



whistler

FILM FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 1-20, 2020

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Visit the Press Centre at www.whistlerfilmfestival.com for press releases and media accreditation

WFF 2020 FACT SHEET (at November 19, 2020)

Event: Whistler Film Festival

Dates: December 1-20, 2020

Theme: Vision is everything. Focus on story.

Mandate: *The Whistler Film Festival Society is a charitable cultural organization dedicated to furthering the art and business of film by providing programs that focus on the discovery, development and promotion of new talent culminating with a must-attend festival for artists, industry and audiences. WFFS fulfills its mission by producing a highly respected and recognized international film festival (WFF) and industry summit that draw industry, audiences and global exposure for Canadian talent; delivering a robust slate of talent programs for Canadian artists including screenwriters, producers, directors, actors and musicians; and through year-round film and event programming that enriches community life beyond the festival. In all its programs, WFF strives for gender parity, inclusivity and diversity. Discover more at whistlerfilmfestival.com.*

2020 Stats and Premieres: (at press time):

- 97 films in total comprised of 30 features and 67 shorts presented in ten programs including:
 - World premieres (9 Features, 20 Shorts)
 - Canadian premieres (9 Features, 13 Shorts)
 - National Festival VOD Premiere (7 Features)
 - Western Canadian premieres (1 Features, 19 Shorts)
 - English Canadian premieres (4 Features)
 - British Columbia premieres (8 Shorts)
 - Whistler premieres (7 Shorts)
- Selected from over 1,350 submissions
- Screenings are organized in 7 strands
- Representing 20 countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Ghana, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Nepal, Sweden, Switzerland, Russia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States)
- 77% films are Canadian: 73% of the features (22 Features) and 79% (53 shorts)
- 48% films are directed or co-directed by women or non-binary individuals: including 43% of features and 59% of the shorts (13 Features, 34 Shorts)
- 18 features are directed by a first-time feature filmmaker (60%)

Programming Strands (7) :

- Canadian Vanguard
- Doc Bloc
- Films From Away
- Mountain Culture

- New Voices
- ShortWork
- Special Presentations

Special Events:

- **Spark Gala & Auction:** December 1, 5pm PST
- Whistler Après: December 10, 4pm PST
- Awards Celebration: December 20, 12pm PST
- **Opening Night Film:** World Premiere of Carl Bessai's *IN HER CITY* - 2 screenings: Dec 3, Whistler, 6pm & 9pm (doors at 5:30pm and 8:30pm)

Signature Series: Talent Talks

- December 2: American-Canadian actor **Colm Feore** who will receive the Canadian Icon Award, along with *SUGAR DADDY* writer and co-star **Kelly McCormack**, who will receive the One to Watch Award.
- December 9: Irish actor and filmmaker **Gabriel Byrne**, featured in the National Festival VOD Premiere of *THE DEATH OF A LADIES MAN*, will receive the Maverick Award
- December 11: Beloved Quebec actor **Rémy Gerard**, in the English Canadian Premiere of *YOU WILL REMEMBER ME (TU TE SOUVIENDRAS DE MOI)*, will receive the Career Achievement Award
- December 13: Hong Kong-American actor **Tzi Ma**, attending the fest with the Canadian Premiere of *A SHOT THROUGH THE WALL*, will receive the Trailblazer Award.
- December 16: WFF Stars to Watch will be featured in conversation with Gold Derby's Contributing Editor Riley Chow, and include **Elyse Levesque** and **Ali Skovbye** both featured in the National Festival VOD Premiere of *THE CORRUPTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE* directed by WFF alumnus Jeremy Torrie; **Paul Grenier** and **Miika Whiskeyjack** featured in the World Premiere of *INDIAN ROAD TRIP* directed by WFF alumnus A.W. Hopkins; and **Melanie Rose Wilson** who plays Madonna Croft in the World Premiere of *ALL-IN MADONNA* directed by WFF alumnus Arnold Lim.

