



GIMME SOME TRUTH

17th Annual
Documentary
Festival

NOVEMBER 5-8

Featuring Films by:

Kamal Aljafari
Diana Allan
Carol Nguyen
Karthik Pandian
Ruth Leitman and
Carol Weeks Cassidy
Jean-François Caissy
Adam Khalil and
Zack Khalil
Serge-Olivier Rondeau
Alexandra Lazarowich
Ryan Ermacora and
Jessica Johnson
Gimme 10-in-30
and more!

The 17th Annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival

The 17th Annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival begins November 5-8 with new and restored local, Canadian, and international documentary shorts and features. We are also excited to host another year of the Gimme 10-in-30! Documentary Challenge!

This year's edition explores the importance of interconnection as a radical act of surviving the current moment, highlighting the significance of community. These films interrogate the threshold between documentation and dream, survival and spirit, reminding us that documentary is an act of reimagining the world as it might yet become.

Thank you to our funders the Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, and the Winnipeg Arts Council.

Thank you to our sponsor DOC Manitoba for their generous support for the Gimme 10-in-30 incubator.

We can't wait to welcome you all back to the Dave Barber Cinematheque this November for our 17th Annual Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival.

- Olivia Norquay
Director of Programming, Dave Barber Cinematheque
- Christina Oyawale
Short Film Programming Assistant, Dave Barber Cinematheque

Tickets & Passes

All screenings are at the Dave Barber Cinematheque, main floor, 100 Arthur Street.

General Admission:

\$11.50

\$9.00 (Student & Seniors)

Festival Pass:

\$60.00 General

\$50.00 WFG/DBC Members

The Festival Pass includes admission to all screenings

Schedule At-A-Glance

Thursday, Nov. 5	Friday, Nov. 6	Saturday, Nov. 7	Sunday, Nov. 8
		3:00 PM Kindergarten (pg. 7)	3:00 PM Turtle Island Rap (pg. 10)
5:00 PM Masao Adachi Takes a Passport Photo (pg. 3)	5:00 PM Shorts Program #1: 'Flowers Flicker' (pg. 5)	5:00 PM Shorts Program #2: 'Connective Unravelling' (pg. 8)	5:00 PM Concrete Turned to Sand (pg. 11)
7:00 PM Still Night, Burning House *Virtual Filmmaker Q&A (pg. 3)	7:00 PM Surrendur *In-person Filmmaker Q&A (pg. 6)	7:00 PM AANI KOOBIJIGAN [ANCESTOR/GREAT-GRAND PARENT /GREAT-GRAND-CHILD] (pg. 9)	7:00 PM Gimme 10-in-30 *In-person Filmmaker Q&A (pg. 11)
9:15pm Partition (pg. 4)	9:15 PM Wildwood, NJ *Virtual Filmmaker Q&A (pg. 7)	9:00 PM The Inheritors (pg. 10)	9:00 PM Closing Night Reception WFG Black Lodge Studio (pg. 11)

and events and is valid for one (1) General ticket admission per screening during the Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival.

To guarantee your seat, advance booking is strongly encouraged.

Limited same-day tickets may be available at the door 30 minutes prior to each screening, but please note that screenings may sell out.

If you can no longer make it to any screening, please let us know at: boxoffice@winnipegfilmgroup.com so that we can free up your seat for another patron.



Masao Adachi Takes a Passport Photo

Dir. Kamal Aljafari
2026, Germany, France, Japan
28 min
Japanese and Arabic with
English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 5:00pm

In a quiet studio in Tokyo, an iconic filmmaker poses for a passport photo that may take him nowhere, whilst the widow who runs the studio meticulously prepares the shot, tracing the fragile persistence of memory and time.

Plays with
Going Home

Dir. Kamal Aljafari
2026, Germany, France, Palestine
20 min
Arabic with English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

It was late December, and the weather was stormy. I went back to my parents' home after 3 years of absence. I'm told: some of our relatives in Gaza were killed, the last one was a 12 years old girl. Every morning my mother asks: How did they sleep tonight under the heavy rain. My mother tells me not to film the TV and to erase what I filmed. "The picture says what the story cannot"?

