



whistler

FILM FESTIVAL

DEC 4 - DEC 8, 2019

Media interview requests please contact:

Jacki St. Thomas | Account Manager | Jive PR + Digital | e. jacki@jiveprdigital.com | LA: 310.625.7799
Visit the Press Centre at www.whistlerfilmfestival.com for, press releases and media accreditation

WFF 2019 FACT SHEET

(at Nov 18, 2019)

** Note schedule subject to change

Event: Whistler Film Festival

Dates: December 4-8, 2019

Theme: Stand for Story

Mandate: *The Whistler Film Festival Society (WFFS) is a cultural charitable organization dedicated to advancing the art and business of film by providing programs that focus on the discovery, development and promotion of talent culminating with a must attend festival for artists, the industry and audiences in Whistler. WFFS produces one of Canada's leading film festivals and industry Summits, and plays a leadership role in offering talent development programs for Canadian artists complemented by annual screenings and events.*

2019 Stats and Premieres: (at press time):

- 86 films in total comprised of 43 features, 43 shorts including:
 - o World premieres (15 Features, 8 Shorts)
 - o North American Premieres (1 Feature)
 - o Canadian premieres (12 Features, 4 Shorts)
 - o Western Canadian premieres (14 Features, 12 Shorts)
 - o English Canadian premieres (2 Features)
 - o British Columbia premieres (2 Features, 9 Shorts)
 - o Whistler premieres (3 Features, 6 Shorts)
- Selected from over 800 submissions
- Screenings are organized in 13 categories
- Representing 15 countries (Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Mexico, Switzerland, Spain, United Kingdom, USA)
- 71% films are Canadian: 67% of the features (29 Features) 74% (32 shorts) of the shorts
- 40% films are directed or co-directed by women or non-binary individuals: including 30% of the features, 48% of the shorts (14 Features, 21 Shorts)
- 11 films are directed by a first-time feature filmmaker (25%)
- Over 14,000 attendees estimated; includes 1,000+ accredited industry guests and delegates and over 50 Canadian artists participating in 10 talent programs
- 125+ volunteers
- 96 screenings
- Six screens at three venues:
 - o Rainbow Theatre (RT), Whistler Conference Centre
 - o Maury Young Arts Centre (MYAC)
 - o Village 8 Cinemas (V8C) – 4 theatres (5/6/7/8)

Programming Strands (13) :

- American Indies
- Canadian Vanguard
- Discoveries

- Doc Bloc
- From Overseas
- From The Vault
- Galas
- Mountain Culture
- New Voices
- ShortWork
- Special Presentation
- Spotlight
- World Premieres

Special Events:

- **Opening Night Film:** Canadian premiere of **LOST TRANSMISSIONS** Dec 4. 2 screenings: 6:00pm and 9:00pm (doors at 5:30pm and 8:30pm), Rainbow Theatre
- **Opening Night Party: Taste of Whistler** Dec 4, 8:30pm - 11:30pm, Westin
- **Apres Receptions:** Dec 5 -7, 4:00pm - 5:30pm, Westin
- **ShortWork Showcase:** Dec 8, 4:00pm – 5:30pm (doors 3:30pm), Maury Young Arts Centre
- **After Dark Festival Hot Spots:**
 - o Dec 4: 11pm, Firerock Lounge, Westin
 - o Dec 5 - 10pm, Garibaldi Lift Co (GLC)
 - o Dec 6 - 10pm, Tommys
 - o Dec 7 - 9pm, Longhorn Saloon
 - o Dec 8 - 8:30pm, Buffalo Bills
- **Awards Celebration:** Dec 8, 10:00am - 12:00pm (doors 9:30am), Maury Young Arts Centre
- **Closing Night Film:** Double bill - **Western** Canadian premiere of **GROSSO'S LOVE LETTERS TO CANADA** and **THE TONY ALVA STORY** Dec 8. 2 screenings: 6:30pm and 8:30pm (doors at 6:00pm and 8:00pm), Maury Young Arts Centre

Signature Series (Maury Young Arts Centre - doors 30 mins in advance):

