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Vashon Film Institute Announces Launch of Two New Divisions, Third Annual [Vashon Island Film Festival](#) (August 8-11, 2024), and New Donation Arm for the Historic Vashon Theatre

Vashon Island, WA (April 11, 2024)—Non-profit organization Vashon Film Institute (VFI) has announced the creation of two new divisions and the reprisal of its existing Vashon Island Film Festival (VIFF) in 2024, as well a new donation arm accepting restricted funds to be used solely to fund improvements at the historic Vashon Theatre. Founded by veteran film producer Mark Mathias Sayre, VFI is dedicated to fostering independent filmmaking in the Pacific Northwest (PNW), with a Board of Directors that currently includes Isaac Mann, Peter Serko, and newcomer Kim Voynar.

VFI's two nascent divisions are the **Quartermaster Lab ("Qlab")**, a collective of filmmaking programs, and **VFIpresents**, its sales, distribution, and release arm, which will also focus on organizing community events outside of VIFF, such as a Night Market at the Backlot, a world-class outdoor space at the [Vashon Theatre](#), the first Friday of each month.

"The quintessential goal in founding VFI was to support independent filmmaking in the Pacific Northwest," says Sayre. "To that end, VIFF has already brought compelling indie features and documentaries to local audiences and will continue to do so. But that's only part of the game-plan: We're equally committed to engendering the creation of new films as much as we are thrilled to celebrate them. In this sense, the Qlab will focus on developing new projects that VFIpresents can bring to life. Their commonality will be the PNW, whether that means the films are set or produced here, or the filmmakers call it home."

VIFF will return to Vashon from Thursday, August 8, to Sunday, August 11, 2024, with another curated program of award-winning film screenings from the current festival season and other events, including yet-to-be-announced live music performances. Screenings and concerts shall be held at the Vashon Theatre, with ancillary festival events held at various locations around the town of Vashon. Funded to date entirely through charitable contributions, donations can be made through VIFF's funding portal on its official website, where donors can identify the intended use of the funds (i.e., for general use or for facility improvements at the Vashon Theatre).

"VIFF is our flagship program and that isn't going to change," adds Sayre. "I was very proud to watch how it grew in its second year, and we've got big plans to continue harnessing all of the potential our beautiful island offers. We may be limited by the quantity of our screenings, but that just means we can focus on the quality of our program, both on- and off-screen."

This year's jury awards will be selected by actress and filmmaker **Melora Walters** and VIFF alumni **Nick Richey** (*1-800-Hot-Nite*, VIFF22), **Olivia Kuan** (*The Herricanes*, VIFF23), **Paris Zarcilla** (*Raging Grace*, VIFF23), and **Decker Sadowski** (*Juniper*, VIFF22). Last year's top prizes went to Charlotte Regan's *Scrapper* (Quartermaster Award for Excellence in Feature Filmmaking), Lloyd Lee Choi's *Closing Dynasty* (Burton Award for Excellence in Short Filmmaking), Jordan Albertsen's *BOOM: A Film About the Sonics* (Audience Award for Best Feature), and Sarah Hanner's *Bläckfisk* (Audience Award for Best Short).

Ticketing is now open to the public [here](#), with three discounted ticketing tiers available for early-bird purchase: a three-film package (10% off), a six-film package (15% off), and a ten plus-film package (20% off). Single screening tickets are also available for purchase at regular price. Ticketing is subject to availability.

Press resources available [here](#). @VashonFilmFest on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).

www.vashonislandfilmfestival.com