



BLOOD IN THE SNOW

FILM FESTIVAL + DEADLY EXPOSURE

NOVEMBER 17 to 22, 2025

ISABEL BADER THEATRE • TORONTO ON



THE INDESTRUCTIBLE
Tuesday, November 18 - 9:30 pm
BLOOD IN THE SNOW
FILM FESTIVAL + DEADLY EXPOSURE



In Memoriam *Kalen Artinian*

"The Indestructible Award" honours the best emerging short filmmaker at The Bloodies (BITS official awards), named for Armenian-Canadian auteur Kalen Artinian and his acclaimed short THE INDESTRUCTIBLE. A nod to the feature Kalen hoped to make, the award carries his passion for horror forward—perhaps even from beyond the grave. As part of its launch, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE screens Tuesday, November 18 at the Isabel Bader Theatre, playing alongside Raven Banner's new feature FOREIGNER a film that I'm certain Kalen would have loved. One and all those who knew him well or didn't at all come celebrate his work on the big screen one more time.

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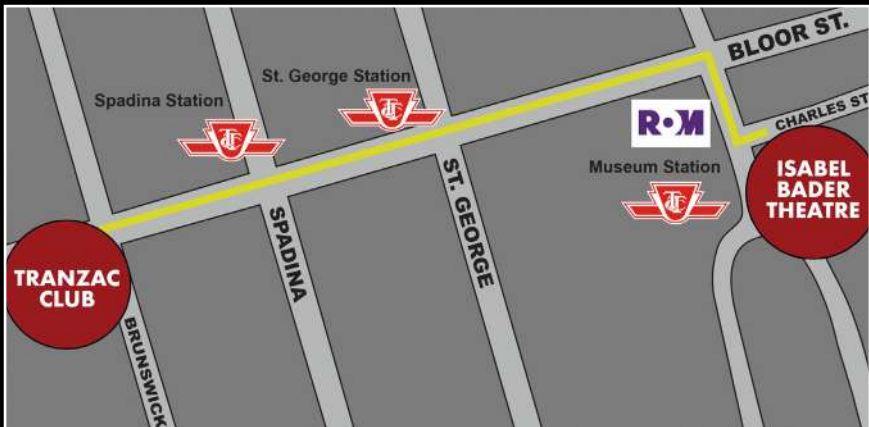
ISABEL BADER THEATRE

93 Charles St. W, Toronto, ON
Evening Screenings

TRANZAC CLUB

292 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON
After parties - 10pm to 2am

DJ each night. Admission to the after parties are FREE with any ticket or pass to the festival!



Welcome to the 14th year of the Blood in the Snow Film Festival

We're thrilled to return for our 14th edition with 13 incredible programs. I'm especially proud of the continued growth of our shorts programs; Dark Visions and Funny Frights have built loyal audiences, and this year we're introducing a brand-new sci-fi showcase, Monsters and Martians.



Two of our past short film alumni return with debut features:

Houston Bone's *Son of Sara*, which opens the festival, and Ava Maria Safai's *Foreigner*, first pitched at our 2023 BITS Development Lab. Documentaries also take centre stage this year with tributes to the legendary Nash the Slash and the beloved Hilarious House of Frightenstein. We close the festival with *Influencers*, the follow-up to *Influencer*, which opened BITS in 2023.

This year also brings reflection and remembrance. We honour the late Adam Lopez, founder of the Toronto After Dark Film Festival, and filmmaker Kalen Artinian, a three-time BITS alumnus whose creativity shaped our early years. To celebrate his legacy, we're introducing the Best Promising Filmmaker Award in his honour and screening his short film *The Indestructible*.

Let's carry their spirit forward: support the filmmakers, come to the parties, and keep the love of genre cinema alive.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Kelly Michael Stewart in white ink.

Kelly Michael Stewart
Festival Director and Founder

Message from the Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada

Festivals like Blood in the Snow play a vital role in connecting Canadian cinema with audiences at home and abroad. As showcases of our creativity and cultural identity, they strengthen the bond between filmmakers and audiences, here and around the world.



At Telefilm Canada, we support Canadian stories every step of the way, from development to distribution, through strong partnerships.

Beyond their screenings, festivals are places of dialogue, collaboration and exchange. We're proud to partner with Blood in the Snow to celebrate the unifying power of cinema. Enjoy the festival!

A stylized, handwritten signature of Julie Roy in white ink.

Julie Roy
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



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films
have it all.**

seeitall.telefilm.ca

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As we gather together at The Blood in the Snow Film Festival, we acknowledge this sacred land on which this theatre operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

The Blood in the Snow Film Festival is committed to providing a safe and inclusive space for all its employees and visitors free from harassment, discrimination and threatening or disrespectful behaviour. We reserve the right to revoke, without notice or refund, credentials or access to BITS screenings and events for those who engage in such conduct.

If at any moment you feel unsafe or would like to report any inappropriate behaviour, please contact the nearest Isabel Bader or BITS staff member.



