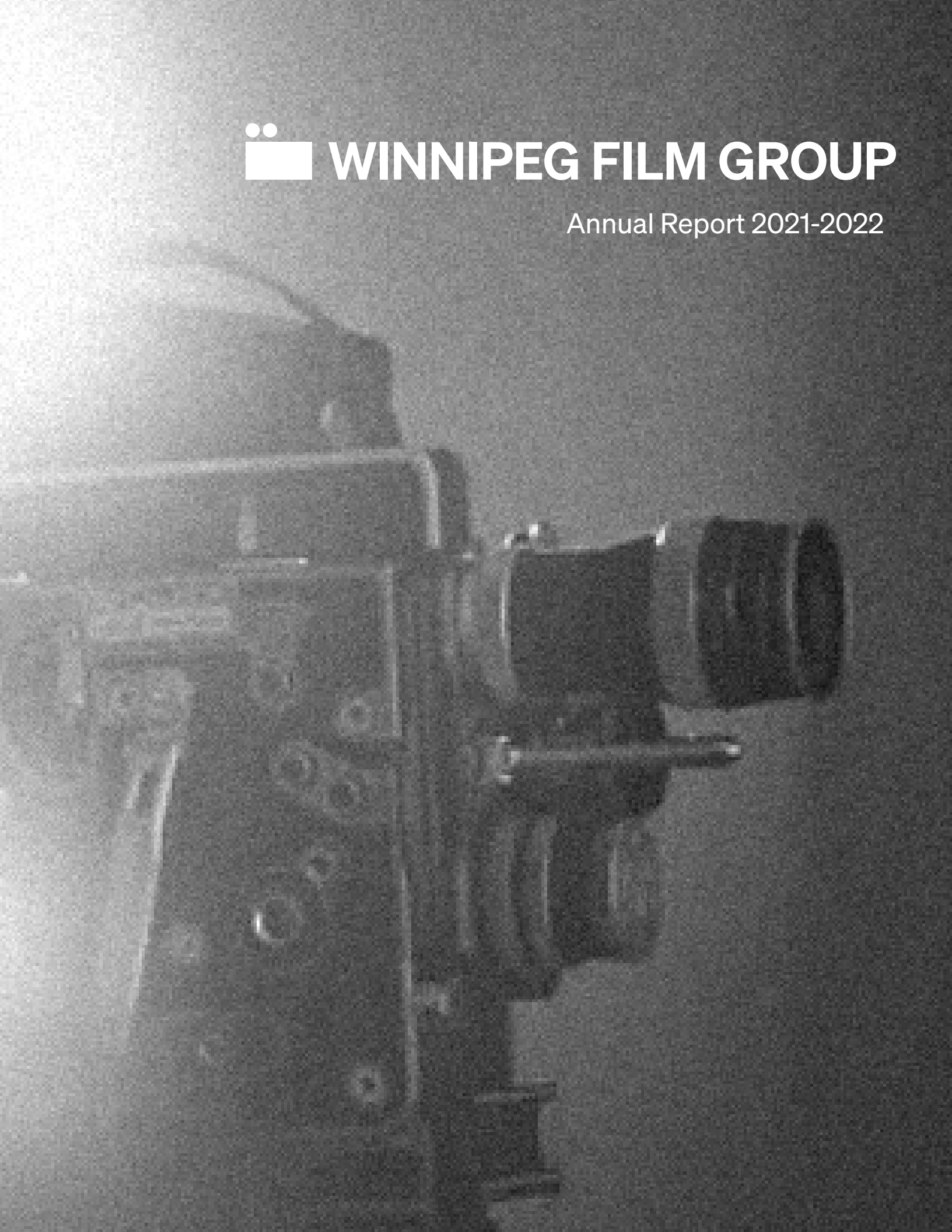




WINNIPEG FILM GROUP

Annual Report 2021-2022



Land Acknowledgement

The Winnipeg Film Group is located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories; we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past; and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

About the Winnipeg Film Group

The Winnipeg Film Group (WFG) is a charitable, artist-run organization dedicated to promoting the art of cinema and serves as an affordable resource centre for independent filmmakers in Manitoba. Incorporated in 1974, we encourage the project of films of a social, artistic and educational nature to make such films and to enhance the production and appreciation of film making.

