France

A Paris Education
Jean Paul Civeyrac
France, 136 min.
FRI SEP 28 6:15 PM INTL VILLAGE 9
THU OCT 4 1:30 PM INTL VILLAGE 10

Jean Paul Civeyrac's gorgeously shot, black-and-white bildungsroman is a panem to cinephilia. Etienne (Anatolie Monet), a working-class kid from Lyon, is studying filmmaking in the capital. Will disillusionment grind him down, or will his new lovers and film friends buoy him up? “With its pared-down aesthetic and naturalistic performances, Education reflects such... classics of French cinema as Jean Eustache’s The Mother and the Whore and Philippe Garrel’s Regular Lovers.”—Hollywood Reporter

Le Grand Bal
Laetitia Cartron
France, 99 min.
SUN SEPT 30 11:30 AM INTL VILLAGE 10
WED OCT 3 9:30 PM SFU-GCA

The village of Gennetines, in central France, is transformed every summer by thousands of people who’ve come to take part in Le Grand Bal—seven days of dancing to numerous bands playing all styles capturing the event in its myriads of episodes (presented consecutively at a single screening), Coincoin follows its teenage protagonist (Anne Delaye) as he investigates a new mystery on the Opal Coast: what is this extraterrestrial gunk that’s suddenly started falling from the sky, and how did it get there?—Cineuropa

At War
Stéphane Brizé
France, 112 min.
WED OCT 3 4:15 PM INTL VILLAGE 10
MON OCT 8 6:30 PM PLAYHOUSE

Stéphane Brizé’s labour drama opens in crisis mode: a strike is underway, with the emplees of a French manufacturer facing off against its predominantly German management. Union spokesman Laurent (Vincent Lacoste) is trying to keep his comrades united, but the workers are torn between pragmatism and principle. Brizé is making raw physicality, as does the superb Lindon, and stressing the human body is a great way to give lawyers their due. At War is a taxing but thrilling film.—Hollywood Reporter

Keep an Eye Out
Quentin Dupieux
France/Belgium, 73 min.
SAT OCT 6 6:15 PM INTL VILLAGE 8
THU OCT 11 9:00 PM RIO

Remember the “killer tire” movie, Rubber, from VIFF 10? Well, DJ-turned-filmmaker Quentin Dupieux is back and crazier than ever! Benoît Poelvoorde (Man Bites Dog) stars as a police captain who spends a night surreally interrogating a witness (Grégoire Ludig) about a body the latter has discovered. Accidental death, lunatic jokes and mayhem ensue... “[Dupieux’s films] are equal parts Michel Gondry, Tex Avery and the Coen brothers... His latest... is fun... exercise in genre-bending.”—Hollywood Reporter

Coincoin and the Extra-Humans
Bruno Dumont • France, 200 min.
SAT OCT 6 8:00 PM VANCITY
MON OCT 8 10:30 AM VANCITY

From the wonderfully deranged mind of Bruno Dumont comes this roiling procedural, a sequel to the 2014 miniseries Le Grand Bal, that punishes us with the cast of misfits a handful of years later. Made up of four lively 52-minute episodes (presented consecutively at a single screening), Coincoin follows its teenaged protagonist (Anne Delaye) as he investigates a new mystery on the Opal Coast: what is this extraterrestrial gunk that’s suddenly started falling from the sky, and how did it get there?—Hollywood Reporter

Shéhérazade
Jean-Bernard Marlin
France, 109 min.
WED OCT 3 1:15 PM INTL VILLAGE 8
FRID OCT 5 9:00 PM INTL VILLAGE 8

Winner of the Prize Jean Vigo for France’s best feature of the past year, Jean-Bernard Marlin’s slice-of-life drama about young love on the mean streets of Marseille harks back to Italian neorealism in its use of non-professional actors such... classics of French cinema as Jean Eustache’s The Mother and the Whore and Philippe Garrel’s Regular Lovers.”—Hollywood Reporter

Sorry Angel
Christophe Honoré
France, 132 min.
SAT OCT 6 1:30 PM INTL VILLAGE 10
MON OCT 8 8:45 PM INTL VILLAGE 10

