



Feb 11-24

2022



Pedro Almodóvar Retrospective *Law of Desire* *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* *Live Flesh* *The Flower of My Secret* *All About My Mother* *Talk to Her* *Bad Education* *Volver* *The Sleeping Negro* *Lingui, The Sacred Bonds* *Who We Are* *Compartment No.6* *Flee* AND MORE

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



In-Cinema



Talk to Her

11
FEB

Flee • VCT
4:00 PM
Who We Are ... • STU
5:55 PM
Women on the Verge
of a Nervous ... • VCT
6:00 PM
The Sleeping
Negro • STU
8:15 PM
Compartment No.6 • VCT
8:40 PM

12

Flee • VCT
2:00 PM
Compartment No.6 • VCT
3:50 PM
Who We Are ... • STU
5:55 PM
Women on the Verge
of a Nervous ... • VCT
6:10 PM
The Sleeping
Negro • STU
8:15 PM
Law of Desire • VCT
8:50 PM

13

Women on the Verge
of a Nervous... • VCT
1:30 PM
Flee • STU
3:45 PM
Compartment No.6 • VCT
4:10 PM
Who We Are ... • STU
5:55 PM
Law of Desire • VCT
6:30 PM
The Sleeping
Negro • STU
8:15 PM
Tie Me Up! ... • VCT
8:40 PM

14

Compartment No.6 • VCT
3:55 PM
Flee • STU
4:30 PM
Law of Desire • VCT
6:10 PM
Flee • STU
6:30 PM
Tie Me Up!
Tie Me Down! • VCT
8:20 PM
The Sleeping
Negro • STU
8:30 PM

15

Flee • VCT
4:20 PM
Who We Are:
A Chronicle of Racism
in America • STU
5:55 PM
Free Preview:
Cyrano • VCT
6:30 PM
The Sleeping Negro • STU
8:15 PM
Compartment No.6 • VCT
8:55 PM

16

Flee • VCT
4:20 PM
Who We Are:
A Chronicle of Racism
in America • STU
5:55 PM
Tie Me Up!
Tie Me Down! • VCT
6:20 PM
Compartment No.6 • STU
8:10 PM
Live Flesh • VCT
8:30 PM

17

Flee • VCT
3:50 PM
Women on the
Verge of a Nervous
Breakdown • VCT
5:50 PM
Who We Are:
A Chronicle of Racism
in America • STU
5:55 PM
Compartment No.6 • STU
8:10 PM
The Flower of
My Secret • VCT
8:30 PM

18

All About
My Mother • VCT
6:10 PM
Breaking Bread • STU
6:30 PM
Lingui, The Sacred
Bonds • VCT
8:20 PM
Tie Me Up!
Tie Me Down! • STU
8:30 PM

19

The Flower of
My Secret • VCT
1:50 PM
All About
My Mother • VCT
4:00 PM
Lingui, The Sacred
Bonds • VCT
6:15 PM
Live Flesh • VCT
8:15 PM

20

Talk to Her • VCT
1:50 PM
Bad Education • VCT
4:00 PM
Breaking Bread • STU
4:30 PM
All About
My Mother • VCT
6:15 PM
The Automat • STU
6:40 PM
Lingui ... • VCT
8:25 PM

21

Lingui, The Sacred
Bonds • STU
5:30 PM
Talk to Her • VCT
6:00 PM
Music. Money.
Madness - Jimi Hendrix:
Experience Live
in Maui • STU
7:30 PM
Bad Education • VCT
8:10 PM

22

Breaking Bread • STU
5:30 PM
Lingui, The Sacred
Bonds • VCT
5:55 PM
The Automat • STU
7:15 PM
Law of Desire • VCT
7:50 PM

23

The Flower of
My Secret • VCT
4:00 PM
The Automat • STU
4:20 PM
Talk to Her • VCT
6:10 PM
Breaking Bread • STU
6:20 PM
Lingui, The Sacred
Bonds • VCT
8:25 PM

24

Lingui, The Sacred
Bonds • STU
5:40 PM
All About
My Mother • VCT
6:00 PM
Breaking Bread • STU
7:30 PM
Bad Education • VCT
8:10 PM

