



Annual Report 2013-2014

Durango Film Institute dba Durango Independent Film Festival

Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

Executive Summary

For nine years we have celebrated the art of film and are working toward our 10th annual festival where our goal is to bring the community together to laugh, cry, reflect, rejoice, learn something new and have fun in the experience. Our hope is that our audiences, sponsors, donors and friends connected with new friends and filmmakers during the recent festival and had fun in the process.

Our 2014 festival started like many others—at the Palace Restaurant with the Festival Kick-Off Party & Wine Tasting, followed by Free Movie Night, sponsored by The Durango

Herald. Introducing the community to independent film for free has always been an important part of the festival.

This year, we experienced a large increase in the number of visiting filmmakers and special guests, notably Wes Studi and Judge Reinhold. Wes participated in the *Lying to Tell the Truth* panel discussion with other filmmakers and hosted a special



Escape. Expand. Explore.

screening of *The Only Good Indian*. He was also the guest of honor at our Native American Film Reception. With air travel expenses provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences through their Visiting Artist program, Judge Reinhold attended retrospective screenings of *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* and *Enid is Sleeping*. He also offered a video presentation on behalf of the Academy on film preservation and took part in Q&A sessions.

Durango Film leverages in-kind contributions so that our cash resources can be used as efficiently as possible. The 2014 festival received a value of \$104,796 of in-kind support. Cash sponsorships totaled \$29,300 and community members donated \$13,246.

2014 School Program

Funding for the 2014 School Program was provided by Kinder Morgan Foundation, LA Plata Electric Education Fund, and the Durango Friends of the Arts.

This program was presented free to classes that are invited subject to age-appropriateness of the movies selected. A screening committee of educators with strong film backgrounds selects the films with an eye to improve students' capacity to judge media messages using highly creative films. They are full of new ideas and unique viewpoints that are thought-provoking and lend to engaging and intriguing discussion. The 2014 program reached 611 students and 44 teachers in Durango and Ignacio, ranging from elementary to middle school-aged children. Film is a powerful way to communicate ideas. Student and teacher ballots handed out at the screenings seek comments to help find out how we are doing in the effort to bring awareness of environmental and social issues, and to help students analyze media messages. New for 2015, our School Program has been renamed the Reel Learning School Program.

A Middle School student wrote about *BUTTERFLY DREAMS*, "I didn't know there weren't child labor laws in India." Another said, "...it made me think that I am lucky to learn."



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2013—2014 Board of Directors

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2013—2014 Grantors

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Bringing New Focus to the Four Corners

Durango Film plans to grow the festival so that it brings more economic impact to Durango and supports the filmmakers by increasing their audience and offering networking opportunities for them. Previous independent research studies have shown that the film festival provides an economic impact on La Plata County that exceeds \$330,000. We aspire to be one of the premier film festivals in the United States. Durango Film is experiencing a higher volume of film industry visitors and visitors from the Albuquerque area, most likely due to our connection with the Albuquerque Film Office, which marketed the festival to their extensive film industry database; and our partnership with Comcast Spotlight, which aired 425 30-sec promo spots on cablevision stations throughout all of New Mexico and southern Colorado in the months leading up to the festival.

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity Fiscal Year 2013-2014*

ASSETS

Checking/Saving Accounts/Cash drawer	\$8,944.11
Capital Account	\$582.83
Endowment Fund	\$2,142.50
Accounts Receivable	\$1,500

TOTAL ASSETS **\$13,169.44**

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$12,358.23
Net Income	\$811.21

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY **\$13,169.44**

*unaudited numbers

We received \$104,796 in in-kind support from our national and local sponsors.

Panels Sponsors

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Environmental & Social Justice Video –
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Tom Schillo, Producer
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2014 Panels — The panels and workshops were free and open to the public and took place on Saturday, March 1st in the Durango Arts Center.

1: Lying to Tell the Truth

They appear on your TV, iPhones and cinema screens. These people are dangerous. They are professional liars attempting to convince you of the truth but it's all just an act. Wes Studi, John Rubano and friends let the audience peek behind the scenes and revealed some of their darkest secrets of just how they bring characters to life and make you believe in the land of make-believe.

2. DIY :Making Movies

This panel hosted several key people involved in the movie making process from writers, directors, lawyers and others to help investigate the craft and the passion of this modern art form.

3. Santa Fe University of Art & Design Student Workshop

This workshop was designed for students to learn basic tricks of the trade. Justice Whitaker, professor of cinema and a professional cinematographer, presented

Macro-Cinema, an interactive workshop highlighting the aesthetics of cinematography. The workshop included a short lecture and slide screening, before challenging students to produce their own cinematic images in the Durango community providing them the opportunity to make short films using their phones. Bringing SFUAD's flagship "A Camera in Every Hand" program directly to the Durango film community was an exciting journey into the cinematic arts.

A Filmmaker's Perspective

"An amazing setting in the old west town with cool, art-house theatres, a train trip, and the Strater Hotel! Not to mention great films and fun people. Honestly, one of the best festivals, anywhere in the world. Small enough so you can really get to know the filmmakers, organizers and townspeople. I'm going to hurry and make another film just so I can get back to Durango." - 2014 Filmmaker

2014 Festival Staff



Mission Statement

Durango Film is committed to developing film literacy and to being a welcoming, intimate and unique film organization that screens global, innovative, and diverse films that connect independent filmmakers, their artistic process and their vision to the community.

SAVE THE DATE



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CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2015!

Hotel Packages Available

10TH ANNUAL | MARCH 4 - 8, 2015 | durangofilm.org | 970.375.7779