

RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS FESTIVAL DISRUPT THE FOCUS OCT. 23- NOV. 2



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ARTWORK BY
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GRÜVI



- 1 CAMH Auditorium / Workman Arts**
1025 Queen Street West, 2nd floor, at Ossington
TTC: Ossington Bus (63), Queen streetcar at Ossington
 - 2 Tranzac Club**
292 Brunswick Avenue
TTC: Bloor Line (Subway Line 2: Spadina Station or Bathurst Station)
 - 3 32 Lisgar Street**
Workman Arts Offsite, 32 Lisgar Street, 2nd Floor,
south of Queen Street West
TTC: Ossington Bus (63), Queen streetcar (501) to Abell Street
-  All venues are accessible and barrier free.

RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

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.

The theme of Rendezvous 2025 is “**Disrupt the Focus**”, a statement that questions which narratives are emphasized, and which are silenced.

Rendezvous With Madness continues to be a platform for artists, whose lived experience expands our understanding of living with mental health and addiction. To disrupt the focus is to challenge the systems that define and contain what it means to live with madness, to interrogate the stories that have been written about us rather than by us. Every artist featured in Rendezvous 2025 is a disruptor. They move beyond acceptable narratives of resilience and recovery to confront the intersectionality of lived experience.

TICKETING

All tickets to screenings and performances are pay what you wish at the door starting one hour before the event.
Advance tickets (Free in limited quantity in advance, \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20) are available online with a credit card at workmanarts.com. Suggested donation \$10-15. Special events may feature different pricing.
Phone: 416-583-4339 (Monday – Friday starting October 20, 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.

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. Many 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 Jenna Reid at jenna_reid@workmanarts.com. Learn more about our accessibility initiatives at workmanarts.com.

VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

OCT 23 – NOV 30

FREE EXHIBITION

Lingering Echoes
Curated by Nicole Marchesseau and Fatma Hendawy

This group exhibition brings together five artists’ personal sound-centered artworks. After an intensive course “Sounding Spaces” led by Nicole Marchesseau, artists Aliyah Aziz, Ghislan Sutherland-Timm, Middle, Tanya Workman and Winta Hagos developed their installations to best suit the possibilities of the gallery space. ***Lingering Echoes*** introduces speculation into how different sonic elements might exist together within a contained space.

Please visit workmanarts.com for more information.

32 Lisgar Street, 2nd floor | 1 – 6 PM, Thursdays to Sundays
Opening Reception: Thursday, October 23, 5-8 PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCT 10, 7:30 PM

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY SCREENING + FUNDRAISER

Village Keeper
Karen Chapman | 2024 | Canada | Fiction | 83 minutes | English

Beverly-Jean is a single mother struggling to raise her teenage daughter and son in Toronto’s Lawrence Heights community. Beverly-Jean loves her children with all that she has, but her unprocessed trauma manifests in overbearing ways, eroding her relationships with her kids. Director Karen Chapman’s narrative feature debut, *Village Keeper*, is a compassionate and deeply authentic portrait of resilience.

Keywords: Black mental health, trauma, income inequality, racism

Tickets:
Reception + Film – Early Bird: \$30; Regular: \$40; Day of: \$50
Film Only – Tiered suggested pricing: \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20

CAMH Auditorium, 1025 Queen Street West | Box office for film opens at 6 PM
Reception: 5:30 PM – 7 PM with performance, art auction, special raffle prize, snacks and refreshments and more.

SUNDAY, OCT 26, 7:30 PM

INTERACTIVE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE

No More News for Nancy With
Keira Marie Forde

Nancy is a Biracial Gen Z-Millennial cusp with an unhealthy relationship to news and digital media. Through spoken word, dance, and music, Nancy confronts the emotional and psychological toll of systemic neglect and media oversaturation while offering space for grace, compassion, lived experience and snacks.

