

PRESS RELEASE
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National Film Board of Canada celebrates OIAF's 50th anniversary with a major festival presence

World premiere, Canadian Panorama screenings, collaboration on a landmark exhibition and more than two dozen classics featured during OIAF's milestone year



(Images provided by the NFB)

September 1, 2026 – Montreal – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

The [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) returns to the [Ottawa International Animation Festival](#) (OIAF) for the festival's **50th anniversary** with a wide-ranging slate of screenings, exhibitions and events, highlighted by the **world premiere** of past OIAF award winner **Diane Obomsawin's** new animated short, [I Don't Love You Anymore](#).

As part of OIAF's landmark anniversary celebrations, Canada's public producer and distributor is contributing **artwork, photos, films and archival excerpts** to the exhibition [Frame by Frame: Animation in Ottawa](#), presented in collaboration with the NFB. **More than two dozen NFB classics** will also feature prominently in the retrospective program **50 in 50: OIAF's Favourite Canadian Animation Shorts**.

Five new NFB animated shorts have been selected for the festival's **Canadian Panorama** section, while the NFB's participation in industry programming includes a **conversation with Cordell Barker**.

One year after OIAF audiences had the chance to discover **Chris Lavis** and **Maciek Szczerbowski's** **Oscar-winning** animated short [The Girl Who Cried Pearls](#), the NFB is back in the nation's capital with a stellar lineup. OIAF runs from September 23 to 27, 2026.

WORLD PREMIERE – OFFICIAL COMPETITION

I Don't Love You Anymore (Je ne t'aime plus) by **Diane Obomsawin** (9 min 53 s)

Wednesday, September 23, 7 p.m. (Gala) and Saturday, September 26, 1 p.m., Bytowne Cinema

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**. This humorous exploration of the **red flags we choose to ignore** is the latest from Obomsawin, whose previous NFB short [I Like Girls](#) won the **Nelvana Grand Prize for Independent Short Animation** at OIAF 2016.

Special screenings and exhibition

The NFB is contributing artwork, photos, films and archival excerpts from the **early years of its Ottawa animation studio** to [Frame by Frame: Animation in Ottawa](#), an exhibition at the Ottawa Art Gallery from September 19, 2026, to March 14, 2027, presented in collaboration with the NFB.

Veteran NFB filmmaker and past OIAF honorary president **Don McWilliams** will present the special screening [The National Film Board and Ottawa Animation, 1939–1956](#) on Wednesday, September 23, 5:00 p.m., at the Arts Court Theatre. Attendees can also engage with three other unique presentations that will screen as part of Frame by Frame.

During the Second World War, Philadelphia-based animator **Philip Ragan** was contracted by the NFB to create a [series of animated shorts](#). **Philip Ragan and Pictographic Animation** will screen on Thursday, September 24, 5 p.m., at the Arts Court Theatre.

NFB films in Canadian Panorama

Thursday, September 24, 1 p.m., Bytowne Cinema; Friday, September 25, 9 p.m., Ottawa Art Gallery, Alma Duncan Salon

Bisou sauvage by **Bahij Jaroudi** (2 min 50 s)

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**.

Knowing Gaze by **Dylan Glynn** (9 min 40 s)

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/knowning-gaze

- A maximalist narrative quilt of **contemporary gay life**—every text **left on read**, every **thrifted designer boot**, every **cancelled eyeshadow palette**, every **night out**, every **nightmare**, every **knowing gaze**.

Matrescence by **Elizabeth Laferrière** (3 min 18 s)

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/matrescence

- A captivating short film about the **neurological, identity and cellular upheavals of motherhood**. A **visual and aural dive** into the **science of becoming a mother**.

To Our Future Ancestors by **Bogdan Anifrani-Fedach** and **Ian Keteku** (6 min 4 s)

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/to-our-future-ancestors

- A **woman journeys** through **time and terrain**, guided by **ancestral memory**, to find a **mysterious egg** that holds the **key to her future**.

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

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**. Featuring **Bruce Dickinson**, legendary singer of **Iron Maiden**, as an **idealized version** of himself in both the English and French versions, with narration and original music by **Régine (Arcade Fire)**.

More programming and events featuring the NFB

50 in 50: OIAF's Favourite Canadian Animation Shorts

[Six programs presented September 24 through 27](#)

- The festival's **50 in 50** retrospective draws extensively from decades of NFB animation leadership, with more than two dozen landmark works. Highlights include Oscar-winning films such as **Chris Landreth's** [Ryan](#) and **Alison Snowden and David Fine's** [Bob's Birthday](#), alongside beloved classics including **Caroline Leaf's** [The Street](#), **Cordell Barker's** [The Cat Came Back](#) and **Wendy Tilby and Amanda Forbis's** [When the Day Breaks](#).
- To celebrate this honour, the NFB programming team has curated a special streaming channel, [The Best of Canadian Animation \(according to OIAF\)](#).

50 Films. 50 Years. Too Many Animators on One Stage.

[Saturday, September 26, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., NAC: O'Born Room \(Terrace Level\)](#)

- NFB animators including **Cordell Barker** ([The Cat Came Back](#)), **Terril Calder** ([Meneath: The Hidden Island of Ethics](#)) and **Janet Perlman** ([Why Me?](#)) join an **unprecedented gathering of the artists** behind Canada's Top 50 Animated Films.

Animated Materials: Pastel Dreams

[Friday, September 25, 9 p.m. and Saturday, September 26, 1 p.m., Arts Court Theatre](#)

- NFB animation legend **Norman McLaren** is represented in **Animated Materials: Pastel Dreams**, celebrating the luminous world of pastel animation, with his 1947 short [La poulette grise](#).

In Conversation with Cordell Barker

[Saturday, September 26, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., NAC: Le Salon \(Canal Level\)](#)

- Acclaimed animator **Cordell Barker** will participate in a **Breakout Session** presented jointly by the NFB and ASIFA Hollywood.

Industry Connect: Community Roundtables

[Friday, September 25, 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., NAC: O'Born Room \(Terrace Level\)](#)

- Members of the NFB delegation will join **animation professionals** in discussions focused on collaboration, networking and industry development. The NFB will also take part in activities associated with **The Animation Conference (TAC)** throughout the festival.

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