*Schedule subject to change

- **Artist Tribute + Career Achievement Award: Joseph Pantoliano** - Dec 5, 3:00pm - 4:00pm, MYAC
- **Artist Spotlight + Maverick Award: Simon Pegg** - Dec 5, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, MYAC
- **Artist Spotlight + Trailblazer Award: Chelsea Peretti** - Dec 6, 5:00pm - 6:00pm, MYAC

Whistler Film Festival Society • Charitable Registration #: 856677844RR001
208-1200 Alpha Lake Road, Whistler, B.C. V8E 06H • 1-877-838-FILM (3456) • www.whistlerfilmfestival.com

Major Supporters



Major Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



18 films competing for 16th annual Borsos Award for Best Canadian Feature (\$15,000 cash plus \$15,000 post production prize):

- ANTIGONE
- APAPACHO: A CARESS FOR THE SOUL
- BLACK CONFLUX
- BODY AND BONES
- CANADIAN STRAIN
- THE CUBAN
- DREAMLAND
- ENTANGLED
- FALL BACK DOWN
- FROM THE VINE
- GUILT (LE COUPABLE)
- HAMMER
- THE MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY
- PROMISELAND
- QUEEN OF THE MORNING CALM
- SPINSTER
- THINGS I DO FOR MONEY
- THUNDERBIRD
- VOLITION
- WE HAD IT COMING

Opening Night (1):

- LOST TRANSMISSIONS (USA) Dir. Katharine O'Brien

Closing Night (1):

- THE TONY ALVA STORY (United States) Dir. Coan Buddy Nichols & Rick Charnoski

American Indies (3):

- THE ARTIST'S WIFE (USA) Dir. Tom Dolby
- RANGE RUNNERS (USA) Dir. Philip S Plowden
- VIVARIUM (United States) Dir. Lorcan Finnegan

Canadian Vanguard (5):

- DREAMLAND (Canada) Dir. Bruce McDonald
- ENTANGLED (Canada) Dir. Gaurav Seth
- HAMMER (Canada) Dir. Christian Sparkes
- JAMES VS HIS FUTURE SELF (Canada) Dir. Jeremy LaLonde
- VOLITION (Canada) Dir. Tony Dean Smith

Discoveries (5):

- APAPACHO: A CARESS FOR THE SOUL (Canada) Dir. Marquise Lepage
- BLACK CONFLUX (Canada) Dir. Nicole Dorsey
- FROM THE VINE (Canada) Dir. Sean Cisterna
- GUILT (LE COUPABLE) (Canada) Dir. Onur Karaman
- WE HAD IT COMING (Canada) Dir. Paul Barbeau

Doc Bloc (5):

- ALONE ACROSS THE ARCTIC (Canada) Dir. Francis Luta
- CLOSING THE GAP: HOCKEY IN NORTH KOREA (Canada) Dir. Nigel Edwards
- NAIL IN THE COFFIN: THE FALL AND RISE OF VAMPIRO (Canada) Dir. Michael Paszt
- ONCE WERE BROTHERS: ROBBIE ROBERTSON AND THE BAND (Canada) Dir. Daniel Roher
- PANDORA'S BOX: LIFTING THE LID OF MENSTRUATION (Canada) Dir. Rebecca Snow

From Overseas (5):

- THE AERONAUTS (United Kingdom & USA) Dir. Tom Harper
- CABARETE (Dominican Republic) Dir. Ivan Bordas Butler
- THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS (Denmark) Dir. Lone Scherfig
- LOCUSTS (Australia) Dir. Heath Davis

- ORDINARY LOVE (United Kingdom) Dir. Lisa Barros D'Sa & Glenn Leyburn

From The Vault (1):

- THE GREY FOX (Canada) Dir. Phillip Borsos

Mountain Culture (4):

- SKI LEGENDS (Canada) Dir. Lois Neu & ACCIDENTAL CLIMBER (United States) Dir. Steven Orritt
- THE CLIMBERS (China) Dir. Daniel Lee
- GROSSO'S LOVE LETTER TO CANADA (Canada) Dir. Buddy Nichols & THE TONY ALVA STORY (United States) Dir. Coan Buddy Nichols & Rick Charnoski
- LOOKING FOR SUNSHINE (Switzerland) Dir. Nicolo Castelli

New Voices (5):

