



'Canada's Coolest Film Fest'

"One of the top seven film festivals in the world to attend" - Travel & Style

"One of ten film festivals worth travelling for" in North America - USA Today

"A vital talent incubator: Over 20 Canadian features have been made and hundreds of filmmakers mentored thanks to professional development programs at Whistler." - Pique Newsmagazine

I. ORGANIZATION

The Whistler Film Festival Society (WFFS) is a charitable, non-profit organization (856677844RR001) incorporated under the British Columbia Society Act dedicated to advancing the art and business of film by providing programs that focus on the discovery, development and promotion of talent culminating with a must attend festival for artists, the industry and audiences in Whistler each December.

WFFS fulfills its mission through producing:

- A highly respected and recognized 5-day international film festival (WFF) and 4-day industry summit (Content Summit) that draw industry, audiences and global exposure for Canadian talent
- Supplemental year-round film and event programming that enriches community life beyond the festival
- Market-driven, domestic talent development and promotion programs with proven impact
- Film and talent programming that nurtures gender parity, inclusivity and diversity

II. MISSION

Our mission is to cultivate diverse cultural experiences that connect people through the art of cinema, and to discover, develop and promote Canadian screen based talent for global success.

III. HISTORY

When the Whistler Film Festival was founded in 2001, it was with the intention to create opportunities for new and original voices to be heard in independent film, to put Whistler on the map as a cultural destination and to promote British Columbia's burgeoning film industry. The festival has not changed in terms of its purpose, but has grown beyond ever imagined in terms of its size, scope and scale.

Today, our organization produces a well-respected, credible event on the international film festival circuit, augmented by film presentations and market-driven programs for Canadian talent throughout the year that serve over 17,000 attendees, including over 1,000 industry insiders and over 2,200 Alumni. We continue to build on our reputation while becoming a vital component of the Canadian screen-based industry, and a valued partner in the resort community of Whistler, an international mountain resort destination committed to building its cultural capacity.

The Whistler Film Festival combines an esteemed film competition with an industry focused Content Summit organized to address the ever-changing landscape of filmmaking in the digital age complemented by 11 talent development programs for Canadian artists. WFFS also produces a series of year round events and programs that includes screening series (*WFF Adventure Film Series*, *WFF Summer Cinema Series* and *WFF Film Series*), fundraisers and industry engagement events in Whistler and Vancouver.

Whistler Film Festival Society • Charitable Registration #: 856677844RR001
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IV. IMPACT: KEY CONTRIBUTION HIGHLIGHTS

WFF's impact to date has been significant for Whistler, British Columbia's entertainment industry and Canada's international reputation in this important art form. Sundance, Telluride, Whistler: ski towns seem to attract film festivals. Renowned as 'Canada's coolest film festival', the Whistler Film Festival has become the Canadian film industry's liveliest gathering outside of TIFF, was recently recognized as "one of the top seven film festivals in the world to attend" and "one of ten of the most amazing film festivals worth attending" in North America, and is one of Whistler's signature cultural events. WFF's cultural strength, artistic calibre, industry value and impact are backed by key metrics and results.

With over \$20 million invested in our affiliated programs to date by cause-driven organizations, companies and people, and 2.6 million volunteer hours generously donated, WFF has generated over \$80 million worth of exposure for Whistler, BC, Canada and domestic talent. In 2018, WFF further solidified its reputation and reach, generating 453 million impressions including 22.4 million marketing impressions and 431 million media impressions, and the Whistler Film Festival and its Talent Programs collectively generated \$24.6 million GDP, 6.2 million in tax revenue and supported 390 full time jobs.

