

KDocsFF
10th Annual Film Festival

JOURNEYS
in SOLIDARITY

Feb 21 - 25, 2024

Metro Vancouver's
Premier Social Justice
Film Festival

KDocsFF.com



#KDocsFF2024



KWANTLEN
POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

ENGAGING COMMUNITY *through*
DOCUMENTARY FILM & DOCUMENTARY ACTIVISM

Program of Events

Doors open 30 minutes prior to the first film of the day

Wednesday
February

21

Liberating the Body Politic

- 12:00 pm *Is There Anybody Out There?* (87m) + *Neurodivergent* (26m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 3:30 pm *Your Fat Friend* (96m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 6:30 pm *Julia Scotti: Funny That Way* (73m) + Julia Scotti Standup (30m)
- 8:30 pm **Opening Night Reception**

Thursday
February

22

Radical Humanity

- 12:30 pm *Delikado* (95m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 3:30 pm *Rails, Jails & Trolleys* (71m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 6:00 pm *To Kill a Tiger* (128m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)

Friday
February

23

Decolonizing Power

- 12:30 pm *The Klabona Keepers* (70m) + *ReWilding the Classroom* (17m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 3:30 pm *Powerlands* (76m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 6:00 pm *Twice Colonized* (91m) + *Who She Is* (38m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)

Saturday
February

24

Resisting Erasure

- 12:30 pm *Kokomo City* (74m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 3:30 pm *Someone Lives Here* (75m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 6:00 pm *Big Fight in Little Chinatown* (89m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)

Sunday
February

25

Preserving Democracy

- 1:00 pm *Manufacturing the Threat* (84m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 5:00 pm *The Price of Truth* (86m) + *Section 16* (31m) + Panel Discussion/Q&A (45m)
- 8:00 pm **Closing Night Reception**

KDocsFF Intro

Uniting learners through social justice, global citizenship, and creative solution-building

KDocsFF stands at the forefront of documentary activism, shining a light on untold stories that challenge perceptions and provoke dialogue. Our festival is a beacon for filmmakers and advocates who seek to explore and illuminate the truths of our time. With every frame and narrative, we commit to breaking barriers and opening minds. Our curated selection of documentaries invites you to witness the power of real-world storytelling. It's a cinematic journey that celebrates the relentless spirit of activism and its capacity to inspire societal transformation.

At the heart of KDocsFF lies our mission to engage through documentary film, documentary activism, and community dialogue, driving critical thinking and deepening our understanding of ourselves, our communities, and our world. This commitment fuels our endeavours to illuminate, challenge, and inspire.

On our screen, a kaleidoscope of narratives unfolds, each documentary offering a unique lens that challenges norms and incites deep reflection. These diverse stories create an environment ripe for idea exchange, awareness building, and meaningful change. By delving into these varied perspectives, KDocsFF fosters a space where both individual and collective voices are championed, and where exploration and empowerment intersect. Join us in this journey as we navigate and respond to the complexities of our global community through the transformative power of film.

KDocsFF's 10th Anniversary Film Festival

This milestone event promises to be an unforgettable experience for film enthusiasts and documentary lovers alike. From thought-provoking documentaries to engaging panel discussions, this year's festival is a testament to over a decade of showcasing powerful stories that inspire, inform, and challenge our perspectives. Sit back and immerse yourself in a diverse selection of films, as we commemorate a decade of celebrating the art of storytelling through the lens of documentary film and documentary activism.



Meet the KDocsFF Team



Janice Morris | Founder and Festival Director

My love of film is equaled only by my love of learners and learning, so KDocsFF is the perfect way for me to do what I truly love in every way. As the KDocsFF Festival Director, I am responsible for overseeing film curation/programming, sponsorships, partnerships, speaker development/curation, exhibitor development/curation, financial management, logistics, venue management, marketing/promotion, and community liaison. When not organizing the KDocsFF Annual Documentary Film Festival and other KDocsFF film events, I am incredibly fortunate and grateful to teach English literature, critical reading, critical writing, and critical thinking at KPU, a place I have called home since 2006. My other research interests include graphic novels, visual culture, film studies, media studies, and critical approaches to historicizing and theorizing “holocomics”—graphic novels and representations of the Holocaust. I am also an Advisory Board Member/Section Editor for *Mise-en-scène: The Journal of Film and Visual Narration*, KPU’s official film studies journal. I was recently honoured as the 2022 recipient of KPU’s Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Award, as well as a 2020 YWCA Women of Distinction Award nominee (Arts, Culture, & Design), and as the winner of the 2019 Allies of Muslim Women Award from Voices of Muslim Women. I have also proudly served as a jurist for the Vancouver International Film Festival. Outside of work, I am a huge Canucks fan (Go Canucks!) who enjoys travel, cycling, and binge-watching my favourite TV series (best ever? *The Wire* ... and *Breaking Bad*). I am so proud of KDocsFF, now in its second decade! janice.morris@kpu.ca



Greg Chan | Community Outreach Director

As a BIPOC member of the LGBTQ2S+ community and son of a political refugee, my lived experience has become an integral part of my teaching, scholarship, and activism at KPU, where I lead KDocsFF’s Community Outreach program and KDocs Talks. I am proud that our programming embodies intersectional social justice, with all of the documentaries we screen and the events we produce centering anti-oppression, sustainability, human and animal rights, resistance, and diversity. I am the founder and editor-in-chief of the KDocsFF-sponsored film studies journal, *Mise-en-scène: The Journal of Film & Visual Narration*, and my research interests include BIPOC/Asian representation in film, transtextuality, fandoms, and documentary activism—all frequent topics of my presentations at various conferences like the Popular Culture Association’s annual meeting. In the classroom, I have been teaching film studies courses in the English Department since 2012 and enjoy taking my students on field studies to the Rio Theatre; I also co-curated an English/Fine Arts ceramics exhibit on the Japanese Canadian internment that is now on permanent display at Historic Joy Kogawa House. Learning about privilege alongside students, colleagues, and community members—and how to break down our unearned advantages in the name of justice—continues to be my role as an educator/documentary activist. Proudly, I am the recipient of KPU Faculty of Arts Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award for 2021 and a jurist for the St. Andrews Film Festival and the Sundar Prize Film Festival. greg.chan@kpu.ca

Minister’s Welcome



Message from the Hon. Lana Popham Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Government of British Columbia, I am delighted to welcome you to the 10th Annual KDocsFF.

As the leading film festival promoting social justice in the Metro Vancouver area, KDocsFF sheds light on untold stories that challenge perceptions and provoke meaningful dialogue through the medium of documentary filmmaking.

This year's festival is organized under the theme "Journeys in Solidarity." It showcases 15 feature-length documentaries and four short documentaries. They each offer diverse narratives that will captivate and enlighten audiences. I am particularly pleased to see that one-third of the program shines the light on B.C. films, filmmakers, and subjects.

B.C.’s creative sector is a key economic driver in our province, and we are proud of its ongoing success. Film festivals, such as KDocsFF, are essential resources that showcase the diversity and strength of our creative sector. This is why our government is so proud to invest in KDocsFF through Creative BC.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the festival organizers. Their dedication and hard work have established an important platform that highlights filmmakers and advocates who share a passion for exploring important social issues of our time. The festival's commitment to breaking down barriers and promoting open-mindedness is in perfect alignment with the values we cherish here in B.C.

As we embark on this cinematic journey together, may KDocsFF keep on being a driving force for exploration, empowerment, and positive change.

All the best for a successful and inspiring 10th Annual KDocs Film Festival!

Sincerely,

Hon. Lana Popham,
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Welcome to KDocsFF 2024



Hello again, friends, and welcome to **KDocsFF 2024: Journeys in Solidarity**, our **10th Annual Film Festival**, which we are proud to present in this week of the United Nations World Day of Social Justice (February 20).

On March 14, 2015, KDocsFF held its First Annual Film Festival (after three years as a film series)—a one-day showcase of three films (*Honor Diaries*, *Do the Math*, and *A Dangerous Game*). As we gather in 2024 for our 10th Annual Film Festival—some 150 films and 16,000+ guests later—I’m both proud of and grateful for all that KDocsFF has achieved. What began as a single film night back in 2012 has grown into not only **Metro Vancouver’s Premier Social Justice Film Festival**, but also a thriving Year-round Program, Community Outreach Program, YouTube Channel (KDocs Talks), and Social Justice Lab.

That growth has been both amorphous and deliberate. True, so much of KDocsFF has been about just doing *all of the things, all of the time*, but so too have we curtailed growth for growth’s sake, choosing instead to nurture with intention the local, regional, national, and even international reach and reputation we

have built. We are proud to be a successful, professional film festival; however, rather than a showcase for our achievements, KDocsFF has always been about celebrating and championing others.

It is those relationships, collaborations, and partnerships that have sparked and sustained us. KDocsFF began as a way to deepen engagement and catalyze community meaning-making and solution-building. When we feel like giving up, it is *those* ideals and what KDocsFF makes possible that hold us up (for just one example of what I’m talking about, turn to page 38).

Besides “Why are you doing this?”, perhaps the questions I am most asked are “How do you select the films?” and “How did you come up with this year’s theme?” I’d like to say that there’s some complex algorithm at play, but the truth is something much more ordinary, yet paradoxically confounding: build it, and they will come (pick the best films, and the themes somehow always emerge).

This year’s films (and themes) were chosen from over 650 prospects. They present the unique and challenging journeys undertaken by individuals, organizations, and communities in fighting for social justice at home and abroad. What these films reveal is that no social justice sojourner travels alone. All act both in and from solidarity—with other individuals, organizations, communities, and the natural environments they inhabit. Perhaps solidarity is the defining and necessary ingredient when pursuing social justice?

But let’s be clear: support alone is not solidarity. We must be active, conscious, and intentional. We must seek out, align, and show up. I hope that something you see, hear, or feel at **KDocsFF 2024: Journeys in Solidarity** moves you to look around and find opportunities in your own communities for solidarity and social justice.

In solidarity,

Janice Morris, Founder and Festival Director
KDocsFF

Welcome Elder-in-Residence



KDocsFF is honoured to once again welcome **Lekeyten** to the stage to officially open KDocsFF 2024: Journeys in Solidarity.

One of 20 Kwantlen First Nation Elders, Lekeyten grew up within a very large family in Chehalis First Nation near Harrison Lake. There, Lekeyten attended day school. Similar to residential schools, day schools did not require students to stay overnight and they returned home at the end of every day. But the teachings were the same, says Lekeyten, and he and his classmates were taught to be quiet. As a result, Lekeyten spent more time in nature than in school, and he soon found his voice.

Fast-forward to adulthood, and Lekeyten has been avidly involved for more than 20 years as a guest speaker and presenter at all levels of elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education as well as trades and conferences in the Lower Mainland. His talks are about the environment, land and water use, fishing, and issues of conservation and its traditional importance.

Lekeyten is a proud father of three daughters and two sons. He is also extremely proud of being a grandfather. Lekeyten and his wife Cheryl Gabriel have been together for over forty years. He loves and respects his family wholeheartedly.

His advice at the Elder-in-Residence installation ceremony: “Never shut up.”

kpu.ca/indigenous/elder
kwantlenfn.ca

We at Kwantlen Polytechnic University respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and study in a region that overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral First Nations territories of the Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlem; and with the lands of the Kwantlen First Nation, which gifted its name to this university. In the cause of reconciliation, we recognize our commitment to address and reduce ongoing systemic colonialism, oppression and racism that Indigenous Peoples continue to experience.

Welcome Active Listener



Trina Prince is a trans, non-binary, white, disabled, neurodivergent, fat person, with German and Polish ancestry. They grew up on Anishinabewaki and Algonquin territories, and they currently live on the lands of the Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, and Musqueam First Nations. Working for institutes such as Nipissing University and BCIT, Trina has devoted time to being actively involved in many meaningful initiatives, which include supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy and celebration, reconciliation, accessibility, mental health, sexual assault awareness, and ending gender-based violence. Trina is honoured to be the Manager, Culture and Wellbeing at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Outside of work, Trina has recently finished a seven-year term as the Board Chair for Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre. Most importantly, Trina is a very proud Entie to their 10 niblings. Trina absolutely loves orcas, dragons, *Star Wars*, LEGO, Titanic facts, dancing, and escape rooms. Trina tries to create safe(r) spaces everywhere they go and is a passionate advocate. They are looking forward to holding space for those who may need it as the Active Listener for the film festival.

kpu.ca/vp-equity-inclusive-communities

Community Partner:



Office of Equity
and Inclusive
Communities

Mental Health and Well-Being

Resources

KDocsFF includes content that is deeply connected to lived experience; as such, you may find some of the content triggering or troubling. We encourage you to take care of yourself and take breaks if you need them.

We recognize you may feel more comfortable with specific supports. Please know that there are numerous free resources available to support your well-being.

In addition, KPU's **Trina Prince** will be available throughout the festival as the designated Active Listener for those who wish to speak to someone immediately.

BC Crisis Line is available in 140 Languages: 1-800-784-2433

Trans Lifeline Canada is run for and by Trans people: 1-877-330-6366 US

Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society is a BC-wide Indigenous toll-free support/crisis line:

- » Adults/Elders Line 1-250-723-4050
- » Youth Line 1-250-723-2040
- » Or call toll free 1-800-588-8717

SUCCESS is a non-partisan, non-profit multicultural Canadian organization with a proud 50-year history of serving newcomers, seniors, youth and families. The help lines are answered seven days per week from 10am to 10pm.

- » Cantonese Line 604-270-8233
- » Mandarin Line 604-270-8222
- » Korean Line 1-888-721-0596 / Ext. 3
- » Farsi-Dari Line 1-888-721-0596 / Ext. 4

Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre (formerly WAVAW) offers anti-oppressive, decolonizing, intersectional feminist support to survivors of sexualized violence. Our services are open to cis and trans women and people of all marginalized genders, including Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people. 1-877-392-7583.

VictimLinkBC is a toll-free, confidential, multilingual service available across B.C. and the Yukon, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be accessed by calling or texting 1-800-563-0808.

FEBRUARY 21: LIBERATING THE BODY POLITIC

Is Anybody Out There?