Here are the **NOMINEES** for this year's **Blood in the Snow Awards:**
"The Bloodies."

Winners will receive their awards during the festival.

Best Picture

Foreigner (dir. Ava Maria Safai)
Influencers (dir. Kurtis David Harder)
Buffet Infinity (dir. Simon Glassman)

Best Director

Houston Bone (Son of Sara: Volume 1)
Kurtis David Harder (Influencers)
Simon Glassman (Buffet Infinity)
Ava Maria Safai (Foreigner)

Best Lead Acting Performance in a Feature Film

Chloe Van Landschoot (Son of Sara: Volume 1)
Cassandra Naud (Influencer)
Rose Dehgan (Foreigner)

Best Supporting Acting Performance in a Feature Film

Maddie Hasson (Violence)
Jane Moffat (Son of Sara: Volume 1)
Emily Tennant (Influencers)

Best Screenplay in a Feature

Kurtis David Harder (Influencers)
Simon Glassman (Buffet Infinity)
Ava Maria Safai (Foreigner)

Best Cinematography in a Feature

Vincent Biron (Violence)
Dmitry Lopatin (Son of Sara: Volume 1)
David Schuurman (Influencers)
Saarthak Taneja (Foreigner)

Best Editing in a Feature

Kevan Byrne (Nash the Slash Rises Again!)
Robert Grant & Kurtis David Harder (Influencers)
Mark Hussey (Violence)

Best Special FX (makeup) in a Feature

(in honour of Ryan Nicholson)
The Butcher Shop (Violence)
The Butcher Shop (Fresh Meat)
Daniella Pluchino - DPFX (Son of Sara: Volume 1)

Best Music Score in a Feature

Spencer Creaghan (Son of Sara: Volume 1)
Avery Kentis (Influencers)
Nowhere2run (Violence)

Best Short Film

Echo (dir. Victoria Long)
He (dir. Hira Vin)
Zoé (dir. Rémi St-Michel)

Best Digital or Web Series

Ghosting (dirs. Luke Hutchie, Matthew Finlan)
Jeff Dotter: Space Courier (dir. Shane Lawrence Campbell)
Ominous (dir. George Mithalka)

Best Lead Acting Performance in a Short Film

Jordan Alexander (Echo)
Nisha Coleman (Zoé)
Jane Moffat (Time Eater)
Chloe Van Landschoot (Heirloom)

Best Supporting Acting Performance in a Short Film

Hannah Klamann (Tingling)
Patrice Dubois (Hammer, Wrench and Screwdriver
<Marteau, clé anglaise & tournevis>)
Heather Gardner (My Friend Saabe)

The "Indestructible" Award for Best Promising Filmmaker

(in honour of Kalen Artinian)
Morningstar Derosier
Dylan Pun
Remi St. Michel



As a part of the 2025 Deadly Exposure Industry Market, the Blood in the Snow Horror Development Lab has been created to boost BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women and other underrepresented creators in genre film across Canada. With this program, the festival facilitates the advancement of filmmakers from these communities in the filmmaking process to ensure their projects are taken from script to screen with the help of industry professionals. Here are this year's 12 incredible filmmaking projects that will be pitching and meeting with industry leaders November 17 to 22, 2025.

Monday, November 17 *(For Lab delegates and Deluxe Pass holders)*

9:00 am to 9:30 am: Coffee meet and greet with Coffin Creek Coffee

9:45 am to 10:45 am: Pitching 101 with Vanessa Magic

11:15 am to 12:15 pm: Insurance with Rorie McIntosh (MaCam Insurance)

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm: Case Study: Foreigner with Ava Maria Safai

2:45 pm to 3:45 pm: Equipment with Greg Jeffs (Sunbelt Rentals)

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Marketing Strategies with Producer Louie La Vella

Tuesday, November 18 *(For Lab delegates and Deluxe Pass holders)*

9:00 am to 9:45 am: Coffee meet and greet with Coffin Creek Coffee

9:45 am to 12:00 pm: Live Pitches

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm: Financing with Telefilm Canada - James Luscombe, Content Analyst, Project Financing

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Film market strategies with Kirk Cooper (Film Market Access)

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Lab Alum Cocktail (in the Southern Cross)

Wednesday, November 19 *(Lab delegates only this day)*

9:00 am to 11:00 pm: One on one meetings for the lab followed by a certificate ceremony.



