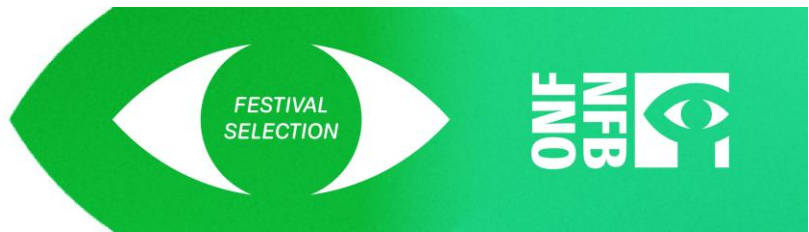


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NFB returns to VIFF with two world premieres by Vancouver filmmakers and a trio of BC premieres

Local filmmakers Joella Cabalu and Soran Mardookhi debut new feature documentaries



(Images provided by the NFB)

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

The 2026 [Vancouver International Film Festival](#) (VIFF) will feature **five new works** from the [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB), including **two world premieres** by **Vancouver directors** and **three BC premieres** by **past festival favourites**.

VIFF will host the **world premieres** of **two NFB feature documentaries**:

- Filipino-Canadian director **Joella Cabalu**'s [First Comes Love: Nakabingwit](#), a rom-com doc that lingers after the meet-cute, when conversations about race, class and difference enter the picture;
- Kurdish-Canadian filmmaker **Soran Mardookhi**'s [The Flight](#), which follows the lives of family members left behind as they relentlessly pursue truth, justice and accountability for their loved ones following the downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752.

Running October 1 to 11, VIFF will also present two more NFB feature documentaries, which made their world premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival:

- [Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney](#) by Montreal-based, Winnipeg-born Matthew Rankin;
- [Still Night, Burning House](#) ([Metafilms](#)/[NFB](#)/[Portage Films](#)) by Montreal-based, Vietnamese-Canadian filmmaker Carol Nguyen.

Joining the lineup following its world premiere at the Locarno Film Festival is [Piluk](#), an NFB animated short by **Elisapie Isaac** and **Marc Séguin**.

First Comes Love: Nakabingwit and **Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney** will also screen as part of VIFF's **Ignite High School Program**, which welcomes hundreds of secondary students to experience exceptional cinema at the festival.

Quick facts

WORLD PREMIERES

First Comes Love: Nakabingwit by Joella Cabalu (65 min) | NORTHERN LIGHTS

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/first-comes-love-nakabingwit

- What if **love** isn't the end of the story, but the **start of a harder conversation**? From **whirlwind romance** to **raising mixed-race children**, for three **Filipina–white couples**, love unfolds alongside **harder conversations** about **race**, **belonging** and **what it takes to stay**.
- Joella Cabalu is a Filipino-Canadian filmmaker whose award-winning work—including *It Runs in the Family* and *Koto: The Last Service*—examines intimacies, identities and relationships with a playful, nuanced approach to complex social dynamics. ***First Comes Love*** is her first feature documentary as writer-director. Her recent credits include directing the NFB GGPA short film [Crystal Pite: Wordless Language](#) as well as producing Nisha Platzer's *Back Home*, which was presented at VIFF 2022.

The Flight by Soran Mardookhi (97 min) | SHOWCASE

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/the-flight

- On January 8, 2020, **Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752** departed Tehran carrying **176 passengers and crew members**, including **university students**, **newlywed couples** and **young children**. Minutes after **takeoff**, the civilian aircraft was **struck** by two surface-to-air missiles, **killing everyone on board**. ***The Flight*** follows the lives of **family members left behind** in their relentless **pursuit of truth, justice and accountability** for their **lost loved ones**.
- **Soran Mardookhi** is a Kurdish-Canadian writer and director based in Port Moody, near Vancouver. He has worked on both international and Canadian projects, directing feature films, documentaries and television movies. Soran's films explore themes of migration, displacement, identity and justice, often shaped by his own experience of exile. His previous work includes the narrative feature film *Turbulence* (VIFF 2014).

B.C. PREMIERES

Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Mulroney by Matthew Rankin (105 min) | SHOWCASE

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/ladies-and-gentlemen-brian-mulroney

- In 1976, **Brian Mulroney** launched a **charm offensive** the likes of which Canada had never seen, **dismantling the political establishment** one dad joke at a time. In this **psychedelic doomscroll** through the mind of a master politician, filmmaker Matthew Rankin charts the **flamboyant rise** of Canada's 18th prime minister.
- Winnipeg-born director **Matthew Rankin's** films have been acclaimed at festivals around the world. At VIFF, his feature *The Twentieth Century* screened in 2019, while *Universal Language* (2024) received the festival's Summit Award for Best Canadian Film. His previous NFB work includes the award-winning 2017 experimental animated short [The Tesla World Light](#).

Still Night, Burning House by Carol Nguyen (76 min) | NORTHERN LIGHTS

Metafilms/NFB/Portage Films

Press kit: mediaspace.nfb.ca/epk/still-night-burning-house

- In her deeply personal **debut feature**, award-winning filmmaker Carol Nguyen charts her family's first **reunion** on a **journey to Vietnam**, where together they face **long-unspoken questions** about an **uncle's mysterious death**.
- **Carol Nguyen** is a Montreal-based, Vietnamese-Canadian filmmaker whose films explore themes of cultural identity, family and silence. ***Still Night, Burning House*** is the follow-up and companion to her 2019 short *No Crying at the Dinner Table*, which was named to Canada's Top Ten and presented at VIFF 2019.

Piluk by Elisapie Isaac and Marc Séguin (10 min 30 s) | SHORT FORUM

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

- Born from a **single feather**, young **Piluk** walks on, just as her mother did before her. From the **raw landscapes** of the tundra to a **city of concrete**, will she still be able to hear the **breath of the wind** that witnessed her birth?
- World-renowned artists **Elisapie Isaac** and **Marc Séguin** have spent more than a decade cultivating a friendship rooted in freedom, creativity and a profound bond with the land. Isaac is an Inuk author, singer, songwriter, documentary filmmaker and activist from Salluit, Nunavik, who presented the West Coast premiere of her multimedia show *Uvattini* at VIFF Live in 2024. Séguin is a Quebec multidisciplinary artist whose work explores beauty, fragility and violence in the world.

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