

The poster features a background of ancient stone ruins with several columns under a dark, starry sky. A large, glowing arc of light in shades of orange and purple curves across the right side of the image. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold sans-serif and elegant serif fonts.

TCFF

Third Culture Film Festival

2026

AETHEIA

Truth Unveiled

MARCH 9 - 15, 2026

TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

It's absolutely fantastic to have the third year of the Third Culture Film Festival here in Tauranga. It's going to be a great time and I encourage everyone to expand their horizons and feast on some international theatre treats.

SAM UFFINDELL
MP for Tauranga



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This year, more than 700 films were submitted from around the world. From those, just over 100 short films and three feature films have been selected for screening here in the Bay of Plenty. Each one represents a voice – sometimes quiet, sometimes disruptive, sometimes poetic, sometimes raw – but always deeply human.

TCFF was founded on three core principles: Connect. Revelation. Excellence.

We exist to connect cultures, generations, and perspectives.

We exist to reveal stories that might otherwise go unseen.

And we strive for excellence – not for prestige, but because stories deserve care.

Tauranga is a city growing in diversity, ambition, and global relevance. This festival reflects that shift. The stories you will encounter this week come from different nations, faiths, political perspectives, and lived experiences – yet they share something essential: a desire to be understood.

Film, at its best, is not noise. It is invitation.

Invitation to listen.

Invitation to question.

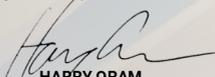
Invitation to sit with discomfort.

Invitation to see beauty in unexpected places.

Whether you are attending the Midnight Royale Gala, a waterfront screening, a TCFF Talk, or discovering a filmmaker for the first time in a darkened cinema – thank you for being part of this shared moment.

Festivals are not built by one person. They are built by volunteers, partners, sponsors, artists, trustees, mentors, and audiences who believe culture matters.

This week belongs to all of you – welcome to TCFF 2026.



HARRY ORAM
Festival Director

ALETHEIA

Truth Unveiled

The theme of TCFF 2026 is Aletheia – an ancient Greek word meaning truth, more precisely unconcealed: the bringing of something into the light.

In an age of speed, outrage, and endless information, truth can feel fragmented. Nuance disappears. Certainty often replaces curiosity.

Aletheia invites something different.

It asks what happens when we slow down long enough for truth to emerge – not as propaganda or performance, but as revelation.

Film is uniquely positioned to do this. Through image, sound, and story, cinema uncovers what statistics cannot and humanises what headlines flatten. It reveals complexity where culture prefers simplicity.

The films in this programme may challenge, affirm, or unsettle you. That is part of the unveiling.

Aletheia is not about having all the answers. It is about allowing what is hidden to be seen – and in seeing clearly, perhaps finding one another again.

TCFF 2026 AWARD DESIGNER

GLENN CORNELIUS

Originally from Pretoria, South Africa, and now based in Tauranga, New Zealand, Glenn is a self-taught artist, illustrator, and sculptor. Since his debut exhibition in Simonstown in 2019, he has established a distinct style defined by a strong three-dimensional focus and a unique fusion of disparate artistic methods.

Drawing deep inspiration from the craftsmanship of Auguste Rodin and the visionary art of Ralph McQuarrie, Glenn strives to blend the technical mastery of the past with contemporary innovation. His professional portfolio includes three children's books—one published and two forthcoming—produced over the last three years.

Currently, Glenn is developing Path of Conflict, an original space opera that reimagines the genre by fusing traditional and modern elements. He frequently documents his creative evolution and technical processes on his YouTube channel, also titled Path of Conflict.



