



INSIDE OUT 2SLGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SHORT FILM LINEUP FOR 33rd EDITION

Festivals Materials (Stills, Photos):

TORONTO, ON (May 5, 2023) - The 33rd annual Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival, which proudly champions innovative 2SLGBTQ+ filmmakers from across the globe, has revealed its full short film lineup. Inside Out will take place both in-person in Toronto at the TIFF Bell Lightbox and online from May 25th to June 4th. The announcement was made today by Inside Out's Co-Head & Executive Director, Elie Chivi, and Co-Head & Artistic Director, Andrew Murphy.

Individual tickets for digital screenings, ticket packages, and all-access passes are on sale as of today at insideout.ca.

The 2023 short film selections are as follows:

SHORTS PROGRAM: LOCAL HEROES

ADORE, directed by Beth Warrian (Canada)

Luci, a queer Peruvian Canadian woman, gives her beloved nephew the Christmas gift of his dreams: a beautiful sequined dress.

A LETTER TO MY MOTHER, directed by Raghd Charabaty (Canada)

A filmmaker reflects on their repressed childhood in Lebanon, femme queerness, and their unstable relationship with a parent who is also a conversion therapist.

COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE, directed by Isak Vaillancourt (Canada)

Told from the perspectives of 2SLGBTQ+ Afro-Indigenous leaders and activists, this short documentary reimagines new possibilities in the relationship between Blackness and Indigeneity, which is rooted in solidarity and joy.

INSTA GAY, directed by Simon Paluck (Canada)

A millennial Torontonion is left reeling after breaking-up with a popular gay influencer.

LALA GOTHICFISH, directed by Angelina Nayyar (Canada)

Set against the backdrop of a city undergoing rapid gentrification, a Toronto teenager struggles to save a youth rave scene plagued by substance use and over-policing.

SEPTEMBER 10th, directed by Tasneem Nanji (Canada)

Two queer Muslim Women, one in Toronto and one in New York, navigate love, family, and connection the night before 9/11.

SHEDDING, directed by Tziara Reyes (Canada)

This short documentary follows an individual's journey of shaving their head for the first time; exploring the complex relationship between hair and identity.

THRIVING: A DISSOCIATED REVERIE, directed by Nicole Bazuin (Canada)

A surrealist exploration of dissociative identity disorder (DID) based on the lived experience of a Black, nonbinary, disabled artist and former sex worker.

SHORTS PROGRAM: STORIES WE TELL

13 EGGS, directed by TJ Cuthand (Canada)

Over a four-year period, filmmaker TJ Cuthand collects footage capturing his experience of trying to make a baby.

MAGIC IN PLAIN SIGHT, directed by Paige Gratland (Canada)

A portrait of self-taught seamstress Brenna Bezanson, a change-maker whose creations of custom women's clothing challenge capitalist and patriarchal ideals.

ONCE IN A RED MOON, directed by Yi Shi (Canada)

As the Mid-Autumn Festival approaches, a lonesome young Chinese immigrant finds comfort in a whirlwind romance with a mysterious hometown queer crush.

PLANT DADDY, directed by James Cooper (Canada)

After rescuing an abandoned potted plant, Phil spirals into an absurd plant obsession to avoid visiting his father on his deathbed.

SKILL (Kalā), directed by Arshad Khan (Canada)

A South Asian mother finds herself immersed in a profound state of mourning after discovering that her beloved son is gay.

TABANCA, directed by Lauren Marsden (Canada)

Marlinn is a genderqueer Trinidadian woman suffering through a wet Vancouver winter and missing Carnival season back home, that is until they discover the power of masquerade is within them.

THE LEFT HAND (LA MAIN GAUCHE), directed by Maxime Robin (Canada)

Young Maxime's mother starts worrying about him when his 2nd grade teacher declares him "abnormal."

THE YEAR LONG BOULDER, directed by Brielle LeBlanc (Canada)

Crushed by unrequited love, a young queer poet finally reckons with their own emotional baggage – make that a boulder.

SHORTS PROGRAM: BOLD

CATCHING SPIRITS, directed by Vanessa Beletic (USA)

Destiny has been told since childhood she has seizures when she dances. When she's challenged to face her fear and dance, Destiny makes a decision that could reveal a secret she doesn't yet understand.

