



THE NFB IN LIBRARIES 2023-2024 PROGRAM

FILM SUGGESTIONS FOR THE YEAR!

CONTACT

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THE NFB IN LIBRARIES

You can bring the latest NFB films to your patrons by selecting handpicked titles curated around a wide variety of themes. You'll find programming suggestions in our newsletters (the one for National Indigenous History Month, for example) and in our annual program (which you're reading right now).

Joining THE NFB IN LIBRARIES is free.

You can subscribe to our newsletters:

[THE NFB IN LIBRARIES newsletter](#) / [L'infolettre ONF EN BIBLIO](#).

TO ORGANIZE A SCREENING

To organize a screening, choose one or more titles, then send your selection(s) by email to libraries@nfb.ca. You'll receive an MP4 file or a DVD (upon request), as well as promotional materials (upon request). If you have questions or would like to discuss your upcoming events, contact us: libraries@nfb.ca.

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 (MP4) 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

FV	French version
EV	English version
OFV	Original French version
OEV	Original English version
EST	English subtitles
LS	Languages spoken

QUICK LINKS

[LIBRARIES / ARCHIVES](#)

[END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE](#)

[MUSIC / TRADITION](#)

[HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH](#)

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[ETHICS / LIFE / RELIGION](#)

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[WILDLIFE / NATURE](#)

[NATURE AND FAMILY](#)

5 TO 9 YEARS OLD (50 MIN)

[ANIMALS WITH STORIES](#)

10+ YEARS OLD (60 MIN)



Tap the titles or the images
on the description pages
to view the film trailers online!



BEYOND PAPER (Available starting October 2023 for Canadian Library Month)

OANA SUTU KHINTIRIAN | 2022 | 130 MIN | OFV, EST
LS: 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.



THE COLOUR OF INK

(Available starting September 2023)

BRIAN D. JOHNSON | 2022 | 110 MIN | OEV, EST
LS: ENGLISH, SPANISH, JAPANESE

The Colour of Ink uncovers the mystery and power of our oldest medium through the eyes of Jason Logan, a Toronto inkmaker. Harvesting colours from the natural world—weeds, berries, bark, flowers, rocks, rust—he makes ink from just about anything.



UNARCHIVED

HAYLEY GRAY, ELAD TZADOK | 2022 | 85 MIN | OEV
LS: ENGLISH

In community archives across BC, local knowledge keepers are hand-fashioning a more inclusive history. Through a collage of personal interviews, archival footage and deeply rooted memories, the past, present and future come together, fighting for a space where everyone is seen and everyone belongs. History is what we all make of it.



TO KILL A TIGER [Available starting September 1, 2023]

NISHA PAHUJA | 2022 | 125 MIN | OEV, EST | LS: HINDI, NAGPURI

In a small village in Jharkhand, India, Ranjit wakes up to find that his 13-year-old daughter has not returned home from a family wedding. She's found stumbling home a few hours later. She was raped by three men, all of whom are known to the family. Ranjit and his wife go to the police, and the men are arrested.

But the family's relief is short-lived when the villagers and their leaders launch a sustained campaign to force Ranjit to drop the

charges. They demand the girl marry one of her rapists—a tried and true community solution.

To Kill a Tiger follows Ranjit's uphill battle to find justice for his child. In India, where a rape is reported every 20 minutes and conviction rates are less than 30 percent, Ranjit's decision to support his daughter is virtually unheard of, and his journey unprecedented.



KOROMOUSSO: BIG SISTER

[Available starting November 25, 2023, for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence]

HABIBATA OUARME, JIM DONOVAN | 2023 | 75 MIN | OFV, EST | LS: FRENCH, ENGLISH

With candor, humour and courage, a group of African-Canadian women challenge cultural taboos surrounding female sexuality and fight to take back ownership of their bodies. Co-director Habibata Ouarme introduces us to some of her radiant, endearing friends who, like herself, come from a culture where female genital mutilation (FGM) is a common practice. By interweaving different personal accounts, *KOROMOUSSO: Big Sister* explores the phenomenon of FGM from the perspective of those who've experienced it. In their

quest for individual and collective healing, the film's main characters support each other in a journey that helps them to overcome the trauma of female genital mutilation and rebuild their self-esteem. With great sensitivity, the film examines the shame felt by women who've been subjected to FGM and now live in Canada, a country largely unresponsive to their experience, because while it has banned the practice, it does not offer the reconstructive surgery that could lead to better sexual health.

END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



INTO THE LIGHT

**GENTILLE M. ASSIH | 2020 | 79 MIN | OFV, EST
LS: FRENCH**

Into the Light features the liberating life stories and powerful words of inspiring Quebec women of African origin who've regained control over their lives after suffering from domestic violence. The film transcends prejudice and breaks the silence while testifying to the tremendous power that comes from overcoming isolation.



WHY? SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND TEENS

**DANIELLE STURK | 2022 | 39 MIN | OFV, EST
LS: FRENCH, ENGLISH**

Danielle Sturk tackles the thorny issue of sexual violence against teens by boldly asking: Why? Young men, witnesses to the prevailing culture, and young women survivors of sexual assault share their personal reflections in the hopes of sparking the dialogue needed to end gender-based violence. Because things only change when people start talking and taking action.



A BETTER MAN

ATTIYA KHAN, LAWRENCE JACKMAN | 2017 | 79 MIN | OEI | LS: ENGLISH

On a hot summer night 22 years ago, 18-year-old Attiya Khan ran through the streets, frightened for her life. She was fleeing her ex-boyfriend Steve, who'd been abusing her on a daily basis.

Now, all these years later, Attiya has asked Steve to meet. She wants to know how he remembers their relationship and if he is willing to take responsibility for his violent actions.

