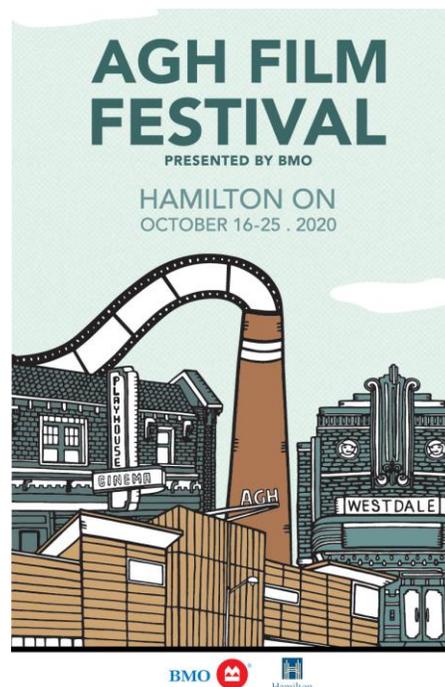


Full Steam Ahead for Art Gallery of Hamilton's Film Festival this October! October 16 to 25, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 26, 2020

Over the past 12 years, the Art Gallery of Hamilton has presented the best in international, independent, and Canadian film, and brought hundreds of films to multiple unique venues across Hamilton in celebration of the annual AGH Film Festival. This year, the Festival may not take place in indoor theatres, but the AGH wants to assure audiences, it will still happen. The 12th Annual AGH Film Festival will run from October 16 – 25, 2020.

“The Gallery is so grateful to our supporters and sponsors who recognize that despite COVID-19 restrictions, culture is still a necessity, and in fact, we are relying on culture even more now that we are isolated or limited in our movement,” says AGH President and CEO Shelley Falconer. “It is our responsibility as an arts institution to preserve these cultural events as best we can, understanding that they can unite our community in powerful ways.”





Art Gallery of Hamilton

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As Hamilton's largest showcase of film and film-related programming, the AGH Film Festival has welcomed over 70,000 attendees, screened over 400 films, and worked with more than 100 community and corporate partners over the past 12 years. In the past, the Festival has included an array of talks, panels, performances, parties, and other activities; fostered community, engaged critical dialogue, and promoted cultural diversity throughout Hamilton and beyond. The AGH is committed to bringing these aspects again this year, albeit through alternative scenarios due to COVID-19.

"We have a renewed commitment from our lead funder, BMO Financial Group, and a confirmed partnership with both the Westdale and Playhouse Cinemas, regardless of the social distance protocols," says Ryan Ferguson, AGH Film Curator. "Given that we've had a large increase in the number of film submissions this year, and our weekly Online Film Series has been streaming exclusive content since March, we are confident that we can deliver a Film Festival with the depth and relevance that our audiences expect. It's exciting, and we believe the AGH Film Festival will be a great fall 'staycation' opportunity."

In addition to the range of short and feature-length films from across Canada and the world, this year's Festival will include an expanded Youth Film Challenge, educational screening opportunities for schools, and an array of special events that will socially connect audiences not only to filmmakers, but also create unique social opportunities to explore local restaurants, businesses, and community initiatives.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton will deliver more details on the structure of the 2020 AGH Film Festival in August.

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About the Art Gallery of Hamilton:

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in southern Ontario. Its permanent collection, which is focused on historical Canadian, 19th-century European, and International and contemporary art, numbers more than 10,000 works and is recognized as one of Canada's finest. The AGH is a vital creative hub and centre of lifelong learning that enables people of all ages to enrich their lives by gaining a deeper understanding of art. The Gallery is supported by the City of Hamilton, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.

For more information, please visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com.

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[#AGHFilmFest](https://www.facebook.com/AGHFilm)

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