Cultural Impact

- **Since 2001**, WFFS' programs and local cultural initiatives have served 150,000+ filmmakers and film fans, and established a community of over 2,250 filmmaker and industry alumni. Of the 1,378 films presented, hundreds launched at the Festival have gained critical recognition and acclaim as a result, propelling Canadian content and our domestic talent worldwide. WFF has presented 145 awards and commissions valued at over \$1.6 million, and attracted and launched some of the top talent of our time.
- **Annually**, WFFS programs serve over 17,000 attendees, with the festival attracting over 14,000 attendees including 1,185 industry delegates, and 3,000 attendees through annual cultural activities.
- **To date**, WFFS has successfully delivered 71 dedicated talent programs for 398 Canadian artists with 326 projects, resulting in a **33% project progression conversion rate***: 42 completed projects (34 premiered at WFF), 11 in production and 56 in advanced development (**excludes 2018 results*).
- Cumulatively, WFFS has organized **1,300+ 1:1 industry meetings** that have connected domestic creators with deal makers and mentors to advance their careers and projects.
- **In 2018**, WFFS presented 85 films (50 features and 35 shorts) in 104 screenings with 228 filmmakers in attendance, 30 interactive industry Summit sessions featuring 70 industry guests, and 11 talent programs (8 original and 3 collaborations) with 78 faculty that supported 81 Canadian artists including 6 screenwriters, 31 directors, 10 producers, 4 actors and 30 musicians to advance their projects and craft.
- Key topline festival results in 2018 include:
 - WFF presented 7 juried sections with 13 awards and \$146,500 in prizes awarded (\$31,500 cash and \$115,000 in prizes) to support Canadian creators in their creative careers.
 - 69% of WFF film programming (64% Features and 77% Shorts) was Canadian, more than another international Canadian film festival in that year
 - 32% of the films were from first time feature directors
 - 46% of films were directed or co-directed by women or non-binary individuals
 - 51% of Talent Program participants were women and 76% were from BC
 - 257 scheduled Talent Program meetings and 421 scheduled industry Summit meetings between domestic creators and industry decision makers (broadcasters, distributors and financiers) were facilitated by WFFS to advance projects and careers.
 - WFF supports five female focused programs including its Women on Top Series designed to address gender equity in media both on screen and behind the scenes.

Economic Impact

- Over **\$19.6 million** has been invested in WFFS' affiliated programs to date, including \$11 million cash and \$8.6 million in contributed services and materials by cause-driven organizations and people. *This excludes 2.6 million volunteer hours* generously donated by local festival supporters. This cumulative investment has generated proven cultural results with a significant economic ROI.
- In 2018, WFFS engaged Nordicity to conduct an economic impact assessment of our programs. Fiscal highlights attributed to WFFS' festival and talent programs on the provincial economy include:
 - **\$2.5 million GDP** impact and **43 jobs** as a result of the festival
 - **\$22.1 million GDP** impact and **350 jobs** created by the participants in the Talent Programs
 - **\$1.35 million** of incremental incomes earned by Talent Program participants (2014-2017)

- **\$15.79 million** in incremental BC domestic production volume attributed to WFF's Talent Programs
- **\$1.1 million** in incremental tourism spending during WFF's 5 day event.

Exposure

- **To date**, WFFS has generated over **\$80 million worth of exposure** for Whistler, BC, Canada and domestic talent.
- **In 2018 alone**, WFFS' programs delivered **22.4 million marketing impressions** (19.7 million advertising and 2.8 million social/online) and **431 million global media impressions valued at \$2.1 million** for Whistler, BC, Canada and our domestic talent.
- **In 2018**, USA Today and Variety named WFF as **one of North America's top destination film festivals**.
- WFFS' Founder and Executive Director Shauna Hardy Mishaw was recognized as **Canada's representative in Variety's 2019 International Women's Impact Report** that featured 50 women from around the world for making an impact in showbiz (March 5 Edition).

V. 2019 WFF PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FILMS

Whistler Film Festival (December 4-8): 2019 marks the 19th year of operation for the Whistler Film Festival, with the festival taking place from December 4 to 8. WFF will draw film fans and filmmakers to North America's premiere mountain resort for five days to experience films from Canada and around the world and connect with the people who made them, and to honour artists of our time, complemented by epic events, innovative industry initiatives and talent development programs.

Cinematic excellence will remain at the heart of the Whistler Film Festival, which will present a focused and competitive program of up to 90 films (approx. 50 feature films and 40 shorts) from around the world across a broad spectrum of genres including a solid lineup of premieres at public screenings presented in up to 90 screenings (public and repeat) on six screens in four theatres. WFF's film lineup will be announced on November 5, 2019.

WFF is the only Canadian film festival with a prestigious *Variety* Partner Program, hosting the *Variety* 10 Screenwriters to Watch since 2011, and is among the most competitive festivals on the continent for securing and screening award season contending films.

Previous Oscar-nominated feature films that have had their Western Canadian premieres in Whistler include ROMA (2018), MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS (2018), AT ETERNITY'S GATE (2018), IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK (2018), ROMA (2018), DARKEST HOUR (2017), I TONYA (2017), THE DISASTER ARTIST (2017), LAST FLAG FLYING (2017), HOCHELAGA, LAND OF SOULS (2017), LA LA LAND (2016), LION (2016), TRUMBO (2015), LADY IN THE VAN (2015), THE IMITATION GAME (2014), THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING (2014), STILL ALICE (2014), THE DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (2013), ANNA KARENINA (2012) and more. In addition, WFF has also had the Canadian premieres of contenders such as MISS SLOANE (2016), 20th CENTURY WOMEN (2016), CAROL (2015), and A MOST VIOLENT YEAR (2014) among others.

