

WFG 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ADMINISTRATION - CORE FUNDING

Greg Klymkiw has been serving as Executive Director for the past 14 months. Greg is responsible for the overall artistic direction of the Winnipeg Film Group in addition to its organizational development and business management. Recognizing the skills and achievements of Distribution Director Monica Lowe, Klymkiw appointed her to serve as WFG's Deputy Director. Monica collaborates with the Executive Director on funder and project management, financial and operating administration, facilities and human resources. Together they work in tandem to facilitate the administration and continued funding of the organization. In August of 2018, the WFG secured the services of ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. to provide bookkeeping services from Dave Terrick.

Core Funding for organizations as WFG is paramount and this year we had great news:

Canada Council for the Arts

In January 2018 WFG received an increase in our Multi-Year core funding from the Canada Council (CCA) for the next 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 in the previous three years and that furthermore our direction and programming plans for the next three years are viewed positively by the national peer assessors and officers at the Canada Council, the Winnipeg Film Group's biggest funder.

DISTRIBUTION

Under the expert guidance of Distribution Director Monica Lowe and solid support from Distribution Coordinator 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. 2017-2018 saw a number of key distribution initiatives:

Animated Women: myCinematheque.ca streaming program - October 2017 to October 2018 myCinematheque.ca is an online programming broadcast series offered by the WFG's Cinematheque. Curated by Monica Lowe, this series featured nine shorts created by women, and an interview with each filmmaker. *The initial creation of the myCinematheque.ca framework was supported by an Initiatives grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.*

Crime Wave – UK Film Tour with Matchbox Cineclub - Fall / Winter 2017, and ongoing Matchbox Cineclub hosted a tour of John Paizs' *Crime Wave* through the United Kingdom, with stops at Dundee Contemporary Arts (Scotland), Castle Cinema (London), Alchemy Film & Arts (Hawick), HOME (Manchester).

Distribution Workshops - February to June 2018

Annually we teach / lead various workshops and talks about Distribution at the WFG and at other venues for specific organizations.

- *Feb 2018: NSI IndigiDocs* - Monica Lowe, WFG's Deputy Director provided the four filmmaking teams with advice targeted towards them and their soon to be created documentary shorts.
- *May 2018: Concordia Film Festival* - Steph Berrington, WFG's Distribution Coordinator, spoke at the school on what the WFG can offer students in terms of distribution as well as provided some tips on self-distribution.
- *June 2018: Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival* - Monica Lowe, WFG's Deputy Director, travelled to Halifax to attend HIFF and lead a free workshop at AFCCOOP about the benefits of working with a distributor.

International Women's Day, University of Manitoba Students' Union - March 2018

We are often approached to curate programs for specific venues and we were approached by the University of Manitoba Students' Union to curate and present a program to celebrate International Women's Day. Steph Berrington curated a selection of nine shorts made by and about women. Several filmmakers were in attendance and an important Q&A and discussion followed the screening.

Found in Translation / Traduction Fidèle: French Film Touring Program, 2017 to 2019

We have selected and subtitled 36 short films from our 40 year old distribution collection into French to reach new audiences in Canada and overseas. The films have been curated into four distinct programs, each with an accompanying essay written by Steph Berrington. Touring of the films will occur in 2018 and 2019. *We received dedicated project funding from the Canada Council Initiatives program to support the direct cost of this project.*

Difficult Viewing and Listening: An Experimental Animation Retrospective, May 2018

Initiated by the WFG's Production Department, this program, curated by WFG member Murray Toews, featured live musical acts and 14 short animated films from the WFG's Distribution Catalogue. It screened at the WFG's Cinematheque.

VUCAVU - Content Partner / Executive Board Member, ongoing

VUCAVU.com is a digital VOD and streaming platform founded by eight distribution partners from across Canada. The WFG played an active role in its founding and creation and continues to play an active role in the ongoing management and future development via Deputy Director Monica Lowe, who has served as an Executive Board Member since VUCAVU was founded.

