

10th Vancouver Turkish Film Festival

“A decade, frame by frame”

Nov. 24 — 26, 2023



Vancouver Turkish Film Festival

Founded in 2011 by a group of film enthusiasts, directors and industry workers, the Vancouver Turkish Film Festival is a collaborative effort that aims to showcase a variety of Turkish films.

The 10th Annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival will take place on November 24, 2023 – Opening Gala Film, November 25, 26 – in person all day screenings.

The VTFF takes pride in showcasing the best of contemporary Turkish cinema, featuring both popular mainstream favourites and internationally acclaimed, award-winning films.

As a “melting pot” of many cultures for thousands of years, the land of modern Turkey has so much to offer from a cultural sense, and the 10th Annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival is one of the ways to share Turkey’s multicultural heritage with the residents of Metro Vancouver.

Co-presented by



Our deepest thanks to all of the festival supporters and partners



Established in 1963, the Turkish-Canadian Society (TCS) is a registered not-for-profit organization in British Columbia. The vision of the Society is to help build a resourceful, compassionate, caring, vibrant community that embraces, nourishes, and supports all Canadians and to increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of the arts, culture, language, traditions, and history of Türkiye. TCS takes pride and ownership in its cultural roots, and collaborates with other Canadian organizations and charities that share the same vision.

TCS has deemed it a mission to increase the public's knowledge of traditional and contemporary Turkish art and culture as well as to share the rich history of Türkiye and teach Turkish language for the enrichment and educational benefit of the peoples of Canada. To this end, the Society has organized festivals, concerts, fine art exhibitions, seminars, public workshops, and also participated in multicultural festivals.

The Vancouver Turkish Film Festival (VTFF) has been regularly organized by TCS since its inauguration in 2011. Now, a decade old and a sought-after film festival, VTFF plays a pivotal role in the realization of TCS's overarching mission of bringing Turkish arts and culture to Canadians.



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 taking part in the 10th annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival (VTFF).

This festival offers audiences a wonderful opportunity to experience some of the best of Turkish cinema. I am certain that everyone in attendance will be entertained and inspired by the diverse selection of works being screened this year.

I would like to commend the organizers for their hard work in putting together this festival. You can take pride in your commitment to promoting cultural exchange through the medium of film.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and engaging experience.

Sincerely,

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



A Message from the City of Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim

On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my best wishes to the organizers, volunteers and filmmakers of the 10th Annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival.

As Mayor, I am proud of our thriving arts community and I am always pleased to see the growth of Film Festivals in the city's arts calendar for the year. The Vancouver Turkish Film Festival aims not only to promote Turkish Cinema by bringing highly acclaimed, award-winning Turkish films, but also to encourage dialogue and cross-cultural understanding among local communities. With so many talented contributors and its mission of bringing people and cultures together, the festival is sure to be a success. I want to thank all of the organizers, volunteers and filmmakers who have worked hard to make this festival a success.

We hope everyone has the opportunity to experience contemporary Turkish Cinema. Have a great Festival!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ken Sim



A Message from Premier David Eby

As Premier of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the 10th Annual Vancouver Turkish Film Festival.

For the past decade, this festival has offered a window into the rich and diverse world of Turkish cinema. Film is a powerful medium that invites us to explore different cultures, experiences, and perspectives, creating space to share stories that resonate with audiences from all walks of life. British Columbia is proud to be the most diverse province in Canada, and events like this help promote our vibrant multiculturalism. I have no doubt that the diverse selection of award-winning films showcased throughout the festival will leave audiences inspired and serve as a springboard for meaningful dialogue.

I commend all of the volunteers at the Turkish Canadian Society who have worked tirelessly to bring this festival to life, and congratulate you all on achieving this remarkable ten-year milestone. Your commitment to promoting awareness of Turkish art, language and history in Canada has contributed to a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

I wish you all a memorable and enriching festival experience. Enjoy the films!

Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia



A Message from the Festival Director

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 10th Vancouver Turkish Film Festival. A decade, frame by frame!

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 10 award winning feature films and documentary films.

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. For those of us who have been lucky enough to visit Turkey, its many charms have enchanted us from the 4,000 shops in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar to the Mediterranean shoreline with its warm hospitality and beautiful villages. If you can't go to Turkey, we will bring it to you. With VTFF, you have a chance to visit Turkey in November.