Eating The Other
(Jazba Singh)



Bone and Sinew
(Morningstar Derosier)



Fever Street
(Kristen Lambie)



Stripped
(Kim Barr,
Tiffany Swears)



The Haunting Of Old Finch
(Rouzbeh Heydari,
Tannaz Keshavarz-Agulito)



Goblin Mode
(Mina Sewell Mancuso,
Heidi Lynch)



The Joy
(Hannah Cheesman)



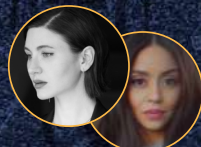
Starfish
(Éric Falardeau,
Alice Bédard)



Cryptid
(Alex Vance)



Below the Silent Sky
(Andrew G. Cooper)



Inter Alia
(Lee Lawson,
Denise Bodan)



Mixtape Madness
(Praji)



DEADLY EXPOSURE

BITS FILM INDUSTRY MARKET

November 17-22, 2025

Deadly Exposure is our three-day industry conference taking place at the Tranzac Club. See below for pass requirements. This event has been financially assisted by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates and the Independent Production Fund. A list of the guests for the round tables and panels are available at deadlyexposure.ca

Thursday, November 20 - INDUSTRY ROUND TABLES

(Full *Deadly Exposure* Pass required for the Wednesday and Thursday morning round tables.)

In this three-part event over two days, participants will have the opportunity to meet with some of Canada's industry leaders to discuss their experience in financing, distribution, key funders, sales agents, other important organizations and producers in Canada.

9:15 am to 9:45 am - coffee meet and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Coffin Creek Coffee.

9:45 am to 12:15 pm: Power Round Tables: Session I

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm: Power Round Tables: Session II

4:00 pm - Networking Cocktail Reception

Friday, November 21

(*Deluxe, Deadly Exposure* Pass or *Panel Pass* required for Friday industry panels)

9:15 am to 9:45 am - coffee meet and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Coffin Creek Coffee.

9:45 am to 12:15 pm: Power Round Tables: Session III

INDUSTRY PANELS

(*Deluxe, Deadly Exposure* Pass or *Panel Pass* required for Friday industry panels)

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm - North of the Line: Filming in Ontario's Expanding Production Landscape

Moderated by Cindy Hinds

More and more filmmakers are heading north, and for good reason. With generous tax incentives, breathtaking scenery, and growing local infrastructure, Northern Ontario has become a hotbed for film and television production. This panel looks at the creative and financial benefits of shooting beyond the GTA, as well as how productions of all sizes can successfully navigate the logistics of filming anywhere in Ontario.

Guests include:

Cultural Industries Ontario North (CION) - Michael Naphan, Film Sector Development Officer, Bruno Marino, Producer, and The Dot Film Company, Gerry Lattmann

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Law & Disorder: Protecting Your Film from Script to Screen

Moderated by Jen Gorman

From contracts and clearances to rights management and distribution deals, the legal side of filmmaking can be as complex as the creative process itself. This panel brings together top entertainment lawyers to break down what filmmakers, producers, and creators need to know before signing on the dotted line. Our experts will discuss common pitfalls, best practices, and how to protect your work (and your wallet) in today's fast-changing industry landscape.

Friday, November 21 (con't)

(Deluxe, Deadly Exposure Pass or Panel Pass required for Friday industry panels)

Guests include:

Mansa Chintoh, Legal Counsel for Distribution Lions Gate, Jessica Commanda, Lawyer & film producer, and Michael Duboff, Edwards Law

4:00 pm - Networking Cocktail Reception

Stay for a networking drink with your colleagues at the Tranzac Club before heading over to the screenings at the Isabel Bader Theatre.

Saturday, November 22

(Deluxe, Deadly Exposure Pass or Panel Pass required for Friday industry panels)

9:15 am to 9:45 am - coffee meet and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Coffin Creek Coffee.

9:45 am to 11:00 am - The Sweet Spot: Turning Small Films into Big Wins

Moderated by Kassy Gascho

Some of today's most profitable and talked-about films started with tiny budgets and huge ambition. This panel explores how financial constraints can spark creativity—and how savvy producers and directors turn limited resources into major returns. Our panelists will discuss everything from finding the “sweet spot” for filmmaking to navigating tax credits, streamer payouts, and global sales. Whether you're planning your first indie feature or looking to scale smart, this conversation will reveal how small budgets can deliver big results.

Guests include:

Martine Brouillet, Producer - Black Elephant Productions, Ryan Keller, Producer and Lawyer - Other Animal Productions, Justin Rebelo, CEO - Vortex Films, and Katisha Shaw, Producer - DTRM Inc

11:15 am to 12:30 pm - The Dealmakers: Inside Today's Distribution Landscape

Moderated by Heidi Morales

The path from finishing your film to finding your audience has never been more complex—or more full of opportunity. This panel brings together a producer, a broadcaster, and key distribution experts to break down how deals are made, what platforms are buying, and how to position your film for maximum visibility and return. From broadcast and VOD to festival strategy and global sales, our guests share insights on what it really takes to get your film out into the world—and what to expect once it's there.

Guests include:

Hollywood Suite - Cam Maitland, Film & Content Specialist, Photon Films - Sarde Hardie, VP of Acquisitions and Sales, and Raven Banner Entertainment - Michael Paszt, Managing Partner



1:45 pm to 3:30 pm - Filmmaking Masterclass with Michael Jari Davidson

Join acclaimed cinematographer and producer Michael Jari Davidson for an insightful session on the craft of independent filmmaking. Drawing from his extensive experience in genre cinema, Davidson explores the creative and technical challenges of bringing bold visions to life, from concept and collaboration to visual storytelling and production on a budget. Perfect for emerging filmmakers looking to sharpen their skills and elevate their craft.

