

2007 Festival Quotes

"I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful experience of this year's festival. I thoroughly enjoyed the screening, the Q&A, the dinner and the party. It was a very special moment for me being able to present the opening film to my family and friends. Thanks for inviting me. Give my best to all your wonderful staff".

Carl Bessai (Canada) – Director 'Normal'

"The Frame 30 Award for Best Alberta Short is a great honour, especially considering the Edmonton International Film Festival has, time and again, some of the best programming I've ever seen. They always amass so many great films each fall, and films that are a little off the beaten path, that are likely not going to be in the theatre three weeks after the festival ends. I admire the adventurous spirit that is apparent in their program. It's wonderfully inspiring to us filmmakers. And that's what Kerrie (Long) and Michael (Hamm) and everyone at the festival do so well in addition - they support the films and the filmmakers together - almost as if they were one entity. It is an incredibly encouraging and nurturing gathering of artists and audience. I always feel appreciated and welcome in Edmonton and I hope I'm able to screen a film there every fall."

Corey Lee (Canada) – Producer/Director 'What You're Ready For'

Winner: 2007 Frame 30 Award for Best Alberta Short

"I know it takes a village to raise an event like this, and I credit your entire team with its success, but at some point, you follow all the spectacular flowers back to the root ball, where the buck ultimately stops. Okay, so you may not have been likened to a root ball in at least the last week or so (insert your favourite "down to earth" joke here), but at the end of the day, it's all because of you. You've made a difference to so many people. In an age of globalization, consolidation and constipation, standing up, and providing a forum, for indie voices in the arts counts for a lot.

Geo Takach (Canada) – Short film juror and independent film writer.

"What a great festival, so beautifully run. It's always clear that these things reflect the leadership, so you must be beloved. And what icing on the cake it was to receive an award. It was such a nice surprise, and such a meaningful encouragement. All the more meaningful because it was in Edmonton that Pochsy really took flight at the Fringe, years ago. Thank you again for the great time with the kids, the luxe hotel, the thrill of public screenings, the introduction to other filmmakers whom I have been so pleased to meet, and absolutely everything else".

Karen Hines (Canada) – Producer/Director 'My Name is Pochsy: An Industrial Film'

Winner: 2007 Kodak Canada Award for Best Canadian Short

"The Edmonton Film Festival has a heart even bigger than the Edmonton Mall! The selection of films is at once brave, eclectic and incredibly engaging. Moreover there is a respect and warmth for filmmaking and filmmakers here that is incredibly genuine and inviting. Truth is, I felt entirely welcome and at home in Edmonton before I even stepped on the plane in Los Angeles. The range of smart eclectic films and the passion for exhibiting them at incredible theaters is a unique signature of the Edmonton Film Festival. I'd love to get the opportunity to screen all my films here".

Gil Kofman (USA) – Director 'The Memory Thief'

Winner: 2007 Studio Post & Transfer Award for Best Digital Feature

"I just wanted to say that I had the most amazing time in Edmonton and I owe it all to you both (Kerrie Long and Guy Lavallee). From the accommodations, to the friendliness of the entire staff, I couldn't have asked for anything more. And then to top it all off with our film closing the festival in a packed theater with an audience who truly loved it, a very memorable Q&A, and last

but certainly not least a trophy that will forever remain on my mantle! I couldn't have been more proud and again I thank you both from the bottom of my heart. So just know that I'll be praising EIFF for many years to come and on that note I plan to return with future films, if of course you'll have me. Before then however, I plan to visit Edmonton when the festival isn't going on so Guy can take me to an Oilers game and Kerrie and I can finally partake in those tequila shots. Until then, all the best my friends and go Oilers!"

Jason Connell (USA) – Director 'Strictly Background'

Winner: 2007 Edmonton City Centre Award for Best International Documentary

"Thank you so much for Saturday night's tickets to the Champagne Gala Screening of *Strictly Background*. Mom and I had a great time! That was so generous and thoughtful Michael (Hamm) and Kerrie (Long) my dear, as usual, you did an outstanding job.

Aren't we lucky in Edmonton to have you both!"