Vancouver Premiere



“Born with a disability so rare that no reliable statistics for it exist, filmmaker Ella Glendining wonders if there is anyone who can share the experience of living in a body like hers. This simple question, one which nondisabled people so often take for granted, leads to a journey to not only others who live like her, but also to the realization that meeting them changes how she sees herself in the world, as well as many surprises on this journey. With intimate personal diaries, conversations with similarly bodied people and doctors treating her condition, and a searching and unique perspective, *Is There Anybody Out There?* invites the viewer to consider questions and assumptions they may have never encountered before. Are people born this way to be ‘fixed’ by medicine? Is it ableist to see disabled people as living an undesired existence? With warmth and an infectious joy for her body and life as it is, Glendining takes you on an unforgettable experience that will change how you see others, like and unlike you.”

Ella Glendining KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Director and Film Subject, *Is There Anybody Out There?*



Ella Glendining is a writer/director dedicated to presenting an authentic disabled voice. Her first feature film, *Is There Anybody Out There?* premiered at Sundance Film Festival 2023 as part of the World Cinema Documentary competition. Ella has written/directed short films with backing from Film4, the BFI, Arts Council England, Screen South, and the National Paralympic Heritage Trust. Ella was named one of Screen International’s Stars of Tomorrow 2020. She is currently writing a feature fiction film called *Curiosities of Fools* for the BFI. Ella is also an actor, having performed with Total Ensemble Theatre Company from 2013-2016. She has performed in a number of short films and has done some voice acting for BBC Radio 3, including playing Frances Cecil in Rex Obano’s *The Moors of England*. In 2020, she appeared in an episode of BBC One’s *Casualty*.
ellaelsing.wixsite.com/ellabg

Neurodivergent (short)

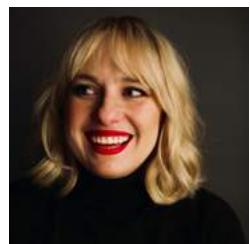
Canadian Premiere



“In this profoundly personal mixed media experience inside the ADHD mind, *Neurodivergent* follows the filmmaker’s journey as she discovers her ADHD diagnosis during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. From Post-it notes to magnets, keys, pens, rubber bands, and receipts, the unorganized chaos of a junk drawer is the perfect representation of what Afton Quast Saler’s brain feels like every day. Growing up, she knew she wasn’t like the other kids but never really understood why, and doctors didn’t seem to be much help. She was diagnosed with depression, anxiety, rapid cycle bipolar, fibromyalgia, addiction disorders, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, insomnia, and dyslexia--but none of those diagnoses felt right. In a unique way of coping with this new information, she courageously decides to put herself in front of the camera and, with the help of her husband, Jesse, documents this very personal journey.”

Afton Quast Saler KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Director and Film Subject, *Neurodivergent*



I’m a documentary and narrative fiction filmmaker, writer, and performer, who is committed to disability and mental health advocacy through the arts. I began my professional career in the arts at 13 years old by acting, singing, and playing make-believe on stages across the USA and Europe. I attended USC’s School of Cinematic Arts and graduated in 2021 with a degree in production, channeling my love of storytelling into filmmaking and writing. My writing has placed in screenwriting competitions at Austin Film Festival, Hollyshorts Film Festival, and Atlanta Film Festival, as well as receiving the HFPA Center for Cinema & Television award for Best Short Script. Most recently, I gained recognition for directing and writing my short USC thesis documentary, *Neurodivergent*, a personal mixed-media experience about women with ADHD. The film has played over 30 film festivals worldwide, received the Jury Prize at the DGA Student Film Awards, and was broadcast on KCET’s Fine Cut Festival of Films, for which it won Best Documentary.
aftonquastsaler.com

Simon Driver MODERATOR



Simon Driver (he/him) is a white, cis-gender, able-bodied male and teaching faculty member in Kwantlen Polytechnic University’s Employment and Community Studies Program. Simon has a BFA in Theatre and Performance from SFU and an MA in Drama Therapy from Concordia University. Simon is committed to amplifying under-represented voices on campus through the development of leadership opportunities, enhancing the student experience through interdisciplinary engagement, and creatively infiltrating in unexpected ways. Simon’s current research projects include an interdisciplinary study with Dr. Shawn Wilkenson and Jessica Bleuer (Concordia University) investigating *How Drama Therapy is Influenced by Cultural Context* and a collaboration with KPU’s Including All Citizens Pathway’s (IACP) Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh and Dr. Jennifer Hardwick: *Transforming Post-Secondary Education Using Inclusion and Accessibility as Foundation*. Simon is proud to be part of the KDocsFF 2024 team and grateful for the opportunity to be so close to such powerful work.
kpu.ca/acp/eacs
kpu.ca/iacp

Instructor, Employment and Community Studies, KPU

Usha Gunatilake PANELIST



Usha Gunatilake (she/her) is a disabled KPU student majoring in Creative Writing and English. She is also the Students with Disabilities Representative of the Kwantlen Student Association. Usha is a passionate advocate for disability rights, a fanatic word-lover, and a dedicated daydreamer.
kusa.ca

Writer; Editor; Students with Disabilities Representative, KSA

Karla Verschoor PANELIST



Karla Verschoor has been with Inclusion BC since 2006, when she joined the organization as a volunteer coordinator. Over the years, Karla has worked in various leadership roles as an advocate, strategic planner, and now as Executive Director. Karla has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alberta, where she studied Political Science and Government, and a Certificate in Dialogue and Civic Engagement from Simon Fraser University. Karla lives in Vancouver with her husband and daughter. When she’s not working, Karla enjoys volunteering at her daughter’s school and with her local neighbourhood house.
inclusionbc.org

Executive Director, Inclusion BC

Fiona Whittington-Walsh PANELIST



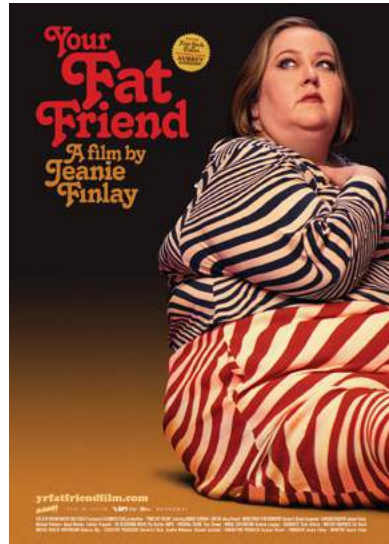
Fiona Whittington-Walsh is a disabled scholar and the Lead Advisor on Disability, Accessibility, and Inclusion at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in British Columbia, Canada. Her current research projects include inclusive post-secondary pedagogy and transforming post-secondary services for students with disabilities. A key aspect to her work is creating strong connections with the community. She has been on several provincial and national Boards of Directors for non-profit organizations that advocate for the full inclusion of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Dr. Whittington-Walsh is past president of Inclusion BC and is currently the Vice-Chair for the Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS).
kpu.ca/arts/sociology/faculty/fiona-whittington-walsh

Professor of Sociology, KPU; Principal Researcher, Including All Citizens Project; Principal Researcher, Bodies of Film Project

FEBRUARY 21: LIBERATING THE BODY POLITIC

Your Fat Friend

Vancouver Premiere



“Aubrey Gordon began her career writing with candor and humor as the anonymous blogger ‘Your Fat Friend.’ Her searingly honest writing describes what it’s like to be a fat woman in the world, how the fantasies peddled by the diet and wellness industry are worth \$26 billion a year, and how the biggest threat to fat people’s health might just be the bias that some many health care providers hold for fat people. Aubrey spent a decade campaigning for LGBTQIA rights, so she knows that change is possible. Now it’s time to advocate for herself. For Aubrey, this isn’t about ‘body positivity’ co-opted by brands to sell fat-kinis to size 16 women. It’s about bringing about a paradigm shift in the way that we treat fat people and the fat on our own bodies. It has brought her an insatiable worldwide audience, and threats to her life. **Your Fat Friend** follows Aubrey’s rise from anonymous blogger to *New York Times* best-selling author and co-host of the podcast *Maintenance Phase* and charts the complexities of finding a place in the world when you don’t quite fit in.”

Layla Cameron KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Lecturer, School of Communication, SFU;
Lecturer, Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, UBC-Okanagan

Layla Cameron (they/she) is an academic, filmmaker, and journalist living on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw), and Tsleil-Waututh (səl ilwətaʔ) Nations. Layla is a Lecturer in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University, and a Lecturer in the Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan. As of September 2024, Layla will also be a Postdoctoral Researcher on the project *Reclaiming Nature Spaces: Structures of resistance to historical marginalization in outdoor culture*. Layla’s research interests are grounded in queer feminist cultural studies, and they have published and presented work in the disciplines of communication and media studies, women and gender studies, fat studies, disability studies and the sociology of sport. Such work includes contributions in *Intersectional Media*, *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*, *BIG: Stories About Life in Plus-Sized Bodies*, and *Xtra*. In 2018, Layla’s body of work was awarded the Nora & Ted Sterling Prize in Support of Controversy. Layla’s

first short documentary film, *Fat Hiking Club*, has screened at festivals, conferences, and in classrooms around the world. They are currently working on a second documentary film, *Baby Weight*, with the BC & Yukon Studio of the National Film Board of Canada, and developing another film project, *My Girl Gail*. Layla also directs and produces the *fatten* podcast, supported by Telus STORYHIVE’s Voices Program. Outside of academia and filmmaking, Layla runs a fat-positive letterpress print shop called *Stay Fat Design Co.*

laylacameron.com
laylacameron.com/podcast
instagram.com/stayfatdesignco

Melanie Yeats MODERATOR



Artist and Arts Administrator
Melanie Yeats (she/they) is a fat theatre-maker living on the unceded stolen territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl ilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. A granddaughter of refugees and settlers, she works to honour the communities she engages with on this land. As a Dramaturg, Director, Performer, Intimacy Director, and Playwright, Melanie has worked with a broad range of arts organizations, such as Music on Main, Bard on the Beach, Carousel Theatre, Tara Cheyenne Performance, re:Naissance Opera, Universal Limited, Upintheair, Newworld, Mainly Dance, Joe Ink, Boca del Lupo, Pi Theatre, and more, collaborating on many new works, including interdisciplinary projects with theatre, dance, and music artists. She has also been seen in lots of made-for-tv movies, usually playing a cranky nurse or giggly secretary. As an Arts Administrator, Melanie is proud to serve as Creative Managing Director at Playwrights Theatre Centre. More than almost anything else, Melanie loves building spaces where people feel safe enough to do the challenging work of creating meaningful art.
playwrightstheatre.com

Helen Camisa PANELIST



Comedian; Podcaster; Writer; Yoga Instructor
Helen Camisa is a fat-positive yoga teacher, comedian, and podcaster. She never thought she could be both fat and happy. But after a decade of exploring what it means to live fully in her own fat body, without judging it or trying to shrink it, she’s so glad to say she proved herself wrong. Now she wants to help you do the same! Through yoga classes, her *Fat + Happy* Patreon podcast and her weekly newsletter, she’s sharing the many ways in which you can embrace your body and live a fat and happy life.
helencamisa.com
helencamisa.com/patreon

Connally McDougall PANELIST



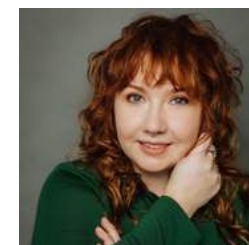
Owner, Connally Goods
A self-taught sewist, **Connally McDougall** attended Central Saint Martins School for Design in London, UK, leaving the program when it became clear that size-inclusion wasn’t a priority to the school and subsequently pursuing freelance work. Returning to her birthplace of Vancouver, BC, Connally launched as a full-time designer under her eponymous label in 2018. A skull fracture later that year caused Connally to recalibrate life and business while adjusting to compounded disabilities. That process sparked growth in the community, and Connally shifted from working on her living room floor to working with a small, dedicated team that continues to extend opportunities to folks living with disabilities and/or in marginalized bodies. Connally’s passion for sustainability and dismantling of anti-fat bias, sexism, and ableism weave their way into each facet of her life and work. In January 2024, Connally was interviewed by CBC, advocating and educating others on the harm that anti-fat stigma and rhetoric causes beyond the struggle to find clothing that fits larger bodies. Connally also loves cilantro to an absurd degree.
connallygoods.com

Lydia Okello PANELIST



Stylist; Fashion Writer; Model
Lydia Okello is a non-binary, plus-size fashion and lifestyle creator who uses their platform to inspire others to step outside of their comfort zone. They are based in Vancouver, BC, and speak English. Lydia is the Chief Writer of *Style Is Style*, a personal style + outfit blog, combined with inspirations and snapshots from Lydia’s day-to-day life. They have contributed writing to publications such as *Vogue*, *Vogue Business*, *FASHION*, *ELLE Canada*, *BUST*, and *Xtra*, and they also have been featured in *Vogue*, *Teen Vogue*, *FASHION*, *Buzzfeed*, *The New York Times*, *Business of Fashion*, and many more.
styleisstyle.com

Cheyenne Rouleau PANELIST



Writer; Producer; Actor, Director
Cheyenne Rouleau is an actor, director, writer, and producer from Burnaby, BC. Their smash hit play, *The After After Party*, has garnished them multiple awards including *The Georgia Straight’s* Critic’s Choice Award, Pick of the Fringe, and the CULTCHivating the Fringe Award, as well as 5 stars across multiple national publications. Their recent acting appearances include *Blockbuster* (NBC), *The Good Doctor* (ABC), and *Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies* (Paramount+). Cheyenne is currently Playwright-in-Residence for ITSAZOO Productions, and their play *Sunrise Betties*, produced by ITSAZOO, premieres this February. Their one-person show, *Fat Joke*, premieres this May with Newworld Theatre and The Cultch.
itsazoo.org/project/the-sunrise-betties
newworldtheatre.com/projects/fat-joke
thecultch.com/event/fat-joke

FEBRUARY 21: LIBERATING THE BODY POLITIC

Julia Scotti: Funny That Way

Canadian Premiere



“With breathtaking emotional honesty, this tender, funny, and powerful portrait of transgender comedian Julia Scotti explores the unrelenting courage and humor it takes to be Julia. In the comedy boom of the 1980s, Rick Scotti was a busy guy—appearing in clubs across the country, on bills with Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld, when he came to the dawning realization that nothing felt right. At a time when the words gender dysphoria and gender reassignment surgery were rarely heard, Rick’s true awakening at age 47 led to a new identity as Julia Scotti. And then everyone turned away—former wives, friends, family, comedy world buddies, and most painfully, Julia was shut out from any contact with her children. Julia reinvented herself, spent a decade teaching, and then several years ago, stepped back on stage and began her journey back to the world she loves, and her children reached out to her after 15 years of silence. Shot over a period of five years, **Julia Scotti: Funny That Way** tracks Julia’s triumphant comeback and the complex process of reuniting with her children, as comedy becomes the shared language of identity, healing, and joy.”