CAMH Lobby, 1025 Queen Street West, 1st floor

THURSDAY OCT 30, 7:30 PM

INSTALLATION, SONIC ART, PERFORMANCE

Sandpaper Hammock
With Aliyah Aziz

Everything has a voice. Combining poetry and improvised sound, Aliyah’s work is both a protest and an assertion of agency in the face of racialized violence—interrogating the cruel ‘sanding down’ of BIPOC pain that is perpetuated through our technology and media. Sound is the assertion of life in honor of voice that exists through Sandpaper Hammock.

Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue, Livingroom

FRIDAY OCT 31, 8 PM

MUSIC, ALBUM LAUNCH + PARTY

A Night at the Mad House

8 PM – 9 PM | **Farewell Stange Hotel by Ben E. Wood** | Farewell Strange Hotel is a dreamlike companion to crisis and recovery, drawing aesthetic inspiration from folk-punk, clowny 90s rock and psychedelic anti-folk. Sometimes recovery walks a circular path. Ben will walk with you.

9:30PM – 11:30PM | **Mad Haus Halloween Bash! Hosted by Sucka Queen** | We’re all mad here, why not flaunt it? Come #GETMAD with us on the dancefloor this Halloween as we Lip Sync for our Life, or give us your best vogue on our Cat Walk-Off.

Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue

SATURDAY NOV 1, 8 PM

MUSIC SHOWCASE + NIGHT MARKET

Rhythm of the Night

With Vivek Mehmi, SAM-R and Superfraud

We disrupt the focus and challenge stigma placed on our community by daring to connect and have fun doing it. Get ready to dance, headbang, and groove the night away with a host of diverse musical acts alongside a mini-night market featuring Workman Arts members and people of the broader Mad community.

Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue

HEALTH + SAFETY

We recommend the use of face masks at indoor events. 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.

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.

FILMS

Please check our website for details on which films will be available for streaming across Ontario from **November 3-15, 2025**.

THURSDAY, OCT 23, 7 PM

OPENING NIGHT PROGRAM



#skoden

Damien Eagle Bear | 2025 | Canada | Documentary | 76 minutes | English
In partnership with Shkaabe Makwa

#skoden tells the story of Pernel Bad Arm, the Blackfoot man behind the infamous “Skoden” meme. What started out as a social media post to bond Indigenous people across Turtle Island opened our eyes to something much more: a man whose life on the streets became a mockery to some and a figure of Indigenous empowerment to others but was most beloved by those who knew him personally.

Keywords: Internet culture, houselessness, addiction, systemic racism

SCREENING WTH SHORT FILM – **The Fourth World Problems Collective**
Kira Doxator | 2024 | Canada | Fiction | 7 minutes | English

CAMH Auditorium, 1025 Queen Street West
Reception: 5 PM with music, snacks and refreshments; box office for film opens at 6 PM

FRIDAY, OCT 24, 6:15 PM

CENTREPIECE PROGRAM

Love, Harold

Alan Zweig | 2025 | Canada | Documentary | 90 minutes | English

Award-winning Canadian documentarian Alan Zweig explores the nature of grief and helplessness after an old friend commits suicide. In an effort to answer the elusive but persistent question of ‘why?’, *Love, Harold* is a cinematic love letter to those we’ve lost but also a tribute to those left behind to pick up the pieces.

Keywords: Suicide, grief, love, community

SCREENING WTH SHORT FILM – **Ghost**
Stephanie Quilliams | 2025 | Canada | Animated short | 3 minutes | English

CAMH Auditorium, 1025 Queen Street West | Box office for film opens at 5:15 PM
Reception: 5 PM

FRIDAY, OCT 24, 9 PM

DOCUMENTARY + SHORT

Writing Hawa

Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori | 2024 | Afghanistan, Qatar, France, Netherlands | Documentary
84 minutes | Farsi with English subtitles

Writing Hawa is the story of three generations of Hazara women from the same family in Afghanistan. Forty years after her arranged marriage as a child, Hawa finally begins an independent life and begins studies to become literate. But with the return of the Taliban to power, her dreams, along with those of her daughter and granddaughter, are shattered as they face new daunting struggles.