Film Competitions and Awards: To recognize the vitality of this art form, the 2018 Festival will feature eight juried competitive sections and 13 awards with over \$146,500 in cash and prizes to be awarded (\$31,500 in cash prizes and \$115,000 in prizes), plus one audience award selected from up to 1,000 submissions. Awards include the coveted Borsos Competition for Best Canadian Feature, celebrating its 16th edition in 2019, featuring the second largest festival cash prize for a Canadian film in the country after Toronto (TIFF) through the

The following awards will be handed out at the Awards Celebration on the last day of the Festival or post event:

- Borsos Competition for Best Canadian Feature Film
- Best Performance in a Borsos Competition Film
- Best Screenplay of a Borsos Competition Film
- Best Director of a Borsos Competition Film
- Best Cinematography of a Borsos Competition Film
- Best World Documentary

- Best Mountain Culture
- Best ShortWork (Canadian and International Awards)
- Best BC Student ShortWork
- Alliance of Women Film Journalists EDA Awards for Best Female-Directed Narrative Feature and Best Female-Directed Documentary
- MPPIA Short Film Award
- Audience Award

Opening & Closing Night Films (December 4 & 8): WFF officially opens and closes with a premiere film screening followed by a Whistler-style party.

INDUSTRY:

Content Summit (December 5-8): Structured around bringing films to market and designed to provide filmmakers with tools to succeed both within and beyond our borders, WFF's four-day industry Content Summit will feature up to 30 interactive business sessions and networking events for filmmakers and dealmakers to delve into cinema's converging fields of art, technology, and commerce. With 1,000 expected delegates including industry executives from China, Los Angeles, New York, and Canada, as well as top tier filmmakers, producers, and digital trailblazers, Whistler is the place to be, connect, and deal each December.

Talent Programs: WFF offers a slate of 11 Talent Programs designed to provide creative and business immersion experiences for 80 Canadian artists to advance their projects and craft. Programs include the *Producers Lab*, *Praxis Screenwriters Lab*, *Indigenous Filmmaker Fellowship Power Pitch*, *Doc Lab*, *Women in Focus Mentorship*, *Music Showcase*, and *Stars to Watch*. WFF also collaborates with four industry organizations by hosting specific third party initiatives at WFF's Summit including the *Women in the Director's Chair Industry Immersion* (since 2014), *Women in Film & Television Film Market Preparation Mentorship* (since 2012) and *MPPIA Short Film Award Pitch* with the Motion Picture Production Industry Association and Creative BC (since 2007).

EVENTS:

Signature Series (December 5-7): WFF's Signature Series features the Artist Tribute, Artist Spotlight and Talent to Watch Conversation that honour distinguished artists of our time for their extraordinary contribution to the world of cinema with an award and on-stage interview with a celebrity moderator, as well as a feature presentation of their most recent film, if available.

Past honourees include luminaries that include Tantoo Cardinal, Kyra Sedgwick, Bill Pullman, John Madden, Alan Thicke, Kim Cattrall, Dean DeBlois, Don Carmody, Richard Dreyfuss, Melissa Leo, Jason Priestley, Daniel Radcliffe, Rashida Jones, Michael Shannon, Patton Oswalt, Jay Baruchel, Bruce McDonald, Monte Hellman, Ivan Reitman, Donald Sutherland, William Vince, Atom Egoyan, Norman Jewison, and Robert Lantos.

Our festival, along with TIFF, is one of only two Canadian film festivals sponsored by Variety. From 2011 to 2018, WFF hosted the *Variety* 10 Screenwriters to Watch, which has offered us the unique opportunity to honour Oscar contending writers such as Joe Robert Cole, *BLACK PANTHER* (2018), Bryan Woods and Scott Beck, *A QUIET PLACE* (2018), Charlie Wachtel and David Rabinowitz, *BLACKKKLANSMAN* (2018), Taylor Allen and Andrew Logan, *CHAPPAQUIDDICK* (2017), John Whittington, *LEGO/BATMAN* (2017), Maggie Betts, *NOVITIATE* (2017), Samuel V. Franco and Evan Kilgore, *KEEPER OF THE DIARY* (2017), Tracy Oliver - co-writer, *GIRLS TRIP* (2017), Luke Davies *LION* (2016), Allison Schroeder *HIDDEN FIGURES* (2016), Pamela Ribon *MOANA* (2016), Taylor Sheridan *SICARIO* (2015) and Ted Melfi who attended with *ST. VINCENT* in 2014. Other writers who went directly from Whistler to the Oscar race include Meg LeFauve *INSIDE OUT* (2015), Emma Donoghue *ROOM* (2015), Phyllis Nagy *CAROL* (2015), Graham Moore *THE IMITATION GAME* (2014), Jennifer Lee, *FROZEN* (2013) and Chris Terrio *ARGO* (2012) to note. Variety has also hosted a Variety Contender Conversation, which featured Oscar winning Director John Madden who attended the festival with *MISS SLOANE* in 2016.

