

LGBTQ+

2021-2022

THIS ECLECTIC SELECTION OF FILMS SPANS THE DECADES AND THE GLOBE, FROM CANADA IN THE SIXTIES TO PRESENT-DAY SYRIA, TO TELL THE COURAGEOUS AND POWERFUL STORIES OF LGBTQ+ PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVES.



INTO LIGHT

19 MIN | 2021 | SHEONA MCDONALD | NFB

When a child reveals who they truly are on the inside, how does a parent set aside their own expectations to help them become their most authentic self? Sheona McDonald's documentary captures a season of change as a mother and child navigate the complexities of gender identity together.



SOMEONE LIKE ME

80 MIN | 2021 | SEAN HORLOR & STEVE J. ADAMS | NFB

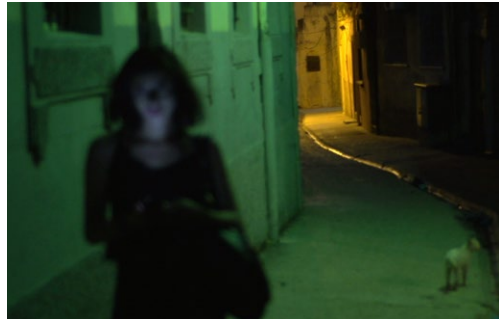
Someone Like Me follows the parallel journeys of Drake, a gay asylum seeker from Uganda, and a group of strangers from Vancouver's queer community who are tasked with supporting his resettlement in Canada. Together, they embark on a year-long quest for personal freedom, revealing how in a world where one must constantly fight for the right to exist, survival itself becomes a victory.



BEAUTY

23 MIN | 2018 | CHRISTINA WILLINGS | NFB | ENGLISH

In a world of fixed positions and prescribed roles, expanding the definition of gender requires the courage to dive deep into understanding and acceptance. This documentary explores the lives of five gender-creative kids, each uniquely engaged in shaping their ideas of what it means to be fully human. Playful, goofy, loving and brave—each of these remarkable kids has found their own way to break free and show the world what it really means to be your true self.



THE AMINA PROFILE

86 MIN + 52 MIN | 2015 | SOPHIE DERASPE | NFB, ESPERAMOS FILMS, LES FILMS DU 3 MARS | ENGLISH

Syrian-American revolutionary Amina Arraf launches the provocatively titled blog *A Gay Girl in Damascus*, and as the Syrian uprising gains momentum, the blog attracts a huge following. But it's Amina's subsequent abduction that sparks an international outcry to free her. Telling a detective story involving various intelligence agencies and global media outlets, the film travels around the world in a quest to reveal the real Amina.



ALONE, TOGETHER

25 MIN | 2001 | PAUL ÉMILE D'ENTREMONT | NFB | ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Alone, Together charts the quests of two Acadians: Simon, who is trying to come to terms with his sexuality, and Cynthia, who is searching for her biological mother. The filmmaker sees himself in Simon and Cynthia who, each in their own way, seek answers to the existential questions: Who am I? Where do I belong?



APPLES AND ORANGES

17 MIN | 2003 | LYNNE FERNIE | NFB | ENGLISH

This film is designed to raise children's awareness of the harmful effects of homophobia and gender-related intolerance and bullying. During a class discussion, children's paintings magically dissolve into two short animated stories. In *Anta's Revenge*, Anta finds out that creativity is the best way to deal with a school bully, while *Defying Gravity* tells the tale of two friends whose relationship comes to a screeching halt when one of them finds out the other is gay.



LAST CHANCE

85 MIN | 2012 | PAUL ÉMILE D'ENTREMONT | NFB | ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This film travels the world to tell the stories of five asylum seekers who flee their native countries to escape homophobic violence. In Canada, they face hurdles integrating into society and fear deportation. As they anxiously await a decision in their refugee claims, they remain hopeful that their adopted land will show mercy. *Last Chance* gives voice to sexual minorities who refuse to deny their core identity, as they boldly assert their differences against all odds.