CODE SWITCH, directed by Davis Alexander James, Mx. Roti (USA)

Code Switch follows a Black trans person as they navigate the barbershop, illuminating the complexity and dynamism of gender expression.

FINDING THE LIGHT, directed by Brandon Haynes (USA)

The story of Donna Hylton and her project 'A Little Piece of Light,' a nonprofit focused on supporting black women and LGBTQ+ individuals in the prison system.

HOUSE OF TULIP, directed by Cydney Tucker (USA)

House of Tulip follows two Black trans activists as they run for office and work to build Louisiana's first housing refuge for trans and gender non-conforming residents.

SCARING WOMEN AT NIGHT, directed by Karimah Zakia Issa (Canada)

Two strangers are scared on a late walk home. As they try to escape one another, their worlds collide at an intersection, forcing them to question who they're afraid of and why.

UNLESS WE DANCE, directed by Hanz Rippe Gabriele, Fernanda Pineda Palencia (Colombia)

A portrait of dance as the greatest expression of shielding the Afro community in Quibdó. A tribute to their act of resilience and to all the lives that have been lost along the way.

SHORTS PROGRAM: CENTER STAGE

BETTER AT TEXTING, directed by Mary Galloway (Canada)

Trinity – a radical, Indigenous, feminist – and Addison – a devout, Black Mormon – are forced to work together on a school project and discover they have more in common than they thought.

CRUSHED, directed by Ella Rocca (Switzerland)

Dealing with their own obsessive crushes, Ella Rocca researches what to do about it.

EL DANCE OFF, directed by Nicolás Keller Sarmiento (Argentina)

By a gas station in rural Argentina, a broken-hearted drag queen helps young Ernesto find the courage to follow his dreams.

EVAN EVER AFTER, directed by Ariel Mahler, Radha Mehta (USA)

This short documentary explores the journey of Florida's first transgender Homecoming Queen, Evan Bialosuknia.

FURSONA, directed by Aly Labbé-Hervieux (Canada)

Fursona is an incursion into the universe of Aly, a member of the Furry community.

GORDITX, directed by Malik Ever (USA)

With her summer camp golf tournament looming, outcast Ursula hopes to win and prove her worth with the help of Chef Cormac, the transmasculine former ladies golf pro.

TO ALL THAT WE ARE, directed by Kristian Cahatol (Canada)

Two non-binary young adults embark on a dream-like journey of self-discovery and acceptance as they navigate the complexities of love and identity.

WHEREVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER I AM, directed by Kay Chan (Canada)

A pair of Two-Spirit Métis-Chinese youth soften a deer hide together, revealing a story about belonging and honouring your full self and ancestry, no matter where you are.

WORD BY WORD, directed by Lourdes Miere (Canada)

Word by Word is a short documentary following the creative journey of Robyn Sidhu, a spoken word poet.

SHORTS PROGRAM: CLOSER TO FINE

BUTCH UP!, directed by Yu-jin Lee (South Korea)

After a breakup, Mi-hae, the lead singer of an indie band, cannot bring herself to sing the band's most popular song, "Oppa's Girl."

FUNNY FACE, directed by Jude Hope Harris (USA/)

When country singer Randy travels to take care of his sister Sophie, who is recovering from facial feminization surgery, he meets her girlfriend Morgan for the first time.

I AM HOME, directed by Kymon Greyhorse (USA)

As time goes on and the world around us shifts, we adapt and change. Although we might look different, deep down we are still the same. We are made from Mother Earth – mud, wood, love, and patience.

HOUSE OF WHORESHIP, directed by Holly Laura Bates (Australia)

When Violet, a suburban brothel worker returns to work after enduring a breakup, she is confronted by her recent ex-girlfriend hustling the same shift.

SOAP, directed by Lulu Wei (Canada)

Inspired by past heartbreaks and present friendship, this short find two queer best friends going on a romantic getaway after being dumped.

TRANSENDERS, directed by Diane Russo Cheng (USA)

An intimate look into the nonprofit skateboarding organization Skate Like A Girl, as seen through the eyes of Alexa, a trans woman skateboarder and mentor.

YA BENTI, directed by Anissa Allali (France)

Sabrina is about to marry Younes, a wedding that's everything for her mother and grandmother. But the day before the ceremony, Sabrina steps back.

