

Short Takes >>>

Gerald Saul's film *A Spin Around Turtle Park* (after John Porter's *Cinefuge*) screened in September 2007 at the AntiMatter Underground Film Festival in Victoria, BC. This is the fifth consecutive year that Saul has had a film in this unique and eclectic venue.



Maya Batten-Young in *River*

Professor **Mark Wihak's** film *River* (2007) has received three awards at the Canadian Film Festival in Toronto (the William F. White Reel Canadian Indie Award, the Meridian Artists Best Screenwriting Award, and the Best Actor Award for **Adam Budd**). The film was also nominated for Best New Canadian Film in the Borsos Competition at the Whistler Film Festival. It had its US premiere on April 29th at the 26th Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival as one of 4 Canadian feature films invited to the festival.

River is a dramatic feature about the life-changing friendships of youth and was shot on location in Regina, St. Louis, and Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Maya Batten-Young, (BFA Film Production, 2007), won the Award for Best Actress in the Borsos Competition at the 2007 Whistler Film Festival. Maya received the Award for her acting debut as Roz in **Mark Wihak's** film *River*.

Luke Fandrich's film *A Chill in the Air* was chosen as a finalist in the Make Shorts, Not War!! Competition in the "Youth for Peace and Conflict Resolution" section of CITIZENShift. In addition, his short film *Keys to Existence* premiered at the BUDi2006 Digital Media Festival in Busan, South Korea.

Jemma Gilboy, currently majoring in Film and Video Production and Film and Video Studies, was nominated for the 2008 Saskatchewan Showcase Award for Best Student/Amateur Film.

BFA Graduate **Brent Braaten** is the only Reginan of four Saskatchewan residents to have been selected for the third instalment of SaskFilm's Writer in Residence Program. His screenplay *Emily Dethridge* is "a prairie fairy tale that takes place in Regina in 1912 during the cyclone disaster." He is in the process of shopping for a Saskatchewan producer.

BFA graduate **Adam Budd's** film *The Whole Day Through* was invited to the 14th Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah in January 2008. The film was shot by BFA graduate **Lea Nakonechny**. Slamdance is a major international showcase of independent film.

BFA graduate **Angela Edmunds** has received two prizes for her animated film *Are You Norma*: the 2008 Saskatchewan Showcase Award for Best Student/Amateur Film; and the 2008 Female Eye Film Festival Award for Best Animation.

BFA graduate **Dennis Jackson**, producer of *Wapos Bay*, won the award for Best Children's or Youth Program or Series at the Gemini Lifestyle, Children's and Youth Gala in Toronto. *Wapos Bay* was also nominated in the Best Writing for Children's or Youth Program or Series for the episode "Something to Remember," written by Trevor Cameron.

In April Telefilm Canada committed \$20,000 from the Canada Feature Film Fund (CFFF) to the development of *365 Days of A*, MPS alumna **Donna-Lynne McGregor's** MA thesis project. This was followed by an investment in the project by SaskFILM for \$12,603. The funding was awarded to support the development phase of *365 Days of A* as a theatrical feature film. The support allows for a second draft of the screenplay under the supervision of a story consultant and the preparation of a marketing package, both crucial steps for taking the screenplay forward into the production phase.

On April 2 **Dr. Charity Marsh**, Canada Research Chair in Interactive Media and Performance, launched the **Interactive Media and Performance Labs (IMP)**, located in the Riddell Centre. The program



Mayor Pat Fiacco & Charity Marsh

included an introduction to Marsh's 5-year CRC Research Program and the affiliated IMPLab; "Hip-Hop Culture in Saskatchewan," a roundtable with several Saskatchewan-based DJ artists; and a tour and demo of the lab facilities. Marsh also organized and hosted the second annual Flatlands Scratch Workshop on March 5 and 19.

BFA graduate **Mark Montague** was a successful applicant to the Producer/Business Affairs Pilot Program organized by SaskFilm and SMPIA to offer salaried, intensive training internships to up-and-coming Saskatchewan filmmakers. Mark will be mentored by Kevin Dewalt of Minds Eye Entertainment.

GRANTS

- > **Sarah Abbott**, Canadian Independent Film & Video Fund Grant: *Out in the Cold*, (\$21,000).
- > **Dr. Charity Marsh**, SSHRC Standard Research Grant: *Indigenous Hip Hop In Canada*, (\$85,186).

- > **Dr. Charity Marsh**, Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Leadership Opportunity Fund Grant: (\$289,990).
- > **Gerald Saul**, with Mary Hampton (Luther College) and Wendy Duggleby, Institute of Aboriginal People's Health Grant, (\$20,000).
- > **Mark Wihak** (Media Production and Studies), Canada Council Production Grant: *River*. (\$57,000)

MUSIC

A Gala concert was presented in the University Theatre in October 2007 in honour of the late **John Griffiths**, musician and music professor. Music faculty, student ensembles, Regina musicians and former Griffiths tuba student, Professor **Tom McCaslin** (East Carolina University) paid tribute to John's life in music and words. The event marked the establishment of the John Griffiths Entrance Scholarship in Music.

The Department held a retreat in August 2007 facilitated by Nancy Kazeil of Human Resources. The retreat was the launching point of "A Proactive Student Recruitment Initiative." A number of immediate recruitment priorities were established including: identifying possible student presenters for training, to poll the current student body to determine how they chose U of R and produce a student ensembles sampler CD.

In February 2008 the Riddell Lecture was delivered by Canadian composer **Dr. Omar Daniel** (University of Western Ontario). Daniel presented *Composing for voice: the challenges of text setting in twenty-first-century concert music*, and gave a masterclass for composition students that was open to the general public.

Virtuoso trumpeter and pianist **Guy Few** presented a masterclass for pianists and for trumpet players on campus in November 2007. Pianist and composer **Heather Schmidt's** March 2008 piano masterclass for the department was conducted by video conference link, the first such event in the department.

The international summer institute and conference *IAS2 Intersections: Soundscapes and Music; Soundscapes and Identity* took place at the U of R >

