



President's Report

The 30th One World Film Festival: Events Summary

In 2019 One World Arts celebrated the 30th anniversary of its flagship program, the One World Film Festival (<http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca/>). The festival, which premiered in 1989, is the longest-running documentary film festival in Ottawa. The festival is organized by board members, the organization and screening committee and a few volunteers, all of whom have dedicated countless hours and efforts to ensure the delivery and success of the festival. Two grants were received for the festival's 2019 edition including funding from the City of Ottawa and Ontario Arts Council. A short-term paid contract was offered to a One World Arts board member who worked as the festival's Events and Communications Coordinator.

Despite a lack of funding, board members continue to present a successful festival each year. The festival engages its audiences by providing a space to participate in post-screening discussions and Q&As about important themes regarding social justice, human rights, and environmental issues.

Ottawa audiences had the opportunity to see six feature films and eleven short films (a total of seventeen documentaries) from Canada and around the globe at the 30th One World Film Festival. The events took place on eight dates at seven different venues across the city over the months of September to November 2019. More uplifting documentaries were selected for this year's festival covering global issues but also emphasizing local concerns. Most films for the festival's two community day events (November 4th and 17th) were created by Canadian female filmmakers from all disciplines and backgrounds. The festival included five Ottawa documentary premieres and the films screening revolved around youth activism, agriculture, civic engagement, Indigenous rights, the LGBTQ+ community, among others.

The first screening took place on September 26th with Fred Peabody's ***The Corporate Coup D'État*** (2019, 80 min, Canada/USA) which is produced by Canadian filmmaker Peter Raymont. The persuasive documentary (<https://www.whitepinepictures.com/the-corporate-coup-dtat>) follows journalist Chris Hedges and philosopher John Ralston Saul as they examine the current state of American politics, arguing that corporate power has eclipsed the power of its citizens. The free screening was held at the University of Ottawa (Academic Hall theatre at 135 Séraphin-Marion Private) at 7:00pm, and it was followed by a post-screening discussion & Q&A on the issues raised in the film. The post-screening discussants included director Fred Peabody (over Skype), Molly Kane, Executive Director of The Council of Canadians, and Dr. Manfred Bienefeld, Vice-Chair

of the Group of 78. The screening was in partnership with One World Arts and the Group of 78 and it was an Ottawa premiere. The event was presented in connection with the Group of 78's 2019 Annual Policy Conference on "Global Markets, Inequality, and the Future of Democracy" (<https://group78.org/event/corporate-coup-detat-screening-and-post-screening-panel-discussion/>).

In October the festival highlighted other Ottawa premieres. On October 10th we had a free screening of **Youth Unstoppable: The Rise of the Global Youth Climate Movement** (2018, 88 min, Canada) (<https://www.scythiafilms.com/youth-unstoppable>) made by the young Canadian female filmmaker Slater Jewell-Kemker at ByTowne Cinema at (325 Rideau Street) at 7:00pm. (<https://www.bytowne.ca/movie/youth-unstoppable>). The film follows the rise of the global youth climate movement when then 15-year old filmmaker began documenting the untold stories of youth on the front lines of climate change activism over 12 years. The screening was co-presented by One World Arts, Green Screen Ottawa, Group of 78, and Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. A youth-oriented panel discussion, moderated by CBC's Adrian Harewood, on Canadian responses to the climate crisis followed the screening.

On October 16th we held a free screening of the documentary **Heartbeat: A Celebration of International Farm Workers** (<https://www.hortcouncil.ca/en/heartbeat/>) which looks at how international farm workers impact Canadian agriculture. The screening coincided with World Food Day and it took place at the Ottawa Public Library Main Branch (120 Metcalfe Street) at 5:30pm. The screening was presented in partnership with Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and was followed by a Q&A with writer and director Michael Hicks and hosted by Beth Connery, Chair of the CHC's Labour Working Group Executive.

Activities continued on October 19th for a double bill featuring two acclaimed documentaries followed by a panel discussion. The first documentary is the Ottawa premiere of **Bellingcat: Truth in a Post-Truth World** (Hans Pool, 2018, 88 min, Netherlands) (www.bellingcatfilm.com) which screened at 6:30pm. The film explores the promise of open source investigation, taking viewers inside the exclusive world of the citizen investigative journalist collective known as "Bellingcat". The film was followed by the NFB production by First Nations/Cree filmmaker Tasha Hubbard's documentary **Nipawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up** (2019, 98 min, Canada) (<https://www.nfb.ca/film/nipawistamasowin-we-will-stand-up/>) which started at 8:45pm in partnership with Asinabka Film & Media Arts Festival. *Nipawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* centres on the 2016 death of Colten Boushie and depicts his family's struggle to attain justice after the controversial acquittal of Boushie's killer. A post-screening Q&A and discussion took place with One World Arts' president Gerald Schmitz and Charlene Lindsay, co-founder of the Sustainable Development and Revitalization (SDNR) for First Nations Consulting Group and the founder of the Ottawa Indigenous Fashion Week. The two documentaries screened at the Ottawa Art Gallery's Alma Duncan Salon (10 Daly Avenue). The admission price was \$12 for each film or \$20 for the double bill. A reception was held prior to the screenings from 5:00pm – 6:00pm at The Independent Filmmakers Co-operative of Ottawa member's lounge (2 Daly Avenue, Suite #140).

