



Shining a spotlight on Manitoba Filmmakers at the 16th Annual GFF!

(Winnipeg, Manitoba; July 14, 2016) – Next week, the shores of Lake Winnipeg will vibrantly come to life with world-class cinema at the 16th Annual Gimli Film Festival, taking place from **July 20 to 24**.

The five day festival launches several new film series and special days in 2016.

Of particular note is the outstanding home-grown film lineup, springing from our very own province. Manitoba is home to some of the most talented and hardworking creative filmmakers in the world, and as always, GFF shines a spotlight on some of the best made-in-Manitoba films.

With the help of On Screen Manitoba, GFF is proud to present six made-in-Manitoba feature films including, *THE FORBIDDEN ROOM* by Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson, *88:88* by Isiah Medina, *WORLD TO COME* by Trevor Mowchun, *TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE* by Noam Gonick and Sean Garrity's *BOREALIS*.

Special Guest Appearances by Manitoba filmmakers

Manitoba-born filmmaker Ryan McKenna will be in attendance with his latest award-winning feature film, *The Heart of Madame Sabali*, screening on Friday July 22 and Saturday July 23.

As well, Noam Gonick will be in attendance with his exposé on LGBTTQ* rights (or lack there-of) during the Sochi Olympics, *To Russia with Love*, screening on Thursday July 21.

MB-born Jonas Chernick (writer / producer / lead actor of *Borealis*) will be attending the festival to introduce his latest film. *Borealis* has the honor of being one of two opening night films at GFF this year, with a Wednesday night RBC Sunset Beach Screening of *Borealis* kicking off the festival. Chernick will also be teaching a TV & Film Acting Workshop on Friday, sponsored by ACTRA Manitoba.

Manitoba Short Films

Some of the best Manitoba short films from emerging directors are featured in the Manitoba Short Film Showcase, sponsored by On Screen Manitoba and screening on Saturday, July 23.

This year's Manitoba Short Film Showcase program includes Trevor Kristjanson's *BOYS TOYS*, Rachel Carlson's *BEAUTY IN FOCUS*, Chloe Ross-Rogerson *IN TRANSITION*, Austin MacKay & Stuart Fletcher-Cook's *HOLD ON*, Jenna Neepin & Justina Neepin's *THE LEAGUE*, Christopher Paetkau & Carlyle Paetkau's *OCEANS NORTH CANADA: PROTECTING MANITOBA'S BELUGA ESTUARIES*, Christine Mazur's *OLIVIA*, Nilufer Rahman's *LETTER TO A TERRORIST*, and *THE CHAMP* – a film by Markus Milos and Ian Fabian.

In a continuing effort to promote Manitoba's past, present and future, *MTS Stories from Home* has sponsored an additional 5-part series of Manitoba documentaries.

- **Part 1: First Nations First** features MB-based indigenous stories from Janelle Wookey & Jérémie Wookey and Kristin Snowbird.
- **Part 2: Winnipeg Love / Hate** focuses on our fair city's proud but self-deprecating heritage, and includes films by Lorne Bailey, Angela Heck, Jeff Newman, and Gary Yates.
- **Part 3: GFF Homegrown** is a compilation of films created by festival board members and former GFF Pitch Contest winners, Orlando Braun & Jorge Requena Ramos's *That Mennonite Joke*.
- **Part 4: How to Save the World** focuses on ecology, climate change and we can all help sustain the world around us. Included in the program is Bruce Little and Noah Erenberg's *Drive for Free 2*, and the audience is invited to check out three alternative fuel vehicles (electricity, propane and vegetable oil) outside the theatre, after the screening!
- **Part 5: Outside the Perimeter** features local underground film giant Mike Maryniuk's latest short *No Cultural Value* (HotDocs2016) and Mike Saunders's *The Private Lives of Wild Creatures*.

The Gimli Film Fest is once again proud to present the World Premiere of over 20 brand new films created by emerging Manitoba directors through the Winnipeg Film Group's **48 Hour Film Competition**. Two dozen teams are competing for a list of great prizes, after writing, shooting and editing a short film together in 48 hours or less.

Also presented by the Winnipeg Film Group is a live poet / filmmaker collaborative performance, dubbed **F-Wordz** on Friday night at Kris' Fish & Chips. In this intimate outdoor venue, three poets and filmmakers will team up to perform poetry accompanied by video, followed by *AL PURDY WAS HERE*, a post-humous documentary about the famed Canadian poet.

Additional short films by Scott Fitzpatrick and Rhayne Vermette will also play during the festival.

Overall, an incredible Manitoba menu of seven feature films and over 45 short films featuring Manitoba content will screen as part of Gimli Film Festival 2016!

SPECIAL DAYS AT 2016 GFF:

Wednesday, July 20: OPENING DAY – GFF's 2016 VIP Opening Reception at 7pm, and two opening night films: *RAMS* by Icelandic filmmaker Grímur Hákonarson and *BOREALIS* by Sean Garrity.

Thursday, July 21: ICELANDIC DAY – our outstanding Icelandic film series!

Friday, July 22: FRENCH CINEMA DAY, and **UKRAINIAN CINEMA DAY** highlighting two vibrant cultures of Manitoba.

Saturday, July 23: MANITOBA DAY, a Saturday jam-packed with industry events and films having a Manitoba focus, with the 2016 GFF Awards Gala capping off the day.

Sunday, July 24: KIDS DAY, many kids films & activities on Sunday, in honor of our youngest film-fans.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT GFF:

- **RBC 5th Annual \$10,000 Emerging Filmmaker Competition** – Saturday 23 July 2016
- **The 48 Hour Film Competition, Winnipeg Film Group** - Saturday 23 July 2016
- **Manitoba Theatre for Young People, kids camp** - Sunday 24 July 2016
- **Manitoba Short Films, On-Sreen Manitoba** - Saturday 23 July 2016
- **ACTRA Film & TV Acting workshop with Jonas Chernick** – Friday 22 July 2016
- **Sat morning and Sunday morning cartoons, National Film Board** - Saturday 23 July 2016
- **F-WORDZ top 3 poets and filmmakers, Al Purdy documentary sponsored by Winnipeg Film Group** - Saturday 23 July 2016
- **Live Music on Friday & Saturday night, hosted by our new venue partner, the Ship & Plough Gastropub** - Saturday 23 July 2016 and Sunday 24 July 2016
- **RBC Beach Boardwalk**, Thursday-Sunday 7:30-10:pm on Gimli Beach

FESTIVAL PASSES & TICKETS

Festival Passes & Tickets are now on sale! – Purchase your passes on website at www.gimlifilm.com , or drop by the GFF Box Offices:

GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE #1

Lakeview Conference Centre 10 Centre St., Gimli (Tara`s Corner, Room J)

HOURS: JULY 19-24, 9AM-7PM DAILY

GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE #2

41 Centre St., Gimli (beside Pharmasave) Phone: 204-642-7790

PRE-FESTIVAL: JULY 13-18, 11AM-7PM DAILY

HOURS: JULY 19-24: 9AM-3PM (FOR PASS HOLDERS / PASS PICKUP ONLY)

We invite you to experience our incredible festival in 2016! ...See you under the stars July 20-24, 2016 for the 16th edition of GFF.

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For events information, media accreditation, interviews or any festival questions, contact

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Visit www.gimlifilm.com for the most up-to-date information on everything about the Festival!

-Subscribe to us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/gimlifilmfestival>

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-Visit our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpKp6pgg68XaXTaRV9Jtd8Q>

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