



Backgrounder for FCFF

2022

- London Ontario's Forest City Film Festival celebrates the art of cinema through a regional lens with a focus on national and global films and filmmakers connected to Southwestern Ontario. We honour success, showcase new, compelling artists and inspire future ones.
- The FCFF is entering its seventh season and will screen 85 films, many with a connection to Southwestern Ontario.
- A new exciting program called BEST OF THE WORLD FESTS will bring 14 films to London from major film festivals around the world.
- Presenting partner, XRM Media, brings connections to the international film industry including the short film platform, Argo, to the ways that FCFF supports SWO filmmakers.
- The in-person event, from Oct. 15-23, showcases features, documentaries, animations, short films, and music videos.
- The virtual, on-demand streaming is available from October 24-29th for those who missed films or couldn't attend in person. Many, but not all of the films will be available to screen this way this year. Streaming is available Canada-wide.
- This is the largest number of days that the FCFF has ever been. Last year we were 6 days.
- The festival will open with a screening of the comedy THE PRANK. This film premiered at SXSW this year and stars London-born Connor Kalopsis and Rita Moreno of West Side Story fame... The Hollywood producer and director along with Connor will be the special guests for opening night this year.
- The fourth edition of the Forest City YOUTH Film Festival for high school students from Southwestern Ontario will take place on Thursday, October 20 with screenings of the top five films in each of the five categories. Awards totaling more than \$5,500 will be given to the top young filmmakers in the region.
- The inaugural Ontario Youth Film Festival will take place this year with both Forest City YOUTH Film Festival winners along with the Central Ontario Youth Short Film Festival winners competing for the BEST YOUTH FILMS IN ONTARIO!
- We have a fantastic collection of Indigenous screenings, supported by Canada Council, over two programs curated and hosted by Oneida filmmaker, Judith Schuyler. An opening Thanksgiving blessing will be given by Oneida elder Lotünd.
- The ONTARIO SCREEN CREATORS CONFERENCE is expanding to include gaming and interactive sessions along with music sessions. It has 14 events starting on Friday, October 21 and running until Sunday October 23. This is brought to London with presenting partner Film London and the support of the Canadian Media Fund and Ontario Creates.
- \$60,000 in prizes will be given to one winner of the Project Pitch contest for the best feature film project that is ready to go to camera in London, Ontario. The pitches will be presented live on October 24, and will be judged by nationally renowned industry professionals. This is the LARGEST Feature Film Pitch Prize in Canada!
- The festival has also worked to connect the once disparate film sector. Filmmakers now have a venue and event to celebrate and network, connecting with each other at screenings as well as at the OSCC.



Quotes from FCFF

A total first-class local experience. The FCFF has grown into a premier festival embracing creative work from the region. With extensive programming and panels, the festival is an amazing experience for the local film community.

- Ed Platero, filmmaker & FCFF alumnus (from FilmFreeway.com)

What a wonderful festival! I submitted because filmmaker friends had told me what a wonderful time they had at the festival. They were not wrong. Excellent screening venues, wonderful panels (and panelists) to attend and a great chance to meet your fellow filmmakers. I had a wonderful time and will be submitting again very soon.

- Gavin Booth, filmmaker & FCFF alumnus (from FilmFreeway.com)

We are really excited to come back to see films the way they should be screened. In-person, with an audience, in a theatre with the smell of popcorn wafting through the air. We decided that this "comeback year" needed to be big and boisterous to give our community something impactful and memorable to highlight moving out of difficult times. The fantastic films and the awesome events will fit that bill perfectly.

- Dorothy Downs, Executive Director, FCFF, OSCC, OYFF