DOWNTOWN TAURANGA MAP



-  **TAURANGA CLUB**
VIP CLUB MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES
OPENING GALA
-  **TAURANGA WATERFRONT**
FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY
EVENTS AND SCREENINGS
-  **POP-UP — TCFF HQ**
36 SPRING STREET
-  **LUXE CINEMAS**
TCFF SCREENINGS
-  **THE CBD LIBRARY**
POCKET-SIZE PLAY

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

<p>MONDAY 03/09</p>	<p>LUXE CINEMAS 7:30 PM – Best of Fest A curated selection of this year's standout international short films.</p>		
<p>TUESDAY 03/10</p>	<p>POPOP – 36 SPRING STREET 5:30 PM – TCFF Talks: Break On Through Breaking into and through the film industry. Persistence, pivots, rejection, opportunity.</p>	<p>LUXE CINEMAS 7:30 PM – Rules of Living Cross-cultural comedy exploring identity and belonging.</p>	
<p>WEDNESDAY 03/11</p>	<p>TAURANGA CLUB 5:30 PM – TCFF Talks: Social Cohesion & Culture Storytelling, identity, belonging in a divided world.</p>	<p>LUXE CINEMAS 7:30 PM – Go Movie Faith, purpose, and cinematic impact.</p>	
<p>THURSDAY 03/12</p>	<p>POPOP – 36 SPRING STREET 5:30 PM – TCFF Talks: Seeking Divinity Spirituality, doubt, transcendence through cinema.</p>	<p>LUXE CINEMAS 7:30 PM – Beyond The Island Feature screening</p>	
<p>FRIDAY 03/13</p>	<p>LUXE CINEMAS 11:00 AM – Mindscape 12:30 PM – Uncharted Glory 2:00 PM – Aletheia 3:30 PM – Voices of Venus 5:00 PM – Best of Fest</p>	<p>TAURANGA CLUB 6:30 PM – Midnight Royale</p>	
<p>SATURDAY 03/14</p>	<p>TAURANGA WATERFRONT 11:00 AM TCFF OASIS EXTRAVAGANZA (FREE)</p>	<p>LUXE CINEMAS 11:00 AM – Under One Sky 12:30 PM – Truth Unscripted 2:00 PM – Animation 3:30 PM – Cross Slice of Kiwi 5:00 PM – On a Lighter Note 6:30 PM – Valley of Shadows</p>	<p>POPOP 36 SPRING STREET 7:00 PM – Networking Night</p>
<p>SUNDAY 03/15</p>	<p>LUXE CINEMAS 12:30 PM – Seeking Eternity 2:00 PM – Best of Fest</p>	<p>POPOP – 36 SPRING STREET 7 PM – Awards Ceremony Festival Closing</p>	

MARCH 9 - 15, 2026

POPOP – 36 SPRING STREET

TCFF HQ, the heart of the festival, will be open daily. Exhibitions, books, community conversations, networking, and daily activations throughout the week of the festival.

BEST OF FEST

The pinnacle of our festival featuring a curated showcase of the most acclaimed films, celebrated for their creativity, impact, and storytelling excellence.



Bleeding

Directed By: Dany Horiuchi

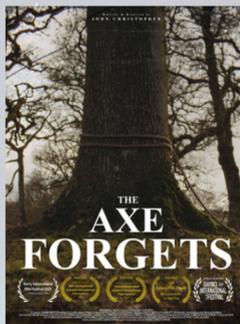
Mollie, a young woman in her twenties, is struggling with her mental health. She writes a diary entry, pouring out all the emotions she can't express aloud. Her words reveal the depth of her isolation and the hopelessness of feeling all this pain bleed out of her without anyone noticing.



Girl No. 60427

*Directed By: Shulamit Lifshitz
Oriël Berkovits*

Tel Aviv, 1998, summer vacation. Reut finds and reads her grandmother's secret notebook from the Holocaust. Grandma's story resonates in Reut's well-developed imagination, and the fun week in Tel Aviv with Grandpa and Grandma turns into something else entirely. Reut's relationship with her Grandma is changed forever.



The Axe Forgets

Directed By: John Christopher

Inspired by a true story. In 1888 James S. Jameson, heir to the Jameson Whiskey dynasty, returns to Ireland after a year long expedition to the Congo. Things start to unravel as he attempts a return to normality. Will he choose to face the truth? Or will he choose the axe once more?