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Still Night, Burning House

Dir. Carol Nguyen
2026, Canada
76 min
English and Vietnamese with
English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 7:00pm

In her deeply personal debut feature, award-winning filmmaker Carol Nguyen charts her family's first reunion since her uncle's mysterious death. Travelling together to Vietnam, the family embarks on a revelatory—and at times uncanny—journey through intergenerational trauma and many-layered loss. With care and probing curiosity, Nguyen guides her loved ones as they navigate unsealed medical records and a decades-long silence, ultimately leading them back to each other. A metaphysical poem for complex mourning, *Still Night, Burning House* shows how storytelling can transform grief into collective healing.

TW: This film contains discussions of suicide, and the effects on survivors of suicide loss. If you need support services, please call your local Distress Centre. If you need immediate help, please call or text 9-8-8.

[Join us for a virtual post-screening Q&A with filmmaker Carol Nguyen.](#)

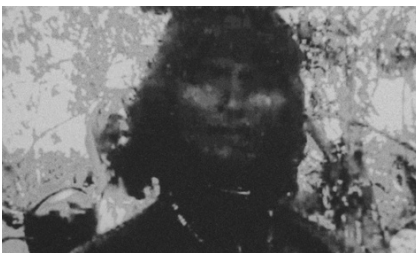
Plays with

Hoa

Dir. Trâm Anh Nguyễn
2023, Vietnam/Canada
14 min
Rated 18A (Unrated)

The filmmaker's grandmother, Tuyết Hoa, suffers from memory loss but re-reads her autobiographical book every day. Unfolding as a poetic letter, the film moves between footage of Vietnam's streets and their family home, interspersed with archival photographs from Hoa's younger years and her role in the country's struggle for independence.

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Partition

Dir. Diana Allan
2024, Canada, Palestine, Lebanon
61 min
Arabic with English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 9:15pm

Partition fuses archival footage from the British occupation of Palestine with audio recorded of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Silent films gathered in imperial collections hold histories that have barely been told. Recovering Palestinian presence through story, voice and song, unraveling colonial pasts through soundscapes of the precarious present, *Partition* is a meditation on what bodies remember and empires forget.

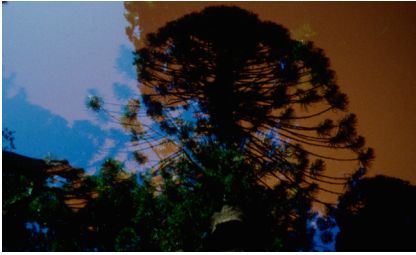
Plays with

Momentum

Dir. Nada El Omari
2025, Canada
19 min
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Momentum is the product of the mass and velocity of an object. It is the strength or force gained by motion or by a series of events. It is also what memories gain as time moves on. Twenty years after it was recorded, the course of a day resurfaces, still current today. As images are reassembled, people, places, and voices shift and cross the eye of the camera - shaped by time, but not erased by it. What does it mean to hold proof, to possess the facts, but still struggle to be believed? What is the tension between evidence and emotion? Between what we see and what we choose to remember? In a world where truth is no longer enough, what does it take to truly witness - and what does it mean to care for stories long after the moment has passed. *Momentum* is a reflection on memory, place, and the quiet persevering strength of images to bear witness, then and still now - even when the world chooses to move on.

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Shorts Program #1: 'Flowers Flicker'

Curated by Olivia Norquay
Rated 18A

Using analogue, single channel video, and paper scanner techniques, the films in this program explore the ultrasonic sounds, echoes, and haunting energies reverberating from the natural world.

Content warning: This program contains sequences of intense flashing and stroboscopic light. Viewer discretion is advised.

