

Durango Film Annual Report

Mission:

Durango Film brings a community together with independent filmmakers for the unique opportunity to experience and discuss global, innovative, and diverse films.

Filmmaker Perspectives

"What an incredible experience this has been. We've been so impressed by this festival - from the top notch staff to the thoughtful audiences and the killer programming. We are honored to have been included and hope to come back soon! Thank you for championing indie film."

- Christine Weatherup,
Killed in Action

"Thank you for my best ever festival experience! I've never been treated so well and you've probably spoiled me for life. Durango is a great town and I felt immediately at home here - I can't wait to come back."

- Joseph Irvin,
Overwhelming Majority

"Thank you for an amazing festival experience. Everything was top notch! We are humbled that you chose 'The Happys' as best narrative feature. Love to all of you! I can't wait to come back."

- John Serpe,
The Happys

A Message from the Executive Director

Our 12th annual festival was an exciting one featuring 115 films over 5 days. We were thrilled to introduce Jim Belushi to Durango as our special guest. He participated in an interview and retrospective film screening plus performed in a Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts concert at the Community Concert Hall. Local John Rubano is a member of the band and was instrumental in bringing Jim Belushi to the festival.

In accordance with our mission statement, we are committed to connecting our audience with global filmmakers and their works of art. This festival, filmmakers hailed from as far away as Japan. Film offerings included narrative features, documentaries, shorts, outdoor adventure, Native American and a family program on the weekend. Every year filmmakers tell us how much they appreciate our audiences, sponsors and volunteers. THANK YOU for making them feel welcome. Our desire is that audiences connect with new friends and filmmakers during the festival and have FUN in the process.



I hope you will become a part of Durango Film. Please take a look at the following articles to find out about our 2017 programs and accomplishments. There is more background information and a link to receive our email newsletter on our website at durangofilm.org. We invite you to join us!



Local firefighters engaging students in a Q&A session

Participating Schools

- Primary:
(Grades K-2)
Ignacio 11-JT,
Durango 9-R
- Elementary:
(Grades 3-5)
Ignacio 11-JT,
Durango 9-R
- Middle School:
Ignacio 11-JT,
Durango 9-R
Shared School
- High School:
Ignacio High,
Animas High

"What a powerful video that showed people who have a disability can do what able [people] can do." High School student reacting to the film Ronnie Dickson: The V10 Project



The Reel Learning School Program

A free program of compelling films and direct Q&A with the filmmakers

Born as a program of the Durango Independent Film Festival in our first year, 2017 marked our 12th year of bringing Reel Learning to La Plata County students. Classes are invited subject to the age-appropriateness of the movies selected by a screening committee of educators with strong film backgrounds. Reel Learning seeks to improve the students' capacity to judge media messages with highly creative films that are full of new ideas and unique viewpoints leading to engaging and intriguing discussion. A record 1,208 students and teachers from Ignacio and Durango participated in the program. This year we were fortunate to have two filmmakers attend the screenings and conduct Q&A with the students. Director Maki Cologne from Japan attended with her film *A Worm Who Loves Winter*. Animas High School student filmmaker Grant Gibson discussed how he made his film with fellow high school students. Local firefighters attended the elementary programs to discuss fire safety procedures and practices with students in response to the film *Supermom*. This film is about a young girl who believes her firefighting mom is a real life superhero. Bank of Colorado generously donated media literacy materials to participating school libraries.

Durango Film featured a public screening of some of the Reel Learning Films at the Durango Independent Film Festival, so that you could have the Reel Learning experience, too.



The 2017 Reel Learning School Program was funded by: Alpine Bank, The Bank of Colorado, Ballantine Family Fund, La Plata Electric Round-Up, and La Plata Electric Association.

Native Cinema Program

A Showcase for Indigenous People from Around the World

This program grows stronger and more popular each year. The festival spotlighted three programs featuring films from Canada and the United States. Filmmakers Klee Benally and Mark Williams arrived prior to the festival in order to represent their films at a special free screening in Ignacio, Colorado, for Southern Ute Indian Tribal members. A Native Cinema Reception was held at Sorrel Sky Gallery giving community members a chance to connect with filmmakers from the program.