The Winnipeg Film Group has three distinct operating centres, each working towards their own, if interconnected, objectives. These centres are the Dave Barber Cinematheque, Distribution Centre and Production Centre.

MISSION

The Winnipeg Film Group is an artist-run education, production, exhibition and distribution centre committed to promoting the art of cinema.

VISION

The Winnipeg Film Group dares to be the Canadian vanguard in the creation and promotion of diverse cinematic forms, and to ignite a community of artistic exploration.

VALUES

ARTIST-RUN promoting artistic excellence and achievement

DIVERSITY reflective of our community

FILM fostering the use and appreciation of motion picture film as an artistic medium, alongside supporting work in digital approaches

INDEPENDENCE providing a platform of expression for a wide range of voices and approaches, supporting the filmmaker as an artistic creator

INNOVATION fostering creativity and new directions and ideas



Message from the Executive Director



The WFG's 2021-22 year was busy with programming and achievements while facing significant crises brought upon by the 2nd year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We kept our operations running through virtual means while mandatory closures were in effect. We continued to provide funding opportunities, training, VOD screenings, and services to our membership and patrons, thanks to our dedicated staff, funders and donors. We reopened our doors to in-person events when we were able to, and the community came back revitalizing the organization with their enthusiastic engagement and support.

As we prepare for our milestone 50th year celebrations, while facing a long road to financial recovery from the pandemic, the WFG staff and Board are devoted to rebuilding with resiliency after COVID-19 and are thrilled for the major plans and activities that lay ahead. We deeply appreciate and thank you all for reaffirming our purpose and keeping independent cinema alive and well in Winnipeg!

- Leslie Supnet



Board of Directors

Updated as of March 14, 2023

Ryan Simmons
President

Kier-La Janisse
Vice President

Fritzi Adelman
Secretary

Fernando Dalayoan
Treasurer

Brenda Austin-Smith
Director

Marc Greene
Director

Jean-Jaques Javier
Director

Cameron MacGowan
Director

Caelum Vatnsdal
Director

Board members who departed in June 2022:

Sarah Simpson-Yellowquill
Melody Malakooti
Mariana Muñoz Gomez
Reza Rezaï
Maryam Decter
Jeremy Guenette
Ingrid Ruiz
Allison Stevens
Bison Taiwo

Core Operating Funding for 2021-2022

The WFG maintains our annual core funding from the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA), as well as annual operating from the Manitoba Arts Council (MAC) and the Winnipeg Arts Council (WAC). We also occasionally receive special project grants from them.

Canada Council for the Arts

2021-22 was the second year of our Core funding cycle from the CCA. We will receive \$285,870 each year in this cycle (2020-2027). We received supplementary funding from the CCA Reopening Fund of \$57,200.00 to support the WFG's COVID recovery.

We received an Equipment Acquisition grant from the CCA in 2021-22 in the amount of \$29,500.



Conseil des arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts

Manitoba Arts Council

Our annual operating funding from MAC has maintained consistent at \$95,000 since 2010-11. We requested an increase with our 2023-24 funding application.

We also received a \$42,400 Arts and Culture Sustainability Fund. This fund was made available for organizations in the arts and cultural sector that have been significantly affected by COVID-19.

In 2021-22 MAC provided \$6,875 for the Manitoba Hothouse Award for Creative Development.



CONSEIL DES
ARTS DU
MANITOBA
ARTS COUNCIL

Winnipeg Arts Council

Annually we receive \$49,275 from WAC, until 2023.



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL

Core Operating Funding for 2021-2022

We received several COVID-19 related funding envelopes including:

Government of Canada - \$148,269 - CEWS program

Government of Canada - \$27,203 - CERS program

Project Funding & Ongoing Sponsorships

The Winnipeg Film Group continues to receive project funding from The Winnipeg Foundation, Manitoba Film and Music, The Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg School Division, Telefilm Canada, William F. White, IATSE 856, Creative Manitoba, and Assiniboine Credit Union.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnerships.