- BODY AND BONES (Canada) Dir. Melanie Oates
- FALL BACK DOWN (Canada) Dir. Sara Beth Edwards
- QUEEN OF THE MORNING CALM (Canada) Dir. Gloria Ui Young Kim
- THE REST OF US (Canada) Dir. Ainsling Chin-Yee
- THUNDERBIRD (Canada) Dir. Nicholas Treeshin

Special Presentations (3):

- LIBERTÉ: A CALL TO SPY (USA) Dir. Lydia Dean Pilcher
- SPINSTER (Canada) Directed by Andrea Dorfman
- THE IRISHMAN (USA) Dir. Martin Scorsese

Spotlight (2):

- ANTIGONE (Canada) Dir. Sophie Deraspe
- COMPULSIVE LIAR (MENTEUR) (Canada) Dir. Emile Goudreau
- HOPE GAP (United States) Dir. William Nicholson

World Premieres (5):

- CANADIAN STRAIN (Canada) Dir. Geordie Sabbagh
- THE CUBAN (Canada) Dir. Sergio Navaretta
- THE MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY (Canada) Dir. Craig Pryce
- PROMISELAND (Canada) Dir. Kirk Caouette
- THINGS I DO FOR MONEY (Canada) Dir. Warren P. Sonoda

ShortWork (43)

World Premiere (8):

- B-SIDE (Canada) Dir Alayna Silverberg
- THE BEAR AND THE BEEKEEPER (Canada) Dir Kristina Mileska
- CALL ME CRAZY (Canada) Dir Andrea Wing
- IN LOVING MEMORY (Canada) Dir Mayumi Yoshida, Diana Bang
- MIDNIGHT MAIL (Canada) Dir Ciaran Davis - McGregor
- THE PARTY (Canada) Dir Gabriel Souza Nunes
- THE STATION (Canada/United States) Dir Angus Borsos, Simon Mendes
- WHEN I GROW UP (Canada) Dir Mark Milburn, Michael Decker

Canadian Premiere (4):

- DOG (Canada) Dir Pascal Sanchez
- FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN (Canada) Dir Chris Benchetler, Tyler Hamlet
- THE ART OF FLAWSOME (Canada) Dir Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto
- THE CHEF (United States) Dir Hao Zheng

Western Canadian Premiere (12):

- BALAKRISHNA (Canada) Dir Colin MacKenzie, Aparna Kapur
- COMING HOME - AG TEACHT ABHAILE (United States/Ireland) Dir Ryan Scura, Dylan Ladds
- DAUGHTER (Czech Republic) Dir Daria Kashcheeva
- DON'T WORRY, DON'T WATCH (Canada) Dir Benjamin McGregor
- MONSTER GOD (Argentina) Dir Agustina San Martín
- SHIN-CHI'S CANOE (Canada) Dir Allan Hopkins
- SISTERS OF SORROW (Canada) Dir Jordan Waunch

- THE HIDDEN RIVER OF MY LIFE (Canada) Dir Kate Woodward
- THIS IS NOT A DRILL (Canada) Dir Ravi Steve
- MUDPOTS (United States) Dir Cate Smierciak
- UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN (Canada) Dir Katrina Saville
- WATERMELON JUICE (Spain) Dir Irene Moray

British Columbia Premiere (9):

- BREAKAWAY (Canada) Dir Jenny Lee-Gilmore
- EXAM (Iran) Dir Sonia K. Hadad
- NEBULA (Canada) Dir Jay Trusler
- OFF WORLD (Canada) Dir Joshua Vanderlinden
- STANDSTILL (Canada) Dir Katia Shannon
- TIPPED (Canada) Dir Alysse Leite-Rogers
- WHY SLUGS HAVE NO LEGS (Switzerland) Dir Aline Höchli
- WITH ME (Canada) Dir Weyni Mengesha
- YANDERE (France) Dir William Laboury

Whistler Premieres (6):

- #NOFILTER (Canada) Dir Daniel Roque, Kassandra Voss
- BRAISED PORK BELLY (Canada) Dir Helen Liu
- DZUNUKWA (Canada) Dir Richie Hemphill, Ryan Haché
- FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN (Canada) Dir Chris Benchetler, Tyler Hamlet
- IDOLS NEVER DIE (Canada) Dir Jeremy Yoo
- MY FAVOURITE FOOD IS INDIAN TACOS, MY FAVOURITE DRINK IS ICED TEA AND MY FAVOURITE THING IS DRUMMING (Canada) Dir Derius Matchewan
- NEW WASHING MACHINE (Canada) Dir Mitch Huttema

