

**ONE WORLD ARTS 2017-2018**  
**President's Report by Gerald Schmitz**  
**May 2018**

**I. Introduction and Overview**

The fiscal year 2017-2018 was an extremely busy one for the One World Arts organization during which new active members were recruited to the board of directors. The major activities over this period are described in detail in the following: (1) the series of special screenings "Ottawa in the World ... of Documentaries"; (2) the 28<sup>th</sup> One World Film Festival at St. Paul University September 28-October 1; (3) the special project "Ottawa through the Lens of Refugees, Immigrants and Newcomers". In addition, several special benefit "doc and talk" screenings were held at the Bytowne theatre in June and September 2017 ("Tickling Giants" and "The Road Forward"). In August 2017 One World Arts co-presented "Bee Nation" in conjunction with the Asinabka Film and Media Arts Festival. That month OWA also participated as a community partner in the Ottawa Pride Festival. In December 2017 two HotDocs selections "The Road Forward" and "Birth of a Family" were presented at Gallery 101 as part of an arrangement with HotDocs to present a total of eight of their selections by the end of 2017.

An affiliated program of One World Arts is the community radio program "A luta continua" ("The struggle continues") which airs on CKCU FM 93.1 every Friday morning at 9:05am after the BBC news. For more information check its website: <http://oneworldarts.ca/a-luta-continua/>. Gerry Schmitz has appeared on the show a number of times to talk about festival films: <http://oneworldarts.ca/a-luta-continua-gerald-schmitz-on-the-tribeca-film-festival/>.

One World Arts gratefully acknowledges the support it received in 2017 through grants from the City of Ottawa, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Community Foundation of Ottawa, as well as from presenting partners and sponsors. To supplement its limited budget as a volunteer-run charitable non-profit, OWA also held fundraising events: several yard sales in 2017; an Escape night and trivia night in 2018.

Much was accomplished but the heavy load of programming also led to some challenges for a volunteer-run organization. The OWA board has therefore decided to hold a smaller 29<sup>th</sup> One World Film Festival at Arts Court in September 2018 while also gearing up for a larger 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the festival in 2019.

Other Board members are: Susan Mintz, Audrey Rosa, Zicky Hammud, Mukarram Ramadan, Jamie McPherson, Sharon Goldhawk, Amanda Mendes, Linda Goldberg. Heartfelt thanks are due to board members and all volunteers for their dedication to delivering on the mandate of One World Arts. A volunteer appreciation event was held in October 2017 at the Art House Café which was also engaged in creating a number of One World Arts T-shirts for sale.

Thanks are also due our faithful volunteer administrator Rainer Lichtenfels. None of what is described below would be possible without these continuing efforts.

## II. Ottawa in the World ... of Documentaries April-May 2017

One World Arts received a grant of \$7,000 under the City of Ottawa's Arts, Culture and Heritage Investment program linked to the Ottawa 2017/Canada 150 celebrations. OWA presented three programs of documentary films in April-May 2017. Gerald Schmitz worked on developing the programs, negotiating screening fees and getting speakers for these events. Karli Zschogner was also recruited as a volunteer coordinator to assist with the finalization and presentation of the programs. Volunteer Stephan Szeideman also provided some technical assistance given the diverse formats of the films presented.

### 1. First Program: Sunday April 23 at the Shenkman Arts Centre

Theme: "Ottawa through the Years"

*Ottawa Canada's Capital City* (9 minutes, 1938, Library and Archives) – a forward-looking overview of Ottawa highlights before the Second World War

*Ottawa On The River* (17 minutes, 1941, National Film Board Ottawa Film Unit) – how the Ottawa river has shaped the city from its beginnings

*A Capital Plan* (10 minutes, 1949, NFB) - a post-war portrait as Ottawa was changing and developing the Greber plan for the capital region

*Capital City* (29 minutes, 1957, NFB) - another portrait of the city with many interesting observations on all aspects (government, canal, experimental farm, museums, the market, etc.)

*Shawarma City* (2015, 31 minutes) - by a local filmmaker Conor DeVries exploring neighborhoods and ethnic diversity through a food lens.

