



WIFF20

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN FILM



VISION, MISSION & VALUES

VISION

A nationally recognized, industry-leading cultural destination.

MISSION

WIFF is a cultural, charitable organization that celebrates the art of cinema by showcasing Canadian and international film and filmmakers. Delivering exceptional experiences through film, WIFF strengthens and enriches community while promoting the creative economy.

VALUES

DIVERSITY OF PROGRAMMING Increasing the exposure of Canadian and international film to all audiences and offering programming which appeals to and is representative of people in our community

INTEGRITY Developing and nurturing respectful relationships with each other, our volunteers, audience, partners and the film industry

EDUCATION Being a vehicle to increase knowledge of film and the film industry

QUALITY OF LIFE Contributing to the quality of life for Windsor-Essex residents that comes from having a vibrant arts community

SUSTAINABILITY Operating under the highest standards that will ensure the continuance of the festival for years to come

URBAN ARTS COMMUNITY Being part of a cultural hub and vibrant arts community in the downtown core

WIFF

WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARTY BENETEAU (CHAIR)
PAT PAPADEAS (VICE-CHAIR)
RENÉE TROMBLEY (TREASURER)
KATHAREN BORTOLIN (SECRETARY)
LYSANDE BISSON
MATT CIARMA
DIANA KAO
DYLAN KRISTY
JEFFREY PATTERSON
LIZ PETTAPIECE-PHILLIPS
MARY-ANN RENNIE

STAFF

HAYDEN FREKER (MANAGING DIRECTOR)
ERIKA SANBORN (DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS)
AUSTIN DI PIETRO (DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS)
ASIL MOUSSA (MANAGER OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR + CHIEF PROGRAMMER

VINCENT GEORGIE



VINCENT GEORGIE brings films to the masses and makes art accessible for all with an irrepressible penchant for big, bold ideas and a relentless positivity that inspires and empowers.

Georgie holds a PhD in the marketing of film.

Georgie wed his marketing savvy with his lifelong love of cinema to grow the award-winning Windsor International Film Festival into the **largest volunteer-run festival in Canada**. The can't-miss event draws crowds from across the country and every corner of Windsor-Essex to watch films from around the globe that have won Academy Awards, Golden Globes or the prestigious Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival,

among other awards.

Year after year, he continues to expand WIFF's offerings and reach, showcasing films "Under the Stars" on the city's spectacular riverfront and inspiring the next generation of filmmakers with the Mark Boscariol 48-Hour FlickFest and WIFF Local. He builds partnerships to promote films and filmmakers, including partnerships with **Netflix, Amazon Studios and others**. He has also championed the installation of WIFF Alley, a vibrant film-themed mural in the city's core that keeps WIFF top of mind even when the projectors aren't running.

Georgie was named a **Top 10 Community Leader Who Makes Windsor Better by Windsor Star**, made the **Top 40 Under 40 list by Leadership Windsor-Essex** and received the **Made a Difference Award from the University of Windsor**, where he earned his MBA and where he continues to be Marketing faculty while serving as the Acting Associate Vice President External.

In 2023, Georgie was asked to be a jury member on the TIFF Canada's Top Ten Feature Films Committee.

Georgie has been an active member of the **Board of Directors for Ontario Creates** since 2021. With support from Ontario Creates, Ontario's Film and Television industry contributed a record-breaking \$3.15 billion to Ontario's economy in 2022, creating 45,891 high-value full-time equivalent direct and spin-off jobs for Ontarians.

PRAISE FOR WIFF

POINT OF VIEW MAGAZINE

POV

CANADA'S DOCUMENTARY MAGAZINE



EMPIRE OF LIGHT OPENED THE 2022 WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL | SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Windsor Film Fest Returns as a Cinephile's Haven

Festival returns strong after two-year pause



BY PAT MULLEN · NOVEMBER 2, 2022 · FESTIVALS · 15 MINS READ

The festival is a cinephile's paradise and a reminder that nothing replaces the in-person experience. With screenings taking place at venues that are all less than a five-minute walk from each other in downtown Windsor, WIFF lets movie buffs run the gamut of the best the world has to offer. One can easily see seven films per day without the headaches associated with navigating other festivals. This easy-to-navigate fest is all about the movies.

