

Winnipeg Film Group (WFG) 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ADMINISTRATION

Greg Klymkiw has continued to serve as Executive Director since his appointment to the position in September, 2017. Greg is responsible for the overall artistic direction of the Winnipeg Film Group (WFG) in addition to its organizational development and business management. Distribution Director Monica Lowe, continues to serve as WFG's Deputy Director, collaborating with the Executive Director on funder and project management, financial and operating administration, facilities and human resources. Greg and Monica work in tandem to facilitate the administration and continued funding of the organization. WFG continues to utilize the services of ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. to provide bookkeeping services from Jill Voth. On January 1, 2019 our basement office suffered water damage from a burst pipe and the staff was relocated to the Artspace boardroom for 3.5 months. The damage has been remediated and our office in Room 018 looks better than ever.

CORE FUNDING

Since January 2018, WFG received an increase in our Multi-Year core funding from the Canada Council for the Arts for three years – specifically a 13% increase for 2017/18, a 20% increase for 2018/19 and a 25% increase for 2019/20. This increase demonstrated that our accomplishments, direction and programming plans are viewed positively by the national peer assessors and officers at the Canada Council, the WFG's biggest funder. The WFG recently finished a Canada Council application for Multi-Year Core Funding for the next five years. WFG also receives substantial core funding from the Manitoba Arts Council and the Winnipeg Arts Council.



PROJECT FUNDING & ONGOING SPONSORSHIPS

The Winnipeg Film Group continues to receive project funding from Manitoba Film and Music, The Winnipeg Foundation, The Government of Manitoba's Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage and The Winnipeg School Division. Ongoing Sponsorships have been provided by Whites (William F. White), On Screen Manitoba and Film Training Manitoba.



DISTRIBUTION

Under the expert guidance of Distribution Director Monica Lowe and solid support from Distribution Coordinator Stephanie Poruchnyk-Butler who took over from Ottawa-bound Stephanie Berrington, our Distribution Department supports the dissemination of the work of Canadian filmmakers around the world, with a special focus on the works of Manitoba and prairie-region filmmakers. The Distribution Department focuses its efforts on paying markets and exceptional audience opportunities that artists might otherwise not be able to access by themselves. This department additionally supports research by professional curators, programmers and academics. 2018-2019 saw a number of key distribution initiatives:

Found in Translation / Traduction Fidèle: French Film Touring Program

Between 2017 and 2019 our Distribution Department worked on a large translation and touring program, Found in Translation / Traduction Fidèle. We selected and subtitled 36 short films from our Distribution collection into French and our Distribution Coordinator, Stephanie Berrington, curated them into four programs and wrote essays for each program. Between September 2018 and June 2019 we presented the films in Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto, and Winnipeg, and in Lausanne and Geneva, Switzerland and Rennes and Bordeaux, France. We also streamed each program for free for 6 weeks on www.VUCAVU.com. Filmmakers featured were: Jessie Short, Danielle Sturk, Tricia Wasney, Shawna Dempsey, Lorri Millan and Tracy Traeger, Erica Eyres, Eve Majzels, Michelle Elrick, Caroline Monnet, Amanda Strong, Leslie Supnet, Rhayne Vermette, Alain Delannoy, Trevor Kristjanson, Mike Maryniuk, Alison Davis, John Paizs, Patrick Lowe, Murray Toews, Jackie Traverse, Guy Maddin, Berny Hi, Jaimz Asmundson, Matthew Rankin, Carole O'Brien (Aubriand), Cecilia Araneda, Hagere Selam (shimby) Zegeye-Gebrehiwot, Sam Karney, Sonya Ballantyne, Jackie Traverse, Shane Belcourt, Darryl Nepinak, and Kristin Snowbird. This project was made possible through a special initiative grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Distribution Funds/Awards

MFM Marketing Fund

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

Fall 2018 MFM Marketing Fund

The following filmmakers received support from this fund:

Kathryn Martin: \$750

Aaron Zeghers: \$750

Kayla Jeanson: \$500

Selection Committee Members: Kerry Barber, Kevin Nikkel, Dane Clark / Chair: Monica Lowe

Spring 2019 MFM Marketing Fund

The following filmmakers received support from this fund:

Danielle Sturk: \$750

Tyler Funk & Carmen Ponto: \$500

BJ Verot: \$375

Alex Petroff: \$375

Selection Committee Members: Ian Bawa, Katy Slimmon, Stephanie Berrington *

Chair: Monica Lowe

** Note: One committee member abstained from one applicant's discussion and decision due to conflict*

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 six-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.