4:00 pm - Networking Cocktail Reception

Stay for a networking drink with your colleagues at the Tranzac Club before heading over to the screenings at the Isabel Bader Theatre.

Dark Visions

BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Monday, November 17 - 7:00 pm (94 mins)

Our opening night program brings together the darkest, scariest, and most intense Canadian short films of the year.

DO YOU SEE HER? (13:29) (dir. Janet-Rose Nguyen) - 7:14 mins

Katie struggles with terrible vision and a creeping sense of paranoia as she suspects a terrifying entity is stalking her—visible only when her glasses are off.

DONATIONS (dir. Shelly Findlay) - 8:20 mins

In a world where blood is currency, a man must decide how much of himself to sacrifice to follow his ex-girlfriend on social media.

THE SPIDER (dir. Michelle Godoy Priske) - 5 mins (open captions)

On Halloween night, a young woman confronts a shocking reunion with her birth mother.

SWEETIE (dir. Taylor Olson) - 2:55 mins

A little girl calls on her father's help when a monster lurks in her room.

ZOË (dir. Rémi St-Michel) - 15:52 mins

Shards of Zoe's mind cling desperately to fleeting memories of happier times.

NICKY NINE DOORS (dir. Jenna Schaefer, Minsoo Koh) - 4:52 mins

Alone in the office after hours, a woman becomes the target of a prank that escalates into something far more sinister—and unnervingly watchful.

FIRST RITES (dir. Findlay Ironside) - 6:02 mins

Seeking solace for the afterlife, a young woman turns to a long-dead corpse—the only source of answers.

LOST IN YOUR THOUGHTS (dir. Marshall Leigh George) - 10:38 mins

During EMDR therapy, a woman enters a physical manifestation of her memories in search of her missing sister.

TIME EATER (dir. Ryan Couldrey) - 12:50 mins (open captions)

While babysitting her granddaughter, a grandmother with undiagnosed dementia faces an unexpected home invasion.

HAMMER, WRENCH AND SCREWDRIVER (MARTEAU, CLÉ ANGLAISE & TOURNEVIS) (dir. Gabriel Vilandré) - 13:00 mins (French with English captions)

Jonathan, 16, returns stolen tools to a hardware store—only to find events unravel in unexpected ways.

IMMORTAL EMBRACE (dir. Reamonn Joshee) - 7:19 mins

Turned into a vampire against her will, 16-year-old Emily must navigate her new reality with the unwavering support of her single mother. A poignant coming-of-age tale exploring identity, family, and mother-daughter bonds amid the supernatural.

SON OF SARA: VOLUME 1

(World Premiere)

- dir. Houston Bone

Monday, November 17 - 9:30 pm

(83 mins) Horror

What if you gave birth to the devil? When a queer pregnant woman accepts a dinner invitation from her child's father, the evening spirals into a demonic fever dream of love, fear, and transformation. A modern queer twist on Rosemary's Baby, *Son of Sara: Volume 1* turns maternal anxiety into something darkly funny, tender, and terrifying—a descent into the madness of creation where every contraction feels like a cosmic joke.

Toronto filmmaker Houston Bone (*Teenagers, I Don't Know Who You Are*) delivers a fearless debut feature that balances grotesque imagery with aching vulnerability. With an eye for both horror and heart, Bone blends practical effects, handheld camerawork, and a wicked sense of humour to explore the chaos of queer identity, bodily autonomy, and the violent beauty of bringing something new into the world.

Drawing inspiration from genre icons like James Whale and Clive Barker, Bone channels their spirit of transgression and spectacle into a film that feels startlingly personal. The result is both intimate and unhinged—a cinematic birth scream wrapped in latex, blood, and affection.

At once profane and poetic, *Son of Sara: Volume 1* continues Canada's legacy of bold, boundary-pushing genre cinema. It's a love story, a monster movie, and a confession all in one—proof that even the devil deserves a little tenderness.

- Dara Jade Moats, Programmer



with the short film HEIRLOOMS

-(dir. Dan Abramovici) 12:44 mins

A young woman attempts to dispose of her deceased mother's belongings, uncovering a shocking secret in the process.

JOIN US after the screening at the TRANZAC CLUB (292 Brunswick Ave) for our opening night party with **DJ D-Rock** - FREE admission with any festival pass or ticket.

NEW
program
for 2025!

MONSTERS - AND - MARTIANS

BITS SCI-FI SHORTS PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 18 – 7:00 pm (100 mins)

A collection of the finest sci-fi shorts from this planet—or any other.

SANCTORUM (dir. Prasanna Paul) – 8:00 mins

Decan, a former mechatronic engineer, secretly builds an advanced robot designed to hunt the malevolent forces threatening humanity.