Juried Awards: 8 juried sections with 15 awards and \$146,500 in prizes to be awarded (\$31,500 cash and \$115,000 in prizes)

- Borsos Award for Best New Canadian Feature Film (\$15,000 cash award presented by the Directors Guild of Canada – British Columbia with a \$15,000 Post Production Prize sponsored by Encore Vancouver for winning film); Best Direction in a Borsos film presented by the Directors Guild of Canada – British Columbia; Best Cinematography in a Borsos film sponsored by International Cinematographers Guild | Local 669; Best Performance in a Borsos film; and Best Screenplay of a Borsos film
- World Documentary Award
- Mountain Culture Award presented by Whistler Blackcomb
- Canadian ShortWork Award (\$1,000 cash award)
- International ShortWork Award
- Student ShortWork Award presented by Capilano University Film Centre (\$500 cash award)
- MPPIA Short Film Award (\$15,000 cash award plus up to \$100,000 in services) presented by MPPIA and Creative BC, sponsored by Bridge Studios
- AWFJ EDA Awards for Best Female-Directed Narrative Feature and Short film
- New BC Directors Award presented by the Directors Guild of Canada – British Columbia
- Audience Award presented by Fisherman's Friend: Audience Award for Best Feature of the Festival presented by Fisherman's Friend (non-cash prize)

Juries:

- Borsos Competition for Best Canadian Feature: Loretta Todd, Peter O'Brian, Robert Budreau
- World Documentary: John Ritchie, Julia Ivanova, Tracey Friesen
- Mountain Culture: Erin Hogue, Peter Harvey, Tamo Campos
- ShortWork: SB Edwards, Gloria Ui Young Kim, Gaurav Seth
- MPPIA Short Film Award: Emily Alden, Francis Luta, Doreen Manuel
- Alliance of Woman Female Journalists (AWFJ) EDA Award Jury for Best Female Directed Narrative feature includes Liz Braun, Alexandra Heller-Nicholas, Jennifer Merin - Chair, Susan Wloszczyna, Laura Emerick
- AWFJ EDA Awards for Best Female-Directed Short: Marina Antunes - Chair, Betsy Bozdech, Leba Hertz, Lois Alter Mark, Diana Saenger

WFF Content Summit Highlights: (All sessions take place at the Whistler Conference Centre or * Maury Young Arts Centre)

Thursday, December 5

- Session: View from the Top: A Vision for Creative Canada : 9:00am - 9:45am
- Session: Indie Distribution: Adapting Models of Success: 10:00am - 10:45am
- Session: Capital Idea: New Ideas In Film Financing: 11:00am - 11:45am
- Keynote Luncheon: Focus on Talent: 12:00pm - 1:30pm
- Session: Crossing Borders: Stories That Travel: 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- Focus On: Broadcasters, Streamers and Studios: 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- Meet Market: 1+1 Meetings: 2:30pm - 4:00pm
- Co-Production Case Study: Dreamland: 2:45pm - 3:45pm
- Après Reception: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Friday, December 6

- Power Pitch Competition: 9:00am - 11:00am *
- Meet Market: 1+1 Meetings: 10:00 am - 11:30am
- Women in Focus: Keynote Presentation: Women in View & Agency Updates: 9:00am - 9:45am
- Session: Women in Focus: Best Practices in Equity & Inclusion: 10:00am - 10:45am
- Session: Women in Focus: Pandora's Box Case Study: 11:00am - 11:45am
- Session: Expand your IP: New Opportunities in the Marketplace: 1:00pm - 1:45pm
- Session: Building Buzz: Positive Market Strategies That Win: 2:00pm - 2:45pm
- Session: Crossing Borders: How to Work Both Sides: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- Après Reception: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Saturday, December 7

- Pitch Competition: MPPIA short film award: 9:30am - 11:30am *
- Doc Talk: Producing with Peter Raymont: 9:00am - 9:45am
- Doc Talk: Creative Financing: 10:00am - 10:45am
- Doc Talk: Adventures in Filmmaking: 11:00am - 12:00pm
- Stream Big: Digital Distribution and Modernization Models: 1:00pm - 1:45pm
- Session: The Art of Cinematography: 1:30pm - 3:00pm
- Stream Big: Creating Audience Focused Series: 2:00pm - 3:00pm
- Soundtracks That Soar: Why Music Matters: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
- Actors on Acting Success on Screen: 3:15pm - 4:00pm
- Après Reception: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

WFF's Talent Programs feature 10 programs supporting 54 Canadian artists to develop their projects and craft.

