

# AMAAS MEDIA ARTS TOUR: CALGARY EDITION BUS SCREENING PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCT 5, 2024

**FILMS SELECTED BY:  
KYLE MARSHALL, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR  
CALGARY SOCIETY OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS**



## **CONVICTION Bruce Thomas Miller**

Joseph is recently released from prison, but must navigate society to try and find his true freedom.

Bruce Thomas Miller (he/him) is an Anishinaabe, member of Matachewan First Nation community. He currently lives and works in Calgary, Alberta but was raised in rural communities (off reserve) in Northern Ontario, Canada. His films have gone onto various film festivals internationally and nationally. He has

won Best Screenplay from the Wenngushk Film Festival and Best Canadian Short Film from the Available Light Festival.



## **UNCIVILIZED Rawd Almasoud**

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, certain media outlets sparked a new conversation when they compared refugees from Ukraine with those from third world countries, and questioned their civility. The Uncivilized documentary follows the lives of 4 Syrian refugees in Calgary, Canada and uncovers their journey and growth, shedding light on their accomplishments in their new found home.

Rawd Almasoud is an award-winning Syrian Canadian Director, a Producer, and a Cinematographer based in Calgary. Her short documentary film "Uncivilized" has been touring film festivals across the country, winning and getting award nominations. Alongside working in film, she works in theatrical productions as a Stage Manager and Audio Descriptor in accessibility theatre. Rawd aims to encourage women of color and faith from visible minorities in Alberta to engage more in the creative fields.

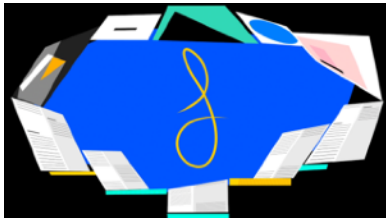
**FILMS SELECTED BY:  
SHARON KAHANOFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
EMMEDIA GALLERY & PRODUCTION SOCIETY**



### **WITH A FINGER TO HER LIPS** **Alana Bartol**

A witch's hands emerge from an abandoned coal mining operation in the area now known as the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta. As the witch navigates these former mine sites, she grapples with the ongoing impacts of environmental degradation.

Alana Bartol (she/they) comes from a long line of water witches. Their site-responsive artworks explore divination, drawing, and dreaming as ways of understanding across places, species, and bodies, critically engaging with the impacts of extractive industries like coal and oil. Long listed for Canada's Sobeys Art Award in 2019 and 2021, Alana's practice includes drawing, experimental video, performance, installation, and drawing. Their work has been presented in exhibitions and festivals across Canada and internationally.

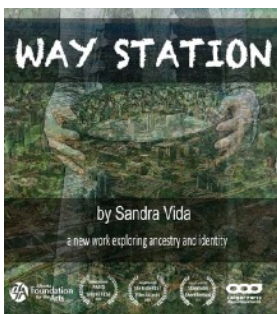


### **VARIETALS** **Emmanuel Ho**

Created for the Emmedia program Spectral Illuminations in 2019, this piece was created in a series of free form improvisational sessions and projected mapped onto the interior of the Memorial Park library. This was a strange piece, I wanted to capture something about the library. Something the

way the information flows and connects through books and people. Process-wise I just sat in the library everyday and just animated in a stream of conscious fashion. This was the result.

Emmanuel Ho (he/him) was born in Montreal, Quebec and attended the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver, British Columbia. He trained in Graphic Design and extended these skills to experimental animation early in his career. His short film work has been screened around the world and has been able to find a home in both entertainment venues along with fine-art spaces. Emmanuel now lives and works from his studio in Mohkinstsis/Calgary, Alberta.



### **WAYSTATION** **Sandra Vida**

The words of the title usually indicate a stopping place for travellers moving from one place to another – an embodiment of the portal or place of transition. WAY STATION explores the intersection of ancestry, culture, belonging, and claiming, delving into aspects of oppression, violence, and war that characterize most ancestral pathways. The artist reflects on this fraught history and performs rituals of cleansing, transformation, and regeneration.

Artist/filmmaker Sandra Vida explores timely concepts and innovative combinations of media. With an activist and optimistic approach to art and life, Vida has been an important contributor to multimedia practices in Canada. She often weaves writings and text into her works, along with thoughts on her Celtic/Norse ancestry, psychological theories, and spiritual aspirations. Her filmic creations are often performative, as she takes on various personas to convey a range of ideas. Vida's stand-alone film works have garnered awards in Paris, Detroit, Stockholm and Hong Kong, and her projects are supported by arts grants at the local and regional level.

Compelling recent works are multi-media installations that merge painting, collage, text, sound, sculpture and video.

**FILMS SELECTED BY:  
RYAN VON HAGEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
QUICKDRAW ANIMATION SOCIETY**



**REAR ENDED**

**Hartley Fiala, Dylon Klemen-Hurrell, and Trevor Mac**

Following a high speed car crash, a redneck pickup truck driver and a Prius-driving urbanite must overcome their differences.

Hartley Fiala is a self-taught animator and artist based in the Calgary Area. From the areas of pixel art animation to mixed-medium paintings, Fiala's work embodies a boundless spirit of creativity and exploration. Weaving tales that resonate with themes of love, playfulness, and the thrill of discovery.