LONG TIME COMIN'

52 MIN | 1993 | DIONNE BRAND | NFB | ENGLISH

There is a cultural revolution going on in Canada, and Faith Nolan and Grace Channer are on the leading edge. These two African-Canadian lesbian artists give back to art its most urgent meanings—commitment and passion. Grace Channer's large and sensuous canvasses and musician Faith Nolan's gritty and joyous blues propel this documentary into the spheres of poetry and dance. *Long Time Comin'* captures their work and their friendship through intimate conversations with both artists.



LOVE, SCOTT

77 MIN | 2017 | LAURA MARIE WAYNE | NFB

Scott Jones is a young musician who was left paralyzed from the waist down by a homophobic attack in small-town Canada. Filmed by Scott's best friend, this documentary offers a rare and intimate window into the journey of healing, bearing witness to the transformation of a young man's life and creating meaningful dialogue around queer experience and hate crime.



STANDING ON THE LINE

52 MIN • 81 MIN | 2018 | PAUL ÉMILE D'ENTREMONT | NFB

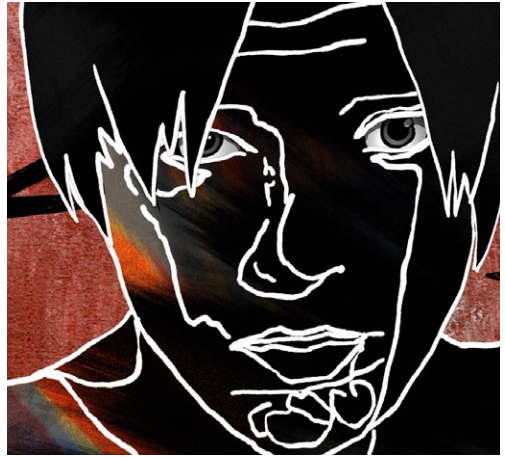
This doc about homophobia in sports explores the difficulty and impact of coming out in this macho world. Through a series of touching personal stories, the film examines homophobia both in elite sports and among student athletes, specifically at L'Odysée, a school in Moncton, NB, that promotes diversity and inclusion.



I AM SKYLAR

15 MIN | 2019 | RACHEL BOWER | NFB

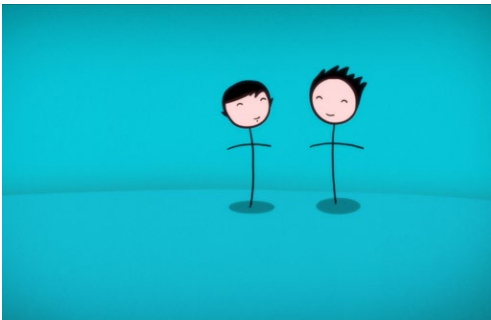
I Am Skylar is the emotionally compelling story of an articulate 14-year-old girl who is thoughtfully defining her future and the woman she is to become. Surrounded by a family and a community who show her unconditional love as she follows her personal path, Skylar faces the complexities of being a transgender girl on the cusp of puberty with refreshing honesty and unshakeable dignity.



SHANNON AMEN

15 MIN | 2019 | CHRIS DAINTY | NFB

Shannon Amen unearths the passionate and pained expressions of a young woman overwhelmed by guilt and anxiety as she struggles to reconcile her sexual identity with her religious faith. A loving elegy to a friend lost to suicide.



A SHORT FILM ABOUT TEGAN & SARA

4 MIN | 2018 | ANN MARIE FLEMING | NFB

Filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming animates the formative days and musical career of Calgary-born twins Tegan and Sara Quin. Their remarkable journey over the past 20 years has often intersected with notions of identity—as artists, as individuals, as sisters, as queer women, and as leading activists in the LGBTQ community. Their musical progression amplifies their commitment to bringing the marginal to the mainstream.



UN/TIED SHOES

2019 | EVIE RUDDY | NFB

Growing up, Evie Ruddy didn't quite feel like a girl, or a boy, and resisted gendered expectations. Only recently, with the growing awareness of non-binary identities, did Evie move toward a more androgynous gender performance and begin using they/them pronouns. *Un/tied Shoes* tells the story of how gender conventions have impacted Evie's life, with footwear as markers along the way. nfb.ca/shoes



HANDMADE MOUNTAIN

6 MIN | 2019 | MICHÈLE PEARSON CLARKE | NFB

In *Handmade Mountain*, Michèle Pearson Clarke explores the emotional fallout of being both early to gay marriage and early to gay divorce. Fifteen years after same-sex marriage became legal, she and friends reflect on its personal and political meaning in this experimental film.