Music Showcase (December 6-7): Film meets music in Whistler with this multi-day showcase complimented by Music for Screen sessions. Up to 10 expert-ready songwriters and artists from British Columbia will be

selected to play a 30-minute set and meet for key international music and film executives, industry delegates and film fans.

Festival Party (December 6/7): WFF's legendary party returns to mark our 19th edition.

Awards Celebration (December 8): Filmmakers, industry, and special guests gather to honour the talent behind some of the finest films showcased at this year's Festival. The event includes the Alliance of Women Film Journalists EDA's Awards, MPPIA Short Film Award, and WFF's coveted Borsos Award for Best Canadian Feature, the second largest cash festival prize in the country.

VII. EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Whistler Film Festival Society's executive team has a combined 100 years of experience in the entertainment, event production and tourism businesses. Our Board of Directors is comprised of some of BC's most respected professionals in business, entertainment and tourism. For a full list of WFF Staff and Board, go to <http://whistlerfilmfestival.com/about/board-and-staff/>.

a) **Shauna Hardy Mishaw - Executive Director & Founder**



Shauna Hardy Mishaw is the Executive Director and Founder of the Whistler Film Festival Society. Since its inception in 2001, Shauna has been instrumental in the Whistler Film Festival becoming one of Canada's leading film festivals, and establishing its leadership role in facilitating talent and project development programs and opportunities for filmmakers. She is also the Executive Producer of 22 short films commissioned as part of WFF's Whistler Stories legacy project from 2005 to 2010.

Shauna has over 25 years experience in sales, marketing communications and event production, and has worked on some of BC's highest profile events. In 2018, Shauna was recognized as Canada's representative in Variety's 2019 International Women's Impact Report that featured 50 women from around the world for making an impact in showbiz (March 5 Edition). She received the 2014 Women of the Year Award and 2009 Wayne Black Service Award both from Women in Film & Video Vancouver for her role in supporting BC's entertainment industry, and was named the 2008 Whistler Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

b) **Paul Gratton - Director of Film Programming**



Based on Toronto, Paul Gratton has been the Director of Programming for the Whistler Film Festival since 2012, overseeing all of the feature film and industry programming. Paul is the former Vice-President of Entertainment Specialty Channels for CHUM, where he oversaw the development of such successful specialty channels as Bravo!, Space and Drive-In Classics. Previously, he was a Vice-President of Programming for both Superchannel and First Choice during Canadian Pay television's first decade on air, and served as CEO of the Ontario Film Development Corporation (now Ontario Creates).

Paul has served as Chair of the Canadian Television Fund and the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, and on the boards of the Independent Production Fund, the National Screen Institute, BravoFact and MAXfact. Paul currently sits as Chair of the First Weekend Club. His consulting activities include work done for Telefilm Canada, the Canadian Film and Television Producers Association, Bell Media, the Directors' Guild of Canada and Television Quatre Saisons. An avid film buff, he has detailed notes on over 19,000 feature films that he has screened, and closely tracks the ever evolving North American distribution and film production sectors.

c) **Angela Heck - Director of Industry Programming**



Passionate about storytelling and supporting content creators, Angela Heck brings over 20 years of experience in content production and communications to the role. No stranger to the festival, Heck has been involved with WFF since the beginning and previously served as the Industry Program Manager from 2008 to 2010 - missing only two festivals in 18 years. She

most recently worked with the National Screen Institute as Director of Digital & Strategic Initiatives. Her past work includes roles at the Winnipeg Art Gallery Inuit Art Centre capital campaign, Tactica Interactive, CBC Manitoba, University of Manitoba, Quest University Canada and the National Film Board of Canada (Pacific & Yukon studio). She has also served on numerous juries and advisory groups including Bell Fund, Leo Awards, and Juno Awards, and is currently vice-chair of Jazz Winnipeg and a former board member of WIFTV, DOC-BC and the University of Manitoba.

