

# C I N E M A S P E C T A C U L A R

• A MOTION PICTURE VARIETY SHOW •



APRIL 23RD, 2015 • VANCITY THEATRE  
1181 SEYMOUR STREET, VANCOUVER, BC



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our second annual Cinema Spectacular film festival. This year we are excited to say that we have expanded our program to include seventeen Canadian selections from seven provinces.

We are here today to celebrate projects made with small budgets and huge ambitions. These passion projects that burn holes in our wallets are what keep innovation and creativity alive within us and our industry. Filmmaking may be stressful, frustrating, and exhausting - but we keep at it anyway because it's fun, infinitely rewarding, and challenging.

I would like to thank all of those who made this screening possible - from those local businesses and friends who sponsored us, to our volunteers who you can see peppering the theatre tonight; from our fantastic team of poster puter-uppers, to my super hero Festival Coordinator Alexandra Caulfield. We cannot thank you enough - the success of this screening has depended on your generosity and support.

We hope we can continue bringing you wonderful programs in this format every year. This evening we hope you enjoy what we have in store for you - fill your cup with Canadian independent cinema!

*Laurel Brown*

Laurel K Brown  
Founder, Director - Cinema Spectacular

## **EVENING AT A GLANCE**

Doors open - 7:00pm

Screening begins - 7:30pm

The Parties

We Three Heathens

Les Grébiches

Tilco Striker

Zach & Luc

False Allegory

Shadowbox

Lumberjacked

The Match

Intermission - 20 minutes

Screening begins - 9:15pm

Sometimes We

Masculins

Ancrage

Son in the Barbershop

Blindspots

Is It My Turn

Power of Prayer

Short End

Q+A with attending filmmakers in atrium

After party - location to be announced

\*Raffle prizes to be announced throughout the evening

# THE PARTIES

Maria J. Cruz, Arianna McGregor, Kel Salerno, Sarah Kathryn Young - British Columbia



There's another kind of love at first sight. One that is, mercifully, much more common. The first time you experienced it was probably in a classroom or on a playground, when for some inexplicable reason you recognized something in a stranger that told you, "That person knows what time it is." They recognized it in you too and, sooner or later, you became devoted conspirators.



You share a bond that's strong because it's elastic, and loyal because nothing is owed. Over the years you've had similar moments of recognition with others in workplaces, public spaces—and at parties: they're your allies and your adversaries, your better judgment and your bad influence. They're your friends. And they are always invited.



This is a story about friends like yours.

The Parties is a collaboration between Maria J. Cruz, Arianna McGregor, Kel Salerno, and Sarah Kathryn Young: four Vancouver actors that don't quite fit. Like all good stories of unrequited love, our protagonists have opted to celebrate what makes them stand out, rather than feign fitting in.



# WE THREE HEATHENS

Daniel Jeffery, Devan Scott, Will Ross - British Columbia



The Camino de Santiago is the most popular pilgrimage in the world. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people walk all 800km of it across Spain in hopes of finding... something. In this new mixed-format documentary, three atheist filmmakers, Devan Scott, Will Ross, and Daniel Jeffery, take their cameras and search for meaning in the culture of the divine.

Daniel Jeffery is an endlessly curious filmmaker. Armed with a handycam and editing software, Daniel has created over 75 videos with content ranging from absurd sketch comedy to intimate portrait documentaries. His short films include *Manboyhood* (2011), *Whoops!* (2012), and *The Script* (2013).

Devan Scott is the director of such short films as *Butterfly* (2011), TIFF Official Selection *Paradiso* (2013). As a cinematographer, Devan has shot many short narrative and documentary films, developing his fascination with existential questions by seeking out unique and vital ways to express them using every possible resource at his disposal.

Will Ross is a contemplative editor and critic. His film work and writing grapple with the questions “how do we make films?” “why?” and “how can we make them better?” Will has edited and sound designed the films *Bread of Heaven* (2012), *Paradiso* (2013), and *Highly Effective People* (2013).

# LES GRÉBICHES

Carine Leduc - Québec

Julie and Catherine try to get noticed by the handsome Stroller Cardio trainer. As for Leah, far from romantic ideas, she is trying to get back on her feet as a new mother.



Carine Leduc came to directing after her experiences as an award winning actress, screenwriter and photographer. Carine brings passion, curiosity and a sense of fun to all her endeavours. Her lighthearted attitude and love of people, coupled with her artistic conscientiousness, defines Carine and her work.

