



TIFF 2024

THROUGH

THE LENS

audrey persaud x brainscramble

must see films  
and red carpet  
highlights





The Toronto international film Festival 2024 brought unforgettable moments to cinephiles worldwide, and now it's time for the stars of the festival to shine beyond the red carpet. This guide provides all the details you need on the most buzzworthy films from TIFF 2024. Paired with exclusive photos from their glittering premieres, come relive the magic and plan your watchlist for the months ahead.

audrey persaud

(\*) = Female Director

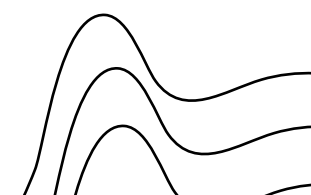
(^) = Canadian filmmaker / artist / company

(+) = brainscramble favourite

released

currently streaming

[www.thebrainscramble.com](http://www.thebrainscramble.com)



DRAMAS

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QUEER / ANORA / ON SWIFT HORSES / BIRD  
THE LAST SHOWGIRL / BONJOUR TRISTESSE /  
ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL / THE FIRE INSIDE /  
REZ BALL / THE LIFE OF CHUCK / WE LIVE IN TIME  
THE PIANO LESSON / HARD TRUTHS /  
MEASURES FOR A FUNERAL

## QUEER

A24

Italy, USA / English / North American Premiere  
@queer\_movie

Director: Luca Guadagnino  
Cinematography: Sayombhu Mukdeeprom

Starring: daniel craig / drew starkey  
jason schwartzman / henrique zaga  
lesley manville

Limited US Release: Nov 27 2024  
Canadian Theatrical Release Dec 13 2024



"In 1950s Mexico City, William Lee, an American ex-pat in his late forties, leads a solitary life amidst a small American community. However, the arrival in town of Eugene Allerton, a young student, stirs William into finally establishing a meaningful connection with someone"

ANORA+

NEON, ELEVATION PICTURES^

USA / English, Russian  
@anorafilm

in theatres

Director: Sean Baker  
Cinematography: Drew Daniels  
Starring: mikey madison / mark eydelshiteyn  
karren karaguillian / yura borisov  
vache tovmasyan  
Limited US Release: oct 18 2024  
Canadian Theatrical Release oct 25 2024



"Anora, a young sex worker from Brooklyn, meets and impulsively marries the son of an oligarch. Once the news reaches Russia, her fairytale is threatened as his parents set out for New York to get the marriage annulled."

BIRD\*+

MUBI

USA / France / UK / germany / Canadian Premiere dec 2024

Director: Andrea Arnold  
Cinematography: Robbie Ryan  
Starring: Barry Keoghan / Nykiya Adams

To be released on MUBI (USA) dec 23 2024



"Bailey lives with her brother Hunter and her father Bug, who raises them alone in a squat in northern Kent. Bug doesn't have much time to devote to them. Bailey looks for attention and adventure elsewhere"

# ON SWIFT HORSES

SONY, MONGREL MEDIA

USA / English / World Premiere

April 2025

Director: Daniel Minahan  
Cinematography: Luc Montpellier  
Starring: daisy edgar-jones / Jacob elordi  
will poulter / Diego calva  
sasha calle

Theatrical Release

April 2025



“Muriel and her husband Lee are about to begin a bright new life, which is upended by the arrival of Lee’s brother. Muriel embarks on a secret life, gambling on racehorses and discovering a love she never thought possible”

# BONJOUR TRISTESSE\*^+

Canada, Germany / World Premiere

Elevation Pictures  
coming soon

Director: Durga Chew-Bose^  
Cinematography: Maximilian Pittner  
Starring: Lily McNerny / Claes Bang  
Chloë Sevigny / Naïlia Harzoune  
Aliocha Schneider

Coming Soon



"Follows Cécile, a young woman who spends the summer in a villa in the south of France with her widowed father Raymond and his latest love interest, Elsa. Theirs is a lived-in compatibility a world of ease and languor."

