



RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS FESTIVAL

OCT 27–NOV 6

#RWMFEST #RWMFEST22 #MORETHANREBELLION WORKMANARTS.COM



Workman Arts Presents

Celebrating 30 years of focusing an artistic lens on mental health

RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS 2022 *MORE THAN REBELLION*

ANNOUNCING HYBRID FESTIVAL LINE-UP OF FEATURE & SHORT FILM PROGRAMS, LIVE PERFORMANCES, & VISUAL ART EXHIBITION – KIND RENDERINGS

RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS 2022 FESTIVAL LINE-UP

For complete listings, including short films screening with features and post-screening panels and Q&As visit www.workmanarts.com

OPENING NIGHT FILM

HOW TO SAVE A DEAD FRIEND (2022) D: **Marusya Syroechkoyskaya** | Sweden, Norway, France, Germany | Documentary | 143 MIN | Russian with English Subtitles

IN-PERSON SCREENING Thursday, October 27, 6:30 PM at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, 506 Bloor St. West

WATCH ONLINE October 27, 8:00 PM – 12 AM ET across Canada; October 28 – November 6 in Ontario only

It's 2005, and Russia is governed by leaders who are keen to uplift their authoritarian dream. Millennial suicides have become omnipresent — a last act of self-will among a generation denied the chance to envision a better future. Following, Marusya, 16, has decided this will be her year to die.

Muzzled by the increasingly autocratic regime of the “Depression Federation,” Marusya decides to join her generation’s suicide statistics by the end of the year. Then, she meets Kimi, and an unexpected love story begins between the two millennials caught in the undertow of their oppressive government.

Together, Marusya and Kimi film the euphoria, anxiety, and despair of their youth, burning the candle at both ends fueled by drugs and music. When Kimi's addiction threatens to make him fade away forever, Marusya's camera becomes her last chance to save some part of his fragile soul. Filmed over the course of 12 years, this film is a personal cry from the heart, and a message from a silenced generation. It is an unbreakable love story existing in a destructible world.

In Person Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=642>

Online Ticket Links: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=625>

IF YOU ASK ME YOUTH SHORTS (2021) D: Various | CANADA | 60 MIN + PANEL | Short films

WATCH IN-PERSON + PANEL DISCUSSION Saturday, November 5, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, CAMH Auditorium
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

For the sixth consecutive year, *If You Ask Me* (IYAM) has supported emerging filmmakers with lived mental health and/or addiction experiences to create new short works. This year's program features shorts by filmmakers from across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

These new films were developed from August – October 2022 under the guidance of Roberto Santaguida, along with IYAM alumni Angela Feng, Maud Mostly and Vyom Malhotra serving as mentors. Over the course of three months, filmmakers strengthened their film production skills in the company of peers and industry guests. Rendezvous With Madness is excited to support the production and exhibition of these distinctly personal creative works.

Artists featured include **Sameena Anis, Mikaela Cordero, Shian Grace, Corinne Langmuir, Gladys Lou, Sanskruti Marathe, Lee Nisar, Esteban Powell, Roberto Santaguida, and Agnes Wong.**

Equipment rentals and facilities were generously provided by our community sponsor, Trinity Square Video.

In Person Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=643>

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=629>

BIGGER THAN TRAUMA (2022) D: **Vedrana Pribacic** | Croatia | Documentary | 90 MIN | Croatian with English subtitles

WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

The brutal Croatian War of Independence came to an end in 1995, but survivors of the conflict continue to feel its devastating effects almost 30 years later. Justice has been slow in coming—if it comes at all—and institutional supports are few and far between, particularly for women who continue to live side-by-side with the very men who captured, tortured, and raped them.

Vedrana Pribacic's *Bigger Than Trauma* is an intimate portrait of a group of Serbian and Croatian women who join a groundbreaking and unconventional therapy group to break their long-held silences, share their individual experiences and empower them to begin the long road to healing. However, their journey is not without its fair share of obstacles of pain revisited, cultural friction and resentment. In this tender setting, his documentary gives voice to the oft forgotten and ignored victims of war for their own self-determination after trauma.

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=632>

VIVRE EN GRAND | BIGGER THAN US (2021) D: **Flore Vasseur** | France | Documentary | 95 MIN | English

WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

How does one keep it together in a world coming apart at the seams? Climate change ravages the planet as greedy corporations keep polluting the environment at an unsustainable rate. With much of the global population living like there's no tomorrow, fighting for change can feel pointless. Writer-director Flore Vasseur's documentary, *Bigger Than Us*, offers viewers reason to remain hopeful.

