

For Immediate Release:

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## FILM SPOTLIGHTS ANNOUNCED FOR 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

### 2017 FESTIVAL TO HIGHLIGHT FILMMAKERS OF COLOUR, YOUNG HEARTS, INTERGENERATIONS, & INDIGENOUS CINEMA

EARLY BIRD PASSES AVAILABLE ON JULY 6

TICKETS ON SALE JULY 13 AT [WWW.QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA](http://WWW.QUEERFILMFESTIVAL.CA)

(VANCOUVER, BC) ~ Out On Screen's Vancouver Queer Film Festival announced its film Spotlights today: **The Experiential Lens: Filmmakers of Colour**; **Young Hearts**, **Bright Eyes: Spotlight on Youth**; **Intergenerations**; and **Indigenous Cinema**. With over 50 films from 15 countries, the Festival will showcase these spotlights from August 10-20 at various venues throughout Vancouver.

The Experiential Lens: Filmmakers of Colour shines a light on directors and writers of colour. With integrity of voice and personal perspective, directors and writers of colour from around the world bring the stories closest to them to the big screen. From the humour and sweetness of *Signature Move* (USA) and *Fathers* (Thailand), to the detailed complexities of Doris Yeung's *Taxi Stories* (China) and the deep care and respect of Ernesto Contreras' *I Dream in Another Language* (*Sueño en Otro Idioma*) (Mexico), audiences will be charmed and stunned by the talent, skill, and heart of these artists.

Films featuring queer and trans youth are moving far beyond the typical coming-of-age story, pushing both artistic and narrative boundaries in this year's Youth Spotlight. Maria Govan's breathtaking, lush and intense *Play the Devil* (Trinidad and Tobago) delves deeply into what it means for a young queer man of colour who lacks role models to carve his way through the world, and Jacqueline Gares' *FREE CeCe* (USA) is a searing and heartfelt participatory documentary that lifts up the story of young trans woman activist, CeCe McDonald.

The Intergenerations Spotlight invites audiences into conversations with our elders, our peers, and our futures. In what is perhaps the most intimate documentary of the Festival, *Small Talk* (*Ri Chang Dui Hua*) (Taiwan) charts the life and loves of butch lesbian A-nu through the eyes of her daughter, director Huang Hui-chen. Many of the films in this Spotlight feature the lives of local and international elders and trailblazers: David France's *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* (USA) investigates the circumstances of the legendary trans activist's mysterious death and reverently looks back at the generous and outspoken person she was in life; *Antonette* (Canada) lifts up the remarkable life and

work of local artist and elder Antonette Rea; and additional local documentaries, *The March Sweater Project* (Canada) and *Stay Gold: Man Up* (Canada), explore formative queer geographies and people of Vancouver.

The Indigenous Cinema Spotlight is a tribute to Two-Spirit role models and other Indigenous queer filmmakers who work to decolonize cinema and preserve tradition, knowledge, and creativity. The intimate and moving *Kumu Hina* (USA/Fiji), which previously screened at VQFF as a short film, returns to the Festival as a full-length documentary. **Indigifemme** (a term gifted to the program by Gitxan artist Jessica Wood) honours the many facets of Indigenous and Two-Spirit femme identities and experiences. This powerhouse double-bill will feature archival classics and new shorts from Dana Claxton, Thirza Cuthand, Shelley Niro, Kent Monkman and Gail Maurice to name a few, as well as live performances by local multidisciplinary artists.

Festival Artistic Directors Amber Dawn and Anoushka Ratnarajah say, "Once again, the Festival will bring the best in international queer cinema, with directors from over 15 different countries worldwide. This year, we're seeing an increase in local films, showcasing the wide breadth of intersectional identities and talented individuals right here in Vancouver. We anticipate the local programming will be some of our audience favourites this year."

Early Bird passes for the 2017 Vancouver Queer Film Festival go on sale Thursday, July 6 and all tickets go on sale Thursday, July 13 at [www.queerfilmfestival.ca](http://www.queerfilmfestival.ca).

For more information on the 2017 Vancouver Queer Film Festival, please visit the following platforms:

Website: [www.queerfilmfestival.ca](http://www.queerfilmfestival.ca)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/VancouverQFF](https://www.facebook.com/VancouverQFF)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/queerfilmfest](https://www.twitter.com/queerfilmfest) (#VQFF2017)

Full ticketing details, including pricing, can be found at [www.queerfilmfestival.ca/tickets](http://www.queerfilmfestival.ca/tickets).

Download images at [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lf27282mxjp41wz/AADIDV0\\_JLfQqdmvaRVJziBDa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lf27282mxjp41wz/AADIDV0_JLfQqdmvaRVJziBDa?dl=0)

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**About Out On Screen:**

Out On Screen is a charitable organization that illuminates, celebrates and advances queer lives through film, education and dialogue. The Vancouver Queer Film Festival creates a dynamic platform for queer cinema that reflects a diversity of experiences while connecting and strengthening our communities. The award-winning Out In Schools anti-bullying program brings age-appropriate queer cinema into secondary school classrooms to combat homophobia and transphobia. Out On Screen is proud to be among the leaders in Canada working to create an equitable society where sexual and gender diversity are embraced. [www.outonscreen.com](http://www.outonscreen.com)