Additional sponsorships were generously provided by:





DAVE BARBER CINEMATHEQUE

The theatre had been closed to the public due to pandemic health regulations from October 30th 2020 and was able to reopen on August 13th, 2021. Since reopening, we offered both in-person and virtual programming, with a focus on bringing folks back to the theatre. During this time, we were able to hold 668 public in-person screenings, and 61 virtual events via our Cinematheque at Home platform - including VOD screenings, livestreamed Q&As and online workshops.

On July 26th, 2021 we tragically lost our beloved coworker, mentor and friend Dave Barber. Dave was the programmer at the Winnipeg Film Group's Cinematheque since its inception in 1982. He was a crucial figure in the development of independent cinema in Winnipeg and an outstanding ally to generations of Winnipeg filmmakers. In Dave's honour, on October 26th, 2021 we held a hybrid in-person and virtual celebration for what would have been his 68th birthday. The evening included many stories, and a screening of Dave's short films, his many appearances in local films, and Cinematheque commercials.

At this time, we also announced that the theatre would soon be renamed to the Dave Barber Cinematheque, to honor the legacy of his extraordinary devotion to the development, and nurturing of Canadian cinema. Dave will forever be missed, but his lasting impact on our community will be felt for generations.

•••••
: Donations made to the :
: Dave Barber fund :
: in 2021/22: :
: \$22,815 :
•••••

DAVE BARBER CINEMATHEQUE

Some highlights of our programming during 2021-2022 includes:

Bikini Drive-In screenings/discussions - ongoing: a screening series which discusses cult and horror films through an intersectional feminist lens.

A Snowstorm in My Heart: Surrealist Shorts from Winnipeg – Aug 21, 2021 - partnership with the University of Manitoba School of Art Gallery as part of their Surrealist Suggestions exhibition.

***Skate Kitchen* - September 11, 2021:** Free outdoor screening partnership with Sherbrook Street Festival and West Broadway Biz, at the Broadway Neighborhood Centre's Skate Park.

The World of Wong Kar Wai - September & October, 2021: new restorations of eight films from the contemporary auteur.

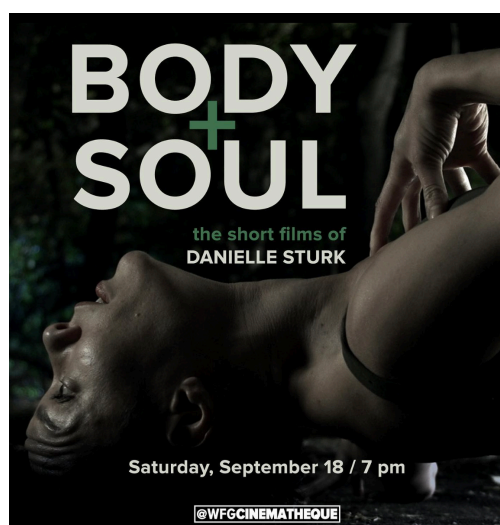
Body + Soul: The Short Films of Danielle Sturk - September 18, 2021: a curated selection of deeply moving and imaginative films, presented as part of the filmmaker's Manitoba Film Hothouse Award.

The New French Extremity - September - October 2021: a survey of an underrepresented component of French cinema, featuring a keynote lecture from Alexandra West and sponsored by Ambassade de France au Canada.

Aurora Gorealis: Canadian Horror Marathon - October 30, 2021: a marathon of classic Canuxploitation paired with local short films.

Iranian Cinema: The Wasteland - November 17, 2021: partnership with Cinelran Toronto.

Working Girls - November 13, 2021: post-screening discussion on sex work in film and Lizzie Borden's *Working Girls* featuring Kate Sinclair of the Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition, moderated by Mahlet Cuff.



12th Annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival - Dec 1-5, 2021: five day festival featuring local and international doc premieres, visiting filmmaker Kier-La Janisse, virtual Q&A with Penelope Spheeris and the inaugural Gimme 10-in-30 Documentary Challenge.