# TILCO STRIKER

Matthew Hayes - Ontario

In the 1960s women workers at a factory in Peterborough, Ontario went on strike. In the middle of winter. This is the story of the Tilco Strikers, and their effort to fight against a tyrannical employer.



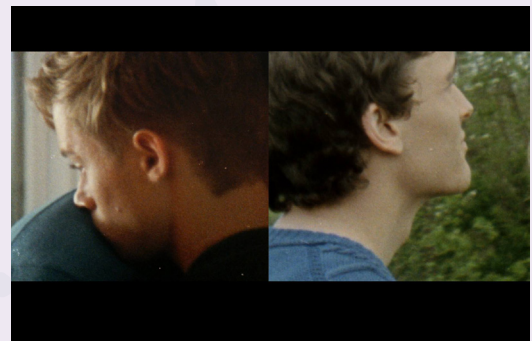
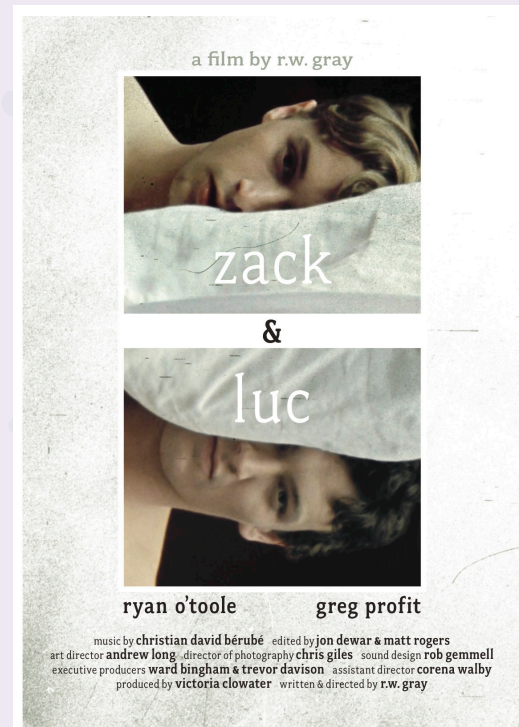
Matthew Hayes is an independent filmmaker and PhD student in Canadian Studies at Trent University. His research will explore Cold War science policy and government secrecy by combing through Canada's UFO archive. He earned his MA in Anthropology from Simon Fraser University, and spent most of his time while living in Vancouver seeing films at the city's independent cinemas - especially Vancity. He's fascinated by local and bizarre histories, and loves using archival material in films, research and art pieces. His short films have screened in Canada and the US, and he's currently working on his first feature documentary, titled *Electric City*, an observational montage of Peterborough, Ontario.



# ZACK & LUC

Robert Gray - New Brunswick

A split-screen film telling two versions of the entire story of a relationship. Each memory becomes intertwined with all the others: the firsts, the lasts, the middles, each of the small nothing moments that add up to something in the end.

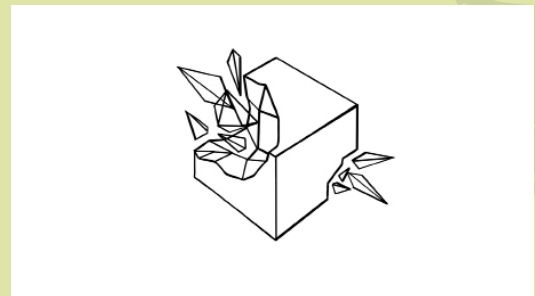
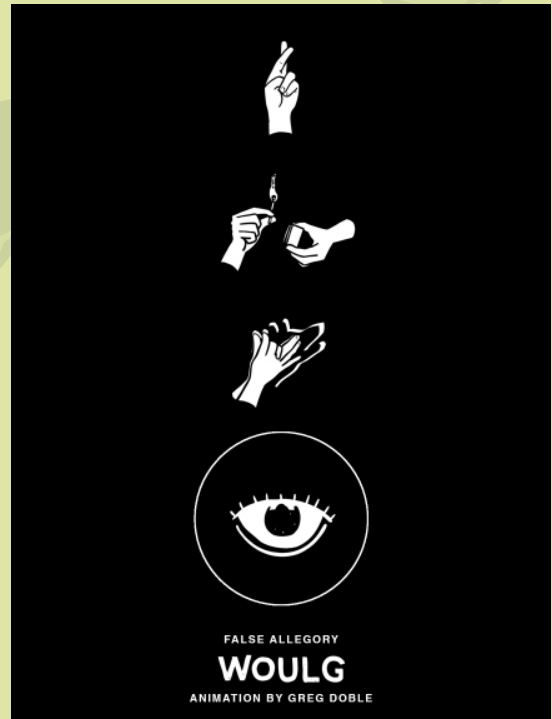