Bigger Than Us follows 18-year-old Indonesian activist Melati Wijsen on her quest to meet with the 18 to 25-year-olds fighting for change. Melati heads to Lebanon, Malawi, Greece, the United States, Brazil, and Uganda, to celebrate the activists fighting for free speech, food security and equal rights. These defiant young people refuse to let soulless corporations and self-interested politicians dictate their future. This beautifully shot documentary will shock, inspire and most importantly, leave viewers hopeful about the future.

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=633>

LES PRIÈRES DE DELPHINE | DELPHINE'S PRAYERS (2021) D: **Rosine Mbakam** | Belgium, Cameroon | Documentary | 91 MIN | French with English subtitles

WATCH IN-PERSON Friday, October 28, 6:30 PM at St. Anne's Parish Hall, 651 Dufferin St.

WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

A brutal and intimate portrait by Rosine Mbakam, a Cameroonian filmmaker based in Belgium who introduces us to her friend and compatriot Delphine, a young Cameroonian girl who after the death of her mother and the abandonment of her father's parental responsibilities, was raped at the age of 13. She engages with sex work to support herself and her daughter and ends up marrying a Belgian man who is three times her age, hoping to find a better life in Europe. Seven years later, the European dream has faded, and her situation has only gotten worse. Delphine, like others, is part of a generation of young African women crushed by patriarchal societies and left with Western sexual colonization as the only means of survival. Winner of the IndieLisboa Award for best film, *Les prières de Delphine* is a candid story of courage and strength in the face of racism, misogyny, and poverty.

In Person Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=641>

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=627>

EAT YOUR CATFISH (2021) D: Various | United States, Spain, Turkey | Documentary | 70 MIN | English
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Years with ALS have left Kathryn paralyzed and needing 24-hour care. With her mind intact and having opted for mechanical breathing, she could live like this indefinitely. But the situation has embittered and alienated her husband, Said, and proved too much for many nurses and aides. Her grown son Noah, who lives with Kathryn and Said in their New York City apartment, struggles to balance his academic obligations with those he feels he has to his mother. Kathryn often falls into despair, but she has been holding on to see her daughter's wedding day.

This project draws on 930 hours of footage filmed with a fixed camera from Kathryn's point of view, without any crew present. The result is a profoundly intimate, layered and wryly funny portrait of a family at its breaking point.

Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=634>

GEMMEL & TIM (2021) D: **Michiel Thomas** | United States | Documentary | 91 MIN | English
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

In the span of 18 months, two gay Black men died of drug overdoses inside the West Hollywood home of political donor Ed Buck. Yet, it was four years (and many public protests) before a federal jury convicted Buck for his crimes. Writer-director Michiel Thomas's documentary *Gemmel & Tim* tells the story of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean, the two men who died in Buck's home under suspicious circumstances.

Throughout the film, their family and friends reminisce about their lives and share the shocking details surrounding their deaths. The film paints a touching portrait of love and regret as friends and family come to grips with the tragic loss of their loved ones. *Gemmel & Tim* is also a scathing indictment of America's broken justice system, calling out the blatant racial inequalities persisting decades after the abolition of Jim Crow.

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=635>

I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE (2022) D: Reid Davenport | United States | Documentary | 76 MIN | English
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Filmmaker Reid Davenport won the Sundance Documentary Directing Award for his feature-length directorial debut for *I Didn't See You There*. This film unflinchingly explores the effects “othering” has on the disabled – from the days of the “Freak Show”, to a modern society that continues to neglect and isolate the population – all framed through Davenport’s literal perspective in his wheelchair. Inspired by the sudden appearance of a circus tent near his Oakland apartment, Davenport sets out to examine the legacy of showmen like P.T. Barnum, while observing the lack of access, objectification, and other forms of ableism he personally experiences with his family in Connecticut and at home as an artist in California. From construction and maintenance that impedes his mobility to the incredible inconvenience of “conveniences” put in place for wheelchair users, to the unsolicited offers of help and careless blocking of ramps, *I Didn't See You There* forces audiences to re-examine their own cultural perspectives and confront what it truly means to be “othered” within today’s world.

