

## CONTACTS



**LOUIS-CHARLES  
MIGNOT-GRENIER**

AGENT, SALES & MARKET  
DEVELOPMENT,  
CANADA / EUROPE / VR /  
INFLIGHT

+1-514-242-6264  
L.GRENIER@NFB.CA



**NATHALIE  
BOURDON**

DIRECTOR, DISTRIBUTION  
& MARKET DEVELOPMENT

+1-514-995-0095  
N.BOURDON@NFB.CA



**GRACE  
MARZELLA**

AGENT, SALES & MARKET  
DEVELOPMENT,  
DIGITAL PLATFORMS,  
WORLDWIDE

+1-438-990-1537  
G.MARZELLA@NFB.CA

# THE CURVE

## SOCIAL DISTANCING STORIES THAT BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER

The Curve is the pulse of our nation, beating in its own time during this unprecedented time. Our creators, with their talent and creativity, are bringing to life the voice of Canadians touched by Covid-19, both near and far.

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, PIVOT!



### THURSDAY

15 MIN | 2020 | GALEN JOHNSON | NFB

*Thursday*, shot from filmmaker Galen Johnson's high-rise apartment during COVID-19 "lockdown" in Winnipeg, captures people going about their daily routines in the city's eerily empty streets, yards and parking lots, on their balconies and on the riverbanks. The distance and the diminutive scale of humans is paired with sound close-ups—a combination that embodies the strange, heightened intensity of feeling of the time, knowing an era-defining tragedy is happening yet being so physically removed.



### K'I TAH AMONGST THE BIRCH

10 MIN | 2020 | MELAW NAKEHK'O | NFB

Filmmaker/activist Melaw Nakehk'o has spent the pandemic with her family at a remote land camp in the Northwest Territories, "getting wood, listening to the wind, staying warm and dry, and watching the sun move across the sky." In documenting camp life—activities like making fish leather and scraping moose hide—she anchors the COVID experience in a specific time and place.



### IN THE GARDEN ON THE FARM

8 MIN | 2020 | KRISTIN CATHERWOOD | NFB

As social-distancing measures set in during the COVID-19 pandemic, Kristin Catherwood moved back to her family's farm to stay with her widowed father. Spring brings the usual urgency to plant the year's crops, and Kristin starts thinking about planting her vegetable garden—a garden that brings deep memories of her mother and grandmothers.

## THE BIG RESET



### CITIES

3 MIN | 2020 | LILLIAN CHAN | NFB

Designer Bruce Mau views the COVID-19 pandemic as a short term crisis in a long-term trend toward positive development. He dares us to abandon our toxic lifestyle habits and urges us toward bolder urban design.



### ECONOMICS

3 MIN | 2020 | PHILIP EDDOLLS | NFB

Economist Armine Yalnizyan offers a radically honest and deliciously sweet review of our absurdly dysfunctional economic system and what we must do in order to survive and thrive in the 21st century.



### GOVERNANCE

3 MIN | 2020 | HO CHE ANDERSON | NFB

Criminologist and community activist Munira Abukar believes justice and equity begin in your own home and heart. Embracing the uncomfortable awakening that 2020 has brought about, she debunks the cozy narrative of social equality and puts her finger on the key issues needing change.



### WORLDVIEWS

3 MIN | 2020 | MALCOLM SUTHERLAND | NFB

Geneticist and environmentalist David Suzuki celebrates the pleasure of knowing we humans are squishy organic material in an inter-related web of life and we better not forget that! An invitation to go out and play and learn from the real world.

## BODY AND SOUL



### 60 DAY CYCLE

5 MIN | 2020 | COLIN JONES, DARCY WITTENBURG | NFB

When society shifts abruptly into pandemic low gear, a lone cyclist embarks on a tour that begins with shuttered shops and empty streets, and ends with a city opening up to a new reality.



### LOVE IN QUARANTINE

10 MIN | 2020 | MILLEFIORE CLARKES | NFB

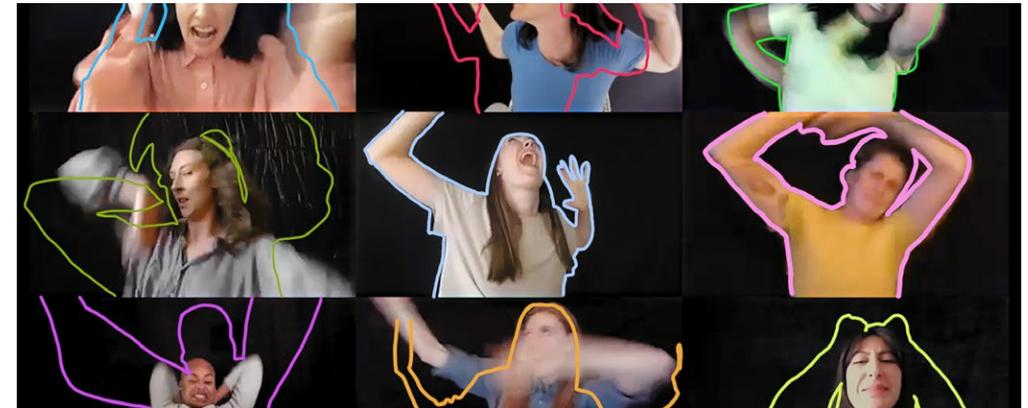
When COVID protocols impose restrictions on human interaction, Millefiore Clarkes seizes the opportunity to reflect on the nature of love itself, juxtaposing her own existential quest with those of a teenager grappling with identity and self-worth in a time of social distancing, and a woman who finds surprising new romance despite pandemic isolation.