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 10th Vancouver Turkish Film Festival!

Warm Regards,

Eylem Sönmez

Friday, Nov 24

Opening Gala

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
6 pm | 120 min.

Opening Film

BLACK NIGHT
8 pm | 114 min.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov 25



LOST IN THE DARKNESS
12 pm | 37 min.



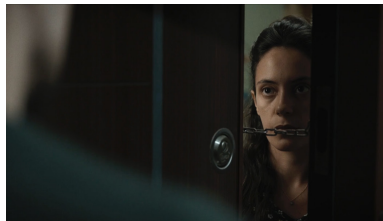
A DAY, 365 HOURS
1:15 pm | 83 min.

* Q&A with Eylem Kaftan

Modarated by
Nural Sumbultepe



ALMOST ENTIRELY A SLIGHT
DISASTER
3:30 pm | 88 min.



GLASS CURTAIN
5:30 pm | 95 min.



SUDDENLY
7:30 pm | 115 min.

Sunday, Nov 26



DRIFTING
1 pm | 67 min.



GUILT
2:45 pm | 88 min.



HESITATION WOUND
5 pm | 84 min.



IN THE BLIND SPOT
7 pm | 117 min.

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Friday, Nov. 24

- 6 pm
Cocktail Reception
- 8 pm
Opening Speech
- 8:30 pm
Opening Night Film
Black Night / Kara Gece

at SFU Woodward's
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Friday, November 24 | 8:30 pm



Black Night / Karanlık Gece [PG, 19+]

Özcan Alper, 2022 | 114 min.

8 Wins & 3 Nominations



Featuring:
Berkay Ateş, Cem Yiğit
Üzümoğlu, Pinar Deniz,
Taner Bırsel, Sibel Kekilli

Ishak lives alone in the Anatolian province and earns his livelihood by playing lute in a night club. One night, he receives an urgent phone call from his village; his mother is ill and wishes to see him before dying.

Ishak's return to the village is not well-received. At his mother's funeral, he encounters a lonely vagrant, the father of the young forestry engineer Ali, who suddenly disappeared seven years ago. For Ishak, this encounter opens up old wounds.

So what happened to Ali seven years ago on "That Night"?

Awards:

Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival (2022)

Best Film, Özcan Alper
Best Screenplay, Özcan Alper

Bosphorus Film Festival (2022)

Best Director, Özcan Alper
Best Actor, Berkay Ates
Film-Yön, Best Director, Özcan Alper

Ankara International Film Festival (2022)

Special Award of the Jury, Özcan Alper
Best Director, Özcan Alper
Best Film, Özcan Alper

Saturday, November 25 | 12 pm

SATURDAY NOV. 25

at SFU Woodward's
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts



Lost in the Darkness / Karanlıkta Kaybolanlar [PG, 19+]

Can Diker, 2023 | 37 min.



Antioch was shaken by an earthquake of 7.7 magnitude at 04:17 on February 6, 2023. The city on the Antioch Plain came to the point of extinction due to the severity of the earthquake and the weakness of the ground. The earthquake was recorded as one of the heaviest damages in the history of Antioch, the city was known as the 'City of Civilizations'.

The documentary "Lost in the Darkness" bears witness to what the people of Antioch experienced, felt, lost, and hoped for during the earthquake, while also revealing the devastating effects of the earthquake and the situation of the people who were left without electricity, water, shelter, and food in the rain at night.

Focusing on the tragedy of what happened in Antioch and the resilience of humanity, the documentary invites viewers to closely witness the devastating impact of the earthquake and learn from the experiences of the people of Antioch.

Saturday, November 25 | 1:15 pm

Saturday, November 25 | 3:30 pm



A Day, 365 Hours / Bir Gün, 365 Saat [PG, 19+]

Eylem Kaftan, 2023 | 83 min.

1 Nomination



Two young women are joined by their shared experience of being abused. Their unexpected meeting forms a strong bond which gives them both the strength to take on their abusers in court and to help other young women to seek justice.

Nominations:

Sarajevo Film Festival (2023)
Best Documentary, Eylem Kaftan

Featuring:

Leyla, Asya, Reyhan

Almost Entirely a Slight Disaster / Sanki Her Şey Biraz Felaket [PG, 19+]

Umut Subaşı, 2023 | 88 min.