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=636>

DE PÅRØRENDE - NÅR ENS BARN RAMMES AF PSYKISK SYGDOM | LOVE BOUND: WHEN YOUR CHILD BECOMES MENTALLY ILL (2021) D: Vibe Mogensen | Denmark | Documentary | 52 MIN | Danish with English subtitles
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Director Vibe Mogensen’s documentary, *Love Bound: When Your Child Becomes Mentally Ill* takes viewers behind closed doors to experience intimate group therapy sessions for empathic and stressed parents. Many of the caregivers featured in the film have children who will require specialized care throughout their entire lives. The parents struggle to maintain their own health, careers and social lives while meeting their kids’ unique needs – schizophrenia, ADHD, bipolar disorder, and suicidal ideation.

This revealing documentary is uplifting, heartbreaking and unapologetically honest. *Love Bound: When Your Child Becomes Mentally Ill* delivers a touching reminder of what the superhuman levels of inner strength people are capable of when they have others to lean on.

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=637>

MI VACÍO Y YO | MY EMPTINESS AND I (2022) D: **Adrián Silvestre** | Spain | Fiction (Hybrid) | 98 MIN | French and Spanish with English subtitles
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

After moving from France to Spain, Raphi fantasizes about romances with princes and about starting a traditional family. However, her situation looks nothing like that in reality. She works in a call center in Barcelona, struggles with dates that often turn embarrassing, and is diagnosed by her therapist as having gender dysphoria. We follow this trans woman as she makes her transition during this essential, if confusing, period. We see her in her everyday life, as she talks candidly with colleagues, queer friends, and the men she meets through apps. Despite all the advice she receives, it turns out that it is mostly time and experience that will help her embrace her place in this world. Raw, honest, and thought-provoking, *Mi vacío y yo* is an intensely intimate journey of self-discovery and acceptance.

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=639>

MIDWASTE (2021) D: **Liz Roberts** | United States | Documentary | 23 MIN + Workshop | English
Artist Spotlight

WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Midwaste tells the story of Liz Roberts' relationship with heroin over several decades. Her connection to drug subculture is inextricable from her relationship to the camera. She started making Super 8 films as a teen, shooting friends she became intimate with in circles of drug use. Her essay-documentary retraces her steps, interviewing friends about their memories of the past, and revisiting footage taken at various stages of her youth. Her methods are palpable and relational; the work opens with her first-ever film (a grainy black and white mud fight starring her friends), becoming more high resolution as Roberts becomes more adept with profound reflection alongside different cameras and techniques.

JOIN THE WORKSHOP and CONVERSATION Please join director **Liz Roberts** in a virtual workshop on Tuesday, November 1 at 5:30 PM ET on creating autobiographical films. Please visit [workmanarts.com](https://buy.workmanarts.com) for more details on the event.

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=638>

MIS DOS VOCES | MY TWO VOICES (2022) D: **Lina Rodriguez** | Canada | Documentary | 68 MIN | Spanish with English subtitles

WATCH IN-PERSON Saturday, October 29, 8:00 PM at the CAMH Auditorium, 1025 Queen Street West

WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Canadian director Lina Rodriguez paints a lyrical and truly unique portrait of what it means to be an immigrant and how this can affect one's sense of self. Shot with luminous 16mm film, the documentary introduces audiences to three Latina women who gradually reveal their individual migration stories, discuss the inherent challenges in starting afresh in a new country and explore how those difficult experiences have shaped their lives. Though their origins differ greatly, all three have faced similar struggles with language and belonging as they attempt to balance their present with complicated memories of the past. Rodriguez allows the identities of these women to remain concealed throughout and, instead, uses their voices to shift perspectives and reframe their emotional journeys of self-discovery and understanding. *My Two Voices* is a thoughtfully constructed cinematic ode to resilience in the face of trauma and perseverance in the face of seismic upheaval.

Ticket Link Online: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=628>

Ticket Link In-Person: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=642>

RAIN IN 2020 | 二〇二〇 | 年的一场雨 (2021) D: **Lee Yong Chao** | Myanmar, Taiwan | Documentary | 79 MIN | English

WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Rain in 2020 took Director Lee Yong Chao seven years to make. It intimately documents a family coping with the constantly changing situations in Myanmar. Amid the pandemic in 2020, a torrential rain caused the family and the entire village to soak in the flooding sewage. Nobody knows when the muddy water will be gone and what will come after the storm.

