relationships with their students. *Canadian Premiere*.

WINNER: Best Screenplay World Narrative Competition, Tribeca Film Festival 2024

GET AWAY, Directed by Steffen Haars (United Kingdom)

A family's vacation to a remote getaway takes an unexpected turn when they discover the island they're on is inhabited by a serial killer.

Canadian Premiere.

GOOD BAD THINGS, Directed by Shane D. Stanger (United States)

A young man with muscular dystrophy steps out of his comfort zone and into the world of online dating. *Canadian Premiere*.

WINNER: Grand Jury Award, Audience Award, Slamdance Film Festival 2024

THE GUTTER, Directed by Yassir Lester and Isaiah Lester (United States)

Walt lands work at bowling alley AlleyCatz. He's pressured to embrace his bowling talent, which sparks backlash from detractors seeking to undermine his sudden pro success. *International Premiere.*

HANGDOG, Directed Matt Cascella (United States)

An anxiety-riddled man embarks on a comic odyssey to retrieve his missing dog. *International Premiere.*

HEAVIER TRIP, Directed by Juuso Laatio and Jukka Vidgren (Finland)

Death metal band Impaled Rektum escapes prison to perform at Wacken, Germany's iconic music festival. Their wild and perilous adventure into the metal music scene challenges the band's integrity. *Canadian Premiere.*

IF THAT MOCKINGBIRD DON'T SING, Directed by Sadie Bones (United States)

After being brutally dumped, 17-year-old Sydnie discovers she is pregnant. Seeing this as an opportunity to get her ex back, she decides to keep the baby - soon realizing this won't be the quick fix she had hoped for. *International Premiere.*

LIFE'S A BITCH, Directed by Xavier Seron (Belgium)

Man is a dog to man. The worst kind of dog. LIFE'S A BITCH: 3 dog stories that humorously depict human beings, their loneliness and their search for love. *North American Premiere.*

MEMOIR OF A SNAIL, Directed by Adam Elliot (Australia)

The bittersweet memoir of a melancholic woman named Grace Pudel - a hoarder of snails, romance novels, and guinea pigs. *Alberta Premiere.*

MICRO BUDGET, Directed by Morgan Evans (United States)

Epic Ambition. Major Delusion. Micro Budget. *World Premiere.*

MY DEAD FRIEND ZOE, Directed by Kyle Hausmann-Stokes (United States)

Engaged in a mysterious relationship with wise-cracking (and dead) best friend from the Army, a female Afghanistan veteran reluctantly reunites with her estranged Vietnam vet grandfather at the family's ancestral lake house. *Canadian Premiere*

THE OPENER, Directed by Jeff Toye (United States)

A young singer-songwriter finds a new fan in Jason Mraz when he posts his songs to TikTok, resulting in the opportunity of a lifetime. *International Premiere.*

THE OUTFRAN, Directed by Nora Fingscheidt (United Kingdom, Germany)

When Amy Liptrot returns to Orkney after more than a decade away, she is drawn back to the Outfran on the sheep farm where she grew up. *Alberta Premiere.*

PAPER FLOWERS, Directed by Mahesh Pailoor (United States)

When suddenly faced with a rare form of cancer, a young man embarks on a transformative journey of gratitude that challenges the world to find beauty in every sunset. *Canadian Premiere.*

PÁRVULOS, Directed by Isaac Ezban (Mexico)

Three young brothers living in a cabin in the middle of the woods hide a dark, disturbing secret in their basement. *Alberta Premiere.*

PIERCE, Directed by Nelicia Low (Singapore/Taiwan/Poland)

When his beloved but dangerous older brother is released from prison, high school fencer Zijie believes he is innocent and goes behind their mother's back to help him, only to realize the brother he has idealized might only be a fantasy. *Alberta Premiere.*

RITA, Directed by Jayro Bustamante (Guatemala)

After being placed in an oppressive safe house run by the State, Rita and her cellmates plot an escape that ends in a shocking act of violence. *Alberta Premiere.*

RUMOURS, Directed by Guy Maddin, Evan Johnson and Galen Johnson (Canada/Germany)

At their annual G7 summit, the seven leaders of the world's wealthiest liberal democracies get lost in the woods at night while attempting to draft their provisional statement. *Alberta Premiere.*

SEARCHING FOR AMANI, Directed by Nicole Gormley and Debra ArokoJohnson (Kenya)

A 13-year-old aspiring journalist investigates his father's mysterious murder within the boundaries of one of Kenya's largest wildlife conservancies. *Canadian Premiere.*

THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG, Directed by Mohammad Rasoulof (Iran/Germany/France)

When a judge's gun mysteriously vanishes, he suspects his wife and daughters, imposing draconian measures that strain family ties as societal rules crumble in Tehran. *Alberta Premiere.*

SHARP CORNER, Directed by Jason Buxton (Canada/Ireland)

After witnessing a fatal crash, a man becomes drawn into saving the lives of the car crash victims at the sharp corner in front of his house. *Alberta Premiere.*

SHEPHERDS, Directed by Sophie Deraspe (Canada/France)

A young Montreal advertising executive, converted to a Provençal shepherd, has various misadventures with a civil servant who has cavalierly quit her job. *Alberta Premiere.*

SUPERBOYS OF MALEGAON, Directed by Reema Kagti (India)

The journey of an aspiring filmmaker as he bands together his friends to make a film for his town. *Alberta Premiere.*

TOXIC, Directed by Saulė Bliuvaitė (Lithuania)