5 Wins & 3 Nominations



Four twenty-somethings in contemporary Istanbul: Zeynep is a student who feels distressed from following daily news. Her housemate Ayse tries to flee abroad because she cannot see a future for herself in Turkey. Mehmet is a married engineer who is never satisfied with his above-average life, while unemployed Ali feels stuck living with his parents. Coincidences bring them together in a playful manner.

Almost Entirely a Slight Disaster explores the anxieties faced by the new generation with its humorous and intertwined ways.

Awards:

İstanbul Film Festival (2023)
Special Mention, Umut Subaşı

Adana Film Festival (2023)
Best Film, Umut Subaşı
Best Director, Umut Subaşı
Best Script, Umut Subaşı
SIYAD Best Film Award, Umut Subaşı, Cemre Erül

Featuring:

Melis Sevinç, Mert Can
Sevimli, Melisa Bostancıoğlu,
İbrahim Arıcı

Saturday, November 25 | 5:30 pm

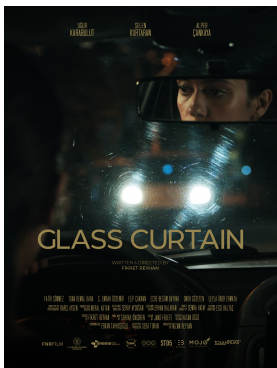
Saturday, November 25 | 7:30 pm



Glass Curtain / Cam Perde [PG, 19+]

Fikret Reyhan, 2022 | 95 min.

5 Wins & 1 Nomination



Nesrin is a divorced woman who lives alone with her four-year-old son. While dealing with the pressures of her ex-husband Omer, she has critical decisions to make regarding her relationship with her boyfriend Selim, whom she got pregnant by, and bureaucratic obstacles.

Awards:

İstanbul Film Festival (2023)
Special Prize of the Jury, Fikret Reyhan
Best Actor, Alper Çankaya

Adana Film Festival (2023)
Best Film, Nizam Reyhan
Best Actress, Selen Kurtaran
Best Editing, Fikret Reyhan

Featuring:

Selen Kurtaran, Elif Çakman,
Leyla Üner Ermaya, Alper
Çankaya

Suddenly / Aniden [PG, 19+]

Melisa Önel, 2022 | 115 min.

1 Nomination



After decades of living in Hamburg, Reyhan returns to Istanbul with her husband for a short while. On the eve of setting back, she realizes that she has lost her sense of smell. When a doctor's appointment leaves her anxious about the possibility of a serious illness, instead of undergoing more tests she decides to leave it all behind.

She vanishes... She considers; is this her chance for freedom?

Nominations:

Tokyo International Film Festival (2022)
Asian Future Best Film Award, Best Film, Melisa Önel

Featuring:

Defne Kayalar, Dilan Çiçek
Deniz, Öner Erkan, Şerif Erol

SUNDAY NOV. 26

at SFU Woodward's
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts

Sunday, November 26 | 1 pm



Drifting / Boşlukta [PG, 19+]

Somnur Vardar, 2022 | 67 min.

2 Wins & 1 Nomination



Featuring:

Emrah Atsız, Ferhat Atsız

Covered in dust, a city loses its identity and memories while drifting apart from its sea and sky. The notable daytime "silhouettes" on construction sites become real characters at night with their longing for home, anxieties for unclear future and their young burned-out bodies.

While watching the dramatic changes in urban texture, we meet two young Kurdish cousins working in constructions, just like their fathers and grandfathers did for decades. Ferhat is a teacher waiting to be assigned while working in constructions. His cousin Emrah plans going to university also to become a teacher. They both dream of a different life, wanting to break the vicious circle of construction work.

From dormitories to May Day protests, we get glimpses of their lives, hearing their stories of struggle, resistance, families, their hopes and dreams. When Emre forms a bond with the owner of the local newspaper pressure escalates under heated rumors.

Awards:

Istanbul Film Festival (2023)

Best Documentary, Somnur Vardar

Turkish Film Critics Association (SIYAD) Awards (2022)

Best Feature Length Documentary, Somnur Vardar

Sunday, November 26 | 2:45 pm

Sunday, November 26 | 5pm



Guilt / Kabahat [PG, 19+]

Ümran Safter, 2022 | 88 min.