Friday, November 6, 2026 at 5:00pm

ouarda ouarda: yet another floral film

Dir. Samy Benammar
2026, Canada, 5 min

Flowers flicker along a 16mm strip, just before or right after the flames. You can hear them weep, scream, and resist. In response to this stridency, there is the burst of light from a black petal. Working from scientific audio recording, the film is designed as an act of appropriation and resistance, refusing to let flowers burn.

opwéyakatâmêw

Dir. Tyson Houseman
2024, Canada, 10 min

opwéyakatâmêw is a single channel video/experimental short created from footage gathered near Gregg Lake, AB. Featuring Todd Houseman, Kieran Houseman, Kyle Houseman. In the video, three nêhiyaw brothers take a walk on their traditional territory and through a forest they explored as children. They find an

object eaten and gnawed by a beaver and imbued with animate energy. A voice over of their grandfather offers a teaching in their language, nêhiyawewin.

Nécrose (Necrosis)

Dir. Jessica Lynch
2026, Canada, 15 min
French and English with English subtitles

Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, nestled in rural Quebec, is haunted by an ominous energy. Francis, a resident of the town, feels an inexplicable force drawing him back here, despite repeated attempts to leave. Similarly, Camille, who grew up there, has faced years of disarray in this town. Both carry the weight of Sainte-Agathe's once vibrant past and its current destruction due to a string of fires, which they believe are no coincidence. As their testimonies unfold, buried family wounds surface.

Archipelago of Earthen Bones - To Bunya

Dir. Malena Szlam
2024, Australia, Canada, Chile, 20 min

Archipelago of Earthen Bones – To Bunya traces alternative cartographies of time, rooted in the very geologic formations of our planet. Examining volcanic time as a means to comprehend and express Earth's geological history, the film seeks a sensing and knowing that recognizes the divergent nature of the time scales that surround us. From almost instantaneous catastrophic ruptures to the formation of mountains over millions of years, the film invites us to become immersed in time.

Using tectonic plates as imaginary maps, Szlam films a constellation of ancient landforms, from the eroded vestiges of volcanic activity to the relics of the Gondwana Rainforest, tracing a path along the central eastern ranges of Australia, which were illuminated in the afterglows of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai eruption. Szlam films on 16mm and edits in-camera, creating dazzling landscapes through multiple exposures. throughout Australia.

We recognise their continuous connection to country and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Islander peoples and to Elders past, present and future. This work was created across the lands of the Turrbal, Yuggera, Jinibara, Gubbi Gubbi, Wakka Wakka, Jarowair, Bar-rungum, Quandamooka and Butchulla Peoples.

Sidewalk 3000

Dir. Christina Dovolis
2026, Canada, 3 min

Miles of Toronto sidewalks—captured one pass at a time with a portable paper scanner.

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Surrendur

Dir. Karthik Pandian
2026, USA
86 min
English, Spanish, K'iche', Tamil, Anishinaabemowin, and Dakota with English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

16mm film and sound. Oscillating between intimate conversation and kinetic montage, *Surrendur* traces the riverine network of migration and homecoming, chance encounter, and carefully cultivated collaboration that drew Pandian into deep elation with Forcia, Win, and other luminous activists and artists from Minneapolis, the heart of revolt at the centre of Turtle Island.

[Join us for a post-screening Q&A with filmmaker Karthik Pandian.](#)

Plays with
Endless Sunlight
Dir. Tyson Houseman
2026, Canada
8 mins
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Centered around an audio recording of a conversation between kokum Penny Roan and Jennifer Houseman (Tyson's grandmother and mother), kokum Penny tells a story about her kokum's experience at a residential school in Southern Alberta, sharing that her uncle burned down the school when he was seven years old. Six generations of matriarchal lineage are weaved across time through images of a young woman, Osa Roan, who is Penny Roan's granddaughter, harvesting birch bark at a camp in the summer.