Woodland Haunts: A Folk Horror Overview - December 2021 & January 2022 - a series inspired by Kier-La Janisse's illuminating and comprehensive new documentary on the subject of folk horror.

Song from the Second Floor: The Films of Roy Andersson - January 2022: a series celebrating the Nordic filmmaker with new 4K restorations, in partnership with Harbourfront Centre and TIFF.

Cabin Fever: Free Films for Kids! - February & March 2022: our ongoing, ever-popular series of cherished kids' films preceded by free animation workshops conducted by Art City in our lobby.

Black Horror: Perspectives & Interventions - March 2022: a series exploring horror through a black lens, featuring a lecture by scholar, producer and writer Tananarive Due.

Kamikaze Hearts - May 20, 2022: Q&A with writer/director Juliet Bashore and actress Sharon Mitchell.



Partnerships:

We regularly partner with multiple organizations to present special programming and offer our venue for their own festival programming. Between 2021 and 2022 we partnered with:

7th Annual Alliance Française French Film Festival - March 24-27, 2022

Architecture+Design Film Festival - April 6-10, 2022

FascinAsian Film Festival - May 13-15, 2022

Winnipeg Underground Film Festival - May 27-29, 2022

Jazz on Film - June 2022 - ongoing partnership with Jazz Winnipeg

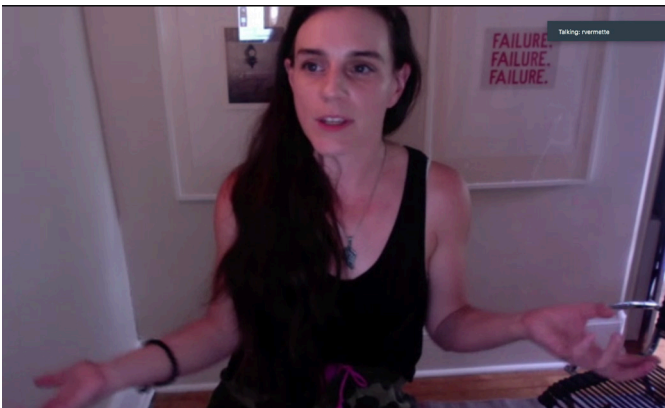
Los Hermanos/The Brothers - June 2022 - ongoing series in partnership with Groundswell exploring experimental music in film.

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

In 2021-22, the Production Centre continued to serve and support independent filmmakers working in all media and forms. Affordable training, both in-person and online, mentorship, production funding, and screening opportunities through Members Screenings were offered.

July 2021-June 2022 Workshops:

- Distribution For Short Films with David Zellis, July 2021
- 2021 Summer Filmmaking Teen Camp, August 2021
- Obliterating Conventional Expectations Of Narrative, August 2021
- Blackmagic Pocket Cinema 6K with Quan Luong, September 2021
- Camera Movement with Jesse de Rocquigny, October 2021
- Grant Writing with Kevin Tabachnick, October 2021
- Develop Screen Presence with Arne MacPherson, November and December 2021
- Cinematography Intensive with Khalik Allah, December 2021
- Camera Effects: Techniques with Dylan Baillie, January 2022
- Comedy Writing with Kevin McDonald, January 2022
- Intro to SFX Makeup with Aaron Merke, April 2022
- Smartphone Filmmaking with Tommy Inthirath, March 2022
- Writing A Documentary Treatment with Jim Agapito, June 2022



Clockwise from the top: Khalik Allah, Quan Luong, Rhayne Vermette, and Jesse de Rocquigny with participants. Photo credits: Karen Remoto.

Seven Oaks After School Filmmaking Program with individual workshops led by:

Chelsea Mark
BJ Verot
Taylor Brown
Karsten Wall
Karen Remoto
Charlene Moore



**SEVEN OAKS
MET SCHOOL**



Photo credits: Karen Remoto.

Creative Manitoba Workshops Led by mentor Ben Williams with individual workshops led by:

Taylor Brown
Rebecca Gibson
Tamara Roshka
Taryn Edgeworth
Vince Tang
Alan Wong



**Creative
Manitoba**



Filmmaker Funding

With financial support provided by Manitoba Film & Music (MFM), as well as service grants from the WFG and William F. White (WFW), the Production Centre provides \$16,000 in annual Filmmaker Funds to assist Winnipeg Film Group members in the development of their artistic careers.