Dylon Klemen-Hurrell is a Canadian animator, filmmaker, and electronic music composer known for his animated visual music. His work plays between the realms of the natural and spiritual, blending them together into a spectacle of light and sound.

Trevor Mac is a Canadian filmmaker creating immersive psychedelic cinematic experiences through animation and analog video glitch art. His work explores social injustice, belonging, and grief.



**Más Mik'áátùní Tsìsgò (CUT KNIFE CREEK)**

**Alanna Bluebird, Beric Manywounds, Ben Pipesetem, Ryan Von Hagen**

A Oral History animated story for language preservation.

Seven Tsuut'ina men refuse to turn back despite 3 dark omens urging them to, they come upon a Cree camp which leads to battle and death in a

supernatural way. This is a traditional story of sacrifice, learning from nature, gentle acts of humanity, and community.

Beric Manywounds

A Two Spirit filmmaker, writer, and performance artist from the Tsuut'ina Nation of Treaty 7. Since graduating from Capilano University's Indigenous Independent Digital Film making program in 2010, Beric has been creating filmic narratives which reflect an exploration of trauma recovery and spiritual reclamation. Beric is also a recent graduate of the Intermedia CyberArts program at Concordia University in Montreal (Tiohtiake) where they began giving shape and form to their own visions of decolonized gender and Indigenous futurism through performance art. Now back home and currently based in Calgary (Guts'ists'i), Beric is now

developing forthcoming feature film projects in genres of Indigenous fantasy, horror, and magical realism.

Alanna Bluebird

A transformative artist and the founder of HEAL, Helping Every Artist Live. With a passion for creativity and self-expression, Alanna has pursued a diverse range of artistic endeavours throughout their career. Her photos have been featured in numerous publications and exhibitions, her spoken word poetry has captivated audiences, and her children's book have all brought together diverse artists to create unforgettable productions.

Benedict Pipestem

Dadanast'ada, Slzi Gumistiyi At'a (How are all of you? My name is The One Who Tires) also known as Benedict Pipestem, I'm from the Tsuut'ina Nation of Treaty 7. I've been working for the Tsuut'ina Gunaha (language) Institute on the Tsuut'ina Nation for 10 years doing a variety of roles like being a language instructor for the Tsuut'ina schools, working with the community to host different community events, like the Tsuut'ina language Bingo, Paint Night, and Family Night, all in the Tsuut'ina language. I am an actor, singer-song writer, storyteller, animator, and writer.

Ryan Von Hagen is an animator, as well as an interdisciplinary Artist living in Mohkinstisis also known as Calgary, Alberta. Ryan is the Artistic Director at the Quickdraw Animation Society and has programmed the GIRAF Festival of Independent Animation since 2016. He also teaches animation and storytelling practices at the Alberta University of the Artists. In his own practice he has worked on feature length documentaries, AFA and Canada Council funded short animated films and theatre productions. He has a wide technical background in the world of animation and believes in the power of cinema through collaboration and community.



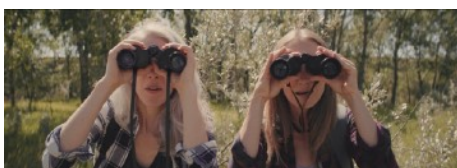
### **SCENES FROM THE GROCERY**

**Arielle McCuaig**

Three sisters gather to find they have no food and go on a psychedelic journey through the grocery store.

Arielle McCuaig is an artist and musician living in Calgary, Alberta. She is the co-head of Pee Blood Records and performs in Puppet Wipes.

### **FILMS SELECTED BY: KATIE FOURNELL, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR OKOTOKS FILM FESTIVAL**



### **THE BLUE WARBLER**

**Heather D. Pattengale**

While searching for an elusive bird, two women explore the reaches of their friendship.



Heather has been working professionally in the theatre for over a decade as an award-winning actor, playwright and director. She is in love with story, and believes that the stories we tell can inspire us to be better versions of ourselves. She wants to make the world a better place and fill it with beautiful things. When Heather was a kid she used to make movies at home with the camcorder all the time, but that all stopped when she started working in the theatre. Decades later, she's curious about getting back to that initial impulse. This is her first film.



**SOULMICE**  
**Alyssa Koski**

A lonely mouse builds a friend out of local flora, but their new friend is swept away by the wind. They chase it through the foothills until it leads them to another lonely mouse also looking for friendship.

Alyssa Koski is an Illustrator, Animator, and Entrepreneur. She specializes in whimsical and narrative based illustration, following the themes of adventure, magic, and belief in the impossible. She loves working on children's book illustrations, graphic novels, and short film 2-D animation. Her work almost always has an upbeat and carefree nature, and she also tries to support issues that are important to her in her work: self-confidence, respect for the environment, the power of imagination, and thirst for knowledge. She graduated from the Alberta College of Art + Design (now Alberta University of the Arts) in Calgary, Alberta with a major in Character Design.



**IF WALLS COULD TALK**  
**Aleisha Anderson**

A short film based on the adage "if these walls could talk", an ordinary guy discovers that he can hear and talk to walls. His special power takes him on big adventures and teaches him the true meaning of happiness and fulfillment.

Aleisha is a member of the Director's Guild of Canada and has won multiple awards for her work in producing and directing. As a director, Aleisha aims to engage people through film in a manner that invites them to explore possibilities and prompts them to inquire, not only about the story's world but also about their own surroundings.