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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

tff@sff.org.au
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Cover Image: Shayda

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HOW TO BOOK

Tickets available through TFF, online or in person at the cinema. Book now to avoid disappointment.

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TFF VISITS...

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As a non-profit organisation, the Travelling Film Festival exists through support from you—our audience. Your donations are an investment in the Festival's future and enable us to keep bringing the best and most important stories from around the world to Mackay each year.

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TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

17-19 NOV 2023



MACKAY BCC MT PLEASANT

BRINGING THE WORLD'S BEST CINEMA TO MACKAY

SCHEDULE All films start at the advertised time.

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

6.15 PM SHAYDA (M)
for Screens with short film KATELE (Unclassified 15+)
7.00 PM
JOIN US FOR WELCOME DRINKS FROM 6.15 PM WITH
FILM & ARTS MACKAY FOLLOWED BY FILM AT 7:00 PM

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

1:30 PM RICEBOY SLEEPS (M)
4:00 PM FALLEN LEAVES (M)
Screens with short film CHUM (Unclassified 15+)
6:30 PM ANATOMY OF A FALL (Unclassified 15+)

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

2:00 PM PERFECT DAYS (Unclassified 15+)
Screens with short film TEACUPS (Unclassified 15+)
4:45 PM BLACKBERRY (M)

STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up to date with program and tour announcements, giveaways and more!



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OPENING NIGHT: SHAYDA + KATELE



FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER | 7:00 PM

WITH WELCOME DRINKS FROM 6.15PM

Directed by Noora Niasari | Australia
English, Farsi with English subtitles | 118 mins | M

In this Sundance Audience Award-winning film, Iranian woman Shayda is sheltering with her young daughter, Mona, hiding from her estranged husband, Hossein. Shelter worker Joyce (Leah Purcell) provides kindness and support, while the pair look to the promise of freedom ahead. When Hossein is granted access rights their lives are threatened again. Drawn from personal experiences, Iranian-Australian filmmaker Noora Niasari's powerful debut feature and Sundance Audience Award-winner is a beautifully crafted, poetic vérité portrayal of courage and compassion, anchored by a heart-rending performance by Zar Amir Ebrahimi (2022 Cannes' best actress award winner for *Holy Spider*), as Shayda.

sundance
FILM
FESTIVAL

tiff

VARIETY

"The greatest asset of *"Shayda,"* however, is its unmistakably feminine spirit of perseverance, one that runs wild and free in this promising debut."

RICEBOY SLEEPS



SAT 18 NOV | 1:30 PM

Directed by Anthony Shim
Canada | In Korean and English with English subtitles | 117 mins | M

Seoul-born Canadian filmmaker Anthony Shim's second feature is an achingly intimate portrait of a mother's love for her son. With delicacy and tenderness, Shim charts the difficulties faced by So-young and Dong-hyun as they attempt to fit into Canadian suburbia. Years later we meet Dong-hyung (now known as David) as a wayward teenager who's grown distant from his mother until a critical event takes them on an unpredictable journey into their Korean past. This shot-on-16mm treasure, akin to *Minari* (SFF 2021), is superbly performed by dancer-turned-actor Choi Seung-yoon in her first feature role and 2022 TIFF Rising Star award winner Ethan Hwang.

SFF tiff

EYE FOR FILM

"Punching well above its weight, the film is a triumph of independent filmmaking, and Shim should now be on every serious cinephile's radar."

FALLEN LEAVES



SAT 18 NOV | 4:00 PM

Directed by Aki Kaurismäki
Finland, Sweden | In Finnish with English subtitles | 81 mins | Unclassified 15+

Winner of the Cannes Jury Prize, the Finnish master Aki Kaurismäki's compassionate comedy has two lonely people meet by chance then try, in turbulent times, to find love. Ansa (Alma Pöysti) works at a supermarket, where the job is so badly paid that she takes home expired sandwiches to eat. Holappa (Jussi Vatanen) is a metalworker, labouring each day in a hazardous job that he is sure will kill him. He drinks through the working day, and then drinks again at night. Against his will, Holappa is dragged to a karaoke night by a friend. There, he meets Ansa and there's a spark. With beautiful performances by Pöysti and Vatanen, *Fallen Leaves* shows Kaurismäki's mastery remains undiminished at depicting down-on-their-luck characters in all their complexity, and finding love and humour in the unlikeliest of situations.