2 Wins & 1 Nomination



Reyhan, raised in a religious family, arrives at her grandmother's house in a conservative Central Anatolian village, to spend her summer holidays. She has just had her first period and dreads the consequences of being unable to perform the required religious rites.

Awards:

Bosphorus Film Festival (2022)
Best Debut Film, Ümran Safter

Adana Film festival (2022)
Special Jury Prize, Best Film, Ümran Safter

Featuring:

Eray Yasin Işık, Mina Demirtaş, Ece Demirtürk, Işıl Acaray, Berivan Edebalı, Kayra Kalaycı

Hesitation Wound / Tereddüt Çizgisi [PG, 19+]

Selman Nacar, 2023 | 84 min.

1 Win & 3 Nominations



Criminal lawyer Canan divides her time between the courthouse during the day and her mother's hospital bed at night.

On the day of an important sentencing hearing for a murder suspect whom Canan is defending, she has to make a moral choice that will affect the lives of her mother, the judge, and the defendant.

Awards:

Zurich Film Festival (2023)
Golden Eye, Best International Feature Film, Selman Nacar

Featuring:

Tülin Özen, Oğulcan Arman Uslu, Gülçin Kültür Şahin

Sunday, November 26 | 7pm



In the Blind Spot / Kör Noktada [PG, 19+]

Ayşe Polat, 2023 | 117 min.

5 Wins & 2 Nominations



Featuring:

Ahmet Varlı, Çağla Yurga,
Nihan Okutucu, Tudan
Ürper, Katja Bürkle, Aziz
Çapkurt, Aybi Era

A German film team is shooting a documentary in northeastern Turkey. In a remote Kurdish village, they witness an elderly woman performing a recurring ritual to keep the memory of her missing son alive.

The Kurdish translator of the German crew is also the nanny of Melek, a 7 year-old Turkish girl. Her father, Zafer, works for a sinister organization and is caught between loyalty to them and fear for his family's well-being when his daughter appears to be haunted by a mysterious force. The fateful encounter of these people develops a destructive power.

In the Blind Spot unravels a complex net of conspiracy, paranoia and generational trauma.

Awards:

Istanbul Film Festival (2023)

Golden Tulip, Ayşe Polat
FIPRESCI Prize, Ayşe Polat
Best Editing, Serhad Mutlu, Jörg Volkmar
Best Screenplay, Ayşe Polat

Oldenburg Film Festival (2023)

German Independence Award - Audience Award, Best Film,
Ayşe Polat

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.



Eli Haligua

VTFF Committee

Eli is a multi-award-winning Sound Designer who has worked on numerous film projects screened at international film festivals such as Cannes, Venice, Berlinale, Montreal, Karlovy Vary, Sarajevo, SXSW and Sitges International Film Festival.

He holds his Master's Degree in Sound Technologies, where he wrote his thesis on "The Effects of Dolby Atmos on Sound Design of the Turkish Cinema". He is also volunteering as a Board of Directors at Vancouver Post Alliance, and Co-Chairing the D&I Committee there.

Nural Sümbültepe

Assistant Director and Panel 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.



Işıl Obuz Başyigit

VTFF Committee

Born in Kocaeli, Işıl graduated from Istanbul University, Faculty of Political Sciences. After working in the finance sector for 5 years, she moved from Istanbul to Vancouver in 2021 to study MBA. She continues her career in the finance sector in Vancouver.

She has taken part in many non-governmental organizations from past to present, and as of 2023, she has been a volunteer in the Turkish Canadian Association as Treasurer. Işıl has always been interested in cinema and is very excited to be part of the VTFF organizing committee.



Zuhal Karataş Kavak

VTFF Committee

Zuhal's passion for theater and the arts emerged in her early school years, driving her to hone her skills in dramatic acting, improvisation, and music. While studying law, she joined the "Tiyatromuz Theatre Company", accumulating experience as both an actor and assistant director. Her love for cinema led her to engage in film readings, training sessions, short films, and panel discussions within her university's cinema club.

She dedicated herself to the Antalya Golden Orange International Film Festival, supporting the event for three terms. Currently, Zuhal is a senior lawyer at Kurt & Partners and works remotely while pursuing an MBA at the University Canada West.

