

# SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL MONTREAL

## SAFFM 2026 — IN CINEMA PROGRAMME

Weekends of May 1–3 & May 8–10, 2026 • JA De Sève Cinema, Concordia University  
1400 Boul. de Maisonneuve West, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

Suggested donation \$5–10 at the door • Festival Pass (all screenings): \$35 [CLICK HERE](#)

TIME SLOT	FILM(S)	SYNOPSIS	DUR.
<b>Friday, 1 May 2026</b>			
<b>19:00</b> Evening	<b>Pinch</b> Fiction   India   Hindi Dir: Utera Singh • 80 min	During Navratri in India, travel blogger Maitri Singh clashes with her mother, avoids a creepy landlord, and accidentally triggers a mob.	<b>80 min</b>
<b>Saturday, 2 May 2026</b>			
<b>13:00</b> Noon	<b>Rising Through the Fray</b> Documentary   Canada   English Dir: Courtney Montour • 88 min	Indigenous Rising, the first borderless roller derby team uniting skaters from over 30 Indigenous Nations, made history at the Roller Derby World Cup. Director Courtney Montour weaves energetic gameplay with stories of displacement, healing, and belonging — a film about identity, intergenerational trauma, and the transformative power of community.	<b>88 min</b>
<b>16:00</b> Afternoon	<b>No Space to Pray</b> Documentary   India   Hindi Dir: Raunaq Singh Chopra, Devanshi Yadav • 40 min	The Muslim community in Gurugram faces a severe shortage of mosques, forcing worshippers to pray in open spaces — until they face resistance.	<b>65 min</b>
	<b>I Fear Blue Skies</b> Fiction   Canada   Pashto, Persian Dir: Salar Pashtoonar • 12 min	Amid the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, a desperate civilian seeks a Taliban permit hoping it will secure his family's evacuation.	
	<b>On the Mountain</b> Fiction   13 min Dir: Anya Raza	Rabia is put to the test when forced to choose between saving the life she once knew and protecting those she loves.	
<b>19:00</b> Evening	<b>Flames</b> Fiction   India   Hindi Dir: Ravi Shankar Kaushik • 86 min	Mahesh, a mute farm worker, is forced to flee to protect his son who gets accused of a murder he did not commit.	<b>101 min</b>
	<b>The Cycle</b> Fiction   India   Punjabi Dir: Arpita Mukherjee • 15 min	A day in the life of a young Punjabi housewife in Chandigarh, obsessively revisiting a past trauma through a recurring nightmare.	
<b>Sunday, 3 May 2026</b>			
<b>13:00</b> Noon	<b>The Anti Expedition</b> Documentary   Canada   English, Norwegian, Tibetan Dir: Elena Jean • 40 min	Explores a sacred Himalayan valley through intertwined stories of past and present climbers, challenging the mythology of conquest.	<b>109 min</b>
	<b>Butterfly Bhutan</b> Documentary   Bhutan   Dzongkha Dir: Sonam Yangzom • 30 min	A man's quiet yet determined struggle to correct a deeply rooted injustice in Bhutan's butterfly taxonomy.	
	<b>The Mother, The Sons, and the Holy River</b> Documentary   Pakistan   Punjabi Dir: Natasha Javed, Nirmal Bano • 16 min	A journey to the heart of river Sutlej and its banks, meeting those whose lives are shaped by its waters and myths.	
	<b>Room at the Farm</b> Fiction   India   Punjabi Dir: Jasmine Kaur Roy, Avinash Roy • 23 min	Just like his deceased father, Nihal is desperately trying to break the vicious cycle of debt and hang on to his small parcel of farmland. Nihal's refusal to accept the futility of the fight is putting a strain on his recent marriage and testing the patience of his wife, Reet. 'Khooh Waala Ghar' (Room at the Farm) is the story of a young couple as they struggle to express love in the face of hardship and uncertainty of the future. The film is also about the last stand of a community against the tide of rampant development and inevitable change.	
<b>16:00</b> Afternoon	<b>Pinjar — The Cage</b> Fiction   India   Bengali, Hindi Dir: Rudrajit Roy • 137 min	An evocative meditation on captivity — of bodies, of spirits, of choices — unfolding through the entangled lives of five individuals and a wild bird.	<b>137 min</b>
<b>19:00</b> Evening	<b>Turtle Walker</b> Documentary   India   English, Hindi Dir: Taira Malaney • 85 min	Follows the life of conservationist Satish Bhaskar, who dedicated himself to studying and protecting sea turtles along India's coastline, and explores the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami.	<b>85 min</b>
<b>Friday, 8 May 2026</b>			
<b>19:00</b> Evening	<b>Sabar Bonda (Cactus Pears)</b> Fiction   India   Marathi Dir: Rohan Kanawade • 113 min	Anand, a 30-something city dweller, is compelled to spend a 10-day mourning period in his ancestral village, where buried family histories surface.	<b>113 min</b>

