

"Quite possibly THE most spectacular night of film I've ever seen. Seriously – last night's International Shorts will be the highlight of '08s for me. Hats-off to whoever programmed the night (Kerrie Long). Wow!"

Brad Stromberg, Mayor's Office

"Congratulations on a great festival (lots of press, lots of good movies, I enjoyed *Man On Wire*). Special thanks for letting Century Casino 'blow minds' by being a part of the ANVIL movie and, of course, concert. We had 150 folks who really enjoyed themselves in our room, and that is a good thing! Special thanks to Marcus and Karin for all their help, they really did a super job for Century Casino and the EIFF in my view. We were proud to be a part of it, count us in for next year!

Dan Keene, Marketing Manager at Century Casino Edmonton

"I wanted to express my sincerest thanks for being such a wonderful host to me during my stay in Edmonton and for making the screening of SEX POSITIVE a success. I have been to film festivals all over the United States this year (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Austin, Texas, Miami, etc.) but I have to say that in terms of organization, programming and making festival guests feel attended to and at home, yours was the best in many ways. Maybe Canada is different from the States where AIDS had fallen out of public concern at our peril, but the audience at our screening seemed so moved by our film that they literally sat plastered in their seats until the question and answer forum ended. I have even received emails from some of the attendees thanking me for appearing and advising me on how to get the word out about the importance of safe sex!

"Our elected leaders need to know how vital film festivals are to communities, how they bring together people who share similar interests and societal concerns and make them see that they are not alone, that we are all in this world together. Some of us need art to live and to thrive, and from meeting dozens of people in Edmonton who attended, I could see firsthand how your festival is making your city a better place in which to do both. Congratulations!"

Richard Berkowitz – Author, *Stayin' Alive: The Invention of Safe Sex*

"I just wanted to drop you all a note to congratulate you on all the hard work you put into this year's film fest. It was the best yet for me. I was really impressed by the content this year. I think the adjustments you made this year worked out well. Everyone from the volunteer in the ticket booth to Kerrie and Guy should be brimming with pride. I am humbled again to have been a participant in the festival. It was my pleasure to facilitate the Q & A's with such amazing artists this year. A big thank you all for helping make those Q&A's go super smooth. Everyone from the EIFF and Play it By Ear made me feel welcome and took such amazing care of the filmmakers. Only about 358 more sleeps till EIFF '09!"

Christian Zyp (Host, *CJSR Radio* and teacher with Edmonton Public Schools)

"I had a fantastic time at this year's festival. I made great use of my Reel Deal pass and saw 18 films over the nine days the festival ran. As a freelance filmmaker, I felt it was a priority for me to get out and support other artists as much as I could. It was nice to be surrounded by a variety of material that possessed different voices from the films we are often inundated with. I was so pleased with a couple of the films I saw that I've e-mailed the filmmakers to enquire about their distribution situations."

Katrina Beatty, Filmmaker

"I am very, VERY pleased to not only have been a part of the 2008 Edmonton International Film Festival with my film *In Translation*, but to have won the Best Alberta Short Award (along with *Midnight Matinee*) also! How great is that! I so wish I could have made it out to the festivities. Again, my thanks, Kerrie, for including the film in this year's EIFF and for being so supportive to my work and all Alberta based filmmakers."  
Corey Lee, Filmmaker

"We just wanted to express our gratitude to you and everyone at the EIFF. We had a wonderful time and felt very honored to be included in your selections for the Canadian Shorts programme. Thanks again for the opportunity to have our world premiere in the city we grew up in. It was pretty perfect. Also, thanks for the advice and guidance you have provided us since we were first in contact. You truly are a very festival producer (Kerrie Long) and EIFF is a very special festival."  
Brae Norwiss and Anna Singer – Filmmakers, *Pappy and Speedster*

"I want to thank you again for taking such good care of me. We have never been treated so well at any previous film festival. Wish Kate could have joined me. And, Guy, I think you handled the Q&A better than any we've seen. It went VERY well."  
Dave Bagby – Documentary subject, *Dear Zachary*

