



9th VANCOUVER TURKISH FILM FESTIVAL

Back in the Flesh
17-20 Nov. 2022

Co-presented by



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Established in 1963, the Turkish Canadian Society's vision is to have a resourceful, compassionate, caring, vibrant community that embraces, nourishes and supports everyone, takes pride and ownership in its cultural roots, and collaborates with other Canadian organizations and charities that share the same foresight.

TCS has deemed it a mission to increase the public knowledge of contemporary and traditional Turkish art and culture while creating a productive environment, as well as sharing the history and teaching the language, for the enrichment and educational benefit of the people of Canada;

By setting up and operating a cultural centre and providing necessary tools and equipment that serve to create resources and a workplace for cultural activities, artists, and musicians.

By organizing festivals, conferences, concerts, fine art exhibitions, a library, community courses, participating in multicultural festivals and other means. The 9th Vancouver Turkish Film Festival too, as in its past 8 editions, has been organized to contribute to the realization of this mission.



SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs proudly celebrates 10 years! They look towards a future generation of new artists, innovative creations, and most importantly your participation on this enriching journey. SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs (SFUW) engages with leading edge artists in dance, theatre, cinema, music and digital arts; provoking new practices and approaches reflecting the ever-changing landscape of contemporary arts.

Create: SFUW commissions and co-presents select projects on an annual basis.

Engage: SFUW works with over 25 professional cultural partners representing diverse communities across the Lower Mainland.

Inspire: Working with leading artists, locally and internationally. SFUW aspires to find new artistic expressions capturing contemporary voices in our society.

Since our inception, in 2010 SFUW continues to commission, produce, and present over 200 events per year.

Commissions: SFUW engages leading artists with new their new creations a minimum of two years in advance.

Produces: Residencies, developmental workshops, and artistic incubations are critical aspects of the process. Through access to our venues, artists are permitted an artistic the necessary tools to further their creations.

Presents: SFUW presents in partnership with over 25 professional cultural community partners, reflecting diversity and inclusivity of the Lower Mainland.



A Message from the Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2022 Vancouver Turkish Film Festival (VTFF).

This festival, now in its 9th year, offers a wonderful opportunity to experience some of the best of Turkish cinema. I am certain that audiences will be both entertained and engaged by the diverse selection of works being screened this year and I would like to thank all of the filmmakers for sharing their stories and perspectives.

I would also like to commend the VTFF for their commitment to promoting cross-cultural exchange and to fostering collaboration in the film industry. With so many talented contributors, this year's edition of the festival is, once again, sure to be a resounding success.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable experience.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



A Message from the Premier of British Columbia

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 9th Annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival.

This annual event offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity and depth of Turkish culture and identity in film and media. Cinema can be a powerful force for dialogue, inviting us to a deeper understanding and appreciation of one another. BC is proud of our vibrant multiculturalism, and we are fortunate to have access to festivals like this that provide viewers with engaging experiences and a broad range of perspectives.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all the volunteers, sponsors and filmmakers who have worked hard to make this event possible, and to everyone at the Turkish Canadian Society for the work you do both during the festival and year-round. Thank you for your commitment to welcoming newcomers to Vancouver and helping to make our communities more inclusive for everyone.

Please accept my best wishes for another inspiring and entertaining festival. Enjoy the shows!

**The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia**



A Message from the Festival Director

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 9th Vancouver Turkish Film Festival. We are delighted to screen and celebrate 15 exceptional Turkish films.

We, the VTFF Committee, have been working on bringing a great selection of Turkish Films to you and as a result, we have an outstanding program with award winning feature films, amazing short films of young directors and a panel discussion with panelists from Turkey, Germany and Canada.

Our mission as the festival is to promote Turkish culture through films and create a platform for filmmakers to showcase their work. Films are poignant and powerful snapshot of the truth, beauty, and struggle of people in a particular time and place. For this reason I believe there is no better way to celebrate Turkish culture in Vancouver than bringing our films here.

