



**Contact:** Zoë Mallett  
OWFF Communications Coordinator  
media@oneworldarts.ca  
613-762-9453 (cell)  
oneworldfilmfestival.ca

## 26TH ANNUAL ONE WORLD FILM FESTIVAL BRINGS FOCUS TO FEDERAL ELECTION ISSUES WITH POLITICALLY ENGAGED DOCUMENTARIES

**SEPTEMBER 24-26**  
**NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA**

**SEPTEMBER 27**  
**SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY**

**Documentaries, panel discussions and workshops tackle politics, democracy, conflict resolution, social justice, youth, the arts, LGBTQ issues, indigenous rights, environmental issues and more.**

**August 20, 2015, OTTAWA** — As Canadians consider their options in the run-up to the 2015 federal election, the **One World Film Festival (OWFF)** presents a program packed with a range of thought-provoking Canadian and international documentaries, panel discussions, and interactive workshops that will inspire audiences to make informed choices about Canada's future.

"With an important federal election coming up, this is hardly the time to be apolitical," says **Jessica Ruano**, the 2015 Festival Manager. "Whether your priorities are in foreign affairs, the arts, education, the environment, or the economy, this year's festival programming promises to stir your imagination, challenge your preconceptions, and motivate you to take action."

The OWFF lineup includes documentaries about people transcending political and national boundaries, youth staging change through the arts, and indigenous communities in Canada defending their human rights. Three quarters of the films screened at the festival this year are directed by women and a full day of programming is dedicated to highlighting works by Canadian filmmakers. Festival goers will also have opportunities throughout the festival to get involved with grassroots and non-governmental organizations taking action on local and global issues at our festival information fair.

"Since 1989 the One World Film Festival has offered national-capital audiences many outstanding documentaries on important issues of human rights and social justice," adds **Gerald Schmitz**, OWFF Organizing Committee member and a professional film critic with 30 years' experience. "This year's edition promises to be one of the strongest yet. It's an event that anyone interested in both artistic excellence and compelling stories from Canada and around the world will not want to miss."

The festival kicks off on **Thursday, September 24** at the National Gallery of Canada with our "**Documenting Democracy**" program, featuring two documentaries by award-winning female filmmakers that are must-sees for anyone interested in power, politics, and peace building. Ann Shin's ***My Enemy, My Brother*** provides a moving account of Iraqi and Iranian war veterans supporting each other as they come to grips with the horrors of the war that brought them together and try to find peace in their new lives in Canada. Camilla Nielsson's ***Democrats*** follows members of opposing political parties in Zimbabwe, ruled by dictator Robert Mugabe since 1980, as they attempt to work collaboratively to develop their country's new constitution.

OWFF is Ottawa's longest-running documentary film festival, focused on raising awareness on global issues.

**One World Arts** Festival House 450 Churchill Ave. N. Ottawa, ON K1Z 5E2, T. 613-912-3378 oneworldfilmfestival.ca

The festival's Friday evening program "**The Kids are All Right**" looks at the role of the arts in inspiring social change. From the LGBTQ artists and activists of Boston's "True Colors: OUT Youth Theater" troupe in ***The Year We Thought About Love*** to the young musicians of Paraguay's Recycle Orchestra in ***Landfill Harmonic***, the OWFF presents audiences with moving illustrations of how sharing our passions with others builds solidarity and inspires change in profound personal and political ways.

Supporters of independent and Canadian cinema should join the festival on **Saturday** for "**Our Home on Native Land**," which includes a full afternoon and evening of films by Canadian filmmakers. The afternoon program features a collection of **Canadian Documentary Shorts** co-presented with **Ottawa Indie Fest**. **Martha Stiegman's** powerful documentary ***Honour Your Word*** follows, with the stories of the residents of a First Nation in Quebec who are demanding that provincial and federal governments keep their promises.

The festival's focus on indigenous rights and environmental issues in Canada continues Saturday evening with Ontario filmmaker **Victoria Lean's *After the Last River*** and award-winning director **Charles Wilkinson's *Haida Gwaii On the Edge of the World***. Lean's film reminds us of the still-urgent and relevant issues brought to the fore of Canadian politics by Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat First Nation and the Idle No More movement in 2012. Wilkinson's documentary, winner of the Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award at the 2015 Hot Docs festival, looks at the efforts of West Coast indigenous activists from the Haida Nation, who are taking action on environmental issues and asserting their rights with support from their non-indigenous allies.

The 2015 festival invites its audience to Saint Paul University on Sunday, September 27 for its final program, "**Actions Speak Louder Than Words**", featuring a full day of films, panels, and interactive workshops ideal for those who want to learn more about and take action on urgent national and international issues.

This year, the OWFF has introduced a **Pay-What-You-Can** ticket model, which enables people to set their own ticket prices and reinforces the festival's commitment to being accessible to persons of diverse economic backgrounds. Advance tickets are available for purchase online and will also be available at the door during the festival. **Suggested donation \$15 per program.**

## 2015 Film Festival Schedule

### National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, K1N 9N4

#### Thursday 24th: "Documenting Democracy"

6pm to 10pm

*My Enemy, My Brother* (Canada)

*Democrats* (Denmark)

#### Friday 25th: "The Kids are All Right"

6pm to 10pm

*The Year We Thought About Love* (USA)

*Landfill Harmonic* (USA)

#### Saturday 26th: "Our Home on Native Land"

12pm to 5pm

*Honour Your Word* (Canada)

Canadian Documentary Shorts Program with

Ottawa Indie Fest

6pm to 10pm

*After the Last River* (Canada)

*Haida Gwaii on the Edge of the World* (Canada)

### Saint Paul University, 322 Main Street, Ottawa, K1S 1C4

#### Sunday 27th: "Actions Speak Louder Than Words"

Feeling inspired? Take the next step toward action with a full day of films, panels, and interactive workshops.