Ticket Link Online: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=640>

DO SAG | TWO DOGS (2021) D: **Amir Azizi** | Iran | Fiction | 83 MIN | Farsi with English Subtitles

WATCH IN-PERSON Sunday, November 6, 5:00 PM at the CAMH Auditorium (1025 Queen Street West)

WATCH ONLINE Sunday, November 6, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET in Ontario only

Iman and Sajjad are two young men struggling with the kinds of problems typical for people in their 30s in Iran nowadays: unemployment, depression, and a lack of self-confidence. Iman is translating Franz Kafka's *Investigations of a Dog* into Farsi while working as a cab driver. His passengers are like the characters of Kafka's story. Sajjad, Iman's best friend, is inhibited by the way he looks and is trying to gather money for surgery. Both have dogs that look very similar to their owners. The dogs, while not always welcomed by their families, make the men feel less lonely living in traditional Iranian society.

In Person Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=642>

Online Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=628>

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

WHEN WE REACH OUT, WHO SHOULD RESPOND? (2022) D: **Luke Galati** | Canada | Documentary | 57 MIN | English

WATCH IN-PERSON Saturday, November 5, 7:00 PM at the CAMH Auditorium (1025, Queen Street West)
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Toronto filmmaker Luke Galati's documentary *When You Reach Out, Who Should Respond?* was born out of a tense interaction he had with police during a bipolar episode. In the documentary, he follows his own mental health journey in an effort to change emergency response and to end mental illness stigma.

The film spotlights the Toronto Community Crisis Service, a pilot service responding to mental health-related calls with nurses and crisis workers, rather than police officers. *When You Reach Out, Who Should Respond?* examines the need for alternative crisis response models through a series of interviews with politicians, activists, and crisis workers advocating for change. Galati's thoughtful documentary invites audiences to engage in a necessary conversation about compassionate alternatives to police intervention during a mental health crisis.

In Person Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=349>

Online Link Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=630>

WORKMAN ARTS MEMBER FILMS

UPON, REFLECTION: RECENT SHORT FILMS BY WORKMAN ARTS AND SATELLITE MEMBERS

WATCH IN-PERSON Friday, October 28, 4:30 PM at St. Anne's Parish Hall (651 Dufferin Street)
WATCH ONLINE October 27 – November 6 across Canada

Upon, Reflection is an anthology of recent short films by Workman Arts members and Satellite program artists. Filmmaking is a medium that allows us to tell stories and reflect on our own personal journeys.

Each film presented in this series speaks to the vastness of storytelling and how it can transform us to make lasting and meaningful connections.

W.I PISTOLARY (conilyn herrera | Canada | 2022 | 4 minutes)

ALIENATED CITY (Gladys Lou | Canada | 2022 | 3 minutes)

EXPRESS YOURSELF (Sirene Qureshi & Luis Estores | Canada | 2018 | 4 minutes)

THE HALLWAY (Zan Redcrow | Canada | 2022 | 3 minutes)

HYPOTHETICALLY FEBRUARY 15 (Jasmine Vanstone | Canada | 2022 | 4 minutes)

TORONTO INTERLUDE (Christine Waloszczyk | Canada | 2022 | 5 minutes)

TRIGGER WARNING (Dorothy Ogda Laxton | Canada | 2022 | 36 minutes)

Films from Workman Arts' Satellite program were made possible thanks to generous support from The Slaughter Family Foundation.

In Person Ticket Links: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=622>

Online Ticket Links: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=623>

VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

kind renderings

Boozie, Jenny Chen, Jessica Field, Stéphane Alexis, Twinkle Banerjee, Wen Tong

Workman Arts gallery, Artscape Youngplace.

October 27 - November 6 (12-6 PM)

This year's Rendezvous With Madness exhibition *kind renderings* brings together six artists from across Canada whose work challenges conventional discourse surrounding mental health and wellness. Curated by Sylvia Frey, Esmond Lee, and Laura Shintani, this year's exhibition redefines what mental health and wellness looks like. On view at the Workman Arts gallery, Artscape Youngplace from October 27 to November 6, the exhibition offers brave and bold windows into mental health and wellness through a variety of mediums. Inspired by the helplessness of being stuck on a hamster wheel, artist Boozie articulates their mental health through a series of drawings called *Losing it*. Jenny Chen's evocative animation *Multitude of Fish - Ascension Tale* explores the healing of past trauma and depression. Jessica Field uses poetry and A.I. rendered drawings in *My left-hand is talking and my right-hand is nurturing* to explore inexplicable illness, love, loss and the imagination's power to heal the body. The photo-based project *Chains & Crowns* by Stéphane Alexis is inspired and dedicated to the artist's mother, beautifully depicting the history, politics, science, and psychology behind Black hairstyles. Twinkle Banerjee explores the partition of India and subsequent generational trauma through her grandmother in *The things we carry with us*. Wen Tong's paintings *Cinnamon* depict everyday experiences in a suburban setting with fantastical interventions. *kind renderings* bring insight to the world around us by welcoming audiences into the artist's experience through these profound works.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: Artist Talk on October 29 (2:30 PM) at Workman Arts gallery, Artscape Youngplace.