### HOW TO BE AT HOME

4 MIN | 2020 | ANDREA DORFMAN | NFB

Lean into loneliness—and know you're not alone in it. Filmmaker Andrea Dorfman reunites with poet Tanya Davis to craft tender and profound animation on the theme of isolation, providing a wise and soaringly lyrical sequel to their viral hit *How to Be Alone*.



### COME TO YOUR SENSES

4 MIN | 2020 | ALICIA EISEN, SOPHIE JARVIS | NFB

In reducing sensory overload from the outside world, pandemic confinement can curiously sharpen our senses, heightening our awareness of what we crave. Employing playful visual bricolage, filmmakers Alicia Eisen and Sophie Jarvis artfully explore the five senses, tipping a collective hat to the collage-based cinematic essays of Agnès Varda and Chris Marker

## FROM WHERE I AM



### I AM GAY

10 MIN | 2020 | AJAHNIS CHARLEY | NFB

After working abroad for five years, filmmaker, Ajahnis Charley, returns home to Oshawa, Ontario, in the age of quarantine. In addition to reuniting with his family, he returns with a mission to share some deep personal truths. Surprising conversations ensue with his mother and three siblings creating, in this humorous and heart-wrenching story, about our need to seek love and acceptance within our own families.



### NBISIING

4 MIN | 2020 | COLE FORREST | NFB

Afraid he would not see his community again Cole Forrest returns to North Bay from his current residence in Toronto. During his stay he confronts his fears and reconnects with his ancestors. Nbi means water and in the time of this pandemic, it is the lake, medicine, berries, and the land that he looks to for guidance.



### BACK TO SCHOOL

5 MIN | 2020 | OLIVIA COOMBS | NFB

In Brampton, Ontario, eldest sister Olivia Coombs documents the lives of her siblings, Nicolas (15), and Natalie (11), as while they await for the provincial government to announce its "back to school" policies for the upcoming school year. This film offers a fresh glimpse into the day-to-day experience lives of one of many families one family living in the suburbs of greater Toronto, as Olivia interviews her siblings directly about school and the impact of the pandemic.



### HAVE YOU EATEN?

5 MIN | 2020 | LINA LI | NFB

Living in downtown Toronto to attend school, Lina Li returns to the comfort of home in Thornhill and her mother's cooking. In this candid short, filmmaker Lina Li and her mother engage in an intimate conversation about immigration to Canada, misunderstandings, barriers to communicating, love and the taste of home.



### 2000 MM

8 MIN | 2021 | GEORGES HANNAN | NFB

Society is in a process of redefinition. What goes through people's minds in a situation like a toilet paper shortage? The term COVID-19 stands for something invisible, stoking fears strong enough to cause stock markets to melt like snow in springtime. As filmmaker Georges Hannan's 91-year-old mother puts it, "I've never seen anything like this." It has prompted him to embark on a gradual reflection over time, in a part of the world like any other: Atlantic Canada.

## WIDE SHOTS AND CLOSE-UPS



### PANDEMIC - AT THE END OF THE WORLD

13 MIN | 2020 | ALLAN CODE | NFB, NAH HO PRODUCTIONS INC.

The Covid pandemic strikes a tragically familiar chord for the Inuvialuit people of the Mackenzie River Delta. In the early 19th century John Franklin and his crew infected their ancestors with deadly smallpox. Other devastating epidemics would follow. Historian Randal Pokiak returns to the ancient site of Kitigaaruk, a community abandoned after the great flu epidemic of 1918, to deliver a vivid cautionary tale.



### JIA

10 MIN | 2020 | WEIYE SU | NFB

In early January 2020, Jerry and Shiny, two Chinese-Canadians living in Regina, were visiting family in Wuhan City. By the middle of that month, Covid-19 became a global headline with Wuhan as its epicentre. A creative and cinematic approach to interviewing in a time of distance, Jia is at once a portrait of a family at a moment in time and a meditation on home.