ASTERIA (dir. Daniel Brown) – 4:55 mins

An interstellar runaway breaks into a rural man's home on a cold winter night.

ECHO (dir. Victoria Long) – 16:30 mins open caption screening

When her partner returns from investigating a mysterious ocean crash site, Ava must choose where her loyalty truly lies.

SOLIPSIS (dir. Massimo Russo) – 19:57 mins

Years after hiding in an underground bunker with her late husband, Cal survives by clinging to two tenets: stay alive, and keep trying to reach the outside world.

KITTY & THE VIPER (dir. John-Daniel Arauz) – 13:05 mins

In futuristic Nouveau San Francisco, the hero "the Viper" and his rage-fueled partner "Kitty" attempt to stop the industrialist "the Jackal" from triggering a pollution apocalypse.

STRANGERS (dir. Andrew G. Cooper) – 10:54 mins

A young man trapped in a basement with a stranger must survive as otherworldly creatures prowl the streets outside.

HE (dir. Hira Vin) – 16:00 mins

A shapeshifting entity fulfills patrons' dreams of love—but one woman's choice to defy the rules leads to chilling consequences.

THE ARCHIVISTS (dir. Dallas Harvey) – 7:30 mins

A desperate agent becomes host to a parasitic alien relic, while a secretive doctor and his assistant race to prevent a world-ending calamity.



MICHAEL JARI DAVIDSON

BITS Bloodies Award Winner
for Best Cinematography

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FOREIGNER

- dir. Ava Maria Safai

Tuesday, November 18 - 9:30 pm
(80 mins) Horror / Dark Drama

(This screening event is presented with
Open Captioning and ASL Interpreter.)

BITS alum Ava Maria Safai (ZIP) returns to the festival with *Foreigner*, her sharp, confident, and stylish feature debut, first developed through the 2023 Blood in the Snow Horror Development Lab.

Set in 2004, the film follows Yasamin (Rose Dehghan), an Iranian teenager newly arrived in Canada who faces her ultimate nightmare: fitting in at high school. When the popular clique led by Rachel (Chloë MacLeod), dressed in pink and wearing cult-like smiles like jewelry, takes a sudden interest in her, Yasamin dives headfirst into their world. Desperate to belong, she begins to change everything from her voice to her name, slowly losing her sense of self. But when she dyes her hair blonde with a bottle of DIE BLONDE, something far darker awakens. What begins as a makeover turns into a chilling transformation with a splash of demonic possession.

Foreigner is pure bubblegum pop horror, a mix of *Heathers*, *Carrie*, *Get Out*, and *The Exorcist*, wrapped in a Mean Girls bow. Satirical, cutthroat, and twisted, it blends early-2000s coming-of-age nostalgia with bone-chilling dark comedy. The film uses horror to explore the immigrant teen experience and its complex relationship with Canadian nationalism, weaving themes of grief, cultural assimilation, and selfhood.

With standout performances from Rose Dehghan and Chloë MacLeod, and glossy, evocative cinematography by Saarthak Taneja, *Foreigner* cements itself as a debut bound for cult status: inventive, vulnerable, and unforgettable..

- Kassy Gascho, Programmer



with the short film

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE

- (dir. Kalen Artinian) 15 mins

(Special Memorial Presentation)

A troubled teen escapes into his comic-book world — until violence shatters the line between fantasy and reality.

JOIN US after the screening at the TRANZAC CLUB (292 Brunswick Ave) for our
after party with **DJ D-Rock** - FREE admission with any festival pass or ticket.

BITS AND BYTES

Wednesday, November 19 - 7:00 pm (100 mins)

A special feature-length program of some of the best genre web and digital series.

PETIT DEMONS (dir. Juan Francisco Calero Hueso) - 5 mins

A survivor of prolonged abuse develops an addiction to absorbing the violence of criminals—but a shadowy organization closes in.

CREEPY CAPE BRETON - Ep: Hatman Part 2 (dir. Dawn Wells) - 11:53 mins

New witnesses reveal terrifying encounters with a shadowy figure known across Indigenous communities as a harbinger of tragedy. Mi'kmaq filmmaker Dawn Wells expands the investigation beyond her community, uncovering even darker horrors.

BUNKER TIME! (dir. Justin Miller) - 19:46 mins

Pearle and her rat companion, Cheese Louise, argue over a crack in the bunker during Doomsday, risking their friendship and the safety of their world.

JEFF DOTTER: SPACE COURIER (dir. Shane Lawrence Campbell) - 13:26 mins

One man's cosmic quest to maintain employment in the universe's strangest delivery job.

GHOSTING (dirs. Luke Hutchie, Matthew Finlan) - 22:02 mins

Actors-turned-amateur ghostbusters explore haunted sites with celebrity guests, blurring fiction and reality.

