



OFFA INTRODUCES FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FILM SERIES CELEBRATING WOMEN-LED FILMS EVERY FRIDAY IN MARCH

The Oakville Festivals of Film & Art ([OFFA Online](https://www.offaonline.com)) launches its first Women's Film Series, celebrating HER-stories every Friday in March, 2021, in celebration of International Women's Day and #ChooseToChallenge

OAKVILLE, ON—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE— OFFA, the Oakville Festivals of Film and Art, is celebrating International Women's Day all month long with the launch of the [International Women's Day \(IWD\) Film Series](#). Film buffs across the country get a front row seat to the premieres of four movies that have been curated for this event.

Cinephiles and film fans can purchase a discounted all-access pass or gift a night of "mixers, music and a movie" to a friend, family, colleague, or even a Community Hero, with partial proceeds from the sale of a full access pass being donated to the *United Way Halton/Hamilton: Women United*. The 2021 event supports this year's IWD theme, #ChooseToChallenge, showcasing talented women from Canada and around the world and supporting equity and inclusion for all.

Every Friday during the month of March, OFFA will be showcasing three Canadian produced or co-produced films, and one international film, at 7:30pm EST. The series will highlight woman-focused story-telling and exposition from diverse directors who support women, showcasing Canada's real female stories, voices, and the talents of women-identifying film industry professionals who are often underrepresented in the film and TV industry.

In 2019, the center for the Study of Women in Television and Film updated their findings from a 2018 study that found that women's employment behind the screen of top grossing films and TV for over 20 years, was still quite dismal, but growing. The 2018 study reported women make up (from the top 250 films):

- 8% of directors
- 16% of writers
- 4% of cinematographers
- 26% of producers
- 21% of executive producers
- 21% of editors

According to OFFA Executive Director and Programmer Wendy Donnan, "by shining a light on international female driven story lines and supporting a local charity that helps women and children, OFFA is hoping to bring more female-led stories, talent and perspectives to mainstream audiences."

Each Friday, a different film will be screened at 7:30pm EST, preceded by an introduction to each event. Starting at 7:15pm EST, attendees will be treated to a pre-show virtual cocktail mixer with cocktail making and a toast by Zirkova Vodka co-founder Katherine Vellinga, and featuring a musical performance by a different Canadian female performing artist each week, including: Boluwatife Adefemi, Sydney Mae, Semiah Smith, and Rozette. Each film will be followed by a Q&A with some of the directors, screen-writers, actors or others affiliated with the film production.

The stellar lineup for this year's International Women's Day Film Series includes:

Friday, March 5th: [Sugar Daddy](#) - Ontario digital festival Premiere- Helmed by Vancouver Director [Wendy Morgan](#) and written by actor Kelly McCormack who also stars in the film opposite Colm Feore. The film centres on issues related to financial hardship and dependency for women, especially single women trying to make it on their own. According to Director Morgan, the film reflects "feminism in the modern consciousness". Director Wendy Morgan, writer/actress/producer Kelly McCormack, assistant director Lauren Guyatt and Gemini-award winning actor Colm Feore are confirmed for the Q&A.

Friday, March 12th: [My Salinger Year](#) - An Canada/Ireland co-production, this film focuses on the personal growth of a young female poet who works for Salinger's publishing house. Writer Joanna Rakoff crafts a nostalgic, engaging coming-of-age story that personalizes the maturation process of a young female writer. The film stars Margaret Qualley (daughter of actress Andie MacDowell) oscar-nominee Sigourney Weaver, Gemini award-winner Colme Feore (*Chicago, Bon Cop, Bad Cop*), and Hull, Quebec born Director Philippe Falardeau.

Friday, March 19th: [Little Orphans](#) - An exceptional drama from St. Johns, Newfoundland which focuses on 3 sisters dealing with childhood abandonment by their mother, and issues of substance abuse and personal growth. This incredible film is the first feature for Director Ruth Lawrence and writer Emily Bridger, who also stars in the film opposite Marthe Bernard (Republic of Doyle) and Rhiannon Morgan (*Black Conflux*). The Q&A includes Director Ruth Lawrence, producer Jennifer Hawley, and actresses Marthe Bernard and Rhiannon Morgan.

Friday, March 26th: [Six Minutes to Midnight](#). Canadian Festival Digital Premiere- Based on a true story, Judi Dench plays a British woman headmistress of a finishing school for girls, a boarding school that houses daughters of the leaders of the Third Reich (German girls- innocent of any crimes) during the time leading up to the declaration of the Second World War. (pre-taped Q&A due to UK participants).

To purchase passes or tickets, go to: offa.ca. Images and logos are available in our [media gallery](#).

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If you'd like to learn more about this online festival, speak to any of our organizers, film-makers or actors, or if you'd like to plan out an interactive virtual segment or interview, please contact:

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ABOUT OFFA

Established in 2014, OFFA is a cultural not-for-profit that envisions a community of cultural and artistic diversity with the cinematic arts as a focal point. OFFA produces Oakville's only independent film festival which is now in its 8th year, and is now a hybrid festival, featuring live and digital events. **For**

**more information on this year's 8th annual hybrid festival which is set to happen June 23-29th, the longest festival yet at seven days and over 70 films, please visit OFFA.ca. @oakvillefestivals
#OFFAonline #OakvilleFilmFestival**