Janice Ryan (Edmonton) – first-time EIF Festival-goer

"Just wanted to say "thanks" again for your hospitality, and congratulations for your great job with EIFF! During the ride to the airport I found that Marcus has been working on exactly what I envision for "Ed" - using film as a teaching tool in the schools. With Ed's Edmonton connection, I'm hoping we can get something cooking there. A woman from the Reel Shorts Fest in Grande Prairie saw Ed on Saturday and asked for a screener, so who knows, maybe I'll be back up in Alberta to see you guys next Spring. Because I do feel like I have my first Canadian friend!"

Lawrence Sarezky (USA) – Director 'Ed Meets His Maker'

"Well, we made it back home. We only got about an hour of sleep Sat. night. We're still recovering from a fantastic 10 days in your beautiful city. Kerrie (Long), we want to thank you for your lovely hospitality. You're a real sweetheart. It was such a pleasure and joy to meet you and Michael (Hamm). You're both really wonderful people. You should be very proud of what you're done to make the festival such a great success. Pat yourself on the back. You definitely deserve it and more. Now, you need to take some time for yourself. Kick back and relax for a while. If you're ever in LA, please let us know. We would love to see you again. Once again, thanks for everything".

Marvin Rouillard (USA) – Actor 'Strictly Background'

"That was such a great showcase of shorts on Friday evening at the Princess Theatre. To be in such good company was an honour. I spoke with the filmmakers in attendance and it was great to hear their experiences making their shorts...*Pochsy*, *Answer Key*, and *Back in '93*. All great films. My thanks to the Edmonton International Film Festival for awarding us with the Frame 30 Award for Best Alberta Short. It was already such a great feeling to be in the festival, and then to receive this recognition on top of it all...

I managed to take in some of the fest on Saturday, and look forward to attending in the future!"

Tinu Sinha (Canada) – Co-producer 'What You're Ready For'

"Just wanted to say thank you for allowing *Pope Dreams* to be a part of your wonderful festival. We had a great screening and met a lot of great people and had a great time. So thank-you and congrats on what seemed to be a very successful festival. Hopefully at some point in the future I'll have another film that can bring me to Edmonton, and if any of you ever come visit Los Angeles, make sure to let me know so we can get together while you're in town".

Paul Hogan (USA) – Director 'Pope Dreams'

"We have to let you know that coming to Edmonton has definitely found a historical part in our hearts that will never be forgotten. Our visit will always be remembered, not just of an amazing film festival experience but most importantly you and your amazing staff and peers that were beyond personable and kind which made us feel right at home, thank you. Definitely let us know when your coming down to Phoenix, you can meet the families and have some fun filled home cooked meals. You have to come down for sure! We'll send you a few of the best shorts that we got and the next feature is definitely on the quickly approaching horizon so we'll keep you posted on all the progress". Brian and Dean Ronalds (USA) – Directors 'Netherbeast, Inc.'

"Thanks so much for connecting us with Marie (Matiko). The workshop was deep and meaningful, just as was promised. Every single student valued the work and when we debriefed yesterday and this morning, it was clear they would like to continue it. I bought 5 copies of Marie's book and four DVDs, so will sell them to students and staff as the need arises. All the best in your busy week and in the weeks to come. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity! Please keep us in mind for future workshops or projects". Rhonda Day, Drama/Performing Arts teacher at Jasper Place High School commenting on the Master Class with Marie Matiko (*The Civilization of Maxwell Bright*) which took place on Monday, October 1st and included 90 high school students.

"The Master Class in Acting with Marie Matiko was incredible. Everyone got a lot out of it, including myself. Marie is an excellent teacher, guide, mentor... you name it! What an amazing experience, I highly recommend it to anyone, even if you're not an artist! I discussed a possibility of her coming back up again sometime. She said she would love to. Perhaps we can work on this for next year. Thanks again for this opportunity". Sonia Donaldson (ACTRA) commenting on the Master Class with Marie Matiko that took place on Tuesday, October 2nd at the TransAlta Bus Barns in partnership with ACTRA.

