



Join us under the stars for the 16th Annual Gimli Film Festival!

(Winnipeg, Manitoba; June 23, 2016) – Film fans and filmmakers will soon unite upon the shores of Lake Winnipeg for the 2016 Gimli Film Festival (GFF). Celebrating 16 years of film festival excellence, the annual five-day Festival will take place in Gimli, Manitoba from **July 20 to 24**.

The Gimli Film Festival has cultivated a reputation for bringing enlightening, thought-provoking, and entertaining cinema to Manitoba. The 2016 GFF features a phenomenal array of films and film series, including our Circumpolar film series, Icelandic film series, French Cinema series, Environmental film series, Social Justice film series, RBC Sunset Beach Screenings, and Kids' Cuts.

Making a debut at this year's festival are several first-time series—including a fascinating Ukrainian film series which delves into Canada's vibrant Ukrainian heritage; 'Next Wave Docs' - boundary-pushing films that experiment with documentary tradition, in collaboration with Winnipeg Underground Film Festival; an indigenous series called 'Coming Home: Indigenous films from around the world'; and the Reel Pride Series, a series of LGBTTQ* films in collaboration with Reel Pride Film Festival.

Overall, the 16th Annual GFF marks an exciting year of change and expansion for the Gimli Film Festival. 2016 will introduce the opening of a 6th film venue at GFF, a new lineup of stylish clothing and merchandise based on a delightful 2016 GFF design created by talented UK children's book illustrator Gillian Johnson; as well, a new executive director is captaining this year's festival—Rick Kemp.

In Kemp's words, increased sponsorship of this festival has allowed GFF to branch out and flourish. "The Gimli Film Festival is fueled by our sponsors' passion for film, culture and heritage," stated Kemp. "Their generous support not only provides a stage for Manitoba's filmmakers to showcase their talents, but a chance for all Manitobans to view otherwise inaccessible works of art."

RBC SUNSET BEACH SCREENINGS

Sitting in the sand, beneath a canopy of stars, film-goers will experience the magic of cinema on a one-of-a-kind 35-foot outdoor screen that rises up out of the waters of Lake Winnipeg. GFF's highly popular *RBC Sunset Beach Screenings* proudly presents six films at this year's festival, beginning at sunset every night.

WEDNESDAY: BOREALIS, by Sean Garrity (a made-in-Manitoba film)

Borealis is the emotionally-layered journey of an unemployed gambler who takes his estranged teenage daughter on a dangerous road trip up to Churchill, MB to show her the Northern Lights before her vision disorder renders her blind. This film is directed by Manitoba filmmaker Sean Garrity and written, produced and starring Jonas Chernick. (Chernick will be attending a 2nd indoor screening of *Borealis* on the Friday of GFF)

THURSDAY: ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND, by director Michel Gondry

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is a romantic sci-fi comedy-drama about an estranged couple who have erased each other from their memories; this film explores the nature of memory and romantic love. (GFF is also thrilled to be screening the Canadian premiere of Gondry's latest film *Microbe et Gasoil* at GFF this year)

FRIDAY: *RAIDERS!* sweeps the beach with a double feature:

(10pm) RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK In this classic adventure by Steven Spielberg, archaeologist and adventurer Indiana Jones is hired by the US government to find the Ark of the Covenant before the Nazis.

(12am) RAIDERS! THE STORY OF THE GREATEST FAN FILM EVER MADE In 1982, three 11-year-old boys in Mississippi decided to film a shot-for-shot remake of their favorite blockbuster, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Over the course of seven summers, they risked their lives and their mother's house, finishing all but one scene. Years later, blood brothers reunite to shoot that scene they could never nail: the airplane sequence. Uproariously funny and achingly sweet, three grown men risk everything to achieve their childhood dream.

SATURDAY:

(10pm) DAVID BOWIE AND PRINCE SING-A-LONG Bring your beach towel and your singing voice to this unique event where the audience is invited to sing-a-long with their favorite David Bowie and Prince songs!

(12am) NUTS! is a documentary directed by Penny Lane, about Dr. John Romulus Brinkley, an eccentric genius who built an empire in Depression-era America with a goat testicle impotence cure and a million watt radio station. This Sundance Award-winning film traces Brinkley's rise from poverty and obscurity to the heights of celebrity, wealth and influence. *NUTS* is a form-bending documentary explores how "truths" can be invented by crafty storytellers, and what responsibility nonfiction filmmakers have to reveal the tricks of their craft.