I [Robert Gray] was born and raised on the north west coast and now make films and I am a professor of film and creative writing at the University of New Brunswick on the east coast. Thanks to all my moving around for work and my travel addiction, I never actually feel like I am from a place which I think gives me a useful askew perspective on the places and people in my films. I am also a short story writer and have two collections of short stories, Crisp and my new book Entropic which will be released next month and launched May 28th in Vancouver at Paper Hound bookstore.

# FALSE ALLEGORY

Greg Doble - Québec

False allegory is an abstract audio/visual landscape brought to life by the pairing of animation by Greg Doble and music of Woulg.



Greg Doble is an animator Born and raised in Canada. Since graduating from the Alberta College of Art and Design with a BFA in Media Arts in 2011, Doble has moved to Montreal, QC, where he currently works as an illustrator and creates short animated films.

# SHADOWBOX

Ryder White - British Columbia

Stuck in the gap between his joke and its punchline, Brek finds himself unable to leave a mostly empty diner. The only other customer believes the way out lies in an ancient geometrical paradox, but it is up to Brek to find out for sure before he gets stuck in his red leatherette booth for eternity.



Originally from the mountains outside of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Ryder Thomas White left the United States at 18 to study film production at Vancouver's Simon Fraser University. White is a writer, filmmaker, and multimedia artist whose works centre around themes of alienation, miscommunication, and the absurdity of modern living. He is also a member of Iris Film Collective and runs an artist-focused video and media consulting company with his partner Alexandra Caulfield.

# LUMBERJACKED

Joel MacKenzie - Québec

A reformed lumberjack must harness the **POWER OF NATURE** in order to fight an **8-BIT MUTANT WASP MONSTER** that is destroying his friends and his home.



I [Joel MacKenzie] always loved drawing, but I also loved making money, so I tried to find a way to combine my two passions. I equipped myself with degrees in classical animation and Film in order to try and combat poverty. Past clients include Teletoon, BBC Kids, Cartoon Network, Sesame Street, HBO, and many more.

# THE MATCH

Kurt Spenrath, Frederick Kroetsch - Alberta

The Match follows two performers in a struggling independent wrestling promotion, the Prairie Wrestling Alliance. It explores the impact that their vocation has on their personal lives, and the psychology behind why audiences are drawn to this pseudo blood-sport. The Match was funded by a grant from bravoFactual. We won a grand in the inaugural bravoFactual competition. In fact, we were the only people in western Canada to win.



Kurt Spenrath is the director and Frederick Kroetsch is the Producer/DP. We own a production company in Edmonton called Open Sky Pictures. Most of the content we produce is for Telus Optik and includes a series about an adventurous quadruple amputee, and ambient kitten television.

We're currently in development with the NFB making a documentary about bike messengers. Ironically we are NOT big fans of wrestling.

# SOMETIMES WE

Laurel K Brown - British Columbia/Alberta



When Grandma Brown asks who the best singer is to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Grandpa Brown, the answer is no one in the entire family.



Sometimes We is a close-to-the-heart video essay comprised of Brown family moments on DVtape between the years of 2003 and 2011.



Raised in Canmore, Alberta, Laurel Brown came to Vancouver seven years ago to pursue a degree in film production from Simon Fraser University, which she received last year. A purveyor of weird and whimsical films and creations, she has taken a shining to cinematography and all manors of animation. Cinema Spectacular is her first and largest initiative to support and bring more great, small-budget, independent work to the big screen with friendly community events. This photo of her and this crab is still the most personable image of her available.



