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## Join us under the stars for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gimli Film Festival, July 22-26

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(Winnipeg, Manitoba; June 25, 2015) – Film fans and filmmakers will soon converge on the shores of Lake Winnipeg for the 2015 Gimli Film Festival (GFF). Celebrating 15 years of film festival excellence, the annual five-day Festival will dazzle the picturesque lakeshore community of Gimli, Manitoba from **July 22 to 26**.

The GFF will feature a diverse range of films and film series, including the RBC Sunset Screenings, Rogers Documentary Film series, MTS TV Stories From Home Documentaries, the Social Justice Film series, the Icelandic Film series, the Northern Lights (circumpolar) Film series, and much more.

We are proud to present one World Premiere [**Crash Site**], four Canadian premieres [**And We Were Young**, **Paris of the North**, **The Grandad**, and **Echos**], four Western Canadian premieres [**Life in a Fishbowl**, **(T)error**, **Of Them**, and **Period Piece**] and 14 Manitoba premieres [**A Pigeon Sat on a Branch and Reflected on Existence**, **Back Streets**, **Flankers**, **Fred Heads**, **Me and My Moulton**, **Rinse**, **She's Beautiful When She's Angry**, **The Valley Below**, **Elephant Song**, **World of Tomorrow**, **A Brilliant Young Mind**, **How to Change the World**, and **Iris**]. Stay tuned in coming days, as we roll out more titles!

"As the film programmer for Gimli it's really a treat to be able to sift through literally hundreds of films and pick out the best, the most moving, the most entertaining to bring to Manitobans. It's an incredibly daunting task but one that is also thoroughly enjoyable," commented Aaron Zeghers, GFF Film Programmer.

"This year I'm really excited to be able to have the Canadian premiere of American animator Andy Smetanka's Super 8 animated documentary about the hardships of The Great War, **And We Were Young**. I'm also very pumped to be curating a retrospective of animator Don Hertzfeldt, including his new film **World of Tomorrow**. This is its first time playing in Manitoba, hot off winning Best Short Film at Sundance and I can't wait for people to see it! It's great."

Zeghers also mentioned that for the first time, GFFF is helping to host the Winnipeg Film Group's 48 Hour Film Contest. "It's a great excuse to get off your butt and try making a film for yourself," says Zeghers. "You have just two days to make the film, and in the end you get to see it play for the first time during the Festival! It's a fantastic opportunity for local filmmakers and film tinkerers alike!"

This year, Festival goers will also enjoy the cutting-edge technology of the newly released GFF App. The App provides full festival scheduling and film details at people's fingertips, and will be available for download at [www.gimlifilm.com](http://www.gimlifilm.com), as well as on Google Play and iTunes.

This year's GFF also saw an expanded list of sponsors. "We are honoured by the continued support of our ongoing sponsors and funders, plus welcome our new supporters and partners this year," says GFF's Festival Director, Leona Johnson. "We are very pleased that so many share our vision of the power of film to inform & inspire, and engage & entertain."

## BEACH SCREENINGS

The **FREE**, highly popular beach screenings will feature a one-of-a-kind 35-foot outdoor screen on the lovely shores of Lake Winnipeg. The *RBC Sunset Screenings* will present six films, beginning at sunset.

- Wednesday, July 22, 10 pm      **To be announced.**
- Thursday, July 23, 10 pm      **Labyrinth** – Kids night is Thursday eve with Jim Henson's (creator of The Muppets) *Labyrinth*, starring musician David Bowie and a young Jennifer Connelly.
- Friday, July 24, 10 pm      **Monty Python and the Holy Grail** – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Still hilarious after four decades, this classic stars John Cleese and is directed by iconic film director Terry Gilliam.
- Friday, July 24, LATE NIGHT      **Alien** – As our late night chiller, we will be playing Ridley Scott's *Alien* as a midnight movie, starring Sigourney Weaver. Prepare to get spooked!
- Saturday, July 25, 10 pm      **Jurassic Park** – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Dinosaurs invade the beach on Saturday night with the original *Jurassic Park*, directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Laura Dern and Jeff Goldblum.
- Sunday, July 26, 10 pm      **Dr. Strangelove** – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – This classic dark comedy is a cold war parody by director Stanley Kubrick, starring the comedic genius Peter Sellers in multiple roles.