WOMAN DRESS

6 MIN | 2019 | THIRZA CUTHAND | NFB

Pre-contact, a Two Spirit person named Woman Dress travels the Plains, gathering and sharing stories. Featuring archival images and dramatized re-enactments, this film shares a Cuthand family oral story, honouring and respecting Woman Dress without imposing colonial binaries on them.



THE BASSINET

6 MIN | 2019 | TIFFANY HSIUNG | NFB

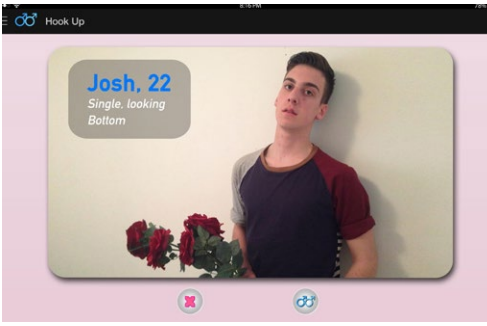
When a vintage bassinet appears at filmmaker Tiffany Hsiung and long-time fiancée Victoria Mata's home, it sets off a chain reaction of emotions. *The Bassinet* is a gentle and affecting story about Tiffany's personal struggle with the intersection of her sexual orientation and cultural identity, and the cross-generational burden of having a baby in the context of rigid social constructs of marriage and family.



REVIVING THE ROOST

6 MIN | 2019 | VIVEK SHRAYA | NFB

Filmmaker and bestselling author Vivek Shraya's ode to a popular Edmonton gay bar that closed in 2007. With pulsating neon-light animation, *Reviving the Roost* is a story about community complexity and longing, and an elegy to a lost space.



THE HOOK UP

6 MIN | 2019 | MICHAEL V. SMITH | NFB

The Hook Up is an experimental doc featuring four gay men from two different generations: two nearing age 70 and two 20-somethings. Striking close-up visuals create a powerful sense of intimacy and connection as the men discuss how hooking up has (and has not) evolved for gay men.

PAULA

9 MIN | 2018 | SCOTT MUNN | NFB

Before her operation, Paula was the husband, father, son and neighbour known as Paul. Now, she's the only transgender person her community has ever met.



NIISH MANIDOOWAG (TWO-SPIRITED BEINGS)

5 MIN | 2017 | DEBBIE S. MISHIBINIJIMA | NFB

Two spirited youth discuss how the confrontations within their community have affected their ability to learn their culture. Before the settlers arrived to Turtle Island (or North America), there was a Two Spirit Society in many tribal communities. The Two Spirited people were treated with respect. Once a child had reached the age of puberty, a special ceremony was held. *Niish Manidoowag* speaks to the real issues that transgender youth face in their life.



MANIVALD

13 MIN | 2017 | CHINTIS LUNDGREN | NFB, CHINTIS LUNDGREN ANIMATSIIONISTUUDIO, ADRIATIC ANIMATION

Overeducated and unemployed, Manivald lives with his overbearing mother. When their washing machine breaks down one day, Toomas the repairman arrives to fix it, and them. Original English version.



MEN FOR SALE

145 MIN | 2009 | RODRIGUE JEAN | NFB, INFORMATION FILMS INC. | ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This doc follows 11 male sex-trade workers over the course of a year, recounting their struggle to survive alcohol and drug-related addictions, abuse and stigmatization. Trapped in a vicious circle of prostitution and drugs, they pursue their hardscrabble lives, knowing their prospects for the future are dim. An unflinching portrait that avoids both voyeurism and false sympathy, *Men for Sale* acknowledges those whom society prefers to ignore.



