

2014
CLIFF

CANADIAN LABOUR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
THE WORKERS' FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
NOV 15-16, 2014



CARLTON CINEMA
20 Carlton St. Toronto, ON M5B 2H5

LABOURFILMS.CA

WELCOME TO THE 6TH ANNUAL CANADIAN LABOUR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (CLIFF)!

Welcome to the 6th annual Canadian Labour International Film Festival (CLIFF)! CLIFF is once again proud to bring you stories from workers, by workers, while seeking to create a meaningful space for people's art. The films featured represent the lived struggles, victories and daily lives of working people both in Canada and around the world.

We are thrilled about this year's selection of films that truly highlight workers' experiences and struggles from around the globe – from the history of labour in British Columbia, to the story of young workers from Nova Scotia looking for decent work, to the portrayal of a Guatemalan street vendor in New York City, to an examination of working conditions faced by migrant workers in Sochi in preparation for the 2014 Winter Olympics.

We want to share these powerful stories with a wider community, and to use film as a means towards movement building for justice and dignity for the working class.

CLIFF is a non-profit organization run by a team of volunteers who are active in the labour movement. We are committed to showcasing works that provide an opportunity to learn about the past and present of the movement, and make every effort to make our films accessible by hosting FREE screenings. We hope that unionized and non-unionized workers, especially young workers, can both learn and be inspired by the documented narratives of their fellow comrades and colleagues.

In Solidarity,

CLIFF Board of Directors



WEEKEND FILM SCHEDULE



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH

BLOCK A

1:00 - Introduction
1:10 - Welcome to Dresden
1:25 - Joe Hill's Secret Canadian Hideout
1:35 - Simply the Best
2:00 - Working People B.C.
2:20 - End of Block A

BREAK

2:20 - 2:35

BLOCK B

2:35 - Tim Hudak's Plan B
2:45 - Made in USA
3:05 - Voice for Independent Unions
3:50 - Working Till the End
4:35 - End of Block B

BREAK

4:35 - 4:50

BLOCK C

4:50 - Farewell to Nova Scotia
5:05 - Down East
6:30 - End of Block C

CLIFF RECEPTION

6:30 - 7:30

Reception will be held in the Carlton Cinema gallery.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16TH

BLOCK A

1:00 - Introduction
1:05 - Stapled
1:10 - Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor
1:30 - Ngutu
1:35 - Shipbreakers
2:30 - End of Block A

BREAK

2:30 - 2:45

BLOCK B

2:45 - The Olympics Disposable Workers
2:55 - Qatar's World Cup
3:15 - Luminaris
3:20 - Before the Dawn
3:45 - Radical Wollongong
4:35 - End of Block B

BREAK

4:35 - 4:50

BLOCK C

4:50 - Knife-Grinder
5:50 - End of Block C

FINAL WORDS



CLIFF is pleased to once again present our **FESTIVAL-IN-A-BOX** series – back for its 6th year! Most of our locations request this two-hour package as it fits most needs. Pop it into your computer, hook up a projector, or play it in your entertainment system. Any way you play it, it comes up playing awesome films about workers!

CLIFF'S 2014 FESTIVAL-IN-A-BOX FILMS ARE:

Farewell to Nova Scotia
Ngutu
Luminaris
The Olympics: Disposable Workers
Qatar's World Cup
Welcome to Dresden
Stapled
Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor
Working People B.C.
Joe Hill's Secret Canadian Hideout



CLIFF is pleased to offer **THE LUNCH SPECIAL** again this year. This 56-minute program will allow you to screen films during a lunch hour or during other times when you may not have to luxury of sitting through two or more hours of films. Enjoy!

CLIFF'S 2014 LUNCH SPECIAL FILMS ARE:

Joe Hill's Secret Canadian Hideout
Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor
Ngutu
The Olympics: Disposable Workers
Qatar's World Cup
Stapled

If you are interested in hosting a screening in your city, community or workplace, and would like to order either our **FESTIVAL-IN-A-BOX** or our **LUNCH SPECIAL**, please contact us at: INFO@LABOURFILMS.CA



BEFORE THE DAWN (SAHAR SE PEHLE)

*Abhishek Kumar Singh. 22:20.
Hindi (with English subtitles),
India*

The documentary highlights the plight of contract workers especially those engaged in sanitation work in India. Most of these workers come from historically underprivileged social backgrounds (lower castes). The caste system in the Indian subcontinent has been such that those who are at the lower end of caste hierarchy are made to do work which generally involve cleaning filth or rendering manual labour under extreme conditions to the people of higher castes. The name of the film also hints at the “dawn” which is yet to come, when the producers of wealth will actually be the masters of it.