"Hi Kerrie. I wanted you to know that my Q & A tonight with Ryan Furlong, DJ, and Richard Lawrence was fantastic! The crowd was so great! One lady made a comment on how she loves the festival this year and that her favourite part is the shorts and that this year they are all outstanding. I think you deserve that credit! So it was a great way to end the night. I know how much you love shorts and doing the Q & A's so I thought of you! Thanks for everything!" Marie Guerrette (Edmonton) – First-time EIFF moderator for 'International Shorts'

"THANK YOU and your absolutely incredible staff for a wonderful, truly memorable short film world premiere. Special kudos to Marie and Marcus for being such incredible hosts. Let's absolutely connect and stay in touch once you're out of the fray. I'll get working on a film for next year." Stephen Popernik (USA) – Director 'The Key to the Mystic Halls of Time'

"Just a note to let you know how very successful your festival has been for us and how much we appreciate all that you did to make us, and our senior stars, comfortable during our stay there. We especially appreciate the opportunity to have made a new friend in you and your wonderful staff. We are just at the beginning of the life of our film and we are so pleased that you are the first festival that we have passed through. We will share any news of our journey with you as we go along. On behalf of the film's Director, Ricardo Acosta, the Executive Producer, Mike Curry and me, we appreciate your being a very important part of the international reputation of this film. Thanks for all that you have done and all that you mean to us". Alora Haynes (USA) – Co-producer 'Dance of My Heart'

"I attended the Edmonton International Film Festival from Friday, October 5th until Sunday, October 7th with my short film. After reading the various experiences that film makers have been posting about the festivals they have been attending, I was a little bit nervous as to how I would be treated as a visiting film maker with a short film and not a feature, and was really hoping for a fun time while in Edmonton. When my plane landed at 10 AM, I walked out of the gate and immediately saw a film festival representative (Alistair King) who was there to pick me up. That made me feel pretty good, as the airport is about a 20 minute ride to the hotel. So we get into the car and as we are driving he asks me about my film, and points out various landmarks as we pass them. He was so polite and friendly. First impression of the fest A+. So we get to the hotel, which was a beautiful boutique hotel located literally right across the street from the theatre that my film was playing at, and he walks me in and makes sure I get checked in ok. He gave me his card and told me to call him with any questions that I might have. After checking in, the front desk lady gave me a swag bag, full of goodies and my festival pass. I then put my bags down and went to the head office and met the festival director. Her name is KERRIE LONG and she was by far the nicest and most positive fest director I have ever spoken to, and truly made me feel like I was welcome. She told me that she would be moderating my Q&A and we took a few moments to talk about it. She is really doing a fantastic job with this festival and I was very happy with the theatre and the projection. We even drew a healthy crowd, considering the Ang Lee movie was playing at the same time in a larger theatre down the street. People in Edmonton really respect and are interested in short films! For a short film, the Q&A was well attended, and someone even came up to me at the closing party and said that they saw my film and really enjoyed it. What more could you want! On top of everything, I was fortunate enough to see Kerry Douglas Dye's film *Body/Antibody*. It was a great movie and after chatting over withoutabox for a few months, it was great to meet him and see his film, with him in attendance. If you get a chance to catch it on the circuit, it's WELL worth seeing. All in all, I would say that it would be a mistake to not submit to this festival next year, as it appears to be getting larger and better each year. The communication is top notch, the people are so great, and they go above and beyond to make you feel accepted and welcome. And, Tommy Lee played the after party!" Jonathan Schwartz (Canada) – Director 'The Price of Acorn'

This is Jonathan's posting on the filmmaker forum at www.withoutabox.com

"Hello Kerrie (Long) and Guy (Lavallee). I just wanted to thank both of you from the bottom of my heart for your amazing hospitality and an incredible few days in Edmonton. I really had a fantastic time, and was so thankful to have an audience for my humble little picture. And a great audience at that! You can't imagine how much it means to me to have been treated so very well by you and your staff, and to meet such great people from all over the place. I'll certainly submit you something next year and even if you don't program it, I'm hereby volunteering to come on up and shoot the goings on. I love to shoot things! You should be incredibly proud of what you did. You put your hearts and souls and precious time into something really great and it certainly shows".

Jena Starkes (USA) – Director 'Heaven-O'

"I just got the Film Fest wrap e-mail and wanted to drop a line and say thanks for everything this year! Outside of the honour of having my film in the festival (and the dubious honour for you of having your guys' name associated with mine) I had a fantastic time at the festival attending the films, Q&A's and just experiencing the whole atmosphere around the festival. You did a heck of a job on this one and I can't wait for next year! Thanks again!"