*Project Cold Days* (7 minutes, 2016) - director Stephen Coleman presented a short based on a work in progress feature-length documentary about homelessness in Ottawa. (Coleman presented this during each of the three programs, adding a dimension of contemporary issues and challenges to the more historical elements in these programs.)

### 2. Second program: Saturday May 6 at Centrepoint Theatre

Theme: "Ottawans on the Move"

*Ottawa's Streetcars Removed 50 Years Ago* (10 minutes, Michael Kostiuik 2009) – historical look back at a bygone era in Ottawa public transportation

*Bike City, Great City* (40 minutes, David Chernushenko 2013) – the promise and prospects for making Ottawa more cycling-friendly by an Ottawa city councillor

*Four Wheeled Furies* (45 minutes, YOW Productions 2013) – a fun exploration of Ottawa area women involved in roller-derby sports

Mayor Jim Watson was in attendance. Screenings were followed by a q&a with Michael Kostiuik, David Chernushenko, and Bonnie Robinson of YOW productions.

### 3. Third program: Saturday May 20 at St. Paul University

Theme: “Ottawa Roots and Visions”

*Radical Attitudes: The Architecture of Douglas Cardinal* (48 minutes, National Film Board, Jim Hamm, 2004)

*One of the Last* (50 minutes, Ed Kucerak 2006) – directed by a local filmmaker (and previous OWFF juror) on the history of the Jewish immigrant Kardish family and the landmark Rideau Bakery.

Attended by Douglas Cardinal and family and the Kardish family. Screenings were followed by a panel and q&a with Douglas Cardinal, Ed Kucerak and members of the Kardish family.

Admission was free (donations accepted) and open to the general public. All programs were well received despite some technical difficulties in the first program. The third program was particularly successful, drawing a near capacity crowd to the St. Paul University amphitheatre which was also the venue for the 29<sup>th</sup> One World Film Festival in September.

### III. 28<sup>th</sup> One World Film Festival September-October 2017

The four-day festival, held September 28-October 1 at St. Paul University, featured 25 Canadian and international short and feature-length documentaries as well as talks with filmmakers, documentary subjects, community organizers, experts, and representatives from international non-governmental organizations. Over half of the documentaries screened were Canadian productions and over a third were directed or produced by Ontario-based filmmakers. As well, a majority (60%) of the films were directed, co-directed or produced by women. Full details of all film presentations, speakers, partners and sponsors are in the final printed program and on the One World Arts website:

<http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca/owff2017-schedule/> and <http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca/owff2017-wrapup/>

A festival trailer was also prepared for use in pre-festival promotion and to be shown in advance of all festival programs:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B74XQPbhyHqoMnZNYmNfVXZfSVE/view?ts=5a32f95e>

The extensive festival program’s fourth day on October 1 included the presentation of shorts developed through the special project “Ottawa Through the Lens of Refugees, Immigrants and Newcomers” (see Section IV), and two features in a “Hot Docs Showcase Ottawa” screening of two feature-length HotDocs selections.

Festival selections were previewed by a screening committee coordinated by Marisa Romano and Gerry Schmitz. Other participants included: Zoe Mallet, Susan Mintz, Aline Maurel, Anna Savelyeva, Asaf Mitta, Audrey Rosa, Barbara Hahn, Christopher Klinger, Cynthia Nuzzi, Federica Sicchiero, Laura Husak, Robyn Aaron, Stephan Szeidem. Zicky Hammud took the lead on the festival organizing committee which also met in the months prior to the festival.

Zoe Mallett was contracted as festival coordinator and David Henderson as communications coordinator. Ms. Mallet received assistance from a Carleton university student intern Sabrina Callender. The graphic designer for the festival program was Amanda Mendes who subsequently joined the OWA Board.

A particular success of the 28<sup>th</sup> OWFF was the number of partners and participants involved in the program that was presented. Screenings, panel discussions, q&a's with filmmakers, and special programs were sponsored and/or presented in partnership with other festivals and well-known and respected non-governmental organizations based in Ottawa. Partners supported One World Arts in delivering the festival by contributing financial support, both cash and in-kind, and/or promotional and publicity support. The festival coordinator was able to engage over a dozen partners and secure the highest level of sponsorship that the organization has received in the last several years.