FEATURE FILMS (32)

15 films competing in 17th annual Borsos Competition for Best Canadian Feature:

- ALL-IN MADONNA
- AN INTROVERT'S GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL
- BETWEEN WAVES
- THE CORRUPTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE
- GODDESS OF THE FIREFLIES (LA DÉESSE DES MOUC and rHES À FEU)
- IN HER CITY
- INDIAN ROAD TRIP

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- LITTLE ORPHANS
- THE MARINA
- MERCY
- QUEBEXIT
- STILL THE WATER
- SUGAR DADDY
- UNDERGROUND (SOUTERRAIN)
- YOU WILL REMEMBER ME (TU TE SOUVIENDRAS DE MOI)

Virtual Opening Night (1):

- SUGAR DADDY (Canada) Dir. Wendy Morgan

Canadian Vanguard (4):

- THE CORRUPTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE (Canada) Dir. Jeremy Torrie
- GODDESS OF THE FIREFLIES (Canada) Dir. Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette
- UNDERGROUND (Canada) Dir. Sophie Dupuis
- YOU WILL REMEMBER ME (Canada) Dir. Eric Tessier

Doc Bloc (5):

- CROCK OF GOLD: A FEW ROUNDS WITH SHANE MACGOWAN (United Kingdom) Dir. Julien Temple
- THE DECLINE (Canada) Dir. Kayvon Saremi & Sean Patrick Shaul
- OVERLAND (United States) Dir. Elisabeth James & Revere La Noue
- THE PAPER MAN (Canada) Dir. Tanya Lapointe
- STRAY (United States) Dir. Elizabeth Lo

Films From Away (6):

- A SHOT THROUGH THE WALL (United States) Dir. Aimee Long
- AMERICAN THIEF (United States) Dir. Miguel Silveira
- HOW TO STOP A RECURRING DREAM (United Kingdom) Dir. Edward Morris
- SMALL TIME (United States) Dir. Niav Conty
- SMALL TOWN WISCONSIN (United States) Dir. Niels Mueller
- THE WHISPER OF SILENCE (Canada, Columbia, El Salvador) Dir. Alfonso Quijada

New Voices (9):

- ALL-IN MADONNA (Canada) Dir. Arnold Lim
- AN INVERT'S GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL (Canada) Dir. Sophie Harvey
- BETWEEN WAVES (Canada) Dir. Virginia Abramovich
- INDIAN ROAD TRIP (Canada) Dir. A.W. Hopkins
- LITTLE ORPHANS (Canada) Dir. Ruth Lawrence
- THE MARINA (Canada) Dir. Étienne Galloy & Christophe Levac
- MERCY (Canada) Dir. Sam Flamont
- STILL THE WATER (Canada) Dir. Susan Rodgers
- QUEBÉXIT (Canada) Dir. Joshua Demers

Special Presentations (4):

- EAT WHEATIES! (Canada) Dir. Scott Abramovitch
- DEATH OF A LADIES MAN (Canada) Dir. Matt Bissonnette
- MARLENE (Canada) Dir. Wendy Hill-Tout
- PUPPY LOVE (Canada) Dir. Michael Maxxis

SHORTWORK (57)

World Premiere (10):

- AFTER THAT (Canada) Dir. Aerlan Barrett
- BOTTLENECK (Canada) Dir. James Weicker
- THE DANGER IN FRONT (LE DANGER EN FACE) (Canada) Dir. Alexis Chartrand
- DETECTIVE ULTRA (Canada) Dir. Elizabeth Ababio
- MUSCLE MEMORY (Canada) Dir. Ina Macias Garcia
- ON THE LINE (AU BOUT DU FIL) (Canada) Dir. Marc-André Girard
- THE PAINTER FROM NOWHERE (Canada) Dir. Christian Trineer

- THE WALKING MAN (Canada) Dir. Anaïsa Visser
- VAYU (Iran) Dir. Panahbarkhoda Rezaee
- A WINDWARD CALM (Canada) Dir. Bruce Marchfelder

Canadian Premiere (13):