Organizing a festival undoubtedly is the collaborative effort of many individuals and organizations. I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to The Turkish Canadian Society (TCS) for their great support, as well as the festival's corporate, individual and organizational sponsors, VTFF Committee members and above all else our volunteers - their commitment to making this event successful has truly made this festival possible.

As the director of the festival's organizing team, I know I speak for everyone when I say we are proud that VTFF has become an annual event that plays an important role in the Vancouver Festival scene.

We hope you enjoy the 9th Vancouver Turkish Film Festival!

Warm Regards,

Eylem Sönmez

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Thursday, 17
November

Opening Gala

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
Vancity Theatre
18:00 pm | 120 min.

Opening Film

**LOVE, DEUTSCHMARKS
AND DEATH**
20:15 pm | 96 min.

Q&A with Cem Kaya

22:10 - 22:30 pm

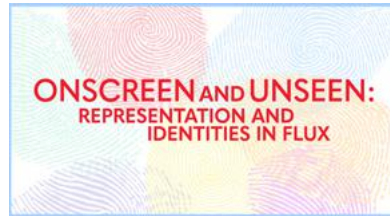


Saturday, 19
November



ZUHAL

12:00 pm | 88 min.



PANEL DISCUSSION

14:00 pm | 120 min.



THE LIST OF THOSE WHO LOVE ME

16:30 pm | 89 min.



BURNING DAYS

19:00 pm | 129 min.

Sunday, 20
November



VTFF SHORT FILMS

11:45 pm | 130 min.



RABIYE KURNAZ VS GEORGE W. BUSH

14:30 pm | 119 min.



YOU ME LENIN

17:00 pm | 86 min.



SNOW AND THE BEAR

19:00 pm | 93 min.

Thursday, Nov.17 | 20:15 - 22:10 pm

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Thursday, Nov. 17

- 18:00 - 20:00 pm
Cocktail Reception
- 20:15 - 22:10 pm
Opening Film:
Love, Deutschmarks and Death
(Aşk Mark ve Ölüm)
- 22:10 - 22:30 pm
Q&A with Cem Kaya

at Vancity Theatre



Love, Deutschmarks and Death / Aşk, Mark ve Ölüm [PG]

Cem Kaya, 2022 | 96 min.

2 Awards & 2 Nominations



Featuring:
Alper Ağa, Orhan
Amuroğlu, İmran Ayata

In the early 1960s, the so called guest workers from Anatolia and other parts of Turkey were recruited by the Federal Republic of Germany. From the beginning, there was something that always accompanied them and was part of their culture: their music – a piece of home in a foreign land. Over the years, independent musical directions developed in Germany that did not exist in this form in their mother country.

The exciting cinema documentary "Aşk, Mark ve Ölüm" / LOVE, DEUTSCHMARKS AND DEATH by Cem Kaya tells the unprecedented story of an independent musical culture of immigrants from Turkey, their children and grandchildren in Germany in an entertaining and very complex way with never-before-seen archive footage.

Awards:

Berlin International Film Festival
Panorama Audience Award, Documentary Film: Cem Kaya
IndieLisboa International Independent Film Festival
Indiemusic Schweppes Award: Cem Kaya

SATURDAY NOV. 19

■ SFU Woodward's
Goldcorp Centre
for the Arts

Saturday, Nov. 19 | 12:00 - 13:30 pm



Zuhal [PG]

Nazlı Elif Durlu, 2021 | 88 min.

4 Awards & 2 Nominations



Featuring:
Nihal Yalçın, Fatih Al,
Sarp Aydınoğlu

Zuhal is an upper middle class woman with a nice job and a nice house in Istanbul, and a long-term relationship. Her ordinary life, spent with daily troubles, business rushes and phone calls with her boyfriend on a trip, changes when she hears a cat meowing one night.