TIME SLOT	FILM(S)	SYNOPSIS	DUR.
<b>Saturday, 9 May 2026</b>			
<b>13:00</b> Noon	<p><b>Calorie</b> Fiction   Canada   English, Hindi Dir: Eisha Marjara • 107 min</p> <p><b>Pass the Salt</b> Fiction   Canada   English Dir: Karan Archana Singh • 11 min</p>	<p>Based on a real life tragedy, follows a family living under the weight of a traumatic past while grappling to find their way back home to one another.</p> <p>An intimate psychological chamber piece exploring the quiet warfare of a mother-son relationship entangled in denial, control, and buried longing.</p>	<b>118 min</b>
<b>16:00</b> Afternoon	<p><b>Love, Chaos, Kin</b> Documentary   United States   English, Tamil Dir: Chithra Jeyaram • 97 min</p> <p><b>Nihal's Garden</b> Animation   Canada   English Dir: Champika Fernando • 5 min</p>	<p>An unexpected pregnancy leads an Indian immigrant mother to help her adopted twin daughters reconnect with their South Asian heritage.</p> <p>A portrait of the director's 81-year-old father — an ever-determined and resourceful gardener — as he tends his beloved plot of land.</p>	<b>102 min</b>
<b>19:00</b> Evening	<p><b>Tiger's Pond</b> Fiction   India   Kannada, Malayalam Dir: Natesh Hegde • 87 min</p> <p><b>Permanent Guest</b> Fiction   Pakistan   Urdu Dir: Sana Jafri</p>	<p>In the sleepy hamlet of Vaghachipani, an under-aged shepherdess is discovered to be pregnant. Her employer, hellbent on becoming village chairman, makes every effort to cover it up.</p> <p>A young woman's world is rattled by the arrival of a relative who forces her to weigh family obligations against her growing discomfort.</p>	<b>102 min</b>
<b>Sunday, 10 May 2026</b>			
<b>16:00</b> Afternoon	<p><b>Shorts Package — 105 min total</b> Seven short films from across South Asia and the diaspora</p> <p><b>The Unknown Soldier</b> Fiction   Canada   English Dir: Aviel Kurulkar, Javier Alfaro • 15 min</p> <p><b>Every Now and Then Girls</b> Animation   India   Rajasthani Dir: Shefalee Jain, Shivi Bhatnagar • 21 min</p> <p><b>Nani</b> Fiction   United States   Bengali, English, Spanish Dir: Mainak Dhar • 10 min</p> <p><b>As Dusk Falls</b> Fiction   India   Punjabi Dir: Jaskirat Singh • 22 min</p> <p><b>Ali</b> Fiction   Bangladesh, Philippines   Bengali Dir: Adnan Al Rajeev • 15 min</p> <p><b>Jism (Body)</b> Documentary   Pakistan   Urdu Dir: Husain Qaizar, Saad Zuberi • 13 min</p> <p><b>Midnight Murungai</b> Fiction   Canada   English, Tamil Dir: Ramiya Pushparajah • 9 min</p>	<p>A curated programme of seven short films from across South Asia and the diaspora.</p> <p>A Sikh soldier in WWI embarks on a perilous mission alongside Private Nash, exploring bravery, humanity, and the quest for belonging amid the chaos of war.</p> <p>A stop-motion animation adapting the Rajasthani folktale "Dohri Joon".</p> <p>As Ramadan draws to a close, a young woman returns home, stirring up buried tensions and unspoken truths that refuse to stay in the past.</p> <p>Navraj's long-awaited Canadian visa is finally approved, but leaving behind his grandmother — who adoringly depends on him — may cost more than he ever anticipated.</p> <p>In a coastal town where women are forbidden to sing, a teenager joins a competition for a chance at the city — while hiding his true voice.</p> <p>In conservative Pakistan, a photographer and his ambitious muses challenge social norms in pursuit of recognition and self-worth in today's social media-driven world as they engage in candid discussions about culture, identity, body image and vulnerabilities — during a photoshoot.</p> <p>Suku, a Toronto-Tamil millennial, and her British cousin Rathini recover from a wild night, plotting how to make the most of a free house. But their plans are quickly foiled when it turns out Suku's mom is still at home with a bizarre plan of her own.</p>	<b>105 min</b>
<b>19:00</b> Evening	<p><b>Boong</b> Fiction   India   Manipuri Dir: Lakshmi Priya Devi • 94 min</p>	<p>A schoolboy navigates racial tensions and border challenges in Manipur, driven by resilience and the enduring bonds of friendship.</p>	<b>94 min</b>

\* Schedule and details subject to change. Check [saffm.centrekabir.com](http://saffm.centrekabir.com) for updates.