SHORTS PROGRAM: JOKING

DILATING FOR MAXIMUM RESULTS, directed by Nyala Moon (USA)

A whack, irreverent comedy about a Black trans woman who tries to dilate, after four years of not dilating, to hook-up IRL with her online boyfriend.

GIANNA, directed by Kait Schuster (USA)

Gina, a Filipina Gemini who is just doing her best, takes the advice of her sliding scale therapist to spend a day with her inner saboteur. Enter Gianna.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE BAY, directed by Judith Kanatahawi Schuyler (Canada)

After a year living in a very straight New Zealand beach town, First Nations lesbian Tallulah

can stand it no longer – she's going back to Toronto where the rainbows fly. Or is she?

REJOICE IN THE LAMB, directed by Will Carington, Courtney Bush, Jake Goicoechea (USA)

A late-night conversation with an oracle launches a young Brooklyn woman on a quest to slay a vampire.

SAY UNCLE, directed by James Cooper (Canada)

After being estranged for almost a decade, former best friends Jake and Drew reunite so Drew can ask Jake the age-old queer question...can I have your sperm to make a baby?

TESTING, directed by Andy Reid (Canada)

When a young gay man suspects he has an STI, he goes in for testing and discovers the older man he recently slept with is a doctor at the clinic.

TROY, directed by Mike Donahue (USA)

Troy has loud sex. Troy has loud sex 24/7. Troy shares a wall with Thea and Charlie. Troy is ruining their lives...or is he saving them?

SHORTS PROGRAM: LET IT BE ME

BEAR (NALLE), directed by Jimi Vall Peterson (Sweden)

When the inexperienced, 24-year-old Elias is reunited with his cuddly, talking childhood teddy bear, a passionate relationship is re-awakened.

FARLAQUES, directed by Julien Cadieux (Canada)

An Acadian country road and beautiful beach attract more than just tourists.

HE WATCHES, directed by Joshua Conkel (United States)

Tom has his boyfriend Mikey move in and what initially seems like domestic bliss gives way to creeping dread as a malevolent spirit makes itself known.

KRUSH THE WRESTLER, directed by Alex Megaro (United States)

Exploring the innate intimacy of submission wrestling, a lifelong wrestler turns his talents into an on-demand fetish video service.

NOTHING SPECIAL, directed by Mikko Mäkelä (UK/Finland)

A filmmaker's and a moviegoer's ideas of cinematic romance are put to the test during a one-night stand that turns emotional.

PIPES, directed by: Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, Sujanth Ravichandran (Switzerland)

Bob the plumber is hired to fix a broken pipe and to his surprise finds himself inside a gay fetish club.

SAFE WORD, directed by Christopher Cunetto (United States)

Cesar, an emotionally stunted masochist, must confront his self-loathing after his dom, Bear, reinterprets the rules of their game.

STATE OF MIND, directed by Donald C. Shorter Jr. (United States)

State of Mind highlights the intimacy and beauty found through the experience of power exchange in BDSM/leather/fetish/kink.

SHORTS PROGRAM: SOMETHING REAL

9th FLOOR TO THE RIGHT, directed by Andrea Romano (France)

Lorenzo prepares to receive Marvin for the first time but when he shows up at his door with a guest, Lorenzo doesn't dare say no.

AN EIGHTH OF HIM, directed by Levi Eddie Aluede (UK)

Stoic drug dealer Kadell begins spending more time with one of his new buyers, leading to self-reflection as they form a deep and unexpected bond.

CHRISTOPHER AT SEA, directed by Tom CJ Brown (France)

After checking in as a passenger onboard a cargo ship, Christopher begins to question his sanity and his perception of time.

I GET SO SAD SOMETIMES, directed by Trishtan Tala Perez (Philippines)

In the town of Pagadian, a gay teenager eagerly waits for a mature man to reveal his face after developing an anonymous sexual relationship with him online.

THE DALLES, directed by Angalis Field (USA)

When a handsome cyclist passes through and asks for directions to a local cruising site, Cam takes it as an invitation to follow him.

WILL YOU LOOK AT ME, directed by Shuli Huang (China)

A young Chinese filmmaker returns to his hometown and engages in an overdue conversation with his mother, leading them on a quest for acceptance and love.