Susan Sandler KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Susan Sandler is a writer/director, producer, playwright, teacher, and mentor. Her screenplays include the Golden Globe nominated *Crossing Delancey*, *Friends At Last*, as well as projects for Sony Pictures Entertainment, Twentieth Century Fox, Disney, TNT, Columbia Pictures, Jersey Films, and Interscope. She directed and produced the documentary feature *Julia Scotti: Funny That Way*, winner of Audience Choice at the Paley Center for New Media Doc Pitch and released by 1091 Pictures. Sandler’s work for the stage has been produced in New York, at major theatres across the country, and around the world. Her plays include *Crossing Delancey*, *Under the Bed*, *The Renovation*, *The Moaner*, *If I Were A Train*, *Hokey-Pokey*, *The Find*, *The Burial Society*, *The Lovely Just So*, and *Kinfolks and Mountain Music*. She is a member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre, the HB Playwrights Foundation, The Playwrights Round Table of the Actors Studio, and the Writers Guild of America. Sandler’s work is published by Smith and Kraus, Vintage Press, and Samuel French Publishers. Her plays have also been produced for *Playing on Air: Great American Short*

Plays with Great American Actors on NPR. Susan teaches screenwriting at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts in The Kanbar Institute of Film and Television, where she has developed new courses in the undergraduate department, including Adaptation Screenwriting Workshop and a year long workshop in creating original feature screenplays. Along with her teaching, she has passionately guided the student run Fusion Film Festival since its inception in 2003, celebrating the work of women behind the camera, and mentoring the next generation of change-makers in film, television, and new media.

tisch.nyu.edu/about/directory/film-tvs/1971963048
tisch.nyu.edu/kanbar-institute
fusionfilmfestival.com

Director, *Julia Scotti: Funny That Way*

Stand-up Comedy with Julia Scotti SPECIAL PERFORMANCE



Julia Scotti is a remarkably busy lady. In addition to performing standup coast to coast, you have seen her on *America’s Got Talent*, *The Today Show with Hoda and Jenna*, and on Showtime where she was featured on the *More Funny Women of a Certain Age* special.

Susan Sandler’s acclaimed documentary *Julia Scotti: Funny that Way*, now streaming at <https://geni.us/JuliaScottiFilm>, is a clear winner. Julia’s latest comedy album *Primal Cuts* and her *Dry Bar Comedy Special Jersey Fresh* are out now, while her first album, *Hello Boys, I’m Back!*, is still climbing and available for download. Clips from *Primal Cuts* have been added to *Raw Dog* and *She’s So Funny* channels on SiriusXM. She is the current host of the podcast *Comedy Centric*.

You can see Julia starring as Joy in the short film drama *Relatable Joy* and in the Judd Apatow/Universal Pictures film *Bros*, starring Billy Eichner, and she will be seen in the upcoming film tentatively titled *Untitled Pregnancy* with Ilana Glazer and Michelle Buteau.

Her press kit continues to grow, and she recently had a featured interview in *Hustler* magazine. Julia continues to remain a fan favorite of *America’s Got Talent* audiences around the world, and Simon Cowell said, “You genuinely made me laugh!”. She has been named one of the Top Five Transgender Comedians in the Country by *Advocate* magazine.

Find out why *Deadline*, the industry leading magazine, has called Julia “Our Next Betty White.” <https://deadline.com/2021/06/julia-scotti-funny-that-way-1091-pictures-documentary-director-susan-sandler-interview-news-1234782227/>

juliascotti.com

Opening Night Reception to follow in theatre atrium

FEBRUARY 22: RADICAL HUMANITY

Delikado



“Palawan appears to be an idyllic tropical island. Its powder-white beaches and lush forests have made it one of Asia’s hottest new tourist destinations. But for a tiny network of environmental crusaders and vigilantes trying to protect its spectacular natural resources, it is more akin to a battlefield. *Delikado* follows Bobby, Tata, and Nieves, three magnetic leaders of this network, as they risk their lives in David versus Goliath-style struggles trying to stop politicians and businessmen from destroying the Philippines’ ‘last ecological frontier.’ It is a timely film emblematic of the struggles globally for land defenders as they are being killed in record numbers trying to save natural resources from being plundered by corporations and governments. As the world faces its sixth-mass extinction and the climate emergency worsens, *Delikado* offers a story of courage and resilience to inspire others into action. It is also a unique expose of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s ‘war on drugs’ in the Philippines, which claimed thousands of lives and the International Criminal Court of Justice has said may amount to a crime against humanity. *Delikado* shows the drug war was used as a tool for politicians to control the levers of economic and political power. *Delikado* offers a story of courage and resilience to inspire others into action.”

Andrea Crosta KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Founder/Executive Director, Earth League International

Andrea Crosta has over 35 years of experience in conservation projects around the world and, in a parallel professional career, has been working for almost two decades as an international consultant to companies and governmental agencies on high-end security technologies and services, homeland security, anti-piracy, investigations and risk management. He now applies this unique knowledge to conservation, environmental crime, and wildlife protection. He is the founder of Earth League International (ELI); among the founding members of the Wildlife Justice Commission, in The Netherlands; a Member of the Board of The Africa Conservancy Foundation; and the creator and project manager of WildLeaks, the world’s first wildlife crime whistleblower initiative. He’s also an advisor to the Nature Crime Alliance. Andrea is among the main protagonists of Netflix’s documentary *The Ivory Game*, about international ivory trafficking, and of the NatGeo/Disney documentary *Sea of Shadows*, about illegal fishing and the Vaquita porpoise in the Baja California, Mexico (Sundance Film Festival 2019 – Audience Award

Winner). Andrea collaborates with various US law enforcement and governmental agencies as well as with academic institutions, including Florida International University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, George Mason University/TraCCC, and Edinburgh University. As an entrepreneur in 1998, he founded Think Italy, among the first e-commerce start-ups in Italy. He holds a Master’s Degree in Natural Sciences, a Master’s Degree in Business and Innovation, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. Andrea is a Fellow of The Explorers Club.

earthleagueinternational.org
wildlifejustice.org
www.africa-conservancy.org
wildleaks.org
naturecrimealliance.org

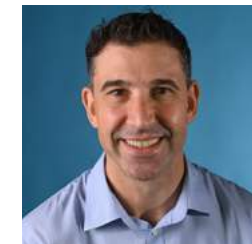
Philip Aghoghovwia MODERATOR



Professor of English, KPU

Philip Aghoghovwia teaches in the English Department at KPU and is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of the Free State in South Africa. His research is in environmental humanities, African literature, energy and water studies, and the cultures and politics of resource extraction in Africa. He has been a fellow/awardee of the African Humanities Program of the American Council of Learned Societies, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and African Studies Association, and the South Africa’s Department of Higher Education Future Professor Programme. Philip holds a research rating of Y1 by the National Research Foundation (South Africa). His most recent essays have appeared in *Safundi* (2021), *Social Dynamics* (2022), *Interventions* (2022), *Cambridge University Press* (2022), and *Routledge* (2023). He is the author of the monograph *Violent Ecotopes: Petroculture in the Niger Delta* (2022). kpu.ca/arts/english/faculty/philip-aghoghovwia

Karl Malakunas PANELIST



Director, *Delikado*

Karl Malakunas is a filmmaker and journalist who has been based in Asia—covering environmental issues, conflict, natural disasters, and political upheavals—for two decades. Karl is the Asia-Pacific Deputy-Editor-In-Chief for *Agence France-Presse*, based in Hong Kong. He is a Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program Fellow and a recipient of the SFFILM Vulcan Productions Environmental Fellowship. After living in the Philippines for eight years while working as Manila Bureau Chief for AFP, Karl has drawn on his experiences, contacts, and deep inside knowledge of the country to make *Delikado*, his first feature film. His environmental reporting around the world has included covering the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan in the eastern Philippines, and the coal-powered rise of China’s economy. afp.com/en

Tata PANELIST



Film Subject, *Delikado*

Tata is a farmer and grandfather from southern Palawan who has been one of the Palawan NGO Network Inc.’s (PNNI) leading para-enforcers for many years. As a young man, Tata was the head of a para-military force created by the Philippine government to fight communist and Muslim insurgencies in Palawan. The unit was also meant to protect Palawan’s natural resources. Instead, it was assigned to illegally cut down trees. Tata has spent the rest of his life seeking redemption for the logging he was ordered to do as a para-military head. delikadofilm.com

Luthfi Mawarid PANELIST



Secretary General, International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines—Canada Chapter

Luthfi Mawarid is the BC representative and Secretary General for the Canada chapter of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP), a global coalition of migrant and solidarity organizations committed to campaigning for human rights and just and lasting peace in the Philippines. ichrpcanada.org
ichrp.net

Clair Swanson PANELIST



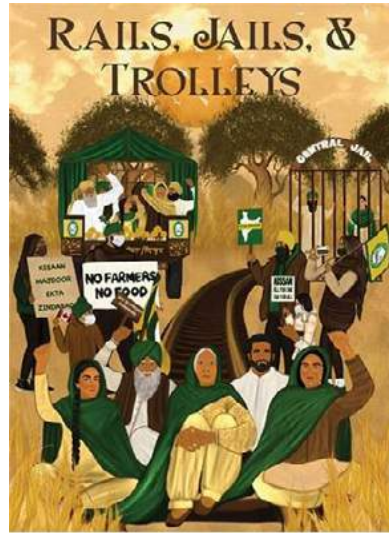
Chair, Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights

Clair Swanson is the chairperson of Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights, a Vancouver-based anti-imperialist organization in support of National Democracy in the Philippines. facebook.com/cpshrbc

FEBRUARY 22: RADICAL HUMANITY

Rails, Jails & Trolleys

Vancouver Premiere



“*Rails, Jails and Trolleys* documents history’s largest farmers’ protest and the Canadian diaspora’s response to it. This groundbreaking documentary captures the electric ethos of a protest that received international attention and the resounding response by Canadians to the movement. A full year in the making the documentary tells the story of why and how the farmers’ movement ignited a nation and youth, women and men from all over the world.”

Henna Mann KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Henna Mann is a Researcher and Filmmaker based in the Lower Mainland. She holds an Honours BFA degree in Film Production from York University with specialization in directing documentaries. She has experience in producing, researching, writing and directing for short and feature-length documentaries. In her practice, she is passionate about exploring topics of history, social justice, marginalization, and art therapy or art expression. Her most recent short documentary *Clay Remembers* (2023) is about YWCA Toronto’s Inspirations Studio, a ceramics-based program which offers creative healing to women and gender-diverse people.

Henna works as a Research Coordinator at the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) at the University of the Fraser Valley. She directed *Rails, Jails and Trolleys* (2022), a feature-length documentary on the historic farmers’ movement in India (2021-2022) produced by Dr. Satwinder Bains, SASI’s Director. Featuring 20 interviews from activists across Canada and India, the documentary captures the electric ethos of a protest that received international attention and a resounding response from Canadians. Prior to that, Henna wrote, directed, and narrated a short documentary

on Canada’s National and BC’s Provincial Historic Site *Gur Sikh Temple* (2021), also produced by SASI. Currently, she continues her work in research on South Asian Canadian history and is in early development on the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive.

ufv.ca/sasi
sacda.ca

Director, *Rails, Jails & Trolleys*

Kiran Singh MODERATOR



Kiran Singh is an award-winning journalist with a passion for international education and investigative reporting. Formerly serving as CBC’s Surrey Pop Up Bureau reporter, he currently works as a story producer with *On the Coast*.

Journalist; Investigative Reporter

Mo Dhaliwal PANELIST



Mo Dhaliwal, an entrepreneur and business strategist, has spent over two decades shaping movements that promote inclusivity and break cultural barriers. His tech career began in Silicon Valley as a software developer leveraging open-source technologies for major brands. Years later, Mo founded the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration (VIBC), attracting thousands annually and contributing significantly to the cultural program in Vancouver’s 2010 Winter Olympics. Recognized for his arts contributions with awards including the Arnold Edinborough Award and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, he has also served on boards for various cultural organizations and remains active in social justice through the Poetic Justice Foundation, advocating for intersectional social change. After honing his skills in brand development and creative strategy for major Canadian brands, in 2011, Mo established Skyrocket, a creative agency, where he oversees strategy and development for diverse global clients.

skyrocket.is
poeticjustice.foundation

Director of Strategy, Skyrocket Digital; Film Subject, *Rails, Jails & Trolleys*

Bal Dhillon PANELIST



Bal Dhillon lives and works on the unceded traditional lands of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Coast Salish Peoples. He is a secondary school teacher and community school co-ordinator and enjoys coaching basketball.

burnabyschools.ca

Community School Coordinator, Burnaby School District; Film Subject, *Rails, Jails & Trolleys*

Anita Lal PANELIST



Anita Lal is a fourth-generation settler, born and raised on the traditional territory of Lhtako Dene and Semiahmoo, Katzie, and Kwantlen First Nations. Her Biji, Thakuri Kaur Lal, instilled in her the Sikh values of seva—social justice and advocacy—from a young age. These values fuel her work as the Co-founder of Poetic Justice Foundation, where she has been creating impactful and transformative programming, organizing, and activating the South Asian community. Her approach is always inclusive, intersectional and critical; she draws attention to biases, inequalities, and oppressive systems of casteism, racism and discrimination. Recently, her work has focused on creating space and dialogue around anti-casteism and the Dalit narrative. Anita strongly believes in giving back to the community and serves on Boards and Advisory Committees for the Province of BC’s Punjabi Canadian Legacy Project, South Asian Studies Institute at The University of the Fraser Valley, and Seva Thrift Society. Anita supports the Moving Forward Family Services team and the agency’s sustainable future with her experience and systems-focused

perspectives.movingforward.help
poeticjustice.foundation

Director of Operations, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility, Moving Forward Family Services; Co-founder, Poetic Justice Foundation

Jagdeesh Mann PANELIST



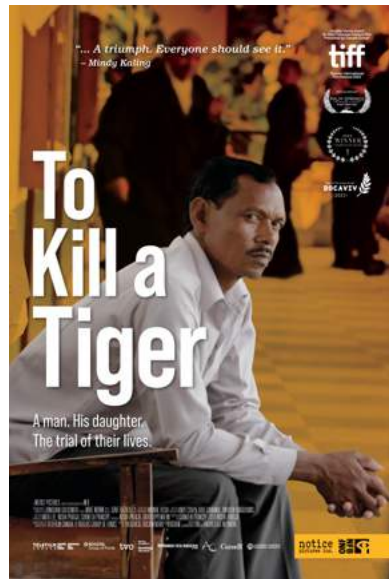
Jagdeesh Mann is a journalist and entrepreneur. He is the former Executive Editor of the Post newspaper group, publishers of the *South Asian Post*, a Jack Webster Award-winning publication. He currently is Managing Director of Sunflower Media, a multicultural media company based in Vancouver. His work has appeared in *The Toronto Star*, *The Walrus*, *Globe and Mail*, CBC, *Canadaland*, and various other Canadian publications.

sunflowermedia.ca

Journalist; Founder and Managing Director, Sunflower Media; Film Subject, *Rails, Jails & Trolleys*

FEBRUARY 22: RADICAL HUMANITY

To Kill a Tiger



“A poor farmer in rural India defies tradition and community seeking justice for his 13-year-old daughter. Ranjit’s oldest child is brutally raped by three men while attending a relative’s wedding. The family immediately files a police report, earning ostracism from their town, who see marrying the girl off to one of the rapists as the solution. When it becomes clear the family won’t back down from pursuing the perpetrators in court, that exclusion turns to threats of violence. In equal turns agonizing and uplifting, *To Kill a Tiger* follows Ranjit as he battles guilt, community intimidation, a mounting financial burden, and an uninterested police force, all while attempting to support his daughter through the trauma of her attack and its aftermath. Fear and fatigue creep in as the judicial process drags on. Doubt arises as to whether a guilty verdict will heal the rift in the community or only serve to widen it. Yet through it all, Ranjit never wavers from the radical act that seems so simple to him: fully recognizing his daughter’s humanity.”