VIFF
Connect

Now Playing

Lapsis
Captains of Za'atari
Watson

Ends Feb 17

Writing With Fire
Entangled: The Race
to Save Right Whales
From Extinction

Ends Feb 24

Lift Like a Girl
Striding Into the Wind
Poly Styrene:
I Am a Cliche

Ends Mar 3

KDocsFF 2022:
Seeking Truth.
Waging Change

Feb 18-27



Tickets & Memberships

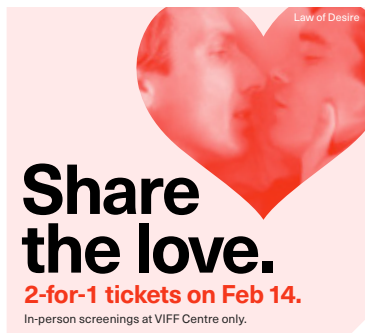
SINGLE BILL DOUBLE BILL

Adults	\$15	\$25
Senior	\$13	
Student	\$10	
VIFF+ Members	\$10-\$12	
VIFF Connect	\$10	

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at viff.org (up to 60 minutes before showtime) and also in person at our box office. Call **604.683.3456** for the latest info and listings. Double bill tickets are available in-person on the day of the screenings only.

Refunds and exchanges for in-cinema tickets may be offered at the discretion of our box office. If you have made an error with your booking, please email info@viff.org.

To attend films at the VIFF Centre, you must be 19 years of age or older. Exceptions may apply for films that have been rated by Consumer Protection BC.



Feb 11-Mar 10

¡Swoon! Cinema Almodóvar



13 features + Vancouver premiere
The Human Voice, starring
Tilda Swinton

Claim your ticket to the world of Pedro Almodóvar, a place of primary colours and primal emotions, where stories are spun with fabulous freedom, intoxicating Al-melódramas driven by sex and surprise... Reckless women clash with feckless men, gender norms are gleefully subverted and camp is elevated to high style.

The most influential gay filmmaker of our times, Almodóvar has given us many of the most vivid, sympathetic and complex women in modern movies through collaborations with Penélope Cruz, Cecilia Roth, Marisa Paredes, and Carmen Maura, to name just a few.

Over the years, Almodóvar's initially shocking punk aesthetic has distilled to an essence that's sweetly sensual and assured, even as it remains daring and transgressive. An Almodóvar movie may entail a leap of faith, but we always know we are in good hands because above all this is a Cinema of the Heart.

This retrospective showcases the unprecedented, fulsome achievements of the last 25 years, supplemented by such key earlier films as *Law of Desire* and *The Flower of My Secret* (showing on 35mm film prints), and runs up to last year's 30-minute short film, *The Human Voice*, starring Tilda Swinton (screening with *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*).

Please join us in celebrating a body of work where suspense, sexuality and style meld to confound and compel, to cast a luxuriant spell, to make us swoon.



Law of Desire

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 1987, 102 MIN.

SAT FEB 12	8:50PM	VCT
SUN FEB 13	6:30PM	VCT
MON FEB 14	6:10PM	VCT
TUE FEB 22	7:50PM	VCT

A young, electrifying Antonio Banderas plays the psychotic gay super fan (Antonio) of homo-erotic film director Pablo (Eusebio Poncela) in this wonderfully over-wrought black comic melodrama, Almodóvar's seventh feature. Pablo himself is pining for Juan, too straight to reciprocate, and also directing his trans sister Tina (Carmen Maura) on stage. There's rampant sex and cocaine use, incest, jabs at the Catholic Church... It's all Almodóvar's movies in one, you might say. A statement of kinky intent.

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Eusebio Poncela, Carmen Maura, Antonio Banderas



Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown + The Human Voice

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 1988, 118 MIN.

FRI FEB 11	6:00PM	VCT
SAT FEB 12	6:10PM	VCT
SUN FEB 13	1:30PM	VCT
THU FEB 17	5:50PM	VCT

Almodóvar's 1988 farce was his commercial breakthrough in North America, and his first film to be nominated for an Academy Award. His first muse, Carmen Maura stars as Pepe, who is summarily dumped by her married boyfriend, Ivan (Fernando Guillén). Over the course of two days as she frantically tries to connect with him Pepe learns a great deal about her lover, and her friends and neighbours in her apartment building.

