

FOCUS 2

CALL

March 15th - March 22nd
at 7:00pm each day

Kitchener City Hall / Walper Hotel

A free film festival featuring short, feature, documentary, and animated films produced in and around the Region of Waterloo.



Presented by the Multicultural Cinema Club at The Working Centre

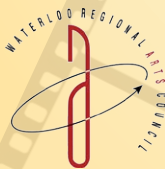


Sponsors



Social Planning Council of
Kitchener-Waterloo

WATERLOO REGION
RECORD



Walper
Walper Terrace Hotel
A Tradition of Excellence Since 1893



Generation X
Alternative Video & Media

Serving Our Community
FM 98.5
CKWR

Sunday, March 15th

The festival kicks off with a celebration and refreshments at the Walper Hotel in The Oak Room on the second floor. There will be some brief speeches of introduction and the distribution of artists fees. Clips from each movie and logos of all our sponsors appear on big screen. Cash bar. The media are invited to attend this event. Everybody is welcome.

All film screenings are at the Kitchener City Hall Council Chamber, starting at 7pm.

Monday, March 16th

Ready to Go (2008)



Directors: Philip Bast, Gary Kirkham, & Nicholas Walsh

Time: 6 min. 30 sec.

Rating: PG

World Premiere

He's all dressed up and she's dithering over dresses and shoes: It's an eternal chasm between lovers.

Inside (2005)



Director: Mike Cameron

Time: 6 min. 26 sec.

Rating: PG-13

World Premiere

In this grim and gritty crime drama, a hardened ex-con reunites with the love of his life, a now ailing prostitute. Unfortunately for the two lovers, the woman's pimp refuses to let her go.

Him (2006)



Director: Mike Cameron

Time: 6 min. 26 sec.

Rating: PG

World Premiere

"Him" is a surrealist journey through heartache and the agony of love lost. After a difficult break up, a young woman is unable to move on. Only after an arrival of an unlikely visitor does she find the strength to overcome her pain.

Mona and Theo (2008)



Director: Peter Szabo

Time: 13 min., **Rating:** R

Short listed for Grand River Film Festival Short Cuts Competition

This modern twist on a Shakespearean tragedy focuses on the decline of a seemingly perfect marriage. Theo observes an apparent series of "chance" encounters between Mona and his best friend, and becomes haunted by images of an illicit affair.

Film Blanc (2008)



Director: Brian Yuan Zhang

Time: 8 min., **Rating:** PG-13

Canadian Premiere

A man full of regret and longing is revisited by the femme fatal of his clouded past. She is irresistible, and immediately he finds himself in a personal struggle for true clarity. This short story is a contemporary exploration of the classic film-noir genre.

Memory (2008)



Director: Rouzbeh Noori

Time: 7 min., **Rating:** PG

World Premiere

How much can a memory be trusted? What powers do we have over our recollections? How can you forget what refuses to be forgotten? The search for these answers brings unexpected results for one man...

Parallels (2008)



Director: Rouzbeh Noori

Time: 4 min., **Rating:** PG

Official Selection in the Continental Drift International Short Film Festival (New Brunswick),

the Florence International Film Festival (Italy), and the Canada Film Festival (Vancouver).

Noel is a quiet, unassuming young man with a particular obsession. When he gets home one night after work for dinner and a relaxing, he has no idea what the supernatural forces beyond his comprehension have in store for him...

Zip Zap Zop! (2008)



Director: Carlito Ghioni

Time: 17 min., **Rating:** PG

Premiered at the 2Bit festival in Edmonton, Alberta

This film is made up of micro narrative stories taking place on a city bus. It offers viewers the freedom of many possible interpretations.

The Missing Piece (2000)



Director: Todd William Schroeder

Time: 23 min., **Rating:** PG

Canadian Premiere, Gold Remi Award - Houston International Film Festival, Chris Columbus Bronze Plaque for High Achievement - Columbus International Film Festival

This film follows a salesman in his quest to find himself. Robert sets out on a journey to deal with his abandonment and sets forth to find his biological heritage.

Corporeal Memories (2007)



Director: Justin Lensen

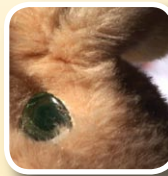
Time: 18 min.

Rating: PG

During the Second World War, medic Cpl. Jenkins finds himself behind enemy lines. He meets up with Pvt. Werden and they attempt to find his lost battalion. The two form a bond along the way, but powers beyond their control seal their fates

Tuesday, March 17th

Beloved (2006)



Director: Mike Cameron

Time: 7 min. 39 sec.

Rating: PG

World Premiere

"BELOVED" is a minimalist exploration through the life of one human being from beginning to end. Filled with all the joys and tragedies, this heartfelt tale will connect with the coldest soul.

Gauntlet (2008)



Director: Mike Cameron

Time: 7 min. 39 sec.