Set in 1993, Christophe Honoré’s superb drama centres on the relationship between playwright Jacques (Pierrick De Lattrechamps) and his younger lover Arthur (Vincent Lacoste), but the film also includes a rich cross-section of deftly sketched secondary characters, making it a winning plunge into life, literature, cinema and philosophy. “Graceful, subtle, satisfying and emotionally complex, this is one of Christophe Honoré’s best films, with a standout performance from Vincent Lacoste.”—Sight & Sound

The Prayer
Cédric Kahn
France, 107 min.
TUE OCT 2 7:00 PM INTL VILLAGE 9
MON OCT 8 10:45 AM SFU-GCA

After an overdose, 22-year-old heroin addict Thomas (Berlin Best Actor winner Anthony Bajon) is sent to a Catholic mountain retreat, where he goes cold turkey. Enraged amongst his fellow recovering addicts, he knows he must make some hard choices... Cédric Kahn’s (L’Énou) brisk direction is a pleasure to watch, but it is the remarkable performance of new star Bajon that gives the film its heart and soul. “Kahn returns in strong, unfussy form with this poignant but unsentimental study.”—Variety

Maria by Callas
Tom Wolff
France, 113 min.
SUN SEPT 30 3:45 PM PLAYHOUSE
THU OCT 11 1:15 PM SFU-GCA

A spellbinding amalgam of previously unseen photographs and performances, personal Super 8 films, private recordings, letters and behind-the-scenes archival footage, Tom Wolff’s portrait of the world’s most popular opera singer confines itself solely to the words and thoughts of the divine Maria Callas. “An immense celebration... A great gift to music lovers all over the world... Offers the chance to view virtually every known image of the woman, united... The complete story of a talented, fascinating, passionate and tragic woman.”—Cineuropa

Memoir of War
Emmanuel Finkiel
France/Belgium, 126 min.
SAT OCT 6 9:30 PM INTL VILLAGE 10
MON OCT 8 3:45 PM INTL VILLAGE 9

Mélanie Thierry stars as Marguerite Duras in this period piece by Emmanuel Finkiel, who uses Duras’ memoir about life under the Nazis as the basis for an engrossing drama. Duras’ husband, Resistance soldier Robert Antelme, was captured, and here she plays a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a police/collaborator (Benoit Magimel) to try and secure his release... “Thierry is utterly nature of the terror, these pioneers have left in, a deglamourised but sensual performance.”—Hollywood Reporter

Non-Fiction
Olivier Assayas
France, 106 min.
SAT OCT 6 3:00 PM CENTRE FOR ARTS
THU OCT 11 6:15 PM CENTRE FOR ARTS

VIFF fiance Olivier Assayas (12 of his films have played the festival, ranging from A New Leaf [VIFF 99, Personal Shopper], VIFF 16) turns his eye to the publishing world and the disruption caused by the digital age with this relationship drama starring Juliette Binoche and Guillaume Canet. He’s a beseeched book exec confronting “the death of print” and stressing her relationship. Assayas’ intelligent film for thinking adults says a lot about the way we live now.

Wine Calling
Bruno Sauvad
France, 95 min.
FRID OCT 5 9:00 PM VANCITY
SUN OCT 7 11:30 AM SFU-GCA

Fine wines have long been associated with France, but there are select few French winemakers who’ve embraced modern sustainable practices. Bruno Sauvard’s intoxicating documentary spends a year with this rebellious new wave as they reinvent farming practices and guide a global movement toward increased eco- logical responsibility without any compromise in quality. By redefining the very nature of the terroir, these pioneers have lent a new whole character to their wines. Raise a glass to the revolution!
Shock Waves: Program 1 & 2
Canada, 130 min.
SAT. SEP 29
8:45 PM
VANCITY
SAT. OCT 6
10:45 AM
INTL VILLAGE 10

Shock Waves: Diary of My Mind
Urula Maxer, 70 min.
Shock Waves: First Name Mathieu
Lionel Baier, 60 min.
Made for Swiss television, the four-part Shock Waves series explores one crime scenario per episode. “Diary of My Mind” is a classic take on the psychology of a woman who, when a pupil of hers commits murder, a French teacher is left to reflect on her possible complicity while knowing the issue will forever remain unresolved. The lucid, compassionate “First Name: Mathieu” examines a rape victim’s response to her violation; brave and inquisitive, he’s driven by an urge to speak with his unknown assailant...

