

# 2024 RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS FESTIVAL

OCT 25 – NOV 3



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#SHINETOGETHER  
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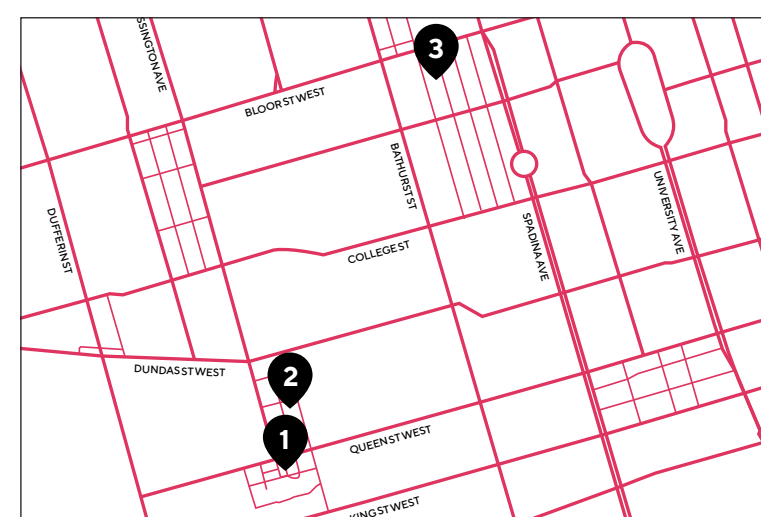
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**SPONSORS**



- 1 CAMH Auditorium / Workman Arts**  
1025 Queen Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, at Ossington  
TTC: Ossington Bus (63), Queen streetcar at Ossington
  - 2 Youngplace Hallway Galleries**  
180 Shaw Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
TTC: Ossington Bus (63), Queen streetcar at Shaw
  - 3 Tranzac Club**  
292 Brunswick Avenue  
TTC: Bloor Line (Subway Line 2: Spadina Station or Bathurst Station)
- All venues are accessible**



**Rendezvous with Madness** is the first and largest arts and mental health festival in North America. Using art as the entry point to illuminate and investigate the realities and mythologies surrounding mental illness and addiction, Rendezvous With Madness spotlights the human capacity for endurance in the face of great challenges.

This year’s tagline, “Shine ; Together”, reflects Rendezvous’s aim to illuminate often unseen narratives surrounding mental health, addiction, and recovery. Through creative expression, we shine a light on these experiences with all their complexities and nuances, helping us understand and share them in various ways.

The semicolon, a known symbol of suicide prevention, rests in the middle of a simple but powerful phrase. It stands as a symbol of hope during dark and challenging times, reminding us that our stories are not over. We are here, strong together, shining together. There is a light and the light is us.

FILM

Please check our website for details on which films will be available for streaming November 4-11



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

6:30 PM — OPENING NIGHT FILM + RECEPTION

**WaaPaKe (Tomorrow)**  
Dr. Jules Arita Koostachin | 2023 | Canada (Attawapiskat) | Documentary | 80 min | Cree and English with English subtitles  
In partnership with Shkaabe Makwa

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 5:30 PM  
Reception at 5 PM (all are welcome) with art, snacks and refreshments

Dr. Jules Arita Koostachin’s deeply personal documentary **WaaPaKe (Tomorrow)** asks the difficult question: “Who are we without our pain?” For generations, the suffering of residential school Survivors has radiated outward, impacting Indigenous families and communities. In **WaaPaKe (Tomorrow)**, Koostachin makes the difficult decision to step in front of the camera and participate in the circle of truth.

KEYWORDS: INDIGENOUS DOCUMENTARY, FAMILY, TRAUMA, ADDICTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

6 PM — FEATURE + SHORT

**1001 Days**  
Zikethiwe Ngcobo & Chloe White | 2023 | South Africa, United Kingdom | Documentary | 94 min | Zulu and English with English subtitles

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 5 PM

Unemployment, poverty, disease and domestic violence are commonplace in the township of Alexandra in Johannesburg. For young mothers, who often have to raise their children alone, they barely have time for themselves and their babies. A group of women from the Ububele Home Visiting program are working to transform the neighborhood by improving the mental well-being of mothers and their babies.