Two teens form a unique bond at a local modelling school, where the promise of a better life pushes girls to violate their bodies in increasingly extreme ways. *Alberta Premiere.*

UNSTOPPABLE, Directed by William Goldenberg (United States)

The remarkable true story of Anthony Robles, a man born with one leg who pursued his dreams of becoming a collegiate wrestler. *Alberta Premiere.*

WILFRED BUCK, Directed by Lisa Jackson (Canada)

The extraordinary story of the charismatic and irreverent Indigenous Elder who survived life on the streets to reclaim and share ancient star knowledge and spiritual ceremony. *Alberta Premiere.*

SHORT FILMS 2024

AMANDA, YOU LIED, Directed by Eva Libertad and Nuria Muñoz (Spain)

AM I THE SKINNIEST PERSON YOU'VE EVER SEEN? Directed by Eisha Marjara (Canada)

BEAUTIFUL MEN, Directed by Nicolas Keppens (Belgium)

BLOODY MESS, Directed by Megan Wennberg (Canada)

BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT, Directed by Henna Välkky and Erik Lehtola (Finland)

BYE BEAR, Directed by Jan Bitzer (Germany)

CHAIRS, Directed by James Hughes (United Kingdom)

CHRISTMAS, EVERY DAY, Directed by Faye Tsakas (United States)

CONFESSIONS OF A JUMBOTRON ADDICT, Directed by Mickey Duzyj (United States)

CORPUS AND THE WANDERING, Directed by Jo Roy (Canada)

A CRAB IN THE POOL, Directed by Alexandra Myotte and Jean-Sébastien Hamel (Canada)

DISCOTEQUE, Directed by Masashi Yamamoto (United States)

DON'T F*CK WITH BA, Directed by Sally Tran (United States)

DREAM CREEP, Directed by Carlos A.F. Lopez (United States)

DREAMCASTER, Directed by William Maher (United States)

EVEN TIDE, Directed by Francesco Clerici (Italy)

EVERY OTHER WEEKEND, Directed by Margaret Rose and Mick Robertson (Canada)

FAVOURITES, Directed by Nick Russell (Australia)

THE FINAL COPY OF ILON SPECHT, Directed by Ben Proudfoot (United States)

GORGEOUS, Directed by Morgan Gould (United States)
GRENFELL ADRIFT ON AN ICEBERG, Directed by John Hollands (Canada)
GUTS, Directed by Margaux Susi (United States)
THE HALFWAY BETWEEN ALL THIS, Directed by Heather Greer and Alison Cornyn (United States)
INKWO - FOR WHEN THE STARVING RETURN, Directed by Amanda Strong (Canada)
LEARNING ENGLISH, Directed by Jean Liu (United States)
MARION, Directed by Joe Weiland and Finn Constantine (United Kingdom)
MEAL TICKET, Directed by Wes Andre Goodrich (United States)
MAYBE ELEPHANTS, Directed by Torill Kove (Canada)
MUNA, Directed by Warda Mohamed (United Kingdom)
MY TOMATO HEART, Directed by Benoît Le Rouzès Ménard (Canada)
NAUALLI, Directed by Adrian Gonzalez de la Pena (Canada)
THE NIGHT PRACTICE, Directed by Bogdan Alecsandru (Romania)
ODEON, Directed by Meghann Michalsky (Canada)
ONE HAPPY CUSTOMER, Directed by Watts (United States)
A PERFECT DAY: SEVEN SCENES AND OTHERS, Directed by Takashi Yoneoka (Japan)
PERIOD PARTY, Directed by Georgia Brogan (Australia)
PUNTA SALINAS, Directed by Maria del Mar Rosario (Puerto Rico)
THE ROBBERS, Directed by Isa Schieche (Austria)
THE SCHOOL OF CANINE MASSAGE, Directed by Emma D. Miller (United States)
SETTLER, Directed by Trevor Solway (Canada)
SOME KIND OF PARADISE, Directed by Nicholas Finegan (United States)
THE SWEATER, Directed by Maziyar Khatam (Canada)
TENNIS, ORANGES, Directed by Sean Pecknold (United States)
THORN, Directed by Yuqi Kang (Canada)
TO END ALL SPELLS, Directed by Nana Kwabena and Zak Cedarholm (United States)
À TOI LES OREILLES, Directed by Alexandre Isabelle (Canada)
TOXIC, Directed by Saulė Bliuvaitė (Lithuania)
THE TURNAROUND, Directed by Ben Proudfoot and Kyle Thrash (United States)
WORKS OF MERCY, Directed by Alex Yarber (United States)
YEAH THE BOYS, Directed by Stefan Hunt (Australia)

For more information, please visit [CIFFcalgary.ca](https://ciffcalgary.ca) **Single tickets will be on sale September 5, 2024.**

Media Access to film photos and 25th Anniversary CIFF logos [HERE](#).

MEDIA ACCREDITATION is now open until September 2nd and includes access to Industry Week panels and events. Apply here: <https://vp.eventival.com/ciffcalgary/2024>

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CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival

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ciffcalgary.ca | @CIFFcalgary

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About the Calgary International Film Festival

Founded in 2000, the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that brings films and filmmakers from around the world to Calgary for its annual Fall festival and year-round programming. CIFF is now the largest event of its kind in Alberta and the sixth-largest film festival in Canada, bringing audiences together for remarkable and engaging cinematic experiences. CIFF is proud to present its 25th Anniversary festival from September 19 – September 29, 2024 with in-cinema screenings, celebrating stand-out stories and offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

CIFF Thanks their Presenting Partner



CIFF Thanks their 2024 Public Funders