On November 4th, the anniversary date of the premiere of the One World Film Festival, work by local filmmakers was presented in the program "Ottawa Through the Lens". A

selection of six short films were screened: **Retrospective** (dir. Mukarram Ramadan, Canada, 2019, 3 min); **Sauce & Empathy** (dir. Marie-Hélène Villeneuve, Canada, 2019, 3 min); **ROAR** (dir. Nicole Bedford, Canada, 2019, 4 min); **Emergency Broadcast** (dir. Pixie Cram, Canada, 2017, 7 min); **Collective Presence** (dir. Edgar Rene Hernandez, Canada, 2018, 23 min); and **Who Needs Church?** (dir. Danielle Rolfe and Ed Kucerak, Canada, 2019, 30 min). "Ottawa Through the Lens" screened at 6:30pm at Club SAW (67 Nicholas Street) on November 4th, the anniversary date of the first One World Film Festival which premiered in 1989 at the same venue. The program celebrated the creative expression of Ottawa's artistic and cultural communities by supporting local artists of all disciplines and backgrounds (emerging, mid-career, and professional Ottawa filmmakers). The free screening was followed by a post-screening Q&A with some of the local filmmakers in attendance (Nicole Bedford and Edgar Rene Hernandez).

On November 10th the festival presented the Ottawa premiere of **Gay Chorus Deep South** (2019, 100, USA) (www.gaychorusdeepsouth.com) at 2:00pm at the allsaints event space (315 Chapel Street). The documentary is a response to a wave of discriminatory anti-LGBTQ+ laws and the divisive 2016 election in the United States. It follows the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus who embark on a red-state tour of the American Deep South. The film was followed by a performance of the Ottawa Gay Men's Choir, a local, independent, charitable organization with a mission to perform quality choral music and to contribute to the LGBTQ+ community. The admission for the screening and the choral performance was \$25.

A festival highlight included the Ottawa premiere of Nancy Lang and Peter Raymont's documentary, **Margaret Atwood: A Word after a Word after a Word is Power** (2019, 92, Canada) about Canadian award-winning author Margaret Atwood. In the documentary, the film crew keeps pace with Atwood as she jets to speaking engagements around the world, visits the set of *The Handmaid's Tale* where she meets lead actress Elisabeth Moss and Anne Crabtree, costume designer of the iconic red robes that are turning up at feminist protests around the world. The screening took place on November 13th (a few days before Ottawa-born Atwood's 80th birthday) at ByTowne Cinema (325 Rideau Street) at 6:30pm. Present for the screening were directors Nancy Lang and Peter Raymont who took part in a post-screening Q&A. This event was the festival's most successful turnout. The admission price was \$12.00.

A Community Fun, Film and Food Fair was held on November 17th from 2:00pm – 5:00pm at Bronson Centre Community Hall (211 Bronson Avenue). The program is a free social and community event gathering in the new One World Arts office space building. A free screening of short films took place in Mac Hall and included: **Raven People Rising** (dir. Andrea Palframan, Canada, 2018, 30 min); **Quimsacocha** (dir. Émilie Martel, Canada, 2018, 8 min); **Giiwe: This is Home** (dir. Merle Robillard and Andrew Lau, Canada, 2019, 28 min); and **Maxima: This Land of Mine** (dir. Mariel Sosa, USA, 2019, 16 min). Refreshments were provided.

Approximately 780 people attended the festival events. Expenses included venue, equipment, Events and Communications Coordinator contract, and fees for screening films, shipping, printing, and advertising.

One World Arts celebrates its 48th year in 2020 and the One World Film Festival has persisted for the past thirty years. The festival has become a staple event in Ottawa to showcase feature and short documentaries on global issues. The festival engages its audiences by screening thought-provoking documentaries and providing a space to participate in post-screening discussions and Q&As about important themes regarding social justice, human rights, and environmental issues. One World Arts also supports the professional development for emerging artists and fosters the opportunities for community participation, social interaction and cultural involvement in Ottawa. The festival shines the spotlight on local and international films and artists, in addition to showcasing a diversity of cultures and traditions.