Baigun Baigun

Directed By: Reneel Singh

Baigun Baigun is a bold, bilingual music video that blends Fijian Hindi and English to celebrate the spirit of Westernized Desis with humor, flair, and unapologetic swag. With catchy beats, cheeky lyrics, and sharp visuals, this vibrant piece flips the script on traditional expectations



Kāinga Tupu

Directed By: Kā'eo Luke

Kāinga Tupu ("Homeland") is a 2D hand-drawn film that brings attention to New Zealand's endangered forest parrot, the Kākāpō. This story follows the bird as he explores his home. But, something doesn't seem right. Noises and lights in the distance seem to be coming faster and faster. The forest monsters approach...



The Brown Owl

Directed By: Reuben Edwards

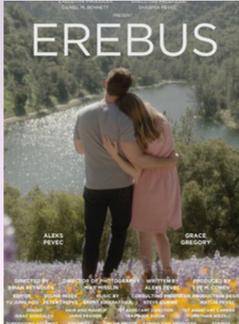
An Owl flies through a City and catches glimpses of everyday life.



The Beneath

Directed By: Lisette Vlassak

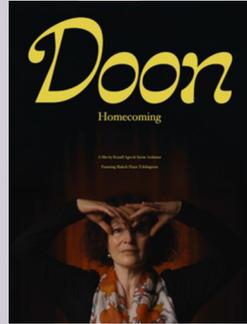
Haunted by pressure and self-doubt, young model Lone retreats to her garden, her only refuge from a world that consumes her. But when a mysterious underground creature begins destroying her sanctuary, Lone's battle to save it forces her to confront something far darker than what lurks beneath the soil: herself.



Erebus

Directed By: Brian Reynolds

A haunting tale about the indelible and irrevocable power of memory, love, and loss. Nestled in the twisted woods of their private and broken world, Miles and Sarah must consider the cost they are willing to pay to keep their love alive.



Doon

Directed By: Sarine Arslanian
Russell Agro

Through the ancient language of Armenian dance, renowned dance artist, Shakeh Major Tchilingirian, invites us to listen with our hearts as she dances the stories never told, the grief too heavy for words, the love for a homeland many have never seen, and the universal yearning to come home: to the body, to the self, to one another.



Horizon

Directed By: Analogmirage

"Sometimes I look at the horizon and it feels like something in me slips away."

Horizon is an AI-generated short film, the story of the Air Runner Girl, a girl who can fly through dreams.



Two Worlds Apart

Directed By: Marley Kahiau Davidson

Marley Davidson, an Asian Pacific Islander High School Senior, reflects on how shifting between the rural westside of Oahu and the big city affects her ability to balance her Native Hawaiian identity and personal values.

Premiered on PBS Hawai'i as part of the Hiki Nō Program; Official Selection: HIFF Ōpiofest, Olelo Youth Xchange Awards, and Native Indigenous Student Academy for Cinematic Arts Film Festival.



Other I

Directed By: Alina Popescu

In a vast cathedral devoted to a strange, otherworldly deity, a young girl offers gifts that begin as harmless token of devotion but escalate into brutal sacrifices of her own body. This haunting allegory asks what happens when blind faith and the comforts we never question demand more of us than we have to give.

THE BLOCKS

At our festival, we sort our films into "Blocks" – curated collections based around shared themes. Each year brings a fresh selection of films, vibrant new themes, and creatively named Blocks, making every festival experience distinct and exciting. Explore the stories that resonate together and immerse yourself in the magic of thematic storytelling!

ANIMATION

A vibrant collection of animated works that push beyond genre and age. From hand-drawn intimacy to cutting-edge digital experimentation, these films prove that animation is not a style – it's a language.

Featuring:

In Half
Other I
The Fall
Love Never Let Us
Saintly
Life Eternal
Hell
What Stands in the Dark
Dobrina
FearISH
Horizon
Code Deimos
Targeted

VALLEY OF SHADOWS

A darker, mood-driven programme that explores what lies beneath the surface. Valley of Shadows delves into mystery, psychological tension, and moral ambiguity – where certainty dissolves and truth becomes fragile.

