

OCTOBER 3-10 ◉ 2024

SIFF **DOC**  
**FEST**

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN

REAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3 ◉ 7:00 PM

**THEY ALL CAME OUT TO MONTREUX**

United Kingdom ◉ 2024 ◉ 93 mins ◉ Oliver Murray

Beginning in 1967, everyone who was anyone in the jazz, blues, and rock world made their way to a sleepy town on Lake Geneva to perform at a new music festival. Almost immediately, the Montreux Jazz Festival began to present an astonishing lineup: from Nina Simone to Quincy Jones, Etta James to David Bowie, the Rolling Stones to Carole King. Its founder, Claude Nobs, had virtually no knowledge of the music industry, but possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of music, and set out to make the festival a creative hub. Additionally, Claude filmed the festival's proceedings each year, leaving behind an archive of extraordinary depth. Director Oliver Murray weaves this newly digitized footage together with interviews and Nobs' own home movies to create a loving, lasting testament to a festival that defined its time and was simultaneously years ahead of it.

Starting at 5:00pm, Passholders and ticket buyers are invited to join us for an Opening Night reception at Solo Bar. Opening Night pre-show hosted by KNKX.

OPENING NIGHT



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 @ 5:00 PM**

## WILDING

**United Kingdom @ 2023 @ 75 mins @ David Allen**

When Isabella's husband Charlie inherited the 1,400-hectare Knepp estate in West Sussex, the land was plainly suffering after decades of intensive farming. Transforming it wasn't going to be easy, but the young couple decide to battle years of tradition, and dare to place the fate of their farm in the hands of nature. Based on a bestseller by Isabella Tree, *Wilding* is the inspirational story of an country estate that embarks on a trailblazing rewilding project that may change the way we think about nature and how we can heal our planet.



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 @ 7:00 PM**

## YINTAH

**Canada @ 2024 @ 125 mins @ Jennifer Wickham (Gidimt'en-Witsuwit'en), Brenda Michell (Unist'ot'en-Witsuwit'en), Michael Toledano**

The Wet'suwet'en have never ceded their territory, governing the *Yintah* ("land" in the Wet'suwet'en language) for centuries. Despite this, fossil fuel companies continuously trespass onto their lands, intending to construct natural-gas pipelines across bodies of water, creating significant environmental risk to the surrounding Indigenous communities. Filmed over the course of a decade, *Yintah* provides a riveting account of the Wet'suwet'en's fight for sovereignty as they take on gas companies, the Canadian government, and armed police.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 1:00 PM**

## FARMING WHILE BLACK

**USA @ 2023 @ 77 mins @ Mark Decena**

Committed to reversing the decline of Black-owned farms, a movement of activists and change-makers shed light on the challenges they've faced in the USA, and lay the groundwork for a new generation. Weaving the rich and troubled history of the Black American farming experience with the contemporary resurgence of the land sovereignty movement, director Mark Decena's visually eloquent documentary chronicles the efforts of these activists and change-makers to reclaim their agricultural heritage.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 3:30 PM**

## EVERY LITTLE THING

**Australia @ 2024 @ 93 mins @ Sally Aitken**

Terry Masear wants to save every injured hummingbird in Los Angeles. Having established LA's only dedicated hummingbird rescue center, she treats hundreds of the birds every year. In helping these creatures, she has created a reflection of her own journey of recovery from the tragedies she has suffered in her past. Inspired by Masear's 2015 book "Fastest Things on Wings: Rescuing Hummingbirds in Hollywood", director Sally Aitken brings the lives of Terry and her patients into sharp focus, capturing her deep and honest care for Cactus, Wasabi, and the other hummingbirds with beautifully detailed photography.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 7:00 PM**

## DEVO

**United Kingdom @ 2024 @ 93 mins @ Chris Smith**

Since winning a Grand Jury Prize in 1999 at Sundance for *American Movie*, prolific documentarian Chris Smith has established himself as a go-to for getting genuine weirdos to talk about their art on camera. Smith's latest assembles an authentic account of Devo, the metamorphic art rockers who formed amid traumatic disillusionment following the National Guard's deadly confrontations with Vietnam War protestors at Kent State in 1970. With a focus on the band's massive first wave, the documentary contextualizes their music as just one arm of a wide-ranging philosophical project of "de-evolution."



