



## **GFF launches pass sales, announces festival’s focus & beach film theme and continues to champion women-centred cinema!**

**GIMLI, MANITOBA – MAY 1, 2019.** The Gimli Film Festival (GFF) kicks off the 19th annual festival today with the launch of the 2019 Festival’s focus: [Cinema Outside the Box](#). This special focus for 2019 will explore cinematic works outside of traditional single-channel films by showcasing expanded cinema performances, multi-media installations, performance art and virtual reality projects at this year’s festival. The festival runs Wednesday, July 24 to Sunday, July 28 in Gimli, Manitoba.

“As Manitoba’s premier film festival, we’re excited to showcase these ground-breaking new forms of cinema in 2019. We are so excited to be able to bring these visionary films and performances from around-the-world to Manitoba,” says Aaron Zeghers, GFF Festival Director. “As always, GFF will continue to showcase and champion Manitoba’s filmmaking talent and provide opportunities for local filmmakers to learn and connect.”

New this year, GFF’s famous [RBC Sunset Screenings](#) on Gimli Beach will host five free nightly screenings under the theme “Summer School.” This theme plays on a universal experience — attending high school. With films from the 80s to 00s, this popular genre explores coming-of-age experiences audiences can relate to and will include classic hits audiences of all ages can enjoy. The full line-up of beach films will be announced by June 1!

This year, the Sunday night beach movie will be the audience’s choice. GFF will poll films fans on social media to ask for their suggestions for “Summer School” themed movies to play as Sunday night’s beach film. The audience choice poll will take place in May on [GFF’s Facebook](#) and

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[Instagram](#) channels.

GFF is also pleased to announce the continuation of the [Future is Female\\* Mentorship Program](#) & Film Series, along with the continued mandate to have women-directed and/or written films make up 40-60% of the 2019 Program. The Future is Female\* Mentorship Program is completely free and will bring over 55 emerging women directors, actors, producers, writers and media artists to GFF for an entire day of woman-driven cinema and learning opportunities. [Applications for the program are now open!](#) This program is supported by Telus Friendly Future Foundation and sponsored in part by Vital Transit, Canadian Media Producers Association, Vital Transit and MAWA.

GFF believes in creating a film festival that is respectful of all artists, pays proper artist fees to filmmakers and presents diverse and inclusive programming. GFF is also taking steps in 2019 to increase the Festival's accessibility for those living with disabilities.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- **2019 Festival Focus: Cinema Outside of the Box**  
Exploring and expanding the definition of single-channel cinema with media art installations, performance art and virtual reality projects.
  - **RBC Sunset Screenings theme announced – Summer School!**  
GFF's free nightly screenings on Gimli Beach will all be connected by one theme – Summer School! Classic schoolyard films that explore coming of age stories from the 80s to 00s.
  - **Continuing women-centred initiatives:**  
GFF will continue its mandate to have women-directed and/or written films make up 40-60% of the 2019 Program. The Future is Female\* Mentorship Program will continue for its second-year on Friday, July 26 and the Future is Female\* Film Series will showcase brand new feature films by up-and-coming female directors from across Canada and the world (sponsored by Black Watch Entertainment, Build Films, Inferno Pictures, Nüman Films and Rebecca Gibson)
  - **GFF Passes (on sale May 1):**  
Super Pass (\$110) - Access to all films and special events
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Film Pass (\$80) - Access to all films

Film Community Pass (\$90) – This pass is for filmmakers, film industry professionals and/or people working within Manitoba’s film industry.

- **2019 Film Schedule & Line-Up:** GFF’s 2019 Program will be released on Wednesday, June 26 at the GFF Media Conference.
- **GFF Box Office:** Opens on Saturday, June 29 and is located in the Gimli Lakeview Resort, 73 1st Ave – Gimli Lakeview Resort. Located in Tara’s Corner, entrance on 1st Ave.
- **Individual tickets:** On sale online and at the GFF Box Office on Saturday, June 29.
- **2019 Creative Look and new logo:** GFF launched its 2019 Festival brand and new logo this week! The new brand and look was created by ChangeMakers: An Argyle Company.

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*GFF is Manitoba’s premier film festival and the largest rural film festival in Canada. The festival annually showcases over 100 films from the most promising Manitoban and Canadian filmmakers and an exceptional selection of films and documentaries from around the world. This year, GFF celebrates its 19th annual festival -- July 24 – 28.*

**Media Contact:**

Cleo Curtis

Communications & Logistics Manager

[media@gimlifilm.com](mailto:media@gimlifilm.com) | 204-771-4989

[gimlifilm.com](http://gimlifilm.com)

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Thank you to our 2019 GFF Sponsors & Supporters:

**Premier:** Burns Family Foundation, Province Manitoba, RBC

**Platinum:** Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada, The Winnipeg Foundation

**Gold:** ChangeMakers: An Argyle Company, Government of Canada, Lakeview Gimli Resort, Red River Co-op, Richardson Foundation, RM of Gimli, William F. White International

**Silver & Supporters:** Community Futures – East Interlake, Consulate General of Iceland, Donald K. Johnson O.C., LL.D, Eagle Vision, Evolution Audio Visual, IATSE 856, Johnston Group, Manitoba Arts Council, Manitoba Film & Music, Manitoba Liquor Mart, Mauro Family Fund – The Winnipeg Foundation, Outlet Collection Winnipeg, Pharmasave, TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, The Fort Garry: Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre, The Walrus,

**Bronze:** APTN, The Express Weekly, Nor Col EZ Dock, Farpoint Films, Gled Vid Investment Company, Jim Morden, Les Productions Midcan Productions Inc., Nonsuch, On Screen Manitoba, Urban Prairie Post Production

**Festival Partner:** CommStream, CWB National Leasing, Hub International, Iceland Naturally, Manitoba Hydro, New Media Manitoba, Red Wireless, WestJet, WestShore Community Foundation Inc

**Festival Partner Industry/Media:** ACTRA Manitoba, Canadian Media Producers Association, [ChrisD.ca](http://ChrisD.ca) Winnipeg News, Directors' Guild of Canada – Manitoba District Council, TIFF Film Circuit, UFMF, Women In View, Winnipeg Film Group,

**Festival Partner Hospitality:** Bergmann's on Lombard

**Festival Friend:** Authentic Vacation Designs By Syndi, Canada Iceland Foundation Inc., Creating A Scene, GD Accounting, Long & McQuade, Pollard Family Foundation, REDFIN, Taylor McCaffrey, uuYoga, Vital Transit, WAVE Artists,

**Festival Friend Industry/Media:** Alliance Francaise Manitoba, Build Films, Buffalo Gal Pictures, Black Watch Entertainment, Frantic Films, Icelandic Film Centre, Indigenous Filmmakers' Association, Inferno Pictures Inc., Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA), McNally Robinson Booksellers, National Screen Institute, Nüman Films, Original Pictures, Rebecca Gibson, SOCAN Foundation, REEL Pride Film Festival, Virgin Radio – 103.1 FM, WUFF,

**Festival Friend Hospitality:** Afi's Baking, Brennivins Pizza Hus, DeLuca Fine Wines, Flatland Coffee Roasters, Gimli Sobeys, Lifa Home, Mad Dash Catering

**Venue Partners:** Aspire Theatre – Gimli Unitarian Church, Dr. George Johnson Middle School, Gimli Lutheran Church, Gimli Theatre, Johnson Hall – Waterfront Centre, New Heritage Iceland Museum