## WORLD CLASS CINEMA:

A small sampling of this year's line-up of thought-provoking films from across the globe includes:

**RED ARMY** – An inspiring hockey tale about the Cold War played out on the ice rink. On hand for Q&A after the film, former professional hockey players Ted Irvine (New York Rangers), Bobby Leiter (Boston/Atlanta) and Ken Stephanson (Team Canada/ Winnipeg Jets) will attend the Sat screening.

**IRIS** - This film is about Iris Apfel, the quick-witted, flamboyantly dressed 93-year-old fashion icon of New York, and is the last film ever made by the iconic godfather of documentary cinema, Albert Maysles.

**AND WE WERE YOUNG** - the Canadian Premiere of this animated documentary uses verbal accounts from soldiers of WWI and beautiful hand-made silhouette cut-out animation to illustrate the horrors and hardships of 'The Great War'.

**MONSOON** - Part road movie, part spectacle, part drama-- the subject of Sturla Gunnarsson's documentary is the monsoon, an incomparably vast weather system that permeates and unifies the culture of India.

## LOCAL FILM:

This year we are proud to be screening three local feature films:

- ***FM Youth*** is a French language film by local filmmaker Stéphane Ostryk, set in St. Boniface.
- ***The Editor***, made by local Winnipeg-based film collective Astron 6, is a slasher horror film inspired by Italian films of the same genre.
- ***Good Madness: The Dance of Rachel Brown*** is by local filmmaker Danielle Sturk who lived seasonally in the area at her cottage on Willow Island.

In the Canadian Short Films program, we also have local filmmaker Mike Maryniuk's latest short film ***Home Cooked Music*** about Lorne Collie, a man from the Interlake region, who turns everyday household objects into instruments.

**MANITOBA SHORT FILMS** - We will be playing 10 Manitoban short films, including the Gimli Film Fest 2014 RBC \$10,000 Pitch Winner Sonya H. Ballantyne's *Crash Site* and a brand new film *Walter* by Curtis L. Wiebe who won the \$1000 audience choice award for his previous film *Of Truth and Magic*. Also included are films by local filmmaking heroes Jaimz Asmundson, Rory Fallis, BJ Verot & Brad Crawford, Alison James, James McLellan, Dion Telesky and Cleo Leslie.

**MTS TV STORIES FROM HOME** – GFF is excited to present this series of home-grown documentaries, which all been commissioned and produced through *MTS TV Stories from Home*. These films are intensely local in flavour, created by Manitoba filmmakers with a wide range of experience including students and first time producers.

Films included are *A Good Madness: The Dance of Rachel Brown* by Danielle Sturk, *Andrew Milne Dreams of Machines* by GFF alumni Patrick Lowe (which recently won best documentary at Los Angeles Independent Film Festival), *Adventures with the Movie Club* by GFF alumni Kevin Nikkel, *Some Lots* by Lorne Bailey, *One Gay City: A History of LGBT Life in Winnipeg* by Aaron Floresco, *Eric. One Bussker's Vision of Success* by Amy Simoes, and *Brown Town Muddy Water* by Jesse Green. Also playing as part of this series is *That Mennonite Joke* by Orlando Braun and Jorge Requena who won the MTS Stories From Home \$20,000 Pitch at GFF 2014.