SFF FESTIVAL DE CANNES tiff

SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

"Guaranteed to cast a warm glow."

ANATOMY OF A FALL



SAT 18 NOV | 6:30 PM

Directed by Justine Triet
France | English, French, German with English subtitles | 150 mins | M

In this Cannes Palme d'Or award-winning film, Sandra Hüller plays Sandra, a successful German writer who has spent the last year living with her French husband Samuel (Samuel Theis) and 11-year-old son Daniel (Milo Machado Graner) in a chalet in the idyllic French Alps. When Samuel is found dead by young Daniel, lying in the snow with a severe head injury, the police begin investigations that gradually reveal a fractious relationship. A year later, Sandra is on trial for murder, with her son's testimony crucial to the outcome. As concerned with ideas around sexuality, art and marriage as with the twists and turns of the investigation and trial, *Anatomy of a Fall* is a searingly intelligent film that lingers in the mind long after the closing credits.

SFF FESTIVAL DE CANNES tiff

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"A gripping and gratifyingly rich drama...A director and actress in peak form."

SHORT FILMS

KATELE



Directed by John Harvey
Australia | In English and Kala Kawa Ya with English subtitles 13 mins | Unclassified 15+

Martha, an Indigenous woman, works tirelessly in a laundromat, until the monotonous routine is interrupted by a mysterious visitor who reminds her of the life she left behind.

SCREENS WITH **SHAYDA**

CHUM



Directed by Jason King
Australia | In English
12 mins | Unclassified 15+

When Mary, a fiercely independent woman with vision impairment, has a mishap, a friendly stranger steps in to help. The two bond but Mary notices all isn't quite as it seems.

SCREENS WITH **FALLEN LEAVES**

PERFECT DAYS



SUN 19 NOV | 2:00 PM

Directed by Wim Wenders | Japan, Germany | In Japanese with English subtitles | 123 mins | Unclassified 15+

Hirayama (Koji Yakusho, *Shall We Dance?, Babel*) is a meticulous man of routine. Each day he awakes, grooms himself, waters his plants and looks up at the sky with a smile as he leaves home. And then he sets to his work as a toilet cleaner in Shibuya, Tokyo. In his car, he listens to classic rock tunes on cassettes – the music of The Velvet Underground, The Kinks, Prince and Van Morrison serving as the soundtrack to his day. Appearing to be utterly content with his life, Hirayama also finds pleasure in photographing trees and reading. The appearance of a young woman at his doorstep leads to revelations about Hirayama's past. Filled with surprising delight, and with a soaring lead performance by Koji Yakusho, *Perfect Days* is a gentle, inspirational ode to simple but profound pleasures.

SFF FESTIVAL DE CANNES

VARIETY

"Wim Wender's gentle Japanese character study is his best narrative film in decades."

BLACKBERRY



SUN 19 NOV | 4:45 PM

Directed by Matt Johnson | Canada | English | 120 mins | M

Two mismatched entrepreneurs—egghead innovator Mike Lazaridis and cut-throat businessman Jim Balsillie—joined forces in an endeavour that was to become a worldwide hit in little more than a decade: the invention and sale of the BlackBerry, an addictive mobile phone that changed the way the world worked, played and communicated. But just as BlackBerry was rising to new peaks, it also started losing its way through the fog of smartphone wars, management indecision and outside distractions, eventually leading to the breakdown of one of the most successful techventures in history. Johnson amazes us with this savagely funny story of two Canadian guys who, in between movie nights, invented the tool that, for better or worse, changed our way of doing pretty much everything.

SFF INTERNATIONALE FILMFESTSPIELE BERLIN

DEADLINE

"This long and winding tale ... is at once wonderfully funny, suspenseful and ultimately tragic."

KEY

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tiff

Toronto International Film Festival

sundance

Sundance Film Festival

SFF

FESTIVAL DE CANNES
Cannes Film Festival

TEACUPS



Directed by Finbar Watson and Alec Green | In English | 8 mins | Unclassified 15+

Encapsulates the legacy of Don Ritchie, who for almost half a century approached people contemplating suicide at the edge of a cliff near his home.

SCREENS WITH **PERFECT DAYS**