PAT MULLEN, PUBLISHER, POV MAGAZINE

This festival is so unique in that it really does allow people to watch movies, and watch a lot of them if you want to. Everywhere I go, I see people with the brochures talking about what film they're going to see next. People like to have a good time, and it's also really easy to have a good time here cause everything is so close. There's a sense of community and everyone knows each other. It does feel like you're a guest in someones home and the host is very warm and kind.

**ANTHONY SHIM, DIRECTOR OF RICEBOY SLEEPS
RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 WIFF PRIZE IN CANADIAN FILM**



PRAISE FOR WIFF



TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

EPIC YET INTIMATE: THE 2023 WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

November 1, 2023

Simply put, WIFF has perhaps the best pound-for-pound programming in the entire country, rivalling far larger festivals like TIFF and VIFF with an impressive selection of festival favourites, francophone selections, and cherished classics that play over its 11-day schedule with little in the way of dreck. It's an astonishing feat, only surpassed by world class logistical and technical prowess, from the simple yet effective graphic design, the well laid-out printed schedules, the well-trained and friendly volunteer staff, even the simple yet welcome gift bags stuffed with care to make out-of-town guests feel at home. It truly is a gem on the Canadian festival calendar, but it also shows events around the world how a relatively small community can truly shine with its celebration of cinema.

JASON GORBER, FILM JOURNALIST & CRITIC



Canada, WIFF takes care of its filmmakers and it's films in a special way, thanks to the leadership of Vincent Georgie. Thank you for caring about film subjects too!

**SHERIEN BARSOUM,
DIRECTOR OF CYNARA**

All I want to do is tell about how much I love WIFF, to be honest with you. They're rolling out the red carpet, and they're the only Canadian festival that's got this because of their passion they've shown towards cinema and what I made here.

**SEAN MENARD,
DIRECTOR OF 299 QUEEN STREET WEST**



WIFF AT THE AWARDS

WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN FILM



241

OSCAR NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING 17 BEST
PICTURE

50

OSCAR
WINS

153

GOLDEN
GLOBE
NOMINATIONS

24

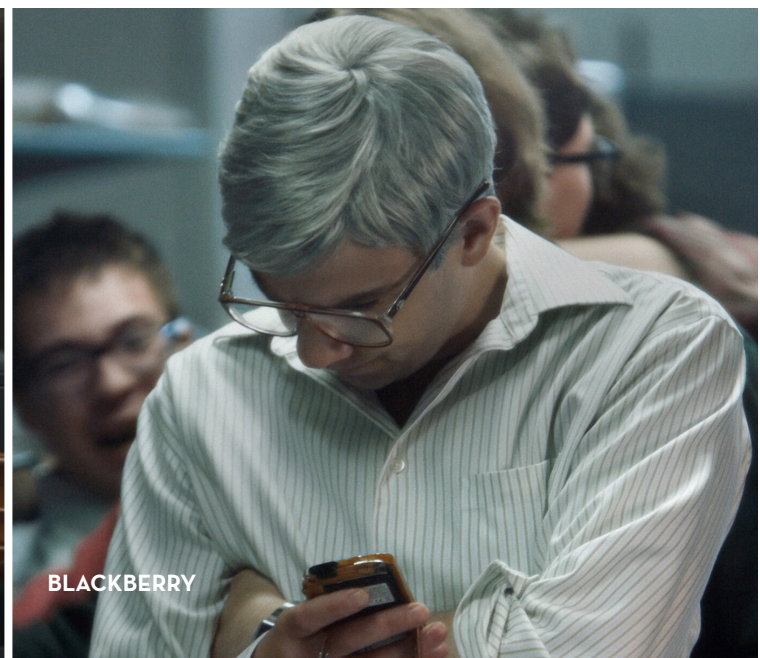
GOLDEN
GLOBE
WINS

90

CANNES
FESTIVAL
PRIZES

14

PALME
D'OR
RECIPIENTS



WIFF

WIFF AT A GLANCE

#1

IN 2019, WIFF WAS NAMED IS THE #1 VOLUNTEER-RUN FILM FESTIVAL IN CANADA THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. WIFF IS IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO, WHICH IS A BORDER CITY WITH DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