YOU CAN STAY OVER (IF YOU WANT), directed by Zach Siegel (USA)

After a hookup, John and Alex test the limits of what's TMI.

SHORTS PROGRAM: SORROW AND JOY

APAYAUQ, directed by Zeppelin Zeerip (United States)

Apayauq Reitan's journey to become the first out transgender woman to complete the legendary Iditarod sled dog race.

AS YOU ARE, directed by Daisy Friedman (USA)

When an interabled queer couple spends the night together for the first time, they must confront their complex relationships with desire, sexuality, and bodily autonomy.

ESPERANZA, directed by Shruti Parekh (USA)

When an immigrant taxi driver in upstate New York takes an undocumented couple to the Canadian border, they find themselves at odds.

IT'S A DATE, directed by Nadia Parfan (Ukraine)

A car races at breakneck speed through Kyiv at dawn. This contemporary remake of the French short film C'était un rendez-vous captures the heightened emotions caused by the war.

MY FIERCE AUNT BIANCA, directed by María José Maldonado (USA)

While planning a birthday party for her late aunt Bianca, María José Maldonado revisits the past in order to celebrate and correct Bianca's legacy.

UNTITLED MOVIE, directed by Annie Brennen (USA)

Zoe is making a movie about a woman who is making a movie. In it, her character must kiss a woman.

YOUNG MOM, directed by Cecilia Delgado (Brazil)

A young Latinx woman kidnaps the child she nannies to satisfy her girlfriend's desire to start a family.

SHORTS PROGRAM: THRIVE

ALWAYS, ASIFA, directed by Shiva Raichandani (UK)

As Asifa prepares to finally undergo gender affirmation surgery, the disabled trans activist – who is also Britain's first out Muslim drag queen – reflects on her life.

BIGGER ON THE INSIDE, directed by Angelo Madsen Minax (USA)

Through snowy stargazing, flirting with guys on dating apps, taking ketamine (or not), and watching YouTube lecture videos, outer and inner space collapse.

CUPID INTO TRANSMUTATION, directed by Spndex (Netherlands)

Caesar, a trans camboy on the run from his traumatic past, is shocked when his body starts to violently morph and transform beyond all recognition.

GOLDEN VOICE, directed by Mars Verrone (USA)

Forty years after the Khmer Rouge regime, a transgender man returns to the village where he survived the genocide.

GORDITX, directed by Malik Ever (USA)

With her summer camp golf tournament looming, outcast Ursula hopes to win and prove her worth with the help of Chef Cormac, the transmasculine former ladies golf pro.

HERE, HOPEFULLY, directed by Hao Zhou (United States)

Zee, a nonbinary aspiring nurse from China, strives to build a gender-affirming life in rural Iowa.

VIRTUAL GIRL, directed by Connie Glachan (Canada)

Aqua Venus provides a personalised fever dream to help YOU discover what being a woman means!

YES, GODDESS, directed by Randa Jarrar (USA)

A group of queer femmes and their lovers gather at a kink party for the first time since 2019.

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About Inside Out:

Inside Out is Canada's largest 2SLGBTQ+ film festival and the single largest promoter and distributor of 2SLGBTQ+ content in Canada. Founded in 1991, Inside Out is committed to representing the interests of 2SLGBTQ+ voices within the Canadian film industry. We are dedicated to developing, presenting, and promoting 2SLGBTQ+ content that showcases and supports the broad diversity of voices and identities within our communities, and ensuring that authentic and positive representation of 2SLGBTQ+ people is central in that content.

Annually, Inside Out presents the 11-day Toronto LGBT Film Festival (Toronto's third largest festival after TIFF and Hot Docs), a 4-day festival in Ottawa, a year-round screening and event series at the TIFF Bell Lightbox, and innovative professional development initiatives including the world's only 2SLGBTQ+ Feature Film Financing Forum.

Our current high-level partners include RBC Royal Bank (Lead Sponsor), Netflix (Presenting Sponsor), and Crave (Premier Sponsor). Our key government partners include the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Arts Council. Our Industry Partners include Telefilm, Ontario Creates, CMPA, ACTRA, William F. White International, Entertainment Partners Canada, Final Draft, and The Black List. Inside Out is a Canadian Academy qualifying festival and a partner festival of Telefilm's Talent to Watch program.

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