- 12 000 KM (Russia, Japan, Estonia, Sweden) Dir. Erik Nylander
- ASHMINA (UK/Nepal) Dir. Dekel Berenson
- DAY 1 (USA) Dir. Josh Berman
- PELICAN MILKSHAKE (Canada) Dir. Marcus Newman
- THE BATH (LE BAIN) (France, Tunisia) Dir. Anissa Daoud
- THE DAY THE ROCKET LEFT (Canada) Dir. Benjamin Macgregor
- THE RABBIT HUNTERS (Canada) Dir. Guy Maddin, Evan Johnson, Galen Johnson
- THE SUNDAY CYCLE (Canada) Dir. Jane Bau
- TILL MORNING (Canada) Dir. Taea Friesen
- UNBROKEN (Canada) Dir. Brandon Wheeler
- UNKNOWN BEING (Canada) Dir. Inanna Cusi
- WHEN THE NIGHT HAS COME (Canada) Dir. Janice Mingas
- YOU WIN USA VACATION RESORT (USA) Dir. Georgia Fu

Western Canadian Premiere (19):

- 4 NORTH A (Canada) Dir. Jordan Canning, Howie Shia
- SINGLE (USA) Dir. Ashley Eakin
- AN UNINVITED GUEST (Canada) Dir. Richard B. Pierre
- AVERAGE HAPPINESS (Switzerland) Dir. Maja Gehrig
- THE BEST ORCHESTRA IN THE WORLD (DAS BESTE ORCHESTER DER WELT) (Austria) Dir. Henning Backhaus
- END OF THE ROAD: A DISCOVERY OF SKIING WITHOUT EGO (USA) Dir. Jacob Oster
- HEALING BELLS (SOKINAA'S PASSKAAN AASSISSTOI) (Canada) Dir. Taylor Crowspreadshiswings
- HELEN (Canada) Dir. Emily-Anne Mikos
- INUIT LANGUAGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY (Canada) Dir. Ulivia Uviluk
- THE LORD'S DAY (LE JOUR DU SEIGNEUR) (Canada) Dir. Simon Weizineau
- MARCH (Canada) Dir. Emily Dickinson
- MODERN WHORE (Canada) Dir. Nicole Bazuin
- ODEHIMIN (Canada) Dir. Kijâtai-Alexandra Veillette-Cheezo
- THE QUIETING (Canada) Dir. Ali Liebert
- SCARS (Canada) Dir. Alex Anna
- SHOOTING STAR (COMME UNE COMÈTE) (Canada) Dir. Ariane Louis-Seize
- WASTE AWAY (Canada) Dir. Elly Stern
- YOU WILL STILL BE HERE TOMORROW (Canada) Dir. Michael Hanley
- OUR HEARTS BEAT LIKE WAR (ZCHUHIT BAYAM) (Israel) Dir. Elinor Nechemya

British Columbia Premiere (8):

- 33' LOT (Canada) Dir. Sarah Genge
- BABY BLUE (Canada) Dir. Cindy Hojung Hah
- BENJAMIN, BENNY, BEN (Canada) Dir. Paul Shkordoff
- BORN FROM JUNK (USA) Dir. Mike Horn, Galin Foley
- DA YIE (Ghana/Belgium) Dir. Anthony Nti
- FOUND ME (Canada) Dir. David Finlay
- MADE IN VOYAGE (USA) Dir. Joey Schusler, Wiley Kaupas
- ROLLERBLADIES (Canada) Dir. Rowan Landaiche, Amber Nordstrand

Whistler Premieres (7):

- ACROSS THE BRIDGE (Canada) Dir. Alisha Steinberger, Goody (Chao) Wu
- BLIND FAITH (Canada) Dir. Graeme Mieklehohn
- THE LIGHTHOUSE MAN (Canada) Dir. Matthew Walton
- MOTHERLOAD (Canada) Dir. Izzy Lynch, Zoya Lynch
- ON FALLING (Canada) Dir. Josephine Anderson

- **SHAPED BY DESCENT** (USA) Dir. Mattias Evangelista
- **WITHOUT A PADDLE** (Canada) Dir. Johan Rosen, Nick Khattar