LIVE PERFORMANCES

THE FLIN FLON COWBOY by Ken Harrower | 60 MIN | Live performance

WATCH IN-PERSON at the CAMH Auditorium

Saturday October 29, 5 PM

Tuesday November 1, 7 PM

Thursday November 3, 7 PM

The Flin Flon Cowboy is a new musical created and performed by Ken Harrower. This cabaret presentation centres around Ken's life, his mysterious origins in Flin Flon, Manitoba, his experiences as a child with a disability in the Winnipeg foster care system, and his adventures in Toronto searching for connections in the gay community while creating a life as an artist. The story touches on issues of consent, sexuality, queerness, mental health, addiction, forgiving others and oneself, and moving forward with accountability. Ken shares his experience with addiction and mental health with honesty, integrity, and grit. He does not shy away from the dark and difficulties that come with being a gay disabled person navigating this world.

Created and Performed	Ken Harrower
Written	Ken Harrower
	Erin Brandenburg
Music	Ken Harrower
	Johnny Spence
Directed	Erin Brandenburg
Musical Direction	Johnny Spence
Dramaturgy	Debbie Patterson
Lighting Design	Echo Zhou
Set/Costume Design	Michelle Tracey
Additional Set Design Elements	Sonja Rainey
Sound Design	Johnny Spence
Stage Management	Nazerah Carlisle
Video Design	Kejd Kuqo

Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=621>

PUBLIC SPEAKING THROUGH COMEDY by **MalPensando** | 120 MIN | Live performance
WATCH IN-PERSON Sunday, October 30, 7:00 PM at the Comedy Bar (945 Bloor Street West)

These students impressed in their Level 1 Grad Show and are now back for more! Come and witness 6 weeks of hard work and dedication boiled down to one amazing comedy night! These students will speak from the heart and (hope to) make you laugh till you drop!

Created by Juan Cajiao
 Stephan Dyer

This program was made possible by the generous support of The Slight Family Foundation in partnership with North York Arts.

Ticket Link: <https://comedybar.ca/shows/malpensando-grad-show>

A VOICE THROUGH THE MELT by **Anda Zeng & Natalie Wee** | 15 MIN | Live performance
WATCH IN-PERSON Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 PM at the CAMH Auditorium

A Voice Through The Melt is a collaboration between musician Anda Zeng and writer Natalie Wee, a multi-disciplinary piece incorporating spoken word and music. In this live performance spanning 11 to 12 minutes, the collaborating artists open new pathways for entering belonging, mental health, selfhood, and grief.

Spoken Word Artist Natalie Wee
Singer and Musician Anda Zeng

Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=646>

THE SUICIDE KEY by **Laura Piccinin** | 30 MIN | Live performance
WATCH IN-PERSON Wednesday, November 2, 7:30 PM at the CAMH Auditorium

The Suicide Key is a solo story-telling piece derived from a series of conversations between two close friends as one contemplates and plans her suicide. This dark comedy explores the depth of the human experience through the lens of mental illness and offers a commentary on the right to life, death, and happiness.

Creator and Performer Laura Piccinin
Dramaturg Cass Van Wyck

Image Design

Gabriella Okuda

Content Warnings

Swearing / Mature Language, Sexual Content, Suicide, Addiction

Subject Matter

Medical assistance in dying (and the right to die with dignity)

Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=647>

DON'T LET ME FALL TOO FAR by **Rosalind MacPhail** | 60 MIN | Live performance

WATCH IN-PERSON Wednesday, November 4, 8:00 PM at the CAMH Auditorium

A special live music and cinema event featuring Newfoundland's award-winning performer Rosalind MacPhail. *DON'T LET ME FALL TOO FAR* tells a timeless story of self-discovery experienced by a young woman navigating her way through a vulnerable period in her life. Haunting, lonely, dreamy, and deeply honest.

Live Performance

Rosalind MacPhail

Film

Raven Blue

Content Warnings

Strobe Lights

Ticket Link: <https://buy.workmanarts.com/TheatreManager/1/login?event=648>