This emotionally raw first meeting, filmed by Attiya with Steve's consent, is the starting point for *A Better Man*.

This film offers a fresh and nuanced look at the healing and revelation that can happen when men take responsibility for their abuse. It also empowers audience members to play new roles in challenging domestic violence. To learn more about *A Better Man* and access additional resources, visit <https://abettermanfilm.com>.



EVER DEADLY

CHELSEA MCMULLAN, TANYA TAGAQ | 2022 | 90 MIN
OEV, EST | LS: ENGLISH, INUKTITUT

Ever Deadly weaves concert footage with stunning sequences filmed on location in Nunavut, seamlessly bridging landscapes, stories and songs with pain, anger and triumph—all through the expressions of Tanya Tagaq, one of the most innovative musical performers of our time.



NALUJUK NIGHT

JENNIE WILLIAMS | 2021 | 13 MIN | OEV, EST
LS: 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 | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

An adventurous young boy and his determined mother share a passion for Inuit drum dancing in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. 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 heartbeat strong.



ZAB MABOUNGOU

CARMINE PIERRE-DUFOUR | 2021 | 5 MIN | OFV, EST
LS: FRENCH

This portrait of choreographer Zab Maboungou provides insight into the meticulous training and physical strength behind one of her pivotal works: *Mozongi*. Artist-choreographer, performer, professor of philosophy and author of *Heya! Poétique, historique et didactique de la danse africaine*, Maboungou has distinguished herself on all artistic and cultural fronts.



FLORENT VOLLANT: I DREAM IN INNU

NICOLAS RENAUD | 2021 | 5 MIN | OFV, EST
LS: INNU, FRENCH

The soul of the Innu language is the land, water and forests of the fast-disappearing caribou. Through his music, Florent Vollant continues to make this language heard around the world.

This film was created in honour of Florent Vollant receiving the 2021 Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement.



THEN SINGS MY SOUL

SUSAN RODGERS | 2021 | 15 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

Prince Edward Island singer and part-time fisherman Chad Matthews is a hardworking father of four and a Stompin' Tom Connors tribute artist. In a rural town where making a living means only earning minimum wage, *Then Sings My Soul* follows Chad as he reaches for a guitar to help ease the pain.



HEARTBEAT OF A NATION

ERIC JANVIER | 2022 | 20 MIN 22 S | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

In the Northern Alberta community of Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation, a father teaches his child how to create a caribou drum. In this short documentary, cultural reclamation and traditional knowledge are celebrated and passed down from one generation to the next, inspiring renewed hope for the future.



SATURDAY NIGHT

ROSANA MATECKI | 2021 | 15 MIN | OFV, EST
LS: SPANISH, A FEW WORDS IN FRENCH

This short documentary essay on solitude offers a poetic and bitter-sweet 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.



KÍMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY

ELLE-MÁIJÁ TAILFEATHERS | 2021 | 124 MIN | OEV | LS: 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; the film 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, *Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy* asks the audience to be a part of this remarkable change with the community.



DEAR AUDREY

JEREMIAH HAYES | 2021 | 89 MIN | OEV, EST | LS: ENGLISH, A FEW WORDS IN FRENCH

Acclaimed activist-filmmaker Martin Duckworth has devoted his life to peace and justice. But now he's put down his camera to fight for the most important cause he's ever faced—caring for his wife, Audrey Schirmer, through the final stages of Alzheimer's disease. Martin tirelessly embraces each new chapter with grace and resilience, demonstrating his unconditional loyalty as he finds new reasons to love her each day.

Dear Audrey weaves an intricate portrait of the couple's gritty yet tender reality and takes us back to their adventures, from the front

lines of the anti-Vietnam War protests to the hippie counterculture movement, using excerpts from Martin's films and Audrey's stunning photography.

The film is a powerful testament to Martin's love and devotion, which deepens over the decades. While Audrey gradually fades away—and their autistic daughter, Jacqueline, struggles with her mother's illness—Martin commits everything he's got to making their lives creative and meaningful.



LOVE, AMMA

PRAJWALA DIXIT | 2022 | 14 MIN | OEV, EST
LS: ENGLISH, KANNADA

Wanting to demonstrate the courage in vulnerability and the strength in speaking one's truth, a young mother, newly diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, writes her daughter a letter to help her navigate an uncertain future. *love, amma* is a courageous and candid attempt to depict mental illness from a new angle.



LOVE, THE LAST CHAPTER

DOMINIQUE KELLER | 2021 | 78 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

Inside a seniors' facility, director Dominique Keller follows three couples as they navigate the complexities of late-in-life relationships. Revealing the importance of intimate connections, this observational film builds fully embodied portraits of each individual in all of their indelible humanity.



UNSPOKEN TEARS (TRAUMA THROUGH WORDS)

HÉLÈNE MAGNY | 2022 | 75 MIN | OFV, EST | LS: FRENCH

Despite their young age, some Quebec schoolchildren 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, which she experienced for 15 years. 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 resilience and survival strategies of these "small adults," whose spirit the bombs and camps have not completely crushed, at a time when it is vital to raise awareness in Western societies of migration-related issues and children's rights.



WAITING FOR RAIF [Available starting September 2023]

LUC CÔTÉ, PATRICIO HENRIQUEZ | 2022 | 150 MIN | OFV, EST | LS: FRENCH, ENGLISH, ARABIC

The Badawi affair has been in the news for a decade, sparking outrage around the world. The young blogger was accused of insulting Islam in writings criticizing the Saudi monarchy. In 2012, Badawi was sentenced by the regime to 10 years in prison and a thousand lashes—a barbaric punishment that provoked an international outcry. Over the course of his sentence, a remarkable campaign for his release sprung up. It was led from abroad by a courageous woman of iron will: his wife, Ensaf Haidar.

