



# TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## FUTURE PROJECTIONS

# Film as art and installation

**MURRAY WHYTE**  
VISUAL ARTS CRITIC

Every year, the Toronto International Film Festival goes to some effort to signal that festival-going isn't just about celebrity feeding frenzies — only 95 per cent of it is. For an event such as TIFF, which serves as a staging ground for superstars and blockbusters on the grandest scale, that's actually not a bad ratio. The other stuff finds its expression most clearly with Future Projections, a collection of off-site film installations and exhibitions sprinkled throughout the city's private galleries and artist-run centres.

TIFF collaborates with the institu-

tions and foots a portion of the bill, helping to provide some sense, at least, that film isn't exclusively narrative, two hours long and impossible to get into without waiting in line overnight: Future Projections is open to the public and blissfully free.

Following, a few of the many to be seen by well-known locals:

**1. Buffalo Days**, Peter Lynch, at the Royal Ontario Museum's Thorsell Spirit House

Splayed on the odd-angled walls of Daniel Libeskind's idiosyncratic Crystal, Peter Lynch's three-channel video piece would be confusing if not for the renowned documentarian's



**Peter Lynch's Buffalo Days makes potent use of old animal bones.**

forthright image-making. On the middle screen, cows meander past a desiccated skeleton heaped in long grass. On the left, a figure holds a bison skull in front of a Rocky Mountain vista, and on the right, prairie grasses flutter in the breeze. The soundtrack, the thundering hooves of a buffalo stampede, is a blunt underscore of Lynch's point: In a post-colonial landscape, all that remains

of the natural order is its ghosts. All fine, but Lynch's polemic of modernity versus nature is most effectively plied when you look down: Through the Spirit House's floor grate, an eerily lit buffalo boneyard is piled deep in the building's concrete canyon. Awesome.

**2. Road Movie**, Elle Flanders and Tamira Sawatzky, an off-site project of O'Born Contemporary and the National Film Board at 51 Wolsley St.

Flanders and Sawatzky spent a year in the Palestinian village of Ramallah, in the West Bank, criss-crossing the territory inside the Israeli security barrier to collect the stories and experiences of a people whose non-status within Israel extends to their mobility. The roads in *Road Movie* are both the bumpy single-lane tracks Palestinians are confined to and the superhighways built for the exclusive use of Israelis to whip through the West Bank en route to settlements.

Unspooling simultaneously on six screens, the piece is sure to enrage pro-Israel factions (Flanders herself is Jewish), but the experience is immersive, riveting and only occasionally pedantic. Given its subject, this is a victory all on its own.

**3. Plot Against Time**, David Rokeby, at the Drake Hotel

A Governor-General's Award winner, Rokeby has been at the fore of complex, multimedia experimentation for the bulk of his career. Here he presents a cycle of four films in which motion is captured in a continuum of bleeding light. Bugs flit about his backyard in jerky streaks, tourists trail thick swaths as they meander Venice's Piazza San Marco, snowflakes tumble downward in long, fluid streaks between Mies van der Rohe's austere black TD towers. A new piece, with gannets keening and diving off the cliffs of Newfoundland, has similar visual drama.

## EVENTS

**ANNUAL PIONEER FESTIVAL** returns this year and is full of delicious food, including homemade pies, sausages, apple butter, handmade ice cream and more. There is also a fast-paced quilt auction and horse-drawn wagon rides. Sept. 17. \$11-\$15. Black Creek Pioneer Village, 1000 Murray Ross Pkwy.

**APPLICIOUS** The fall festival is back for its fourth year with family-friendly activities. There is live entertainment, apple sack races, apple tosses, Giant Snakes and Ladders and more. Sept. 17. Free. Woodbine Park, corner of Lakeshore Blvd. and Coxwell Ave. [applegrovecc.ca/applicious](http://applegrovecc.ca/applicious)

**AUTHORS AT HARBOURFRONT: SEBASTIAN BARRY** Author, poet and playwright Sebastian Barry reads from his latest novel *On Canaan's Side*. With CBC's Eleanor Wachtel, he discusses the decade-spanning story of a woman who visits her past while trying to make sense of the troubles in her life. Sept. 21. \$10. Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W.

**BLOOR WEST VILLAGE UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL** The largest Ukrainian festival in North America is back for the 15th year, taking over Bloor West Village. From Glendowynne Road to Jane Street, Bloor West is transformed with Ukrainian performers, dancers, musicians, food vendors, arts and crafts and more. Sept. 16. Free. Various locations in Bloor West Village. [ukrainianfestival.com](http://ukrainianfestival.com)

### CABBAGETOWN TOUR OF HOMES

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association is launching the 33rd annual tour through the best houses the neighbourhood has to offer. The Victorian homes are chosen based on their aesthetic and historical appeal. Sept. 18. \$30. Various locations in Cabbagetown. [cabbagetownpa.ca](http://cabbagetownpa.ca)

**CARIBBEANTALES 2011** presents the unique Caribbean Tales Market Access Programme during the Toronto International Film Festival. The event features panel discussions, a speed-dating pitch session, a Caribbean-themed party and sneak peaks of new films from the Caribbean. Until Sept. 17. Various prices. Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W.

