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World premiere of Aziz Zoromba's feature documentary *LOUF* headlines NFB selection at the Calgary International Film Festival

Four new animated shorts round out the NFB lineup



(Images provided by the NFB)

August 26, 2026 – Vancouver – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

The [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) returns to the [Calgary International Film Festival](#) (CIFF) with a powerful mix of documentary and animation.

Running September 24 to October 4, the festival will host the **world premiere** of *LOUF*, the **debut feature documentary** by Montreal-based Canadian-Egyptian filmmaker **Aziz Zoromba**, presented in CIFF's **Canadian Documentary Competition**. Best known for his **multi-award-winning** short film *Simo*, Zoromba follows celebrated chef **Fadi Kattan** and his Canadian partner **Nicole Mankinen** as they race to open a **Palestinian restaurant in Toronto**.

The festival's **Shorts Competition** will present **four new NFB animated shorts**: *Bisou sauvage* by **Bahij Jaroudi**, *The Flames of Me* by **Daniel Léger**, *I Don't Love You Anymore* by **Diane Obomsawin** and *Ultra Strong* by **Catherine Lepage**, recipient of the People's Choice Award at Montreal's *Sommets du cinéma d'animation*.

Quick facts

LOUF by **Aziz Zoromba** (109 min) | World Premiere | Canadian Documentary Competition

Press Kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/louf

- Follow acclaimed chef **Fadi Kattan** and Canadian co-venturer **Nicole Mankinen** as they race to open a **Palestinian restaurant in Toronto**. While their **dream takes shape**, escalating attacks **devastate Gaza and the West Bank**. Part **immersive food film** and part **urgent record**, *LOUF* is a powerful meditation on **diaspora, resistance** and the **politics of preservation**.
- **Aziz Zoromba** is a Canadian-Egyptian filmmaker from Montreal. He is best known for his film *Simo*, which won the IMDbPro Short Cuts Award for Best Canadian Short Film at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival and Best Live Action Short Drama at the 11th Canadian Screen Awards, in addition to premiering at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and the 73rd Berlinale.

NFB animation in the Shorts Competition

Bisou sauvage by **Bahij Jaroudi** (2 min 50 s) | Western Canadian premiere

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/bisou-sauvage

- As **world tragedies** pile up, a **bored couple** is looking for their next distraction. This **explosive dark comedy** is a blunt take on the **privilege of boredom** and the **dissonance** that is needed to pretend **everything is okay**.
- Born in 1981 in Lebanon and recently relocated to Toronto, **Bahij Jaroudi** has collaborated with major clients like Netflix, Cartoon Network Arabia and *The New York Times*. After earning an MA in Animation from Kingston University (UK), he built a prolific career spanning animated ads, short films and children's books, and has taught animation at the Lebanese American University.

The Flames of Me by **Daniel Léger** (10 min 2 s) | Western Canadian Premiere

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/the-flames-of-me

- How do you rebuild your sense of self after being diagnosed with **bipolar disorder**? Through **striking images** created with **fire and soot** by visual artist **Steven Spazuk**, and music by **Daniel Lanois**, director Daniel Léger recounts his journey **through shadow and light** since his diagnosis, in a **courageous self-portrait** that reminds us that no one is defined solely by their **dark side**.
- New Brunswick native **Daniel Léger** is a multidisciplinary artist who describes himself as a poet of the everyday. A filmmaker and singer-songwriter, he has made four films with the NFB and recorded six albums with Productions Koonacky, which earned him a place on the "New Brunswick Francophone Music Wall of Fame" in 2022.

I Don't Love You Anymore by **Diane Obomsawin** (9 min 53 s) | Western Canadian Premiere

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/i-dont-love-you-anymore

- In a **Niagara Falls** motel, an unremarkable couple attempts a **romantic getaway**. But as the days go by, the trip **threatens to turn into a cold shower**. ***I Don't Love You Anymore*** is a **humorous exploration** of the **red flags** we choose to ignore to **keep a relationship alive**.
- **Diane Obomsawin** is a Montreal-based graphic artist and animator of Abenaki descent. Her acclaimed short films are known for their wry humour and engaging visual economy. ***I Like Girls***, the film adaptation of her graphic novel about sexual identity, has screened at more than 40 international festivals, winning top honours at the Ottawa International Animation Festival. Her most recent animated short, ***I Don't Love You Anymore*** (2026), is her eighth collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada. Obomsawin publishes graphic novels under the pseudonym Obom.

Ultra Strong by **Catherine Lepage** (9 min 35 s) | Calgary Premiere

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/ultra-strong

- Catherine tries to **toughen** herself to **impress the "princes"** in her circle, who turn out to be **more off-putting than charming**. When all her **dubious strategies fail**, she must **face the ultimate test**: learning how to embrace her **true nature**. This candid and self-deprecating **autofictional story** features the special participation of **Bruce Dickinson (Iron Maiden)** and narration and original music by **Régine (Arcade Fire)**.
- Montreal-based animation filmmaker, graphic novel writer and illustrator **Catherine Lepage** is known for her distinctive visual style and the self-deprecating humour she uses to broach sensitive topics, such as mental health, social pressure and self-affirmation. ***Ultra Strong*** is her second film with the NFB, following ***The Great Malaise*** (2019), which was screened at over 50 festivals and won 7 awards, in addition to being named a Vimeo Staff Pick.

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