SUNDAY: THE GOONIES! Sunday is kids' day at GFF, and the Sunday night beach screening of *The Goonies!* will wrap up the festival with a classic 80's adventure film. In order to save their home from foreclosure, a group of misfits set out to find a pirate's ancient treasure in this classic tale by director Richard Donner.

FILM SERIES EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Aaron Zeghers, GFF Artistic Director, is excited about the diversity and the quality of the 2016 film lineup, which includes many Manitoba, Canadian and World film premieres.

One highlight of particular note is the Canadian premiere of esteemed director Michel Gondry's latest film *Microbe et Gasoil*; Gondry is best-known for his film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, which will screen under the stars on the Thursday night of this year's festival.

"I have been a fan of Michel Gondry's films for years, specifically his inventive, DIY aesthetics," noted Zeghers. "I'm very pumped that we're able to present the Canadian festival premiere of Gondry's latest film *Microbe et Gasoil*, with much help from our sponsors Alliance Francaise Manitoba and Cinemental!" Zeghers added that the writer of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, Charlie Kaufmann, also has his latest stop-motion animated film *Anomalisa* screening in GFF this year.

Below is a list of the amazing variety and scope of film series you'll find at GFF this year! (for full listings, including synopses and trailers, view www.gimlifilm.com -new films being added weekly):

Circumpolar Film Series - Cinema from the North

The Circumpolar Film Series - sponsored by Pharmasave Gimli - shines a spotlight cinema from the world's most northern regions, including Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Greenland and northern Canada!

Films include: *BOREALIS*, *A MAN CALLED OVE*, *HEVN*, and *THE JOURNEY HOME*.

Icelandic Film Series

Gimli's Iceland roots have shaped this beautiful lakefront community known as "New Iceland", and so once again the Gimli Film Festival is proud to present the best contemporary cinema from Iceland. This series is generously sponsored by Icelandair and supported by the Icelandic Film Centre and Consulate General of Iceland Winnipeg.

Films include: *RAMS*, *VIRGIN MOUNTAIN*, and *SPARROWS*.

Social Justice Documentaries

Gimli Film Festival believes in the power of cinema to change society and expand the minds of all! Through the support of The Mauro Family Foundation, we bring you ground-breaking documentaries that will stir you from your seat, and into action!

Films include: *MIGRANT DREAMS*, *AFTER THE LAST RIVER*, *THE PRISON IN TWELVE LANDSCAPES*, and *TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE*.

Parler Le Français - French language cinema

A series of French-language films, primarily from France and Quebec.

Films include: *BORIS SANS BEATRICE*, *MICROBE ET GASOIL*, *THE HEART OF MADAME SABALI*, *LONG WAY NORTH*, *ICE AND THE SKY*, *LULU FEMME NUE*, *QUEEN OF MONTREUIL*.

Sólveig Anspach Retrospective

In collaboration with Alliance Francaise Manitoba and Cinémental, the Gimli Film Festival is honoured to present a retrospective on the late Icelandic/French filmmaker Sólveig Anspach, whose life was cut far too short in 2015 after a long battle with breast cancer. As part of this retrospective, GFF will present the Western Canadian theatrical premiere of her 2013 film *LULU IN THE NUDE* (*LULU FEMME NUE*) and her 2012 film *QUEEN OF MONTREUIL*.

Reel Pride Film Series

In collaboration with the local Reel Pride Film Festival, the Gimli Film Fest is proud to present a series of films that explore and uncover GLBTTQ* issues.

Films include: *CLOSET MONSTER*, *HE HATED PIGEONS*, and *TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE*.

Ukrainian Film Series

Gimli Film Fest is proud to announce a brand new film series this year, that takes aim at one of Manitoba's most vibrant cultures: the Ukrainian community!

Films include: *ALMOST HOLY*, *UNDER THE SUN*, *UKRAINE STORIES: RESISTING AND REBUILDING IN A TIME OF WAR*.

Next Wave Docs - boundary-pushing films that experiment with documentary tradition... Cinema is truly an ever changing and evolving language unto itself. To highlight some of boldest new documentary films of 2016, the Gimli Film Festival is excited to present this series of boundary pushing docs! Presented in collaboration with the Winnipeg Underground Film Festival.

Films include: *A SPACE PROGRAM*, *BROTHERS*, *THE PRISON IN TWELVE LANDSCAPES*, and *88:88*.

Kid's Cuts - movies for this kid in us all

(Long Way North, The Boy and the World, Saturday Morning Cartoons with the NFB, MTYP Kids Film Camp Screening, The Journey Home)

ᐅᑎᓐᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Coming Home) - indigenous films from around the world

Touching portraits of indigenous peoples from around the world, from right here in Canada to Central and South America.