- Producers Lab (6 producers): Dec 3 - 7
- Screenwriters Lab (6 writers): Dec 3 - 7
- Indigenous Filmmaker Fellowship (6 directors): Dec 4 - 8
- Power Pitch (7 producers): Dec 4 - 6
- Doc Lab (8 filmmakers): Dec 4 - 8
- Women in Focus Mentorship (3 Directors): Dec 4-8
- Stars to Watch (4 actors): Dec 4 - 8
- Collaboration Programs:
 - MPPIA Short Film Award (5 directors) Dec 7
 - WIDC Industry Immersion (8 directors) Dec 2 -8
 - WIFTV Mentorship (1 director) Dec 4 - 8

Film Tickets:

- Single film tickets: \$17
- Special Presentations: \$19
- Opening & Closing Night Film: \$20-\$24

Event & Industry Tickets: (*limited tickets available)

- Opening Night Reception: \$59 *
- Signature Series (3): \$25 each
- Keynote Luncheon: Focus on Talent (Dec 5): \$65 *
- After Dark Festival Parties: \$25
- Power Pitch Workshop (Dec 4): \$50
- MPPIA Short Film Award Pitch (Dec 7): \$20
- Cinematography Session (Dec 7): \$40
- ShortWork Showcase (Dec 8): \$20
- Awards Celebration (Dec. 8): \$40

Ticket Packages:

- 6 Pack (6 tickets) \$85
- 10 Pack (10 tickets): \$153
- Opening & Closing Night Pack: \$45

Festival, Industry & Patrons Circle Passes:

- Film Pass: \$250 (\$274 onsite)
- Industry Pass: \$450 (\$494 onsite)
- Industry Day Pass (Nov 29 & 30, Dec 1) - \$150 (\$200 onsite)
- Industry Day Pass (Dec 2) - \$100 (\$250 onsite)
- Premium Industry Pass: \$600 (\$659 onsite)
- Contributor Pass: \$500
- Ambassador Pass: \$1,000
- Insider Pass: \$2,500

Memberships:

- Basic: \$2
- Bronze: \$55
- Silver: \$125
- Gold: \$250

Box Office:

- Open for Festival and Industry passes at whistlerfilmfestival.com
- Film and event tickets available online Nov 5 to Dec 8
- Festival Box office opens Nov 5 for phone sales: 1-877-838-FILM (3456) and for in-person sales Nov 28 located in front of Whistler Conference Centre entrance (4010 Whistler Way), open 12:00pm to 6:00pm daily (until the Festival starts and from 9:00am to 6:00pm during WFF)

Accommodation:

- 20 accommodation partner properties to choose from that offer special rates to WFF delegates and guests
- Plan your stay at whistlerfilmfestival.com/stay
- VIP Hotel: Fairmont Chateau Whistler Resort

Whistler:

- Located in the spectacular Coast Mountains of British Columbia, 120 km (75 miles) north of Vancouver
- Canada's premier, year-round destination, consistently ranked the number one mountain resort in North America
- Attracts over 2.7 million visitors annually
- Unique Pedestrian Village: Key attractions and accommodation are all within walking distance in the village
- More than 150 restaurants, 200 retail stores and a legendary nightlife and après scene
- Award-winning hotels: Over 5,400 lodging rooms and the only AAA Five-Diamond Resort in Canada
- Unforgettable Activities: Epic skiing and snowboarding conditions, four championship golf courses, more than 200 shops, 150 restaurants and bars, accommodations galore, hiking trails, spas, a variety of outdoor activity options, and arguably the best skiing and mountain bike park in the world.

2020 Dates: December 2-6 (20th anniversary)