### VERY PRESENT

5 MIN | 2020 | CONOR MCNALLY | NFB

How does prolonged confinement shape our experience of time? Filmmaker Conor McNally explores the question in the company of his brother Riley, a young man who's learning to cope with a new - yet strangely familiar - reality.

## RUPTURES & ENLIGHTENMENT



### COVID 19 : THE FUTURE OF FOOD

12 MIN | 2020 | JÉRÉMIE BATTAGLIA | NFB

How are you adapting to the pandemic? That's the question Vali Fugulin and Jérémie Battaglia asked Canadian small and medium-sized business owners. One major theme emerged—how COVID-19 has affected the eating habits of Canadians. Interest in local products and cooking exploded during the lockdown, but was it just a fad? Six months later, as the second wave hits, Jérémie deepens the conversation with restaurant owner Lil MacPherson and farmer Dave Kranenburg.



### JUNE NIGHT

4 MIN | 2020 | MIKE MARYNIUK | NFB

Working in sublime self-isolation during the strange pandemic spring of 2020, avant-garde filmmaker Mike Maryniuk composes a surreal ode to rebirth and reinvention. Juxtaposing archival imagery with handcrafted animation, he conjures up a shimmering utopian dreamscape, a post-COVID world shaped by the primordial forces of nature—haunted by the genial spectre of Buster Keaton.

## THE CURVE; AND BEYOND...



### AS NIGHT DESCENDS

11 MIN | 2020 | NADINE GOMEZ | NFB

In conversations with passionate sociologist and political thinker Jean Pichette, the filmmaker views the forced downtime stemming from the current crisis as an opportunity to rethink our modes of existence and our relationship to others, nature, science, the economy, art, politics—in short, everything that makes us human.



### ROAD'S END CHRONICLE

11 MIN | 2020 | NICOLAS PAQUET | NFB

The shore of a lake. A dam. Myriad testimonials that go right over our heads, just like everything else. Camped out in his car, a filmmaker stares out at the landscape through the raindrops coating the windows. Encounters emerge one by one. Voices multiply, at times validating each other, later contradictory. The filmmaker moves from worry to optimism. Only one question remains: Is there a right answer?



### "CONTACT" REQUIEM FOR A WORD

7 MIN | 2020 | OLIVIER D. ASSELIN | NFB

An investigation into how language is changing in the age of COVID-19. The complete upheaval of social relationships today is leading to the reinterpretation of certain terms, which have suddenly taken on a fatal connotation. This film is a funeral mass in memory of the word "contact."



### JULES' IMPOSSIBLE SUMMER

13 MIN | 2020 | MARIE-JULIE DALLAIRE | NFB

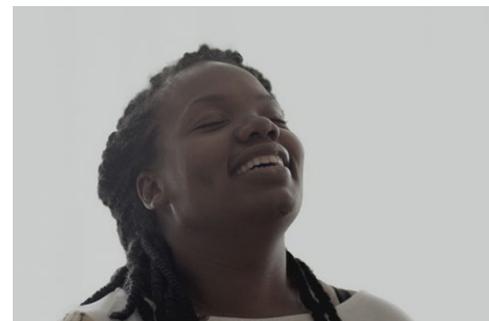
Shot in Montreal over a four-month period, from May to September 2020, *Jules' Impossible Summer* charts the evolving relationship between the filmmaker and her 19-year-old son through 15 redundant conversations about the importance—or the impossibility, depending on the point of view—of following the health restrictions imposed during the pandemic.



### THE VIGIL

8 MIN | 2020 | CHRISTINE CHEVARIE-LESSARD | NFB

Marguerite Paquin lives in a seniors' home where 18 nuns from her religious congregation have succumbed to COVID-19. The film takes us from the grandeur of the landscapes of Côte-Nord, Quebec, where Marguerite has worked for 47 years, into the room where she sits confined today, finding a sort of liberation through prayer and unshakeable solidarity with her sisters who are suffering.



### SÒL

8 MIN | 2020 | VALÉRIE BAH; TATIANA ZINGA BOTAO | NFB

Many Black, racialized and immigrant women work with elderly patients as healthcare providers. Their jobs, already arduous and underpaid as it is, have become even more exhausting during the COVID-19 pandemic. While some public commentators have described them as overrepresented in this sector because of their culture, and hailed them as "guardian angels," what do they themselves have to say? This cross-sectional portrait of some of these women takes the form of a meditative essay.



### SOMETIMES I WISH I WAS ON A DESERT ISLAND

10 MIN | 2020 | ELI JEAN TAHCHI | NFB

As the world learns to live again in the midst of the pandemic, for many Arabic-speaking LGBTQ+ people living in Montreal, this is just a period of time like any other. When you've fled homophobic violence in your home country and endured a painful migratory journey, or you still face social prejudices stemming from intercultural and intergenerational conflicts, surviving social isolation is nothing new.