During our two-year case study (2019-2021) our Distribution staff, Monica Lowe and Stephanie Poruchnyk-Butler, will be working closely with Andrew Burke, Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Winnipeg.

For year 1 (April 2019 to March 2020), we are focusing on digitizing neglected and non-digitized works from our catalogue and will be connecting with filmmakers who created work in our historical collection.

PRODUCTION/TRAINING

Under the expert guidance of Production Centre Director Ben Williams and with the solid support of Technical and Equipment Manager Dylan Baillie, Interim Training Co-ordinator Charlene Moore (who has moved on to finish her Masters Degree in Indigenous Governance at the University of Winnipeg) and Karen Remoto in the newly-created position of Production Co-ordinator/Training Co-ordinator, the production department has seen a flurry of activity. Klymkiw continues to maintain his office in the Production Centre and lends administrative support and artistic direction to the department (including the facilitation, administration and direction of the awards and funds offered through the department, including the Manitoba Film Hothouse Award and the MFM Post-Production Fund). Some of the Production Centre highlights this year:

2019 Sixth Annual 48 Hour Film Contest

Branded by Production Centre Director Ben Williams as *The 48*, this annual contest has grown significantly every year and 2019 was no exception. This year’s edition generated 30 new films by emerging, mid-career and veteran filmmakers. Two incredibly successful events in celebration of the work created in this program included a sell-out World Premiere at the Gimli Film Festival and a Gala Presentation and Party at The Met. *The 48* was precipitated by a major meet-and-greet organized by Ben Williams that put filmmakers together with potential crew, cast and other key creative participants.

Other Production Achievements/Partnerships

Working in partnership with Blackspace Winnipeg, Ben Williams lent huge support to the second annual Afro-Prairie Film Festival. The Production Department continues to provide a home and support through Ben’s tireless devotion to the Indigenous Film Collective (which recently celebrated its 5th Anniversary). The biannual info session/open house, Freedom Caucus, grows bigger every year. The 2019 Fall edition placed emphasis on solidifying connections between our filmmaking community and our music community (continuing its successful collaboration with Manitoba Music).

Annual WFG Members’ Screening and Party

The annual screening of our members’ films was moved to January 2019 so that the work could be properly showcased in the printed Cinematheque program. Greg Klymkiw rebranded these screenings as *Winnipeg Dreamers*. Two screenings of WFG members’ work played in the Cinematheque followed by an after-party at Cordova.

Partnership with FNC for WOMAN Premiere in Black Lodge

The WFG Production Centre played a vital role in partnership with the 48th edition of the Montreal Festival du nouveau cinema (FNC). On October 18, 2019 in the WFG's Black Lodge, WFG presented the North American Premiere of WOMAN. Via a special online feed the speeches and ceremonies prior to the screening of the film at the Cinema Imperial in Montreal. And then, of course, the film itself played for all assembled (who in turn were presented on a live feed for the audiences in Montreal). The audience included several Manitoba First Nations women who were subjects in the film

2019 Manitoba Film Hothouse Awards

In June of 2019, Aaron Zeghers received the 2019 Manitoba Film Hothouse Award which recognizes the career of an established Manitoba filmmaker. It comes with \$10,000 in cash (courtesy of the Arts Branch of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage) and \$5,000 in WFG production services. WFG's Cinematheque will feature a retrospective screening of the recipient's work. Aaron Zeghers is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning filmmaker whose work has been invited to prestigious festivals all over the world. He is also the Director of the Gimli Film Festival. The selection committee was comprised of last year's Hothouse Award winner Scott Fitzpatrick, Winnipeg's prolific and acclaimed filmmaker Shelagh Carter and Olena Decock, part of the amazing, illustrious team of programmers at Hot Docs. It was chaired and moderated by Greg Klymkiw.

