



Are you Ready? Tonight the 16th Annual Gimli Film Festival takes flight!

(Winnipeg, Manitoba; July 20, 2016) – The 2016 Gimli Film Festival is poised and set to launch. A phenomenal film lineup, a classy VIP Opening reception, and numerous special industry events have filmmakers and fans flocking to the beautiful lakeside community of Gimli from July 20-24.

Passion for film has been propelling the Gimli Film Festival since the year 2000. This year, the festival boasts expansion in many directions.

A broader view: socially and environmentally relevant films from across the globe

The 2016 GFF lineup includes an insightful Social Justice film series sponsored by the Mauro foundation, an amazing Environmental film series, Next Wave Docs a series of boundary-pushing documentaries, Coming Home: Indigenous films from around the world, and The Final Frontier: inspiring docs about human ingenuity.

Examples of a few films guaranteed to expand your horizons:

IXCANUL | Jayro Bustamante | Guatemala / France | Spanish w/ English subtitles

On a Guatemalan coffee plantation on the side of a volcano, a sharp young Mayan woman, Maria, is unsure if she wants to continue with her family's traditions or take a step into the wider world.

UNDER THE SUN | Vitaly Mansky | Russia | Korean w/ English subtitles

Over the course of one year, this film follows the life of an ordinary North Korean family whose daughter was chosen to take part in one of the famous Korean "Spartakiads". The ritualized explosions of color and joy contrast sharply with pale everyday reality, which is not particularly terrible, but rather quite surreal.

ICE AND THE SKY | Luc Jacquet | France | Documentary

Ice and the Sky is a French documentary film directed by Luc Jacquet about the work of Claude Lorius, who began studying Antarctic ice in 1957, and, in 1965, was the first scientist to be concerned about global warming.

Greater diversity in cultures:

The multicultural flavor of films at GFF has increased. This year's festival includes a French series, a Ukrainian series, an Icelandic series sponsored by Pharmasave Gimli, and a Circlumpolar series (films from the regions of north: Norway, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Greenland and Northern Canada) also sponsored by Pharmasave Gimli.

A special ***Solveig Anspach Retrospective***, sponsored by alliance Française du Manitoba & Cinémental, will pay homage to the acclaimed Icelandic/French director Solveig Anspach, who left the world far too early in 2015 after a long battle with breast cancer. Two of Anspach's films that will be screened at GFF are:

LULU IN THE NUDE (LULU FEMME NUE) France | Drama | French w/ English subtitles

Following a botched job interview, Lulu decides not to return home, leaving her husband and their three

children in the lurch. Three decisive encounters will help Lulu rediscover an old acquaintance she's not seen for years: herself.

QUEEN OF MONTREUIL | France | Drama | French/Icelandic w/ English subtitles

It's early summer and Agathe is back in France, at home in Montreuil. She has to get over her husband's death and return to her work as a film director.

Deeper Roots here at home

This year's Canadian and Manitoban selection of films is undeniably rich, with many outstanding home-grown dramas and docs on the menu. Saturday –the festival's busiest and heaviest-attended day—is dedicated to Manitoba focused films and filmmaking events this year.

Two competitions that cultivate the spirit of emerging filmmakers, are taking place on Saturday.

The 48 Hour Film Contest

This increasingly popular and intensely exciting contest, organized by Winnipeg Film Group, puts forth the challenge to write, shoot, edit, score and complete an original short film in two days! Teams must produce these shorts in what can only be described as a roller-coaster 48 hours of 'team collaboration', 'grueling pace', 'sleep deprivation', and 'high-pressure filmmaking'.

The finished products? A collection of incredibly creative short films, to be screened on Saturday, July 23 at the Gimli Film Festival. Over 20 sponsors provide high value prizes for Best Film, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Editor, Best Sound, Best Actor, Best Actress and People's choice, with five films selected to be broadcast on Shaw TV.

The RBC \$10,000 Emerging Filmmakers Competition

Emerging Manitoba Filmmakers with fabulous ideas for a short dramatic film have been invited to compete for the money, mentorship with National Screen Institute and a \$1,000 equipment gift certificate to William F. White International. Five finalists have been chosen, and strive to present a winning pitch for their film.

Please join us on Saturday, July 23 as we premiere last year's winning film, *Annabelle* by Kevin Tabachnick, and then watch as the five finalists of this year's competition pitch their amazing film ideas to a jury in front of a live audience!

DON'T MISS TONIGHT, WED JULY 20TH – OPENING NIGHT AT GFF:

- **VIP Opening Reception at Johnson Hall, 5th floor of Waterfront Centre – 7:00-10:00pm**
- ***RAMS* by Grímur Hákonarson – 7:00pm.** This Icelandic film is the first official screening of the 2016 GFF! Held in the Lutheran Church Theatre.
- ***Borealis* by Sean Garrity (RBC Sunset Beach Screening): – 10pm.** A Manitoba-made film will have the honor of being our first screening under the stars 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:

Box Office phone: 204-642-7790

GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL, MAIN BOX OFFICE

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

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

GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL, PASS-HOLDER BOX OFFICE

41 Centre St., Gimli (beside Pharmasave)

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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"See you under the stars July 20-24, 2016 for the 16th edition of GFF!"