

*The 17th Gimli Film Festival runs July 26 - 30, 2017*



**Gimli – July 5, 2017** – The Gimli Film Festival, RBC Emerging Artists Project and On Screen Manitoba are pleased to announce the finalists for this year’s RBC \$10,000 Emerging Filmmaker Competition. Five talented young filmmakers (listed below), selected by a jury organized by On Screen Manitoba, will present their story ideas, budgets and draft scripts to a panel of industry experts in front of a live audience at this year’s Gimli Film Festival.

Up-and-coming Manitoba filmmakers were invited to submit a written concept to be considered for this year’s competition. The preselection jury received a record-breaking 22 strong and diverse submissions. The five selected finalists represent some of the best emerging talent our province has to offer.

The filmmakers will have three minutes to pitch their short film ideas. The 2017 pitch competition winner will walk away with \$10,000 to make their film courtesy of the RBC Emerging Artists Project; a mentorship with industry professionals from the National Screen Institute; a \$2,500 gift certificate courtesy of William F. White. The completed film will premiere at the 2018 Gimli Film Festival.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> annual RBC \$10,000 Emerging Filmmaker Competition finalists for 2017 are:**

Join us Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Gimli Theatre - 74 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Gimli. The pitch competition is FREE, open to the public and will run from 10:00 am to noon.

“We’re very excited to hear the pitches for this year’s RBC Emerging Filmmaker Competition at Gimli Film Festival and to get to know more of the amazing talent waiting to be discovered,” said Aaron Martyniw, RBC Vice President Commercial Financial Services. “RBC is proud to help Manitoba’s arts community thrive and we thank On Screen Manitoba and Gimli Film Festival for

giving storytellers this chance to share their creative vision and the chance to make their leap to the big screen.”

"The RBC pitch competition at the Gimli Film Festival opens the door for emerging talent in Manitoba, many past pitch participants work in the Manitoba media production industry today," said Nicole Matiation, Executive Director of On Screen Manitoba. "With our media production business booming, there is real opportunity for people interested in a career in the industry. On Screen Manitoba looks forward to working with each and every participant as they develop their media production skills."

The Gimli Film Festival, RBC Emerging Artists Project and On Screen Manitoba would like to thank the National Screen Institute and William F. White for the generous prizes they provide for this competition. Manitoba's screen-based media community values their support and looks forward to continued partnership.

***The Gimli Film Festival** is the largest film festival in Manitoba. Over the past sixteen years, our audience, sponsors and partners have supported and shaped the festival into what it is today. We showcase fiction feature films, documentaries and short films from Manitoba, Canada and the world, that promise informative, fascinating and riveting entertainment.*

***The RBC Emerging Artists Project** helps artists bridge the gap from emerging to established, and supports organizations that provide the best opportunity to advance their career trajectory. RBC supports arts organizations and artists in a range of genres including visual art, music, theatre, performance, literature and film.*

***On Screen Manitoba** leads the development of a dynamic media production industry that is recognized for its world-class creative and technical talent. An industry that generates over 1300 jobs annually and attracts over \$58M annually to the Province of Manitoba.*

-30-

Media Contact:

**Amy Rebecca Harrison**

Media Manager

Gimli Film Festival

(204) 295-6217 (Mobile)