Sea to Sky Shorts Showcase (10):

- **2 GIRLS & 1 IDEA** (Canada)
Dir. Talia Wittenberg, Thea Wittenberg, Torn
- **CAUTION: FLYING DISCS** (Canada) Dir. Wesley Finick
- **FINDING A HOME** (Canada) Dir. Paul Haysom
- **MAKING MIKI'S MAGIC** (Canada) Dir. Steve Andrews
- **NATURE ENTWINED** (Canada) Dir. Amanda Palmer
- **PLEASE TRY AGAIN** (Canada) Dir. Janalee Budge
- **SAM'S SUSPENSION** (Canada)
Dir. Hugh Saint-Jacques, Kieran Ross-Kelly
- **SEA2SKY P.I.** (Canada) Dir. Kyle Killeen
- **UNPARALLELED** (Canada) Dir. Roshan Beavan
- **UTOPIA** (Canada) Dir. Anna Dziczkaniece

Juried Film Awards: 7 juried sections with 16 awards and \$38,500 in prizes to be awarded (\$18,500 cash and \$20,000 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 \$20,000 Post Production Prize sponsored by Company 3 Method Ltd. winning film); Best Direction in a Borsos film presented by the Directors Guild of Canada – British Columbia; Best Cinematography in a Borsos film; 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)
- Sea to Sky Shorts Showcase (\$2,000 cash award) presented by The Hamber Foundation, ecologist and Nesters Market
- 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 for Best Feature of the Festival (non-cash prize) - with Online and In-Theatre Awards

Juries:

- Borsos Competition for Best Canadian Feature: Larysa Kondracki, Sandra Cunningham, Sheila McCarthy, Lorne Cardinal
- World Documentary: Mackenzie Donaldson, Selwyn Jacob, Fiona Rayher
- Mountain Culture: Heather Mosher, Brandon Pullan, Nathaniel Arcand
- ShortWork: Mary Galloway, Meryam Joobeur, Johnny Ma
- Alliance of Woman Female Journalists (AWFJ) EDA Award Jury for Best Female Directed Narrative feature includes: Jennifer Merin (Chair), Liz Braun, and Lois Alter Mark.
- AWFJ EDA Awards for Best Female-Directed Short: Marina Antunes (Chair), Jazz Tangcay, and Susan Wloszczyna.

WFF CONTENT SUMMIT: (All sessions online in Pacific Standard Time)

Tuesday, December 1

- THE NEW CREATIVE ECONOMY: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- WORKSHOP: PERFECTING YOUR PITCH: 10:00AM - 1:30PM

Wednesday, December 2

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- SPOTLIGHT ON - SUGAR DADDY: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- DISTRIBUTION EVOLUTION - PVOD, STREAMERS & DRIVE-INS. OH MY!: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Thursday, December 3

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- CO-PRODUCING WITH LUXEMBOURG: A CASE STUDY: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- MIND THE GAP - MANY PATHS TO FINANCING: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Friday, December 4 (WOMEN IN FOCUS)

- KEYNOTE: MADELINE DI NONNO - CEO, GEENA DAVIS INSTITUTE ON GENDER IN MEDIA: 9:00AM - 9:45AM
- PANEL: TOOLS FOR OVERCOMING BIAS & AFFECTING SYSTEMIC CHANGE: 11:00AM - 12:00PM
- WORKSHOP: EMPOWERING EACH OTHER, TOGETHER: 1:00PM - 3:30PM

Saturday, December 5

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- THE CHANGEMAKERS - THE INDIGENOUS NEW WAVE: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- STORY & COLLABORATION WITH CARL BESSAI (IN HER CITY): 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Monday, December 7

- 1+1 MARKET MEETINGS: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Tuesday, December 8

- 1+1 MARKET MEETING: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Wednesday, December 9

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- DOC TALK: ETHICS IN FILMMAKING: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY - READY, SET, GO: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Thursday, December 10

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- ADAPT & THRIVE: BOOKS TO SCREEN: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- SPOTLIGHT ON - DEATH OF A LADIES MAN: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Friday, December 11