Keywords: Activism, Family, Trauma, Youth, Feminism

SCREENING WTH SHORT FILM – **Hatch**
Panta Mosleh, Alireza Kazempour | 2024 | Canada | Fiction | 10 minutes

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

SATURDAY, OCT 25, 6 PM

DOCUMENTARY

The Secret of Me

Grace Hughes-Hallett | 2025 | United Kingdom | Documentary | 80 minutes | English

After demanding his medical records, Jim discovers that like many intersex people, a gender presentation, carried out through invasive operations, was constructed for him in childhood. *The Secret of Me* highlights the problem of a binary understanding of gender and questions who it is that tells us who we are.’ – SHEFFIELD DOC FESTIVAL

Keywords: Intersex, medical ethics, gender

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

SATURDAY, OCT 25, 8:30 PM

FICTIONAL DRAMA + SHORT

Shadowbox (Bakshy Bondi)

Tanushree Das & Saumyananda Sahi | 2025 | India | Fiction | 93 minutes | Bengali & Hindi with English subtitles

This brand-new feature delves into the ramifications of one family’s intense experience with mental health. It follows Maya, a multitasking mother who lives in Kolkata with her husband, Sundar and their teenage son, Debu. She juggles three jobs while dealing with ostracization and rumours about Sundar, an unemployed ex-soldier suffering from PTSD. *Shadowbox* is a poignant yet tense film that exposes prejudice and peels back the layers of obligation, love, and the complexities of relationships.

Keywords: Trauma, family, PTSD

SCREENING WTH SHORT FILM – **Adieu Ugarit**
Samy Benammar | 2025 | Quebec/Canada | Documentary | 15 minutes

CAMH Auditorium, 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 7:30 PM

FILMS – continued

SUNDAY, OCT 26, 5 PM

DOCUMENTARY

Shuffle

Benjamin Flaherty | 2025 | United States | Documentary | 81 minutes | English

How can you break the cycle of addiction when the system built to help you is stacked against you? As a recovering addict himself, Flaherty has a personal stake in uncovering the predatory nature of this faux-compassionate industry. As he chronicles the stories of three users and multiple whistleblowers, the filmmaker paints a chilling portrait of organizations prioritizing profit over people.

Keywords: Rehab, insurance fraud, addiction, recovery

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

SUNDAY, OCT 26, 8:30 PM

FICTIONAL DRAMA + SHORT

The Devil Smokes (and Saves the Burnt Matches in the Same Box)

Ernesto Martínez Bucio | 2025 | Mexico | Drama | 97 minutes | Spanish

Five children struggle to maintain any sense of normalcy after their mother, Judith disappears one summer night. Their father, Emiliano goes off in pursuit of his missing wife, leaving the siblings with their grandmother, Romana. It’s soon clear that Romana’s mental health challenges leave her in no condition to care for five rambunctious kids. It falls on the elder siblings Victor and Vanessa to step up and try to keep the family together.

Keywords: Schizophrenia, family, childhood

SCREENING WTH SHORT FILM – **Semillas (Seeds)**

Esteban Powell, Francisca Rojas, Ruben Dario Chavez-Munoz | 2024 | Canada
Documentary | 11 minutes | English, Spanish

CAMH Auditorium, 1025 Queen Street West | Box office opens at 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCT 29, 7 PM

DOCUMENTARY

Paul

Denis Côté | 2025 | Canada | Documentary | 87 minutes | French, English

Denis Côté’s documentary *Paul* finds its eponymous protagonist, who struggles with depression and social anxiety, figuring out how to take control of his life. He finds solace in taking on the role of a “simp” (a man who excessively dotes on someone who doesn’t reciprocate their affection). *Paul* is an inspiring portrait of someone having the bravery to defy social norms in the pursuit of self-fulfillment.