MULTIPLE CHOICES: FAMILIES

13 MIN | 1995 | ALISON BURNS | NFB | ENGLISH

As one participant puts it, “Family are the people you can blame everything on, but who you still love at the end of the day.” This chapter looks at the many new, and old, configurations of family as participants discuss the “ideal” family, functional and dysfunctional families, the nuclear family and extended families, and non-traditional families, resulting from divorce and remarriage, gay relationships, etc.



MULTIPLE CHOICES: PICTURE PERFECT

12 MIN | 1995 | ALISON BURNS | NFB | ENGLISH

It's never easy reconciling fairy tales to reality, especially when the reality is, to say the least, complicated. You know things are tough when young people don't expect a good relationship, let alone a perfect one, because as one young woman puts it, "all good things must come to an end." Participants discuss their expectations of marriage, gay relationships, and how the changing roles (and role models) of men and women have affected marital responsibilities.



MULTIPLE CHOICES: THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY

13 MIN | 1995 | ALISON BURNS | NFB | ENGLISH

Raising kids in this society is an often daunting task. Each of us has different reasons for choosing to be—or not to be—parents. Participants discuss their parent-child relationships, single parenting by choice, gay or lesbian parents, and teenage parenting.



MY PRAIRIE HOME

76 MIN | 2013 | CHELSEA MCMULLAN | NFB | ENGLISH

Award-winning filmmaker Chelsea McMullan takes audiences on a poetic journey through landscapes both real and emotional in this intimate portrait of transgender singer Rae Spoon. Neither a concert film nor a conventional biographical doc, this documentary-musical occupies a beautiful space in between. *My Prairie Home* is as bracingly personal and reflective as the songs of this acclaimed musician, who was born in Alberta and raised in a troubled and deeply religious home.



VARIATIONS ON A FAMILIAR THEME

58 MIN | 1995 | CARMEN GARCIA; GERMAN GUTIERREZ | NFB | ENGLISH (DUBBED)

Single-parent, same-sex, blended, common-law, disabled, intercultural, traditional... today's family defies definition. Meet Lóic, who has two mothers and no father. Véronique and Marcel have children whose voices they cannot hear. Helen, who lost and subsequently recovered her children, counsels Indigenous families in crisis. Through portraits of seven very different families, this engaging documentary shows that, no matter what form it may take, the family is still the mainstay of the individual.

WHEN LOVE IS GAY

49 MIN | 1995 | LAURENT GAGLIARDI | NFB | ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This doc explodes myths about gay love as it explores relationships between men—from long-standing monogamous partnerships to brief encounters. Men of all ages talk openly about being gay and the difficulty of self-acceptance in a straight, often homophobic society. A film with broad emotional sweep, *When Love Is Gay* allows viewers to examine their own reactions to the people and situations on screen. This film contains explicit sexual scenes.



WHEN SHIRLEY MET FLORENCE

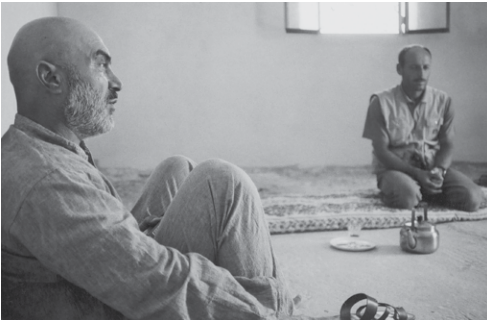
27 MIN | 1994 | RONIT BEZALEL | NFB | ENGLISH

A romance? Yes and no. A friendship? Not exactly. Meet Shirley and Florence, whose lifelong attachment to one another defies categorization. *When Shirley Met Florence* offers an intimate portrait of two women in their mid-sixties—one lesbian, the other heterosexual—whose love for one another and the music they create together transcends differences.

WHY THEE WED?

50 MIN | 2005 | CAL GARINGAN | NFB | ENGLISH

In 2003, British Columbia became the second Canadian province to recognize same-sex marriage. Filmmaker Cal Garingan looks beyond the headlines and introduces the eight couples who challenged the law in court. Why did they plunge into a scorching debate that meant their lives would be publicly judged? What does it mean to them to exchange marriage vows? As controversy swirls around this issue worldwide, *Why Thee Wed?* offers surprising and diverse perspectives on what it means for gay and lesbian couples to walk down the aisle.