DOWNEAST

*David Redman. English. 76:00.
USA.*

For years now, Antonio Bussone, a Massachusetts businessman whose tumultuous attempt to bring a lobster processing plant to Gouldsboro came to a messy end marred with lawsuits and the plant's demise, has been surrounded by controversy in Maine. This is the story of Live Lobster Co. from a different perspective – Bussone's. In addition, “Downeast” is a portrait of the people and politics of rural Maine during tough economic times. Not only do these people want to work, they love to work. It's a shame, however, that many of them aren't able to do what they love, as seen in “Downeast.”



FAREWELL TO NOVA SCOTIA

*Katrina Pyne and Geordon Omand.
English. 13:00 Canada.*

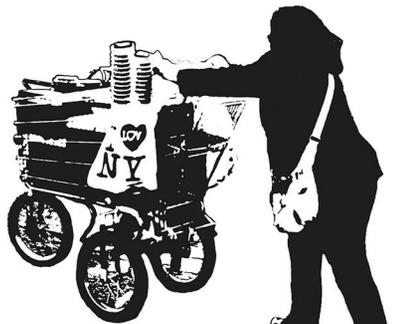
Farewell to Nova Scotia explores the longstanding reality for so many young workers in Atlantic Canada faced with the decision to curtail their ambitions by staying in the place they love, or to leave their hometown in the name of pursuing more promising opportunities elsewhere.



JOE HILL'S SECRET CANADIAN HIDEOUT

*Ron Verzuh. English. 8:00.
Canada.*

Joe Hill once said “don't mourn – organize!” Labour activist and songwriter, Joe Hill helped communicate a message through his art. This movie tells story of the search for the man who never died. Set in Rossland, British Columbia.



JUDITH:
Portrait of a Street Vendor

JUDITH: PORTRAIT OF A STREET VENDOR

Zahida Pirani. 17:00. English. USA

'Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor' is a short documentary that takes the audience on an intimate journey into the daily life of Judith, a street vendor from Guatemala who lives and works in New York City. Judith exposes the routine obstacles she and her fellow immigrant vendors face daily on the city's streets and reveals her own struggles and hopes as an immigrant worker, mother, activist and community organizer.



LAST TRIP OF THE KNIFE-GRINDER, THE (EL ULTIMO VIAJE DEL AFILADOR)

Aitor Rei. 61:00 Galician, Spanish with English subtitles. Spain.

"Queicoa", in Barallete, the jargon of Galician knife-grinders, means "god, hero, fighting spirit, a great, legendary being." For over three centuries now, these old knife-grinders, who became famous after walking so many paths and thousands of miles, have been called "Queicoas". They were brave, tough men, hardened by working the fields of one of the poorest areas in Europe. Emerging from Galician mountains, in a trip that seemed to lead nowhere, they were only accompanied by a spinning wheel. When they walked, they were dreaming. When they ground, they felt alive. When they stopped, they were defeated. This is their story and these are their faces.



LUMINARIS

Juan Pablo. 6:00 No Dialogue Argentina

In a world controlled and timed by light, an ordinary man has a plan that could change the natural order of things.



MADE IN THE USA

Bill Gillespie. English. 20:00 Canada.

Veteran CBC journalist joined the labour movement to take a stand against Tim Hudak's plan to institute "right to work" legislation. In the film, Gillespie travels south of the border to discover the real impact of "right to work" laws on working people.



NGUTU

Felipe Delomo and Daniel Valledor. 4:00. Spanish. Spain.

Ngutu is a newspaper street vendor who hardly sells any copies at all. Resentful, he starts watching the passersby closely in order to make progress in his business.



OLYMPICS' DISPOSABLE WORKERS, THE

Hannah Levintova, Brett Brownell and Valarie Hopkins. 4:02. English. USA

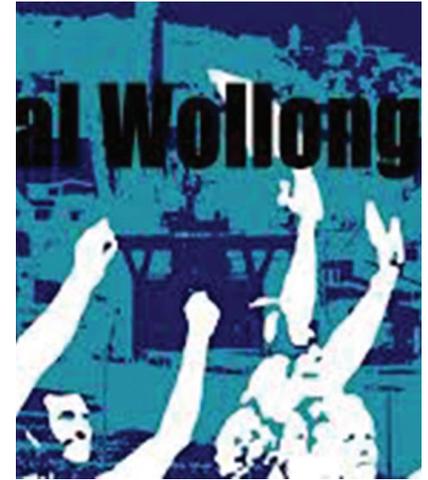
Meet the Olympic workers still waiting for their payday. The migrant laborers who built Sochi's eye-catching venues have endured harsh conditions, deportation, and stiffed wages.



QATAR'S WORLD CUP

Jeremy Schaap. 17:26. English. USA

E:60 traveled to Qatar to investigate the working and living conditions in the country set to host the 2022 World Cup. Qatar will spend \$200 billion on the games but need workers to build the facilities necessary. It is these workers ESPN looks at – and how they are treated.