Atmospheric and unsettling, these films linger long after viewing, inviting audiences to sit with discomfort, doubt, and the unseen.

Featuring:

The Beneath
Maniac
Where The Shadows Wait
Bugaboo
The Lantern Man
Your Excellency
Happy Dream Day
Sleepwalker

UNCHARTED GLORY

Stories of courage, resilience, and the human drive to explore – both the world and ourselves. Spirit of Adventure brings together films that celebrate risk-taking, endurance, and the transformative power of stepping into the unknown.

From physical journeys to inner reckonings, these films remind us why adventure continues to inspire storytellers across cultures.

Featuring:

Being Human
Spirit of the West - Tales from Issen
The Solution

CROSS-SLICE OF KIWI

A snapshot of Aotearoa New Zealand through diverse voices and perspectives. Cross Slice of Kiwi showcases local stories that reflect the complexity, humour, and contradictions of life here.

Grounded, authentic, and distinctly local, this block celebrates storytelling rooted in place.

Featuring:

My Years of Fear and Tremb
Dog Days
Home Base
Lookout
Issen
A Place to Hide

EXPERIMENTAL

Featuring:

Scroll Variation
Hello Anna
Futsukayoi
Dynamics
The Silence Protocol
The Way Through
Hawling's Time Experiment
Whispers From the Core
Quand la Terre Respire
Ke Kino Lua
Bleeding

COMPANION

Featuring:

Everyone In
Dog Days
Fouever
Bark and Bone

MUSIC VIDEOS

Featuring:

Other I
Saintly
Baigun Baigun
Mau Moko
That Thing That Makes You Win
Paranoia
Mashi Hob
Hel Aan Semaya
The Kashmir Song - Khoon Ke

SEEKING ETERNITY

Films that grapple with the big questions: meaning, mortality, faith, legacy, and what — if anything — lies beyond. Seeking Eternity sits at the intersection of philosophy, spirituality, and cinema.

Poetic and contemplative, these works invite audiences to slow down and reflect on the human search for transcendence.

Featuring:

Helezon Akışkan
Reunion
Irit Bardugo's Bar Mitzva
Neseh
At Horizon's End

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Uplifting and cheerful films that bring a smile to their whimsy and warmth, perfect for a feel-good escape.

Featuring:

Fatman
Baigun Baigun
Bark and Bone
The Perfect Fit
Johnathan Appleseed
Dad Bod
The Visitor

FASHION

Featuring:

Echo Bloom
La Bruna
Industrial Sunset
Reborn Aida Korman

ANIMATED KIDS

Featuring:

Kāinga Tupu
Bark and Bone
Stars Aligned
The Brown Owl
Next Stop
No Worries!
Tankha

UNDER ONE SKY

Stories of coexistence, shared humanity, and life across borders. Under One Sky brings together films that explore migration, cultural identity, and the experience of living between worlds.

At its heart, this block is about connection — across cultures, generations, and belief systems.

Featuring:

Halal Dreams
The Tooth And The Rock
Saeed's Day
Rapido

EVERLASTING LOVE

Love in all its forms – romantic, familial, spiritual, and unspoken. This block explores connection across time, distance, and difference, capturing both the beauty and the cost of intimacy.

Tender, bittersweet, and deeply human, Everlasting Love offers stories that resonate quietly but powerfully.

Featuring:

Wishbone
Erebus
Pop 30
Double Date
Viv + Eddie

ALETHEIA

Named after the Greek concept of truth revealed, Aletheia presents films that uncover hidden realities – personal, political, and spiritual.

Challenging and thought-provoking, this block reflects the core ethos of TCF: cinema as a space for revelation, honesty, and deeper understanding.

Featuring:

Pause
E' stato un Sogno
Gunny
Noise And Neighbours
Tea Travel

VOICES OF VENUS

A celebration of stories shaped by feminine perspective, strength, and complexity. Voices of Venus centres women-led narratives that challenge stereotypes, reclaim agency, and explore identity on their own terms.