ZERO DEGREES OF SEPARATION

90 MIN | 2005 | ELLE FLANDERS | NFB, GRAPHIC PICTURES | ENGLISH

This film breaks with the sensationalistic media coverage of the violence in the Middle East by documenting the everyday lives of two gay Palestinian-Israeli couples. Faced with modern injustices of work visas, checkpoints, harassment and prejudices, these courageous and outspoken individuals resist attempts at oppression and take small steps each day to build a sense of peace, mutual respect and hope.

SEX SPELLED OUT FOR PARENTS: PROGRAM FOUR – INTERMEDIATES

27 MIN | 1999 | ELAINE GANS | CARSON STREET PRODUCTIONS LTD. | ENGLISH

Have you been meaning to talk with your kids about sex, but aren't quite sure how to go about it? These programs will get you started. Sexual health educator and bestselling author Meg Hickling, R.N., helps parents deal with this difficult subject. Meg suggests ways to approach different age groups and tackles tough questions like "Do you and Dad do it?" with the humour, tact, and expertise that have made her a legend in sex education.



SHE AND I

7 MIN | 2008 | MARIE-PIER OTTAWA | NFB, CORPORATION WAPIKONI MOBILE | ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In the Manawan community of the Atikamekw Nation, a stormy same-sex relationship leads to the suicide of one person, leaving the other assailed by doubts, ashamed and fearful.

SOLO

13 MIN | 1995 | ALISON BURNS | NFB | ENGLISH

Atif Siddiqi enjoys taking the starring role in his film *Solo*, which begins with a friendly therapy session focusing on intimacy issues. As a performance and video artist, he revels in sharing his dreams and fantasies in his search to Mr. Right. Melding documentary footage with personal history and performance art, *Solo* honours the fragility of self-discovery, celebrating one gay man's creative journey to self-realization—with or without Mr. Perfect.



STICKS AND STONES

17 MIN | 2001 | JAN PADGETT | NFB | ENGLISH

Children learn from subtle clues what society thinks about gender roles, same-sex parents and family differences. The children in *Sticks and Stones* vividly describe how it feels to be teased when their families don't follow traditional gender roles. They talk about why bullies indulge in name-calling, and what they think should be done about it. By showing that they know what's wrong, the children challenge educators, parents and other kids to act positively to make schools and playgrounds safe and welcoming for everyone.



NEW ROMANCE: ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL ROLES

34 MIN | 1975 | JANET WALCZEWSKI, SUSAN GABORI | NFB | ENGLISH

This is a finely drawn study of people and the solutions they bring to the problems in their lives. It explores relationships, gay and straight, and suggests that individuals possess the intrinsic right to be what they are. It asks the very pertinent question: Do individuals in this society have a right to think, feel and act differently?



ONE OF THEM

25 MIN | 2000 | ELISE SWERHONE | NFB | ENGLISH

Freedom from bullying and violence motivates the high school seniors in this school-based drama. Jamie is shocked when she and her best friend become victims of homophobic name-calling, but she must face up to her own reactions as she realizes that her friend is "one of them" and needs her support. Set firmly in the context of human rights and freedom from discrimination, *One of Them* raises the questions that high school students talk about in school halls and washrooms.



OPEN SECRETS

52 MIN | 2003 | JOSÉ TORREALBA | NFB | ENGLISH

This provocative film uncovers a lost chapter in Canadian military history: how the Armed Forces dealt with gay soldiers, during and after World War II. A group of veterans break their silence after more than 60 years: we hear from five men who were barely adults when they enlisted. From the sexual timidity of the 1930s, when being gay "was even more unmentionable than cancer," spring these stories of sexual awakening amidst the brutality of war.



PICTURE THIS

34 MIN | 2017 | JARI OSBORNE | NFB | ENGLISH

What does it mean to be disabled and desirable? In *Picture This* we meet Andrew Gurza, a self-described “queer cripple” who has made it his mission to make sex and disability part of the public discourse. Andrew has embraced his role as a poster boy for the cause, and we follow him as he plans the second edition of Justify My Love, a sex-positive play party that the international media was quick to call a “handicapped orgy” when it launched.