By participating in her daily life, the filmmakers captured her hopes and fears, witnessed her highs and lows, and heard about the pain of the present and her dreams for the future. The resulting film bears witness to the deep love between Ensaf and her children, the family's process of gradually laying down roots in Canada—and their regular (and no doubt monitored) calls to Raif.



THEODORE USHEV: UNSEEN CONNECTIONS [Available starting October 2023]

BORISLAV KOLEV | 2022 | 77 MIN | OEV, EST | LS: BULGARIAN, ENGLISH

Theodore Ushev, the auteur behind renowned animated shorts such as *Tower Bawher*, *Gloria Victoria*, Oscar®-nominated *Blind Vaysha* and his masterful *The Physics of Sorrow*, reveals his inner universe, formed by a half-century of personal experience acquired in a constantly changing world.

In this feature documentary by Borislav Kolev, Ushev reminisces about the “unseen connections” in his life—biographical and historical, cultural and subcultural. Connections that shaped him as a person and an artist.

Constantly interlacing a so-called “objective” reality and the parallel reality constructed by Ushev in his films and conceptual visual works, *Theodore Ushev: Unseen Connections* sends viewers on a trip through time and space. They witness a variety of past events, ranging from the funny and the sad to the downright absurd. And they learn much about the artist and his world.



NÎPAWISTAMÂSOWIN: WE WILL STAND UP

TASHA HUBBARD | 2019 | 98 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH,
A FEW WORDS IN CREE

On August 9, 2016, a young Cree man named Colten Boushie died from a gunshot after entering Gerald Stanley's rural property. The jury's subsequent acquittal of Stanley captured international attention, raising questions about racism embedded within Canada's legal system. This sensitively directed film follows Colten's family in their pursuit of justice.



MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN

COURTNEY MONTOUR | 2020 | 34 MIN | OEV
LS: 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.



HONOUR TO SENATOR MURRAY SINCLAIR

ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | 2021 | 29 MIN | OEV
LS: 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.



STORIES ARE IN OUR BONES

JANINE WINDOLPH | 2019 | 11 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

In this layered short film, filmmaker Janine Windolph takes her young sons fishing with their *kokum* (grandmother), a residential school Survivor. The act of reconnecting with their homeland is a cultural and familial healing journey for the boys. It's also a powerful form of resistance for the women.



ANYTHING FOR FAME (Available starting November 2023)

TYLER FUNK | 2022 | 84 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

As the Internet upends traditional notions of celebrity, *Anything for Fame* journeys into the virtual Wild West to profile an ambitious and reckless breed of content creator. Hungry for notoriety, they venture to unprecedented highs—and lows—in pursuit of that white-hot commodity, clout.

Amateur stuntman Peter routinely defies death, leaping between urban rooftops, while self-described “dumb-as-shit” suburban prankster Jake stages hair-raising hijinks inspired by the *Jackass* franchise. And Ava now brands herself “New Jersey Trash,” having

parlayed a toilet seat stunt into a lucrative career producing content on OnlyFans.

Only a few will strike it rich. Most find themselves dodging multiple pitfalls and moral dilemmas as they navigate a ruthless “attention economy” where likes and views become intoxicating currency. Online fame can exact a devastating price. While stars rise with meteoric and disorienting speed, they can plummet just as fast—with heartbreaking results.



LAY DOWN YOUR HEART

MARIE CLEMENTS | 2022 | 70 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

An accomplished artist, a lifelong performer and a person with Down syndrome, Niall McNeil has built a unique family tree of blood and chosen relations made up of his closest friends and collaborators. In *Lay Down Your Heart*, Niall introduces his “family members,” his multiple “children” (some twice his age!), his renowned “ex-wife” and director of the film Marie Clements, and more. Bonded together by their shared creative passion and their relationships with Niall, his family includes some of Canada’s most outstanding theatrical and artistic talent. By exploring his unconventional family histories—

sometimes factual, sometimes infused with fantasy, but always deeply felt—Niall’s limitless imagination drives him toward the heart of human connection.

With help from Niall’s chosen sons and daughters, Niall and Marie explore their shared artistic processes. They dive into Niall’s rich, lifelong creative practice as an actor, playwright, painter and musician, and tackle fundamental questions about creativity.



VOICES ACROSS THE WATER

FRITZ MUELLER, TERESA EARLE | 2022 | 84 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

There is a moment during the construction of a canoe when its true form is revealed. A hull drops into place. The elegant arc of a bow cuts forth. A similar process sometimes occurs in life, when a person finally discovers their true path.

Fritz Mueller and Teresa Earle's feature documentary *Voices Across the Water* follows two master boat builders as they practise their art and find a way back to balance and healing.

For Alaskan Tlingit carver Wayne Price and young apprentice Violet, fashioning a dugout canoe from a single massive red cedar tree is a way to reconnect to the Ancestral Knowledge of Indigenous craftspeople. Francophone artist Halin de Repentigny's handmade birchbark canoes recall the vessels once used by the voyageurs. Connected by their devotion to craft and the critical importance of succession, they carry forward the ancient art of navigating life's unexpected currents.



STAR WARS KID: THE RISE OF THE DIGITAL SHADOWS

MATHIEU FOURNIER | 2022 | 79 MIN | OFV, EST
LS: FRENCH, ENGLISH

In this documentary on the first viral phenomenon of the digital age, Ghyslain Raza (the "Star Wars Kid") breaks his silence and reflects on his story for the first time. In doing so, he explores our collective experience living in an online world where we have to make peace with our digital shadows.



A MOTORCYCLE SAVED MY LIFE

LORI LOZINSKI | 2022 | 12 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

In *A Motorcycle Saved My Life*, the open road presents a point of departure for director Lori Lozinski to process deep-seated grief. Lozinski examines the influence of her parents in the present light of day, in this ode to the complexities of how we sit with our history after loved ones have passed.