Films include: *IXCANUL*, *SONGS MY BROTHER TAUGHT ME*, *EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT*, and *AFTER THE LAST RIVER*.

The Final Frontier - inspiring docs about human ingenuity in the modern age and into the future

A film series that ventures into the great beyond, testing the endurance of the human species. From travelling through time, to setting foot on Mars, to sustaining "Spaceship Earth", this documentary series is sure to inspire!

Films include: *A SPACE PROGRAM*, *SPACESHIP EARTH*, and *HOW TO BUILD A TIME MACHINE*.

Environmental Film Series

This program reflects the passion of filmmakers who want us to look at, think about and get involved with the ecosystem we all share. These films explore the possibilities and realities of our ever changing environment.

Films include: *SPACESHIP EARTH*, *ICE AND THE SKY*, and *DRIVE FOR FREE 2*.

The Seniors' Special - some compelling yarns from those 55+

This new series focuses on the true and fictional stories of fascinating characters that are 55+

Films include: *A MAN CALLED OVE*, *GRANDMA*, *AFTER CIRCUS*, *AL PURDY WAS HERE*, *RAMS*

MANITOBA SHORT FILMS - GFF will be playing an intriguing cross-section of short films, including the Manitoba Short Films sponsored by On-Screen Manitoba, the 48 Hour Film Contest sponsored by Winnipeg Film Group, and the 2015 RBC \$10,000 Pitch Winner Kevin Tabachnick's film *Annabelle*.

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-Screen Manitoba** - Saturday 23 July 2016
- **ACTRA Film & TV Acting workshop with Jonas Chernick** – Friday 22 July 2016
- **Sat 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

Festival Passes 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)

Guarantee Your Seat – In July, individual film tickets will go on sale and pass holders will be able order tickets to secure their seats. 50% of tickets to all films will be available in advance up to 5 pm the day before the screening. The remaining 50% will be rush seating on a first come first served basis at the door.

- **Super Pass** - \$100
Access to all films plus the hospitality events
100 Super Passes available
- **Film Pass** - \$75
Access to films only
150 Film Passes available
- **Filmmakers Pass** - \$75
This includes Access to all films and filmmakers networking events, including Filmmakers Reception on Sat July 25
50 Filmmakers Passes available
- **Individual Film tickets** - \$10

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.

The GFF is proud to acknowledge the cooperation and generous financial support of the following sponsors, whose enthusiastic support has made the 2016 Gimli Film Festival possible:

Premiere Sponsors: **RBC Royal Bank, Province of MB – Major Arts Festivals Grant, Telefilm, William F White International** Gold Sponsors: **Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, On Screen Manitoba, Winnipeg Foundation, RM of Gimli, Insurance Brokers Association of Manitoba, Winnipeg Free Press, Canada Summer Jobs, Gimli Lakeview** Silver Sponsors: **The Richardson Foundation, MTS, Icelandair, Iceland Naturally, Donald K. Johnson O.C., LL.D., Mauro Family Foundation Inc, Opus VFX, Pharmasave, TIFF Film Circuit** Bronze Sponsors: **Mauro Foundation, Your Community Newspapers - The Express Weekly News, The Stonewall Teulon Tribune, The Selkirk Record and the Winkler Morden Voice, Changemakers** Festival Partner: **Manitoba Film & Music, IcelandNaturally, TIFF Film Circuit, Travel Manitoba, GD Accounting** Festival Friend: **Westshore Foundation, National Film Board, Icelandic Film Centre, National Screen Institute** Venue Partners: **Gimli Theatre, Lakeview Resort, Ship & Plough Gastropub, Lady of the Lake Theatre, Gimli Lutheran Church, Aspire Theatre, Kris Fish & Chips, Gimli Yacht Club** Festival Sponsor Service Partner: **Guppy Graphic Design, AVentPro, Winnipeg Film Group, Consulate General of Iceland Winnipeg** Festival Sponsor Hospitality Partners: **Spirits Canada, Bergmann's on Lombard, Farmery Estate Brewery, Festival Friend Hospitality Partners, Lifa Home, Flatland Coffee Roasters, Super A Foods, Sobeys in Gimli, Water Source - Gimli Water Hus, Gimli Ice Festival, Sugar Me Cookies, Gimli Yacht Club**

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

Marlene Ness - Gimli Film Festival Communications Coordinator

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GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL, Suite 101 - 94 1st Ave. Waterfront Centre, Gimli, Manitoba R0C 1B0

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>

-Follow us on Twitter #gimlifilm <https://twitter.com/GimliFilm>

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

-Check us out on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/gimlifilm/>

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