# THE LAST SHOWGIRL\*

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

USA / World Premiere  
@lastshowgirl

jan 2025

Director: Gia Coppola  
Cinematography: Autumn Durald Arkapaw  
Starring: Pamela Anderson^ / Dave Bautista  
Jamie Lee Curtis / Kiernan Shipka  
Brenda Song / Billie Lourd

Limited US Release: 12/13/2024  
US Theatrical Release 01/10/2025  
Canadian Theatrical Release 01/17/2025



"A seasoned showgirl must plan for her future when her show abruptly closes after a 30-year run"

# ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL+

A24

Zambia, UK, Ireland / North American Premiere

March 2025

Director: Rungano Nyoni  
Cinematography: David Gallego ADFC  
Starring: Susan Chardy / Elizabeth Chisela  
Henry B.J. Phiri

US Release March 7th 2025

"On an empty road in the middle of the night, Shula stumbles across the body of her uncle. As funeral proceedings begin around them, she and her cousins bring to light the buried secrets of their middle-class Zambian family."

# THE LIFE OF CHUCK

NEON

USA / World Premiere

May 2025

Director: Mike Flanagan  
Cinematography: Eben Bolter  
Starring: Tom Hiddleston / Chiwetel Ejiofor  
Karen Gillan / Mia Sara  
Carl Lumbly / Benjamin Pajak  
Jacob Tremblay / Mark Hamill

US Theatrical Release May 30 2025

"A life-affirming, genre-bending story based on Stephen King's novella about three chapters in the life of an ordinary man named Charles Krantz."

# THE FIRE INSIDE\*

USA / World Premiere

@thefreinsidemovie

Director: Rachel Morrison  
Cinematography: Rina Yang  
Starring: Ryan Destiny / Brian Tyree Henry

US Release December 25 2024

"The story of Claressa 'T-Rex' Shields, a boxer from Flint, Michigan who trained to become the first woman in her country's history to win an Olympic gold medal in the sport."

MGM / Amazon  
Dec 2024

# REZ BALL \*

NETFLIX

USA / World Premiere

Currently Streaming

Director: Sydney Freeland  
Cinematography: Kira Kelly  
Starring: Jessica Matten / Kauchani Bratt  
Amber Midthunder / Julia Jones  
Cody Lightning / Dallas Goldtooth  
Ernest David Tsosie  
Kusem Goodwind / Zoey Reyes

Currently Streaming on Netflix

"The Chuska Warriors, a Native American high school basketball team from New Mexico, must band together after losing their star player if they want to keep their quest for a state championship alive."

# WE LIVE IN TIME +

A24

UK, France / World Premiere  
@weliveintime

Director: John Crowley  
Cinematography: Stuart Bentley  
Starring: Florence Pugh / Andrew Garfield

Theatrical Release Oct 18 2024

"An up-and-coming chef and a recent divorcée find their lives forever changed when a chance encounter brings them together, in a decade-spanning, deeply moving romance"

in theatres

# HARD TRUTHS+

BLEECKER STREET MEDIA

Jan 2025

UK, Spain / World Premiere

Director: Mike Leigh  
Cinematography: Dick Pope  
Starring: Marianne Jean-Baptiste / Michele Austin  
David Webber / Tuwaine Barrett  
Ani Nelson / Sophia Brown  
Jonathan Livingstone

NYC Limited Theatrical Release 12/06/2024  
US Theatrical Release 01/10/2025

"Ongoing exploration of the contemporary world with a tragicomic study of human strengths and weaknesses"

# THE PIANO LESSON

NETFLIX

USA / International Premiere  
@thepianolessonfilm\_

currently streaming

Director: Malcolm Washington  
Cinematography: Mike Gioulakis  
Starring: Samuel L. Jackson / John David Washington  
Danielle Deadwyler / Michael Potts Ray Fisher  
Corey Hawkins / Erykah Badu / Stephen James

Currently Streaming on Netflix

"Follows the lives of the Charles family as they deal with themes of family legacy and more, in deciding what to do with an heirloom, the family piano."

# MEASURES FOR A FUNERAL \*^

VORTEX

Canada / World Premiere

Coming Soon

Director: Sofia Bohdanowicz^  
Cinematography: Nikolay Michaylov^  
Starring: Deragh Campbell / Maria Dueñas  
Melanie Scheiner / Mary-Margaret O'Hara

Coming Soon

"A Young academic pursues acclaimed early 20th-century Canadian violinist Kathleen Parlow while escaping her failed musician mother's shadow in this poignant character study."



# THE SUBSTANCE \*^

USA, UK / North American Premiere

in theatres

@trythesubstance

Director: Coralie Fargeat

Cinematography: Benjamin Kračun

Starring: Demi Moore / Margaret Qualley  
Dennis Quaid

Theatrical Release

Sept 20 2024

"A fading celebrity takes a black-market drug: a cell-replicating substance that temporarily creates a younger, better version of herself."