THE SECRET ORDER

PHIL COMEAU | 2022 | 84 MIN | OFV, EST | LS: FRENCH

Founded in 1926 to defend the interests of French Canadians, the Ordre de Jacques-Cartier had more than 72,000 members. Over nearly 40 years, this secret society infiltrated the machinery of the state and the private sector, as well as associations and media.

Having learned that his father was a commander in the Order, filmmaker Phil Comeau launches a fascinating investigation into the group, raising the curtain on the shadowy men who belonged to the Order and the causes for which they fought.

In *The Secret Order*, former members of the organization step out of the shadows for the first time, witnesses tell their stories and experts offer context and explanation.

By retracing his own father's secret journey, Phil Comeau shines a spotlight on the Ordre de Jacques-Cartier and paints a gripping portrait of the social and political struggles faced by Canadian francophone-minority communities during the 20th century.



FRENCH ENOUGH

ALEXIS NORMAND | 2022 | 18 MIN | ORIGINAL BILINGUAL VERSION, EST | LS: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Renowned singer-songwriter Alexis Normand's debut documentary brings audiences to her family's cabin at Wakaw Lake, Saskatchewan, where swimming and sandcastles provide a backdrop to candid conversations about francophone belonging on the Prairies.

With the loving support of their anglophone mother and assimilated father of French descent, Alexis and her siblings were among the first generation of students to attend the minority-language

Fransaskois school system in Saskatoon. But living between two languages is not easy. From the conjugation of verbs to more personal insecurities around identity and culture, each member of the family has faced different challenges. Emotions are laid heartbreakingly bare as they share their stories about the expectations of the francophones around them and the reality of their bilingualism. Weaving old home movies with current conversations, *French Enough* illuminates the struggle and triumph of reclaiming francophone Canadian identity.



IN FULL VOICE

SAÏDA OUCHAOU-OZAROWSKI | 2021 | 52 MIN | OFV, EST | LS: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Trapped in a straightjacket of misconceptions about them created by headlines and stories in the news, Muslim women are often seen as disruptive, scheming 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.



JOHN WARE RECLAIMED

CHERYL FOGGO | 2020 | 72 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

John Ware Reclaimed follows Cheryl Foggo on her quest to re-examine the mythology surrounding John Ware, the Black cowboy who settled in Alberta 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.



INCONVENIENT INDIAN

2020 | 90 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH, INUKTITUT, CREE, ANISHINAABEMOWIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In this time of radical change and essential re-examination, *Inconvenient Indian* brings to life Thomas King's brilliant dismantling of North America's colonial narrative, reframing this history with the powerful voices of those continuing the tradition of Indigenous resistance.

A crucial part of the conversation between Indigenous Peoples and those of us who have settled, uninvited, on these lands.



THE MAGNITUDE OF ALL THINGS

JENNIFER ABBOTT | 2020 | 86 MIN | OEV | LS: 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."



STATELESS

MICHÈLE STEPHENSON | 2020 | 95 MIN | OEV, EST
LS: SPANISH, HAITIAN CREOLE

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. Through the grassroots campaign of electoral hopeful Rosa Iris, this doc reveals the depths of racial hatred and institutionalized oppression that divide Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

SOVEREIGN SOIL

DAVID CURTIS | 2019 | 90 MIN | OEV | LS: 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.



INTO LIGHT

**SHEONA MCDONALD | 2021 | 19 MIN | OEV
LS: 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.



SOMEONE LIKE ME

**SEAN HORLOR, STEVE J. ADAMS | 2021 | 80 MIN | OEV
LS: ENGLISH**

Someone Like Me follows the parallel journeys of Drake, a gay asylum seeker from Uganda, and a group of strangers from Vancouver's queer community who are tasked with supporting his resettlement in Canada. Together, they embark on a year-long quest for personal freedom.



WOMAN DRESS

THIRZA CUTHAND | 2019 | 6 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

A Two Spirit person named Woman Dress travels the Plains, gathering and sharing stories. Featuring archival images and dramatized re-enactments, this film shares a Cuthand family oral story, honouring and respecting Woman Dress without imposing colonial binaries on them.



UNARCHIVED

**HAYLEY GRAY, ELAD TZADOK | 2022 | 85 MIN | OEV
LS: ENGLISH**

In community archives across British Columbia, local knowledge keepers are hand-fashioning a more inclusive history. Through a collage of personal interviews, archival footage and deeply rooted memories, the past, present and future come together, fighting for a space where everyone is seen and everyone belongs. History is what we all make of it.



UNDERTAKER FOR LIFE!

GEORGES HANNAN | 2022 | 52 MIN | OFV, EST | LS: FRENCH, ENGLISH

Despite their somewhat frightening job title, undertakers are actually charming philosophers and keen observers of life. We only see their sombre side, but away from the funeral rites and on camera, they turn out to be amazingly insightful. Their love of life and the living, their dark humour and comforting wisdom are the best remedies against existential despair.

In *Undertaker for Life!*, Georges Hannan tackles a taboo subject and lifts the veil on an under-appreciated world: that of the artisans of bereavement. By providing behind-the-scenes access to the funeral industry, he demystifies a profession we tend to view as grim. But undertakers are anything but gloomy; they're funny, generous and dedicated. We would gladly go on vacation with them, but sadly, they never seem to have any dead time. Subtle, moving and often hilarious, *Undertaker for Life!* shows us the flip side of death.



