



**BURLINGTON FILM SOCIETY**

[VTIFF.ORG/BFS](http://vtiff.org/bfs)

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Two Vermont Film Premiere Screenings on February 25<sup>th</sup> – Documentary *Welcome to Leith* and Laurie Anderson's *Heart of a Dog***

Burlington, VT: (February 17, 2016) Main Street Landing, The Burlington Film Society (BFS), the Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) are pleased to present an exclusive Burlington area theatrical screenings of critically acclaimed, awarding winning documentary *Welcome to Leith* and artist & performer Laurie Anderson's latest project, *Heart of a Dog*.

*Welcome to Leith* will be screened on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, followed by a panel discussion. *Heart of a Dog* will screen the same evening at 8:30pm. Screenings take place at The Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake Street in Burlington.

These screenings are free for VTIFF Members, \$8 general admission, \$5 for students. There is a special price of \$12 for both screenings. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at:

Welcome to Leith: <http://welcometoleithvtiff.brownpapertickets.com/>

Heart of a Dog: <http://heartofadogvtiff.brownpapertickets.com/>

To learn more about VTIFF Membership and benefits, please visit <http://vtiff.org/membership>.

### **About the films:**

#### ***Welcome to Leith***

Directed by Michael Beach Nichols & Christopher K. Walker  
USA | Documentary | 2015 | 86 min

Presented in partnership with the [Peace & Justice Center](#)

*Welcome to Leith* is a feature documentary chronicling the attempted takeover of a small town in North Dakota by notorious white supremacist Craig Cobb. As his behavior becomes more threatening, tensions soar, and the residents desperately look for ways to expel their unwanted neighbor. With incredible access to both long-time residents of Leith and white supremacists, the film examines a small community in the plains struggling for sovereignty against an extremist vision.

Winner Best Documentary - East End Film Festival, UK

Winner Filmmaker-to-Filmmaker Award - Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

Winner Grand Jury Prize & Best Editing - Independent Film Festival of Boston

Winner Special Jury Prize - River Run International Film Festival

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### ***Heart of a Dog***

Directed by Laurie Anderson

USA | 2015 | 75 min

“Hello, little bonehead. I’ll love you forever.” So begins *Heart of a Dog*, creative pioneer Laurie Anderson’s wry, wondrous and unforgettable cinematic journey through love, death and language.

Centering on Anderson’s beloved rat terrier Lolabelle, who died in 2011, *Heart of a Dog* is a personal essay that weaves together childhood memories, video diaries, philosophical musings on data collection, surveillance culture and the Buddhist conception of the afterlife, and heartfelt tributes to the artists, writers, musicians, and thinkers who inspire her.

Fusing her own witty, inquisitive narration with original violin compositions, hand-drawn animation, 8mm home movies and artwork culled from exhibitions past and present, Anderson creates a hypnotic, collage-like visual language out of the raw materials of her life and art, examining how stories are constructed and told – and how we use them to make sense of our lives.

**Main Street Landing** is an environmentally and socially conscious redevelopment company in Burlington, Vermont that has created over 250,000 square feet of built environment on the Burlington Waterfront. The Film House, located at 60 Lake Street is used primarily for film screenings and presentations. It is equipped with a large screen that covers west facing

windows, control room, Dolby surround sound, retractable screen, and smart podium and can fit up to 220 people. More information at [www.mainstreetlanding.com](http://www.mainstreetlanding.com).

**The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF)** is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film, celebrating 30 years, 1985-2015. VTIFF is a year-round organization that showcases community film screenings, hosts film series like the Global Roots Series, and supports Vermont filmmakers. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival. The festival is best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont and for the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. More information at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org).

**The Burlington Film Society (BFS)** is a resource for local film events, meet-ups and an advocacy platform for cinema. The mission of the Film Society is to cultivate film culture in the greater Burlington area through the creation of an organizational mechanism for cineastes; by working with area theaters, arts presenters, granting organizations, educational institutions, and businesses to generate opportunities for theatrical screenings of films; and by increasing opportunity for engagement with and appreciation of cinema. For more information about The Burlington Film Society, visit [vtiff.org/bfs](http://vtiff.org/bfs).

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