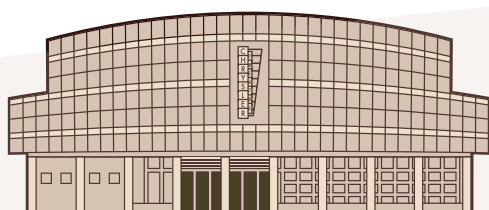
WIFF IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING CULTURAL EVENTS IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

2023

FILMS SHOWN **186**

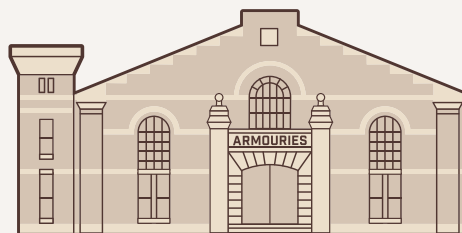
SCREENINGS **307**

TICKETS SOLD **45,000**



CHRYSLER THEATRE

1,137 Seats



ARMOURIES

134 Seats



CAPITOL THEATRE

Pentastar Theatre: 626 Seats
Kelly Theatre: 208

SOME OF THE NUMBERS FROM WIFF 2023:

46

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

47

PRE-RELEASE FILMS

29%

FRANCOPHONE FEATURE FILMS

WIFF PRIZE IN CANADIAN FILM

WIFF is committed to celebrating excellence in Canadian film by honouring Canadian films and filmmakers with an annual cash prize of \$25,000. An independent jury comprised of film industry experts selects the winner. The Francophone-Indigenous film KUESSIPAN, directed by Myriam Verreault, was the recipient of the 2019 prize. The prize was awarded to RICEBOY SLEEPS directed by Anthony Shim in 2022, and to HUMANIST VAMPIRE SEEKING CONSENTING SUICIDAL PERSON directed by Ariane-Louis Seize in 2023. Nominees are announced annually at a special event in Toronto during TIFF. The winner is announced during the opening weekend of WIFF's festival.



WIFF AT TIFF

Our annual celebration held during the Toronto International Film Festival each September to celebrate and recognize the exceptional talents shaping the Canadian film landscape. Adding excitement to the evening is the announcement of the nominees for the WIFF Prize in Canadian Film. The ten nominees will be celebrated through screenings and special Q&A's during WIFF's opening weekend.



WIFF

WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN FILM

AWARD WINNING PROGRAMMING

WIFF expands programming in new and unique ways. Here is just a taste of the award-winning programming that WIFF brings each year.

WOMEN OF WIFF

Women of WIFF is generously supported by local individuals who have made contributions to help WIFF continue to ensure women's voices are heard and their stories shared. Each year, a film is selected and screened, followed by a panel discussion with representatives from the film and a discussion-filled post-film reception to conclude the evening. Past selections have included *Cynara*, *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*, *Untouchable*, *Say Her Name: The Life and Death of Sandra Bland* and *I Am Evidence*.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

WIFF has presented special achievement awards to notable members of the film community, including the Spotlight Award to Academy Award-nominated Shohreh Aghdashloo and Academy Award-nominated Philippe Falardeau, and the Lifetime Achievement award to Tony Award-nominated Lois Smith and Academy Award-winner Norman Jewison.





SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

FRANCOPHONE PROGRAMMING

In 2023, 54 Francophone feature films screened at WIFF - the largest number of Francophone feature films of any festival in Canada (including Québec). WIFF presents these films screenings in partnership with ICI Radio-Canada.

LGBTQ2S+ PROGRAMMING

WIFF screens an expansive LGBTQ2S+ slate of films at the festival. In 2023, 34 films were presented as a part of this initiative. Films are selected from major LGBTQ2S+ festivals including Inside Out Toronto and the San Francisco International Film Festival.

HOTDOCS SHOWCASE

WIFF teams up annually with the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival to present the Hot Docs Showcase. Annually, the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival presents a stellar lineup of Canadian and International documentaries. The showcase highlights some of the best of the year.