Klee Benally conducting Q&A for his film *Power Lines*

Other Festival News

Panels and Workshops were free to the public and offered community members opportunities to connect with filmmakers and film industry representatives. Actor Johnny Dowers moderated two panels, The Social Value of Cinema and Stories from the Frontlines of Filmmaking. Both panels featured candid conversations with visiting filmmakers. The Four Corners Film Office presented a third panel, Keeping it Local - Making a Film in the Four Corners, moderated by Emmy award-winning producer Michael Killen. This panel illustrated how our area businesses and residents benefit when we support and cultivate production in the Four Corners. The 2017 Panels and Workshops were sponsored by the Colorado Office of Film, Television & Media, film4change, Four Leaves Winery and Four Corners Film Office.

The **Craft Beer and Culinary Crawl** is becoming a Durango Film tradition. It gets visitors and filmgoers out and about to experience downtown Durango while showcasing local craft beers and culinary delights prepared by local chefs.

FESTIVAL FACTS:

- **6,704 seats** were filled in festival films, filmmaker panels, the Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts concert, and students and teachers participating in the REEL Learning School Program.
- **200+ room nights** were booked through Durango Film in Durango hotels and vacation rentals for filmmakers, staff, and VIPs (rooms booked by attendees are not included.)
- **Two nights' lodging for filmmakers** was provided by the festival thanks to a block grant from the City of Durango through the Durango Arts Center.
- **Volunteers**, who fuel the festival machine, logged over 8,000 hours throughout the year.



Jim Belushi & the Sacred Hearts

Photo by Katie McCranie

"The entire basis of filmmaking ... is built on the insatiable human desire to experience stories.." 4filmmaking.com

Financial News

Durango Film leverages in-kind contributions so that our cash resources can be used as efficiently as possible. The 2017 festival received a value of **\$89,539** of in-kind support for advertising and media placements, lodging for filmmakers, party venues, food and beverage, and filmmaker gift bag donations. Cash sponsorships totaled **\$31,534**, grants totaled **\$29,950**, and community members donated **\$9,886**. All these ways to support Durango Film are essential to our financial stability. Did you know that ticket and pass sales bring in only 25% of our cash budget?

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity: Fiscal Year 2016-2017*

ASSETS

Checking & Savings Accounts	\$ 17,452.99
Capital Fund	\$ 586.92
Endowment Fund	\$ 2,174.34
Accounts Receivable	\$ 500.00
Fixed and Other Assets	\$ 7,269.72

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 27,983.97

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES \$ 0.00

EQUITY:

Retained Earnings	\$ 26,508.31
Net Income	\$ 1,475.66

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$27,983.97

*Unaudited numbers



"Film is one of the three universal languages. The other two: mathematics and music."
Frank Capra

"Thank you so much for having me and "Wichita" in your stellar film festival! I felt so much love & support in and by Durango that I am still glowing and singing your praises back in L.A., and anticipating my return next year. You guys truly made all the hard work feel worth it! Infinite thanks to you and your team." Director Matthew Ward, Wichita

"LOVE the Q&A at the end of the film when the filmmakers / actors are present. It's what sets the film festival apart from just a Netflix queue." Attendee



FESTIVAL GRANTORS

Jonathan and Devon Wayne Family Foundation
Ballantine Family Fund | City of Durango Arts & Culture Block Grant
Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado | El Pomar Foundation
Mukul Gadde | La Plata Electric Roundup Fund
Tom & Mary Orsini | Norman Broad & Carol Salomon

Board of Directors

Carla Finlay, President
Aimee Martin, Vice President
Sharon Claiborn, Treasurer
Karen Vigil, Secretary
Members: David Jeffers,
Carol Conn, David Bishop

Durango Film's Goals

1. *Inspire and educate audiences with independent film; increase access to the art of independent film in our community.*
2. *Improve the local economy by drawing visitors and filmmakers.*
3. *Support the art of independent filmmakers by providing them with a creative and supporting format to discuss and showcase their work while networking with their peers.*