



**Media Release // For Immediate Release
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FIRST WAVE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 24th CALGARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL!

**Alberta Spotlight and Music on Screen selections
and the return of Chad VanGalen**

Calgary, AB - Celebrating local film talent has been a top priority for the Calgary International Film Festival, and that support will continue at the 2023 festival from **September 21 - October 1, 2023** with the Alberta Spotlight films that include narrative and documentary features. CIFF is also excited to announce another popular section, Music on Screen, and the return of Calgary musician Chad VanGalen, performing a live score to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME**.

"This year's spotlight of Alberta content showcases one of the most diverse programs we have yet to display for what our locals are creating. We have a variety of World premieres from several first time feature directors, whose previous experiences lie in shorts or acting, and who are now making a shift into directing," said Brenda Lieberman, CIFF Lead Programmer.

"We are also showcasing a variety of formats and genres, from documentary to dance, indigenous stories, web series, horror, thrillers, and a local period piece. All of these films showcase the talent and creativity of our local industry in varying levels of their careers, which is really exciting."

ALBERTA SPOTLIGHT // FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES

AITAMAAKO'TAMISSKAPI NATOSI: BEFORE THE SUN, Directed by Banchi Hanuse (Canada)

A portrait of a young Siksika woman as she prepares for one of the most dangerous horse races in the world. *Alberta Premiere*.

DROP, Directed by Ramin Eshraghi-Yazdi (Canada)

Aging out of his art form, a contemporary dancer with a shady past is forced to deal with an unknown future. *World Premiere*. <https://www.nurfilms.ca/drop>

FAULTLINE, Directed by Anna Cooley (Canada)

Two sisters' lives are shattered when their mother's troubled life leads her to perpetrate a murder before killing herself. Twenty years later, they forge a dangerous path to expose the truth. *World Premiere.*

HAILEY ROSE, Directed by Sandi Somers (Canada)

A newly-unemployed twentysomething is at a personal crossroads when her sister calls with news compelling her to return to their east coast hometown – only to discover a stunning surprise. *Alberta Premiere.*

THE LEBANESE BURGER MAFIA, Directed by Omar Mouallem (Canada)

The meaty saga of a rogue fast-food chain with mysterious origins, a cult following, and a secret pathway to the immigrant dream. *Calgary Premiere.* <https://burgerbaronmovie.com/>

ROMI, Directed by Robert Cuffley (Canada)

Forced to hide out at a state-of-the-art smart home, a young woman on the run is terrorized by ROMI, its sinister digital assistant. *Alberta Premiere.*

TALES FROM THE REZ, Directed by Trevor Solway and Colin Ahnahktsipiitaa Van Loon (Canada)

This local, six-part, horror-comedy anthology web series, creatively adapts popular Blackfoot traditional tales and twisted indigenous urban legends for the screen. *World Premiere.* <https://www.blackfootnationfilms.com/>

THE TIES THAT BIND, Directed by James Reckseidler (Canada)

Blackmailed and trying to avoid a political scandal, a rising star of the 1930s Aberhart government unexpectedly returns home to small-town Alberta to get the money he needs. *World Premiere.* <https://reckseidlerfilms.com/>

WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND, Directed by Sylvester Ndumbi (Canada)

Can we address the climate crisis without leaving anyone behind? *World Premiere.* <http://www.energytransitiondocumentary.com>

MUSIC ON SCREEN

From an exploration of legendary singer and activist Joan Baez, to addressing music censorship, CIFF has curated another exciting batch of Music on Screen titles.

"I'm incredibly excited for audiences to experience this year's Music on Screen series. With films that shed new light on some of our most iconic artists, as well as a number of extraordinarily powerful films exploring the intersection between artistry

and activism, CIFF audiences are in for a powerhouse lineup of films that will provoke, enlighten, inspire, and engage viewers of all ages," said Guy Lavallee, CIFF's Features Programmer.

COVER YOUR EARS, Directed by Sean Patrick Shaul (Canada)

A fascinating - and wildly entertaining - dissection of the history of music censorship. *Calgary Premiere*. <https://www.instagram.com/prairiecoast/>

IMMEDIATE FAMILY, Directed by Denny Tedesco (United States)

The true story of a group of close friends who became the studio band to the biggest stars of the 1970s and beyond, changing the course of musical history. *Calgary Premiere*.

JOAN BAEZ: I AM A NOISE, Directed by Miri Navasky, Maeve O'Boyle, Karen O'Connor (United States)

At the end of a storied career, Joan Baez takes an honest look back and a deep look inward as she tries to make sense of her expansive, history-making life. *Alberta Premiere*.

KISS THE FUTURE, Directed by Nenad Cicin-Sain (United States/Ireland)

Exploring music's role as a weapon of resistance, KISS THE FUTURE follows an underground community that continued working, creating, and thriving throughout the Siege of Sarajevo. *Canadian Premiere*.

PATRIA Y VIDA: THE POWER OF MUSIC, Directed by Beatriz Luengo (United States)

In an inspiring story about the value of music as a social transformer, six Cuban Afro-descendant rappers spark a lyrical battle for human rights through their song "Patria y Vida." *Canadian Premiere*.

THE STONES AND BRIAN JONES, Directed by Nick Broomfield (United Kingdom)

Examines the musical creativity of Brian Jones, the secret to the Rolling Stones' success, through candid interviews with all the essential performers and previously unreleased archives. *Alberta Premiere*.

HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

with Live Score by Chad VanGalen (performing as Black Mold)

Wednesday September 27 at 7 p.m. // Knox United Church

Tickets on sale now! <https://ciff2023.eventive.org/welcome>

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Wallace Worsley's 1923 adaptation of Victor Hugo's THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, CIFF joins forces with Calgary's own Chad VanGalen (performing as Black Mold) to bring his unique sound and live score to the site-appropriate chapel at Knox United Church. Whether you've watched this

silent film classic dozens of times, or this is your first time, no one has seen (or heard) THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME quite like this.

Ticket Bundles are on sale now: <https://ciff2023.eventive.org/passes/buy>

Stay tuned for Cliff's Full Festival Lineup Announcement on August 30, 2023. Single tickets will be on sale September 7: <https://ciff2023.eventive.org/welcome>

For more information, please visit <https://www.ciffcalgary.ca/>

-30-

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CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival

September 21 - October 1, 2023

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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 festival from September 21 - October 1, 2023 with in-cinema screenings, celebrating stand-out stories and offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Media Accreditation is now open and includes access to Industry Week panels and events. Apply here: <https://vp.eventival.com/ciffcalgary/2023>

CIFF Thanks their Presenting Partner



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