



DURHAM REGION



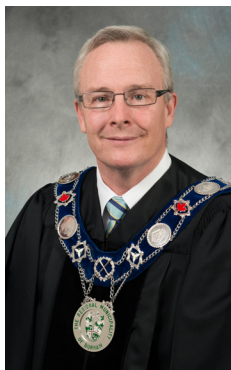
DRIFF



INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

2023

Oct. 19-21



Dear friends,

On behalf of the Region of Durham, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2023 Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF).

Each year, we look forward to hosting this celebration of arts, culture, creativity and community in our region through the support of so many wonderful volunteers, sponsors and partners.

DRIFF is a vital piece of Durham's film ecosystem. It gives emerging filmmakers a platform to advance their creative work; showcases inspiring films and filmmakers from Canada and across the globe; and encourages community connections through the power of cinema.

Over the next three days, you will experience Durham's vibrant film culture through a robust screening schedule. See which feature films were filmed here in our region. Get a behind-the-scenes look at filmmaking through interactive presentations. And take a moment to sip and savour some incredible food and beverages curated by local chefs.

We are proud to play an important role in Ontario's film industry; to be a place where talented industry professionals live, work and create.

I hope you enjoy the films selected by DRIFF's talented Director of Film Programming Kirk Cooper. We look forward to seeing you at this year's festival.

Sincerely,

John Henry
Regional Chair and CEO

Join us for DRIFF 2023,

Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF) proudly celebrates our landmark 7th year in 2023. This year, we celebrate more stories and filmmakers from the region. DRIFF is on a mission to transform the way we see the world of film in Durham, and we look back with gratitude at the legacy our passion has created: inspiring creativity, transforming perspectives, igniting conversations, and forging authentic connections.

As DRIFF's audience increases, our programming and artistic vision evolve to recognize and celebrate homegrown talent and diverse filmmakers worldwide through our hybrid edition of the festival. Join us live from October 19th to 21st, and online from October 21st to 28th to sample an array of documentaries and short films that will soon be a topic of conversation with friends. As always, we are thrilled to be the starting point for directors who have gone on to be featured by streamers like Crave, or enjoyed theatrical releases nationwide and be recognized through Canadian Screen Award nominations and wins.

Evolution is a key element in our successful programming. To that end, we're pleased to add animation to the DRIFF experience this year. From red-carpet festival events, to innovative programming, both digital on-demand and in-person, we strive to make DRIFF the place where more and more local and global talent choose to premiere their work.

Our dedicated programming team thanks this year's filmmakers cohort and we hope you enjoy the quality of films you have come to trust with DRIFF. Whether you attend in-person screenings at our distinctive venues, or enjoy a seven-day virtual experience through DRIFF On-Demand, I wish you a memorable festival experience at DRIFF.

Kirk Cooper | Director of Film Programming

About DRIFF

DRIFF is a not-for-profit film festival rooted in the communities of Durham. DRIFF will engage a diverse network of audiences, filmmakers, and collaborators to promote film as a form of creative expression and a catalyst for community building. Find out more at driff.ca

DAY 1 | October 19

7:30 p.m.

SHORT - Primitive Times

FEATURE - Suze

DAY 2 | October 20

5:30 p.m.

Pre-screening Party (cash bar):
Local Food Showcase

6:15 p.m.

Industry Panel Spotlight: Finance,
Insurance and Distribution

7:30 p.m.

SHORT - Demon Box

FEATURE - The Boy In The Woods
(Drama - Adaptation)

9:30 p.m.

FEATURE - When Hope Breaks
Through (Canadian Doc)

DAY 3 | October 21

10:00 a.m. FREE EVENT

Special Industry Event:
Interactive Foley Workshop

1:00 p.m. FREE EVENT

Industry Panel Dialogues: Behind
the Scenes with Cast and Crew

3:00 p.m.

HOMEGROWN SHORTS

The Fore-men | Beyond The Ranch |
Colin Carvey's Long Halloween |
Not Here, Not There | Tiger Mom |
Redlights

6:00 p.m.

FEATURE - Purple Don't Cry (Crime/
Drama)

7:45 p.m.

SHORT - Frida In The Sky

FEATURE - Egghead & Twinkie
(Comedy)



Each year, DRIFF Award winners are selected by an independent jury. The jury is made up of members of the film and arts community. This year the jury consists of six members from diverse backgrounds who will award winners from each category a cash prize.