WIFF LOCAL

WIFF is committed to promoting and fostering local films and filmmakers and welcomes local short and feature film submissions for programming consideration to the core festival. Films are selected by an independent jury based on their quality and originality, and on their ability to contribute significantly to the overall success of WIFF.



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

SPOTLIGHT ON DETROIT

New in 2023, a captivating film slate dedicated to showcasing the vibrant cinematic landscape of Detroit. These films delve into narratives both gritty and heartwarming, offering a unique lens into the diverse stories that have emerged from this resilient city. These films are a testament to the indomitable spirit of Detroit and the creative voices that call it home.

MARK BOSCARIOL 48-HOUR FLICKFEST

Named in honour of WIFF founder, Mark Boscariol, the 48-Hour FlickFest consists of a slate of short films shot and edited by local filmmakers and film lovers over one weekend. FlickFest is an intense, hyper-local movie making challenge. Supplied with a line of dialogue, a character trait and a prop, filmmakers are given 48-hours to complete and submit their film. This is a juried competition and the screening includes awards presentations.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

A cult-like programming series that features obscure and sometimes terrifying films that are new and old. Included in this series is the yearly screening of Tommy Wiseau's *The Room*, known as the worst film of all time.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

WIFF is also committed to providing space for culturally relevant conversations by programming films that are presented with panel discussions.



EVENTS

WIFF PRESENTS

Outside of the 11-day festival, WIFF provides the opportunity for continued exceptional film viewing experiences by screening films throughout the year with its WIFF Presents series - giving audiences more of what they love - more WIFF.

WIFF UNDER THE STARS

Created in response to the restrictions put in place because of COVID-19, WIFF Under the Stars programming includes any film event happening outside of our main venues and throughout our community. This included the drive-in style events that were held during the summers of 2020 and 2021, and free community screening events at Charles Clark Square and Windsor City Hall.



EVENTS

WIFF

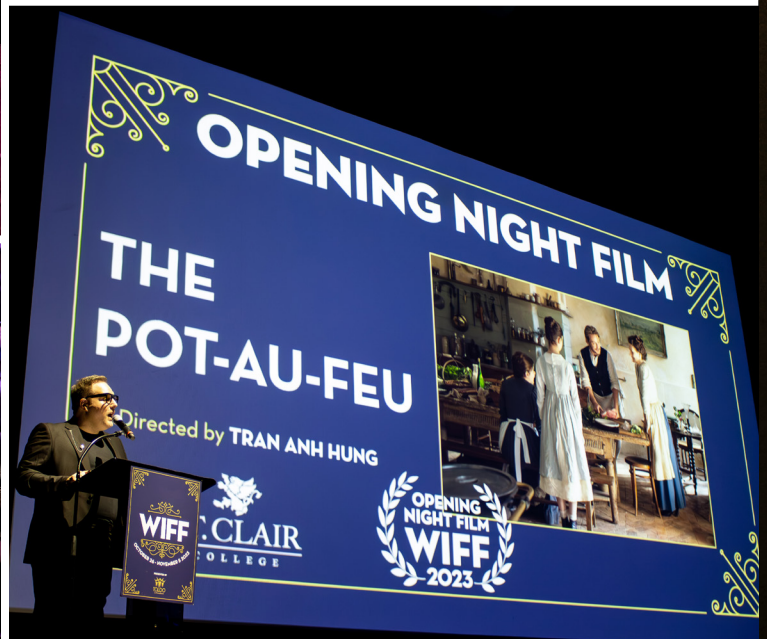
WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN FILM

OPENING NIGHT FILM AND PARTY

The premier event of the year! Join WIFF's closest friends and enjoy our opening night ceremonies, including a specially curated film, followed by the party of the year.

WIFF VILLAGE

A vibrant downtown venue featuring a tented space on University Ave. W., one block east of the Capitol Theatre, during the second weekend of the festival. WIFF Village will feature live entertainment and signature events.



INDUSTRY PROGRAM

To elevate WIFF's goal of supporting current and emerging filmmakers, as part of the 2023 Festival we introduced a new series of events through an Industry Program. These events included in-depth panel discussions, workshops, exclusive receptions and more, featuring industry professionals and nominated filmmakers.





