



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Turkish Canadian Society and
SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs is proud to announce
The 9th Annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival**

November 17 – 20, 2022

The festival opens on the 17th at the **Vancity Theater** and continues on the 19th and the 20th at the **SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts**.

Opening Gala Reception and Film Screening
@ Vancity Theater @ 6 pm on November 17

Love, Deutschmarks and Death
by **Cem Kaya**

This essay documentary will be followed by a Q&A session with the director Cem Kaya. This film recounts musical and cultural history of Turkish “guest workers” in Germany since their recruitment in 1961. Filled with interesting characters and familiar singers, the wistful songs of the early years and the hip-hop of the post-reunification period, the film also brings xenophobia and racism to the forefront. The film is significant as this marks the 60th anniversary of Germany recruiting workers from Turkey.

- Feature Length Films –

presented on the
19th and 20th of November
@ SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Burning Days, another fine film by the director of *A Tale of Three Sisters* we featured in the past tells the story of a young, principled prosecutor who has been newly appointed to a small town. It follows his insistent, determined investigation and filing of a case in which he himself seems to be entangled in.

In ***Snow and the Bear*** set in another small town in the depths of winter, we follow a young nurse recently appointed for her obligatory service. The atmosphere is tense in the town as rumors abound that there is a bear, killing livestock. As well as dealing with her disapproving father back home, she finds herself involved in a missing person's case.

Zuhal tells the story of a woman who has become irritated and obsessed by the meowing of a cat that only she seems to be hearing. Her pursuit of finding the source introduces the occupants of the other flats in the building and the dynamics between them.

Using a real life incident that saw a bust of Lenin wash up on Turkey's shores as a starting point, ***You Me Lenin*** employs black humour to tell a police procedural investigating its disappearance on the eve of it being ceremoniously displayed in the town square. We meet a whole lot of eccentric town folk being interrogated to find the culprit.

Based on a true story, ***Rabiye Kurnaz vs George W. Bush*** follows Rabiye, a German woman of Turkish origin, in her struggle to get her son released from Guantanamo Bay. Her naiveté and sense of humour is infectious as she and a German human rights lawyer take the case all the way up to the US Supreme Court.

In ***The List of Those Who Love Me***, a drug dealer with an exclusive clientele of artists and celebrities in a fashionable neighborhood of Istanbul, is finding it increasingly hard to get supplies due to a police crackdown. The clientele are also his friends, so he takes increasing risks to find new suppliers so as to remain in their circle.

In addition to the feature films, we have a selection of short films. These were selected by a group of film enthusiasts and filmmakers. The short film committee picked 8 films screened at prestigious film festivals in Turkey. The films are diverse in content, genre and style. Some films are directed by women, some focus on LGBTQ issues and some tackle political, ethnic and social conflicts.

- Discussion Panel -

Identities in Flux: Culture in the Digital Age

Saturday, November 19 @ 2pm

at

SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Since 2016, VTFF has had panel discussions on political discourse related to film in collaboration with SFU Cultural Programs. This year the panel will take place at SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts on November 19 at 2 pm.

The discussion will be about how cultural/personal identities are represented on screen and how quickly they change due to digital platforms in a hypermediated, globalized society. The concept of identity is understood in association with culture groups (ethnicity, gender, race, orientation, migration, etc.) and our knowledge, memory and

perceptions of a cultural identity are often formed, constructed and reconstructed through film and other media.

The panelists come from very diverse backgrounds and they will shed light on how they see cultures and/or identities (including their own) are represented in film and how this representation has changed over the years.

The panelists include prominent people from the film industry from Europe, Turkey and Canada. The moderator is a distinguished professor from SFU.

Cem Kaya, a Turkish/German filmmaker from Germany – his latest film, LOVE, DEUTSCHMARKS AND DEATH will open the 2022 VTFF

Carmen Aguirre, a well-known Chilean/Canadian actor, author and playwright, from Vancouver.

Baljit Sangra, a filmmaker whose documentary BECAUSE WE ARE GIRLS, set in BC about an immigrant Punjabi family who have a dark secret they can finally tell, screened at DOXA.

Belçim Bilgin, a recognized actor from contemporary Turkish cinema, who lives in Vancouver. She will bring in her perspective on women and ethnic representation in Turkish Cinema.

Adel Iskandar, the moderator: an Associate Professor of Global Communication at Simon Fraser University who has written widely on the media in the Middle East.

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