# MASCULINS

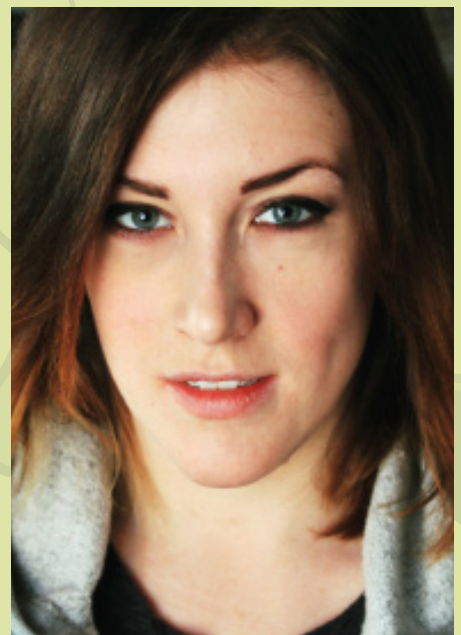
Stephanie Young - Nova Scotia



Masculins is a portrait of three people who each have distinct masculine identities, and embody transformation in very different ways. Through intimate cinematic approaches, the film identifies and embraces the human element in the deconstruction of gender binaries



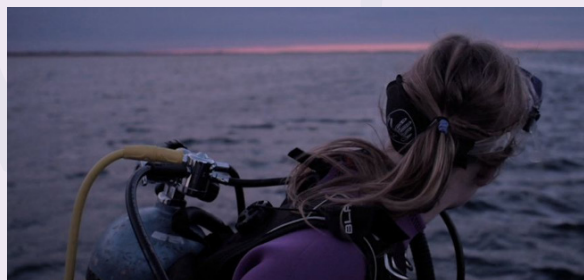
Stephanie Young is an award-winning artist, filmmaker, photographer, and activist. In 2013, She received her BFA in Film from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University. Her work is heavily influenced by issues facing her as an active member of both the queer and mental health communities. She currently works as a research videographer with McGill University creating documentaries on mental illness, and as a Peer Support Worker with Laing House. When not creating visual art, she performs drag at various venues, fundraisers, and events as her male alter-ego, Felix Static. Stephanie currently resides in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



# ANCRAGE

Joëlle Arseneau - Québec

Fred is looking for a treasure that has been in her family for several generations.



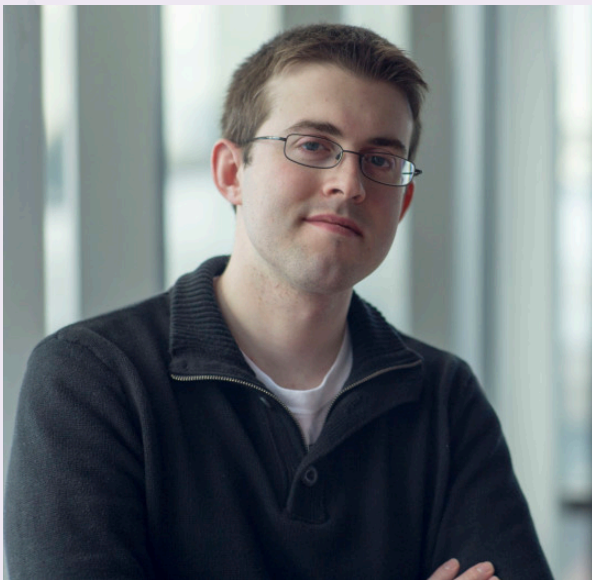
Joëlle Arseneau is forever passionate about cinema. In 2009, she founded her own production company LE PIED MARIN now producing more of its own projects presented in several festivals around the world. She has several other film projects in which she is a director, producer and editor: She does not hesitate to take on new challenges!



# SON IN THE BARBERSHOP

Nathan Douglas - British Columbia

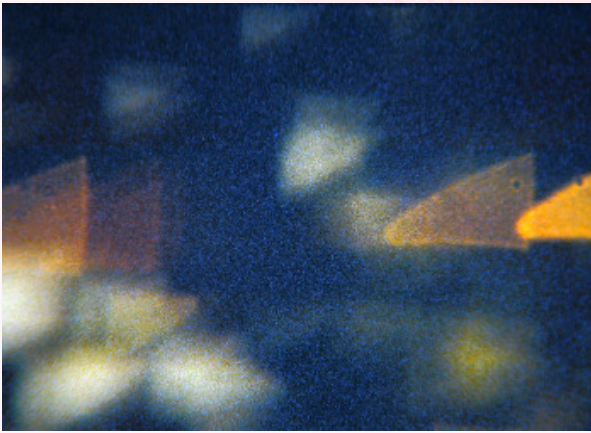
A teenager overhears a phone call and finds himself drawn into the father-son story behind it. As this strange 'conversation' develops, two separately wounded lives slowly wind into a double helix of pain, regret, and filial love.