WFG's MFM Post-Production Funds and First Film Fund

Courtesy of Manitoba Film and Music (MFM), (as well as service grants from both the WFG and William F. White), these funds are designed to assist Winnipeg Film Group members in the development of their artistic careers. The following were provided with grants:

WFG's Fall 2018 MFM Post/Production Fund (in association with William F. White)

The following filmmakers received support from this fund:

Kevin Nikkel: \$2000 cash

Fabian Velasco: \$2000 cash

Adam Brooks: \$1000 cash, \$2000 WFG services, \$1250 WFW services

Taylor Brown: \$1000 cash, \$2000 WFG services, \$1250 WFW services

Miranda Moroz: \$1000 WFG services

Darcy Waite: \$1000 WFG services

Selection Committee: Alyssa Bornn, JJ Neepin, Scott Fitzpatrick / Chair: Greg Klymkiw

WFG's 2018/2019 MFM First-Film Fund (in association with William F. White)

The following filmmakers received support from this fund:

Diana Thorneycroft: \$2000 cash and \$3000 in WFG services

Eric Peterson: \$2000 cash and \$3000 in WFG services

Selection Committee: Sara Bulloch, Heidi Phillips / Chair: Greg Klymkiw

WFG's Spring 2019 MFM Post/Production Fund

The following filmmakers received support from this fund:

Brent Kroeker: \$1000 cash, \$2000 WFG services

Damien Ferland: \$1000 cash, \$2000 WFG services

Genevieve Collins: \$2000 cash, \$2000 WFG Services

Kylie Friesen: \$2000 cash, \$3000 WFG Services

Ryan Steel: \$2000 cash, \$2000 WFG Services

Shira Newman: \$2000 CASH, \$2000 WFG Services

Selection Committee: Leslie Supnet, Rowan Gray, Milos Mitrovic / Chair: Greg Klymkiw

Workshops/Training

WFG workshops and training in terms of scope, breadth and attendance continues to skyrocket. In one year, we've matched our previous record-breaking high of well over 600 people to take our workshops and training initiatives. This is almost 3x the number from two years ago.

WFG partnerships continued to grow in workshop/training programming. We partnered alongside Winnipeg School Divisions and Creative Manitoba to offer specialized Youth Programming (including our popular Spring and Summer Teen Filmmaking Camps) that not only inspired youth to make films but also to become members here at the WFG. This year saw a program designed by Greg Klymkiw – a new version of The Basic Filmmaking Workshop for students from the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre. The course is being offered in two parts. The first part was devoted solely to screenwriting and cinematic storytelling and delivered by Greg Klymkiw based upon his Canadian Film Centre workshops. This pilot program will expand in 2020 to include similar workshops to school divisions across the city and eventually, the province.

Ben, Dylan, Charlene and Karen made presentations across Winnipeg to numerous high schools to offer both training and acquaint the young filmmakers of tomorrow with the WFG. Ben and Dylan have travelled across the province to provide similar training, workshops and information sessions.

Prominent and established filmmakers have taught very successful master classes over the past year, including Simon Barrett (screenwriter of *You're Next* and *The Guest*), Pawel Pogorzelski (Cinematographer of *Hereditary* and *Midsommar*), Rodney Ascher (*Room 237*, *The Nightmare*, *The El Duce Tapes*), Kevin McDonald (*Kids in the Hall*) and acclaimed NYC indie filmmaker Khalik Allah. Greg Klymkiw also delivered the first of his ongoing series of workshops in Creative Producing.

Blending technical with creative, WFG Training delivers a high level of beginner and mid-level training to our membership and the general public.