Members of our esteemed jury are:

Dahlia Thompson *Business Affairs at CBC for Unscripted Content*

Chen Sing Yap *2022 DRIFF Best Student Film Award winner*

Emmanuel Kabongo *Actor/Producer*

Alexa Hickox *Editor*

Jesse Thomas Cook *Director/Producer*

Brian Quintero *Writer/Director*

Note: This year, the DRIFF board of directors will award a Durham Region filmmaker with the Best Regional Film Award.

Our **People's Choice Award** is an opportunity for the audience to determine the best film at the festival. The People's Choice Award will be announced on **driff.ca** and on DRIFF's social media platforms **@catchthedriff** following the completion of the virtual screenings on October 28.

FILMS IN COMPETITION

Best Features

Older Every Day (Canada)

Suze (Canada)

The Boy In The Woods (Canada)

Egghead & Twinkie (United States)

Best Student Film

Not Here, Not There (Canada)

Tiger Mom (Canada)

Frida In The Sky (Canada)

Best Canadian Shorts

Mothers And Monsters (Canada)

Simo (Canada)

Faire Un Enfant (Canada)

Redlights (Canada)

Soleil Un Nuit (Canada)

Best International Shorts

Our Males And Females (Jordan)

Common As Red Hair (United States)

On/Off (South Africa)

I Promise You Paradise (Egypt)

Best Documentary

The Engine Inside (Canada)

Notes On Displacement (Palestine)

Sloanne: A Jazz Singer (United States)

Best Animation Short

Zeb's Spiders (Canada)

Where Rabbits Come From (Canada)

Our Uniform (Iran)

Primitive Times (Germany)

Best Regional Film

Purple Don't Cry (Canada)

When Hope Breaks Through (Canada)

Beyond The Ranch (Canada)

Primitive Times | Germany | 6 mins

Synopsis

It seems only natural to exchange labour for reward. But unfortunately, not everyone is satisfied with their work. Had primitive people similar problems as people in modern society? We interviewed five primitive people, let's see what they said.

Directed by: Hao Yu



Suze | Canada | 93 mins

Synopsis

When her only daughter leaves for college, Suze, a single mom who has lost her purpose, gets stuck taking care of her daughter's heartbroken ex-boyfriend who she can't stand. On her journey of self-discovery, Suze discovers what living purposefully really looks like, while making an unlikely bond along the way..

Directed by:
Linsey Stewart & Dane Clark

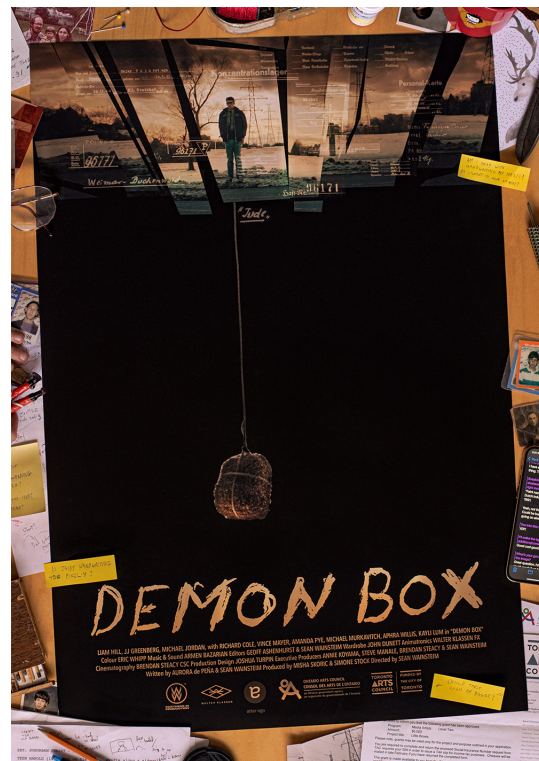


Demon Box | Canada | 14 mins

Synopsis

For ten years, filmmaker Sean Wainstein struggled with an intensely personal semi-autobiographical magic-realism film exploring the challenges, responsibilities and repercussions of passing Holocaust stories down through generations.

Directed by:
Sean Wainstein



The Boy in the Woods | Canada | 96 mins

Synopsis

Follows the true story of Max (Jett Klyne), a Jewish boy escaping Nazi persecution in Eastern Europe. After he is separated from his family, Max finds refuge with a Christian peasant Jasko (Richard Armitage) who hides him in plain site until a tense stand-off with some Nazi police. Afraid for his own family's life, Jasko sends Max to live in the woods where he learns to survive alone.