Presenting Partners that provided promotional, organizational, and logistical support:

- Ed Kucerak from Ottawa Indie Fest conducted a series of interviews with filmmakers (Five Questions with ...) that were shared on the Ottawa Indie Fest website and social media and re-posted on the One World Film Festival website and social media channels.
- Asinabka Festival shared events for co-presentation screenings and talks as well as sharing other festival events on Facebook and Twitter.
- UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) Canada coordinated the attendance of Hani al Moulia and the UNHCR's representative in Canada, Jean-Nicolas Beuze, joined the post film discussion with Hani on October 1. They also helped to promote the October 1 refugee documentary screenings and talk.
- Refugee 613 linked the project coordinator for Ottawa Through the Lens with contacts at the Catholic Centre For Immigrants and YOCISO, helping us to reach out to potential participants for the project.
- Refugee 613 also promoted our Through the Lens event and October 1 refugee documentary screenings and talk and Refugee 613 Director Louisa Taylor moderated the post-film discussion and q&awith Hani al Moulia and Jean-Nicolas Beuze (UNHCR).
- Hot Docs provided a list of films to select from for co-presentations, helped to secure the documentaries that were selected for co-presentation during the festival, and covered the screening fees for those films.

Five filmmakers attended and spoke at the festival, four from Canada - Cat Mills (Fixed! - Toronto based), Doris Liu (In the Name of Confucius - Toronto based), Kasha Sequoia Slavner (The Sunrise Storyteller - Toronto based) and Arshad Khan (ABU - Montreal based) - and one from the United States - Pamela Yates (500 Years: Life in Resistance).

Funding for accommodations and/or travel was provided by One World Arts for three filmmakers (Cat Mills, Kasha and Marla Slavner, and Doris Liu) and was sponsored/supported by organizations for two filmmakers (Nobel Women's Initiative for Pamela Yates' travel and accommodations and the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity for Arshad Khan's travel and related expenses).

One World Arts participated in and held a number of community-related activities and events in the lead up to the 28th OWFF that also supported the organization's promotional and outreach efforts for OWFF 2017. These included: Asinabka Media and Arts festival August 13; Ottawa Capital Pride Youth Movie Night August 24 and Community Fair August 27; Remixed community fair September 16; Ottawa International Writers Festival September 25. Advertising of the OWFF was placed in The Leveller, The Bytowne Cinema Guide (September-October), and the Glebe Report. Social media outreach was through the OWA/OWFF's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, as well as via event listings including: Ottawa Start, Ottawa Festivals, Artengine/Artlist, Ecology Ottawa's event calendar, APTN's Community Connections, Spotlight events calendar, Ottawa Tourism, and Apartment 613.

Media coverage included: Print—The OSCAR - September 2017 Issue, Four Days of Thought-Provoking Documentaries and Talks on Global Issues (p. 22); The Leveller Vol. 10, No. 1 (Sept/Oct

2017) "The Road Forward" Indigenous Doc Opens One World Film Festival; Centretown News, Remixed festival features documentary on Indigenous activism, September 26, 2017; Ottawa Citizen, Going out best bets, Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, September 27, 2017; Epoch Times, Documentary at Ottawa Film Festival Probes China's 'Trojan Horse', October 7, 2017

Radio—CKCU 93.1 FM, A Luta Continua September 1, 15, 22, and 29; Friday Morning Special Blend August 11; Nothing to See Hear September 5, 2017 - Interview with Festival Coordinator Zoe Mallett and Howard Adler and Christopher Wong from Asinabka Festival; CHUO 89.1 FM, The Circle September 26, 2017; CBC All in a Day - September 29, 2017 - "The documentary, Abu is screening at the One World Film Festival this weekend".

TV—Rogers TV - Daytime Ottawa - Festival coordinator Zoe Mallett did an interview with Daytime Ottawa about the 28th Annual One World Film Festival (<https://youtu.be/amyRDQe5roE>)

#### Summary of Festival Results:

Total attendance was disappointing and may be partly due to the St. Paul University location not being perceived as central and readily accessible by public transportation. However the festival program was very well received by partners, sponsors, guest speakers, filmmakers, and audience members, who expressed their strong appreciation for the festival's thought-provoking screenings and talks on global issues. Over 50% more films than during the 2016 festival were presented without incurring higher screening fee expenses. More filmmakers were engaged in thought-provoking discussions that included documentary subjects and experts. Overall, therefore, the 28th One World Film Festival reinforced One World Arts' reputation for delivering high-quality programming, for engaging community partners and sponsors, and for providing a forum for Ottawa-area audiences to view excellent documentaries and interact with filmmakers, thereby raising awareness and inspiring action on issues of local and global concern.