Bold and nuanced, these films move beyond labels to honour lived experience, resilience, and creative vision.

Featuring:

The Source of All Beauty
An Excess Baggage
Doon
The Fight
The Girl
The Gravedigger's Daughter

MINDSCAPE

An exploration of inner worlds – memory, perception, mental health, and consciousness. Mindscape brings together films that blur the line between reality and imagination, inviting audiences into deeply subjective experiences.

Innovative in form and fearless in theme, this block rewards curiosity and emotional openness.

Featuring:

Ya Hanouni
A Place to Hide
Whisper of the Ink
Tenderheart
Unspoken Truth

VALLEY OF SHADOWS

A darker, mood-driven programme that explores what lies beneath the surface. Valley of Shadows delves into mystery, psychological tension, and moral ambiguity – where certainty dissolves and truth becomes fragile.

Atmospheric and unsettling, these films linger long after viewing, inviting audiences to sit with discomfort, doubt, and the unseen.

Featuring:

The Beneath
Maniac
Where the Shadows Wait
Bugaboo
The Lantern Man
Your Excellency
Happy Dream Day
Sleepwalker

TRUTH UNSCRIPTED

Raw, real, and urgently relevant. Truth Unscripted presents documentary and documentary-inspired works that engage directly with lived reality, social questions, and personal testimony.

These films don't offer easy answers – instead, they create space for reflection, empathy, and dialogue.

Featuring:

Hodoud
10,774km
More Than Convenience
Rākau
If Not for Farming

TCFF TALKS

BREAK ON THROUGH

5:30 PM

10 March 2026

PopUp - 36, Spring St

A candid conversation about breaking into – and breaking through – the film industry. This panel explores creative persistence, career pivots, rejection, opportunity, and what it really takes to sustain a life in film. Honest, practical, and grounded in lived experience.

SOCIAL COHESION & CULTURE

5:30 PM

11 March 2026

The Tauranga Club

A timely discussion on storytelling, identity, and belonging in an increasingly divided world. Social Cohesion & Culture examines how film and art can bridge differences, challenge narratives, and foster understanding across communities – without simplifying complexity.

SEEKING DIVINITY

5:30 PM

12 March 2026

PopUp - 36, Spring St

An exploration of spirituality, faith, doubt, and transcendence through cinema. This panel looks at how filmmakers approach the sacred – not through doctrine, but through image, story, silence, and human experience. Thoughtful, inclusive, and open-ended.

AI & THE FUTURE OF FILM

3:00 PM

15 March 2026

PopUp - 36, Spring St

A forward-looking conversation on how artificial intelligence is reshaping filmmaking, creativity, and the industry itself. From ethics and authorship to opportunity and disruption, this talk examines what AI means for artists today – and how to engage with it responsibly and creatively.



Managing IT connectivity while addressing evolving cyber threats and budget constraints can be a significant challenge. Many organisations experience downtime, increased data risks, and rising costs when IT and security requirements exceed their internal capabilities.

Interconnect IT Services provides comprehensive solutions for businesses throughout the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, and across New Zealand. Our end-to-end offerings—including connectivity, cybersecurity, managed IT, and strategic planning—are designed to mitigate risk, safeguard operations, and allow your team to concentrate on core objectives. We specialise in customised support for organisations seeking expert assistance without the expense of maintaining a large internal IT staff.

We invite you to discuss how we can streamline, secure, and future-proof your IT needs. Please contact us at hello@interconnect.co.nz or call **0800455891** to explore our connectivity, cybersecurity, and managed IT services.

Our portfolio includes SMB Business Internet, vPBX VoIP Solutions, Mobile Solutions, Wired & Wireless Solutions, NextGen Firewall Security, SDWAN, Secure Access Service Edge (SSE), Cybersecurity gap assessment, advisory services, DSI SMB1001 Cybersecurity certification, Virtual CISO, Strategy Planning, and ongoing IT support and maintenance.