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 @ 1:00 PM**

## **DRIVER**

**USA @ 2024 @ 90 mins @ Nesa Azimi**

After losing everything, Desiree Wood has a second lease on life as a long-haul truck driver, criss-crossing the country while constantly fighting to get fair pay, but a deteriorating US labor landscape and predatory industry practices keeps putting her financial security and safety further out of reach. Gathering a coalition of women drivers together into an organization named "REAL Women In Trucking," Desiree and company seek a sustainable path forward, at the risk of losing it all. Filmed over the course of three years, first-time filmmaker Nesa Azimi employs an intimate lens as she draws you into the rhythms of the road with Desiree.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 @ 3:30 PM**

## **THE MOVIE MAN**

**Canada @ 2023 @ 88 mins @ Matt Finlin**

The small hamlet of Kinmount, Ontario only has about 500 residents. It no longer has a gas station or a school. What it does have, however, is a five-screen cinema palace and movie memorabilia museum, thanks to the singular vision of its colorful, cantankerous founder, Keith Stata. Shot over five eventful years, director Matt Finlin provides an affectionate and richly detailed portrait of Keith—now in his 70s—as he confronts his dwindling health and a global pandemic.

**Director Matt Finlin scheduled to attend.**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 @ 7:00 PM**

## **CHECKPOINT ZOO**

**USA @ 2024 @ 103 mins @ Joshua Zeman**

*Checkpoint Zoo* is a gripping documentary set during the early days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, when Kharkiv's beloved Feldman Ecopark Zoo found itself caught in the crossfire between advancing Russian forces and Ukrainian defenders. Against all odds, a courageous team of zookeepers and volunteers risked their lives to embark on a seemingly impossible mission: to bring these innocent animals to safety.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 @ 5:00 PM**

## **WITCHES**

**United Kingdom @ 2024 @ 90 mins @ Elizabeth Sankey**

In *Witches*, filmmaker Elizabeth Sankey delves into the portrayal of witches in cinema, using her own personal experiences with motherhood and mental health as a powerful lens. Blending personal testimony with interviews from experts and friends, the film connects current-day women's struggles with how society and modern medicine views postpartum depression to the historical witch hunts, revealing how contemporary norms often continue to fail women.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 @ 7:30 PM**

## **SEARCHING FOR AMANI**

**USA @ 2024 @ 80 mins @ Nicole Gormley & Debra Aroko**

Thirteen-year-old aspiring journalist Simon Ali investigates his father's mysterious murder within one of Kenya's largest wildlife conservancies. Armed with only a video camera and an unwavering determination to uncover the truth, he seeks to reach a state of *Amani*—Swahili for "peace." As a ravaging drought encroaches, his quest to find the killer shifts as the collateral damage of a warming world is revealed.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 @ 5:00 PM**

## NEW WAVE

USA @ 2024 @ 94 mins @ Elizabeth Ai

Mile-high hair. Synthesized music. Underground parties. Elizabeth Ai's lively first feature delves into the rebellious 80s Vietnamese New Wave music scene, blending nostalgia with a deeply personal re-examination of her community's hidden and unexamined past. Through intimate interviews and rich archival footage, *New Wave* transforms from a celebration of youthful rebellion into a cathartic exploration of cultural identity, generational trauma, and the lasting impact of the Vietnam War.



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 @ 7:30 PM**

## ENO

USA @ 2023 @ 90 mins @ Gary Hustwit

Visionary musician and artist Brian Eno—known for producing David Bowie, U2, and Talking Heads, among many others; pioneering the genre of ambient music; and releasing over 40 solo and collaboration albums—reveals his creative processes in this groundbreaking generative documentary. Each screening of *Eno* is unique, presenting different scenes, order, music, and meant to be experienced live.

Screening will be preceded by short film *Dumble: A Life Well Built* (USA, 16 min, d. Ryan Cory). Pre-recorded Q&A with the director will screen after the film.



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 @ 7:30 PM**

## 500 DAYS IN THE WILD

Canada @ 2023 @ 120 mins @ Dianne Whelan

Award-winning director and cinematographer Dianne Whelan embarks on an epic, six-year odyssey—hiking, biking, paddling, snowshoeing, and skiing across Canada, becoming the first person to traverse the entire 24,000-km Trans-Canada trail. Weaving together striking imagery from her grueling trek with intimate moments of reflection, humor, and stories of the people and communities that she encountered, *500 Days in the Wild* is an extraordinary record of an equally amazing journey of body and spirit.

Director & Subject Dianne Whelan scheduled to attend.



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 @ 7:30 PM**

## DAHOMEY

France @ 2024 @ 68 mins @ Mati Diop

The African kingdom of Dahomey ruled over much of West Africa until the turn of the 20th century, when it was invaded by France and transformed into a French colony. In November, 2021—61 years after Dahomey (now modern day Benin) gained independence—26 of the thousands of its national antiquities that were plundered by French colonial troops were finally returned to their African home. Blurring the line between fiction and documentary, the Golden Bear-winning new film from Mati Diop (*Atlantics*) is a poignant commentary on the role of museums and the enduring ghosts of colonialism.

Seattle Art Museum Curator of African and Oceanic Art Pam McClusky scheduled to attend and introduce the film.



**CLOSING NIGHT**

### PASSES

\$100 / \$75 for SIFF MEMBERS

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

\$14 / \$9 for SIFF MEMBERS