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Vancouver Turkish Film Festival (VTFF) 2025 Presents “Tales from Afar”: Stories from Beyond Borders

VANCOUVER, BC – The **Vancouver Turkish Film Festival (VTFF)** returns for its **12th edition** from **November 27–30, 2025**. This year's theme, **"Tales from Afar" — Stories from Beyond Borders** — offers a cinematic journey that strengthens intercultural dialogue, presenting universal stories and carrying the voice of Anatolia to all corners of the world.

Organized by the Turkish-Canadian Society, the festival will once again be held at three prominent venues:

 **VIFF Centre** will host the gala opening night.

 **SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts** will feature feature and short film selections.

 **Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society** will screen documentaries.

Furthermore, continuing the popular events, various discussions and a workshop will also take place during the festival.

This year's selection will feature 9 feature films, 5 Canadian short films, 12 Turkish short films, and numerous documentaries. Among these are two highly anticipated films submitted for the **98th Academy Awards**: Turkey's official submission for **"Best International Film," "One of Those Days When Hemme Dies,"** and a **Canadian-Turkish production, Canada's official submission for "Best International Film," "The Things You Kill."** Both productions, representing their respective countries in the Oscar race, stand out as powerful reflections of the festival's **"Tales from Afar"** theme.

Among the festival's guests of honor is **Ayçil Yeltan**, the director of another acclaimed work in our selection, **"Fidan."** Yeltan's debut feature film, **"Fidan,"** won **Best Editing and Best Supporting Actress** at the **61st International Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival**. It also received three special mentions (**Special Menzione**) from the **Cinema diDEA Film Festival** for **Best Director, Best Actress, and Best Supporting Actress**. Yeltan's presence at the festival reinforces the strength of Turkish cinema on the international stage while highlighting the creative contributions of female filmmakers. Following the screening of **"Fidan,"** the audience will have the opportunity to join a special **Q&A session with Ayçil Yeltan**.

This year, for the first time, our festival selection is expanding with a new category featuring Canadian-made films. Many esteemed writers, directors, actors, and producers will be with us throughout the festival; audiences will have the chance to meet them in **Q&A sessions**.

Additionally, **Yeltan** will conduct an acting workshop as part of the festival, titled **"The Art of Spontaneous Performance."** The artist is also renowned as an acting coach. She began teaching in the **Community Arts Partnership** program while completing her **MFA in Acting at CalArts** and has since taught on-camera acting at institutions such as **CalArts, Olympic College Film School, and the Chicago Actors Studio**. **Yeltan**, who continues to train actors at her own **Screen Acting Studio in Chicago**, will offer participants in this inspiring, hands-on workshop a more creative, flexible, and authentic space for expression—both on stage and in daily life—through the liberating power of improvisation.

For the first time in its history, the Vancouver Turkish Film Festival will also feature the excitement of an awards component. In this milestone development, audiences will have the chance to vote for the **“Audience Choice Award.”** Awards will be presented in four categories: **Best Feature Film, Best Documentary, Best Canadian Short Film, and Best Turkish Short Film.** This innovation marks the beginning of a new era for the festival, enhancing engagement with film lovers, supporting creative productions, and amplifying the voices of independent filmmakers.

Quote from Festival Director Zuhul Karataş Kavak:

"As it does every year, the Vancouver Turkish Film Festival aims to be more than just a selection of films; it strives to be a sincere bridge between cultures. In our 12th year, with the 'Tales from Afar' theme, we bring stories from distant lands, the voices of different geographies, and the common resonance of the human spirit to the big screen.

This theme represents not just physical distances, but also the desire to meet on common ground, beyond languages, beliefs, and experiences. In recent years, Turkish cinema has become a powerful voice resonating beyond its borders. We will be thrilled to share stories from both Turkey and Canada at our festival this year, presenting the perspectives of different generations and the bold narratives of new filmmakers.

VTFF has carved out a unique place in Vancouver's cultural mosaic, and it is sustained by the hard work of a growing community of volunteers, artists, and film lovers. We believe in the unifying power of cinema, and in every film, we listen to the stories that bring us one step closer. This year, with 'Tales from Afar,' we celebrate not only distant stories but also the closeness within our hearts."

About VTFF

The Vancouver Turkish Film Festival was founded in 2011 by film enthusiasts, directors, and industry professionals, along with volunteers from the Turkish-Canadian Society. The festival aims to showcase the rich world of Turkish cinema, which has drawn attention for its international success. For more information about the program and the festival, please visit vtff.ca.

About the Turkish-Canadian Society (TCS)

TCS is a non-profit charitable organization established in British Columbia, Canada. Since its founding in 1963, TCS has aimed to contribute to Canada's multicultural fabric by showcasing both contemporary and traditional Turkish art and culture. It organizes various initiatives such as festivals, conferences, concerts, fine art exhibitions, courses, and library projects, publishes a magazine, and participates in multicultural events. TCS's flagship events, VTFF and Turkish Tunes, offer a window into the rich and diverse world of Turkish cinema and music.

Media Contact:

Ece Akmanlar Koc

Marketing and Communications Director

VTFF - Turkish-Canadian Society

 marketing@turkishcanadiansociety.org