



NATIONAL CANADIAN FILM DAY 2018

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGIONS SHORTLIST

For our 2018 edition of National Canadian Film Day (NCFD), we're offering our Legion partners a diverse shortlist on several themes. We're sure that you'll find something on it that your communities will love.

For our 2018 edition, NCFD is shining a spotlight on the achievements of women in Canadian film. We're pleased to offer you two great films directed by women: *LONG TIME RUNNING* and *MAUDIE*. This year we're also celebrating the 100th anniversary of the NHL with three hockey-themed crowd-pleasers: *GOON*, *THE HOCKEY NOMAD* and *THE ROCKET*. And last but certainly not least, we're throwing in two additional films that have been all-time faves with our audiences across Canada: *MEN WITH BROOMS* and *REMEMBER*.

Synopses for the shortlisted films are included below for your consideration.

LONG TIME RUNNING

Directors: Jennifer Baichwal & Nick de Pencier | Year: 2017 | 97min

LONG TIME RUNNING chronicles the emotional and epic 2016 tour that the beloved Canadian rock band The Tragically Hip embarked on after iconic frontman Gord Downie announced that he had been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Intimate moments, behind-the-scenes and on-stage footage, personal interviews with the band and close friends reveal the heart-breaking final performances of that now-legendary final tour.

No other band encapsulated the rugged soul of Canada quite like the Hip, and it was completely in character for Downie – the everyman poet laureate of Canada – to go out on his own terms, with a powerfully galvanizing tour that delivered some of the most exhilarating performances of the band's history.

"Long Time Running, named after a languid blues song from the band's second album, is both a history lesson and a eulogy for a group with 16 Juno Awards to its credit." – Brad Wheeler, *The Globe and Mail*

MAUDIE

Director: Aisling Walsh | Year: 2016 | 115min

Maudie is based on the true story of Nova Scotia painter Maud Lewis, who overcame the physical challenge of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis to become one of Canada's best known and most loved folk artists.

The fragile but determined Maudie (Sally Hawkins) yearns for independence from her over-protective family and dreams of creating art. When she answers an ad for a housekeeper placed by a reclusive fish seller (Ethan Hawke), she gains more than just the freedom she wanted, as the unlikely pair develops a relationship that is intensely intimate and just as challenging.

A touching and inspiring story about following one's dreams in spite of life's obstacles, MAUDIE is an absolute charmer.

"*Maudie* breaks your heart with its infectious positivity." – Tomris Laffly, *Time Out*

GOON

Director: Michael Dowse | Year: 2011 | 92min

A brawny misfit among his brainy family members, lovable bouncer Doug "The Thug" Glatt (Sean William Scott) dreams of the kind of success enjoyed by minor league hockey goon Ross "The Boss" Rhea (Liev Schreiber). When a chance encounter on the ice leads to a bloody fight that he easily wins, Doug ends up with a shot at the big (minor league) time, as an enforcer for the Halifax Highlanders.

His potential is hampered only by his lack of actual hockey skills, but Doug manages to join the team and become a rising star (with the encouragement of his hockey-obsessed best bud (Jay Baruchel). Soon, Doug will have a chance to face off against the Boss and maybe even fall in love with the cool-as-ice Eva (Alison Pill). All he needs to do is learn to skate! You'll fall in love with this raunchy, riotous comedy that's big on character and even bigger on heart.

"I laughed so hard I almost injured myself. My distinguished colleague fell out of his chair." – Sean Burns, *Philadelphia Weekly*

THE HOCKEY NOMAD

Director: Mike Downie | Year: 2003 | 58min

This charming hour-long documentary is based on Dave Bidini's bestselling book *Tropic of Hockey*, and follows Dave as he travels around the world exploring the ways in which his beloved game of hockey has taken root in different cultures.

Dave's quest takes him far from the corporate branded arenas and millionaire players of professional hockey to lesser-known rinks in Dubai, Transylvania and Mongolia. In each locale, he explores the origin of the local game and meets the eccentric and passionate people who play it.

If you're a fan of the sport, you're sure to love this heartfelt exploration of hockey's international legacy. The film won the Gemini Award for Best Sports Documentary in 2003.

THE ROCKET

Director: Charles Binamé | Year: 2005 | 124min

THE ROCKET traces the meteoric rise of hockey legend Maurice Richard (Roy Dupuis), from his humble beginnings as a Montreal machinist during the Depression to star of the Canadiens and the greatest scorer in hockey.

But this is much more than a sports movie. Director Charles Binamé frames the story in a cultural context: It isn't until Richard, a man of few words, begins to speak his mind about the inequalities and prejudice directed toward French Canadians that he finds his voice.

Many feel that the riots caused by Richard's suspension in 1955 were the spark that fuelled the Quiet Revolution in Quebec. This hockey blockbuster is chock-full of heart and history.

The Rocket was nominated for 13 Genie Awards and won nine.

MEN WITH BROOMS

Director: Paul Gross | Year: 2002 | 103min

After the success of the TV series *Due South*, Paul Gross went on to create this mainstream Canadian comedy hit, with romance, music (the Tragically Hip appear as a rival team) and, of course, curling.

When Chris Cutter (Gross) returns to his small hometown to bury his former curling coach, he is inspired to reunite the old team to try to win the Golden Broom. Nothing has been the same in town since Chris's departure 10 years earlier – Chris's old teammates and his own father (Leslie Nielsen) are disappointed in life, and the coach's daughters, Amy (Molly Parker) and Julie (Michelle Nolden), have become, respectively, a drunk and an astronaut. Despite the odds, the rag-tag group of misfits unites to compete in the championship, with heartwarming and hilarious results.

"Paul Gross has produced a well crafted gem ... *Men With Brooms* is a film for everybody. It's the kind of film that makes you proud to be, well, not from somewhere else." – Bruce Deachman, *The Calgary Herald*

REMEMBER

Director: Atom Egoyan | Year: 2015 | 94min

With the help of a fellow Holocaust survivor (Martin Landau), Zev Guttman (Christopher Plummer) embarks on a cross-country odyssey to find the former Nazi responsible for the deaths of their family members.

But Guttman suffers from memory loss, which makes his hunt for his former nemesis more difficult and adds another layer of suspense to his mission. A journey that will keep you on the edge of your seat, REMEMBER's plot twists and incredible performances are simply unforgettable.

This powerful film won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Screenplay.

"This is one of those rare mainstream releases that gets everything right, right down to its knockout ending." — Scott Marks, *San Diego Reader*