#### Festival statistics:

Thanks to the support of funders and partners, contributions raised through fundraising activities and donations, and sales of tickets and passes, all festival expenses were covered.

Total festival attendance: 752

Number of volunteers: 34

Estimated number of volunteer hours devoted to the project: 500+

Ticket and Pass Sales: \$7509.76

Festival Expenses: \$30,099.34

Festival Revenue: \$32,238.91

#### **IV. Special Project "Ottawa Through the Lens of Refugees, Immigrants, and Newcomers"**

One World Arts developed this special project to impart filmmaking skills to participants drawn from Ottawa's immigrant and refugee communities. On the recommendation of Zoe Mallett, A. Sabastien Calender was contracted as project coordinator. Additional mentoring was provided by Hingman Leung and Irene Jansen. The project was made possible through a grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa and the support of SAW Video, the Ottawa Public Library, Refugee 613, YOCISO (Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization's youth program) and a range of dedicated individuals and organizations. The initiative provided five

participants from Ottawa's diverse refugee, immigrant and newcomer populations with the tools and training to create short documentaries, which were screened on October 1, in partnership with Oxfam Canada and Refugee 613.

Notes on Films and Filmmakers:

*Six Voices, One Story*

Hingman Leung (6 minutes)

Hingman Leung weaves together a single narrative from multiple voices to tell an immigration story. This story brings together the collective memories and experiences of six friends to shed light on the lives of immigrants after they have assimilated into Canadian society. It is also an exploration of the concept of identity and culture.

*A Dream of Burundi*

Spes Ndongezi (6 minutes)

A journalist from Burundi has a mission after having immigrated to Canada to bring together members of the Burundian Diaspora which are separated and segregated through old ethnic tensions and past scars - the Hutu and Tutsi. Spes Ndongezi's message is one of hope and blurring the lines that divide us.

*An Artist from Iran*

Golbon Moltaji (7 minutes)

From the metropolitan city of Tehran where industrial sounds are paramount and one can hear classical Iranian music being played on radios and by buskers in the public simultaneously, Golbon finds peace in piecing together the sounds and images that she identifies with. She reflects on the differences of artist culture and freedom of expression between not only Iran and her experience here in Canada through Ottawa, but also an overview of what she's experiences in the artist scene internationally.

*Positivity in a New Place*

Fars Mohammed (8 minutes)

Raised by Eritreans and hailing from Saudi Arabia, Fars arrived in Canada finding inspiration and a new found sense of personal freedom which he expresses through his love of poetry. He has a message of motivation inspired by his international path and captures responses from Ottawans through a series of street interviews. Through these interviews and monologues based on his written work Fars endeavors to share a message of peace and perseverance.

*Through the Lens of a Migrant Story*

Alois Nashali (3 minutes)

A newcomer and international student from Kenya examines the different life and cultural contrast as a student here in Ottawa, with emphasis on the differences in sense of community, and the struggles of transitioning into, and integrating with, a new culture.

Places of Birth/Country of Origin of the Participants: Hingman Leung – China; Spes Ndongezi – Burundi; Golbon Moltaji – Iran; Fars Mohammed - Saudi Arabia; Alois Nashali – Kenya

These five participants completed the program and received hands-on training in video production with a view to gaining experience and making a short film. Their work was recognized publicly through the screening of the five shorts described above at the 28<sup>th</sup> OWFF. Subsequently participants were given free passes to the December 2017 Digi60 film festival which included attending a professional development workshop of their choice. (OWA president Gerry Schmitz was a jury member for the festival which is designed to develop and showcase local filmmaking talent.) Two of the OWA special project shorts—Hingman Leung's *Six Voices, One Story* and Spes Ndongezi's *A Dream of Burundi*—were also selected to screen at the Digi60 Festival's Doc Night on December 8, as part of a special co-presentation between Digi60 and One World Arts.