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Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7:00pm

Surrendur transmits the stories of Mike Forcia (Bad River Anishinaabe)—the American Indian Movement activist who orchestrated the toppling of a monument to Christopher Columbus—and Ta Pe'juta Wicháhpí Win (Hunkpati Dakota Oyate), whose political consciousness was awoken when she danced around the fallen statue with her daughter. The George Floyd Uprising, the Anishinaabe Seven Fires Prophecy, and the Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride are interwoven through the director's unique style of editing nonsynchronous



Wildwood, NJ

Dir. Ruth Leitman and
Carol Weak's Cassidy
1994, USA
60 min
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Friday, November 6, 2026 at 9:15pm

Everyone needs more *Wildwood, NJ* in their lives. Shot on dreamy Super 8 film by directors Ruth Leitman and Carol Weak's Cassidy with an all-women crew, this documentary shines a light on the lives of women from Wildwood, New Jersey—the last great American carnival town. From go-go dancers to girls who work as vampires in the boardwalk haunted house, the film moves beyond big hair and press-on nails to look into the souls of women raised on the boardwalk's rides, neon lights, and beaches.

[Join us for a virtual post-screening Q&A with filmmaker Ruth Leitman](#)

Plays with

El Ring

Dir. Mark Loeser
2025, Canada, 6 min
Rated 18A (Unrated)

One of a series of 35mm multiple-exposure films finished entirely in camera.

[Featuring an introduction from filmmaker Mark Loeser](#)

Take a Look Around

Dir. Colby Richardson
2026, Canada 10 min
Rated 18A (Unrated)

*Content warning: This film contains sequences of intense flashing and stroboscopic light.

"How does it work, you just spin it around?" A video-artist takes a power drill to the fair.



Kindergarten (Jardin d'enfants)

Dir. Jean-François Caissy
2025, Canada (Quebec), DCP
84 min
French with English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 3:00pm

Set in the warm yet bustling environment of a daycare center, *Kindergarten* explores early childhood from a child's perspective. By following the development of various children aged 1 to 5, the film captures the transition from "I" to "We".

Plays with

Anonymous Confidant

Dir. Candice Vallantin
2026, Canada/France
10 min
Rated 18A (Unrated)

When mysterious posters invite passersby to call an anonymous phone line, the messages confirm that our fears, hopes and desires are more alike than we often imagine. A voyeuristic portrait of urban loneliness, *Anonymous Confidant* blends real recorded phone calls with fictionalized recreations shot on DV tape.

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Shorts Program #2: 'Connective Unravelling'

Curated by Christina Oyawale
Rated 18A

The films in this collection are first-person narratives that attempt to unravel the filmmakers', and loved ones', interior worlds out in the open. As the filmmakers wrestle with showcasing the navigation of their emotional realities, the viewer is given permission to peer behind the curtain of their anxieties, desires, and joys. The curated program invites viewers to consider how we can collectively begin to unravel our emotional struggles often left unspoken.

Content warning: These films contain depictions and discussions of incarceration, addiction, sex work, explicit sexual scenes, postpartum depression, and medicalization.

Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 5:00pm

0004NGEL

Dir. Eli Jean Tahchi
2025, Canada (Quebec)
12 min
French and Spanish with English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

To support his mother in Mexico, Angel, a nude dancer, turns the web into his new stage.

why i never became a driver

Dir. Yuula Benivolski
2023, Canada, 11 min
French and English with subtitles
*Flashing warning

Three women engage with the medical system to confront strange dreams

that may not belong to them. Early one morning, I regained consciousness in a hospital bed as the sun was coming up. I was sixteen. The first thing I heard was the news: Princess Diana had died in a car accident. Two hours earlier, I was hitchhiking home from a party with friends. We were picked up by a Toyota hatchback; the driver was drunk, but we were desperate. At the bottom of the twisted mountain road we crashed into the wall surrounding my town's cemetery. As I watched updates on Diana from my hospital bed, images of her smashed-up car crept into my mind and imprinted as my own.