KEYWORDS: POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION, WOMEN’S ISSUES, STRESS, FAMILY

+ Short film — **Beyond Recall** | Ajay Kumar | 2024 | Canada | Fiction | 11 min | English

8 PM — FEATURE

**Drive Back Home**  
Michael Clowater | 2024 | Canada | Fiction | 100 min | English and French with English subtitles

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 7 PM

In the winter of 1970, a small-town plumber from rural New Brunswick must drive his beat-up work truck 1000 miles to Toronto to get his estranged, gay brother out of jail after being arrested for having sex in a public park. The two men are then forced to drive back home together at the behest of their hard-nosed mother before they kill each other. Inspired by a true story.

KEYWORDS: 2SLGBTQIA+ ISSUES, COMING OUT, TRAUMA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

5 PM — FEATURE + SHORT

**A Man Imagined**  
Brian M. Cassidy & Melanie Shatzky | 2023 | Canada | Documentary | 61 min | English and French with English subtitles

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 4 PM

A bracingly intimate and hallucinatory portrait of a man with schizophrenia surviving amidst urban detritus and decay. Pushing at the limits of non-fiction cinema, **A Man Imagined** follows 67-year-old Lloyd as he sells discarded objects to motorists and passersby. Unfolding along psychological lines, the film reveals the existential solitude of a man at once gentle and marred by a storied past.

KEYWORDS: SCHIZOPHRENIA, HOUSING, EXPERIMENTAL DOCUMENTARY

+ Short film — **Uncle Bardo** | Luke Mistrucci | 2024 | Canada | Documentary | 14 min | English

7:15 PM — FEATURE

**Malu**  
Pedro Freire | 2024 | Brazil | Fiction | 100 min | Brazilian Portuguese with English subtitles

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 6:15 PM

Writer-director Pedro Freire’s feature debut **Malu** offers a raw and emotional exploration of motherhood and the circumstances perpetuating transgenerational trauma. Amid the many sequences of emotional chaos, **Malu** emerges as a touching story about healing, forgiveness, and learning to see the people we love for who they truly are rather than who we expect them to be.

KEYWORDS: POVERTY, HOUSING, INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA, FAMILY, FICTION

+ Short film — **Mechanism** | Eva Grant | 2023 | Canada | Experimental | 5 min | English

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

6:30 PM — CENTREPIECE FILM + RECEPTION

**My Dad’s Tapes**  
Kurtis Watson | 2023 | Canada | Documentary | 82 min | English

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 5:30 PM  
Reception at 5:45 PM with light refreshments and snacks

On August 9, 2006, Leonard Watson dropped off his eight-year-old son Kurtis at summer camp. That’s the last time anyone saw Leonard. He was considered missing until 30 days later when he was found dead by apparent suicide. Fourteen years later, Kurtis Watson discovers a trove of home videos; **My Dad’s Tapes** documents the tremendously brave embrace of a reality in which some of our most burning questions may forever be unanswered. -HOT DOCS

KEYWORDS: FAMILY, SUICIDE, TRAUMA, YOUTH, DOCUMENTARY

9 PM — FEATURE + SHORT

**Ink, Blood and Socks (Ink, blod och strumpor)**  
Johan Ribe | 2023 | Sweden | Documentary | 68 min | Swedish with English subtitles

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 8 PM

Hanna Finn’s talent and charisma were undeniable from an early age. By the time she reached preschool, her creativity and sharp sense of humour were on full display. Now a young adult known as Psykos, she exists on the fringes, describing her life as one in a “parallel society.” Ribe’s documentary **Ink, Blood and Socks** chronicles Psykos’ struggles with addiction and her journey toward recovery.

KEYWORDS: HOMELESSNESS, ADDICTION, GRAFFITI, PUNK

+ Short film — **Off Suit** | Lou Estores & Brian Demoskoff | 2018 | Canada | Documentary | 3 min | English

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

5:30 PM — SHORTS

**Short Films from Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival**  
Various artists | Scotland | Documentary + Fiction | 60 min

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 4:30 PM

Join us for a program of short films from recent editions of the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival (SMHAF). Stick around afterward for discussions with staff from the festival who will talk about the films and share how the SMHAF is organized. This year’s Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival takes place across Scotland from 10 – 27 October 2024, exploring the theme of ‘In/Visible’. You can learn more at www.mhfestival.com.