Awards:

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival
Golden Orange, Best Actress: Nihal Yalçın

Istanbul International Film Festival
Best Editing: Selda Taşkın, Buğra Dedeoğlu, İstos Film
Best Screenplay: Nazlı Elif Durlu, Ziya Demirel
Seyfi Teoman Best First Film Award: Nazlı Elif Durlu

ONSCREEN AND UNSEEN: REPRESENTATION AND IDENTITIES IN FLUX

Moderator



Adel Iskandar

Associate Professor of Global
Communication at Simon Fraser

Panelist



Cem Kaya

Turkish / German
filmmaker

Panelist



Carmen Aguirre

Chilean / Canadian actor, author
and playwright

Panelist



Baljit Sangra

Indo-Canadian filmmaker

Panelist



Belçim Bilgin

Actor from Türkiye

Organizer



Nural Sümbültepe

VTFF assistant director, panel coordinator
and short film coordinator

Panel Discussion

SFU Woodward's Goldcorp
Centre for the Arts

Saturday, Nov. 19
14:00 pm | 120 min.

Saturday, Nov. 19 | 16:30 - 18:00 pm



The List of Those Who Love Me / Beni Sevenler Listesi [PG]

Emre Erdoğan, 2021 | 89 min.

5 Awards & 1 Nomination



Featuring:
Halil Babür, Hayal Köseoğlu,
Ahmet Rifat Şungar,
Sermet Yeşil

Yılmaz is the most famous of Cihangir, the neighborhood of celebrities. He is the dealer and close friends of famous filmmakers and actors. Together with the drug operations held in Istanbul and around, Yılmaz is getting paranoid about not being loved by them anymore. This paranoia makes him take bigger risks day by day and Yılmaz will be destroyed slowly by the gravity of the desire for being loved.

Awards:

Istanbul International Film Festival

Best Actor: Halil Babür
Best Turkish Film of the Year: Beste Yamalıoğlu, Tanay Abbasoğlu, Emre Erdoğan, TN Yapım
Golden Tulip: Hazar Ergüçlü, Tanay Abbasoğlu, Beste Yamalıoğlu

Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

Best Cinematographer: Emre Tanyıldız

Saturday, Nov. 19 | 19:00 - 21:15 pm



Burning Days / Kurak Günler [PG]

Emin Alper, 2022 | 129 min.

10 Awards & 10 Nominations



Featuring:
Selahattin Paşalı,
Ekin Koç, Erol Babaoğlu,
Erdem Şenocak

Emre, a young and dedicated prosecutor, is newly appointed to a small town hit by a water crisis and political scandals. After an initial welcome, he experiences an increasing number of tense interactions and is reluctantly dragged into local politics. When Emre forms a bond with the owner of the local newspaper pressure escalates under heated rumours.

Awards:

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival

Cahide Sonku Award: Çiğdem Mater
Golden Orange, Best Director: Emin Alper
Golden Orange, Best Supporting Actor: Erol Babaoğlu
Golden Orange, Best Cinematography: Hristos Karamanis
Golden Orange, Best Editing: Eytan İpeker, Özcan Vardar
Golden Orange, Best Music: Stefan Will
Golden Orange, Best Actor: Selahattin Paşalı
SIYAD Jury Award, Best Film: Emin Alper

Pula Film Festival

International Competition, Best Film: Emin Alper
Best Film, Croatian Minority Coproductions: Emin Alper

SUNDAY NOV. 20

■ SFU Woodward's
Goldcorp Centre
for the Arts



Rabiye Kurnaz vs George W. Bush / Rabiye Kurnaz George Bush'a Karşı

Andreas Dresen, 2022 | 119 min.

9 Awards & 10 Nominations



Featuring:

Meltem Kaptan, Alexander Scheer, Charly Hübner

Desperate to help her son, Rabiye Kurnaz, a housewife and loving mother from Bremen, goes to the police, notifies authorities and almost despairs at their impotence and in the end, against all the odds, something truly remarkable happens.