I Had an Obvious Idea and I'm Waiting For It to Come Back

(J'ai eu une idée évidente et j'attends qu'elle revienne)

Dir. Emilie Baillargeon
2025, Canada (Quebec), 16 min
French with English subtitles

A filmmaker, newly a mother, stages her desire to return to creation. Drained by a long postpartum period and haunted by the fear of quietly fading between two loads of laundry, she clings to her camera, seeking traces of cinema within her own home. As she crafts and re-enacts her own scenes, she is swept up by the game itself, rediscovering the joy of invention and transforming her reality. The film celebrates the quiet power of time passing, in life as in creation.

Orbites

Dir. Sarah Seené
2025, Canada, 23 min
French with English subtitles

Marie-Christine, who lost her sight some years ago, explores life in a particularly sensory way—through her fingertips. Through her personal experience, she arouses her son's curiosity and a sense of wonder about the beauty of the universe. Drawing from a constellation of highly textured analogue images and a rich tapestry of sound, *Orbits* journeys into the sensorial depths of Marie-Christine's memory, pondering the very essence of love and legacy.

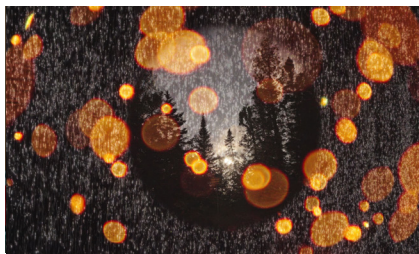
IS GANG STALKING REAL

Dir. Theodore Collatos

2026, USA, 17 min

A raw, unflinching look at a friendship haunted by meth-fueled paranoia, and fragile moments of clarity behind bars.

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AANIKOوبيJIGAN [ANCESTOR/ /GREAT-GRANDPARENT/ GREAT-GRANDCHILD]

Dir. Adam Khalil and Zack Khalil

2026, USA, Denmark

80 min

Rated 18A (Unrated)

Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 7:00pm

*AANIKOوبيJIGAN [ANCESTOR/
GREAT-GRANDPARENT/GREAT-GRANDCHILD]* documents the emotional and vital work of MACPRA (Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance). This alliance, made up of repatriation specialists representing all Michigan tribes, fights to bring their Ancestors and funerary objects home from settler colonial institutions like museums, libraries, and archives.

Adam and Zack Khalil's monumental and formally daring film follows the pressing struggle to rebury Indigenous human remains that have been held in sterile storage, laying bare the history of Indigenous collections and the battle to recognize and enforce the laws intended to facilitate their repatriation to the communities they were originally stolen from. Using an essayistic approach alongside vérité portraits, the film celebrates the courageous individuals who carry out this hard and emotionally draining labor of return.

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The Inheritors

Dir. Serge-Olivier Rondeau
2025, Canada
79 min
French with English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 9:00pm

The Inheritors offers an intimately arresting observation of the daily life of a colony of ring-billed gulls which nest alongside Canada's largest landfill to feed their young. Alternating between the perspectives of prey and predator, we follow these unwanted creatures through a full breeding season as they become the targets of invasive data collection, then of harsh deterrence measures using the age-old art of falconry. With sound and cinematography that lets the birds speak for themselves, *The Inheritors* is a sensory experience which invites us to contemplate new ways of living and dying on a planet haunted by mass consumption and pollution. A foretelling of the ecologies of our future.

Content warning: This film contains scenes of animal cruelty and death.

Plays with

BAEA

Dir. Terra Long
2025, Canada, United Kingdom,
United States, 19 min

In the dead of winter, at a wild-life rescue center on the pacific coast of so called Canada, a team of rehabbers treat Bald Eagles suffering from lead poisoning so that they can be released back to their environment. The film gently

follows a difficult season and the perennial tension at the core of the rehabbers code of ethics: how to care for wild animals in a human environment while maintaining the dignity and wildness of the animal. At what point does the harm of treatment exceed the potential benefits of care?