WFG's Fall 2021 MFM Post/Production Fund

Vince Tang - *Presence*

\$2,000 in cash and \$1,000 in WFG services

Christina Hajjar - *Don't Forget to Count Your Blessings*

\$2,000 in cash, \$1,000 in WFG services

Kevin Nikkel - *When We Become Folk Fest*

\$2,000 in cash and \$2,000 in WFG services

The selection committee was comprised of Jim Agapito, Maryam Decter and Sonya Ballantyne, and was Chaired by Karen Remoto.



Clockwise: Kevin Nikkel, Christina Hajjar and Vince Tang. Photos courtesy of the artists.

WFG's Spring 2022 MFM Post/Production Fund

Aaron Zeghers - *Possible Worlds*

\$2,000 in WFG services and \$1,250 in WFG in-kind rentals

Maggie Collins - *Silver Moon*

\$2,000 in cash plus \$2,000 in WFG services plus \$1,250 in WFW in-kind rentals

Stephanie Sy - *Knots*

\$2,000 in cash plus \$1,250 in WFG in-kind rentals

Tavis Putnam - *A Social*

\$2,000 in cash plus \$1,250 in WFG in-kind rentals

The selection committee was comprised of Arlea Ashcroft, Rachel Beaulieu, and Luke Whitemore and was Chaired by Leslie Supnet.



Stephanie Sy, poster for *Knots*. Poster courtesy of the artist.

WFG's 2022 First Film Fund

Jessie Moar - *Flatlands*

\$2,000 cash plus \$2,000 in WFG services plus \$1,250 in William F. White in-kind rentals

Sidney Phommarath - *Cellars Market*

\$2,000 cash plus \$2,000 in WFG services



L to R: Jessie Moar and Sidney Phommarath.
Photos courtesy of the artists.

WFG's Manitoba Hothouse Award for Creative Development

In September of 2021, Darryl Nepinak received the Manitoba Film Hothouse Award, which recognizes the career of an established Manitoba filmmaker. It comes with \$10,000 in cash (courtesy of the Manitoba Arts Council and Arts Branch of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage), \$5,000 in WFG production services, and a WFG Membership with Production Add-on.

Darryl was selected for the award unanimously by a peer assessment selection committee comprised of: Daina Warren, a contemporary artist, curator, and Gallery Director of Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery; Kevin Nikkel, an award-winning documentary writer, producer, director, and Chukwudubem Ukaigwe, an interdisciplinary artist, curator, writer, and cultural worker, and is the founder of Patterns Collective. He is also the current editor of Plug In ICA Editions Online.



Photo of Darryl Nepinak by Reil Munro.



Darryl Nepinak, video still from *Indian* (2008)



Darryl Nepinak, video still from *Bigfoot* (2007)

WFG's MOSAIC Award

Fawnda Neckoway received the 2021 MOSAIC Film Fund.



Fawnda Neckoway was awarded \$5500 in cash funding and plus equipment rentals for her short film *Language Keepers*. Rebecca Gilmore was chosen by Fawnda to mentor her for the duration of the project.

The peer selection committee was comprised of filmmakers: Chanelle Lajoie, Kristin Snowbird and Erin Hembrador, both of whom were previous recipients of the MOSAIC Film Fund.

The selection committee was chaired by WFG Production Training Coordinator, Karen Remoto.

Mosaic was founded by Winnipeg Film Group's former Executive Director, Cecilia Araneda in an effort to support diverse talent in our local filmmaking community.



Fawnda Neckoway. Photo courtesy of the artist.

WFG's BIPOC Artist's Film Fund

Maria Cristina (MC) de Natividad was the recipient of the one-time BIPOC Artist's Film Fund for her documentary short, *BUMALIK*.

MC was awarded \$10,000 in cash, plus equipment rentals, training and memberships. IATSE Local 856 funded the cash component of the award. Erin Hembrador served as MC's mentor for her project.

