



Saskatchewan Filmpool Co-operative

As part of Saskatchewan Co-operative Association's ongoing series of co-operative profiles, we interviewed Tricia Martin, Program Coordinator with the Filmpool for over 3 years. She says, "Being a part of the Filmpool staff allows me the freedom to work on my own film projects and scriptwriting as well as maintain full time, permanent employment in my field. I am proud to work at an organization where artists access support and funding for their own projects; a place where Saskatchewan filmmakers can feel they are truly supported and have an opportunity to create and explore outside of the film industry."

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Where is your co-operative located?

#301-1822 Scarth Street, Regina, Saskatchewan

When was it established? By whom?

It was established in 1977 by a small group of independent Saskatchewan filmmakers. At that time it was the Kanata Filmpool Co-operative.

What is the Saskatchewan Filmpool Co-operative?

The Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative is a non-profit artist-run centre which supports and assists independent visionary film and video production in Saskatchewan. The Filmpool is committed to developing an awareness and appreciation of independent film that reflects the individual and collective cultural expression of Saskatchewan people.

What community need does the co-operative address?

To serve our mandate, the Filmpool provides programming in five key areas: Production, Workshops, Exhibition, Communications and Outreach. Through these programming initiatives the Filmpool provides professional development opportunities in film production, and exhibitions for our members. We strive to develop audiences for independent motion pictures and maintain alliances with other cultural organizations.

How many members does your co-operative have? How do they participate in the co-op?

There are 150 members who are active in various ways. This includes creation of productions through equipment and funding access, curatorial envisioning, instructing and participating in workshops, attending screenings, committee work and volunteerism.

The Filmpool has innovative and diverse members throughout Saskatchewan as well as all across Canada. Our members include producers, directors, technicians, visual artists, musicians, writers, animators, designers, photographers, actors and other production personnel.

What have the greatest successes of your co-operative been? How do you feel they were achieved?

Our greatest successes have been the independent filmmakers who have gone on to careers as independent artists. This has been achieved through multiple resources and the diverse support of the Filmpool.

What makes your co-operative unique?

Founded in 1977, the Filmpool has a proud history of promoting and assisting independent film production and its contribution to Saskatchewan's cultural expression. We provide our members with film and sound editing facilities, 16mm production equipment and regular funding opportunities. We host a number of events such as workshops and screenings and provide the public with regular editions of SPLICE magazine. We are the only non-profit, artist-run film centre in the province that provides funding and resources for independent filmmakers and video artists.

What are some of the challenges your co-op faces?

Ensuring a balanced budget as a non-profit organization and seeking out new and increased funding is a challenge for us. We also strive to continue to be innovative with regards to costly changes in technology and artistic trends in the visual art world. A third challenge is that we are understaffed, so burnout is a real possibility with the small number of full time staff.

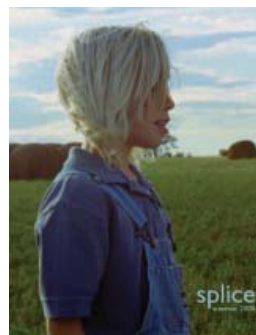
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What do you envision for your co-operative in the next five years?

Maintaining stability and growth, continued support of our membership and community with embracing innovation while still honoring the traditions of filmmaking.

How can people find out more about your co-operative?

Visit www.filmpool.ca, or come by for a visit or to obtain contact information for our Board of Directors.



Recent covers of *Splice* magazine, which is published by Saskatchewan Filmpool Co-operative