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Carol Nguyen's *Still Night, Burning House* to make world premiere at the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival



(Image provided by the NFB)

August 5, 2026 – Toronto – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

Vietnamese-Canadian filmmaker **Carol Nguyen**'s feature documentary debut, [*Still Night, Burning House*](#), will have its **world premiere** in the [Toronto International Film Festival](#)'s **TIFF Docs** program, featuring the year's best non-fiction filmmaking.

In this [Metafilms](#), [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) and [Portage Films](#) co-production, the **director's Toronto family** travels to **Vietnam**, where they face **long-unspoken questions** about an uncle's **mysterious death**.

The Montreal-based filmmaker's most personal work to date, *Still Night, Burning House* is the **follow-up and companion** to her **award-winning** 2019 short *No Crying at the Dinner Table*, which was named to **Canada's Top Ten**, TIFF's annual list of the country's finest films.

The festival will also host the **September 16 world premiere** of the **NFB/TIFF short documentary initiative** [REDEFINED](#), in which **five next-generation filmmakers** from across the country explore the **diversity of Canadian and Indigenous identity** and celebrate the differences that **unite us as a country**.

TIFF 2026 runs September 10–20.

About Carol Nguyen's *Still Night, Burning House* (76 min)

Producers: Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre (Portage Films); Robert Vroom and Ariel Nasr (NFB)

Executive producers: Sylvain Corbeil (Metafilms), Nathalie Cloutier (NFB), Bob Moore ([EyeSteelFilm](#)) and Anh Duy Vo Dinh (Spotlight Production)

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

In *Still Night, Burning House*, Carol Nguyen chronicles her **family's first gathering** since her **uncle's mysterious death** over a decade ago.

Travelling together to Vietnam, the family embarks on a transformative journey through **intergenerational trauma, mental health and deeply layered loss**. With profound care, trust and immediacy, Nguyen guides them

as they navigate **unsealed medical records** and **long-unspoken questions**. How can we **grieve** if we've never been given the chance to be sad?

Still haunted by guilt, Nguyen's father's search for answers via collective rituals and solitary meanderings soon **leads him into the uncanny**.

A **metaphysical poem** for complex mourning, Nguyen's **feature debut** shows how storytelling can turn grief and regret into **healing, hope and a kinship restored**.

About the filmmaker

Carol Nguyen is a Montreal-based, Vietnamese-Canadian filmmaker whose films explore themes of cultural identity, family and silence. Her short film *Nanitic* (2022) was screened at the Berlinale and TIFF. *No Crying at the Dinner Table* (2019) was shown at TIFF, IDFA and South by Southwest, where it won the Jury Prize for Short Documentary. Carol is currently working on several projects, including a feature-length fiction selected for the TIFF Writer's Studio in 2025.

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About the NFB