RADICAL WOLLONGONG

Paul Benedek and Mel Barnes. 57:00. English. Australia.

This is the documentary tale of miners battling deadly working conditions, women fighting Australia's biggest company, activists jailed for resisting the Vietnam draft, and today's movement to stop coal steam gas. From strikes to community rallies, from work-ins to parliament occupation, it features activist participants from Wollongong's unemployed unions, communists forced to set up an underground organization, the battle against 'Pig Iron Bob' and struggles for Aboriginal justice in the Illawarra.



SANDA (SURVIVING)

Mire Kim. Korean with English subtitles. 93:00. Korea.

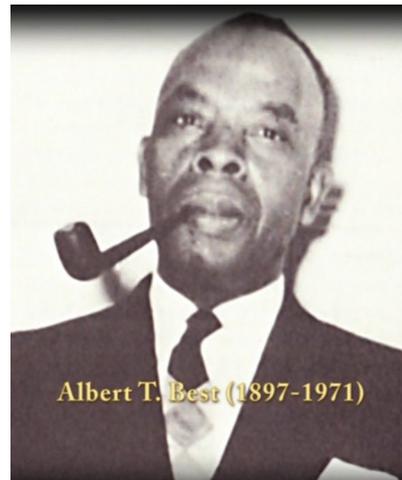
Sanda chronicles the daily lives of a group of middle-aged workers in Korea Telecom, revealing that sometimes living can be reduced to scraping by. This timely documentary also serves as a window into the labour movement in contemporary Korea. [Note: Sanda will have its own screening and is not listed in the Carlton program]



SHIPBREAKERS

Paul Goodman. Language. 57:12. India.

Shipbreakers immerses us into a trade brutally tedious yet widely unknown. At an industrial port in India, laborers of different regions, dialects and religions come together to work and dwell amongst chaotic conditions – all in the name of making a living. Dynamic teamwork plays a crucial role in the success of any day at the shipbreaking yard. Amongst extreme heat, toxic waste, pollution, loud noise, poor sanitation and constant threat of falling metal, underpaid laborers still maintain a unique air of optimism. Cutting apart a ship is “like an art,” one workers claims, an artistry extends to the filmmakers unique aesthetic approach to urban decay – natural lighting renders polluted pink horizons, but such picturesque appeal does not distract from critical question surrounding globalization and exploitative labour. Shipbreakers is as artistic as it is eye opening.



SIMPLY THE BEST

Wasim Baobaid. 24 Minutes. English. Canada.

This movie explores the life and legacy of Cal Best. Black activist turned union leader, and senior government official.



STAPLED

Scott MacDonald. English. 5:26 Canada.

A look at urban street posters' integral role in the creating artistic communities is explored in this documentary.



TIM HUDAK'S PLAN B: STILL PLANNING TO CUT YOUR WAGES

Bill Gillespie. English. 7:32 Canada

Hudak's Plan B is a lively look, by respected journalist Bill Gillespie, at the Wisconsin experience and its possible links to the future of Ontario labour relations.



VOICE FOR INDEPENDENT UNIONS, THE - CONFEDERATION OF CANADIAN UNIONS

*Sean Cain, Joanie Cameron
Pritchett. 47:00. English. Canada.*

The documentary focuses on the lesser known unions; the struggles of labour activists inside the CCU, its proud history, its work with social justice activists in Canada and around the globe, and the new economic challenges of wage stagnation and growing inequality.



WELCOME TO DRESDEN

*Esery Mondesir. English. 14:18
Canada*

Between 1949 and 1956, the small town of Dresden in southwestern Ontario, Canada was the scene of an elaborate campaign by the National Unity Association to end anti-Black racism and discrimination. The courage and determination of community leaders like Hugh Burnett, with the indispensable solidarity of the Toronto Joint Labour Committee for Human rights, resulted in the passing of the Fair Practices Accommodation Act of 1954. Welcome to Dresden highlights the salient moments of the campaign and the contribution of union activists like Bromley Armstrong to the struggle for racial equality in Canada.



WORKING PEOPLE: A HISTORY OF LABOUR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA (3- PART SERIES)

*Michael Proudfoot/Gordon
McLennan. 22 minutes range.
Canada*

This extraordinary three-part series shares the amazing stories of workers, industries and events spanning three centuries of British Columbia's history. Featuring more than 1,000 images from over 80 archives, museums and private collections, these films bring the province's past to life through historical photographs, archival footage, music and sound.