OMINOUS - EP: RADIOACTIVE (dir. George Mihalka) - 29:00 mins

A DJ attempts to banish a demon from her airwaves, inadvertently exposing her entire audience to supernatural peril.



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BUFFET INFINITY

(Toronto Premiere)

- dir. Simon Glassman

Wednesday, November 19 – 9:30 pm
(99 mins)

Do you remember the iconic Canadian show SCTV? What about those times of late-night channel surfing and seeing some bizarre yet funny ads? Buffet Infinity will feel like a throwback to that time when you felt hungry for food and entertainment.

Shot entirely in Edmonton, Buffet Infinity is the result of Glassman's clever combination of hundreds of hours of original, low-budget TV ads created to narrate an all-out feud between two restaurant owners in the fictional town of Westridge County.



Although the initial feel is that of chaos, the film takes its time unfolding this story. As you, the viewer, channel surf, the TV ads appear quite mundane at first. Over time, you get to know the various local business owners through their charming yet bizarre marketing campaigns. When the chain restaurant Buffet Infinity moves into town, a feud with local favourite Jenny's Sandwich Shop develops and intensifies through their TV ads.

At the same time, some sinister events start to take place, including the appearance of a sinkhole. Coincidence? You will have to be the judge.

What at first appears comical becomes darker, and you cannot simply look away. A true labour of love, Glassman's creativity will keep your eyes glued to the screen. This film will make you laugh and question reality while at the same time offering some real "food for thought." If you have an affinity for absurdist, satirical, smart humour, Buffet Infinity will expand your mind.

- Heidy Morales, Programmer



with the short film

TINGLING

- (dir. Swaroop Elamon) 5 mins

A man's ASMR video spirals from soothing whispers to unsettling terror as he drifts toward sleep.

JOIN US after the screening at the TRANZAC CLUB
(292 Brunswick Ave) for our after party with DJ D-Rock
- FREE admission with any festival pass or ticket.

FUNNY FRIGHTS & UNUSUAL SIGHTS

BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Thursday, November 20 – 7:00 pm (97 mins)

A showcase of Canadian shorts highlighting the unusual, the surreal, and the lighter side of horror.

WEEDS (dir. Stefano Toniatti) – 5:40 mins

A gardener faces an epic showdown with monstrous backyard weeds, battling with flair and over-the-top bravado.

CHERRY ON TOP (dir. Lulu Liu) – 14:57 mins

Two sisters use tips from a vintage porno magazine to escape a basement where they've been trapped for a decade.

ULTRA CHEESE (dir. Kyle Dunbar) – 4:41 mins

When Buddy's pizza is cursed by the delivery guy, his Saturday night becomes a lot messier than he had imagined.

STEAL MY LIFE (dir. Annie Wren) – 11:15 mins

A cool girl spirals into paranoia and psychosis as everyone seems to be copying her style in this psychological-horror-comedy.

BLOOD RIGHTS (dir. Caitlin Starowicz) – 7:49 mins

Summoning Bloody Mary to solve an unplanned pregnancy, two Texan friends ignite a supernatural, feminist campaign, turning the demon into an icon of empowerment.

AS PALE AS DEATH (dir. Ryan Kukec) – 15:05 mins

A family outing to The Golden Goddess tanning salon turns nightmarish when the ancient mummy owner absorbs victims to regain youth.

SEED (dir. Cameron Macgowan) – 6:40 mins

Two feral men on Trash Planet stumble upon a mysterious humanoid plant creature while foraging.

WFH (dir. James Watts) – 12:19 mins

A writer struggles to survive the relentless demands of the gig economy.

BIDET (dir. James Brylowski) – 7:30 mins

A group of friends find themselves hunted by a possessed bathroom fixture.

SHRIMP FRIED RICE (dir. Dylan Pun) – 12:23 mins

At a gourmet Chinese restaurant, The Shrimp and his puppet Dave seek redemption against Rat Bitch, the rodent benefactor of an animated hit.

FRESH MEAT

(Toronto Premiere)

- dir. Daniel Turres

Thursday, November 20 - 9:30 pm
(105 mins)

Clout is a hell of a drug—and this feed has side effects. A crew of internet influencers breaks into an abandoned Ontario penitentiary, chasing haunted-prison footage and viral bragging rights. What begins as a content stunt for clicks and followers quickly descends into a waking nightmare when they discover a feral inmate still prowling the decaying cell blocks. As their livestream keeps rolling, the group's desperate scramble for engagement turns into a fight for survival.

Writer-director Daniel Turres (*Here for Blood*) unleashes a savage and darkly funny blend of old-school survival horror and razor-sharp social satire. Shot on location in an actual decommissioned prison, *Fresh Meat* makes the most of its eerie atmosphere: peeling walls, flickering ring lights, and the ever-present hum of cameras capturing every scream. The film dives deep into the psychology of digital fame—where fear, ego, and desperation feed off one another in a relentless cycle of performance and punishment.