**AMAZING FILM SERIES!** The eclectic range of film series at this year's festival provide something for every film-goer's palette. (-For detailed descriptions and listings of all our Film Series, go to [www.gimlifilm.com](http://www.gimlifilm.com) or our GFF App)

#### **FREE / SPECIAL EVENTS AT GFF:**

- **RBC Sunset Screenings**
- **RBC Beach Boardwalk**
- **RBC 4<sup>th</sup> Annual \$10,000 Emerging Filmmaker Competition** – Saturday 25 July 2015, 10:30 am
- **"Action! – You be the Director"** – FTM Interactive
- **Making Movies with Your Smart Phone** workshop
- **Pick Up Street Hockey Game** - Saturday 25 July 2015, 2:00 pm

- **48 Hour Film Contest** - Saturday 25 July 2015, 3:00 pm
- **Late Night Movie, Pizza, & Beer**- Thursday 23 July 2015, 10:30pm
- **Music and more!**

## FESTIVAL PASSES

**Festival Passes are now on sale!** – Purchase your passes on website at [www.gimlifilm.com](http://www.gimlifilm.com), by App, by phone (204-642-8846), or drop by GFF Box Office at 77B First Avenue in Gimli, Manitoba

**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. Log on for more details.

- **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

- 30 -

Visit [www.gimlifilm.com](http://www.gimlifilm.com) for the most up-to-date information on everything about the Festival! Our shiny new GFF APP is live, powered by Insurance Brokers of Manitoba– download and enter to win a 2015 GFF Film Pass!

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

-Follow us on Twitter #gimlifilm, -check out our YouTube Channel: “Gimli Film Festival - Official Site”

**The GFF is proud to acknowledge the cooperation and generous financial support of the following sponsors, whose enthusiastic support has made the 2015 Gimli Film Festival possible:**

Platinum Sponsors: **RBC Royal Bank, Province of MB – Major Arts Festivals Grant, Telefilm.** Gold Sponsors: **Rogers Group of Funds, Insurance Brokers of Manitoba, On Screen Manitoba, RM of Gimli, William F White International.** Silver Sponsors: **Asper Foundation, Canada Summer Jobs, Manitoba Arts Council, 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: **Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, Catherine & David Filmon. Gled Vid Investment Company, Johnston Group Inc., Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Multimedia Risk Insurance Brokers, Icelandic Film Centre, Your Community Newspapers -**

The Express Weekly News, The Stonewall Teulon Tribune, The Selkirk Record and the Winkler Morden Voice.  
Festival Sponsors: **Manitoba Film and Music, Manitoba Hydro, Eimskip, Bonnie & John Buhler, National Leasing.** Festival Sponsor Service Partner: **Guppy Graphic Design, AVentPro, Winnipeg Film Group, Consulate General of Iceland Winnipeg, Powerland.** Festival Sponsor Hospitality Partners: **Spirits Canada, Bergmann's on Lombard, Farmery Estate Brewery.** Festival Friends: **The Honourable Janice & Gary Filmon, Film Training Manitoba, GD Accounting, National Film Board of Canada, Rona Gimli, Taylor McCaffrey, Video Pool Media Arts Centre.** Festival Friend Hospitality Partners: **Lifa Home, Flatland Coffee Roasters, Chicken Chef Gimli, De Lucas Fine Wines, Sobey's in Gimli, Water Source - Gimli Water Hus, Gimli Ice Festival, Sugar Me Cookies.**

**For more information, contact Marlene Ness - Gimli Film Festival Communications Coordinator**

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***"See you under the stars July 22-26, 2015 for the 15th edition of GFF!"***

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The following Film Series will be screened at the 2015 Gimli Film Festival. Please log onto [www.gimlifilm.com](http://www.gimlifilm.com) (or download our App) to see a full listing of the films in each of these series/genres.

- Canadian Feature Films [9 films]
- Canadian Short Films [6 films]
- Dramatic Film Series [17 films]
- Environmental Program [2 films]
- Free at GFF [6 films]
- Iceland Film Series [4 films]
- Manitoba Films [20 films]
- Manitoba Short Film Series [10 films]
- MTS TV Stories From Home Documentaries [7 films]
- Music Film Series [6 films]
- Northern Lights Film Series [4 films]
- RBC Sunset Screenings [6 films]
- Rogers Documentary Film Series [16 films]
- Social Justice Film Series [5 films]
- The Artist Is Present [7 films]