# SHELL

ELEVATION PICTURES^

USA / World Premiere

coming soon

Director: Max Minghella

Cinematography: Drew Daniels

Starring: Elisabeth Moss / Kate Hudson

Kaia Gerber / Arian Moayed

Este Haim / Lionel Boyce

Amy Landecker / Elizabeth Berkley

Peter Macnicol / Ziwe

Coming Soon

"Down on her luck actress Samantha Lake is invited into the ultra-glamorous world of Zoe Shannon, CEO of wellness company SHELL. When SHELL patients begin to go missing, Samantha realizes Zoe may be protecting a monstrous secret."



THRILLERS  
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THRILLERS

HORROR  
&

SHELL  
SHARP CORNER  
HOLD YOUR BREATH  
NIGHTBITCH  
THE SUBSTANCE

# SHARP CORNER^

NEON / ELEVATION PICTURES^

Canada, Ireland / World Premiere  
@sharpcornerfilm

Coming Soon

Director: Jason Buxton^  
Cinematography: Guy Godfree^  
Starring: Ben Foster / Cobie Smulders^

Coming Soon



“A dedicated family man becomes obsessed with saving the lives of the car accident victims on the sharp corner in front of his house - an obsession that could cost him everything.”

# HOLD YOUR BREATH \*

DISNEY

USA / World Premiere  
@holdyourbreathfilm

Currently Streaming

Director: Karrie Crouse & Will Joines  
Cinematography: Zoë White  
Starring: Sarah Paulson / Amiah Miller /  
Annaleigh Ashford / Alona Jane Robbins  
Ebon Moss-Bachrach

Currently Streaming on Disney+



In 1930s Oklahoma amid the region's horrific “dust storms, a woman is convinced that a sinister presence is threatening her family”

# NIGHTBITCH\*

SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

USA / World Premiere

Dec 2024

@nightbtchfilm

Director: Marielle Heller

Cinematography: Brandon Trost

Starring: Amy Adams / Scoot McNairy  
Arleigh Patrick Snowdon  
Emmett James Snowdon / Zoë Chao  
Mary Holland / Archana Rajan / Jessica Harper

US Theatrical Release Dec 6 2024

Streaming 2025



A woman pauses her career to be a stay-at-home mom, but soon her domesticity takes a surreal turn

# SCI-FI

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# CAN I GET A WITNESS \*^+

MONGREL MEDIA

Canada / World Premiere

March 2025

Director: Ann Marie Fleming^

Cinematography: C. Kim Miles

Starring: Keira Jang^ / Joel Oulette^  
Sandra Oh^

Canadian release March 2025



"In a not so distant future, there is a reality where in order to save the planet, "death is everyone's job", with 50-year-olds taking the sacrifice, while teenage artists need to document it."