With strong ensemble performances from Joelle Farrow, Mika Amonsén, Hannah Galway, Jorja Cadence, and Karn Kalra, *Fresh Meat* delivers a grisly, practical-effects-driven spectacle that feels both timely and timeless. Turres doesn't just critique influencer culture; he weaponizes it, crafting a blood-soaked mirror of our hunger for validation and spectacle.

Visceral, biting, and disturbingly relevant, *Fresh Meat* is a viciously entertaining reminder that in the attention economy, the feed never sleeps—and the algorithm always eats first.

- Dara Jade Moats, Programmer



with the short film

BREACH

- (dir. Ross Langill) 3 mins

A pregnant woman defends her home from two intruders in a tense, rapid-fire confrontation.

JOIN US after the screening at the
TRANZAC CLUB (292 Brunswick Ave)
for our after party with **DJ D-Rock** - FREE
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Delirium

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NASH THE SLASH RISES AGAIN!

(Canadian Premiere)

- dir. Tim Kowalski

Friday, November 21 - 7:00 pm

(80 mins) documentary

From writer/director Tim Kowalski comes a captivating documentary exploring the life and legacy of one of Toronto's most enigmatic artists. With few comparable influences at the time, Nash the Slash was a true pioneer of experimental electronic music. Combining his love of horror with a mysterious, theatrical image and mesmerizing visual performances, he brought a groundbreaking sense of artistry to the stage that continues to inspire musicians today.

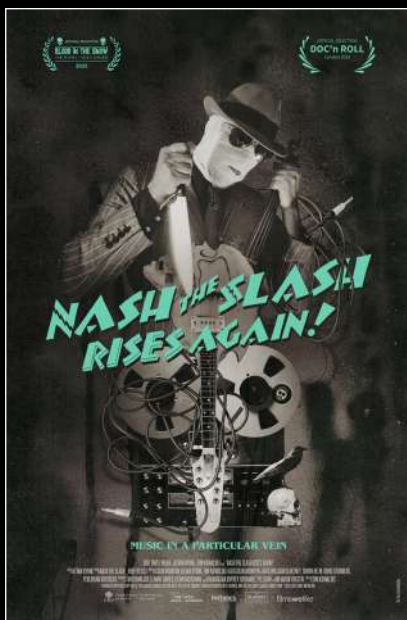
The film vividly captures the underground culture that thrived in 1970s Toronto, a community of creative misfits bonded by a shared passion for film. For Nash the Slash, it was his love of horror that shaped both his haunting image and his ethereal, industrial sound.

An artist ahead of his time, Nash faced barriers to mainstream acceptance but refused to compromise. He took full control of his work, producing, distributing, and performing every element himself.

Featuring interviews with Gary Numan, Danielle Dax, Toronto icon Corpuse, and many others, the film showcases how deeply Nash the Slash influenced generations of musicians and fans alike.

Whether you are a longtime admirer or discovering his work for the first time, Nash the Slash Rises Again! is an unmissable tribute to a trailblazer of industrial music whose impact still resonates today.

- Melanie Turner, Programmer



with the short film

GRAIN

- (dir. Ilana Zackon)

6:45 mins

A young woman's binge eating disorder transforms her into a ravenous creature threatening an entire town.

with the short film

SAMPLING

- (dir. Jérémy Arné) 6:01 mins
(French with English captions)

A punk musician with perfect pitch invites strangers into his studio for an unusual musical experiment.



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(292 Brunswick Ave) for our after party
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VIOLENCE

(Canadian Premiere)

- dir. Connor Marsden

Friday, November 21 - 9:30

(80 mins) Action / Thriller

What would you do if you were wrongly accused of something you never committed? Meet Henry Violence, a man who finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. While searching for his girlfriend, he stumbles upon a brutal scene—and is suddenly kidnapped. Apparently, video cameras don't lie, and neither do tattoos.

Over the course of one harrowing night, Henry encounters people who want to harm him—some doing far more damage than others. All he wants is to find his girlfriend and help her escape the dangerous life she's fallen into.

Set in the gritty underbelly of a dystopian 1980s-inspired universe, *Violence* combines a striking visual aesthetic with cringe-worthy special effects and relentless pacing. This high-energy descent into chaos explores how doing the right thing can sometimes become the worst possible decision. Our unlikely hero just wants to leave the underground world behind—with the woman he loves.

- Nadine L'Esperance, Programmer

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with the short film **APPENDAGE**

- (dir. Dave Thorpe)

6:21 mins

Emma's quiet morning is upended as alien creatures arrive, disturbingly resembling certain appendages.

with the short film **PARIAH**

- (dir. AJ Lutsky) 6:11 mins

A tense survival story where compliance is the key to staying human.



EMERGING SCREAMS

BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Saturday, November 22 – 4:00 pm (98 mins)

A collection of short films from brilliant first-time directors and the most promising student filmmakers in Canadian horror.

INBTWN (dir. Nic Altobelli) – 11:10 mins

Two estranged sisters confront their unresolved past in a liminal space where temperature reflects emotional turmoil, seeking peace and closure.