WFG Distribution actively contributes our films to be previewed, researched and rented on VUCAVU and offers it as a digital distribution option for the films in our collection, ensuring that we are maximizing benefits to independent filmmakers in the new, evolving digital economy.

Distribution Funds/Awards

MFM MARKETING FUND

Funded by Manitoba Film and Music, 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 2017

- Mike Maryniuk - ***THE GOOSE*** - \$750
- Katharina Stieffenhofer - ***FROM SEED TO SEED*** - \$750
- Gwen Trutnau - ***Hot Anger*** - \$500

Selection Committee: Wes Miron, Lisannee Pajot, Madi Piller

Selection Committee Chair: Monica Lowe

Selection Committee Date: 05 December 2017

SPRING 2018

- Kevin Nikkel - ***Under a Cold War Sky*** - \$700
- Trevor Kristjanson - ***Platypus*** - \$400
- Vincent Tang - ***Red Velvet*** - \$150
- Cecilia Araneda - ***Travel for Buenos Aires retrospective*** - \$750

Selection Committee: Deanna Wong, Christopher Spencer-Lowe, Adam Bentley

Selection Committee Chair: Monica Lowe

Selection Committee Date: 16 May 2018

PRODUCTION/TRAINING

Under the expert guidance of Production Centre Director Ben Williams (recently given the additional appointment by ED Greg Klymkiw as Director of Development and Marketing to better acknowledge the full scope of Ben's huge contributions to WFG) and with the solid support of Milos Mitrovic, Manager of Programs and Training and Dylan Baillie, Technical and Equipment Manager, the production department has been a flurry of activity. Klymkiw moved his office to the Production Centre in the summer of 2018 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 Awards).

Some of the Production Centre highlights this year:

2018 WINDY AWARDS

The 3rd annual Windy Awards, designed to provide special recognition to independent Manitoba cinema, were held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Winnipeg Film Group's Cinematheque in Winnipeg's historic Exchange District. Each winner received a glass statue and a cash prize, totaling \$2,750 spread over 10 awards. The event was wittily hosted by local actor Gordon Tanner and the awards were given out by a variety of sponsors and community members. *And The Winners Are...*

Mia, Gabriel Levesque - William F. White Award, Best Cinematography (\$150 Prize)

Hands On, Trevor Hnatowich - Buffalo Gal Pictures Award, Best Editing (\$150 Prize)

Boy Toys, Desiree Deleau – WFG Award, Best Production Design (\$150 Prize)

Descrambled Eggs, Kevin MacLeod - Jazz Winnipeg Award, Best Score (\$150 Prize)

Boy Toys, Trevor Kristjanson - On Screen Manitoba Award, Best Script (\$150 Prize)

Zaasaakwe, Danny Chodirker - Stan Mak Memorial Sound Award, (IATSE 856 \$150 Prize)

Descrambled Eggs, Kayla Jeanson & *10 Years Before Happiness*, Murray Toews - Tangent Animation Award, Best Short Animation / Experimental (\$250 Prize) – TIE

Zaasaakwe, Madison Thomas & Darcy Waite - DOC Winnipeg Award, Best Short Documentary (\$250 Prize)

Hands On, Cleo Curtis - National Screen Institute Award, Best Short Fiction (\$250 Prize)

Mia, Jeremy Guenette - William F. White Award, Best Feature Film (\$1,000 Prize)

The 2018 Windy Awards would not be possible without the support of: William F. White International, IATSE 856, DGC Manitoba, DOC Winnipeg, Buffalo Gal Pictures, the National Screen Institute (NSI), On Screen Manitoba, Tangent Animation and Jazz Winnipeg.

2018 Fifth Annual 48 Hour Film Contest

This annual contest has grown significantly every year and 2018 was no exception. Two incredibly successful events in celebration of the work created in this program included a full house World Premiere at the Gimli Film Festival and a Gala Presentation and Party at The Met which had over 500 people in attendance.