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Turtle Island Rap

Dir. Alexandra Lazarowich
2026, Canada
97 min
English and Diné with
English subtitles
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 3:00pm

A celebratory portrait of Indigenous youth culture, following the creative journeys of three rappers on the rise. Hip-hop is a tool of self-expression and community connection for A\$h Da Hunter, Travis Thompson, and Wiidaaseh, the artists featured in *Turtle Island Rap*. Blending performance, intimate personal moments, and a view from inside the creative process, this documentary is a portrait of three artists shaping contemporary Indigenous culture.

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Concrete Turned to Sand

Dir. Ryan Ermacora and
Jessica Johnson
2026, Canada
75 min
Rated 18A (Unrated)

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 5:00pm

Concrete Turned to Sand traces the present realities of oyster farming on Cortes Island, British Columbia, Canada, which is experiencing the negative effects of human driven climate change through ocean warming and acidification. Working with a small group of oyster farmers, the film interweaves the depiction of labour with scientific research on the contemporary climate crisis, translating anthropocentric concepts into visual and auditory representations. Through temporal, geographic and ecological modes of perception, the film represents various scales of the biosphere, considering the adaptations and transformations of landscapes as well as the intertwined livelihoods within them.

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Gimme 10 in 30! Documentary Challenge

Rated 18A (Unrated)

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 7:00pm

Join us for the world premiere of new short documentaries created by local filmmakers.

Participating filmmakers include: Ande Brown, Caden Nikkel / Rohit Srinath, Ebunoluwa Akinbo, Kieran Redmond, kimi saddul, Mark Glenn Doroja, Nadra Ssmanoglu, Phyre Paille and UV Chawla.

Gimme 10 in 30! is a documentary incubator challenge wherein participants chosen via random lottery draw were tasked with completing a new documentary film in 30 days. There were no restrictions to the films created, except they couldn't be longer than 7mins. The resulting films are presented here for your enjoyment and demonstrate the creative spirit and originality coming out of our local documentary scene.

Generously sponsored by DOC Manitoba.

Followed by:

Closing Night Reception

Please join us in the WFG Black Lodge Studio to celebrate and close out the 2026 festival with light refreshments and a karaoke party!

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Film Scanning at the Winnipeg Film Group

We offer high resolution film scanning for 8mm, Super 8mm, 16mm, and Super 16mm.

Your memories were made to be seen again.

"The Winnipeg Film Group did a great job transferring my family's Super 8mm films to video. I felt confident knowing that the films would be handled with care. I recommend this service to anyone who has old films that they would like to convert to digital."

- Sylvia Matas

Please contact Dylan Baillie, Director of Production at dylan@winnipegfilmgroup.com for more information.



Film Training Workshops

Existing outside the commercial film industry, the only limit creative filmmakers at WFG have is their imaginations. We're all weird — and we want to keep it that way. WFG is the place for you to learn, experiment, and grow.

Learn from independent filmmakers about directing, scriptwriting, technical aspects of filmmaking and more. We offer many learning mediums such as master classes, workshops, curatorial essays, DVDs, books, panels, and Q&As.

Our learning opportunities are affordable and the best way to meet and engage with others in the filmmaking community.

Visit our website for more information:



A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a stack of film canisters. The top canister is brown with a white label that reads '0149 PRIMITI TOO TAA'. Below it is a green canister with a white label that reads 'M00307'. Another brown canister is visible below the green one, also with a '0149 PRIMITI TOO TAA' label. The background is dark and out of focus, with a small red light visible in the distance.

Distribution

Our distribution collection features films that span every genre, including experimental, documentary, narrative fiction, comedy, animation, and hybrid forms. As the only artist-run distributor in Canada with a cold storage, temperature-controlled vault, we are uniquely committed to the long-term care and preservation of Canadian independent film. We prioritize screening opportunities that pay artist fees and regularly lead special initiatives to spotlight the incredible works in our collection through curated programs, publications, DVD releases, and more.

If you are a filmmaker looking to place your film with us, please see our website for more information:



