

FINAL REPORT

Focus on Film

13th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival 19– 28, 2010

Focus on Film received a grant of \$500 to support the 13th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival (GMFF 2010.)

The event took place from March 19 to 28, 2010. This year, for the first time we ran three film venues for the whole ten days: the Savoy Theater, Montpelier City Arts Center, and the Pavilion Auditorium on State Street. Because the Pavilion Auditorium is owned by the State of Vermont, special arrangements had to be made to allow access. These arrangements went very smoothly and we would like to put on record our appreciation for the help provided by both Leslie Baker, of Building General Services, and David Schütz, State Curator.

The third venue proved very popular with festival-goers. It was the best attended venue (in percentage terms) and took the pressure off the other venues. As we reported last year the biggest challenge facing the festival was limited theater capacity at weekends and during the evenings. This problem was averted. The number of sold-out shows was massively reduced, which meant far fewer disappointed customers.

Total theater attendance remained steady at around 10,000. We avoided the downturn that many cultural organizations are currently experiencing.

Ticket Revenue was broadly level with recent years, and we came well within our budget projections. There were signs that more tickets were purchased at the last minute, rather than in advance, suggesting a change in buying patterns.

As in previous years many screenings were followed by discussions or presentations by invited guests. This aspect of the festival is extremely popular.

The festival included films from all over the world. However Vermont itself was strongly represented this year, either through depictions of some aspect of Vermont life, or through the work of the growing number of filmmakers working in the state. A list of these events is appended to this report.

Five aspects of the festival organization are singled out for special mention-

1. Extent of Community Involvement. The festival has one employee, part-time. Although there are a number of paid contractors, much of the year-round preparation is undertaken by volunteers from within the community.
2. During the festival itself the festival draws from a pool of almost 100 regular volunteers.

3. Because of the enormous amount of in-kind support that is received, the cost of presenting the festival remained steady at around \$130,000.
4. Just over \$60,000 of this was derived from community support, either through sponsorships or individual donations, or grants such as that provided by the Montpelier City Arts Fund. The remainder (around \$70,000) came from ticket revenue.
5. The festival also depends on collaboration with a wide circle of COMMUNITY PARTNERS. These are organizations that promote specific aspects of the program to members of their specialist community, and also provide assistance in arranging guests, interpreters, and other services.

We are very grateful to **Lost Nation Theater Company** for the efficient way it handled our sharing of the space of City Hall, as well as the generous in-kind donation.

We continue to be indebted to the many area businesses that provide generous support and the very many individuals in the community who give generously of their time as well as financially to ensure the ongoing success of the festival.

Donald C. Rae *April 28, 2010*

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List of Vermont-themed Programs

1. **A Filmmakers Workshop** presented by Art Bell of Charlotte, VT.
2. **Circus in Film**, a presentation by Rob Mermin of Montpelier, VT.
3. **Deer Tick**, a film by Burlington College alum Cory Lovell.
4. **Don't Know We'll See**, a documentary about the life and work of noted Vermont potter Karen Karnes.
5. **Warriors' Women**, a classic documentary by Vermont filmmaker Dorothy Tod.
6. **Numen: The Nature of Plants** by Montpelier filmmakers Terrence Youk and Ann Armbrecht.
7. **Orgasm Inc** by Vermont filmmaker Liz Canner.
8. **Sunday Shorts**, a program of short films by a variety of Vermont filmmakers.
9. **The Summer of Walter Hacks**, the world premiere of a feature film by Vermont filmmaker George Woodard.
10. **Last Stand Farmer** by Richard Brick about an elderly farming couple in Orange County.
11. **Under the Cloak of Darkness** by Bjorn Jackson dealing with Mexican immigrant labor on Vermont dairy farms.
12. **Vermont History Films**, presented in conjunction with the Vermont Historical Society.
13. **Vermont Student Films**.
14. **Vermont's George Aiken**, a film concerning the late Governor Aiken.