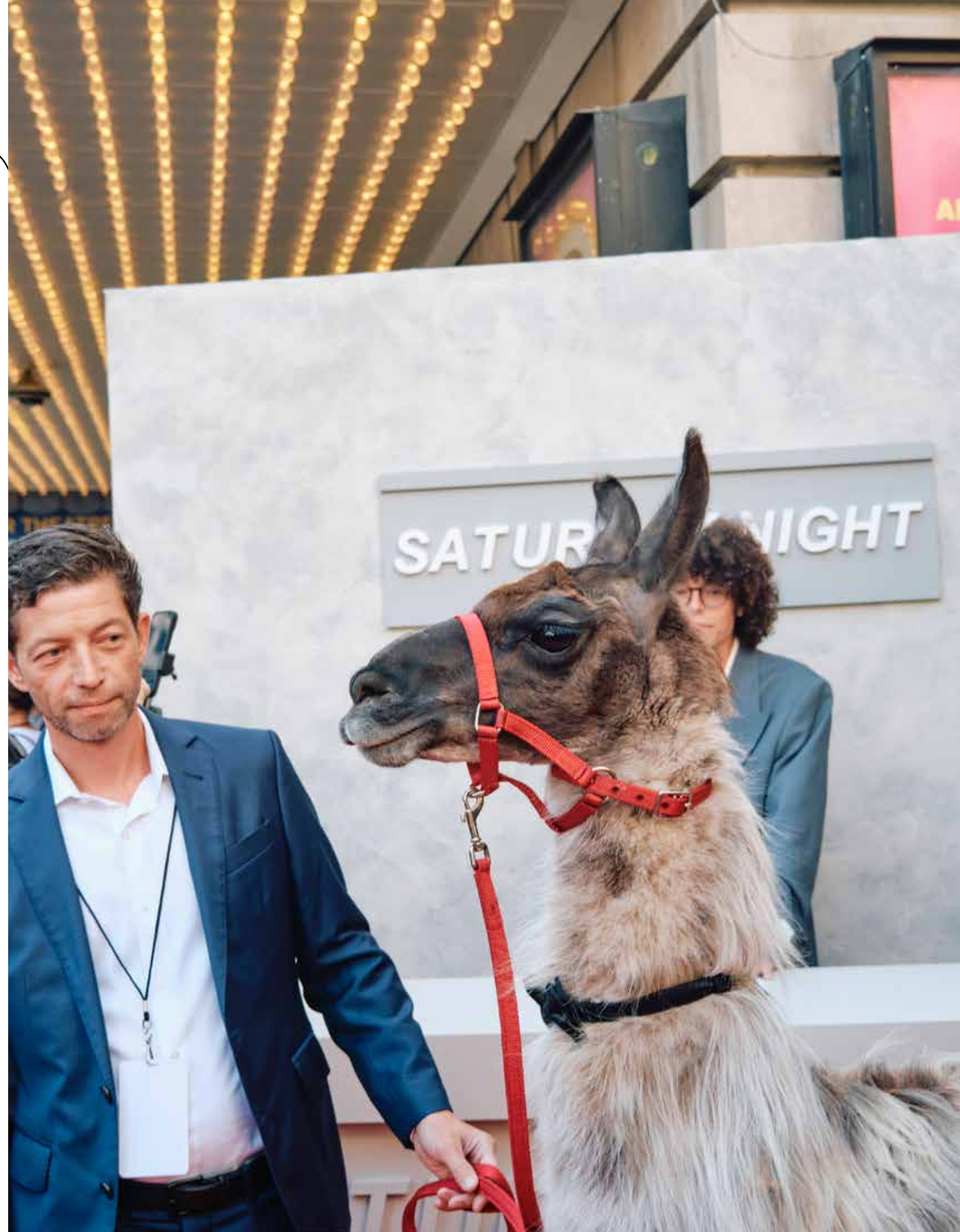
COMEDIES

COMEDIES

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FRIENDSHIP  
SUPERBOYS OF MALEGAON  
SATURDAY NIGHT  
EMILIA PÉREZ



# FRIENDSHIP

USA / World Premiere

A24

2025

Director: Andrew DeYoung  
Cinematography: Andy Rydzewski  
Starring: Tim Robinson / Paul Rudd  
Kate Mara / Jack Dylan Grazer

Coming Soon



“When new neighbor Brian threatens his quiet life, Craig Waterman struggles to protect his family’s security.”

# EMILIA PÉREZ

NETFLIX

France / Canadian Premiere

Currently Streaming

Director: Jacques Audiard  
Cinematography: Paul Guilhaume  
Starring: Zoe Saldana / Karla Sofía Gascón  
Selena Gomez / Adriana Paz  
Edgar Ramírez / Mark Ivanir

Currently Streaming On Netflix

“Emilia Pérez follows four remarkable women in Mexico, each pursuing their own happiness. Cartel leader Emilia enlists Rita, an unappreciated lawyer, to help fake her death so that she can finally live authentically as her true self”

# SUPERBOYS OF MALEGAON\*+

AMAZON

INDIA / Hindi

Coming Soon

Director: Reema Kagti  
Cinematography: Swapnil S. Sonawane  
Starring: Adarsh Gourav / Vineet Kumar Singh  
Shashank Arora

“Helmed by Reema Kagti in her latest collaboration with producer Zoya Akhtar, this uplifting story chronicles the life of Nasir Shaikh, whose no-budget, community-sourced movies turned his hometown into an unlikely dream factory”

