

VTIFF

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**GLOBAL ROOTS
FILM FESTIVAL 2023**

FEBRUARY 16-19

**INTERNATIONAL FEATURES
SUBMITTED TO THE ACADEMY AWARDS**



**HOST SPONSOR MAIN STREET
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GLOBAL ROOTS FILM FESTIVAL: INTERNATIONAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2023 ACADEMY AWARDS

There are 93 submissions in the Best International Feature category to the 2023 Academy Awards. 15 have been shortlisted, 5 will be nominated. 1 will win. Our festival is focused on the origins, not on the results.

Every country flies a flag. There is much to be learned about global cultures by examining how they wish to be seen and judged by others. As in so many other competitive spheres, there is a hierarchy of submitters. At the top are countries who choose a film that has a strong chance of making its way through the Hollywood system to prove that they are “insiders”, whereas others, without connections, hope to be finally heard on the world stage: *Tembele* (Ghana) and *Mediterranean Fever* (Palestine) are two such examples. And then there is a third category: countries who wish to show their liberal credentials by selecting films about human rights issues of other countries, often made by exiled directors. For the latter, one need look no further than Denmark who for two years running has submitted films about human rights issues in other countries (*Flee* - Afghanistan) and this year *Holy Spider* (Iran), or Canada with *Eternal Spring* (China).

Each of the 11 films in this festival speaks for a different culture and way of thinking. We hope you will be as inspired by them as we are.

ATTEND AS A VTIFF MEMBER

Passes and tickets are free for VTIFF All Access Members and discounted for Patron Members.

WHERE TO FIND US

All screenings are located at the Film House at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake Street, Burlington.

TICKETS & PASSES

To purchase tickets, passes or get more info go to vtiff.org or scan the QR code below:



WE'VE GOT AN APP!



VTIFF

VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

BECOME A MEMBER

Film is one of the most democratic, accessible and transformative forms of art.

Your membership ensures we are able to present the world to Vermont through film.

VTIFF.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

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You could give your people
Culligan Water





ARGENTINA 1985
THURS. | 2/16 | 7PM
Director: Santiago Mitre
 Argentina | 140 mins |
 Spanish w/ subtitles
 Golden Globe Winner:
 Best Non-English
 Language Motion Picture.

Nominated for the Academy Awards
Sponsors: Bridget & Nick Meyer

A fascinating historical re-enactment of a major historical moment in Argentinian history. The film succeeds in balancing the pathos of the David-vs-Goliath Trial of the Juntas with a lightness of touch, depicting how a young lawyer, and an inexperienced legal team dared to prosecute the heads of Argentina's bloody military dictatorship and bring them to justice in a race against time.



THE BLUE CAFTAN
(Le bleu du caftan)
SUN. | 2/19 | 1:45PM
Director: Maryam Touzani
 Morocco | 118 mins
 | French/Arabic w/
 subtitles. Shortlisted for
 the Academy Awards.

Winner: Jury Prize at the Marrakech International Film Festival
Sponsor: Olivia Milens

A beautiful, sensuous, patiently crafted story of Mina and Halim (her closeted gay husband), who run a traditional caftan store in one of Morocco's oldest medinas. The hire of a dashing apprentice leads us immediately to think we know what's coming next. But the film subverts expectations at almost every turn, revealing ordinary people trying to find a balance between tradition, modernity and freedom.



ETERNAL SPRING
SAT. | 2/18 | 12PM
Director: Jason Loftus
 Canada | 86 mins |
 English/Mandarin w/
 Subtitles
 *Followed by Q&A with
 the director*

A mesmerizing and controversial animated documentary depicting the actions of how the outlawed spiritual group Falun Gong hijacked a state TV station in China. The drawings of comic book illustrator

Daxiong (Star Wars) are transposed into sweeping 3-D animation to tell the story, which unfolds at the engaging clip of a heist thriller.



GIRL PICTURE
(Tyttö tytöt tytöt)
SUN. | 2/19 | 7PM
Director: Alli Haapasalo
 Finland | 100 mins |
 Finnish w/ subtitles
 Audience Award Winner
 at Sundance Film Festival

Three young girls at the cusp of womanhood try to defy the persistent winter darkness in Finland by trying to draw their own contours. In the process, they move between dreams, reality, friendship and relationships, and try to make sense of the whole mess.



HOLY SPIDER (Les nuits de Mashhad)
FRI. | 2/17 | 4:15PM
Director: Ali Abassi
 Denmark | 116 mins |
 Persian w/ subtitles
 Shortlisted for the
 Academy Awards

Set in Iran but shot in Jordan, this is Ali Abassi's third feature (his celebrated debut Border played at VTIFF in 2018). Female journalist Rahimi travels to the Iranian holy city of Mashhad to investigate a serial killer targeting sex workers. Constructed as a thriller, the film is also a clear, multi-faceted picture of many obstacles and challenges that Iranian women face. Based on the true story of the 'Spider Killer' Saeed Hanaei, who saw himself as on a mission from God as he killed 16 women between 2000 and 2001.