The peer selection committee was comprised of IATSE 856 Representative, T'ai Pu, Manager, Programs & Development at National Screen Institute, Jessica Gibson and freelance filmmaker and owner of JP Media Works, Jordan Popowich.

The selection committee was chaired by WFG Production Training Coordinator, Karen Remoto.



MC de Natividad. Photo courtesy of the artist.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT

Our Distribution Department continues to offer personalized distribution services to creative filmmakers whose works align with our objectives of supporting Canadian artists and earning rental and sale revenue on their behalf. We continue to evolve our distribution services to allow for changes in technology, demand of work, artistic output, and paid opportunities.

In addition to our daily distribution activities, such as festivals and education sales, we continually seek out and create special opportunities for the filmmakers in our catalogue.

From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, there were a total of 243 screenings and one broadcast sale. The 243 figure includes WFG catalogue works being screened at festivals and in galleries as well as community rentals, private VOD and DVD sales, educational sales, and streaming rentals.

Catalogue screening highlights include:

- *émicêtôsêt-Many Bloodlines* by Theola Ross screening at the Native Cinema Showcase hosted by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of the American Indian (November 2021)
- *Archangel* by Guy Maddin screening at the Cinematheque of the Swedish Film Institute in Stockholm (September 2021)
- *Nosisim* by Sonya Ballantyne screening in the exhibition Separate Journeys, Shared Paths at the Mackenzie Art Gallery in Regina, SK (October 2021)
- *Footsteps* by Jeremy Benning screening at the Deep Focus Film Festival in Brooklyn, NY (September 2021)
- *Caribou in the Archive* by Jennifer Dysart screening at A Wall is a Screen: Canadian Short Films @ Bookfair, Frankfurt (October 2021)
- *Diaspora Ethiopia* by Hagere Selam (shim-by) Zegeye-Gebrehiwot screening for Black History Month at the Remai Modern (February 2022)

Acquisitions

The Distribution Department brought in 13 films between 2021-2022. Six of these films are made by women, five are by LGBTQ2S filmmakers, four are by filmmakers from culturally diverse backgrounds, three are by Indigenous filmmakers, and two are by Francophone filmmakers. Six of the filmmakers are based in Winnipeg.

The films brought in from 2021-2022 are:

Footsteps by Jeremy Benning
Mum Singh by Karan Singh
Four Seasons Bouquet by Emma Roufs
kaua'i 'ō'ō by Samy Benammar
Still Presence by Tracy Peters
Riverside Queerness by Eric Plamondon
Container by Quan Luong & Erin Hembrador
Late Summer by Ryan Steel
Wrought by Joel Penner and Anna Sigrithur
Cubicle Island by Damien Ferland
Halves & Doubles by Adam Mbowe
Cliff: a portrait of an artist by Adam Brooks
Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams by Amanda Strong

Special endeavors involving catalogue works include:

- *Biidaaban (the dawn comes)* by Amanda Strong featured in **PUBLIC 63: Creative Ecologies**, edited by Denise Oleksijczuk and featuring writing by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Sky Hopinka, and Tim Ingold (November 2021)

Archive / Counter Archive - Found Footage: Re-Examining the History of the Winnipeg Film Group



The WFG's Distribution Department is elated to be one of eight Case Study partners on a \$2.5 million SSHRC project led by York University. Archive/Counter-Archive: Activating Canada's Moving Image Heritage is a seven-year research-creation partnership that seeks to redress the crisis facing Canadian audiovisual heritage through a systematic, multi-institutional plan for facilitating public access and policy. Archive/Counter Archive pairs partners from across the country including galleries, festivals, media arts distributors, universities and archives.

Found Footage: Re-Examining the History of the Winnipeg Film Group, asks what archives can reveal about a city shaped by immigration, but built on Indigenous land, and how to re-centre the work of women filmmakers in our narratives. The Case Study is continually evolving.

During our Case Study (2019-2023) our Distribution staff will be working closely with Andrew Burke, Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Winnipeg.