Other Production Achievements/Partnerships

Working in partnership with Blackspace Winnipeg, Ben Williams lent huge support to the first 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 4th Anniversary). The biannual info session/open house, Freedom Caucus, grows bigger every year. The Production Centre also built its first collaboration with Manitoba Music to help bridge a stronger relationship between filmmakers and musicians and between organizations.

2018 Manitoba Film Hothouse Awards

In June 2018, the Winnipeg Film Group (WFG) was pleased to announce that Scott Fitzpatrick was the recipient of the 2018 Manitoba Film Hothouse Award. Scott Fitzpatrick is an internationally acclaimed filmmaker, film festival programmer and curator. His most recent work includes:

- *Fifth Metacarpal* (2018), a hyper-personal essay film commissioned by the Toronto 8 Fest for presentation in 2018.
- *Trigger Warning* (2017), an examination of gun violence and police brutality in the United States which premiered at the 28th annual Onion City Experimental Film Festival in Chicago.
- *Zombie, Part 1* (2016), the first of a trilogy shot on Super 8mm that utilizes found footage, performance, pop music and a rhythmic editing style to focus upon a speed-addicted Flagler, Florida resident who documents his life through stylized writing and photography. *Zombie, Part 1* received the Jury Prize at the 2017 Milwaukee Underground Film Festival.

The Hothouse Award recognizes the career of an established Manitoba filmmaker. It comes in the form of \$10,000 in cash and \$5,000 in production services to support ongoing development work leading towards the production of one or several film productions or projects. In conjunction with his Hothouse Award, the Winnipeg Cinematheque will feature a retrospective screening of the recipient's work.

The award will support Fitzpatrick:

- in the production of *Zombie, Pt. 2* and in the development of *Zombie, Pt. 3*;
- a 16mm installation and Expanded Cinema projects and;
- several new works including a series of autostereograms in collaboration with Alyssa Bornn;
- A retrospective screening of his work in the WFG Cinematheque.

Fitzpatrick was selected for the award unanimously by a selection committee comprised of Toronto-based filmmaker/producer Lea Marin (whose previous collaboration with Charles Officer, *Unarmed Verses*, received the 2017 Best Feature Film Award at the 2017 Hot Docs Film Festival), acclaimed Winnipeg filmmaker/director Rhayne Vermette (whose latest film *Domus* was recently screened at the Images Film Festival in Toronto) and WFG Executive Director Greg Klymkiw (producer, filmmaker, screenwriter and teacher).

Workshops/Training

WFG workshops and training in terms of scope, breadth and attendance has been by far the **best of all time**. In one year, over 600 people came through our doors to take our workshops. Compared to the previous year, which attracted 203 people, 2.5x more people are learning the ins and outs of filmmaking. This number is staggering. The entire team in production has been amazing, but much of this success is due to the tireless efforts of Milos Mitrovic.

The Creative Crew Workshop Series for Women was a great success this year and 2018 was the inaugural year for such workshops. It is a free workshop series for Women that WFG runs in partnership with the National Film Board of Canada. The series is application-based and runs for a full 2 day span on specialized training of Camera, Sound and Editing. Look out for more of these specialized workshop series for women in the future.

WFG had a great run of indigenous workshop/training programming in partnership with the Indigenous Filmmakers Collective. Classes were offered free of charge to all members of the Indigenous Filmmakers Collective and it included a master class with filmmaker Georgina Lightning, a producing class with Tina keeper, an acting class with Ryan Black and many, many more.

Prominent, established and in some cases, downright famous filmmakers and actors have taught very successful master classes in 2018, including Rutger Hauer (Roy Batty in *Blade Runner*), Roy Wagner (Cinematographer of *Nightmare on Elm Street 3, CSI*), Kevin McDonald (*Kids in the Hall*) and in partnership with Blackspace Winnipeg, Charles Burnett (*Killer of Sheep*).