Rating: PG

World Premiere

Throughout time there has been a battle raging between good and evil. In this action packed epic short, two modern warriors continue that battle anew. May thy blade be steady and true.

Umbrella Rod (2008)



Director: Philip Carrer

Time: 5 min., **Rating:** PG

Canadian Premiere

This film explores a woman's untold energy as she revisits an environment where she had spent most of her childhood, and begins to retrace haunting memories of her past through delusional reenactments and flashbacks.

An Emotional Mission: Debbie Bodkin's Story (2008)



Director: Neil Sylva

Time: 10 min., **Rating:** PG

Canadian Premiere at Barrie Film Festival (Oct. 2008)

Officer Debbie Bodkin is on a mission in Darfur, Sudan. After returning to Canada, having talked with victims of this genocide, hearing their stories and befriending them, Debbie could not return to live as normal in Canada.

Downside Up (2008)



Director: Azam Fouk Aladeh

Time: 87 min., **Rating:** PG-13

World Premiere

Downside Up explores the causes and consequences of youth homelessness in Kitchener, Ontario. It offers insights into the lives of the youth, their struggles with mainstream society, and their recommendations for social change.

Wednesday, March 18th

Frankie is Not a Man (2008)



Director: David Hopkinson

Time: 10 min., **Rating:** PG

World Premiere

Vienne is an eccentric, older Italian man who lives with his daughter Maria. It's Maria birthday and Vienne's only responsibility is to sign for the package that been delivered while Freddie and Maria are out. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

When Life Sucks Get a Helmet (2008)



Director: Steven Ahola

Time: 11 min., **Rating:** PG

World Premiere

In search of adventure.. and something to do, four teenagers and one twenty something end up at the local Toys A Lot where they get into a game of cat and mouse with store security.

The Agoraphobe (2008)



Director: Steven Ahola

Time: 9 min., **Rating:** PG

World Premiere

An emotionally disturbed young man falls deeper into a pit of agoraphobia after an embarrassing incident at a party is captured on video and broadcast on the internet. A young woman who feels responsible attempts to make amends.

The Partner (2008)



Directors: Elizabeth Dent and Mary Lalonde

Time: 6 min. 7 sec., **Rating:** PG

3rd place in Ed Video Media Arts Centre 48 Hour Media Challenge

In this short, dark, westernesque comedy, Johnny comes looking for a challenge. Only in Canada could this friendly game reach such intensity.

Tricky Sunday (2009)



Director: Michael Zach

Time: 18 min. 44 sec.

Rating: PG

World Premiere

A comedy about a young man who by accident gives his lottery ticket to a girl he finds attractive. Fortunately enough, he meets her again and tries to get this ticket back from her without her knowing his true motives..

The Sacred Earth (1996)



Director: Andrew Kohl

Time: 10 min.

Rating: PG

A film about aboriginal philosophy of caring for our environment, and how it applies today. It explores the need for tolerance between cultures, and the oneness of all people. This will unite all in the purpose of saving this sacred earth.

A Growing Season (2008)



Director(s): Paul Eichhorn & Robert Waldeck

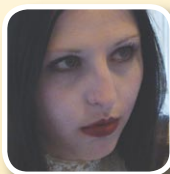
Time: 51 min., **Rating:** PG

Screened in Ontario at events in 2008

This Film follows vegetable farmer John Gorzo Jr. and his family over eight months on his farm in the Holland Marsh. It looks at how the practice of farming has become increasingly difficult for small farmers; John's future in farming is uncertain.

Thursday, March 19th

The Ticket (2008)



Director: C. Edward Stewart

Time: 9 min. 15 sec., **Rating:** PG

Ed Video 72 Hour Infected film challenge award: Best Cinematography & Special Effects

Five people are sent mysterious tickets to a rave, but they find themselves descending into a nightmarish world of confusion and horror. Are their visions real, or is it all in their minds?

Eyelid Sky - The Girl (2008)



Director: Kurtis Baute

Time: 9 min. 2 sec.

Rating: PG

Previous awards: STFF Grand Prize, SIYFF Finalist

In the melodramatic dream-world theatre of the mind, the Guy does his same old song and dance to win his Girl back. Their hilarious and dysfunctional relationships explore comedy and tragedy, and investigate shallow clichés.

Nowhere to Hide (2006)



Director: Todd William Schroeder

Time: 19 min. 7 sec.

Rating: PG

Canadian Premiere, Honorable Mention - Columbus International Film Festival, Silver Demi Award - Houston International Film Festival

Jack, 16, runs away from a physically and emotionally abusive family to save his life and that of his sister Annie. The two children get separated by Children's Services, but Jack fights to reunite with his sister.

Into the Shift (1998)



Director: Andrew Kohl

Time: 5 min., **Rating:** PG

Canadian Premiere

In this non-narrative music video, a thunderstorm across the grand canyon puts on a light show in nature, connecting us to the ancient's awareness of our connection with the earth

Same World Same Chance (2008)



Director: Jonathan Izma

Time: 23 min., **Rating:** PG

World Premiere

Two Canadian friends learn the lifestyle of the people in a rural Zambian village and work together to bring them a high school and change their lives forever through education.