Professor of Nursing, KPU; Cultural Safety Consultant (Diversity and Inclusion);
Founding Member/Facilitator, Network to Eliminate Violence (NEVR)

Balbir Gurm KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Balbir Gurm, Fellow Canadian Nurses Academy, is best known for using her academic privilege to improve communities. She is an award-winning leader, nursing faculty, and consultant with 30+ years of experience who has provided leadership on multiple community boards. Prior to joining Kwantlen Polytechnic University, she worked as staff RN, CNE, and coordinator at Vancouver hospitals. Some career highlights include: founding Editor-in-Chief of *Transformative Dialogues: Teaching and Learning Journal*; founder/facilitator, Network to Eliminate Violence (NEVR); member, Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Panel; co-lead, project to document history of South Asians in Canada and an open access e-book bringing together critical understandings of relationship violence. Some of Balbir’s many honours include: Teaching Excellence Awards (CRNBC and NISODS), BC Achievement Community Award, two YWCA Women of Distinction Awards, Canadian Cancer Society’s Leadership Award, and Soroptimist’s Ruby Award. She is frequently sought by media to comment on local issues and by organizations to discuss cultural

safety. She serves as a role model for colleagues, students, and community activists. As founding member and facilitator for the Network to Eliminate Violence (NEVR), she continues to work with a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary team (education, justice, health, service providers) to create resources and facilitate workshops to create a violence-free society. She advocates for system change to governments and works with media to bring academic knowledge to the community. Along with cross-sectoral multidisciplinary colleagues, she led a project to bring together critical understandings of relationship violence, a free, living ebook: *Making Sense of a Global Pandemic: Relationship Violence & Working Together Towards a Violence Free Society*. Dr. Gurm is known for excellence in education and leadership and as someone who uses her privilege to improve society.

kpu.ca/health/bsn/faculty/balbir-gurm

kpu.ca/nevr

kpu.pressbooks.pub/nevr

Cherylynn Bassani MODERATOR



Cherylynn Bassani completed her PhD at the University of Calgary where she studied social capital and cross-national youth achievement. She then went on to complete a two-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship at UBC in the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. As one of two social researchers in the department, Cherylynn examined the influence of social capital on children’s health and well-being. Cherylynn was research manager for the New Canadian Children and Youth Study (NCCYS) Vancouver site and remains an NCCYS investigator. In addition to her research, she has taught for the past two decades at both the university and elementary levels. She has a passion for teaching and volunteers with children in various community organizations. Cherylynn believes in the praxis of Sociology. She uses her research, teaching, and volunteerism as a form of social advocacy, illustrating the value of social capital in making a difference in other people’s lives.

kpu.ca/arts/sociology/faculty/cherylynn-bassani

Professor of Sociology, KPU

Nisha Pahuja PANELIST



Nisha Pahuja is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker, based in Toronto, ON. Her credits include *To Kill a Tiger*, winner of 19 awards from festivals including TIFF, Palm Springs International Film Festival, Doc Aviv, and the Canadian Screen Awards. Most recently, *To Kill a Tiger* was nominated for an Oscar for 2024. Nisha’s previous films include the Emmy-nominated *The World Before Her*, the feature documentary *Bollywood Bound*, and the three-part series *Diamond Road*. This writer/artist/director was introduced to film through studying English literature, working in social services, and through working as a documentary researcher. In 2014, Nisha was invited to be a Resident Fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center and later served on their arts selection panel from 2016-2020.

noticepicturesinc.com

Director, *To Kill a Tiger*

Nimi Chauhan PANELIST



Nimi Chauhan is a mediator and a community activist. She has been working in the fields of domestic violence, sexual assault, and suicide for the last 20 years. Nimi is currently employed by the provincial government of British Columbia, and she is also a writer for *Aaj* magazine. Nimi has served in various positions with community agencies and on numerous boards, varying from community policing, national parole board, addictions and recovery, to youth gang violence as well as political bodies. She is also the founder of Sahara Services and is herself a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

facebook.com/groups/2417500834

Founder/Counsellor, Sahara Services Society

Dalya Israel PANELIST



Dalya Israel was appointed Executive Director of Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre (formerly WAVAW) in 2019. After completing her BA in Women’s Studies from the University of British Columbia with a focus on Critical Studies in Sexuality, Dalya started with WAVAW full-time in the Victim Service Program in 2003. Eventually joining the Management Team, Dalya previously oversaw WAVAW’s Victim Service Program and Educational Outreach Program for more than seven years. Dalya has remained dedicated to serving survivors, continuing to see clients and providing support in navigating the Medical and Criminal Justice systems with survivors following an experience of sexual assault. Dalya has also been a part of the community advisory committee for the largest National Canadian HIV Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study. She is the principal contributor in WAVAW’s groundbreaking paper “Seeking Equality before the Courts for Women.” Dalya regularly presents at National and International Conferences as well as local professional development days for teachers, social workers, counsellors, and victim service workers.

salalsvsc.ca

Executive Director, Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre

Asma Sayed PANELIST



Asma Sayed is the Canada Research Chair in South Asian Literary and Cultural Studies in the Department of English at KPU. As of November 2023, she is also Vice President, Equity and Inclusive Communities. Asma is a transformative leader who champions equity, diversity, inclusion, decolonization, and anti-racism through her activism and research. As the Chair of KPU’s Task Force on Anti-racism, she led an institution-wide initiative to foster anti-racism. As the President of the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies, she led multiple initiatives focused on intersectional social justice. Asma has served as an adviser on various boards and NGOs, and her work has been recognized through multiple awards and grants. In 2020, she was elected as a member of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists. She is a recipient of KPU’s Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award for 2023 and Distinguished Scholarship Award for 2022. She has received and holds multiple grants from SSHRC and other granting bodies. Asma specializes in postcolonial and diasporic literatures with a focus on narratives of exile and displacement from South Asia and East Africa, as well as feminist literary and cultural studies related to these geographies.

kpu.ca/arts/english/faculty/asma-sayed

Vice President for Equity and Inclusive Communities, KPU;
Canada Research Chair in South Asian Literary and Cultural Studies, Department of English, KPU

FEBRUARY 23: DECOLONIZING POWER

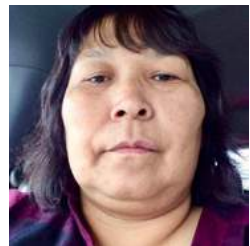
The Klabona Keepers



“*The Klabona Keepers* is a fierce account of the Tahltan Nation’s struggle to protect the Klabona Sacred Headwaters, an important natural habitat in northwest British Columbia, from commercial mining. The documentary intersperses verité cinematography with intimate interviews. It is an in-depth account of the different methods of resistance used by Indigenous elders, which include blockades and tense stand-offs with police and mining industry workers. Powerful moments of reflection are felt throughout the film as the trauma of residential schools and forced relocations are brought to light. The project is a collaboration between non-Indigenous filmmakers and Indigenous elders, who were given ownership of the intellectual property, with all proceeds from the film going towards youth programming at the Klabona Sacred Headwaters.”

Rhoda Quock KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Spokesperson/Organizer, Tahltan Nation and Klabona Keepers; Film Subject, *The Klabona Keepers*



My name is **Rhoda Quock**. I’m from the Wolf Clan. My parents are Jenny Quock and Robert Quock. I live in Iskut, in Tahltan Territory. I was born on April 29, 1971, in Terrace, BC and was raised in Iskut. I’m the youngest of six siblings. We were taught to go out on the land to camp every summer. My husband is Peter Jakesta. We have four kids and two grandsons. I’m a spokesperson and organizer for the Klabona Keepers. I am also the producer and main advisor of *The Klabona Keepers* (2022).
tahltan.org
sacredheadwaters.com

ReWilding the Classroom

Vancouver Premiere



“*ReWilding the Classroom* educates viewers about the Youth Leadership in Sustainability initiative (YLS), a one-semester program that integrates curricular activities with the environment. Youth featured in *ReWilding* took part in Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board’s integrated curriculum four-credit program based out of Trent University. This semester-long fall opportunity involves unique environmental education opportunities for young people.”

Cameron Douglas KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Program Director, Youth Leadership in Sustainability Program; Producer, *ReWilding the Classroom*



Cameron Douglas is the Founder and Program Director of the Youth Leadership in Sustainability Program and is thrilled to teach the World Issues, Environment & Resource Management and Sustainability Leadership courses within YLS. He cherishes his connection to the natural world and is deeply concerned about mounting threats to the planet and its inhabitants. Cam has been an educator for over 20 years, and his teaching practice enables students to make links between their own lives and communities and larger global sustainability challenges. Central to Cam’s approach is that students see themselves as agents of change: identifying problems and generating creative solutions to shape their own future. In 2009, Cam was awarded the (Provincial) OSSTF James Forster Human Rights Award and, in 2020, the Ontario Teachers Federation Secondary Teacher award for his work creating and leading the YLS program.
yls.green

Petie (PD) Chalifoux MODERATOR

Writer; Producer; Director; Owner, Tohkapi Cinema



I am a Cree filmmaker from Northern Alberta. I have chosen to be a filmmaker because it is a powerful and creative medium to shed light upon the realities of the social issues that surround the world we live in today from an Indigenous perspective. The first short dramatic film I wrote and produced is titled *The Shifter*, a film that speaks to reclaiming power for an Indigenous woman. *The Shifter* screened at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco as well as the LA Skins Film Festival in Los Angeles in November 2015. Since the making of *The Shifter*, I have written and produced a feature-length film titled *River Of Silence*. With this film, I hope to bring a worldwide awareness to the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women and violence against all women.
movingimages.ca/products/river-of-silence

Tamo Campos PANELIST

Co-director, *The Klabona Keepers*



Tamo Campos is a filmmaker, impact producer, community organizer, and extreme sports athlete. His films include *The Klabona Keepers* (2022), *Ru-Tsu* (2020), *The Radicals* (2018), *A Last Stand For Lelu* (2016), *Northern Grease* (2013), and over fifty shorts. *The Klabona Keepers* was part of Canada’s inaugural Good Pitch films run by Story Money Impact in Vancouver in 2018. Tamo embeds himself in the community wherever he goes and is dedicated to combining social impact with his adventures in sport, activism, and filmmaking. His previous projects have a strong outreach focus that collaborates deeply with participants within his films. He is also the co-founder of the nonprofit collective Beyond Boarding, a board member of Rediscovery International, and recently finished his Masters Degree with York University with a focus on Canadian Impact Producing.
beyondboardingcollective.com

Jasper Snow Rose PANELIST

Co-director, *The Klabona Keepers*



Jasper Snow Rosen has grown up in the southern Gulf Islands with a family dedicated to youth outdoor education, respecting the land, and being a part of a strong local community. Jasper’s love for the outdoors has had him exploring the coast by kayak, surfing, mountaineering, and facilitating youth programs to give the up-and-coming generation a reason to protect what we have. Jasper’s adventures in the mountains and on the coast have taken him through Northern BC in a veggie oil-powered truck to communities that are fighting to protect their lands and waters. He has been involved in direct action to advocate for social and environmental justice and helping to lift voices from the front lines through filmmaking. Jasper is dedicated to the friendships created in these amazing communities who have shown him the importance of our connection to the land.
beyondboardingcollective.com

Jakesta Family PANELISTS

Organizers, Klabona Keepers; Film Subjects, *The Klabona Keepers*



Peter Jakesta
Caden Jakesta
Jenna Jakesta
Katrina Jakesta
Robert Jakesta

Community Partner:



Co-presenter of *The Klabona Keepers* and *ReWilding the Classroom*

FEBRUARY 23: DECOLONIZING POWER

Powerlands



“In **Powerlands**, Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso, a young Navajo filmmaker, investigates the displacement of Indigenous people and the devastation of the environment caused by the same chemical companies that have exploited the land where she was born. She travels to the La Guajira region in rural Colombia, the Tapanan region of the Philippines, the Tehuantepec Isthmus of Mexico, and the protests at Standing Rock. In each case, she meets Indigenous women leading the struggle against the same corporations that are causing displacement and environmental catastrophe in her own home. Inspired by these women, Ivey Camille brings home the lessons from these struggles to the Navajo Nation.”

Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Director and Film Subject, *Powerlands*



Ivey-Camille Manybeads Tso is an award-winning queer Navajo filmmaker. She started making films at the age of nine, and at the age of 13 made the award-winning fiction film *In the Footsteps of Yellow Woman*, based on the true story of her great-great-great grandmother Yellow Woman, who lived through the Navajo Long Walk of 1864-1868. The film screened in over 90 film festivals and won 11 awards. At the age of 19, Ivey-Camille began work on *Powerlands*, which has since won critical praise and awards including The 2022 Rigoberta Menchú Grand Prize. powerlands.org

Melinda Kachina Bige MODERATOR

Chair, Indigenous Studies, KPU



Melinda Kachina Bige is a Denesuline & Nehiyaw ts’ékui/iskwew situated on Snuneymuxw lands. Kachina is currently Chair of Indigenous Studies at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Creator of the online *Octopus Spirit Journal*, and advisor of up-and-coming BIPOC news platform *The Resolve*. Kachina was raised on the territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, and Musqueam peoples. The communities she belongs to are in the Denesuline lands of the Northwest Territory, specifically Lutsel k’e, though her Kookum’s family comes from both Treaty 8 and Treaty 4 territories. Her family names include Dumais, Thomas, Clee, Foy, and Sakiskanip. Should you ask her about her family and their rich history, she always has an enthralling story. Growing up in Indigenous housing in so-called Surrey and surviving homelessness as a teen, this community-made professional is passionate about the decolonial history of the land, childrearing, plants, art, and food. The beginning of her journey situated in Indigenous pedagogy began with a committee—the Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy—and a trip to the

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Her early guide was Indigenous intellect Dr. Jennifer Mervyn. She is fortunate to have many mentors in her life, including her Aunt Theresa Crookedhand. Her academic interests include decolonization, family relationships and sexuality, astronomy, Indigenous governance, race, racism, anti-racism, resurgence, and cultural continuity.

kpu.ca/arts/indigenous-studies/faculty/melinda-kachina-bige

Angel Brant PANELIST

Youth Engagement Lead, Indigenous Climate Action



Angel Brant (she/her) was born in British Columbia and was given the name Kôna. Since being adopted, her heart lies with the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte - Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and she identifies as Cree and Mohawk. She currently lives on the unceded traditional territories of the xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Angel focuses her efforts on advocating for the recognition of Indigenous communities’ knowledge systems, art forms, and climate justice within so-called Canada. Angel works with Indigenous muralists to promote their work. She’s also an Indigenous history tour guide and a communications consultant working with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community leaders, and youth on major land resource projects in the GTA. She looks forward to welcoming all youth voices and presence by creating a safe space to spark real change grounded in movement building, land-based teachings, and optimism. Her hobbies and interests include reading, hiking, camping, concerts, crafting, and spending time with her partner, friends, and family.

indigenousclimateaction.com

Andrea Crosta PANELIST

Founder/Executive Director, Earth League International



Andrea Crosta has over 35 years of experience in conservation projects around the world and, in a parallel professional career, has been working for almost two decades as an international consultant to companies and governmental agencies on high-end security technologies and services, homeland security, anti-piracy, investigations and risk management. He now applies this unique knowledge to conservation, environmental crime, and wildlife protection. He is the founder of Earth League International (ELI); among the founding members of the Wildlife Justice Commission, in The Netherlands; a Member of the Board of The Africa Conservancy Foundation; and the creator and project manager of WildLeaks, the world’s first wildlife crime whistleblower initiative. He’s also an advisor to the Nature Crime Alliance. Andrea is among the main protagonists of Netflix’s documentary *The Ivory Game*, about international ivory trafficking, and of the NatGeo/Disney documentary *Sea of Shadows*, about illegal fishing and the Vaquita porpoise in the Baja California, Mexico (Sundance Film Festival 2019 – Audience Award

Winner). Andrea collaborates with various US law enforcement and governmental agencies as well as with academic institutions, including Florida International University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, George Mason University/TraCCC, and Edinburgh University. As an entrepreneur in 1998, he founded Think Italy, among the first e-commerce start-ups in Italy. He holds a Master’s Degree in Natural Sciences, a Master’s Degree in Business and Innovation, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. Andrea is a Fellow of The Explorers Club.

earthleagueinternational.org
wildlifejustice.org
www.africa-conservancy.org
wildleaks.org
naturecrimealliance.org

Miranda Dick PANELIST

Secwépemc Hereditary Matriarch and Land Defender



Miranda Dick is a Land Defender, Water Protector, and Hereditary Secwépemc Matriarch and mother of five who currently lives in Secwepemcúl’ecw. Her activism includes Saying No to the TMX Pipeline, which led to a stay in the women’s jail in Maple Ridge, for which the appeal process is still pending. She has represented herself in court, Saying No to Mega Projects on the Land. Miranda regularly gardens to feed the Front Lines and carry Generational Seeds from her Grandfather Wolverine. She is the Carrier of many Ceremonies, such as Water, Salmon, and Berry, as well as a Traditional Knowledge Keeper in Basketry and Fine Arts.

tkemlups.ca

Cease Wyss PANELIST

Ethnobotanist; Artist; Activist; Community-based Educator



T’uy’t’tanat Cease Wyss is an Indigenous Matriarch of the Skwxwú7mesh, Sto:lo and Hawaiian people. Through her work as an ethnobotanist, artist, activist and community-based educator, they strive to share Indigenous customs, teachings, and futures and to connect Indigenous peoples. Cease’s 30-year career encompasses a vast array of practices, from weaving, making remedies, medicine walks to the realm of Indigenous Digital Futurisms. Cease’s interactive, community-based work is insightful and informative of their contemporary conditions. Their current community teachings and research is focused on restoring and remediating Indigenous species and natural space by encouraging others to build their Indigenous food forests and to nurture local biodiversity respectfully and sustainably. Cease is a collaborator, deeply involved in community building, and finds dialogue with communities crucial in exchanging knowledge and critical in preserving Indigenous understanding of the land and ecosystems.

Cease has taught these teachings to public institutions and organizations and has participated in creative projects that share different Indigenous cultures in stewarding this effort in preservation. Outside the importance of preserving what surrounds them, Cease believes in the importance of taking care of and feeding oneself, in redefining oneself as a way to care for Mother Earth, Chescha7 Timixw, and Ch’iaxw-their sacred protocol.

tuyttanatceasewyss.ca

FEBRUARY 23: DECOLONIZING POWER

Twice Colonized



“Aaju Peter is a force of nature. She is a renowned Greenlandic Inuit lawyer and activist who defends the human rights of Indigenous peoples of the Arctic and a fierce protector of her ancestral lands. She works to bring her colonizers in both Canada and Denmark to justice and deploys her effusive spirit and illuminating wit to provoke self-examination and personal responsibility among Westerners for imposing their colonial ways. As Aaju launches an effort to establish an Indigenous forum at the European Union, she also embarks upon a complex and deeply personal journey to mend her own wounds, including the unexpected passing of her youngest son. In the inspiring, emotionally powerful *Twice Colonized*, the beautiful lens of director Lin Alluna journeys alongside an extraordinary human being as she plumbs through the social and personal wreckage of sanctioned white dominance to find the strength—within her abilities, her community, and her own vulnerabilities—to transform her hardships and painful experiences into something amazing that can inspire others who also struggle with the poisonous effects of colonialism.”

Aaju Peter KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Inuk Lawyer and Activist; Writer, Producer, and Film Subject, *Twice Colonized*



Aaju Peter is a Greenlandic Inuit lawyer and activist, based in Arctic Canada. She is a fierce defender of Indigenous rights and issues related to sustainability and resources. In 2011, she received the Order of Canada, and since then she has been called upon as an advisor in both EU and UN. Born in 1960 in Arkisserniaq, a northern Greenland community, Aaju moved up and down the west coast of her native country because of her father’s teaching and preaching career. At age 11, Aaju attended school in Denmark, where she studied German, French, English, Latin, and Danish, before returning to Greenland at age 18. In 1981, she moved to Iqaluit, where she began speaking Inuktitut, working as an interpreter, and volunteering with various women’s organizations, before commencing her work in Inuit studies at Nunavut Arctic College. Currently, Aaju runs a home-based sealskin garment business, works as a translator, and advocates for Inuit rights. She graduated from Akitsiraq Law School in 2005 and was called to the bar in 2007.

twicecolonized.com
ywca-agvik.ca

Who She Is

Vancouver Premiere



“*Who She Is* tells the story of four individual women caught in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) epidemic. By bringing these missing women to life on screen, through animation and first-person storytelling, the documentary aims to humanize the people behind the statistics. Audiences will learn each woman’s loves and losses and will come to know their story. Through these women, the documentary hopes to shine a light on the wider MMIW epidemic and gendered violence.”

Sophie Barksdale KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Co-director and Co-producer, *Who She Is*



Sophie Barksdale joined Caldera Productions in 2016, having relocated from Australia. In 2022, Sophie co-directed and co-produced with Jordan Dresser the animated documentary *Who She Is* that tackles MMIW/P in the US. She was the Co-producer for the Heartland Emmy-nominated and Independent Lens broadcast feature *Home From School* and the Producer for the Wyoming PBS/Caldera Productions 2020 feature *The State of Equality*, which won two Heartland Emmy Awards in 2020. Prior to Caldera, she worked for the Bord Scannan na hEireann/the Irish Film Board and on film festivals in Australia, Ireland, and the US, as well as for one of Australia’s premier cultural institutions, The National Gallery of Victoria. Sophie lives in Lander, Wyoming where she gets to rock climb year-round with her family.

calderaproductions.com

Dan Lett MODERATOR

Professor of Criminology, KPU



Dan Lett is an Associate Dean pro tem in the Faculty of Arts at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Dan has taught in KPU’s Criminology Department since 2015, serving as departmental Co-Chair from 2020-24. Dan’s scholarly work—focusing on video surveillance, moral regulation, and public criminology—appears in journals including *Media, Culture and Society*, *Canadian Review of Sociology*, *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, and *Criminology and Criminal Justice*. In 2023, Dan published *Introduction to Criminology: A Canadian Open Education Resource* with Criminology colleague Dr. Shereen Hassan. Dan is an advocate for freely available educational resources, lifelong learning, and the open-access university model.

kpu.ca/arts/criminology/faculty/dan-lett

Patricia Barkaskas PANELIST

Strategic Advisor to the Dean, National Centre for Indigenous Laws; Associate Professor (limited term), Faculty of Law, University of Victoria



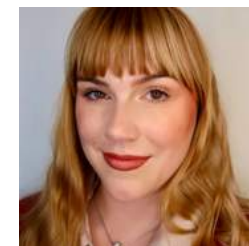
Patricia Barkaskas is Strategic Advisor to the Dean for the National Centre for Indigenous Laws and Associate Professor (limited term) in the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. She previously held the positions of Academic Director of Indigenous Legal Studies (2021-2022) and Academic Director of the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic (2014-2022) at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia. Her current and future teaching and research interests include Indigenous laws, access to justice, clinical legal education, and decolonizing and Indigenizing law, particularly examining the value of Indigenous pedagogies in experiential and clinical learning for legal education. Patricia is Métis from Alberta. She has practiced in the areas of child protection (as parent’s counsel), criminal, family, as well as civil litigation and prison law. She has worked closely with Indigenous peoples in their encounters with the justice system and has worked for Residential school survivors as a historical legal researcher for the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. In addition, Patricia has written

Gladue reports for all levels of court in BC. Patricia holds an MA in History, with a focus on Indigenous histories in North America, and a JD, with a Law and Social Justice Specialization, both from the University of British Columbia.

uvic.ca/law/facultystaff/facultydirectory/barkaskas.php

Isabel Scheuneman PANELIST

Professor of Criminology, KPU



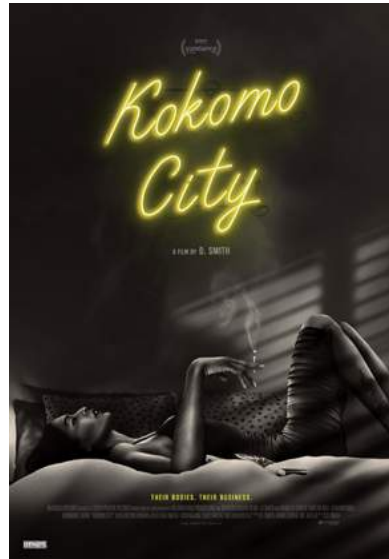
Dr. Isabel Scheuneman Scott is a faculty member in the Criminology Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). Her research and teaching center Indigenous peoples—particularly Indigenous women—and prisoner storytelling. Dr. Scheuneman Scott’s most recent research project analyzed incarcerated Indigenous women’s storytelling within *Tightwire*—a prisoner-produced newsletter that was created and published within the former Prison for Women (P4W) in Kingston, Ontario. While her work highlighted all women’s stories, she paid particular attention to Indigenous women’s stories within the Native Sisterhood—an organization formed within P4W to resist the colonial impacts of incarceration by creating and centering meaningful relationships within and beyond the prison. As a settler on Turtle Island, Isabel believes she has a responsibility to make meaningful and sustainable changes that will positively impact Indigenous peoples who are criminalized. One way she does this is through her development and Co-Chairing of the Indigenizing and Decolonizing Criminology Committee at KPU where she is

creating a *Living Resource Guide* for Criminology Faculty and a three-Year Departmental Plan that will work to Indigenize and decolonize the Criminology Department. By supporting the journey to decolonize Criminology Faculty, courses, and curriculum, Isabel hopes to decolonize the perspectives of KPU’s Criminology students, many of whom will or already work with Indigenous peoples who are criminalized.

kpu.ca/arts/criminology/faculty/isabel-scheuneman-scott

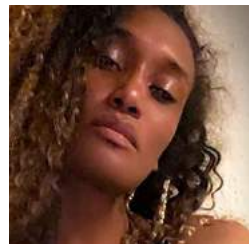
FEBRUARY 24: RESISTING ERASURE

Kokomo City



“In the wildly entertaining and refreshingly unfiltered documentary **Kokomo City**, filmmaker D. Smith passes the mic to four Black transgender sex workers in Atlanta and New York City—Daniella Carter, Koko Da Doll, Liyah Mitchell, and Dominique Silver—who unapologetically break down the walls of their profession. Holding nothing back, the film vibrates with energy, sex, challenge, and hard-earned wisdom. This vital portrait, edited and shot by Smith in bold black and white, is her feature directorial debut. A two-time Grammy-nominated producer, singer, and songwriter, Smith made history as the first trans woman cast on a primetime unscripted TV show. Executive produced by Lena Waithe, *Kokomo City* won the Sundance Film Festival’s NEXT Innovator Award and NEXT Audience Award, as well as the Berlinale’s Audience Award in the Panorama Documentary section.”