# SATURDAY NIGHT

SONY PICTURES

USA / English / Canadian Premiere

@satnightmovie

Director: Jason Reitman^

Cinematography: Eric Steelberg

Starring: Gabriel LaBelle / Rachel Sennott

Cory Michael Smith / Ella Hunt

Dylan O'Brien / Emily Fairn / Matt Wood

Lamorne Morris / Kim Matula

Finn Wolfhard / Nicholas Braun

Cooper Hoffman / Andrew Barth Feldman

Kaia Gerber / Tommy Dewey

Willem Dafoe / Matthew Rhys / J.K. Simmons

in theatres



Theatrical Release

October 11 2024

At 11:30pm on October 11th, 1975, a ferocious troupe of young comedians and writers changed television forever. Find out what happened behind the scenes in the 90 minutes leading up to the first broadcast of Saturday Night Live (1975)



FANATICAL: THE CATFISHING OF  
TEGAN AND SARA

ELTON JOHN: NEVER TOO LATE

WILL & HARPER

FROM GROUND ZERO

DOCUMENTARIES

DOCUMENTARIES

DOCUMENTARIES

DOCUMENTARIES

WILL AND HARPER +

NETFLIX

USA / English / Int. Premiere

Currently Streaming

Director: Josh Greenbaum

Cinematography: Zoë White

Starring: Will Ferrell / Harper Steele

Currently Streaming On Netflix

"In this intimate portrayal of friendship, transition and America, Will Ferrell and his close friend of thirty years decide to go on a cross-country road trip to explore a new chapter in their relationship"

Currently Streaming on Netflix

FROM GROUND ZERO\*

WATERMELON PICTURES

Palestine, France, Qatar, Jordan / Arabic

2025

@from.ground.zero

Directors:

Wissam Moussa / Nidal Damo / Ahmed Hassouna / Alaa Ayoub  
Karim Satoum / Bashar Al Babisi / Khamis Masharawi /  
Nida'A Abu Hasna / Tamer Nijim / Ahmed Al Danaf / Rima Mahmoud  
Muhammad Al Sharif / Basil El Maqousi / Mustafa Al Nabih  
Rabab Khamis / Mustafa Kulab / Alaa Damo / Hana Eleiwa  
Mahdi Kreirah / Aws Al Banna / Islam Al Zeriei / Etimad Washah

Cast:

Alaa Nijim / Aws Al Banna / Kamel Mohammad / Karim Satoum  
Kenzi Al Balbisi / Nidal Damo / Thaer Abu Zubaida / Yahya Saad

Playing Next at Palm Springs International Film Festival Jan 5 2025

"From Ground Zero is a collection of 22 short films made in Gaza. Initiated by Palestinian director Rashid Masharawi, the project was born to give a voice to 22 Gazan filmmakers to tell the untold stories of the current war on film."

# ELTON JOHN: NEVER TOO LATE

USA / English / North American Premiere

Disney

Dec 2024

Director: R.J. Cutler, David Furnish^

Cinematography: Jenna Rosher

Starring: Elton John

Streaming on Disney+

Dec 13 2023



# FANATICAL: THE CATFISHING OF TEGAN AND SARA\*

USA / English / World Premiere

Disney

Currently Streaming

Director: Erin Lee Carr

Cinematography: Ava Benjamin Shorr

Starring: Tegan Quin^ / Sara Quin^

Currently Streaming on Disney+



"It showcases a never-before-seen concert footage of him over the past 50 years, as well as hand-written journals and present-day footage of him and his family. ent-day footage of him and his family."

Follows a catfishing scheme that targeted fans of the indie rock band Tegan and Sara, exploring the dark side of fandom.



## Coming Up This Month:

Dec 05	All We Imagine as Light	TIFF Bell Lightbox
Dec 06	The Girl with the Needle	TIFF Bell Lightbox
Dec 06	Hard Truths	Limited NYC Release
Dec 06	Nightbitch	US Release
Dec. 13	Queer	In Theatres
Dec 13	Elton John	Streaming on Disney+
Dec. 23	Bird	Streaming on MUBI
Dec. 25	The Fire Inside	US Theatres

## NEW RELEASES:

Anora	Neon	In Theatres
Rez Ball	Netflix	Streaming
We Live in Time	A24	In Theatres
The Piano Lesson	Netflix	Streaming
The Substance	MUBI	In Theatres
Hold Your Breath	Disney	Streaming
Emilia Perez	Netflix	Streaming
Saturday Night	Sony	In Theatres
Will and Harper	Netflix	Streaming

Photography + Design By Audrey Persaud  
[www.audreypersaud.ca](http://www.audreypersaud.ca)

Film synopses via [IMDB](http://IMDB) / [Tiff.net](http://Tiff.net)

Shot on Fuji

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