"Thanks for a great film festival – the kind this city deserves and wants. While I really liked the films I saw, am sad about the films I missed, and I am most impressed with the impact of having all the films downtown. As a life long Edmontonian who has lived downtown for over a decade I was overjoyed to see people spilling out into the downtown streets after seeing a great film to spend their money in downtown bars and engage in great conversations about film, art and life. I would like to help out the Edmonton International Film Festival in ensuring that there is great queer content. I think the programming of *Sex Positive* was inspired, socially responsible and artful. I would like to help continue that standard. Congratulations!"  
Ted Kerr - Writer

"BIG THANKS to you, your staff and your volunteers! The two screenings you provided for our short film *Not So Cruel, Today* were very much appreciated, and enjoyed, by Kate, our crew and myself. In particular, the second screening was very gratifying. The abstract and experimental nature of our Paper Doll world definitely felt at home opening for Cirque du Soleil's and the Fab Four's *All Together Now*. And, the pairing of *Not So Cruel, Today* with two of the planet's biggest and most successful experimentalists and risk-takers was a fantastic compliment. Double thanks. The Empire Theatre's video presentation - WOW! The Digital Beta projection was remarkable. The image held-up well on their monster-sized screen and the sound was absolutely excellent - recording-studio quality playback. A special THANKS to the volunteer who listened to my concerns before the screening and passed them on to the projectionist. And, yes, thanks to the projectionist who clearly responded. Every filmmaker in the world appreciates this type of attention to the "little things". It doesn't always happen. Please, pass on our warmest thanks. Super enjoyed (as did our friends) the fantastic range of films at this year's festival - Comedy, Zombies and Drama - oh, my. The Alberta Short Film presentations were captivating and enlightening. The tension filled *Pontypool* had us planning out exit strategies in case of a zombie attack. And my favorite, *Dakota Skye*,

was a hugely satisfying film - smart, direct, real, funny and honest. My compliments to John Humber - a young director with real talent and real potential. Well done!"  
Norm Fassbender, Filmmaker

"We had a lot of fun this year at the 24/one filmmaker challenge. We have a lot of fun every year doing this sort of thing. All being involved in the industry it's a fun little challenge making something from start to finish in 24 hours. I think the 24/one event this year went really well. The theater seemed to be sold out so I suppose there isn't too much you could ask for beyond that. The popularity of the contest has definitely picked up and we went for drinks with a few groups that are regulars in the contest after the screening and we all had a lot of fun at the screening, and hanging out after the fact. I think it's a good place for newer film makers to meet, and a good place to get some screen time for newer people to the industry. I know a lot of us are working on other projects we hope to produce and just meeting people in a screening situation like this is great for making contacts, and meeting people that could help with other film projects. I am working on a feature myself and have met a lot of people even just through 24/one that are be interested in getting involved which I think is awesome for young film makers like myself. I think it's great, and I hope it continues as it has. It seems to get better and better every year."

Scott Townend, Filmmaker

"I just want to say the Film Fest was a lot of fun this year. I made it out to four flicks, all well attended and very good (*Zack and Miri Make A Porno*, *Man on Wire*, *Sugar* and *Let the Right One In* - the last two easily making my best-of-the-year list). Congratulations on pulling the fest together. Also, I was happy to see the theatres centralized to downtown, and the projectionists did a stellar job. All four movies I saw were well projected, even *Let the Right One In* which was on video. Way to go!

Joel Maendel, past EIFF Board Member

"Had the chance to see *Dear Zachary* last night. Kate and Mike score: two thumbs up....way up! Compelling, inspiring, will appeal to parents and the college crowd alike. The nature of how the doc unfolds is fascinating.....the final twist was completely unexpected... this will be a new story for many film goers out here. I feel this will be a "buzz" film... in a different way than *Anvil! The Story of Anvil*... but nonetheless a buzz. If I had randomly selected this film to see at the Festival, I would leave the theatre thinking that I wouldn't have seen this if it were not for the festival... re-enforcing the benefit of the festival for me as a "must-do" in the future. It's interesting... I find myself now wishing that I had become a festival-goer years ago... and it's for reasons that include this film."

Mike Bowman and Kate Gorman, new festival-goers