THE NATURE OF LOVE



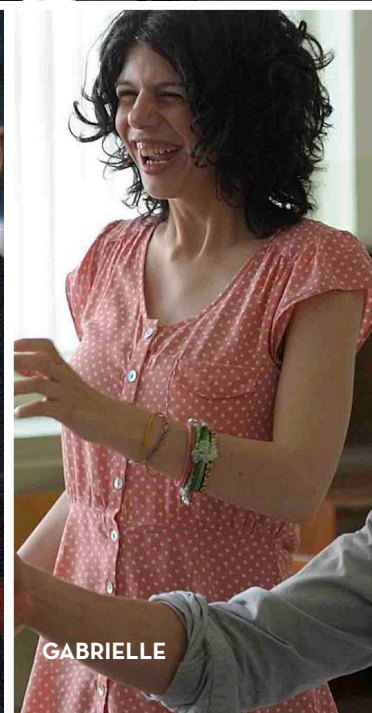
NORBOURG



SEVEN VEILS



HUMANIST VAMPIRE SEEKING CONSENTING
SUICIDAL PERSON



GABRIELLE

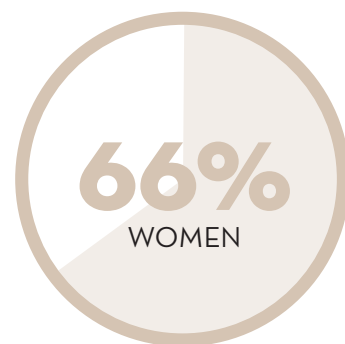
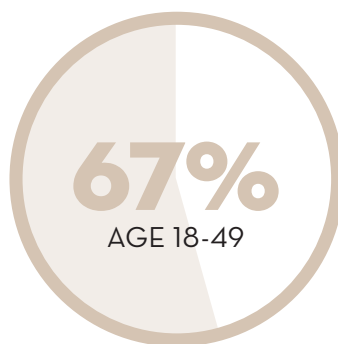


INCENDIES



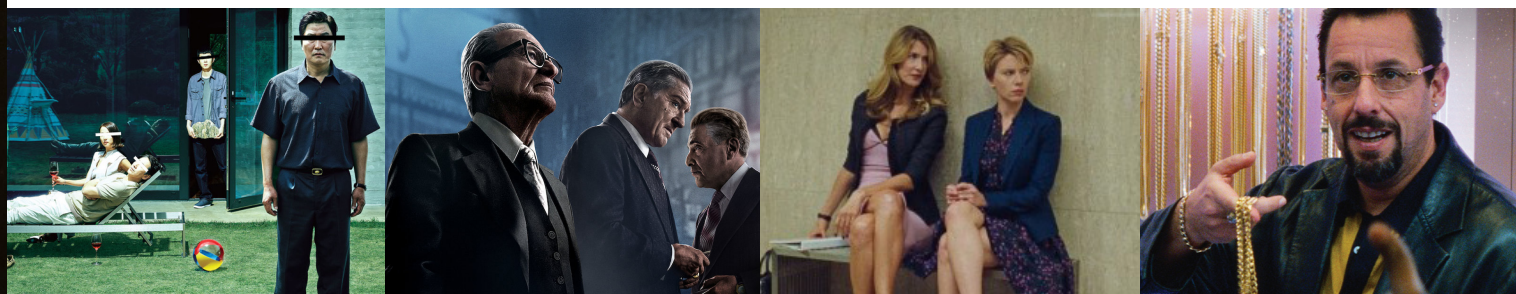
TO KILL A TIGER

ABOUT OUR AUDIENCE



7,580
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

40,000
UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS



WIFF
WINDSORFILMFESTIVAL.COM

CONTACT:

VINCENT GEORGIE

WIFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF PROGRAMMER
VINCENT@WINDSORFILMFESTIVAL.COM
519.563.7444

PAT PAPADEAS

CHAIR, FUND DEVELOPMENT
PAT@WINDSORFILMFESTIVAL.COM
519.791.4414



Photo credit: Erika Sanborn

WIFF Alley is an urban transformation project, showing WIFF's investment in our community. This addition expands the festival experience, creating a corridor connecting our venues and animating our downtown core.