

# NATIONAL CANADIAN FILM DAY

Wednesday, April 16, 2025



## Sign Up for CanFilmDay Worldwide!

Celebrate National Canadian Film Day (CanFilmDay) by hosting an exciting screening for your community on **Wednesday, April 16!**

Whether you want something thought-provoking or fun, just pick a great Canadian film from the following pages, and we'll work with you to plan a successful event. Get started by filling out our simple form.

### REGISTER NOW!

[canfilmday.ca/international-registration](https://canfilmday.ca/international-registration)

CanFilmDay is presented by **REEL CANADA**

### REEL CANADA's support includes:

- Programming advice and film recommendations based on your audience profile and interests (see below for choices)
- Clearing the screening rights for your film(s) and providing digital files for your screening
- Downloadable posters and social media toolkits to help you promote your event
- A multilingual party kit full of printable photo booth props, games and activities
- Plenty of resources and tools to help run your event, including a sample moderator script, tech instructions, resources to prepare a land acknowledgement, and more
- If possible, connecting with special guests to enhance your screening with pre-recorded introductions or Q&As
- Promotion through our social media channels and website
- One-on-one advice and support through the entire planning process

# RECOMMENDED FILMS FOR 2025



## ABERDEEN

*Directors: Eva Thomas (Ojibwe), Ryan Cooper (Ojibwe) / 2024 / 83 mins / 14A / English*

Without a home and having lost her ID, Aberdeen, a First Nations woman living in Winnipeg, is desperate to get her life back on track in order to be a guardian for her grandkids currently in the foster care system. Starting with the seemingly simple task of getting an ID, she runs into constant hurdles that expose the cracks in the system that's meant to support her.

**Interests:** Indigenous Reconciliation, LGBTQ2S+, Human Rights, Female Filmmaker

**Content Notes:** Coarse language, alcohol and substance use

## BERGERS (SHEPHERDS)

*Director: Sophie Deraspe / 2024 / 113 mins / G / French*

Tired of city life, a Québécois man leaves everything behind to pursue his dream of becoming a shepherd in rural France, where he finds love, purpose, and a whole lot more work than he'd ever imagined. Named Best Canadian Feature at TIFF 2024.

**Interests:** Female Filmmaker

**Content Notes:** Sexual content, nudity, coarse language



## KATAK: THE BRAVE BELUGA

*Directors: Nicola Lemay, Christine Dallaire-Dupont / 2023 / 82 mins / PG / French (English dub available)*

Katak, a young Beluga whale, decides to embark on a treacherous journey to the Arctic, hoping to reunite his grandparents. While his parents discourage this journey because he's so much smaller than his peers, Katak proves that he's brave enough to overcome anything. This inspiring animated adventure is a great film for all ages!

**Interests:** Environment and Climate Change, Female Filmmaker

# RECOMMENDED FILMS FOR 2025

## THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS

*Director: Fawzia Mirza / 2023 / 97 mins / PG / English, Urdu*

Azra, a young Queer Pakistani-Canadian woman, starts to reconnect with her estranged mother when they reunite in Pakistan for her father's funeral. Sumptuously capturing parallel coming-of-age stories in Pakistan in the 1960s and 1990s, this brilliant first feature is an instant classic.

**Interests:** LGBTQ2S+, Female Filmmaker

**Content Notes:** Coarse language, sexual content



## RÊVER EN NÉON (NEON DREAMING)

*Director: Marie-Claire Marcotte / 2024 / 83 mins / Not Rated / French*

Convinced that her mother is international ballet superstar Karen Kain, eight-year-old Billie is dead set on proving it to everyone around her. But as her investigation starts to yield new information, she sets off with her best friend on an impossible adventure to finally get to the truth.

**Interests:** Female Filmmaker

## RICHELIEU

*Director: Pier-Philippe Chevigny / 2023 / 90 mins / Not Rated / French*

Starting work as an interpreter for seasonal migrant workers, a young Québécois woman becomes a witness to the workplace abuses at a rural food processing plant. Refusing to stay silent, she decides to become an advocate for the workers, opposing Stéphane, the exploitative plant manager. Nominated for six Canadian Screen Awards including Best Picture.

**Interests:** Human Rights

**Content Notes:** Coarse language, violence





# RECOMMENDED FILMS FOR 2025



## SIMPLE COMME SYLVAIN (THE NATURE OF LOVE)

*Director: Monia Chokri / 2023 / 110 mins / 13+ / French*

Feeling like her marriage has gone stale, Sophie, an intellectual philosophy professor, decides to abandon her comfortable life for a passionate affair with Sylvain, a blue-collar contractor who appears to be her polar opposite. Nominated for 14 Prix Iris, and winner of the César award for Best Foreign Film.

**Interests:** Female Filmmaker

**Content Notes:** Sexual Content, nudity

## SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO

*Director: Tasha Hubbard (Cree) / 2024 / 99 mins / G / English*

Decades after they were driven almost to extinction, the fight to restore North America's buffalo population continues to rage on. This inspiring documentary sheds light on the importance of the buffalo to our ecosystem, as well as the work being done by activists to ensure their survival.

**Interests:** Indigenous Reconciliation, Environment and Climate Change, Female Filmmaker



## TESTAMENT

*Director: Denys Arcand / 2023 / 115 mins / G / French*

In this witty satire from iconic director Denys Arcand, an archivist is dismayed when the seemingly safe confines of his retirement home become the site for a protest centred on a culture clash of generational values. As it grows into a full-blown media sensation, he decides to involve himself in the conflict – with hilarious results.

**Content Notes:** Coarse language