8 PM — FEATURE + SHORT

**Bionico’s Bachata (La Bachata de Bionico)**  
Yoel Morales | 2024 | Dominican Republic | Experimental Fiction | 80 min | Spanish with English subtitles

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 7 PM

Bionico (Manuel Raposo) and his closest pal Calvita (El Napo) live their lives on the wild side, driven by their insatiable desire to get high, no matter the cost. Early on in the film, Bionico decides to turn his life around. He’s a romantic at heart, and he wants to clean up his act before the love of his life La Flaca (Ana Minier) completes rehab. To begin this new phase of life, he must find a job, buy an engagement ring, and find a nicer place to live. But making life-changing plans is easier said than done, as Bionico struggles to detox while facing an endless parade of temptations.

KEYWORDS: REHABILITATION, ADDICTION, RECOVERY, HYBRID FILM

+ Short film — **Chrystallid** | Esteban Powell | 2023 | Canada, Mexico | Experimental documentary | 7 min | Spanish with English subtitles

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

5:30 PM — SHORTS

**If You Ask Me**  
2024 | Canada | Short films | 60 min | World Premiere | English

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 4:30 PM

For the eighth consecutive year, **If You Ask Me (IYAM)** has supported emerging filmmakers with lived mental health and/or addiction experiences to create new short films. This year’s program features shorts by filmmakers from across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). These new films were developed from July – September 2024 under the guidance of Robin Riad, along with **IYAM** alumnus Esteban Powell serving as mentor. Equipment rentals and facilities were generously provided by our community sponsor and partner, LIFT.

Featuring artists: Cai Bell-Jerome, Noor Gath, Hanna Gulzar, Mio Muyobo, Katrina Rodriguez, Sydney Waters and Kurtis Watson

8:30 PM — FEATURE + DANCE PERFORMANCE

**Peter Doherty: Stranger in My Own Skin**  
Katia de Vidas | 2023 | France, United Kingdom | Documentary | 95 min | English

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 7 PM

As the lead singer of The Libertines and Babyshambles, Pete Doherty became the most iconic singer and rock n’ roll poet of his generation. Over a ten-year period, director Katia DeVidas – now Doherty’s wife – follows the musician as he attempts to overcome his addiction and relapses. Her unique access to Doherty provides a relentless insight into an addict’s struggle to overcome his demons without losing himself and his undeniable artistic genius in the process. -CPHDOX

KEYWORDS: ADDICTION, RECOVERY, MUSIC, DOCUMENTARY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

2 PM — SHORTS + OPEN MIC EVENT

**I don’t need to ask you to love me because I love myself**  
Workman Arts Artist Members | 2024 | Canada | Short films | 60 min | English

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 1 PM

The short film program **I don’t need to ask you to love me because I love myself** explores many different modes of filmmaking as a means to express emotions related to how we not only exist but thrive in a world filled with challenges, contradictions and conundrums.

Featuring artists: Jamila Balde, Christopher Beaulieu, Jeolyn Christi, Jet Coughlan, Brian Demoskoff, Gabe Gonçalves, Helen Posno, Zan Redcrow, Emily Schooley, Ardene Shapiro, Andrea Thompson and TK Workman.

+ **Spoken Word Open Mic** (4-5:30 pm) by Workman Arts artist members immediately follows this program.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

5 PM — FEATURE FILM + RECEPTION

**Aziz**  
Majid Tavakoli | 2023 | Iran | Fiction | 90 min | Farsi with English subtitles  
Co-presented with Intercultural Iranian Canadian Resource Centre (I2CRC.org)

CAMH Auditorium | 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 4 PM  
Reception at 3:30 PM with art, snacks and refreshments  
For reception tickets please phone 416-388-9314 (English and Farsi)

Aziz, an 80-year-old matriarch lives with progressive dementia and requires constant caregiving by her children. Anoush, her youngest son, who is about to get married, loves and takes care of his mother more than his siblings. Aziz lost her husband years ago and is suddenly professing her love to someone while her family engages in a search for this mysterious man. They eventually discover Aziz is in love with her younger son.