Awards:

Berlin International Film Festival

Guild Film Prize: Andreas Dresen

Silver Berlin Bear, Best Screenplay: Laila Stieler

Silver Berlin Bear, Best Leading Performance: Meltem Kaptan

German Film Awards

Film Award in Gold, Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role: Meltem Kaptan

Film Award in Gold, Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role: Alexander Scheer

Film Award in Silver, Outstanding Feature Film: Claudia Steffen, Christoph Friedel

German Screen Actors Awards

DSP Award, Best Leading Role: Meltem Kaptan

Nuremberg Film Festival "Turkey-Germany"

Audience Award: Andreas Dresen

Best Actress: Meltem Kaptan

Sunday, Nov. 20 | 17:00 - 18:30 pm

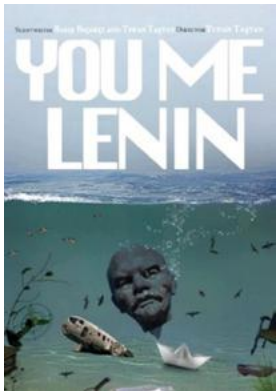
Sunday, Nov. 20 | 19:00 - 20:30 pm



You Me Lenin / Sen Ben Lenin [PG]

Tufan Taştan, 2021 | 86 min.

5 Nominations



Featuring:

Barış Falay, Saygın Soysal,
Melis Birkan, Serdar Orçin

One day waves bring a wooden statue of Lenin to a fishing town by the Black Sea. The mayor convinces the town council to erect the statue in the town square with the hopes of attracting tourists and also get the attention of the government. When the statue is erected it becomes news and a second, official opening ceremony is planned with the participation of the Prime Minister and an accompanying Russian delegation. The night before the ceremony, the statue gets stolen. The incident hidden from the press needs to be solved in a day and the statue must be back in its place in the town square for the opening ceremony.

Snow and the Bear / Kar ve Ayı [PG]

Selcen Ergun, 2022 | 93 min.

7 Awards & 1 Nomination



Featuring:

Merve Dizdar, Saygın
Soysal, Asiye Dinçsoy,
Erkan Bektaş

In a small, snow-covered, remote town of Turkey winter has always been tough, but this year it doesn't come to an end - in an almost surreal way. Leaving the roads blocked due to heavy snowfall. Rumor has it that bears have risen early from their winter-sleep and killed some animals around. Though no one has really seen them, people are afraid that they will come to the town soon. Aslı is a young nurse who has been appointed here recently for her obligatory service. One cold night, a man from the town goes missing. In this small town the sudden disappearance of a man creates all sorts of rumors. Step by step, Aslı finds herself in the middle of a whirlwind of power relationships, secrets and doubts.

Awards:

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival

Behlül Dal Special Jury Award, Best First Film: Selcen Ergun
Golden Orange, Best Actress: Merve Dizdar

Bosphorus Film Festival

National Competition, Best Feature Film: Selcen Ergun
National Competition, Best Screenplay: Selcen Ergun, Yeşim Aslan
National Competition, Best Actress: Merve Dizdar
National Competition, Best Editing: Çiçek Kahraman
National Competition, Best Cinematography: Florent Herry

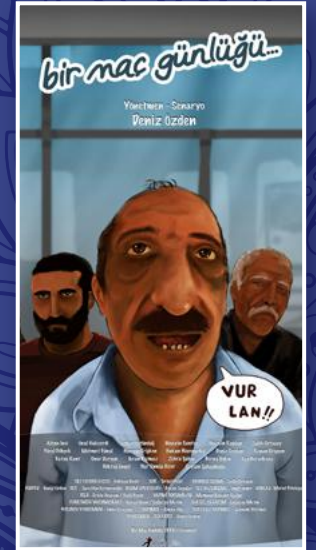
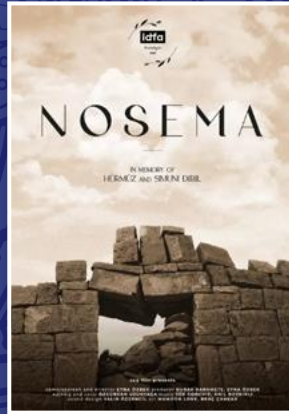
VTFF SHORT FILMS

SFU Woodward's Goldcorp
Centre for the Arts

Sunday, Nov. 20 | 11:45 pm

Special Thanks to Alp Zibil,
Çağrı Kocyiğit, Deniz Özden,
Gökçe Mia Taşçı and Nur Özgün.