She extends her commitment to volunteering in art & culture, sports, and social activities and serves as a board member of the Turkish-Canadian Society in Vancouver. She looks forward to contributing her theater and cinema experience to the upcoming VTFF in 2023, sharing her knowledge and skills.



Begüm Kabataş

VTFF Committee

Begüm Kabatas was born in Istanbul in 1986. After completing her degree in Philosophy at Istanbul University, she pursued a Master's in Integrated Marketing Communications at San Francisco Golden Gate University. She dedicated approximately a decade to the Istanbul Municipality City Theaters as a professional performer. Her professional career took a different turn as she embarked on the path of client relations in various advertising agencies, eventually advancing into management roles.

Most recently, after working for about two years in the advertising team at Turk Telekom, she, along with her husband and daughter, has been residing in Victoria, British Columbia for the past six years. In addition to her involvement on the TCS Vancouver Board of Directors, she continues her professional journey as a Senior Strategy Manager at TELUS Digital.



Sina Kutluay

VTFF Committee

As a lifelong film-fanatic, it is Sina's pleasure to be a part of the organization of this years festival. Born and raised in Ankara and coming to Canada after 13 years of living in Dubai, Sina worked in the IT industry his whole life, with a Master of Science degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. With an extremely international career, Sina knows how vital it is to be able to celebrate diversity and art.

Now happily retired, he spends his time focusing on his social responsibility and is proud to be part of VTFF Organizing Committee and be able to contribute to this important cultural event.

CONTRIBUTORS

Özge Keleş

Graphic Designer

Özge studied architecture at Bahcesehir University in Istanbul as a full scholarship student. In 2015, she relocated to Japan to complete her master's degree, with her thesis focusing on city planning and urban design. She worked as a junior architect at Nikken Sekkei Tokyo Branch after graduation.

She is passionate about art and graphic design and has a keen interest in community building, social justice, and environmental design. She began working as a freelance graphic designer and Webflow developer in 2018. She is also a member of the Design+Peace Organization, where she currently serves as the general manager.



Ayşe Acar

Communications Coordinator

Ayşe Acar is a former senior sales manager and journalist who turned her passion for writing into a career after becoming a mother to twins. Author of "Anneeee! Anne Oluyorum!(Mooom! I'm becoming a Mom!), 2009" and "Kanadalılaştıramadıklarımızdan mısınız? (Not Canadian Enough?), 2019"; she explores the hardships of being a new parent and an immigrant with humor.

Ayşe writes an immigration column for the independent internet newspaper T24, and interviews with influential people for Gazete Oksijen. Ayşe also works as a campaign manager at a multicultural advertising agency in Vancouver.



ROBERT ALLAN
Naval Architects & Marine Engineers
www.ral.ca

ElectRA 2800 | Haisea Wamis



MATCHBOX

Recruitment and Consulting Services

- > IT & Technology
- > Engineering & Technical
- > Construction & Development
- > Finance & Accounting



2023
REPORT ON BUSINESS
CANADA'S TOP GROWING
COMPANIES



2021
REPORT ON BUSINESS
CANADA'S TOP GROWING
COMPANIES

Matching top talent with great companies

www.matchboxhr.com



Ignite Pizzeria

HANDMADE AND ARTISANAL



Award Winning, Free and Independent

Mortgage Help and Advice For Retirees

My team and I help with insured and conventional mortgages, and we also specialize in reverse mortgages with the goal to:

- ➔ Preserve investments and maintain financial independence
- ➔ Arrange for in-home care or renovate to improve mobility within home
- ➔ Give loved ones an early inheritance
- ➔ Help your children buy their first home
- ➔ Pay for unexpected medical expenses
- ➔ Pay off debts or financial pressures
- ➔ Buy a vacation property
- ➔ Improve cash flow, tax free

Eitan Pinsky 778-990-8950

eitan@pinskymortgages.ca

 **PinskyMortgages**
YOUR EXPERT TEAM

"93% of Canadians
want to age in place,
in the home they love."



A man and a woman are lying in a field of tall grass. The man is wearing a dark denim jacket over a white t-shirt, and the woman is wearing a light blue denim jacket over a white t-shirt. They are both looking towards the camera.

mavi

mavi.com

CONTACT:

- vtff.ca
- vtffvancouver@gmail.com
- turkishcanadiansociety.org
- executive@turkishcanadiansociety.org



// vtff.ca