

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

Durango Film Annual Report

A Message from the Executive Director

"I want to thank you so much for everything you did to make the festival possible. I know it's a big collaboration, just like any film production, but it starts from the top! I couldn't have prepared for how welcoming and enjoyable of an experience it was. I could go on and on, but I want to tell you it's the best film festival experience I have had! Not only that, but it was very inspiring as a filmmaker to share my film with the Durango community, and the enthusiasm it received was overwhelming. I didn't want to leave. It was an honor to be a part of it. I hope very much to see you again in the future. Keep doing what you are doing! You should be very proud."

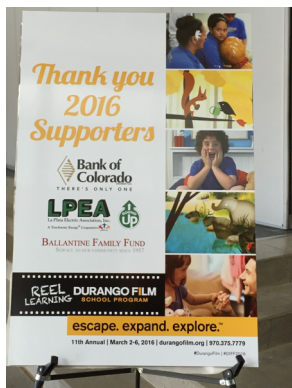
Director Darren Rudy,
Blind Date

Our 11th annual festival was an exciting one, with 108 films screening over 5 days! We were thrilled to introduce **Lindsay Wagner** to Durango audiences as our special guest. Audiences had the opportunity to connect with her in photo ops, Q&A, and around Durango.

We have remained committed to connecting our audience with global filmmakers and their creative works within an enjoyable social experience. This year a record 60 filmmakers and their guests attended the festival, with one making the journey from Korea to represent his work. Offerings included features, documentaries, shorts, adventure sports, 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 the audience members 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 2016 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!



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, 2016 marked our 11th 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. The 2016 program reached 1,100 students and teachers in Durango and Ignacio, ranging from kindergarten to high school-aged children. Two filmmakers attended for Q&A after the screenings.

Durango director David Dibble talked about his film, *Milepost 479*. It involved several cast and crew members from Animas High School, and was shared with AHS for the first time during this year's program. The Ellinwood family journeyed from their home in Florida to be present at all the screenings of their film, *Deaf Notice*. The family made the film to demonstrate the joys and difficulties of being a young person who is deaf and hard of hearing. Students and adults alike were thrilled to meet 10-yr-old Kagen Ellinwood, who became quite a celebrity at Durango Independent Film Festival events.

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.

Participating Schools

- Primary:
(Grades K-2)
Ignacio11-JT,
Durango 9-R
- Elementary:
(Grades 3-5)
Ignacio11-JT,
Durango 9-R
- Middle School:
Ignacio11-JT,
Durango9-R
Shared School
- High School:
Animas High
School

"My students loved "Deaf Notice" and still talk about it. The one that sparked the most curiosity and allowed great discussions was the one about fear. I loved this film because it ... allowed different perspectives."



The 2016 Reel Learning School Program was funded by: The Bank of Colorado, the Ballantine Family Fund, La Plata Electric Round-Up, and La Plata Electric Association.



Filmmakers representing *Chasing the Light*.

Native Cinema Program

A Showcase for Indigenous People from Around the World

This program grows stronger and more popular each year. The festival offered four programs of films from Canada and the USA, and *Children of the Arctic* about Native Alaskan teenagers from a Swiss director, who attended the festival. A cadre of filmmakers from Northern New Mexico also attended for Q&A and the Native Cinema Reception. We were proud to present a feature film from Sterlin Harjo, an accomplished American filmmaker who came up through the Sundance Institute.

Other Festival News

FESTIVAL FACTS:

- **6,054 seats** were filled in festival films, filmmaker panels, the Lindsay Wagner award presentation, and students and teachers participating in the REEL Learning School Program.
- **230+ 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, put in 7,233 hours throughout the year.

Panels and Workshops were free to the public and offered community members opportunities to connect with filmmakers and film industry representatives. David Tart of Rocky Mountain Animation Labs in Durango presented a workshop on how studio animation is made. The Four Corners Film Office sponsored the So You Want to Be in Production? Panel about working behind the scenes in the television and movie business. A panel of visiting filmmakers discussed production war stories, and a veteran casting director explained everything you need to know in the So You Want to Be in a Movie? Seminar.

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.

We've Moved! Please visit us inside Louisa's Movie House located in the Town Plaza. You'll love our screening room!



"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 2016 festival received a value of \$96,967 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 \$31,275, grants totaled \$32,825 and community members donated \$11,402. 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 2015-2016*

ASSETS

Checking & Savings Accounts	\$20,786.45
Capital Fund	\$ 584.55
Endowment Fund	\$ 2,157.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,500.00
Fixed and Other Assets	\$ 1,456.64

TOTAL ASSETS \$26,484.64

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES \$ 0.00

EQUITY:

Retained Earnings	\$22,916.75
Net Income	\$ 3,567.89

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$26,484.64

*Unaudited numbers



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

"I cannot overstate how wonderful a time we had in Durango. You all truly go above and beyond to make filmmakers feel amazing. From packed screenings to quirky hotels to delicious food and excellent parties, Durango had it all. Thank you." Edd Benda, with Superior

"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
Colorado Creative Industries, Community Foundation serving SW Colorado,
The Durango Business Improvement District
Wells Fargo Community Assistance Fund
Ballantine Family Fund, City of Durango Arts & Culture Block Grant
La Plata Electric Round Up Fund
Tom and Mary Orsini, Norman Broad and Carol Salomon

Board of Directors

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

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.*