FORBIDDEN LOVE: THE UNASHAMED STORIES OF LESBIAN LIVES

85 MIN | 1992 | AERLYN WEISSMAN, LYNNE FERNIE | NFB | ENGLISH

This feature documentary delves into the rich history of Canadian queer women's experiences in the mid-20th century. Contemporary interviews, archival footage, and a stylized fictional narrative based on the pulp novels of the 1950s are woven throughout this simultaneously funny, heartbreaking, and empowering film. *Forbidden Love* brings an important and empowering history of lesbian sexuality in Canada out of the closet.



IN OTHER WORDS

27 MIN | 2001 | JAN PADGETT | NFB | ENGLISH

Name-calling and cruel language hurt, say the teens who speak in this film. Homophobic language is a common verbal put-down among young people, but many adults feel uncomfortable responding. Moving interviews with gay, lesbian and transgender teens provide first-hand accounts. Weaving together slang, media images and dictionary definitions, the film examines how language shapes attitude. *In Other Words* aims to foster change and ensure that schools are safe places where youth can learn in a climate of respect.



I LIKE GIRLS

8 MIN | 2016 | DIANE OBOMSAWIN | NFB | ENGLISH

First love is an intoxicating experience, but with it can come excruciating awkwardness, unrequited emotions, and confusing issues of identity. Evoking all the raw intensity and heart-pounding excitement of falling in love for the very first time, this uplifting film will resonate with lovers everywhere.



JOHN AND MICHAEL

10 MIN | 2004 | SHIRA AVNI | NFB | ENGLISH

A gentle tale of love told in halting words, *John and Michael* pays homage to two men with Down's syndrome who shared an intimate and profoundly loving relationship that deeply affected the filmmaker. Animated with clay backlit on glass, the film shimmers like stained glass in motion. Narrator Brian Davis, also intellectually challenged, brings the men alive with great sensitivity, and the audience shares in the various emotions that infuse their everyday living.



THE COMPANY OF STRANGERS

101 MIN | 1990 | CYNTHIA SCOTT | NFB | ENGLISH

A bus breaks down in the wilderness and eight elderly women are stranded at a deserted farmhouse. They have only their wits, their memories, and eventually some roasted frogs' legs to sustain them. Through the long days and nights, this remarkable group of strangers share their life stories and exchange intimate thoughts, turning the crisis into a magical time. This memorable film dissolves the barrier between fiction and reality, weaving a heartwarming tale of friendship and courage.



CURE FOR LOVE

59 MIN | 2008 | FRANCINE PELLETIER, CHRISTINA WILLINGS | NFB, EARTH TO SKY PICTURES INC. | ENGLISH

There's a bride, a groom and the usual happy crowd of well-wishers. But this is no ordinary wedding. Ana and Brian are adherents to a controversial evangelical movement that purports to convert gay people into heterosexuals. *Cure for Love* goes inside this unusual Christian subculture and follows the lives of several gay young people, fashioning a nuanced critique of 21st-century fundamentalism through their moving testimony.



FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

82 MIN | 1994 | WILLIAM D. MACGILLIVRAY | NFB | ENGLISH

A family can take many forms, whether as a tightly-knit "traditional" rural family, a single mother and her daughter, a same-sex couple with three children, or a large "blended" family. This film takes us on an intimate journey into the homes and lives of seven families, challenging our views about what family is and what it will be in generations to come.



FIRST STORIES: TWO SPIRITED

7 MIN | 2007 | SHARON A. DESJARLAIS | NFB | ENGLISH

This short tells the empowering story of Rodney "Geeyo" Poucette's struggle against prejudice in the Indigenous community as a two-spirited person. After registering as a dancer in the Kamloopa Powwow under the Jingle Dress category (normally reserved for women), Geeyo is deeply humiliated by a misguided elder. But he is reminded by his grandmother that two-spirited people were once respected and honoured for their spiritual gifts, and he eventually makes a triumphant return to the powwow arena.

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