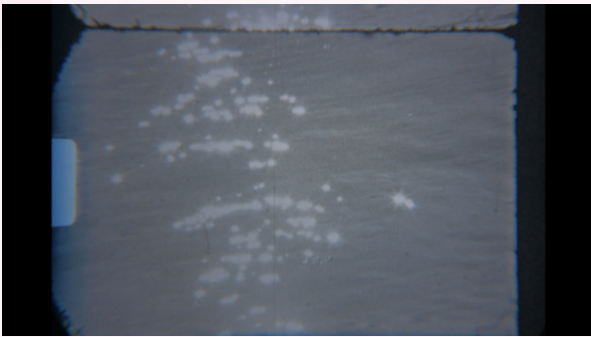
Nathan Douglas is the Vancouver-based writer and director of several short films including *Bread of Heaven* (2012) and *Brother's Keeper* (2011). He also moonlights as a producer, most recently on the short film *Networking with James* (2015), and works full time as a cinematographer and editor with SFU's Centre For Online and Distance Education. Deeply fascinated in the contemplative and liturgical properties of cinema, his work seeks to capture a sense of longing within a culture beset by materialism and indifference.

# BLIND SPOTS

Amanda Thomson - British Columbia



Narrative and non-narrative coalesce in this short avant garde work by Amanda Thomson. A woman's voice sketches out an enigmatic romance while the camera gets lost in the patterns of sunlight on windswept leaves and water.



Shot on super 8, the most nostalgic of near-dead shooting formats (and a medium uniquely suited to finding unexpected shapes in the familiar world) the film ultimately abandons nostalgia and memory for a moment suspended in the eternal present.

Amanda Thomson is a filmmaker born and raised in Vancouver, BC. Her work focuses on perspective, the subconscious and other things she can't quite put her finger on.



# IS IT MY TURN

Shelagh Carter - Manitoba



Her recent experimental short, *Is It My Turn*, is a 3D black and white dance film.

“I am very happy for an opportunity to show my work. If I stood back from my films, some words to describe what I am interested in are ‘transitions and delicate and dangerous transformations.’ I hope you enjoy them.”



Shelagh Carter is a Lifetime Member of The Actors Studio as an Actress and Director, a Professor of Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg and a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre's Directors Lab in Toronto. As a director, Shelagh has created work for over ten years.



# POWER OF PRAYER

L & C Style Productions - Alberta

'Power of Prayer' by Ian McKay aka Mr. Work, feat. P.H.E.B.U.S. A multi-scened and large-cast production. Shot on location, Calgary AB, Canada."



We are Luis and Candace, also known as L&C Style. We are a dynamic duo, with a partnership of over 20 years. Living and working in 29 countries and counting has given us a very unique global perspective when it comes to any type of production. From music videos to cinematic shorts to corporate reels to narrative full features, we do it all.

# SHORT END

Johan A. du Toit - Ontario

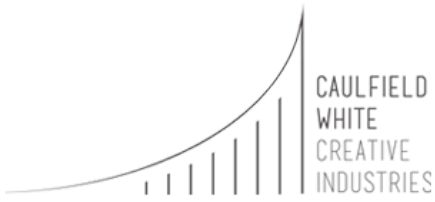
In the very near future, veteran cinematographer Reginald Masters prepares to deliver a 'farewell message to film' on the last bit of 35mm film in existence. The hapless crew of digital natives, headed up by director Lee Archibald, scramble to keep up appearances in front of the old master - while in reality they are hopelessly out of touch with the ways of celluloid film. As things go inevitably and hilariously wrong, it falls to Dolly - the humble camera assistant - to rise above her peers to make sure that Reginald's message goes out to the world - albeit not quite as intended.



Johan A. du Toit was born in South Africa, grew up in Belgium, and now lives in Canada. As a kid he loved reading Belgian comic books, inspiring him to create his own. That was his introduction to visual storytelling. Today, Johan strives to create films that viewers will think about for days after.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND IN-KIND DONORS



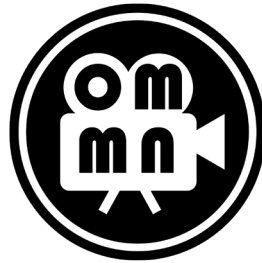
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## THANK YOU

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## EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Alexandra Caulfield - Festival Coordinator

Like what we're doing? Be sure to follow our exploits on Twitter, Facebook, and the web as we continue to build and expand Cinema Spectacular!

[laurelkbrown.ca/CinemaSpectacular](http://laurelkbrown.ca/CinemaSpectacular) #CinemaSpectacular #LoveLocalCinema

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