D. Smith KEYNOTE SPEAKER

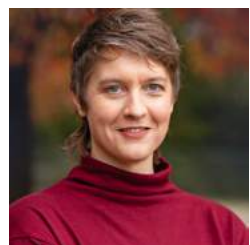


D. Smith is a two-time Grammy-nominated producer, singer, and songwriter and is now making her film debut as a director of the documentary *Kokomo City*. Smith’s father was a world-renowned drummer, and she wrote her first song at 10 years-old for the choir at church in Miami, FL. Smith was a visual arts student, winning multiple awards for her eye, including the statewide NAACP Act So Award for photography and the statewide Scholastics Congressional Award for drawing, and was flown to the Capital in DC where her work was displayed. After coming out to her father as a teen, Smith was kicked out her house and was taken in by a church member. After graduating high school, Smith used the last of her money on a one-way bus ticket to New York City where she began singing in the subway and was subsequently discovered and offered a publishing deal with Sony ATV. As a producer, Smith teamed with songwriter Stacy Barthe, and they began placing records with major artists in the music business. Smith produced “Shoot Me Down” for Lil Wayne’s eight-times platinum *Carter III* album and performed with him on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. Smith then signed a major publishing deal with Universal Music. She has produced and written for Cee-lo Green, Estelle, Katy Perry, Andre 3000, Monica, Lloyd, Fantasia, Nipsey Hussle, Ciara, Neyo, and Billy Porter and collaborated with super producers like Timbaland and Marc Ronson. In 2014, Smith decided to walk in her truth and transition into the woman she always knew she was, unaware that living in her truth meant sacrificing the thing she loved the most, making music for a living. The silver lining came with the creation of *Kokomo City*, a film she devoted almost three years to it while crashing on different friends’ couches, all the while diving into the lives of four trans women who had a story to tell. Smith was over-the-moon to receive the call that *Kokomo City* was to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

magpictures.com/kokomocity

Director, *Kokomo City*

Tara Lyons MODERATOR



Tara Lyons, PhD (she/her), is a faculty member in KPU’s Department of Criminology and Chair of the KPU Research Ethics Board. Tara’s research examines how legal, health, and social systems and policies impact communities. Specifically, her work examines how intersecting social and structural factors shape the health and wellbeing of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, sex workers, and people who use drugs. Her community-based research with 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals engaged in sex work and/or substance use has contributed to some of the only Canadian evidence in this area of study. She is currently leading studies investigating the experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ post-secondary students. Tara has worked extensively within social justice activism, including prison justice and drug policy reform. She co-founded Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy and currently serves as its Strategic Advisor.

kpu.ca/arts/criminology/faculty/tara-lyons
cssdp.org

Professor of Criminology, KPU

Justin Ducharme PANELIST



Justin Ducharme was born and raised in the Métis community of St. Ambroise, MB. He currently lives and works on Unceded Coast Salish Territory. He is a graduate from Vancouver Film School and the writer/director of four fashion films and three short narratives, most recently the 2018 drama *Positions*, which tells the story of a queer, Indigenous, male sex worker in Vancouver. Justin’s writing has been featured in *Canadian Art* and *Prism International* magazine. Justin has been juggling since the age of seven, performing with The St. Ambroise Youth Steppers and the Louis Riel Métis Dancers. He has worked as the Festival Programmer at the Vancouver Queer Film Festival since the 2017 season. He most recently programmed their 2018 two-spirit/indigiqueer spotlight, *decolonizing discipline(s): a two-spirit showcase*, that included works from Thirza Cuthand, Clint Alberta, Edzi’u, Beric Manywounds and more—including his own curated shorts film program *Indigiqueer Shorts from Turtle Island & Aotearoa*. He is the co-editor of *Hustling Verse: An Anthology of Sex Workers Poetry* with Amber Dawn. Justin is passionate about radicalizing

Indigenous “Canadian” cinema, exploring different ways to approach his filmmaking and writing bad poetry about people that broke his heart and the ones that paid to do so.

Director; Screenwriter; Curator

Rabbit Richards PANELIST



Rabbit Richards is learning how to exist on stolen land in a marginalized body. Relentlessly compassionate with fierce integrity, Rabbit is passionate about anti-oppression and accessibility work and is deeply invested in the conversations that are provoked by their art. Currently, they serve as Systems Change Coordinator at PACE Society here in k’emk’emaláy, commonly known as the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, BC, where they focus on harm reduction within community care.

pace-society.org

Performance Poet; Systems Change Coordinator, PACE Society

Kit Rothschild PANELIST



Kit Rothschild (they/them/their) is a non-binary, queer settler of Ashkenazi Jewish descent living with myriad chronic pains. Kit has more than 10 years’ lived experience in sex work and has been volunteering and working in sex worker support and advocacy since 2013. Kit is passionate about creating more safety and security for sex workers in the DTES and beyond. Kit is currently employed as the Violence Prevention Coordinator at PACE Society, where they’ve been working in various roles since 2017. They have been organizing with the Defund 604 Network since August 2020 and are hopeful for a police-free future. Kit speaks English, French, and Spanish and is currently learning Yiddish.

pace-society.org

facebook.com/defund604network

Co-Executive Director, PACE Society

Victoria E. Thomas PANELIST



Victoria E. Thomas is an Assistant Professor of Media and Public Engagement in the School of Communication. As an interdisciplinary scholar of Black Popular Cultural Studies, she primarily analyzes popular media to articulate how visual culture represents Blackness and Black identities. Her research is committed to political and civic engagement, diversity, and inclusion in public institutions to transform societal conditions. Victoria’s current research examines the communication practices of Black cisgender and transgender women in our contemporary media moment of hypervisibility of Black transgender women and intersectional feminism.

sfu.ca/communication/people/faculty/Victoria-thomas.html

Assistant Professor of Media and Public Engagement, School of Communication, SFU

Angela Wu PANELIST



Angela Wu was appointed Executive Director of SWAN in 2023. SWAN provides vital support to im/migrant sex workers who are otherwise unable to access mainstream services. Angela’s work aims to challenge the barriers that impede the rights of racialized and systemically marginalized sex workers. Her leadership skills and commitment to SWAN’s mission and values were evident when she first volunteered with SWAN in 2021 for the Harms of Anti-trafficking project, which addressed the conflation of sex work with trafficking. In January 2022, Angela was hired as a Project Manager to lead SWAN’s project addressing media misrepresentations of im/migrant women engaged in sex work. Before SWAN, she worked for many years in the non-profit sector and holds both a Bachelor of Social Work and an LLM in Human Rights Law, where her thesis focused on the impact of Canada’s sex work laws on im/migrant sex workers. Angela’s expertise and integrity inform everything she does.

swanvancouver.ca

Executive Director, SWAN

FEBRUARY 24: RESISTING ERASURE

Someone Lives Here



“Throughout the COVID pandemic, Toronto has seen a catastrophic increase in homelessness. Sick of seeing his city unable to care for its unhoused people, Khaleel Seivwright quit his job as a full-time carpenter and dedicated himself to building insulated shelters--called ‘tiny shelters.’ Innovatively using body temperature for heating, Khaleel’s efforts garnered international media attention, leading Toronto to propose a possible partnership--only to reverse its decision a week later. Capturing the ups and downs of Khaleel’s brilliant intervention, *Someone Lives Here* also features the voices of those experiencing homelessness, including the articulate and philosophical Taka. The film poignantly captures the City of Toronto’s costly \$1.9 million clearance of Toronto’s park encampments, asking all the right questions: what makes Toronto unable and unwilling to address this humanitarian crisis? Why are people like Khaleel being prevented from trying to find solutions? Who do we prioritize in this city? A sobering and maddening watch.”

Alexandra Flynn KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Alexandra Flynn’s teaching and research focus on municipal law and governance, administrative law, and property law. She has published numerous peer-reviewed papers, public reports, media articles, and a book on how cities are legally understood in law and how they govern, including the overlapping geographies and governance of city spaces, and the formal and informal bodies that represent residents. She is the Director of the Housing Research Collaborative, which comprises CMHC and SSHRC-funded projects focused on Canada’s housing crisis: the Housing Assessment Resource Tools project, which helps communities to measure and address their housing need; and the Balanced Supply of Housing Node, which brings together academic and non-profit community organizations to research responsive land use practices and the financialization of housing. She is also working on several projects related to precariously housed people in Canadian cities, including the governance of personal property of precariously housed people, and human rights and tent encampments. Alexandra has a long history working in

law and policy. Prior to entering academia, she practiced banking and securities law at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in New York, where she was the recipient of several Legal Aid awards. She also practiced Aboriginal Law at Ratcliff & Company in Vancouver, representing First Nations, and worked in a senior policy role at the City of Toronto focused on intergovernmental relationships. Alexandra is a past TEDx speaker and a frequent media commentator. She has a long history of volunteer work in the areas of homelessness and access to justice.

allard.ubc.ca/about-us/our-people/alexandra-flynn
hart.ubc.ca
housingresearch.ubc.ca

Associate Professor, Peter A. Allard School of Law;
 Director, Housing Research Collaborative, UBC

Kari Michaels MODERATOR



Kari Michaels was elected as Executive Vice President of the BCGEU in 2017, making her the second-youngest person to ever hold that position and one of the youngest labour leaders in Canada. Kari joined the BCGEU as a member when she and her co-workers at the Kwantlen Student Association formed a union at their worksite. She quickly became active, first as a bargaining committee member and subsequently stepping up as a steward. Besides being an active leader in her workplace, Kari has been deeply involved with the larger union as the Young Worker Representative on both Local 704 and the Component 7 executive; Local 704 First Vice-chairperson; a member of the BCGEU Young Workers Committee; and member of the Joint Labour Management Committee. Kari is a passionate advocate for social justice and believes in building workers’ capacity to take action to improve their working conditions through education and training.
bcgeu.ca

Executive Vice President, BCGEU

Khaleel Seivwright PANELIST

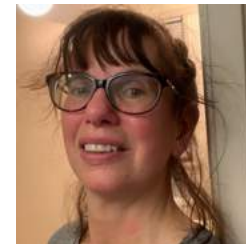


Khaleel Seivwright is a Canadian carpenter and homelessness activist known for his construction of homeless shelters. Khaleel grew up in suburban Toronto; his parents are Jamaican immigrants. After high school, he took a job as an apprentice carpenter and learned how to frame houses. In his early 20s, he lived on a British Columbia commune where he built his own tiny home shelter. In September 2020, Khaleel began building homeless shelters in parks and ravines in Toronto that cost about \$1,000 CAD to build. The shelters included insulation, a vapor barrier, a carbon monoxide detector, and a lock. In January 2021, Khaleel launched a crowdfunding campaign that raised over \$200,000 CAD to construct more of the shelters. As of April 2021, Khaleel had built over 100 of the shelters, with a crew of 40 volunteers. In November 2020, the City of Toronto wrote to Khaleel, demanding that he “immediately cease the production, distribution, supply and installation” of the shelters. A petition started by Khaleel in response to the City’s letter garnered over 80,000 signatures. In February 2021, the City filed an injunction to stop the

Film Subject, *Someone Lives Here*

construction of the shelters, which take the form of very small homes. Critics of Khaleel’s shelters, including the City of Toronto, have said that the homes do not represent a long-term solution to homelessness.

Fiona York PANELIST



Fiona York has worked in community services and non-profit organizations for over 20 years, and for the past 13 years in the Downtown Eastside. She is the former Coordinator of the Carnegie Community Action Project, which focussed on development, gentrification, and housing in the DTES, and authored the 2019 and 2020 *Hotel Reports* about SROs and rents. For over five years, she has provided frontline support and advocacy for tent cities in so-called Vancouver and currently volunteers full-time as an advocate and frontline worker for the encampment at CRAB Park. She is employed as a support worker and is a board member of a drop-in centre in the DTES.

CRAB Park Advocate

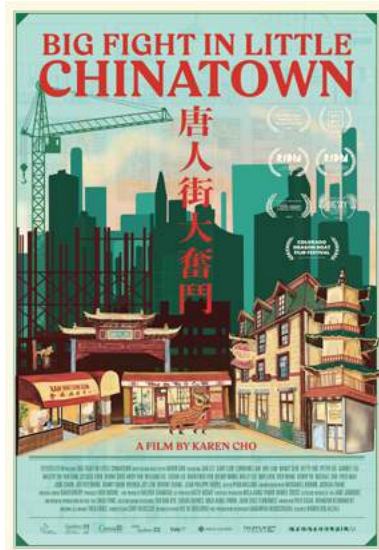
CRAB Park Resident PANELIST



Unhoused people have been living at **CRAB Park** for about three years. Recently, the Vancouver Park Board stepped up enforcement of tenting bylaws on the south side of the park, which is outside of the legal camping area. This has spurred ongoing tensions between park rangers and some residents.

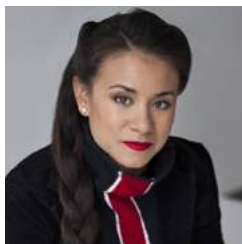
FEBRUARY 24: RESISTING ERASURE

Big Fight in Little Chinatown



“**Big Fight in Little Chinatown** is a story of community resistance and resilience. Set against the backdrop of the COVID pandemic and an unprecedented rise in anti-Asian racism, the documentary takes us into the lives of residents, businesses, and community organizers whose neighborhoods are facing active erasure. Coast to coast, the film follows Chinatown communities resisting the pressures around them. From the construction of the world’s largest vertical jail in New York, Montreal’s fight against developers swallowing up the most historic block of their Chinatown, big box chains and gentrification forces displacing Toronto’s community, to a Vancouver Chinatown business holding steadfast, the film reveals how Chinatown is both a stand-in for other communities who’ve been wiped off the city map, and the blueprint for inclusive and resilient neighbourhoods of the future.”