WFG partnerships continued to grow in workshop/training programming. We partnered alongside Winnipeg School Divisions, Creative Manitoba and Graffiti Art Gallery to offer specialized free 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.

Equipment

Things have been cooking along briskly here (thanks mostly to Dylan Baillie). There have been numerous acquisitions including a Sony a7s Mark 2 camera to replace our ageing Canon 7Ds as well as new shoulder rig and follow focus systems. Repairs are ongoing, but most notably in the repair of current lighting kits. WFG continues to offer a computer lab with the full suite of Adobe apps, as well as updated versions of the newest Final Cut Pro software. This is available to all members for only \$5 per day to use a computer. And of course, WFG has provided gear for countless short films and multiple feature films during 2018.

Annual WFG Members' Screening and Party

The annual screening of our members' films has been moved from December to January so the work can be properly showcased in the printed Cinematheque program.

CINEMATHEQUE

The WFG Cinematheque continues to provide our members and general public with the only game in town for vibrant, alternative viewing. The gradual expansion of showtimes in 2018 included the addition of 5pm shows on Saturdays and Sundays. 2019 will see even more added viewing opportunities.

Programming Director Jaimz Asmundson, Senior Cinematheque Programmer Dave Barber, Operations Manager David Knipe and Technical Liaison Milos Mitrovic (plus boxoffice staff Sam Sarty, Jessica Seburn, Thomas Hanan, Omid Moterassed, Ryan Steel, Stephanie Poruchnyk-Butler and projectionists Eric Peterson, Conrad Vandenberg , Milos Mitrovic and Sam Sarty) ensured a great experience for all. And it was another amazing year of programming including these special presentations:

To Brush Against the Palm of Your Eye: Short Film and Video by Scott Fitzpatrick
Brian Stockton: The Epic Story of My Life in Ten Short Films
10th Annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival
Cream of the Crap
You Don't Know Me, But You Love Me: Book Launch & Screening
Twilight Room of the Soul: The Universe of Ingmar Bergman
20th Anniversary of Send + Receive
Secret Cinema with David Knipe
Femme Totale: New Indigenous Women's Cinema
Jazz Film Fest
Winnipeg Underground Film Festival
Difficult Viewing and Listening: An Experimental Animation Retrospective
Transformations: Terril Calder's Animated Worlds
African Movie Festival in Manitoba
Architecture & Design Film Festival
4th Annual Alliance Française French Film Festival
Lowe & Behold: The Documentaries of Patrick Lowe
Iranian Cinema: Untaken Paths
Canada's Top Ten Film Festival
Inner Worlds and Soft Landings: The Films of Cecilia Araneda
Bill Morrison in Conversation
Cabin Fever! Free Films for Kids

MOVING FORWARD

Archive / Counter Archive

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* is a six year project, supporting multiple archival research projects that pairs partners from across the country including galleries, festivals, media arts distributors, universities and archives.

During our two-year case study (2019-2021) we will be working closely with Andrew Burke, Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Winnipeg and we will focus on three main areas: First, what can the audio-visual archive reveal about a city shaped by immigration but built on Indigenous land? Second, how can the work of women filmmakers be re-centered in narratives of both the Winnipeg Film Group and the city's larger cinematic history? Third, while investigating the first two focuses, we will examine the gaps in the collection and ask ourselves "what is missing and why?"

The Winnipeg Foundation

Capacity Building: Multi-Year Community Grant, 2019-2022

We have received a three-year grant from the Winnipeg Foundation to secure a new Operations Manager and to promote our Distribution Director to Deputy Director. These two positions will help strengthen the administration capacity of the WFG, which in turn will strengthen all areas of the organization. The Operations Manager, among other significant duties, will take over Membership Services and once she starts, she will be joining Greg, Dylan and Milos in the Production Centre to greet all of our members – new, returning and established.