+ *The Human Voice*, Almodóvar's 2020 30-minute film of Cocteau's play with Tilda Swinton

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Carmen Maura, Antonio Banderas, Julieta Serrano, Rossy de Palma, María Barranco, Chus Lampreave, Fernando Guillén



Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 1990, 101 MIN.

SUN FEB 13	8:40PM	VCT
MON FEB 14	8:20PM	VCT
WED FEB 16	6:20PM	VCT
FRI FEB 18	8:30PM	STU

In a variation on the themes of *Law of Desire*, Antonio Banderas is another obsessive fan with boundary issues. He kidnaps porn star and junkie Marina (Victoria Abril) and holds her captive until she falls in love. For the most part the film focusses on these confused lost souls. Despite the X rating slapped on it in the US, it's probably best understood as a twisted marriage comedy, and surprisingly sympathetic to its trapped, all too fallible antagonists. They can't help it if they're also super hot.

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Victoria Abril, Antonio Banderas, Loles León, Francisco Rabal



Live Flesh

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN/FRANCE, 1997, 103 MIN.

WED FEB 16	8:30PM	VCT
SAT FEB 19	8:15PM	VCT

Victor (Liberto Rabal) has a crush on junkie Elena (Francesca Neri). But when two cops happen across a heated argument, a gun goes off. One of the cops, David (Javier Bardem) winds up in a wheelchair, but married to Elena. Released from prison after 5 years Victor determines to get the girl and his revenge... Freely adapted from a Ruth Rendall novel, *Live Flesh* is another deliciously kinky thriller, Bunuelian in its fixation on eros, virility, and attendant anxieties.

"Live Flesh has it all." AV CLUB

In Spanish, Italian with English subtitles.

CAST Javier Bardem, Liberto Rabal, Francesca Neri, Angela Molina, Penélope Cruz



The Flower of My Secret

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 1995, 102 MIN.

THU FEB 17	8:30PM	VCT
SAT FEB 19	1:50PM	VCT
WED FEB 23	4:00PM	VCT
SAT FEB 26	4:20PM	VCT

A pivotal film in Almodóvar's development, maybe the first of his "mature" works, *The Flower of My Secret* dispenses with much of the decadent high camp gloss which had come to characterize the films of the early 90s (*High Heels*; *Kika*). Marisa Paredes plays novelist Leo, who writes romantic best-sellers under pen name Amanda Gris but wants to be taken seriously in her own right, and whose marriage is on the rocks. Smartly balancing melodrama and comedy, this is one of the director's most under-rated movies.

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Marisa Paredes, Juan Echanove, Manuela Vargas, Joaquín Cortés, Rossy De Palma, Chus Lampreave



All About My Mother

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN/FRANCE, 1999, 101 MIN.

FRI FEB 18	6:10PM	VCT
SAT FEB 19	4:00PM	VCT
SUN FEB 20	6:15PM	VCT
THU FEB 24	6:00PM	VCT

Cecilia Roth stars as Manuela. When her teenage son is killed in a traffic accident running after the autograph of his favourite actress, the grief-crazed Manuela quits Madrid to search Barcelona for her estranged husband, Lola. Instead, unconsciously, she falls to collecting emotional orphans... One of Almodóvar's most beloved films, it is dedicated to "all actresses who have played actresses. To all women who act. To men who act and become women. To all the people who want to be mothers. To my mother."

In Spanish, Catalan, English with English subtitles.

CAST Cecilia Roth, Marisa Paredes, Candela Peña, Antonia San Juan, Penélope Cruz



Talk to Her

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 2002, 112 MIN.

SUN FEB 20	1:50PM	VCT
MON FEB 21	6:00PM	VCT
WED FEB 23	6:10PM	VCT
SUN FEB 27	4:00PM	VCT

A nurse (Javier Cámara) befriends a writer (Darío Grandinetti) at the hospital where they are both tending to women in a coma. Through an intricate series of flashbacks we learn about their relations with the women and what inspires their unflinching devotion. This sublime film also features a memorable dance work by Pina Bausch and an unforgettable and hilarious silent film, in which a man shrinks to a size small enough to crawl up a woman's vagina...