As a documentary producer, Heck works extensively in the adventure realm with production scaling mountains from Tibet to British Columbia and on the sea in Antarctica. Most recently, she produced two digital shorts for CBC Docs by filmmaker Madison Thomas (*Fourth Period Burnout*, *Declutter*), an episode of the prime time documentary series *The Explorer's Club* with FlorianFilm (ZDF/arte), and the Canada/US co-venture *Soul of the Sea* (Blue Ant). Her first film, *In The Shadow of the Chief*, took home the People's Choice Award at the Whistler Film Festival in 2003.

d) Kristyn Stilling - Senior Shorts Programmer



Kristyn Stilling started with the Whistler Film Festival in 2011 as a Programming Administrator and moved onto become the Shorts Programmer in 2012 and last year was promoted to Senior Shorts Programmer. Since graduating from Capilano University's film program, Kristyn has immersed herself into the Canadian film community. She recently worked as a Production Coordinator at the National Film Board Vancouver office, and has now immersed herself in . She is also the Chair of the Vancouver Short Film Festival and for two years was a Co-Producer with the Crazy8s Film Society, producing 12 short films all made within 8 days. To further foster and support local filmmakers in Vancouver, she co-founded the monthly webisode festival VanChan in 2015.

d) Leah Primeau - Senior Sponsorship Representative



Leah Primeau started with the Whistler Film Festival in 2008 as the Events Manager and since then, has become the Senior Sponsorship Representative. She has been responsible for over 100 sponsorship portfolios, and has overseen the event operations of the festival, including execution of all special events and Canadian Music Showcase.

With over 25 years experience in event marketing and production, Leah has worked on several of BC's highest profile events including the FIS World Cup, World Championship, Crankworx, 2010 Olympics, Merritt Mountain Music Festival and Rockin' River Music Festival. Prior to joining to WFF, she worked as the Marketing and Event Manager for IMG Canada, assisting in the execution of several large scale sporting events including Wakefest, West 49 Skateboard Challenge and the World Ski and Snowboard Festival. She also now works as Manager, Partnerships & Events at Gibbons Whistler.

e) Lindsay Nahmiache - PR Manager



Lindsay Nahmiache has been WFF's PR Manager since 2010. Lindsay is the Co-founder & CEO of Jive PR + Digital, an award-winning public relations agency with offices in Los Angeles, Vancouver and Toronto. With over 15 years of integrated communications experience, Lindsay returned to Canada to start Jive after six years working abroad for E! Entertainment in London, UK and Contiloe Films in Mumbai, India (a.k.a. Bollywood).

Lindsay has been recognized as one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women (2013) in the Financial Post, a 2016 Enterprising Women of the Year and PROFIT and Canadian Business W100: Canada's Top Female Entrepreneurs (2016). She is an adviser for UBC (University of British Columbia) on course curriculum for Digital Communications, a mentor for FWE (Forum for Women Entrepreneurs), and co-founder of the not-for-profit Projecting Change Film Festival.

VIII. LOCATION

Location remains one of WFF's greatest assets. Whistler is only a two-hour drive from Vancouver, North America's third largest film and TV production centre (after Los Angeles and New York). Vancouver has the major advantage of being in the same time zone and a 2.5 hour flight from Hollywood, the world centre of the trillion-dollar entertainment industry.

British Columbia's film and TV industry continues its hot streak. For the second consecutive year, B.C. hit another record amount that screen productions have spent in the province. Creative BC announced on July 16 that the number of productions filming in B.C. qualifying for tax-credit certifications rose to 452 (an increase of 34 percent from the previous year) and contributed \$3.4 billion to B.C.'s economy in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Amid an accelerating global demand for content, among the factors contributing to the ongoing industry growth, in addition to the tax credit program, have been a low Canadian dollar; proximity to Los Angeles; well-established animation, visual effects, and post-production industries, as well as local crews and talent; multicultural populations and resources; and diverse locations that cover ocean and shorelines, desert-like regions, forests and mountains, and urban areas.

ACCOMMODATION

WFF has 20 accommodation partner properties to choose from that offer special rates to WFF delegates and attendees. Air travel and ground transportation deals are also available at <https://whistlerfilmfestival.com/stay/>

BOX OFFICE

The Festival's online box office at whistlerfilmfestival.com/tickets is now open for memberships, ticket packages and passes. Tickets go on sale on November 15.

SPONSORS

The Whistler Film Festival is funded by the Government of Canada through Telefilm Canada, and by the Province of British Columbia and the Resort Municipality of Whistler through the Resort Municipality Initiative, is supported by the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation and the American Friends of Whistler, and is sponsored by Creative BC, Cineplex, NETFLIX, Variety, Whistler Blackcomb, Tourism Whistler, RE/MAX Sea to Sky Real Estate, Encore Vancouver, and the Westin Resort & Spa Whistler. For a full list of WFF sponsors, go to whistlerfilmfestival.com/support/sponsors/.