The project includes these components:

- Inventory of film, video and digital works, along with paper, posters and other ephemera
- Digitizing neglected and non-digitized works from our catalogue
- Reviewing the content of past works with a 2022 point of view
- Connecting with filmmakers who created work in our historical collection
- An Artist in Residence
- Various screenings
- Educational materials created based on films from the collection
- Essays written about the films and collection
- A final exhibition / screening / presentation



ANDREW BURKE

Case Study Co-Applicant
Associate Professor, University of Winnipeg

From 2021-2022, staff members were on boarded and film reels continue to be pulled from the vault and digitized.



We are continuing our partnership with VUCAVU, the pan-Canadian VOD platform, to support the digital distribution of Canadian independent film and video. We have had several works featured on the site in curated programs in 2020-2021 and are working to get all of our digitized films and videos on the site, available to the public for VOD rentals and curated free streaming programs. In 2022 we will launch a new Distribution Catalogue on VUCAVU.com

From 2021-2022, VUCAVU continued to grow their educational capabilities. In June 2022, Distribution staff sat in on a meeting led by VUCAVU on the multi-phase MITACS-funded research project with York University and VUCAVU. Titled “Digital Distribution and Online Resources for e-Learning: The Case for VUCAVU.com,” the project explored and activated the ways in which tools such as Educator Accounts and Private Pages might function in classroom settings. The project included surveys conducted with librarians and instructors, the results of which provided insight into how the platform might better serve educational institutions. The information gleaned from this research continues to inform how WFG can further bring their catalogue into educational settings.

MFM MARKETING FUND

Funded by Manitoba Film and Music (MFM), the Marketing Fund helps filmmakers market and distribute media artworks by contributing to the cost of promotional materials and marketing expenses. Filmmakers can receive a maximum of \$750 per project through this fund.



The following filmmakers received support via this funds:

Fall 2021 MFM Marketing Fund

Adam Brooks - *Cliff: A Portrait of an Artist* | \$750

Amanda Kindzierksi - *What Kind of Help* | \$750

Johanna Reimer-Henteleff Sara Bulloch - *Ma Nishma Manitoba* | \$750

The selection committee was comprised of Jennifer Smith, Kevin Lee Burton, Risa Horowitz and Chaired by Monica Lowe.

Spring 2021 MFM Marketing Fund

Christina Hajjar- *Don't Forget the Water* | \$750

Karen Tusa - *Richard the Third* | \$250

Tavis Putnam - *A Social* | \$750

Vincent Tang - *Presence* | \$250

The selection committee was comprised of Heidi Philipps Ian Bawa and chaired by Ivan Hughes.

STAFF

(updated as of March 6, 2023)

Management & Administration

Leslie Supnet, Executive Director

Jill Voth, Contract Bookkeeper

Dave Barber Cinematheque

Jaimz Asmundson, Cinematheque Programming Director

Olivia Norquay, Programming Coordinator

Eric Peterson, Head Projectionist

Nic Kaneski, Box Office Manager

Box Office Staff: Jonathan Lee-Wing, Dina Hamid, Kristina Ansari, Saleena Zeru, Mulikat Sanni

Projectionists: Omid Moterassed, Eric Peterson, Sam Sarty, Jonathan Lee-Wing

Distribution

Jillian Groening, Distribution Manager

Mahlet Cuff, Distribution Coordinator

Production and Training

Tommy Inthirath, Production Operations Manager

Dylan Baillie, Production Programs Manager

Luke Roach, Technical Coordinator

Mandy Szwaluk, Training and Marketing Coordinator

We would like to thank staff members who departed during the 2021-22 fiscal year:

Karen Remoto (March 2022)

Monica Lowe (April 2022)

David Knipe (April 2022)

Natalie Mark (June 2022)



Front Row, L to R: Leslie Supnet, Nic Kaneski, Olivia Norquay, Mahlet Cuff, Mandy Szwaluk, Jillian Groening, Tommy Inthirath. **Back Row, L to R:** Dylan Baillie, Luke Roach, Jonathan Lee-Wing, Eric Peterson, Jaimz Asmundson. Photo credit: Josh Marr.



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WINNIPEG
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