Winner, Academy Award: Best Original Screenplay

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Javier Cámara, Darío Grandinetti, Leonor Watling, Geraldine Chaplin, Rosario Flores



Bad Education

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 2004, 105 MIN.

SUN FEB 20	4:00PM	VCT
MON FEB 21	8:10PM	VCT
THU FEB 24	8:10PM	VCT
THU MAR 10	6:00PM	VCT

While no two people can agree on Almodóvar's best film, the semi-autobiographical *Bad Education* has to be part of the conversation. A filmmaker is forced to revisit memories of his childhood at a Catholic boarding school when an old friend turns up on his doorstep. This labyrinthine tale confronts and transcends traumatic revelations of abuse through the art of re-invention.

"A poison-darted valentine to the movies, and to desire itself. This is a film you want to drink and devour." INDIIEWIRE

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Gael García Bernal, Fele Martínez, Daniel Giménez Cacho, Lluís Homar, Francisco Boira, Javier Cámara



Volver

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR, SPAIN, 2006, 121 MIN.

FRI FEB 25	6:10PM	VCT
SAT FEB 26	1:50PM	VCT
TUE MAR 8	5:50PM	VCT

Penélope Cruz's put-upon cleaner, Raimunda, has enough aggravation in her life before she is visited by the ghost of her late mother. Despite several dark elements, *Volver* is one of Almodóvar's warmest and most purely enjoyable films. The remarkable ensemble of actresses collectively won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival.

"If the camaraderie of women forms a significant portion of Almodóvar's aesthetic interests, then Volver is perhaps the most pleasurable expression of those aims."

SLANT

In Spanish with English subtitles.

CAST Penélope Cruz, Carmen Maura, Yohana Cobo, Blanca Portillo, Lola Dueñas, Chus Lampreave, Antonio de la Torre



The Sleeping Negro

SKINNER MYERS, USA, 2021, 73 MIN.

FRI FEB 11	8:15PM	STU
SAT FEB 12	8:15PM	STU
SUN FEB 13	8:15PM	STU
MON FEB 14	8:30PM	STU
TUE FEB 15	8:15PM	STU

"To be a Negro in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a state of rage almost all of the time." Beginning with a quote from James Baldwin, Skinner Myers' radical debut feature is an uncompromisingly confrontational movie, a portrait of a young Black man (played by Myers) on the verge of "making it": marriage (to a white woman) and big money career (his fiancée's brother is his boss). But it feels all wrong. Alienated and angry, he wavers between playing the game and tearing it all down.

In English

CAST Skinner Myers, David Fumero, Julie McNiven, Tunde Adebimpe, Nican Robinson, Rae Dawn Chong



Lingui, The Sacred Bonds

MAHAMAT-SALEH HAROUN, CHAD/FRANCE/GERMANY/BELGIUM, 2021, 87 MIN.

FRI FEB 18	8:20PM	VCT
SAT FEB 19	6:15PM	VCT
SUN FEB 20	8:25PM	VCT
MON FEB 21	5:30PM	STU
TUE FEB 22	5:55PM	VCT
WED FEB 23	8:25PM	VCT
THU FEB 24	5:40PM	STU

When her 15-year-old daughter becomes pregnant, a single mother's shame swiftly transforms into fierce maternal determination. The pair's harrowing quest to secure an abortion potentially expands to a web of resilient women (*lingui* refers to collective resistance in the face of catastrophic odds).

"A blistering attack on patriarchy. The world it shows us, etched in fully felt performances and beautifully hued compositions, feels vividly, sometimes overwhelmingly present." LOS ANGELES TIMES

In French with English subtitles.

CAST Achouackh Abakar Souleymane, Rihane Khalil Alio, Youssouf Djaoro, Briya Gomdigue, Hadjé Fatimé Ngoua



Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America

EMILY KUNSTLER, SARAH KUNSTLER, USA, 2021, 118 MIN.