THE PERFECT STORY

MICHELLE SHEPHARD | 2022 | 73 MIN | OEV, EST | LS: ENGLISH, SOMALI, NORWEGIAN

The Perfect Story is a heart-wrenching and provocative look at journalism, belonging, the stories we tell, and who gets to tell them. The film follows the decade-long relationship between Canadian journalist Michelle Shephard and Ismael Abdulle, a young Somali refugee who had his hand and foot cut off by the terrorist group al-Shabab.

Their story begins in 2010, when they met during one of Michelle's reporting trips to Mogadishu. Her articles about Ismael sparked

a movement within the Somali diaspora that helped him escape Mogadishu and find refuge in Harstad, Norway. For nearly a decade, Ismael embraced his new home, learning to speak Norwegian fluently and attempting to adapt to his new country. When Ismael goes back to Mogadishu, an unexpected turn of events forces Michelle to defy one of journalism's golden rules—"report the story, don't become part of it"—and makes her question her role as a storyteller.



THE SILENCE

RENÉE BLANCHAR | 2020 | 108 MIN | OFV, EST | LS: 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 popula-

tion 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.



PERFECTING THE ART OF LONGING

KITRA CAHANA | 2021 | 12 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

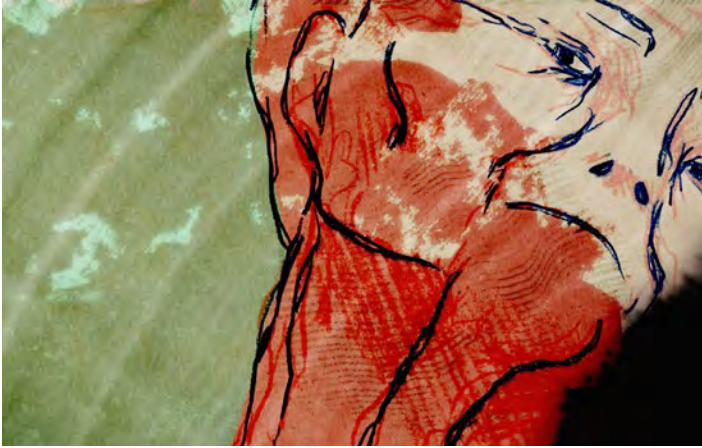
Cut off from his loved ones due to the pandemic lockdown, a quadriplegic rabbi in a long-term-care facility is filmed remotely by his daughter. Offering powerful meditations on love and hope, *Perfecting the Art of Longing* shows us what it means to be alive in a state of profound isolation.



MENEATH: THE HIDDEN ISLAND OF ETHICS

TERRIL CALDER | 2021 | 19 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

Brought to unflinching life by Terril Calder's darkly beautiful stop-motion animation, *Meneath: The Hidden Island of Ethics* dives deeply into the innate contrast between the Seven Deadly Sins (Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Pride and Envy) and the Seven Sacred Teachings (Love, Respect, Wisdom, Courage, Truth, Honesty and Humility), as embodied in the life of a precocious little girl. *Meneath* (“island” in Anishinaabemowin) speaks to her journey but also leaves room for others to reflect on their own journey. As a broader allegory, it offers an alternate lens that illuminates the bias of colonial systems.



APHASIA (Available starting January 2024)

MARIELLE DALPÉ | 2023 | 3 MIN 45 S | EV | LS: ENGLISH

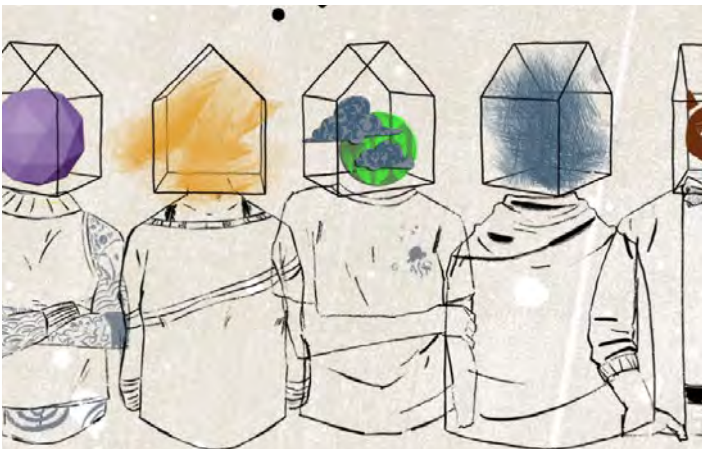
Both striking and unsettling, *Aphasia* is a deeply moving foray into the heart of a devastating neurocognitive condition, one that progressively destroys the ability to speak and understand words, afflicting many people who have Alzheimer's disease. A poetic tour-de-force with universal resonance, *Aphasia* encourages both individual and collective reflection.



THE FLYING SAILOR

WENDY TILBY, AMANDA FORBIS | 2022 | 7 MIN 45 S
WITHOUT WORDS

Two ships collide in a harbour, an explosion shatters a city, and a sailor is blasted skyward. With ears ringing and guts heaving, he soars high above the mayhem and towards the great unknown. This bold blend of comedy, suspense and philosophy offers an exhilarating contemplation of the wonder and fragility of existence.



HOTHOUSE 13

LOUIS BODART, LUKAS CONWAY AND NONCEDO
KHUMALO FROM MONTREAL | GRACE AN AND TARUN
PADMAKUMAR FROM TORONTO | KARLA MONTERROSA
FROM VANCOUVER | 2022 | 6 FILMS X 1 MIN

The Hothouse theme for this edition was "100," which filmmakers were free to use as a quantifying descriptor, a playful graphic element, a musical guide or just a creative jumping-off point. In their shorts, the young animators have channeled this theme in ways that reflect their own richly diverse backgrounds.