Zac Hogle (Canada) – Director 'Utopia City'

"I just wanted to send you a quick note of thanks. The entire EIFF experience was just wonderful; your city, the people, the screening, everything. And thank you for the review copy you slipped under my door. That was such a nice treat to come back to at the end of the night! Many thanks again for all you did. I hope to come back soon".

Christopher Peditto (USA) – Director 'Light and the Sufferer'

"Just a quick note to say a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to you on the festival. What an amazing event it was and so well organised. I've been to quite a few festivals in my time and Edmonton takes my Best In Show. Well done Guy (Lavallee)!"

Mike Hill (USA) – Director 'The Man Who Souled the World'

"Just wanted to say thank you again! EIFF was an unforgettable experience for everyone from *The Limits*. We framed our festival passes... Also, thanks to the contacts we made at EIFF. Uwe Boll is vying for world rights to *The Limits*, he told us he was pleasantly surprised and loved our film. He's up against Alliance Atlantis and a couple of other Canadian distributors - I'll keep you posted on how everything turns out. Thank-you to you (Guy Lavallee), Kerrie (Long) and the gang for debuting Ben (Mazzotta) as a director/writer. Who knows where we will go from here? Plan on seeing us in 2009".

Maria Kennedy (Canada) – Producer 'The Limits'

"I couldn't make it on Saturday night but want to say thanks for the open invite. Really enjoyed the Fest. What a great time, and truly one of Edmonton's TOP events all year. So fantastic. Thanks again for having me be a part of this. Really enjoyed myself".

Barbara North (Edmonton) – First-time moderator

"We are just arriving into Toronto after a Niagara Falls turkey dinner where we raved about the festival and how wonderful the whole week was. We cannot thank you enough ... it was sensational ... we miss you already but know it won't be long before we meet again. You (Guy Lavallee) really made EIFF a success this year - your spirit and charisma draws the best from all those who were working with you...you have such strength and positivity emanating from you - it's infectious.... big hugs".

April Mullen and Tim Doiron (Canada) – Directors/Writers/Stars 'Rock, Paper, Scissors: The Way of the Tosser'

Winner of the Citytv Award for Canadian Feature (audience choice)

"Thanks so much for having *Memory Thief* at the Edmonton Festival. I had a great time at the mall and am, to this moment, thankful and happy I didn't venture forth on that roller coaster. The festival was an incredibly warm and welcoming place - and I was so happy to get to screen the film for a new audience. Thanks again for everything and all the hard work you (Guy Lavallee) must have gone through".

Gil Kofman (USA) – Director 'The Memory Thief'

"Jill and I are back in LA safe and sound and are still buzzing. Your festival was great fun and you were an amazing host. That you took the time from your very busy schedule to give us a personal tour of Edmonton is something we will never forget. I'm hoping to see you next year when FEAR ITSELF begins shooting. But if you find yourself in LA before then, please give me a shout".

Stuart Gordon (USA) – Director 'Stuck'

Many thanks,

Stuart

"First off, thank you so much for the opportunity to be part of the Festival this year. It was a lot of fun and very rewarding. It's not often that our little show gets respect and I appreciate you recognizing CJSR and Moving Radio as legitimate press. I'm just excited I could help try to put a few more bums in the seats".

Christian Zyp (Edmonton) – First-time moderator, features juror and host of CJSR's *Moving Radio*

"The (Jasper Place High School) students found the sessions truly inspirational as the filmmakers and their films catalyzed a burgeoning interest in even the most reticent learners, all of whom are now eager to try their hands at cinematic storytelling. The range of subject matters and styles that the panel of filmmakers represented offered the students insight into the potential that lies in their own lives, experiences, and interests; many of those who may have felt detached from the medium experienced a profound sense of personal connection. The fact that these films were all produced by Canadian directors helped immeasurably in shifting the students' perspectives on the value of stories emanating from their own culture, their own world, recognizable, but transformed through cinema."

Dawn Anderson, Teacher at Jasper Place High School – her comments on the *Bring A Filmmaker To Your School* program