Directed by: Rebecca Snow



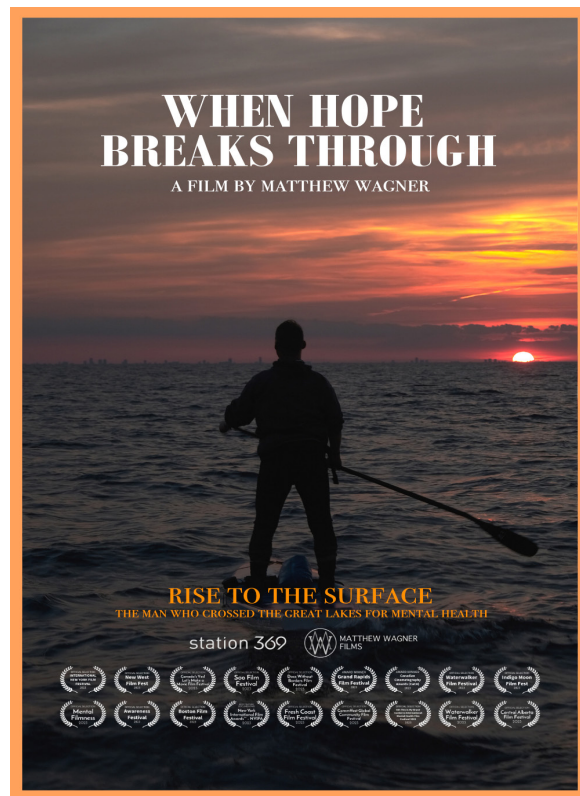
When Hope Breaks Through | Canada and USA | 90 mins

Synopsis

In 2018 Mike Shoreman was diagnosed with a neurological condition that left him paralyzed, with vertigo, hearing and vision loss, ultimately leading to depression and a mental health breakdown. This riveting documentary explores the current state of the mental health crisis in Canada and our relationships with our own mental health. The documentary immerses the audience in Mike's epic five Great Lake crossings, encompassing over 300 kilometers of open water paddling with his dedicated crossings team.



Directed by:
Matthew Wagner



The Fore-men | Canada | 15 mins

Director: Adrian Bobb

Beyond the Ranch | Canada | 8 mins

Director: Alex Perri

Colin Carvey's Long Halloween |

Canada | 12 mins

Director: Aaron Peacock



Not Here, Not There | Canada | 11 mins

Director: Eric Génier

Tiger Mom

Canada | 21 mins

Director: Munara Muhetaer

Redlights

Canada | 14 mins

Director: Eva Thomas

Tiger Mom



Not Here, Not There



Redlights



Purple Don't Cry | Canada | 85 mins

Synopsis

A misguided young man ignores the wise advice of a Muslim leader and starts selling drugs to achieve his dreams of a luxury lifestyle; but he soon realizes that quick money comes with deadly consequences. Shot in and around Durham Region this film explores the complexities of Muslim identity and the challenges that many Muslim youths face in western society.



Directed by:
Mamoun Hassan



Frida in the Sky | Canada | 7 mins

Synopsis

Frida, an 8-year-old engineering prodigy, builds an airplane behind her mother's back to follow in her Abuela's legacy.



