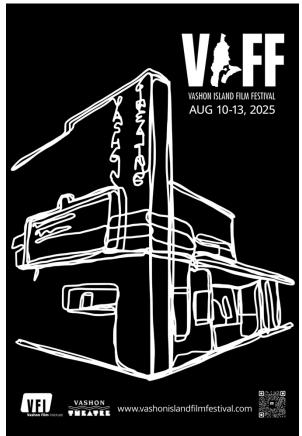


## Vashon Film Institute Announces Fourth Annual Vashon Island Film Festival (August 7-10, 2025)

www.vashonfilminstitute.com www.vashonislandfilmfestival.com

*Vashon Island, WA (June 16, 2025)*—The nonprofit organization Vashon Film Institute (VFI) has announced the return of its Vashon Island Film Festival (VIFF) for a fourth year. The 2025 edition will run from Thursday, August 7 through Sunday, August 10, with a curated lineup of film screenings and special events, including live music performances and DJ sets. The full slate of programming was hand-selected by VFI's new Lead Programmer, actress Stacey Oristano (*Friday Night Lights, Bunheads, Shameless*), and will be announced on Tuesday, July 8.

The festivities will conclude with the Red Bicycle Awards to honor excellence in independent filmmaking. This year's awards will be selected by Special Guest Juror **Jamie Hector** (*Bosch, The Wire, Queen of the South*) and VIFF alumni jurors: Jury President **Jewerl Keats Ross** (*Sujo,* VIFF24), **Olivia Blue** (*Juniper,* VIFF22), **Jonathan Hsu** (*Starring Jerry as Himself,* VIFF23), and **Nick Richey** (*1-800-HOT-NITE,* VIFF22).



"VIFF was created to be the kind of film festival that filmmakers dream of—intimate, thoughtfully curated, and dedicated to bold, independent storytelling," says Oristano. "Four years in, and we've not only realized that vision for filmmakers, but we've also built something deeply meaningful for the island community that hosts it."

Screenings and events will take place at two central venues: the historic <u>Vashon Theatre</u> and its adjacent outdoor space, the **Backlot**. While the Vashon Theatre operates

independently, VFI accepts charitable contributions in support of its partnership with the venue. Donors may choose between unrestricted donations, which support VFI's full range of programs, or restricted donations, which are dedicated exclusively to improvements and enhancements of the Vashon Theatre premises. Contributions can be made on the <u>official VIFF website</u>, with the intended use clearly designated at the time of donation.

Founded by **Mark Mathias Sayre**, CEO of prestige North American film distributor <u>The</u> <u>Forge</u>, VFI is dedicated to celebrating and supporting independent filmmaking in the Pacific Northwest. Sayre brings his experience in festival strategy to VFI's mission, supported by a Board of Directors that includes **Isaac Mann**, **Eric Perley**, **Peter Serko**, and **Kim Voynar**. In 2024, VFI expanded its scope with the launch of two key divisions: the Quartermaster Lab ("Qlab"), a collective of filmmaker development programs, and VFIpresents, a sales, distribution, and release arm that also curates community events, such as monthly screenings at the Vashon Theatre and a Night Market at the Backlot.

"What makes VIFF different isn't just the films, it's the feeling," says Sayre. "On Vashon, the natural beauty sets the tone. Filmmakers and film lovers come here not just to screen films, but to breathe, reflect, and rediscover why they fell in love with cinema in the first place."

Passes are now open for the public. The All-Access Pass, which provides entry to every screening, can be obtained by becoming a <u>VFI Member</u> for \$79.99 per year (with additional perks that benefit locals) or via <u>individual purchase</u>. The Early Bird Rate of \$49.99 is available through Monday, July 7, before increasing to the Standard Rate of \$69.99 on Tuesday, July 8. Single screening tickets will also become available on Tuesday, July 8 and are subject to availability.

Press resources are available <u>here</u>. @VashonFilmFest on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>TikTok</u>.