Karen Cho KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Karen Cho (曹嘉伦) is a Chinese-Canadian filmmaker known for her socio-political documentaries. Karen’s first film, *In the Shadow of Gold Mountain*, explored the legacy of the Chinese Head Tax, Exclusion Act and redress movement. Her other films include the Gemini-Nominated *Seeking Refuge*, a film on refugees in Canada, and *Status Quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada*, which won Best Documentary at the Whistler Film Festival and launched in over 67 community screenings across the country. Karen’s TV work has touched on subjects like Indigenous health and wellness, Japanese Canadian internment, Quebecois cuisine, Vancouver’s downtown east side, and artist activists around the world. In 2018, Karen was nominated for a Best Directing Canadian Screen Award for her work on CBC’s *Interrupt This Program*.
eyesteelfilm.com

Director, *Big Fight in Little Chinatown*

Henry Yu MODERATOR



Associate Professor of History, UBC; Co-lead, Centre for Asian Canadian Research Engagement (ACRE)
Henry Yu’s research and teaching has been built around collaborations with local community organizations, civic institutions such as museums, and multiple levels of government. He is passionate about helping British Columbians and Canadians undo the cultural and historical legacies of colonialism and to be inspired by the often hidden and untold stories of those who struggled against racism and made Canadian society more inclusive and just. Henry is one of the Founding Directors of the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC in 2004; the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation in 2011; PCHC-MoM in 2013; and the Chinese Canadian Museum of BC in 2020. Most recently, Henry was the Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee of the National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism convened in June 2021 and the Co-Lead for the Centre for Asian Canadian Research Engagement (ACRE) in the Faculty of Arts at UBC. Henry was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and the Province of BC’s Multicultural Award in 2015 in recognition of his research and community leadership.
history.ubc.ca/profile/henry-yu

Djaka Blais PANELIST



Executive Director, Hogan’s Alley Society
Djaka Blais (she/her) is a seasoned bilingual social sector leader with 18 years of experience in philanthropy, government, and community mobilizing. Djaka is the inaugural Executive Director of Hogan’s Alley Society, a Vancouver-based non-profit focused on advancing the social, political, economic, and cultural well-being of people of African descent (Black People) through the delivery of inclusive housing, built spaces, and culturally informed programming. She is a founding member of the Foundation for Black Communities, the first philanthropic foundation for Black communities in Canada, and a fellow with SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. Djaka is now a guest on the unceded and occupied ancestral lands of the skwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), sel̓íl wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), Stó:lō, and x̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.
hogansalleysociety.org

Kevin Huang PANELIST



Co-founder and Executive Director, Hua Foundation
Kevin Huang 黃儀軒 (he/him) is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Hua Foundation. Recognizing the growing gap in engaging Chinese-Canadian youth on environmental, social, and political issues, Kevin co-founded the Hua Foundation with the goal of increasing community participation through youth empowerment opportunities. Kevin oversees Hua’s external relationships with youth, policy makers, community organizations, and institutions. Ask him about Hua Foundation’s youth incubator projects, its research and development, and its community work.
huafoundation.org

Stephanie Leo PANELIST



Co-chair, Chinatown Legacy Stewardship Group
Stephanie Leo is a third-generation Chinese-Canadian. Stephanie has been a member of the City of Vancouver’s Legacy Stewardship Group since 2018 and is the current Co-chair. Over the last four years, Stephanie has engaged with Chinatown residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders toward a common goal of safe-guarding the culture and heritage of Vancouver’s Chinatown and supporting its vulnerable living community. This collaboration has culminated in the revival of the Fire Dragon Festival and support for many LSG projects now captured within the city’s Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan. Her vision for the LSG is that it will continue to contribute to creating a resilient and welcoming neighbourhood that will foster rich connections between the Chinatown of her grandparents and great-grandparents, and the Chinatown she will leave for her own three kids.
vancouver.ca/home-property-development/chinatown-transformation.aspx

Jag Nagra PANELIST



Artist; Member, Punjabi Maret Regeneration Collective
Jag Nagra is a queer Punjabi Visual Artist and community advocate who has a number of artworks in the Museum of Vancouver’s permanent collection and is a co-Founder of the Punjabi Market Collective—a non-profit working to revitalize Vancouver’s historic Punjabi Market commercial district.
jagnagra.com

FEBRUARY 25: PRESERVING DEMOCRACY

Manufacturing the Threat



“*Manufacturing the Threat* is a feature-length documentary which examines a deeply disturbing episode in Canadian history, when an impoverished couple was coerced by undercover law enforcement agents into carrying out a terrorist bombing. Further, viewers learn that this case is far from unique in the context of Canadian intelligence. Shining a light into the murky world of police infiltration, incitement, and agent provocateurs, *Manufacturing The Threat* shows how Canada’s policing and national security agencies, granted additional powers after 9/11, routinely break laws with little to no accountability or oversight. “

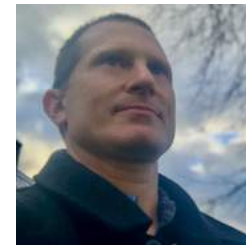
Author, *Manufacturing Threats: Case Studies of State Manipulation and Entrapment in Canada*; Film Subject, *Manufacturing the Threat*

Alexandre Popovic KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Alexandre Popovic has been politically active in social struggles since the early 1990s. He has suffered police repression as a result of his participation in various protest movements; he subsequently began to represent himself in court. Intent on documenting the issue of police abuse, the author has sent more than six hundred Access to Information requests and has pleaded many times in front of the Access to Information Commission. For over a decade, Popovic has been involved in supporting families who have lost a loved one at the hands of the police. In this capacity, he has participated in half a dozen coroners’ public inquests as an interested party. Inspired by Popovic’s work, Amy Miller’s documentary *Manufacturing The Threat* focuses on one case, providing an in-depth examination of the entrapment of Omar Nuttall and Ana Korody in 2013.
leftwingbooks.net/products/manufacturing-threats-case-studies-of-state-manipulation-and-entrapment-in-canada
leftwingbooks.net/collections/kersplebedeb-favorites

Aaron Goodman MODERATOR



Aaron Goodman is a documentary filmmaker and communication studies researcher. His work involves collaborative testimony, oral history, and arts-based methods with people impacted by the overdose crisis, rights abuses, and genocide. Aaron works as a faculty member in Journalism and Communication Studies at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, B.C.
aarongoodman.com
kpu.ca/arts/journalism/faculty/aaron-goodman

Professor of Journalism and Communication Studies, KPU

Amy Miller PANELIST



Amy Miller is an award-winning director, producer and writer based in Montréal. Her feature films as director include *Tomorrow’s Power*, *No Land. No Food. No Life.*, *The Carbon Rush*, and *Myths for Profit*. She most recently produced the documentary *Another Word for Learning*. Her documentaries have been screened at festivals throughout the world and have been broadcast in over two dozen countries and are included in the library catalogues of hundreds of universities and colleges worldwide. She remains dedicated to creating documentaries for transformative social change and helping out grassroots campaigns for justice.
wideopenexposure.com
amymiller.info

Director, *Manufacturing the Threat*

Wade Deisman PANELIST



My work focuses on the service challenges and accountability issues associated with policing within the Lower Mainland and across the larger provincial landscape. With over 30 years of professional experience spanning criminal justice process and practice, legislation and policy development, and program implementation and evaluation, I am an ardent interlocutor of the public good and a passionate proponent of innovative approaches to reform and renewal in the public safety sector. My strengths in scholarship, training, and teaching span street- and patrol-level policing, investigations and enforcement, leadership and administration, national security and intelligence, and cybercrime. As the Director of Academic Programs at the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC), I am honoured to lead the design and delivery of innovative and high-quality academic programs and services that cater to the diverse needs of learners, faculty, and stakeholders in the justice and public safety sector. I am also a faculty member in the Department of Criminology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU).
jibc.ca
kpu.ca/arts/criminology/faculty/wade-deisman

Program Director, Academic Programs, Justice Institute of British Columbia;
 Professor of Criminology, KPU

Robert Diab PANELIST



Robert Diab’s research interests are in constitutional rights, legal theory, and topics in law and technology. Robert is the author of *Search and Seizure* (in *Irwin’s Essentials of Canadian Law series*, with C. Hunt), *The Harbinger Theory: How the Post-9/11 Emergency Became Permanent and the Case for Reform*, and *Guantanamo North*. He has also written extensively about police powers, including a report for the Public Order Emergency Commission in 2022 on the use of the federal Emergencies Act. Robert teaches criminal law, evidence, and jurisprudence, and a course on human rights in Thompson Rivers University’s Master of Arts program in Human Rights and Social Justice. In 2014, Robert co-founded the *Canadian Journal of Comparative and Contemporary Law* and co-edited eight volumes of the journal on such topics as digital privacy, international law, and democratic decay. Prior to teaching at TRU, Robert practiced criminal and administrative law in Vancouver.
tru.ca/law/faculty-staff/faculty/robert-diab.html
cjcl.ca

Professor, Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University

Micheal Vonn PANELIST



Micheal Vonn is the Chief Executive Officer of PHS Community Services Society which provides supportive housing, healthcare, and harm reduction for under-served people in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside and Victoria. She is a lawyer who, prior to coming to PHS, was for 15 years the Policy Director of the BC Civil Liberties Association. She has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia in the Faculty of Law and the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, where she taught civil liberties and information ethics. Micheal has an extensive background in privacy and information issues ranging from national security to freedom of expression. She has been a collaborator on Big Data Surveillance, a multi-year research project led by Queens University, an Advisory Board Member of Ryerson University’s Centre for Free Expression, and an Advisory Board Member of Privacy International.
phs.ca

CEO, PHS Community Services Society; Former Policy Director, BCCLA;
 Film Subject, *Manufacturing the Threat*

FEBRUARY 25: PRESERVING DEMOCRACY

The Price of Truth

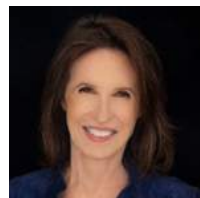
Canadian Premiere



“How far would you go to defend the idea of an open press? *The Price of Truth* is the extraordinary story of a man who risks everything, to preserve freedom of speech in Russia. It is a tale of bravery, defiance, and a simple refusal to give in to Vladimir Putin—whatever the cost. In December 2021, Dmitry Muratov is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is the editor-in-chief of Russia’s only independent newspaper, *Novaya Gazeta*. Since he founded *Novaya*, six of his journalists have been murdered after their reports displeased the state, most famously, reporter Anna Politkovskaya, gunned down in the lift of her Moscow apartment. Another war dominates this film. In February 2022, Russia invades Ukraine. In early March, using the cover of a documentary film festival, Muratov secretly negotiates free passage for 40 journalists with the Latvian government. Then, all too aware of the risk he is running, he returns to Moscow to look after his paper and its remaining staff. In May, he announces that he is going to auction his Nobel medal and give the money to Ukrainian refugees. Days later, he is on a train home to see his mother. Suddenly, a masked attacker bursts into his compartment and pours red paint all over him. The paint is laced with acetone. Dima’s eyesight is permanently damaged. Undaunted, he goes ahead with the auction. And on June 21, Muratov’s medal sells for a record \$103 million. To this day, he refuses to leave Moscow, whatever the pressure on him and his team. ‘Putin stands for death. I stand for life.’”

Katrina vanden Heuvel KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Editorial Director and Publisher, *The Nation*



Katrina vanden Heuvel is the Editor and Publisher of *The Nation* magazine. She has also edited or co-edited several books, including *The Change I Believe In: Fighting for Progress in the Age of Obama*, *Meltdown: How Greed and Corruption Shattered Our Financial System and How We Can Recover*, *Taking Back America—and Taking Down the Radical Right*, and *Voices of Glasnost: Interviews with Gorbachev’s Reformers*. She is a frequent commentator on US and international politics and has received awards for public service from numerous groups, including the New York Civil Liberties Union’s Joseph Callaway Prize for the Defense of the Right to Privacy, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee’s Voices of Peace Award, and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Justice in Action Award. In 2010, she received the Exceptional Woman in Publishing Award and, in 2013, the American Rights at Work’s Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award and the Center for Community Change’s Champion in Activism Award. In 2015, she received the Progressive Congress Leadership Award on behalf of her work “creating pathways of success on behalf of progressive causes.” Vanden Heuvel

serves on the boards of the Institute for Policy Studies, the Institute for America’s Future, the Correctional Association of New York, the Osborne Society, the Roosevelt Institute, the Nation Institute, the Four Freedoms Park Conservancy, and Brave New Films.

thenation.com

Section 16



“Women journalists in South Africa who expose wrongdoing by those in power are often forced to endure deeply personal, frightening attacks on social media, as the four leading reporters interviewed for *Section 16* disclose. Investigative reporters for publications that include *The Daily Maverick* and *Die Beeld* discuss the impact on them of targeted social media negativity, including direct threats to their safety. As one explains, when influential politicians with millions of followers, such as Julius Malema, malign them on social media and call for action, the danger they face is very real. But Ferial Haffajee, Marianne Thamm, Pauli van Wyk, Caryn Dolley, and others like them continue to write about corruption, crime in high places, and state collusion. What motivates them to keep going is relevant to us all.”