Supporting Activities Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Marisa Romano and Linda Goldberg as co-leads and hosts for the screening committee review process which identified the short list of films to be presented. Thanks to all who participated and also to Susan Mintz and Valerie Robert for maintaining the online reviewing system.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the move of the One World Arts office in May 2019 from Festival House in Westboro to the downtown Bronson Centre.

Marisa Romano also hosted another very successful “Tea in the Garden” event at her home in August.

Linda Goldberg also did great work in soliciting sponsorships and outreach to donors.

Thank you to Sharon Goldhawk and Susan Mintz for their work as co-treasurers and on grant applications.

Thank you to all volunteers for their contributions, including on the “Trivia Night” held at the Shanghai restaurant in September 2019.

Special recognition is due our Volunteer Administrator Rainer Lichtenfels for many years of service since the beginning of the OWFF.

The “A luta continua” program on the CKCU FM community radio station has continued to be an affiliated program of One World Arts. Gerry Schmitz was on the program several times speaking about festival events.

List of Partners, Sponsors, and Donors

- Major sponsors
 - City of Ottawa
 - Ontario Arts Council
- Institutional partners and donors
 - Group of 78
 - Green Screen Ottawa
 - Zulu Nyala
- Other sponsors and donors
 - Canadian Horticultural Council
 - Sandy Hill Community Health Centre
 - ByTowne Cinema
 - Ecology Ottawa’s Green Screen Ottawa
 - Youth Action Now
 - National Arts Centre
 - The Independent Filmmakers Co-operative of Ottawa
 - Ottawa Jazz Festival

- Bloomfield Flowers
- Strawberry Blonde Bakery
- Wild Oat Restaurant
- The Gladstone Theatre
- The Great Canadian Theatre Company
- Bear & Co.
- Theatre Kraken
- Mayfair Theatre
- The Cabanas Kitchen

Biographies

Gerald Schmitz, President

A long-time One World Film Festival volunteer, Gerald became president of One World Arts in 2017. With a passion for cinema from an early age, he began publishing film commentary in 1982 and was the long-time film critic for the Saskatchewan-based weekly journal *The Prairie Messenger*. In 2018 he published *The Best of Screenings & Meanings: A Journey through Film* and maintains a regular film blog on his website: <http://screeningsandmeanings.com/>. He also does film reports for the One World Arts affiliated CKCU FM radio program *A luta continua* ("The struggle continues"). Gerald has a doctorate in political science from Carleton University and for many years was a principal analyst for international affairs with the Parliamentary Information and Research Service. The author of numerous publications, in 2013 he was also named an "alumni of influence" by the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts and Sciences. Combining an interest in film with international affairs analysis, Gerald is excited to be involved in bringing some of the best in thought-provoking documentaries to audiences in the national capital region.

Sharon Goldhawk, One World Film Festival Co-founder and co-treasurer

Sharon along with her neighbour Jean Fairholm co-founded the One World Film Festival 30 years ago in 1989. Sharon is a Communications Consultant with specializations in Educational Media, International Development projects, Social Justice Activism and Cultural Diplomacy. She has multiple University degrees in Theatre, Documentary Film & Video Production, as well as a master's in education in Instructional Technology. She has worked at SAW Video Co-op, served on SAW Gallery Board and has been working overseas (1998-2017) as an international cultural affairs contractor and community educator. In 2019, initiating the relocation of OWA to the Bronson Centre during OWFF's 30th anniversary year, she helped to reorganize, rebrand and rejuvenate OWA & OWFF, by innovating more community-based programming. Her company: "Media Resource Associates" has researched & developed international cultural education projects overseas in 5 continents. Since 2015, she continues to collaborate each year with South African activists/filmmakers on projects with Global Girl Media South Africa, teaching storytelling, literacy & short film production with disadvantaged youth in Townships of Johannesburg for the High Commission of Canada in South Africa. Sharon is passionate about developing collaborative OWA projects with Ottawa's cultural community, while helping to market/fundraise/program for One World Film Festival.

Mukarram Ramadan, Events and Communications Coordinator, Board Member and Graphic Designer, 30th One World Film Festival

Mukarram has a background in Film, Political Science and Communication. She has worked as an analyst at the Public Health Agency of Canada in the Chief Public Health Officer's Reports Unit and an administrative assistant for an Ottawa City Councillor. She has an MA in Film from Carleton University. She has created a few short films and documentaries, and the One World Film Festival combines her background and interests in sociopolitical matters, humanitarian issues, and filmmaking. She manages One World Arts/One World Film Festival promotional outreach through social media accounts and website. She is the Events and Communications Coordinator and graphic designer for the 30th One World Film Festival.