– Nural Sumbültepe



FESTIVAL TEAM

Eylem Sönmez

VTFF Director

Eylem hails from Istanbul, Turkey where she worked as an advertising manager at NTV, CNBC TV and HEARST Magazine Group for several years. Her incessant passion for cinema compelled her to relocate to Vancouver in 2002, where she was awarded a full scholarship to join the film production program of Vancouver Film School. Upon graduation, she landed her first job on the Hollywood blockbuster of the 3rd X MEN as visual effects assistant.

She then continued her career on Hollywood film productions such as The Possession, Frankie and Alice, The Imaginarium of Dr Parnassus, Underworld: Awakening, and Seventh Son. She is a member of the Local Film Union IATSE 891 as Production Coordinator. She has been organizing the Vancouver Turkish Film Festival since 2011.



Naim Alper

VTFF Committee

Born and raised in Cyprus, Naim has called Vancouver home for the past 19 years after long stays in the USA and the UK along the way. He holds a PhD in Computer Engineering and works as a Software Developer. Having a keen interest in film, particularly foreign and independent ones, he believes that international film festivals widen viewers' horizons and promote an appreciation of the universality of the human condition. He is therefore excited to be in the organizing committee of this cultural event.

Nural Sümbültepe

Assistant Director, Panel Coordinator and Short Film Coordinator

I worked in 9 countries as an English, Social Studies and Drama teacher, before I moved to Vancouver, where I continue to teach languages. I live my life immersed in literature, art and social issues. My enthusiasm for the written word- literature and story telling- combined with my interest for visual arts is what led to my involvement in Cinema and VTFF. I love the outdoors as much as the indoors and rain in Vancouver doesn't bother me.



Demet Edeer

VTFF Committee

Demet grew up amid the rich cultural diversity of Anatolia. She believes that by embracing diversity, we come to realize our human commonalities. Since arriving in Vancouver in 2000, she has volunteered in such roles as the president and the vice president of the Turkish-Canadian Society (TCS), coordinator of the Vancouver Turkish choir, the founder of the Turkish Tunes, organizer of the Turkish Festival at Minoru Centre, and a member of the VTFF Organizing Committee. The success of the first Turkish Tunes in 2009 led to a dream for her; a Turkish Film Festival in Vancouver. This dream came true in 2011 when the first VTFF was staged by the Turkish-Canadian Society as a collective effort of an army of volunteers. A physician by training, Demet completed an MHSc at UBC and works as a health researcher in Vancouver.



Özlem Tekmek Kaymakçı

VTFF Committee

Özlem made her way to Vancouver from beautiful Istanbul after finding the love of her life. She has been an active member of TCS since 2012, helping organize various cultural events as well as being a founding member of Vancouver Turkish Folk Dances & Arts group. Being a chemical engineer and holding a master degree in Materials Science, her interest to volunteer for Vancouver Turkish Film Festival roots from the joy of giving back to the community while introducing her cultural roots. In her professional life, she is busy with developing sustainable packaging materials for a better world, working as a product developer at TC Transcontinental Packaging.



Eli Haligua

VTFF Committee

Eli was born in Istanbul. He has worked on numerous national and international film projects over a decade. He graduated from SAE Sound Engineering School with honours. He received his Master's Degree on Sound Technologies from Bahcesehir University, where he wrote his thesis on "The Affects of Dolby Atmos Sound Technologies for Sound Design of the Turkish Cinema". Now he lives in Vancouver and studies Digital Music Production. He is a professional member of Vancouver Post Alliance. He worked on films that screened at well-known international film festivals such as Cannes, Venice, Berlinale, Montreal, Karlovy Vary, Sarajevo, SXSW and Sitges International Film Festival.

In addition to film, Eli is also interested in social and environmental issues. He is a member of many human rights and environmental organizations. He has several articles and interviews published about climate change, nuclear energy, antisemitism and social conflict.





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Congratulations on the 9th annual festival! We are honoured to sponsor this event, highlighting the vibrant Turkish Culture.



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