Community Partner:
Co-presenter of *Section 16*



Emilie Gambade KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Producer and Co-director, *Section 16*; Editor, *Maverick Life*, *The Daily Maverick*



Emilie Gambade is a multimedia journalist, filmmaker, and editor of *Maverick Life*, the life and culture section of the *Daily Maverick*, the leading news publication in South Africa. She has worked in several media environments, from news to magazine, print, and digital, including being the Editor-in-chief of *Elle* and *Elle Decoration South Africa*. She is the Producer and Co-director of *Section 16*, a short film on online violence against four South African women journalists.

dailymaverick.co.za

Malibongwe Tyilo KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Co-director, *Section 16*; Associate Editor, *Maverick Life*, *The Daily Maverick*

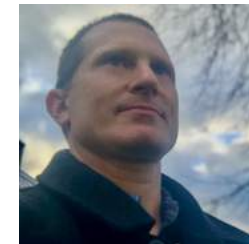


Malibongwe Tyilo is a filmmaker and multimedia journalist whose expertise lies in the fields of fashion, art, design, and culture, all of which are subjects he has explored in various roles: as a columnist, writer, and editor for leading South Africa magazines and newspapers. As a filmmaker, he has shot and edited a number of editorially led short films covering a wide range of subjects such as climate change, South African art, design, and fashion. Most recently, he co-directed, shot, and edited *Section 16*, a short documentary about online violence targeted at women journalists.

dailymaverick.co.za

Aaron Goodman MODERATOR

Professor of Journalism and Communication Studies, KPU



Aaron Goodman is a documentary filmmaker and communication studies researcher. His work involves collaborative testimony, oral history, and arts-based methods with people impacted by the overdose crisis, rights abuses, and genocide. Aaron works as a faculty member in Journalism and Communication Studies at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, B.C.

aarongoodman.com

kpu.ca/arts/journalism/faculty/aaron-goodman

Patrick Forbes PANELIST

Director, *The Price of Truth*



Patrick Forbes’s career began as a very junior researcher on a BBC series, when he was arrested after discovering Britain had a (secret) spy satellite. At that moment, it was clear that documentaries offered a lot more excitement and interest than his previous career as an economist at the Bank of England. He’s gone on to become one of Britain’s best documentary directors, winning the Best Director BAFTA for his Channel 4 series *The Force*, Best Series BAFTA for *The National Trust* (BBC), and having his documentary feature about Julian Assange, *Wikileaks: Secrets & Lies*, premier at SXSW, before being seen around the world. Patrick believes that documentary is an art form that is as vital, exciting, and uplifting as the best drama—a view confirmed by his recent films tracking Britain’s tumultuous exit from the European Union, where everyone involved talks with extraordinary candour about this defining moment of history.

oftv.co.uk

Jeff Cohen PANELIST

Journalist; Professor; Media Critic; Founder of Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)



Media critic **Jeff Cohen** was founding director of the Park Center for Independent Media at Ithaca College, where he was an Associate Professor of Journalism. He founded the media watch group FAIR in 1986 and cofounded the online activist group RootsAction.org in 2011. Cohen has coproduced documentary movies, including *The Corporate Coup D’Etat* and *All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception and the Spirit of I.F. Stone*. He is the author of *Cable News Confidential: My Misadventures in Corporate Media*. He has been a TV commentator at CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC, and was senior producer of MSNBC’s *Phil Donahue* primetime show until it was terminated three weeks before the Iraq invasion. His columns have been published online at such websites as *Salon.com*, *HuffPost*, *CommonDreams*, and *Truthout* and in dozens of dailies, including *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Atlanta Constitution*, and *Miami Herald*.

jeffcohen.org

fair.org

rootsaction.org

Martin Lee PANELIST

Author; Activist; Co-founder of Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)



Martin A. Lee is the author of four books, including most recently *Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana – Medical, Recreational and Scientific*. He is the Co-founder of the media watch group FAIR and the director of Project CBD, a medical science information service. He is also the author of *Acid Dreams* and *The Beast Reawakens*, and his writing has appeared in many publications, including *The Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Harper’s Magazine*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Nation*, *Salon.com*, *HuffingtonPost.com*, and *TheDailyBeast.com*. Martin co-founded Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) in 1986 to eliminate corporate and establishment media bias. He served as the first Editor of the organization’s publication *Extra!* and later became its Publisher. Martin co-authored his second book, *Unreliable Sources: A Guide to Detecting Bias in News Media*, in 1990 as an expansion on his work with FAIR.

fair.org

projectcbd.org

Christiaan Triebert PANELIST

Journalist, Visual Investigations Team, *The New York Times*



Christiaan Triebert is a journalist on the Visual Investigations team at *The New York Times*, which combines traditional reporting with open-source methods to break news and hold the powerful to account. Christiaan’s work at *The New York Times* includes a series exposing the Russian bombing of hospitals in Syria, revealing how Iran shot down a civilian airliner, and investigations into police brutality in the United States. He co-produced “Day of Rage,” the most complete picture to date of what happened during the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, and why. These and other stories he worked on as a reporter at *The New York Times* received a George Polk Award, two Overseas Press Club of America Awards, an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award, a World Press Photo Award, and a Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting. Prior to joining *The New York Times* in 2019, Christiaan worked as a senior investigator and lead trainer at the international open-source research collective *Bellingcat*. He was awarded a European Press Prize for his reconstruction of the attempted military coup in Turkey using leaked WhatsApp messages and social media content. He also worked on geolocating and verifying United States-led coalition airstrikes allegedly causing civilian casualties in Iraq and Syria for the monitoring group Airwars.

christiaantrieberr.format.com

nytimes.com/by/christiaan-trieberr



Launched in 2017, **KDocs Talks** is KDocs’s official **YouTube Channel** and digital archive of Keynote Addresses and Panel Discussions.

KDocs Talks creates dialogue around some of our most pressing social justice issues: Indigenous rights and governance, genocide/war, institutionalized racism, climate change, environmental justice, migrant labour, housing rights, prison justice, Big Data/surveillance, the illegal arms trade, and GM foods/food justice.

KDocs Talks represents an entry point for discussion, debate, and social change. Designed as a resource to be shared, these videos carry a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license.

We encourage you to use KDocs Talks as part of your own social justice learning, teaching, discussions, consultations, and research.

Special thanks go out to the production team of Greg Chan (KDocsFF Community Outreach Program Director and executive producer), Manon Boivin (former KDocsFF Board Member and producer), Melissa Fraser (videographer and editor), Bhavesh Chauhan (videographer), Marina Dodis (editor), and Janice Morris (KDocsFF Founder and Festival Director).

youtube.com/@KDocsTalks



KDocs Talks

KDocsFF

Community Outreach Program



It is safe to say that the **KDocsFF Community Outreach Program** has staying power, with 2024 marking its ninth year of operation.

The KDocsFF Community Outreach Program continues to embody KDocsFF’s mandate of “uniting learners through social justice, global citizenship, and creative solution-building” by showing up to lead community-activism projects. Whenever KDocsFF Community Outreach can keep the spotlight on a social justice theme—Indigenous Sovereignty, Decolonization, Anti-racism/BIPOC Representation, LGBTQ2S+ Rights, and Intersectional Social Justice, to name a few—it mobilizes to film, facilitate, or fundraise.

For the 2023 season, our Community Outreach programming put the spotlight on a series of events exploring the power of intersectional solidarity: the live painting and official unveiling of the **KDocsFF Alice Street Legacy Mural**, held February-April 2023 in the KPU Library; the production of **Virago Nation Presents: “The Garden of Tease: Where Nature and Burlesque Blossom,”** performed at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden on October 7, 2023; and the co-hosting of the **Crafting Circle with Smokii Sumac**, convened in KPU’s Aboriginal Gathering Place on November 21, 2023.

I am most grateful to our facilitators, community partners, volunteers, sponsors, and special guests whose support is responsible for the KDocsFF Community Outreach Program continuing to thrive into its ninth year. These individuals and groups include muralists Brandon Gabriel, Desi Mundo, and Pancho Pescador; Diane Purvey and KPU’s Office of the Provost; Shelley Boyd and KPU’s Dean of Arts Office; the Irving K. Barber grant team of Jennifer Hardwick, Asma Sayed, Fiona Whittington-Walsh, and Vicki Haynes; Virago Nation; Lorraine Lowe and Bruno Dias from Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden; visiting Ktunaxa poet Smokii Sumac; Tara Lyons; Romy Kozak; KPU’s President’s Diversity and Equity Committee; KPU’s Pride Advocacy Group; and KPU’s Aboriginal Gathering Place. Thank you to all of our supporters who believe in KDocsFF Community Outreach.

Whether you are joining us for one film or all five days, please enjoy KDocsFF 2024: Journeys in Solidarity. I hope you find inspiration in the documentaries and the calls to action they represent.

Greg Chan, Director
KDocsFF Community Outreach Program

KDocsFF Alice Street Legacy Mural



Representing KPU's Indigenous history, cultural diversity, inclusivity, and solidarity as a community, the **KDocsFF Alice Street Legacy Mural** rises up to greet all those who pass through the Surrey campus library's main atrium. You might be wondering how this 25-foot mural—a tribute to Lyackson First Nation Elder, Kat Norris—came to be.

Following their appearance on the *Alice Street* panel at KDocsFF 2022, Chilean studio painter/Oakland artist **Pancho Pescador**, Chicago-born aerosol artist **Desi Mundo**, and KPU Arts Artist and Writer-in-Residence **Brandon Gabriel** formed an enduring creative partnership. The trio—in association with their KDocsFF co-panelists, anti-poverty advocate Jean Swanson and *Alice Street* director Spencer Wilkinson—is now set to paint a mural on the Downtown Eastside for the 2024 Vancouver Mural Festival. In the meantime, the **KDocsFF Alice Street Legacy Group** reunited at KDocsFF 2023 for an encore screening and discussion of *Alice Street + Jean Swanson: We Need a New Map*. During their return engagement, Desi, Pancho, and Brandon painted the legacy mural at a live event during KPU's spring semester reading break. Many observers stopped by the Fir Lounge and the Spruce Atrium to watch the muralists engaged in their creative process.

In March, a team of technicians, led by Delaney Reeves, raised and mounted each of the six panels to form the KDocsFF *Alice Street* Legacy Mural. Following its installation, the KDocsFF *Alice Street* Legacy Mural was officially unveiled on April 14, 2023, in the KPU Surrey Library. Special guests included Kat Norris's family members who were central to the dedication ceremony.

KDocsFF Community Outreach is proud to have coordinated this project on behalf of KPU and is grateful to the university-wide team that made the mural a reality in less than three months. Thank you to our sponsor, Diane Purvey; our co-presenter, Shelley Boyd; our host, Todd Mundle; our ad hoc steering committee members, Ying-Yueh Chuang, Armaan Dhillon, Brandon Gabriel, Romy Kozak, Lesli Sangha, Asma Sayed, Peter Smailes, David Stewart, and Fiona Whittington-Walsh; our procurement liaison, Dani Blackett; our advisors in Fine Arts, Alison MacTaggart and Ying-Yueh Chuang; our Facilities crew led by Lori Scanlon and Delaney Reeves; our supporters, Kachina Melinda Bige, Christina Fung, Jamie Bige-Gabriel, Jonas Bige, and Eric Hetteema; our videographer, Elton Hubner; our Marketing and Communications support team of Byron Dueck, Leland Dieno, Hayley Mica, and Anati Manzoul; our site protectors, KPU Security; and the initiators of the mural project, Spencer Wilkinson and KDocsFF Festival Director Janice Morris. Most of all, thank you to the astonishing artistry of the creative team: Brandon Gabriel, Desi Mundo, and Pancho Pescador.

alicestreetfilm.com

lyackson.bc.ca

octopusspirit.com

communityrejuvenationproject.org

Virago Nation Presents: “Garden of Tease: Where Nature and Burlesque Blossom”



What does it mean to witness seven “Indigibabes” dancing in Ming Dynasty gardens? KDocsFF Community Outreach was proud to co-present **“Garden of Tease: Where Nature and Burlesque Blossom,”** an intersectional celebration of the solidarities amongst Indigenous, Chinese Canadian, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

A natural oasis in Vancouver's historic Chinatown, the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden was the backdrop for the all-Indigenous burlesque collective, the **Virago Nation**, which transported the audience to an empowering world of laughter and seduction through striptease and storytelling. This golden hour event featured a special performance by Virago Nation in the Garden's main courtyard. In honour of the historical solidarity between Indigenous peoples and Chinese Canadians, refreshments from Chinatown were served in the main hall following the performance, right before a panel discussion/audience talk-back with the Viragos plus Chris Reed from Queer-Based Media. In partnership with **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden**, “Garden of Tease” was sponsored by the Irving K. Barber grant “‘i am here because you are here’: Re-Imagining Intersectional Solidarity at KPU,” SSHRC, KDocsFF Social Justice Documentary Film Festival, and KPU.

viragonation.ca

vancouverchinesegarden.com

Crafting Circle with Smokii Sumac

In collaboration with **KPU's President's Diversity and Equity Committee (PDEC)** and the **Pride Advocacy Group (PAG)**, KDocsFF Community Outreach proudly co-hosted a Crafting Circle with visiting poet **Smokii Sumac** on November 21, 2023, to commemorate the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Smokii, a two-spirit, transgender Ktunaxa author, academic, and poet, led a group of students, faculty, and staff in a conversation about decolonization and Queer identities while they crafted. Participants spent the morning cross-stitching, knitting, adult colouring, and pressing social justice buttons over breakfast. The Crafting Circle with Smokii Sumac was sponsored by the Irving K. Barber grant, "i am here because you are here: Re-Imagining Intersectional Solidarity at KPU."

smokiisumac.com
kpu.ca/pdec
kpu.ca/pride
kpu.ca/indigenous/gathering-place



KDocsFF

Social Justice Lab

Opened in 2023, the **KDocsFF Social Justice Lab** is an interdisciplinary makerspace for KPU students, faculty, and staff who want to materialize calls to action. Outfitted with craftivism equipment, the Lab supports the creation of artifacts that can be brought back to the classroom as supplements to readings, group work, debates, demonstrations, gamifications, and presentations. Lab creations—including letter writing campaigns, petitions, and protest signs—are primed to support social justice advocacy out in the community.

Radical Knitting Circle



September 2023 marked the official opening of the KDocsFF Social Justice Lab with Tara Lyons (KPU Criminology) leading KPU's first **Radical Knitting Circle**. Along with student co-authors Kayla Garvin, Sarah Schwagele, and Liam Ruel, Tara authored the study on *The Experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ KPU Students: Gaps & Recommendations*. In the makerspace, she guided participants through the creation of "**Pride Pouches**" across two sessions: an interweaving of hands-on crafting, dialogue, and activism. The pouches were filled with gift cards and Pride buttons. The radical knitters donated the completed pouches to **KPU's Pride Advocacy Group (PAG)**.

kpu.ca/pride

Indigenous Beading Workshop



The KDocsFF Social Justice Lab soft-launched in July 2023 with "**Bead the Rainbow**," a craftivism workshop that combined intersectional solidarity with Indigenous artistry. Facilitated by Indigenous Engagement and Subject Liaison Librarian Rachel Chong, the interactive **Indigenous Beading Workshop** had participants creating fringe, earrings, or pins in support of **Vancouver Pride**. KPU staff, students, and faculty participated in this inaugural event.

vancouverpride.ca

Special Thanks to our Premier Supporters for KDocsFF 2024



KPU KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS

Indigenous Community Justice Minor

This minor exposes students to the complexity and diversity of Indigenous ways of delivering justice, governance, and community structures. Students will learn about the variation of Indigenous methods of achieving justice across Canada.

For a full list of programs, visit kpu.ca/arts

KPU Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities

The Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities

leads the development and implementation of key anti-racism, accessibility, gender equity, and broad Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) strategies in alignment with the university's Strategic Vision and Academic Plan.

To learn more, visit kpu.ca/oEIC
or contact the office at oEIC@kpu.ca to connect

stir

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