Equipment

Gear acquisitions over the past year include a new large size Dracast LED panel, 3 new Rokinon cine lenses, and new additions to our stock of light stands and C-stands. Repairs have continued with some of our lighting equipment, and we also managed to replace a few of our audio recorders that were starting to wear down significantly. Our computer lab remains a fully functioning suite of 6 iMacs, all outfitted with the latest audio and video editing software. The Black Lodge studio continued to provide space for numerous film shoots from WFG members.

In 2019, the WFG was able to provide support to many filmmaking initiatives in our city – such as providing equipment to the Indigenous Filmmaker Collective and also to the high school students of the Seven Oaks MET who are working on a documentary about climate change as well as the myriad of WFG workshops offered.

Exciting Developments with *The 48*

Ben Williams has been moving *The 48* forward in all kinds of exciting ways. Firstly, Ben and Greg met during the 2018 TIFF with Senior Programmer Steve Gravestock and discussed a major six-year retrospective of the best of the best of *The 48*. This WFG proposal was met enthusiastically and a Selection Committee is creating a program that is scheduled to premiere in the TIFF Bell Lightbox in February 2020. On an equally exciting front, Ben has spearheaded a truly visionary initiative and has been creating a national competition of *The 48*. WFG, thanks to Ben's tireless commitment, lobbying and organization, will be hosting a huge competition that will represent filmmakers in Canada from coast-to-coast (including Winnipeg filmmaking talent).

CINEMATHEQUE

The WFG has had an exceptional year, registering the highest box-office returns on record and continuing to provide our members and general public with the only game in town for vibrant, alternative viewing of Canadian, International and Classic Cinema. The expansion of showtimes and days of operation continued to provide a multitude of viewing opportunities. Programming Director Jaimz Asmundson, Senior Cinematheque Programmer Dave Barber, Manager of Operations and Special Programming David Knipe and Head Projectionist Eric Peterson have provided excellent leadership. Our first-rate Cinematheque team includes boxoffice staff Allegra Chiarella, Thomas Hanan, Omid Moterassed, Tavis Putnam, Sam Sarty, Ryan Steel and projectionists Allegra Chiarella, Omid Moterassed, Eric Peterson, Sam Sarty, Ryan Steel, Conrad Vandenberg. They ensured a great experience for all.

It was another amazing year of programming including these special presentations:

The Saturday Morning All-You-Can-Eat-Cereal Cartoon Party: Christmas Edition! – Dec 21, 2019

Drag Me to the Movies – Dec 20, 2019

Cream of the Crap VIII: We Wish You a Crappy Christmas – Dec 14, 2019

Aaron Zeghers: Living on the Edge – Dec 13, 2019

Stories of Indigenous music and tradition: The tune is preserved among them – Fri, Dec 6 / 7 pm

McDonald at the Movies: Pee-wee's Big Adventure – Dec 4, 2019

Afro Prairie presents: Atlantics – Nov 28, 2019

Wayward Heroes: Modern Icelandic Cinema – Nov 21 – Dec 1, 2019

Architecture+Films: Architecture of Infinity – Nov 16, 2019

McDonald at the Movies: Being There – Nov 13, 2019

11th Annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival – Nov 5 – 10, 2019

