

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL UNVEILS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Creative Theme, RBC Partnership</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Canadian Premiere of Local Film</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>and Centerpiece Gala</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>August 15 - 25, 2019</b></p>
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(Vancouver, B.C. - May 23, 2019) **Out On Screen** is pleased to announce the **Vancouver Queer Film Festival (VQFF)** will run August 15 - 25 this year with a creative theme of **'See for yourself'** featuring a stylized eye with the VQFF logo in the middle, drawing the audience in to all parts of the Festival. The Festival is also pleased to announce a new three-year partnership with its Presenting Sponsor **RBC Royal Bank**.

"Presented by RBC, the VQFF theme **'See for yourself'** invites you to explore new films and stories that you might not otherwise experience," said Executive Director **Stephanie Goodwin**. "Expect to be entertained, provoked, enriched, and challenged by rich complex queer stories from around the world. See for yourself and be changed in the process."

The 11-day festival, now in its 31st year, is the largest queer arts event in Western Canada and the second-largest film festival in Vancouver. Showcasing over 70 films from more than 10 countries, with themes ranging from the histories of local "troublemakers," films centering on two-spirit stories, and beautiful narratives set against the backdrop of the opera. Films from all corners of the world, including Vietnam, Brazil, Albania, Sweden, and of course Canada. The Festival celebrates the best in independent queer cinema and facilitates a unique community space through a variety of performances, panels and workshops.

Artistic Director **Anoushka Ratnarajah** has created an **Artistic Statement** for the VQFF, “As our stories become more palatable to the mainstream, independent queer film festivals face a unique challenge to remain relevant and representative to our communities. I truly believe in the power of gathering together, of sharing an emotional experience together as queer people. And that’s something you can’t get from the LGBT section on Netflix, or at a screening in a chain theatre. What I hope to offer to our audiences is an ecstatic collective experience, of laughter or outrage or tears, and a view into fully realized worlds.” *Full Artistic Statement:*

[QueerFilmFestival.ca/ArtisticStatement](http://QueerFilmFestival.ca/ArtisticStatement)

The VQFF is pleased to announce its new three-year partnership with Presenting Sponsor RBC Royal Bank. The partnership represents a growth in RBC’s commitment to queer art and film and to the resilience of LGBT2Q+ communities. Previously the VQFF’s 30th anniversary presenting sponsor, patrons can expect to see RBC’s commitment throughout the next three Festivals with branded materials and an engaged presence.

VQFF 2019 will host the Vancouver premiere of the groundbreaking film **José**, which beat out Oscar-winning **The Favourite** for the Venice Film Festival’s coveted Queer Lion Award. Audiences will have a chance to chat with director Li Cheng and producer George F. Roberson at the Centrepiece Gala on August 21st about the collaborative filmmaking process that informed this gorgeous and one of a kind film from Guatemala.

The VQFF will also host the Canadian premiere of **Yellow Peril, Queer Destiny**, the newest documentary from local filmmakers Jen Sungshin and David Ng of Love Intersections. The film beautifully explores the nuances of Queer Chinese Canadian identity, and the geo-political, historical, sexuality, and cultural context from which these intersections emerge.

More information and tickets for the VQFF will be available July 8 at [www.queerfilmfestival.ca](http://www.queerfilmfestival.ca)

[facebook/VancouverQFF](https://www.facebook.com/VancouverQFF) or [twitter.com/queerfilmfest](https://twitter.com/queerfilmfest) or @queerfilmfest #VQFF2019

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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)

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Photos available on: [Media](#)

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