FLOWING HOME

SANDRA DESMAZIÈRES | 2021 | 15 MIN | OEV
LS: ENGLISH

Two sisters grow up in Vietnam and are separated by the war between North and South. Their separation will last nearly 20 years, and the letters they exchange are their only way to connect. Thao and Sao Mai write about their everyday lives, their memories, the war and its ghosts.



ALAMBIC

An initiative of the NFB's French Animation Studio, the *Alambic* collection features very short films by emerging directors. As part of an experimental creative lab, creators draw on their own imaginations and the group's collective energy to craft unique stories in the space of a few months.



SOLID GROUND

BEATRIZ CARVALHO | 2022 | 2 MIN 50 S | EV
LS: ENGLISH

Solid Ground is a poetic and sound-rich travelogue—a personal journal that reveals the thoughts of an expatriate returning to her native land. Employing the rarely used monotype animation technique, the film reflects the personal experience of discovering different lands and feeling as though one were simultaneously at home and elsewhere.



MODERN ALCHEMY

BREN LÓPEZ ZEPEDA | 2022 | 2 MIN 40 S | OEV
LS: ENGLISH, SPANISH

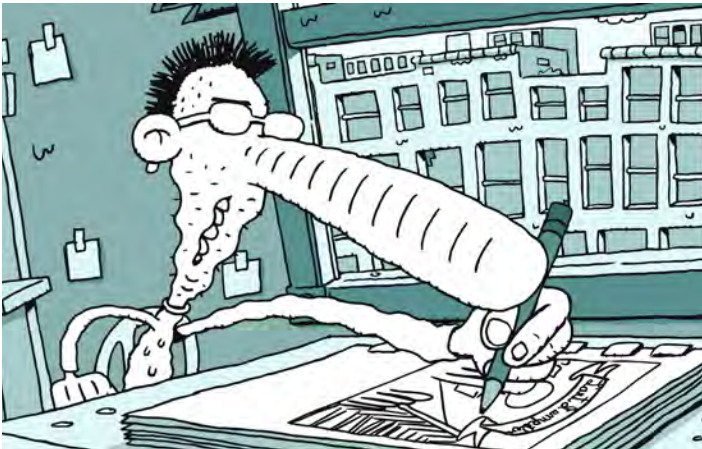
Strength. Challenges. Courage. *Modern Alchemy* depicts a quest for self-knowledge that revolves around resilience, reconstruction and rebirth. A succession of colours, each more vibrant than the last, in which one stops breathing for a moment to find a path toward inner peace.



BY WINDS AND TIDES

BOGDAN ANIFRANI-FEDACH | 2022 | 2 MIN 24 S
OFV, EST | LS: FRENCH

Exploring the conscious, the unconscious and the self, *By Winds and Tides* takes a deep experimental dive into the birth of an idea—how it takes shape, how it is released. An allegorical quest, the film combines images and words into a singular sigh.



CENTRE-SUD CHRONICLES

RICHARD SUICIDE | 2021 | 4 MIN | EV | LS: 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.



THE TURTLE SYNDROME

SAMUEL CANTIN | 2021 | 4 MIN | EV | LS: 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.



I, BARNABÉ

JEAN-FRANÇOIS LÉVESQUE | 2020 | 15 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

Confronted with doubt and feelings of emptiness, drunk with unhappiness and seeking to drown his sorrow, Barnabé experiences a curious metaphysical visitation; lightning strikes the spire of his church and a mysterious bird appears, forcing him to reconsider his life. What is his truth pointing him towards?



BOAT PEOPLE (Available starting spring 2024)

THAO LAM, KJELL BOERSMA | 2023 | 9 MIN 59 S | OEV
LS: ENGLISH

As a child in Vietnam, Thao's mother often rescued ants from bowls of sugar water. Years later they would return the favour. *Boat People* is an animated documentary that uses a striking metaphor to trace one family's flight across the turbulent waters of history.



MODERN GOOSE (Available starting December 2023)

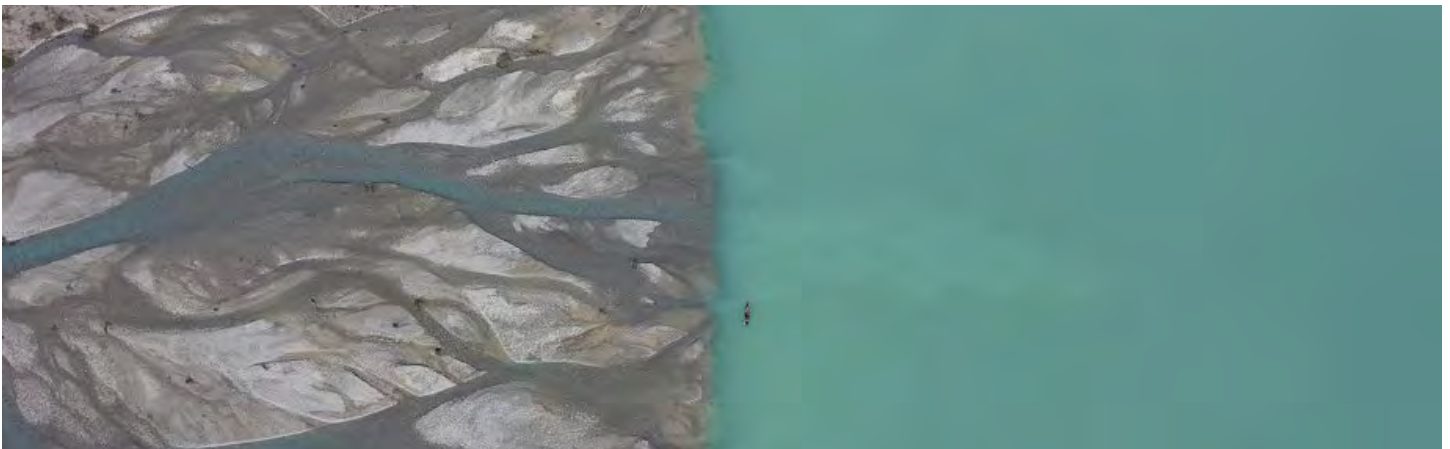
KARSTEN WALL | 2023 | 22 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

Able to navigate by reading the Earth's magnetic field, fiercely loyal to flock and family, at home on land, air and water, geese straddle the territory between ancient instincts and the contemporary world.