OWFF is Ottawa's longest-running documentary film festival, focused on raising awareness on global issues.

**One World Arts** Festival House 450 Churchill Ave. N. Ottawa, ON K1Z 5E2, T. 613-912-3378 [oneworldfilmfestival.ca](http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca)

## Documentaries

### **My Enemy, My Brother**

Directed by Ann Shin | Canada | 2015 | 15 min

A chance encounter during the Iran-Iraq War forges a lasting bond between two enemy soldiers that transcends national borders.

### **Democrats**

Directed by Camilla Neilsson | Denmark | 2014 | 109 min

What happens when a ruler and a political party that are accustomed to staying in power are forced to share it? Follow the representatives of Zimbabwe's ruling and opposition parties as they attempt to forge a new constitution in a politically-divided nation where human rights are not always respected and many people are afraid to speak their minds.

### **The Year We Thought About Love**

Directed by Ellen Brodsky | USA | 2014 | 68 min

With wit, grace, and attitude, a diverse troupe of LGBTQ teens transforms their personal struggles into theatre for social change. Ellen Brodsky's documentary is an inspiring portrait of youth demonstrating the power of living a life honestly and out loud.

### **Landfill Harmonic**

Directed by Graham Townsley, Brad Allgood, Juliana Penaranda-Loftus | USA | 2014 | 85 min

Under the guidance of their music director Favio Chavez, the young musicians of the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura journey from a small community located next to a landfill in Asuncion, Paraguay to the world stage. As they learn to make beautiful music with classical instruments fashioned out of garbage, they bring hope to their families, community and audiences worldwide.

### **Honour Your Word**

Directed by Martha Stiegman | Canada | 2013 | 59 min

Indigenous activists in Canada are raising awareness and forging alliances with communities across Canada and around the world and demanding respect for indigenous rights. Martha Stiegman's documentary takes us behind the barricades of Barriere Lake, where an inspiring Algonquin First Nation is working to make sure that governments honour their word.

### **After the Last River**

Directed by Victoria Lean | Canada | 2015 | 88 min

Downstream from a De Beers diamond mine, Attawapiskat is a community grappling with urgent environmental and economic issues that are compounded by a lack of access to resource revenues. Filmed over 5 years, *After the Last River* is a point-of-view documentary that follows Attawapiskat's journey from obscurity and into the international spotlight during the protests of Idle No More.

### **Haida Gwaii On the Edge of the World**

Directed by Charles Wilkinson | Canada | 2015 | 74 min

In this irreverent, intimate, funny, beautiful, occasionally troubling but always intriguing story of Canada's world-renowned archipelago - Haida Gwaii - a First Nations community and their non-native neighbours are winning key victories in the campaign to combat the urgent global threats facing us all.

OWFF is Ottawa's longest-running documentary film festival, focused on raising awareness on global issues.

**One World Arts** Festival House 450 Churchill Ave. N. Ottawa, ON K1Z 5E2, T. 613-912-3378 [oneworldfilmfestival.ca](http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca)

## Upcoming OWFF Events

### Launch of the 26th One World Film Festival and Ottawa Premiere of CHAMELEON

**September 10** (Thursday) **6PM to 8:30PM**, ByTowne Cinema (325 Rideau Street, Ottawa)

Media are invited to attend free of charge. Please RSVP to [media@oneworldarts.ca](mailto:media@oneworldarts.ca).

More information at: [oneworldfilmfestival.ca/2015/08/13/owff2015launch](http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca/2015/08/13/owff2015launch)

The 26th annual One World Film Festival runs September 24 to 27, 2015.

Purchase festival tickets online 24 hours a day at [oneworldfilmfestival.ca](http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca)

### Social Media:

#OWFF2015

Twitter: @OneWorldFilm

Facebook.com/oneworldfilm

## About OWFF

The One World Film Festival is the flagship program of One World Arts, a volunteer-based, Canadian charitable organization which has been working diligently with Canadian arts and community organizations to educate and mobilize Ottawa-Gatineau citizens on global issues since 1972.

The OWFF is Ottawa's longest-running annual documentary film festival. Since 1989, the festival has been raising awareness on a diverse range of global issues through presentations of thought-provoking documentaries, panel discussions, Q&As with filmmakers, workshops, and information fairs with grassroots and non-governmental organizations, connecting audiences with opportunities to learn more about and take action on issues of local and global concern.

The 26th annual OWFF is funded, in part, by grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Ottawa.

Media are invited to attend free of charge. For more information visit [oneworldfilmfestival.ca](http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca) and contact Zoë Mallett, Communications Coordinator for the 2015 OWFF, at 613-762-9453 or email [media@oneworldarts.ca](mailto:media@oneworldarts.ca) to RSVP and book interviews.



**ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL**  
**CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO**

an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Press kits and images for the 2015 OWFF can be accessed online at [oneworldfilmfestival.ca/media](http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca/media)

OWFF is Ottawa's longest-running documentary film festival, focused on raising awareness on global issues.

**One World Arts** Festival House 450 Churchill Ave. N. Ottawa, ON K1Z 5E2, T. 613-912-3378 [oneworldfilmfestival.ca](http://oneworldfilmfestival.ca)