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- AIRING OUR SHORTS: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- POWER PITCH COMPETITION: 10:00AM - 11:30AM
- COMING OF AGE IN 2020: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Saturday, December 12

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- BEHIND CLOSED DOORS - INSIDE THE WRITERS' ROOM: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- HORROR PEOPLE ARE THE NICEST PEOPLE: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Monday, December 14

- 1+1 MARKET MEETING: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Tuesday, December 15

- 1+1 MARKET MEETING: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Wednesday, December 16

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY GETS REEL: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- THE FUTURISTS - USING ANALYTICS AND DATA TO STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Thursday, December 17

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- SOUNDTRACKS THAT SOAR: THE COMPOSER'S CRAFT: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- A NEW ERA OF SAFETY AND RESPECT: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Friday, December 18

- COFFEE TALK: 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT - FUNDING FOR SHORTS:
9:00AM - 10:00AM
- STORIES THAT TRAVEL: 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Saturday, December 19

- MASTERCLASS: THE FINEST CUT WITH JULIAN CLARKE: 9:00AM - 10:00AM
- MASTERCLASS: LIGHTING THE DARK with Gregory Middleton:
11:00AM - 12:00PM

WFF'S TALENT PROGRAMS: 9 programs supporting 56 Canadian artists to advance their projects and craft.

Original Programs:

- Producers Lab (6 producers): Nov 23-27
 - Faculty: John Galway, Lauren Grant, Jason James, Damon D'Oliveira
- Screenwriters Lab (7 writers): Nov 23-27
 - Faculty: Patricia Gruben, Ruth Atkinson, Patrick Whistler, Dennis Foon
- Indigenous Filmmaker Fellowship (12 filmmakers): Nov 16-20
 - Advisors: Lorne Cardinal, Monique Hurteau; Faculty: Camille Beaudoin, Sheldon Eldter; Jules Arita Koostachin
- Power Pitch (7 producers): Dec 1 + 11
 - Jury: Naveen Prasad, Gosia Kamela, Will Machin
- Doc Lab (6 filmmakers): Oct 19-23
 - Faculty: Deb Wainwright, John Ritchie, Cari Green, Julia Ivanova
- Women in Focus Mentorship (4 filmmakers): Dec 1-20
 - Mentors: Emily Alden, Sharon McGowan, Maureen Levitt
- Stars to Watch (5 actors): Dec 1-20

Collaboration Programs:

- WIFTV WFF Mentorship (1 director) Dec 1-20
 - Mentor: Tina Pehme
- WIDC Industry Immersion (8 directors) Dec 1-20

Film Tickets:

- Online film tickets: \$15

Event & Industry Tickets:

- Talent Talks: Free to see
- Spark Gala & Auction (Dec. 1): Free to see
- Power Pitch Workshop (Dec 1): \$75
- Whistler Après (Dec. 10): Free to see
- Awards Celebration (Dec. 20): Free to see
- Content Summit Sessions: \$20

Ticket Packages:

- 3 Pack (3 tickets): \$40
- 6 Pack (6 tickets) \$75
- 10 Pack (10 tickets): \$120
- 20 Pack (10 tickets): \$200

Industry & Patrons Passes:

- Industry Pass: \$150
- Premium Industry Pass: \$350
- Insider Pass: \$1,000 (\$500 Charitable Tax Receipt)

Society Memberships:

- Basic: \$2

Box Office:

- whistlerfilmfestival.com/tickets
- Film and event tickets available online from Nov. 5 to Dec. 31
- Festival Box office opens Nov. 5 for phone sales: 1-877-838-FILM (3456)

Merchandise:

- WFF20 Merchandise is available at whistlerfilmfestival.com.

Accommodation:

- 10 accommodation partner properties to choose from that offer special rates to WFF film fans and filmmakers`
- Plan your stay at www.whistler.com/events/whistler-film-festival/

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 3 million visitors annually (2019)
- 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.

Need Info?

- Discover more at whistlerfilmfestival.com.