Keywords: Depression, social anxiety, housework, dominatrix

Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 6 PM

THURSDAY, OCT 30, 5:30 PM

SHORTS PROGRAM

If You Ask Me

2025 | Canada | Short films | 60 minutes | World Premiere | English

For the ninth consecutive year, *If You Ask Me* (IYAM) has supported emerging filmmakers from the GTA with lived mental health and/or addiction experiences to create new short films. Filmmakers developed their work under the guidance of Robin Riad and Esteban Powell, with equipment and facilities generously provided by our community sponsor LIFT.

Featuring artists: Amreen Kullar, Edna Bovas, Imogen Lister, Jonathan Bent-Ford, Jessi Elgood, Jessica Wu, Leo Dean

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

THURSDAY, OCT 30, 8:30 PM

DOCUMENTARY

Comme entendre à travers une feuille de métal (Like hearing through sheet metal)

Mariane Béliveau | 2024 | Québec/Canada | Documentary | 83 minutes | French with English subtitles

Filmmaker Mariane Béliveau delivers an extraordinarily compassionate look at three Quebecers and their roller-coaster relationships with substance abuse and mental health. Béliveau joins Martin “Lion” Lapointe, Marianne Desroches, and M as they navigate their everyday lives with honesty and vulnerability. Rarely has a documentary provided such an in-depth, personal and riveting perspective on the frustrating nature of the cycle of addiction.

Keywords: Addiction, harm reduction, drug use

Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Avenue | Box office opens at 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, OCT 31, 5:30 PM

FICTIONAL DRAMA + SHORT

How To Be Normal & The Oddness Of The Other World

Florian Pochlatko | 2025 | Austria | Fiction | 102 minutes | German and English

How can you define normal when our current reality is so increasingly unreal? That’s the question facing 20-something Pia as she moves back in with her parents in an effort to rebalance and rebuild her life after a stint in a psychiatric hospital. Filmmaker Florian Pochlatko’s debut feature film – featuring an outstanding lead performance by Luisa-Celine Garron – deftly balances humour, drama, and some wildly creative visuals as it explores the truly complex nature of life, identity, and relationships.

Keywords: Social stigma, identity, self-discovery

SCREENING WTH SHORT FILM – **The Last Day**

Mahmoud Ibrahim | 2024 | Egypt | Documentary | 5 minutes | Arabic

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

SATURDAY, NOV 1, 2 PM

SHORTS PROGRAM

Poetic Proclamations - Short Films by Workman Arts Members

2025 | Canada | Short films | 60 minutes | English

Our annual short film program celebrating films by Workman Arts’ member artists!

“Poetic Proclamations” features nine films exploring a wide palette of creations including documentary, fiction, animation, spoken word and 360-degree cinema. An all-encompassing range of poetic, personal and transformational expressions that not only disrupt common narratives around mental health they also embody the connections of what it means to connect, critique and commiserate in a mad world.

Featured artists: TK Workman, Gavin Seal, Serena McCarroll, Ace Kakzayasi, Andrea Thompson, Brian Demoskoff, Ishaa Vinod, Zan Redcrow, Emmanuel Teji

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

SUNDAY, NOV 2, 5 PM

FICTIONAL DRAMA

Diapason

Hamed Tehrani | 2019 | Iran | Fiction | 90 minutes | Farsi with English subtitles
In partnership with the Intercultural Iranian Canadian Resource Centre (I2CRC.org)

Rana is a middle-aged woman holding a high-ranking position at a major bank. Her husband left when she was pregnant with their daughter and she has been raising Hoda alone. An accident at an amusement park ends fatally for Hoda and Rana’s life is turned upside down. As if the pain and tragedy of losing her only daughter was not enough, Rana must also face the absurdity of the laws and traditions in her country.

Keywords: Trauma, Family, Loss, Grief, Gender

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