Karsten Wall's exquisitely observed film essay embeds in the daily life of these iconic animals. In flipping the usual nature-film perspective to centre another form of consciousness, something radical begins to happen. The concrete sprawl of parking lots, drive-thru restaurants and busy highways transforms from normalized to

something extremely unsettling. It isn't the geese who are the interlopers here, but people who have forced the birds into the margins, disrupting age-old patterns.

Combining beauty, humour and profound empathy, *Modern Goose* reveals how the mysteries of the natural world persist in the face of continual urbanization. From the s-curve of their elegant black necks to the tips of their dinosaur-clawed toes, geese are tough, resourceful survivors, not only adapting but thriving.



LOSING BLUE (Available starting spring 2024)

LEANNE ALLISON | 2023 | SHORT | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

Glacier-fed alpine lakes each have a unique blue formed by the mountains and ice that shaped them. These intense colours hold the memory of "deep time," geological processes millions of years old. Now climate change is rapidly accelerating environmental shifts and causing some of these spectacular blues to vanish.

Losing Blue is an expansive metaphor for the massive and subtle impacts of climate change. With stunning cinematography, the film

immerses viewers in the magnificence of lakes so rare that most have never seen them, pulling us in so that we experience these bodies of water as if we were standing alone on their rocky shores.

Filmmaker Leanne Allison's narration intimately balances J.B. MacKinnon's eloquent science writing. This short documentary gently asks what it might mean to forget that the ethereal blues of these lakes ever existed.



WHAT RHYMES WITH TOXIC

LYNN SMITH | 2022 | 5 MIN | OEV | LS: 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.

What Rhymes with Toxic, the latest short by multi-award-winning animation filmmaker Lynn Smith, tells a story that is both funny and deadly serious. With pointed wit, she deftly channels her anger toward polluters by presenting what first appears to be a gentle

tale about an anxious talking turtle, then leading the film up to an explosive climax.

Animated directly under the camera with paint and collage, *What Rhymes with Toxic* demonstrates Smith's virtuosity and ever-curious artistry, while making it clear that we all need to commit to ensuring the right of all living creatures to a healthy environment. Because there's more at stake than just the lake.



TZARITZA

THEODORE USHEV | 2006 | 6 MIN | EV | LS: ENGLISH

This animated short by Theodore Ushev combines warmth, humour and magic in a story about a young girl who misses her grandmother. When Lili finds a *tzaritz*a (magic shell) along the seashore, she hatches a plan to bring her Grandma from Bulgaria to Montreal to make her father happy.

Born in Kyustendil, Bulgaria, Theodore Ushev first made a name for himself as a poster artist in his native country before settling

in Montreal. He found fruitful creative soil at the National Film Board of Canada, where he has made more than 10 films to date, including *Lipsett Diaries* (2010), the Academy Award®-nominated short *Blind Vaysha* (2016) and *The Physics of Sorrow* (2019), adapted from the book by Georgi Gospodinov, a compelling and personal portrait of rootlessness and identity. Ushev's films have won more than 150 awards and mentions and have screened in many retrospectives.



NUNAVUT ANIMATION LAB: QALUPALIK

AME PAPATSIE | 2010 | 5 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

This animated short tells the story of Qalupalik, a part-human sea monster that lives deep in the Arctic Ocean and preys on children who do not listen to their parents or elders. That is the fate of Angutii, a young boy who refuses to help out in his family's camp, opting instead to play by the shoreline. But one day, Qalupalik seizes him and drags him away. Angutii's father, a great hunter, must then embark on a lengthy kayak journey to try and bring his son home.

This film is part of Inuit initiative *Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*, produced by the National Film Board of Canada in collaboration with the Inuit Relations Secretariat of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Government of Nunavut, and with the support of many Inuit and Inuit organizations, including Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Online, Canadians have access to more than 60 films at nfb.ca/Unikkausivut.



NUNAVUT ANIMATION LAB: THE BEAR FACTS

JONATHAN WRIGHT | 2010 | 3 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

In this animated short, a colonial explorer emerges from a ship and plants a flag on the Arctic ice, as a bemused Inuit hunter looks on. In this charming, humorous re-imagining of first contact between Inuit and European, Jonathan Wright brings us the story of a savvy hunter and the explorer he outwits.



JAIME LO, SMALL AND SHY

LILLIAN CHAN | 2006 | 7 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

Jaime Lo's father is sent to Hong Kong for a year-long assignment. A shy Chinese-Canadian girl, Jaime must use her creativity to cope. This animated story offers a lighthearted glimpse into a dilemma that many immigrant families face: one parent must work overseas to provide for the family back home.



CHRISTOPHER, PLEASE CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM!

VINCENT GAUTHIER | 2003 | 6 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

This short animated film stars Christopher, a terrific kid with one major problem... he's messy! His shoes smell funky, his fish bowl stinks, and even the cockroaches can't stand it. Together, the fish and the roaches hatch a plan that will change Christopher's life and his cleaning habits forever.