WORKING 'TIL THE END (SCHUFTEN BIS ZUM SCHLUSS)

*Nikolas Migut. German. 44:58.
Germany.*

Ferdinand Mennecke worked more than 40 years, mainly in low-paid jobs. Because of that, his pension is only 650 euros per month. Therefore, the 84-year old delivers papers since he is retired – six days a week. Mennecke is one of more than 760,000 people over 65 years in Germany who are working a side job. Werner Kofalck receives a monthly pension of 760 euros, even though he worked his whole life. At the age of 85 years, he is still sitting in a taxi, driving passengers through Hamburg – up to 50 hours a week. He says that he does not have a choice: 'If you are my age, there is nothing else to do.'



Are you an aspiring filmmaker? Want to share your film about work or the labour movement? Consider submitting your film for **CLIFF 2015! Visit our website at **LABOURFILMS.CA** for details about our 2015 festival!**

THE CLIFF 2014 FILM AWARDS

CLIFF BEST-IN-FESTIVAL AWARD

A \$1,000 cash prize will be awarded based on votes provided by CLIFF viewers from across Canada. For the Toronto Carlton screenings, you are invited to vote for your favorite films by using the ballots which are located at the back of your ticket!

MIGUEL CIFUENTES RADICAL ACTIVIST AWARD

This is a first year prize that has been created in honour of Miguel Cifuentes, long-time labour activist and CLIFF board member. It is a \$500 cash prize award that will be chosen by members of Miguel's family.

Miguel Cifuentes, a treasured member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Labour International Film Festival, passed away on May 15, 2014. He was 64 years old.

Miguel was born and raised in Guatemala in 1950. He was a trade unionist and social justice and community activist. Miguel's life was about struggle and about passion. From the struggles of his youth against a totalitarian régime and the kidnapping of his young son by right-wing paramilitaries, his was a fight for justice and equality.

Miguel fought cancer for the last few years. He bore that struggle with equanimity and good humour. He didn't resign himself to anything – he accepted the one thing he could not change. In the end, he left us to carry on the struggle. Miguel worked for a union, UNITE HERE, and never ceased advocating for workers and their rights. Miguel smiled no matter what. Through the difficult times of his life, he always came out smiling. It's how we will always remember him.

To honour his memory, the CLIFF Board of Directors have decided to name an award after him.

WITH THE CLICK OF A THUMB BY FRANK SAPTEL

It happens in an instant: she takes out her phone, flips it open, thumbs it a few times, raises it to eye-level and starts recording a scab gunning his car through the picket line, just scraping against one young activist, hurting him slightly.

In minutes, she has uploaded it to her local's YouTube account and the whole world now has the capacity to see that scabs are endangering the lives of peaceful strikers- not the other way around as management had been portraying through interviews with the local media.

Soon after uploading the video, she text messages the web steward for the local. He sees the video, logs into the YouTube account, copies the embed code and pastes it onto the index page of the local's website, and then uploads that page to the server hosting the website.

Through the web-based interface, he signs into the local's mailing list, composes a quick message and sends it to everyone who has signed up to receive news of the strike.

Derek Blackadder, the Canadian correspondent for LabourStart, sees the email on his mobile phone and quickly forwards it to his LabourStart Canada list. Eric Lee, based in the U.K. picks up on it, composes a petition, includes the YouTube link and then sends the message worldwide.

Before the week is out, tens of thousands of people have seen the video, signed the petition, and sent the message on to their friends. A few days after that, the company collapses and agrees to come back to the table and negotiate in good faith again.

This scenario is not out of the realm of possibility. Something similar happened in Montebello, Quebec in August 2007 at a North American leader's summit. Union activists, armed only with video camera, recorded police agent provocateurs trying to disturb a peaceful demonstration. The widely-released footage, posted on YouTube, forced the police to admit that they were behind it.

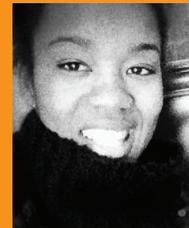
With the click of a thumb. That should really be our slogan, because technology is available like never before, and we have more ways

of communicating than ever before through blogging (and micro-blogging), to sharing videos, to wikis, to SMS.

Just take the video camera, the camera-phone, the digital still camera (with movie capability) and point it at whatever you like- an anti-war demo, a picket line supporting locked-out hotel workers, a march in solidarity with refugees seeking asylum. Any activity seeking social justice and dignity on the job is fair game.

Therein lies the power of the camera and you!

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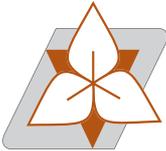


Sara Jaffri

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS:

Jin Choi, Yukyung Kim-Cho, Choong Ho Park, and Erika Yoshida

The following is a list of organisations and individuals who have helped CLIFF by either donating funds, in-kind support or have volunteered their time and effort. Without their help, this important national labour film festival could not conceivably continue. To all, a great big “THANK YOU!”



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INDIVIDUAL DONOR: ANNA LARSEN