Shock Waves: Program 3 & 4
Canada, 116 min.
SUN. SEP 30
9:00 PM
VANCITY
SUN. OCT 7
11:00 AM
INTL VILLAGE 10

Shock Waves: Sirius
Frédéric Mermoud, 64 min.
Shock Waves: The Valley
Jean-Stéphane Bron, 51 min.
The brilliant Swiss series continues with two entries that lead us slowly into danger. “Sirius” is the portrait of a New Age cult whose leader is preparing his followers for their biggest endeavour yet. The episode is marked by its wealth of detail and scarcity of motive, and the combination gives it a horrible power. “The Valley” is a classic of suspense, following a sym pathetic young car thief on a mission that takes him into the mountains, where he becomes a running, shivering target...

The Image Book
Jean-Luc Godard
Switzerland/France, 85 min.
FRI. SEP 28
1:15 PM
VANCITY
SUN. OCT 7
6:30 PM
SFU-GCA

In this wildly inventive arrangement of film footage, music clips, text and more, Jean-Luc Godard dares us to think and feel as much as we can. The movie’s key themes include history and ideology, and their treatment in media, but the subsidiary meanings are probably infinite—that’s the director’s challenge to us, and his gift. Godard is an artist exploding with things to express, so take what you can from the horror and the beauty, the passion and the sadness; some of it you may never let go of.

Song of a Seer
Kim O’Bomsawin
Canada, 76 min.
SAT. OCT 6
1:15 PM
INTL VILLAGE 9

Kim O’Bomsawin’s searing documentary explores the systemic failures that contribute to Indigenous women being eight times more likely to be murdered than other Canadian citizens. More important, it puts faces and stories to the women behind these numbers, profiling Indigenous women (including several Vancouver advocates) who seek to put an end to the cycle of violence. Ultimately, Quiet Killing is a story of resilience that carries a vital message about Indigenous women’s right to safety and justice.

The Far Shore
David Uloth
Canada, 104 min.
SAT. OCT 29
6:30 PM
CINEMATHEQUE
MON. OCT 1
3:30 PM
INTL VILLAGE 8

Navigating the treacherous social tides of high school, Marine (Maeva Tremblay) is cut adrift by Oceane (Éléonore Loslièr), her older sister who’s caught in the thrall of an older man (Emmanuel Schwartz). Meanwhile, their mother (Mélanie Désormeaux-Poulin) struggles to keep her head above water. Drawing from emotionally rich dramas like The Ice Storm and screenwriter Choïl-Chip Marsa’s deep empathy, this portrait of these women’s odyssey from frailty to resilience.

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Genesis
Philippe Lesage
Canada, 129 min.
FRI. SEP 28
6:15 PM
CINEMATHEQUE
MON. OCT 1
12:00 PM
INTL VILLAGE 8

At an all-boy’s conservatory in Quebec, Guillaume (Théo Pellerin) teeters on the edge of first love, confronted by a yearning for his best friend Nicolas (Jules Roy Sicotte). His sister, the slightly older Charlotte (Nade Abita), is unnerved when her boyfriend (Pier-Luc Funk) asks to loosen the monogamous rules of their relationship. Powerful and provocative, Genesis inverts expectations and defies classification. It’s an ode to strange encounters awaiting us.

Ville Neuve
Félix Dufour-Laperrière
Canada, 76 min.
FRI. SEP 28
9:30 PM
CINEMATHEQUE
SAT. SEP 29
1:00 PM
INTL VILLAGE 8

Set against the backdrop of the 1995 referendum on Quebec independence, Félix Dufour-Laperrière’s feature debut recounts the story of Joseph (Robert Lalonde), a washed-up novelist and political dissident who rekindles his relationship with his ex-wife Emma (Josiane-Maëna Tremblay) at a remote cabin on the Atlantic coast. Making striking use of a monochrome animation style, Ville Neuve is a mesmerizing study as much as we can. The movie’s key themes include history and ideology, and their treatment in media, but the subsidiary meanings are probably infinite—that’s the director’s challenge to us, and his gift. Godard is an artist exploding with things to express, so take what you can from the horror and the beauty, the passion and the sadness; some of it you may never let go of.

Waiting for April
Oliver Godin
Canada, 78 min.
WED. OCT 3
6:30 PM
CINEMATHEQUE
THU. OCT 4
1:00 PM
INTL VILLAGE 8

A detective investigating the case of a mystical singing bone, an actor with the arm of a gorilla, and a cashier from the mystical singing bone, an actor with the arm of a gorilla, and a cashier from the...