WITH GRANDMA

FRANÇOISE HARTMANN | 1999 | 9 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

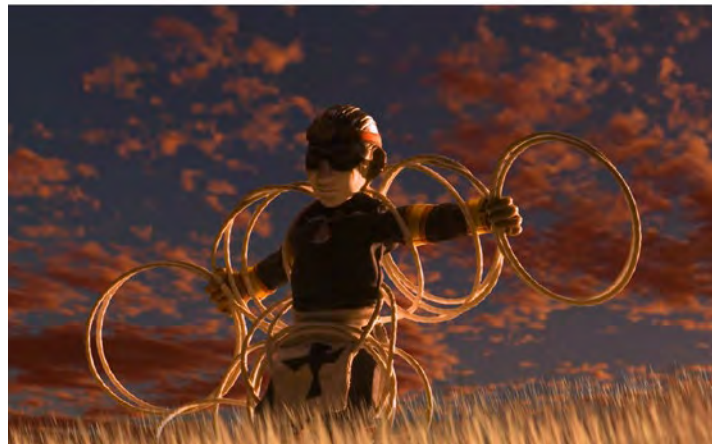
When her parents leave her behind for the first time, Madeleine sees them off with tears in her eyes. Fortunately, her grandmother is there to coax her out of her sadness. Grandma's house is full of surprises, including a chest full of costumes perfect for dress-up.



AT HOME WITH MRS. HEN

TALI | 2006 | 7 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

This animated short is a comical tale that pokes fun at motherhood. It depicts the temper tantrums of a child and the efforts a mother makes to set her son on the right path. You don't need to be a chicken to relate.



VISTAS: DANCERS OF THE GRASS

MELANIE JACKSON | 2009 | 2 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

This short film presents a stunning display of a stop-motion animation as it vividly depicts the majesty of the hoop dance, a tradition symbolizing the unity of all nations.

Vistas is a series of 13 short films on nationhood from 13 Indigenous filmmakers, from Halifax to Vancouver.



HEDGEHOG'S HOME

EVA CVIJANOVIĆ | 2017 | 10 MIN | EV | LS: ENGLISH

In a lush and lively forest lives a hedgehog. He is at once admired, respected and envied by the other animals. However, Hedgehog's unwavering devotion to his home annoys and mystifies a quartet of insatiable beasts: a cunning fox, an angry wolf, a gluttonous bear and a muddy boar. Together, the haughty brutes march off towards Hedgehog's home to see just what is so precious about this "castle, shiny and huge." What they find amazes them and sparks a tense and prickly standoff.

This sumptuous and delicately choreographed stop-motion fable—made entirely of needled felt—revives the timeless and timely notion of cultivating our own place of safety, dignity and comfort, no matter how big or small. Like a welcome blanket on a chilly day, *Hedgehog's Home* is a warm and universal tale for young and old that reminds us there truly is no place like home.



SHAMAN

ECHO HENOCHÉ | 2017 | 5 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

This animated short tells the story of a ferocious polar bear turned to stone by an Inuk shaman. The tale is based on filmmaker Echo Henoche's favourite legend, as told to her by her grandfather in her home community of Nain, Nunatsiavut, on Labrador's North Coast.



MONSIEUR PUG

JANET PERLMAN | 2014 | 9 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH

Who is Monsieur Pug? Why, a dog with bad cholesterol and high blood pressure! He's also a paranoiac, convinced he's the target in a vast conspiracy, and pretending to be a pet to hide from his pursuers. Schizoid, perhaps? Hmm... but is Monsieur Pug even a real dog to begin with?



NO FISH WHERE TO GO

**NICOLA LEMAY, JANICE NADEAU | 2014 | 12 MIN | EV
LS: ENGLISH**

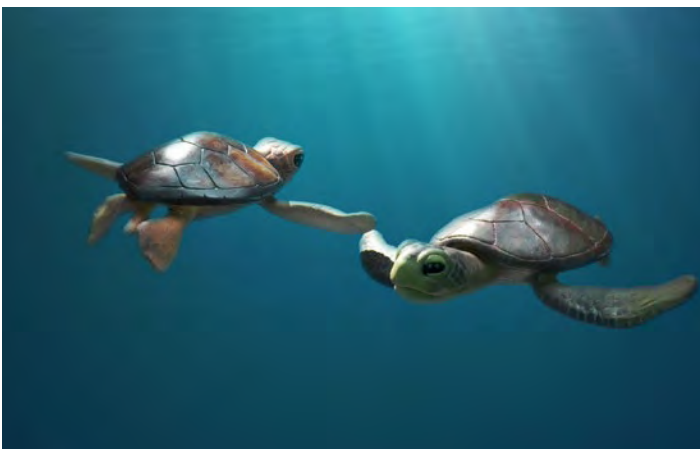
In this short animation based on Marie-Francine Hébert's book of the same name, a friendship unites two little girls from opposing clans in a village where tensions are mounting. The citizens with red shoes clearly despise those without, and one fateful morning, one of the girls and her family are accosted at gunpoint.



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

**JULIE REMBAUVILLE, NICOLAS BIANCO-LEVRIN
2012 | 7 MIN | OEV | LS: ENGLISH**

This short animation features Fifi the dog, who fantasizes about interstellar travel as an escape from his day-to-day existence as the family scapegoat. While doing whatever it takes to please Mom, Dad and the kids, Fifi tries to make off with some newspaper articles about the latest scientific developments in space travel.



A SEA TURTLE STORY

KATHY SHULTZ | 2012 | 9 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

This animated short chronicles the life cycle of the critically endangered sea turtle. Capturing the beauty of the ecosystems that sea turtles inhabit, the film is ideal for all audiences, and for teaching young and old alike about these fascinating creatures.



COSMIC ZOOM

ROBERT VERRALL | 1981 | 8 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

This short animation transports us from the farthest conceivable point of the universe to the tiniest particle of existence: an atom of a living human cell. The art of animation and animation camera achieve this exhilarating journey with a freshness and clarity.