*Directed by:
Dani Sadun*

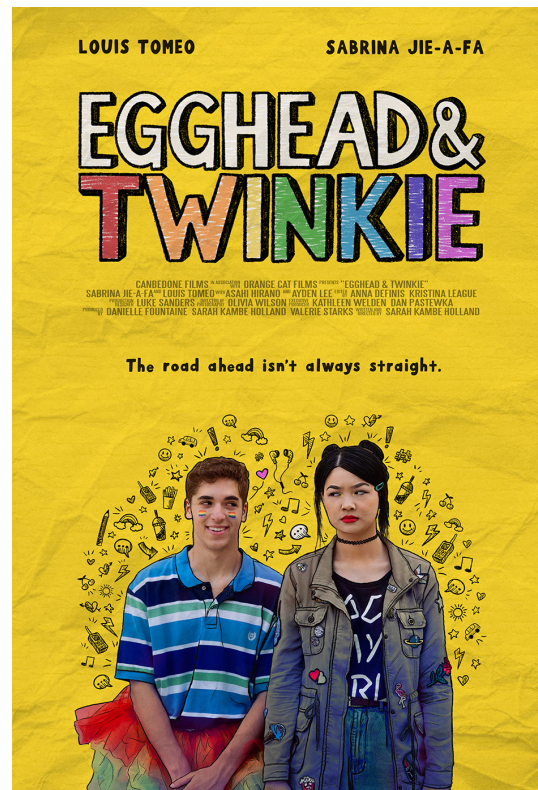


Egghead & Twinkie | USA | 87 mins

Synopsis

17-year-old Twinkie takes off on a roadtrip to meet her online crush with the help of her nerdy best friend, Egghead. As they make their way across the country, Egghead wrestles with his unrequited feelings for Twinkie, while Twinkie learns to embrace her identity as a gay mixed-Asian woman.

Directed by: Sarah Kambe Holland



DAY 2

CULINARY SPECIAL: Local Food Showcase

This year, DRIFF is offering an opportunity for festival goers to indulge their taste buds while sampling delicious local food at our prescreening party. We are thrilled to showcase talented chefs from Frantastic Events (Oshawa), Hungrieyes (Durham Region) and the Picadilly Cakery (Whitby) who are looking forward to serving savoury and sweet reception-style food at their tables. This is a chance for a meet n' greet with the chefs while enjoying an informal time with rest of the audience before the program begins.

SPOTLIGHT: Finance, Insurance and Distribution

An independent filmmaker needs to raise funds to produce their films without the backing of Hollywood studios - how do they find it? Insurance requirements are different for each type of film. A movie with lots of action sequences with special stunts may cost more to insure than one without them so how does all this work? When a film is complete, a filmmaker's primary goal is to get their work seen by audiences, so they find ways to distribute their film from film festivals to Free Ad Supported Television (FAST) streaming opportunities. Which is best? Learn from a select group of panelists who will answer these questions and discuss these important components of filmmaking.



DAY 3

DRIFF SPECIAL #1: Foley Workshop

In filmmaking, Foley is the reproduction of everyday sound effects added to films in post-production. They are created by the sound artist mimicking the actual sound source in a recording studio and can be anything from the swishing of clothing and footsteps to squeaky doors and breaking glass. Audiences can participate in this special Foley presentation to learn how everyday items are used to enhance the auditory experience of the movies. This workshop will include taking a short film to pre-production where the audience will add sounds using items/props provided. Presented by Footsteps Post-Production Sound Inc.

DRIFF SPECIAL #2: Behind the Scenes with Cast and Crew

Filmmaking is far more complex than most people realize, and it involves not only what the producers and director do but the efforts of many others. For a project to be completed on time and budget, the film industry relies on film cast and crews with a wide array of skills in the field of film and video production. At this event the audience will engage with industry professionals who work in these exciting, well-paying careers; visit displays of the filmmaking process; experience a behind-the-scenes look at the film and television industry; and learn about careers such as cinematography, production sound, location scouting, costume design, hair and makeup, art department, acting/performing, gaffer and electrical, props creation and visual effects (FX).



INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

Legio Patria Nostra | On/Off
Our Males and Females |
Common As Red Hair



TRUE NORTH

Testament | Faire un enfant
White Noise | Soleil de nuit |
Simo



THE DARK SIDE

The Fading | Demon Box |
Storage Room B | Zeb's Spider |
Jouissans | Mothers and Monsters



ANIMATION

PROGRAMMING

Frida in the Sky | Harvey | Where Rabbits Come From | Our Uniform | A Night for the Dogs | Zeb's Spider



NARRATIVE

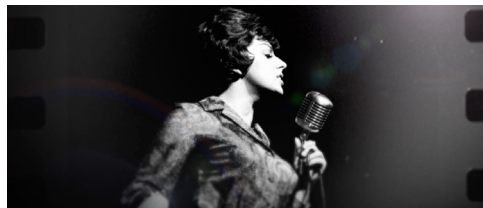
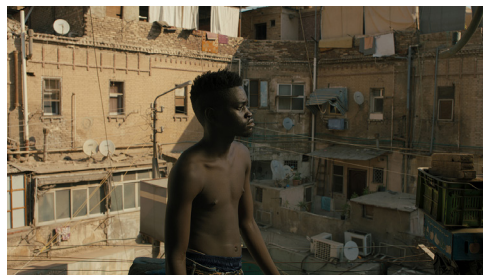
FEATURE

Older Every Day



DOCUMENTARY

Notes On Displacement *with short film* | Promise You Paradise | The Engine Inside | Solange: A Jazz Singer



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