JOYLAND
SAT. | 2/18 | 7PM
Director: Saim Sadiq
 Pakistan | 126 mins |
 Urdu/Punjabi w/ subtitles
 Shortlisted for the
 Academy Awards
 Winner Queer Palme and

the Jury Prize in Cannes
Sponsors: Lorna Kay Peal and Arnie Malina

"Discouraged identities and taboo desires emerge tentatively into the open in Joyland. Tartly funny and plungingly sad in equal measure, this nuanced queer filmmaking, is more concerned with the textures and

particulars of its own intimate story than with grander social statements as a tale of transgender desire in a Muslim country." ~ Guy Lodge, *Variety*



MEDITERRANEAN FEVER
SAT. | 2/18 | 4:30PM
Director: Maha Haj
 Palestine | 108 mins |
 Arabic w/ subtitles
 Winner, Best
 Screenplay in Cannes'

Un Certain Regard.
Sponsors: Lisa Schamberg & Pat Robins

Palestinian-Israeli writer-director Haj's serio-comic film explores a complicated friendship-enmity between two middle-aged neighbors. The film builds up with small blocks of humor and well-observed vignettes, so that we hardly notice when things go awry. Keeping us guessing right up to the end, this comedy about depression is a refreshing look at the region's political turmoil.



NOSTALGIA
FRI. | 2/17 | 7PM
Director: Mario Martone
 Italy | 118 mins | Italian w
 subtitles
*Sponsors: Kim & Steve
 MacQueen**

Introduced by Antonello Borra, Italian Professor of Italian cinema at UVM*
 Screening preceded by a reception sponsored by the Vermont Italian Cultural Association

After decades abroad, a man returns to his neighborhood in Naples for closure. Based on Neapolitan author Ermanno Rea's novel, it is set and shot in Naples' vibrant Sanità quarter, in the heart of the city. Nostalgia, exquisitely shot and acted, is a story about mothers and sons, about gangsters and priests, and about a peculiar kind of longing for the past in a place where little has changed for hundreds of years.



THE QUIET GIRL (An Cailín Ciúin)
SAT. | 2/18 | 2:30PM
Director: Colm Bairéad
 Ireland | 94 mins | Irish/
 Scottish Gaelic/English
 w/ subtitles. Nominated
 for the Academy Awards

Sponsor: Jennifer Rangnow

The first Irish-language film to win the Irish Academy Award for best film. This beautiful and compassionate film, which already feels like a classic, is a child's-eye look at our fallen world; Based on "Foster" by Irish author Claire Keegan, The Quiet Girl is an intricate, deeply felt coming-of-age drama that delves into the meaning of family from the point of view of a neglected young girl.



SAINT OMER
SUN. | 2/19 | 4:15PM
Director: Alice Diop
 France | 122 mins | French
 w/ subtitles
 Shortlisted for the
 Academy Awards.
 Winner of the Silver Lion

and the Lion of the Future at the Venice Film Festival. Winner of the Palm Springs Film Festival FIPRESCI prize for foreign film from the jury of international film critics.

New York Times Critics Pick
Sponsors: Gretchen Santamour & Brian Ortelere

Documentarian Alice Diop's extraordinary debut fiction feature follows the experiences of a young novelist attempting to write a new version of the Medea myth. It retells a 2016 infanticide case while casually inventing a new grammar for the true-life tragedy genre. Challenging accepted ideas of subjectivity and objectivity, it is a complex meditation on Black women in modern-day France.



TEMBELE
SUN. | 2/19 | 11:45 AM
Director: Morris Mugisha
 Uganda | 77 mins | Swahili
 w/ subtitles
 *Followed by Q&A with
 the director*
Sponsors: Ryan Chartier

and Charles Kahn

In the history of the Oscars, only nine African films have ever been nominated for the best international feature prize. Tembele, directed and produced by actor-turned-director Mugisha, makes history as Uganda's first ever Oscar submission. Shot in indigenous languages, it follows a man who works on a garbage truck, battling a mental setback after losing a son. The film treads a thin line between reality and make belief to produce a surrealist, psychological drama.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Reception (Lake Lobby)	6:15 pm
Argentina 1985	7:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Holy Spider	4:15 PM
Reception (Lake Lobby)	6:15 PM
Nostalgia	7:00 PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Eternal Spring	12:00 PM
The Quiet Girl	2:30 PM
Mediterranean Fever	4:30 PM
Reception (Lake Lobby)	6:15 PM
Joyland	7:00 PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Tembele	11:45 AM
The Blue Caftan	1:45 PM
Saint Omer	4:15 PM
Reception (Lake Lobby)	6:15 PM
Girl Picture	7:00 PM

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Vermont Italian Cultural Association

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