KEYWORDS: ALZHEIMER’S, AGING, CAREGIVING, FAMILY

VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 9 — FREE EXHIBITION



Curated by Fatma Hendawy  
Youngplace Hallway Galleries  
(180 Shaw Street, 3rd Floor)  
Image: Doves wear white by Jana Ghalayini

**The Looms We Resemble** is a group exhibition showcasing textile-based works by 6 artists who bring topics of belonging, the body, healing and ancestry. This unique exhibition is a work in progress as the artists developed their artworks during a weaving class led by instructor *Jana Ghalayini*. How can collective production of artworks precede curatorial themes and concepts, while we follow the slowness of weaving?

Weaving ideas, actions, memories, and stories together is a practice of care that we all share in time and space. This exhibition includes works by *Aga Forfa, Apanaki, Tara Hakim, Merle Harley, Saretta Khan* and *Helen Kong*. Our public programming includes a Storytelling Circle led by *Sarah Abusarar*.

Opening Reception: Sunday, November 3, 3 - 5 PM  
Curatorial Tour: Saturday, November 30, 2 - 4 PM  
Workshop: Storytelling Circle with Sarah Abusarar (check website for details)

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

10 PM — LIVE PERFORMANCE

**Public Speaking Thru Comedy**  
MalPensando | 2024 | 60 min

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 9 PM

Come and witness 8 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! Presented by MalPensando, a comedy school founded in 2014 in Toronto and led by international award-winning comedians that aims to empower individuals from all backgrounds through comedy.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8 PM — DANCE

**We Lost You A Long Time Ago**  
Nicole Decsey Dance Projects

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 7 PM

Opening for the feature film **Peter Doherty: Stranger in my Own Skin, We Lost You A Long Time Ago** follows the journey of a friendship’s abrupt ending due to mental illness and additions. Being unable to find any clarity or conclusion, the dancers move through a succession of grieving states – anger, blame, disgust, sorrow, and more – as it retraces memories within the messy aftermath.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

8 PM

**Rhythm of the Night** — MUSIC SHOWCASE + NIGHT MARKET

Tranzac Club | 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 8 PM

Mental health and addictions touch many people in many artistic industries, but it doesn’t always need to be a dark road to traverse. We can celebrate our talent, skills, passions, and craft together. Join us as we dance, headbang, and groove the night away with three diverse musical acts alongside a mini-night market featuring Workman Arts members.

Music curated by Smoking Room Only, a Toronto-based grassroots company focused on building, fostering, and promoting community and artists within the GTA’s incredible music scene.

ACCESSIBILITY

Rendezvous With Madness is committed to values of inclusivity and accessibility for all guests, staff, volunteers and artists. We are listening and learning from our community to help address barriers to access. Each event will have an active listener. We do our best to accommodate any interpretation, transportation assistance, navigation assistance, financial assistance, or any other accessibility needs by request.

If you have any questions about accessibility and/or access needs, please contact Daniella Zarubica at daniella\_zarubica@workmanarts.com. Learn more about our accessibility initiatives at **workmanarts.com**.

TICKETING

**Advance tickets** (options for FREE [limited quantity in advance], \$5 \$10, \$15) are available online with a credit card at **workmanarts.com**

**Phone** — 416-583-4339  
(Monday - Friday starting October 21, 12 - 5 PM)

**At the door** — Box Office opens one hour before each event (cash, debit and credit cards accepted, no one turned away unless sold out)

**Online workshops** — are free and open to the public, please see Workshop listings on our website for more information.

Health and Safety

We strongly recommend the use of face masks. Masking helps protect disabled and immunocompromised individuals in our community. Face masks (KN-95 and procedure) along with hand sanitizer and gloves will be freely available.

**ALL VENUES ARE ACCESSIBLE AND BARRIER FREE.**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Workman Arts is situated on lands that First Nations have occupied for millennia; lands rich in civilizations with knowledge of medicine, architecture, technology, and extensive trade routes throughout the Americas. Rendezvous with Madness takes place in what is now known as Toronto. Toronto is covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty No. 13 of 1805 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Today, Toronto is home to a vast diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis who enrich this city. Workman Arts is committed to reconciliation. We will strive to create new relationships and partnerships with First Nation, Inuit, and Métis to learn how to incorporate the healing traditions of ancestors into our programming and practice.