



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GFF RECOGNIZES FILM EXCELLENCE AT RECORD-BREAKING FESTIVAL

Gimli – July 28, 2019 – GFF heads into its final day with record-breaking indoor attendance and an increase in GFF Pass sales.

Indoor attendance saw a 15% increase over the 2018 Festival and 10% increase in GFF Pass sales with one more day at GFF 2019. GFF Film Passes sold out on Thursday, July 25 -- a first for the festival.

GFF announces this year's Best of Fest – Audience Choice award to [*nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*](#) (dir. Tasha Hubbard). The winner of this year's Audience Choice Award presented by Outlet Collection Winnipeg was not only loved by GFF audiences, but it was also completely adored by the GFF Programming Team. This is a film every Canadian must-see. [*nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*](#) will have an encore screening at the Gimli Theatre this evening at 5:30 p.m.

The GFF Programming Team presented the GFF Grand Jury Prize to international documentary [*Midnight Family*](#). This film follows the Ochoa family, who own and operate an independent for-profit ambulance in Mexico City. *Midnight Family* will screen today at 3 p.m. at the Aspire Theatre.

GFF's Programming Team decided to offer an honourable mention to a film that has already garnered an impressive list of awards and recognitions. The GFF Programming Team presented [For Sama](#) with a special honourable mention for its important and eye-opening portrait of a mother's first-hand account of the Syrian war. [For Sama](#) will screen at the Aspire Theatre at 8 p.m.

Last night's GFF Awards Ceremony recognized Manitoban, Canadian and International filmmakers. This year's Alda Award was presented to famed actress with Winnipeg roots, Wendy Crewson. The Alda Award recognizes an outstanding filmmaker or actor from the circumpolar nations. The Jack Clements' "Livin' the Dream" Award was presented to Manitoba Film & Music's CEO & Film Commissioner, Carole Vivier, recognizing her long-standing and tireless work in ensuring the future of Manitoba's film industry.

Mike Maryniuk won Best Manitoban Director presented by the Directors' Guild of Canada for his film [The Goose](#). ACTRA Manitoba presented Adam Brooks, Matthew Kennedy and Connor Sweeney ([Chowboys: An American Folk Tale](#)) for Best Male Performance and Best Female Performance was presented to Nancy Sorel, for her role in the short film [Platypus](#).

GFF presented three new awards at last night's awards reception including APTN's Indigenous Spirit award, Special Jury Prize – Best Manitoba Short Film, and Best Canadian Feature Film presented by Al Shell. Charlene Moore was presented with the Indigenous Spirit award for her short film [When the Children Left](#). Best Canadian Feature Film was presented to [When the Storm Fades](#) (dir. [Sean Devlin](#)). Best Manitoba Short Film – Special Jury Prize was presented to Anita Lebeau for her short film [Face | Time](#). And as always, Manitoba Film & Music was on hand to present the Audience Choice Award for Best Manitoba Short Film, which went to Charlene Moore for her moving film [When the Children Left](#).

This year's [RBC \\$10,000 Emerging Filmmaker Pitch Competition](#) is Matthew van Ginkel for his film, *First Session* which follows the protagonist's struggle with mental illness and his choice to confront his demons through therapy. In addition to \$10,000, Matthew van Ginkel will receive a year-long mentorship through the National Screen Institute - Canada and \$5,000 in services from William F. White International. Special thanks to On Screen Manitoba for facilitating the competition.

GFF 2019 finishes off tonight with the [RBC Sunset Screening of The Breakfast Club](#). This year, GFF film fans voted for their favourite Summer School themed movie to play on Gimli Beach and *The Breakfast Club* won!

Passes and Tickets:

Walk-up tickets are still available at the door, \$10 cash.

GFF Box Office:

The Box Office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

73 1st Ave – Lakeview Resort

Located in Tara's Corner, entrance on 1st Ave.

Twitter: @Gimlifilm

Instagram: @Gimlifilm

Facebook: facebook.com/Gimlifilmfestival

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The Gimli Film Festival is the largest film festival in Manitoba. Over the past eighteen 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.

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Venue Partners:

Dr. George Johnson Middle School, Gimli Lutheran Church, Gimli Theatre est. 1947, Gimli Unitarian Church - Aspire Theatre, Johnson Hall - Waterfront Centre, New Iceland Heritage Museum - Lady of The Lake Theatre