Cream of the Crap VII: Rock 'n' Roll Nightmare – Oct 19, 2019

McDonald at the Movies: Bubba Ho-Tep – Oct 16, 2019

Aurora Gorealis: Classic Canadian Horror – October 2019

Spectres of Shortwave – Sept 27, 2019

Punjabi Cinema: Because We Are Girls – Sep 22, 2019

Architecture+Film: Push – Sep 20, 2019

Iranian Cinema: Cold Sweat – Sept 12, 2019

McDonald at the Movies: To Be or Not to Be – Sep 11, 2019

Cream of the Crap: Korba's Revenge – August 24, 2019

Afro Prairie presents: Hyenas – August 22, 2019

The Visionary Cinema of Alice Guy-Blaché – August 18, 2019

McDonald at the Movies: Gregory's Girl – August 7, 2019

McDonald at the Movies: A Night with The Kids in the Hall – July 2, 2019

Cream of the Crap: Hard Ticket to Hawaii – July 2, 2019

European Union Short Film Festival – June 28 – 30, 2019

Jazz Film Fest – June 2019

Secret Cinema on the Rooftop – Jun 15, 2019

McDonald at the Movies: A Night with The Kids in the Hall – June 6, 2019

Iranian Cinema: Dressage – Jun 5, 2019

The Winnipeg Underground Film Festival – May 31 & Jun 1, 2019

Solid Ground: New Indigenous Shorts – May 30, 2019

Cream of the Crap 4: May the 24th be with □ – May 24, 2019

Afro Prairie presents What You Gonna Do When the World's On Fire? – May 16, 2019

Architecture + Design Film Festival – May 1-5, 2019

Secret Cinema with Stephanie Berrington – April 12, 2019

Iranian Cinema: Sheeple – April 11, 2019

Best of the Gimli Film Festival (Minding the Gap, Under the Tree) – Mar 20 – 24, 2019

FACE | Time: The Animated Works of Anita Lebeau – Mar 27, 2019
 African Movie Festival in Manitoba – Mar 14 – 17, 2019
 5th Annual Alliance Française French Film Festival – Mar 7 – 10, 2019
 Secret Cinema with Damien Ferland – Mar 1, 2019
 Afro Prairie Film Festival – Feb 21 – 24, 2019
 Cream of the Crap 3: Crappy Valentine’s Day – Feb 16, 2019
 CICFF: Dancey-Dancey Doggies Meet Chilly Winnipeg – Feb 8, 2019
 CICFF: Winnipeg’s Golden Boys of the Golden Age – Feb 7, 2019
 CICFF: Commercials, Kubasa, Birds, Bees and Dating in Winnipeg – Feb 7, 2019
 Winnipeg Dreamers: The Annual WFG Members Screening – Jan 30, 2019
 Secret Cinema with the Laundry Room Theatre – Jan 11, 2019
 Cabin Fever: Free Films for Kids! – January & February 2019
 Jean-Pierre Melville Retrospective – January & February 2019
 The Saturday Morning All-You-Can-Eat Cereal Cartoon Party: Christmas Edition! – Dec 22, 2018
 Cream of the Crap 2: “A Very Crappy Christmas” – Dec 21, 2018
 To Brush Against the Palm of Your Eye: Short Film and Video by Scott Fitzpatrick – Nov 23, 2018
 Brian Stockton: The Epic Story of My Life in Ten Short Films – Nov 17, 2018
 10th Annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival – Oct. 31 – Nov. 4, 2018
 Cream of the Crap – October 20, 2018
 You Don’t Know Me, But You Love Me: Book Launch & Screening – Oct 19, 2018
 Twilight Room of the Soul: The Universe of Ingmar Bergman – Sep/Oct, 2018
 20th Anniversary of Send + Receive – Sep/Oct, 2018
 Secret Cinema with David Knipe – Sep 7, 2018
 Femme Totale: New Indigenous Women’s Cinema – Aug 11, 2018

MOVING FORWARD

The Winnipeg Foundation Capacity Building: Multi-Year Community Grant, 2019-2022

WFG received a three-year grant from the Winnipeg Foundation to secure a new Operations Manager and to promote our Distribution Director to Deputy Director. This will strengthen the administrative capacity of the WFG, which in turn will strengthen all areas of the organization. The first nine months of the Operations Manager position was held by Melissa Van Soelen (who is moving on to pursue her filmmaking career) and is being taken over by Amber Fox. One of her many significant duties will include WFG Membership Services.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Shelagh Carter (U of Winnipeg Professor of Theatre and Film – retired June 2019, Filmmaker) – President
- Mike Maryniuk (Filmmaker) – Vice President
- Damien Ferland (Filmmaker) – Secretary
- Sara Bulloch (Filmmaker) –Treasurer
- Noam Gonick (Filmmaker)
- Deco Dawson (Filmmaker)
- Lasha Mowchun (Filmmaker)
- Fabian Velasco (Filmmaker)
- Ryan Wilson (Filmmaker)
- Alyssa Bornn (Filmmaker)