THE OUTSIDER (dir. A. Burnett) 3:00 mins

A lonely prisoner longs to escape isolation and experience human connection.

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER (dir. Lynn Naluyima) – 6:14 mins

A haunting adaptation of Charlotte Gilman's classic, exploring the tension between imagination and confinement for an isolated 19th-century woman.

NO LIES IN THE AFTERLIFE (dir. Haley Elizabeth Richards) – 4:39 mins

Two friends attempt to connect with a deceased ex-boyfriend, only to have their secrets revealed and friendship tested.

HEAR NO EVIL (dirs. Vai Petersen, Steve Petersen) – 9:59 mins

Deaf after a car crash, Melodie must navigate her home alone while masked intruders search for stolen items—and a mysterious voice guides her fight for survival.

SLAUGHTER SLATE (dir. Xavier Wehrli) – 8:11 mins

An obsessive film student's sentient clapperboard turns his non-cliché horror project into a slasher-style nightmare.

MAKING BEAUTY (dir. Tammy Salzl) – 13:20 mins

In a secret backyard studio, a young artist attempts to beautify the world with increasingly savage results.

CANCER SZN (dir. Zach Green) – 12:42 mins

A modern witch's obsession with a former friend leads to a fatal body-swapping spell when she discovers her rival shares a birthday with her dream partner.

DISEASE (dir. Alex Masciotra-Milstein) – 4:48 mins

A human asks his zombie boyfriend to bite him, triggering a transformative—and gruesome—love story.

IS THAT A MIRAGE? (dir. Grace Shi) – 13:00 mins

Juniper traverses a dystopian wasteland to trade a rare medicinal berry, aiming to save her family and community.

BLACK HOLE (dir. Brianna Russell) – 11:39 mins

A curious boy discovers a black hole in the woods of a town where no one can leave—potentially his only escape.



INFLUENCERS

(Toronto Premiere)

- dir. Kurtis David Harder

Saturday, November 22 – 9:30 pm

(110 mins) Horror / Thriller

Cassandra Naud returns as CW, the charismatic villain and master of identity theft with an uncanny talent for bending people to her will. This time, she's in southern France at a farmhouse-turned-vineyard hotel with her partner Dianne (Lisa Delmar), celebrating their one-year anniversary. Into this idyllic scene arrives Charlotte (Georgina Campbell), an influencer visiting the chateau to showcase it to her followers. Finding it below her standards, she's not shy about saying so. Charlotte quickly takes a liking to Dianne, drawing CW's dangerous glare.

Madison White (Emily Tennant) also returns as the title character and CW's former target from the original *Influencer*, having narrowly escaped CW's web of deceit spun a year earlier in Thailand. Jacob (Jonathan Whitesell) enters the picture as the ultimate purveyor of bro culture, lounging poolside in Bali, shirt off, headset on, firing off relationship tips to men online from an estate fit for royalty.

All of these forces converge in Bali, each with their own agenda, setting the stage for a psychological showdown worthy of this alpha trio. The locations are stunning, the cinematography sharp and precise, and the sound design relentlessly propels the tension forward. The film walks a knife's edge from its opening moments to its explosive finale, with technology once again playing a pivotal role whenever CW is near.

- Norman McGlashan, Programmer



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Emily Dix, Industry Coordinator

Sarah Parrish, Web and Social Media Coordinator

Adam Reich, Print Traffic Coordinator

Cassandra John, Volunteer Coordinator (Frederica Black Events)

Shanice Bowrin, Lab and Industry Assistant

Cebastian Roberts, Front of House Assistant

Stephane Allard, Theatre Traffic Editor and Production

Film Programmers

Kassy Gascho, Nadine L'Esperance, Norman McGlashan, Dara Jade Moats, Heidi Morales,

Kelly Michael Stewart, Melanie Turner

Development Lab Leads

Heather Buckley, Anelle Dehghani, Rueben Martell

Development Lab Jury

Joanne Belluco, Joel H. Brewster, Theresa Cutknife, Raine Petrie, Chloe Navaretnam

Film Awards Jury - Features

Trey Anderson, August Kyss, Jessie Robbins

Film Awards Jury - Shorts

Ashli Agate, Rachel Beaulieu, Dre Boulet, Luis Ceriz

Additional on-site logistics:

Cindy Hinds, Jen Gorman, Sanjay Mohanta

Creative Direction and Design: Small Dog Design

BITS Radio host: Robert Bellamy

Photography: Colleen Yates (festival),

Kseniia Pankova (industry)

Bumper Animation: Lance Fernandes

Bumper Music: Joshua Love

Live Captioning: ScribeWire

ASL Interpreter: Ryan Kraft

Additional open captioning: Stephane Allard

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Blood in the Snow 2025 is dedicated in memory to Kalen Artinian, Adam Lopez and Michael Melski.

...and extra special thanks to all our volunteers!

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