**KISMET WEDDING SHOW** Featuring wedding vendors, a bridal fashion show and *Kismet* magazine, this bridal event is Canada's largest South Asian wedding show. Sept. 18. Various prices. International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga. [internationalcentre.com](http://internationalcentre.com)

**LUNCH TIME LIVE** Take a lunch break in Yonge-Dundas Square and hear some of Canada's best jazz, country, boss nova, rock 'n' roll in one hour sets. On Sept. 21, check out the Toronto Table Ensemble. Sept. 21. Free. Yonge-Dundas Square, 40 Dundas St. W.

**MISSISSAUGA HOME FESTIVAL** This old-fashioned festival celebrates fall with games, blacksmith demonstrations, cooking in a historic kitchen, wagon rides and more. Visitors can enjoy crafts, music by singer Arlene Paculan and jazz guitarist Rob Tardik, and explore the historic gar-

dens and log cabins. Sept. 17. Free. Bradley Museum, 1620 Orr Rd., Mississauga.

**MY LITTLE PONY LIVE** Canadian Family Magazine throws a family-friendly party for its 15th birthday, featuring My Little Pony Live. The 30-minute interactive musical stars the ponies Twilight Sparkle, Rainbow Dash and Applejack. Sept. 18. Free. Evergreen Brick Works, 550 Bayview Ave.

**NIAGARA WINE FESTIVAL** is a gathering place for oenophiles of all stripes. The festival features more than 100 events, including winery tours, tastings, concerts, seminars, artisan shows and one of Canada's largest street parades. Sept. 16-25. Free. Various locations in Niagara-on-the-Lake. [niagarawinefestival.com](http://niagarawinefestival.com)

**PATRIA O LIBERTAD!** is a collection of video works about how the world is dealing with nationalism as an important challenge of our time. The videos show the new rise in patriotism as a consequence of immigration, globalization and economic recession. Sept. 9-Oct. 30. Free. Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, 952 Queen St. W.

**MARTHA SCHABAS** Meet author Martha Schabas as she reads from her award-winning debut novel *Various Positions*. The intense novel takes the reader inside the beauty and brutality of professional ballet, as a young woman looks for her place in the world. Sept. 15. Free. Toronto Public Library, Barbara Frum Branch, 20 Covington Rd.

**SHARKS AT STINGRAY BAY** Stingray Bay is open for another season, with

nurse, cownose and bonnethead sharks and southern stingrays. Until Oct. 10. \$13-\$23. Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave.

**SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP 2011** This exclusive event, presented by LouLou Magazine, features discounts, prizes and goodie bags from select stores in Yorkville. Sept. 21. Free. Various locations in Yorkville. [shopdroploulou.ca](http://shopdroploulou.ca)

**STIFFED! FILM FESTIVAL** gives "rejected" filmmakers a chance to showcase their works. The independent films cover all genres all will screen back-to-back, with drinks and catered light appetizers from the venue. Sept. 18. \$15. The Annex Wreck Room, 794 Bathurst St. [stiffedfilmfest.com](http://stiffedfilmfest.com)

**SUPER CELLS: THE WONDER OF STEM CELLS** To honour the 50th anniversary of the discovery of stem cells by Canadian scientists, scientists and artists collaborate for an informative exhibit, featuring textile arts, medical illustration, fashion, and science that explores what stem cells are and what they mean. Until Oct. 2. \$13-\$20. Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd.

**TERRY FOX RUN** The annual tradition continues this fall, with runners joining forces to raise money for cancer research. The Terry Fox Foundation has raised over \$500 million to date. Sept. 18. Free. Various locations in Toronto. [terryfox.org/run](http://terryfox.org/run)

**TET TRUNG THU: THE MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION** is also known as the Moon or Lantern Festival, and is celebrated annually throughout East Asia. The festival includes making paper lanterns and

moon shaped cookies, music and dance performances and more. Sept. 17. Free. Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W.

**TORONTO BEER WEEK** is back this fall for a series of events showcasing the city's breweries, pubs and beers in the craft beer movement. Highlights of this year's festival include the Festival of Craft Breweries at C'est What and the Barrel Bragging Rights at The Monk's Table. Sept. 16-24. Various prices. Various locations in Toronto. [torontobeerweek.com](http://torontobeerweek.com)

**TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** Hollywood takes over the streets of Toronto once again, as celebrities and stargazers roll into town for TIFF. Famous familiar faces flood the streets for 11 days, along with thousands of fans hoping to catch a glimpse of their favourite stars. Until Sept. 18. Various prices. Various locations in Toronto. [www.tiff.net](http://www.tiff.net)

**TORONTO URBAN FILM FESTIVAL** is a week-long micro festival during TIFF where short films are screened on TTC platforms across the city. Now in its sixth year, TUFF screens over 60 short films on 300 screens. All films are exactly one minute long and silent. Until Sept. 18. Free. Various locations in Toronto. [torontourbanfilmfestival.com](http://torontourbanfilmfestival.com)

**WORLD CAFE** During the Hot Spot Summer Festival series at the Harbourfront, patrons can indulge in fine food from around the world. Chefs from Toronto's multicultural restaurants come to this outdoor cafe to cook up some of their specialty items. Until Oct. 9. Various prices. Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W.