Raqs Sharqi, It's No Hootchy Kootchy (2007)



Director: Mary Lalonde

Time: 47 min., **Rating:** PG

Canadian Premiere

Hiba takes up the traditional Middle Eastern dance, raqs sharqi - commonly known as "belly dance" in order to connect with her heritage, but is confronted with negative reactions from strangers, friends, and even her own family.

Friday, March 20th

Busy Bee (2006)



Director: Alex Szatmáry

Time: 60 sec., **Rating:** PG

Played in some amateur festivals and Rogers Cable. Best Halmar one minute prize 2006.

Third place at Canadian International Film Festival 2006.

This film is a short animation about outsourcing.

Leaf Love (2005)



Director: Alex Szatmàry

Time: 7 min., **Rating:** PG

Played in some amateur festivals, Silver - British International Amateur Festival 2005,

Most Original Entry and Best Humorous Entry at S.C.C.A. Annual Film Contest 2005, Second place at Canadian International Festival 2006.

A short animation about two boy leaves fighting for a girl leaf.

A New Start (2007)



Director: Alex Szatmàry

Time: 60 sec., **Rating:** PG

Played in some amateur festivals, Best Halmar one minute prize 2007.

A short animation about aliens looking for a new planet to call home.

The Adventures of 008 (2009)



Director: Connor Barnett
(Youth Director)

Time: 3 min. 30 sec.

Rating: PG

World Premiere

008 is a parody of James Bond. 008 must stop the bad guys from detonating their bomb -- twice. First 008 must take them on in their hide out, then again when they invade 008's headquarters. The characters in this movie are Stikfas.

War Hero (2008)



Directors: Alex Szatmàry &
Andre Ciere

Time: 16 min., **Rating:** PG

Canadian Premier

A short story of man who lost his father in the Korean War. He finds out about the killer of his father and seeks revenge...

Suburban Desert (2009)



Director: Greg Kaplanek
(Youth Director)

Time: 8 min., **Rating:** PG

World Premiere

An in-depth look at how Canadians in Waterloo, ON use their water. It describes the differences in water use between nations around the world and the associated problems, and possible complications and solutions to these problems.

Nice Dream (2008)



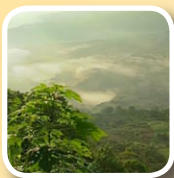
Director: Angus McLellan

Time: 12 min., **Rating:** PG

World Premiere

This experimental documentary focuses on how our culture has developed such that individuals are introverted, virtually social creatures, who have a detached perspective on how the world has been affected by our actions.

Common Grounds: Giving Coffee a New Flavour (1998)



Director: Lawrence McNaught

Time: 52 min., **Dating:** PG

World Premiere

This film is about the cafeteleros, the small scale coffee producers, whose earnings bear little relation to the hard work performed throughout the year. Common Grounds tell the story of the development of fair-trade coffee production.

Saturday, March 21st

Numb (2009)



Director: Reese Eveneshen

Time: 27 min., **Dating:** R

World Premiere

Benjamin's numbness is fading and his fury has taken over. Nothing can stop Benjamin from settling the score that has been boiling inside him for five years.

Four Aces (2009)



Director: Thomas M. Gofton

Time: 105 min., **Dating:** R

Canadian Premiere

Jessie settles in a small southern Ontario town where she meets four best friends; Michael, Luke, Gabe, and Christopher, who keeps everyone close until love intervenes causing the aces to put on their poker faces.

Sunday, March 22nd

Wrap-Up celebrations and refreshments start at 7:00pm at the Walper Hotel in The Oak Room. At this time we will announce the winners of the Jury Award and Public Choice Award in each category. Clips of winning films and logos of sponsors will appear on big screen. Cash bar. The media are invited to attend this event. Everybody is welcome.

Local Focus Film Festivals

Films accepted for Local Focus 2 were chosen by the jury based on the following: Cinematography- Sound- Editing/Continuity- Story/Script- Performance/ Acting -Believability/Credibility/Accuracy. The jury will continue judging the films throughout the festival.

Artist fees will be reimbursed to producers of each accepted film. In addition, we will have the Jury Award (merit award for best short, documentary and feature as voted on by an elected Jury), and the Public Choice Award (for best short, documentary and feature as voted on by the audience). Two films, one by Azam Fouk Aladeh and the other by Philip Bast are excluded from the competition for the Jury Award as Azam and Philip are members of the Jury, but these movies can still compete for the Public Choice Award.

The jury is comprised of the following individuals: Mick Grogan, Terry Barna, David Finlay, Martin de Groot, Brian Scott, Philip Bast and Azam Fouk Aladeh.

For more information, please see our website at www.kwmcc.org, call 519-743-1151 ext. 146 or e-mail film-making@theworkingcentre.org.