FRI FEB 11	5:55PM	STU
SAT FEB 12	5:55PM	STU
SUN FEB 13	5:55PM	STU
TUE FEB 15	5:55PM	STU
WED FEB 16	5:55PM	STU
THU FEB 17	5:55PM	STU

The most important film about race since *I Am Not Your Negro*, *Who We Are* is an eloquent, passionate and revelatory reclamation of the history America sweeps under the carpet. This is the story of how white supremacy and slavery underpins the disUnited States, and, equally damning, a critique of how the tide for social justice has been betrayed by the rich and the powerful. Former ACLU Deputy Legal Director Jeffery Robinson's argument is interwoven with archival footage, interviews, and his own story.

In English

FEAT Jeffery Robinson



Compartment No.6

JUHO KUOSMANEN, FINLAND/GERMANY/ESTONIA/RUSSIA, 2021, 107 MIN.

FRI FEB 11	8:40PM	VCT
SAT FEB 12	3:50PM	VCT
SUN FEB 13	4:10PM	VCT
MON FEB 14	3:55PM	VCT
TUE FEB 15	8:55PM	VCT
WED FEB 16	8:10PM	STU
THU FEB 17	8:10PM	STU

A Finnish intellectual finds herself sharing a sleeper compartment with a boorish Russian skinhead on the long train ride from Moscow to the Arctic Circle in this subtly shaded character study from Juho Kuosmanen (*The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Maki*). Superb, sharply contrasting performances from Seidi Haarla and Yuriy Borisov are just the ticket in a movie that unearths humour as well as pathos in its tale of two lonely people, about as far apart as you can get, forced to share close quarters.

In Russian and Finnish with English subtitles.

CAST Seidi Haarla, Yuriy Borisov, Dinara Drukarova, Julia Aug, Lidia Kostina

Breaking Bread

BETH ELISE HAWK, USA/ISRAEL, 2021, 86 MIN.

FRI FEB 18	6:30PM	STU
SUN FEB 20	4:30PM	STU
TUE FEB 22	5:30PM	STU
WED FEB 23	6:20PM	STU
THU FEB 24	7:30PM	STU

Dr Nof Atamna-Ismaeel—the first Muslim Arab to win Israel's *MasterChef*—is on a quest to make social change through food. And so, she founded the A-Sham Arabic Food Festival, where pairs of Arab and Jewish chefs collaborate on dishes like kishek (a Syrian yogurt soup), and qatayef (a dessert typically eaten during Ramadan).

"This is a joyous film—with some mouth-watering looking food as a bonus. Hugely recommended." GRAEME TUCKETT, *STUFF*

In English, Hebrew with English subtitles.



Flee

JONAS POHER RASMUSSEN, DENMARK/SWEDEN/NORWAY/France, 2021, 90 MIN.

FRI FEB 11	4:00PM	VCT
SAT FEB 12	2:00PM	VCT
SUN FEB 13	3:45PM	STU
MON FEB 14	4:30PM, 6:30PM	STU
TUE FEB 15	4:20PM	VCT
WED FEB 16	4:20PM	VCT
THU FEB 17	3:50PM	VCT

Flee is a powerful animated documentary that tells the story of Amin Nawabi as he grapples with a secret he's kept for 20 years; one that threatens to derail the life he's built for himself and his soon-to-be husband. As he shares the story of his extraordinary journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan in the early '90s, Jonas Poher Rasmussen (a longtime friend of Amin's) restages his trials through evocative animation that results in a film that's deeply personal, candid, and unexpectedly beautiful.

In English, Danish, Russian, Dari and Swedish with English subtitles.

FEATURING Daniel Karimyar, Fardin Mijdzadeh, Milad Eskandari, Belal Faiz, Elaha Faiz, Zahra Mehrwarz, Sadia Faiz

The Automat

LISA HURWITZ, USA, 2021, 79 MIN.

SUN FEB 20	6:40PM	STU
TUE FEB 22	7:15PM	STU
WED FEB 23	4:20PM	STU

Want to know where Howard Schultz drew inspiration for his coffee chain? Even though it only operated in two cities, New York and Philadelphia, for a spell in the middle of Twentieth Century, the Automat was the most successful food franchise in the US. For a nickel, you could get a cup of coffee. For a couple more you could unlock a slice of pie. For many Americans, there was nothing more exciting, more modern, more American than this... Mel Brooks, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Colin Powell concur.

In English

FEATURING Mel Brooks, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Carl Reiner, Elliott Gould, Howard Schultz, Colin Powell