HELLO, FILM STREAMS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS!

Film Streams was established 15 years ago this June, and at that time it would have been hard to imagine the indelible arts institution we’ve created together. In December, we celebrated two years of operating two venues. Our staff has grown significantly in that time, as has our capacity. Last year, we were able to offer 4,848 public showtimes and 292 different film programs, compared to an average of just 2,500 showtimes and 160 programs when we operated the Ruth Sokolof Theater alone.

This past year we also established our 2019-2021 strategic plan, a process that focused on deepening and strengthening our core programs and reaffirming our commitment to enhancing the cultural environment of Omaha through film. Our plan accentuates our dedication to building bridges among divergent and diverse community groups through our Community Development program. It reiterates our commitment to our Education program, with a goal of developing a method of film analysis for creating meaningful and thought-provoking movie-going experiences that will extend to our New Releases and Repertory programming as well. It also inspired us to develop “See Change,” an initiative to program 50% of films by women directors by 2021, doubling down on our desire to reflect diverse experiences and lift up underrepresented voices in contemporary filmmaking.

In October we welcomed a new restaurant partner, Lola’s, to the Dundee Theater. The owners’ vision for activating the lobby from morning until night is everything we’d hoped the Dundee Theater could become. Lola’s is a true complement to Film Streams’ community-building mission, providing a wonderful opportunity for organic interaction and community connections.

Film Streams’ committed and extraordinary staff, board, and volunteers maintain an unwavering faith in the potential of Omaha, a deep love of film that keeps us focused on our shared vision, and a heartfelt appreciation for the thousands of supporters who make possible everything you see in this report. You are all integral to our organization and a vital part of Omaha’s cultural community.

As always, I’ll look forward to seeing you at the movies!

With love,

Rachel Jacobson
Film Streams Executive Director

BUILDING ON MOMENTUM

This past year marked Film Streams’ second operating two locations—the Ruth Sokolof Theater, which celebrated its twelfth year of operations in 2019, and the resurgent Dundee Theater, now in its 95th year of bringing movies to our community. Thanks to a wonderful donor base, thousands of Film Streams Members, an outstanding board of directors and a terrific staff, that transition from one to two venues has been extraordinarily smooth. Today, Film Streams’ programming is taking place across two cinemas, 365 days a year, as though it had been like this all along.

Because of that, our organization is in a fortunate position to look to the future and plan for longevity. The film industry is changing rapidly, and that poses both challenges and opportunities for a community-supported film nonprofit like ours. Film Streams’ 2019-2021 Strategic Plan looks to those challenges and opportunities head on, with a specific focus area—“Preparing for the Future”—devoted to the transition toward long-term sustainability.

Our 2019 annual report provides an excellent reflection on the programming that has taken place at the Ruth Sokolof Theater and Dundee Theater this past year. It tells the story of the many films, series, collaborations, special guests, and educational initiatives that helped make our community a more vibrant and connected place in 2019.

It also tells the story of a nonprofit that continues to balance its budget thanks to the magnificent contributed support supplementing box office and ticket sales. This year delivered our most successful Feature gala yet, both in funds raised and number of attendees. We want to thank everyone who supported Film Streams for that record-setting night, and to highlight in particular the inspiring work of our Honorary Chairs, Gerry and Bruce Lauritzen and Emily and Clark Lauritzen, the leadership and dedication of Film Streams Board Member Alexander Payne, and of course the generosity of our very special guest, Paul Giamatti.

Now, after two years as Chair, it is my honor to welcome my colleague Mike Lebens as the new leader of this great board of directors. It is my pleasure to work alongside Mike and the entire Film Streams team as we build on the momentum of the past couple years and find new and exciting ways to elevate Omaha through the art of film.

Sincerely,

Dan Lonergan
Film Streams Board Chair, 2018–2019
FILM STREAMS IN FOCUS

One nonprofit organization operating two mission-based arthouse cinemas.

Close-up on 2019

Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater
— 1340 Mike Fahey Street
— Established 2007
— 2 Screens
   – 206-seat Theater One (“Mary”)
   – 96-seat Theater Two
— 35mm and digital projection

- 84,611 attendees
- 3,696 member households
- 289 films & events
- 4,848 showtimes
- 107 programs with live content, including Q&As, special intros, panels, and performances
- 4,680 attendees to free programs at the Dundee and Ruth Sokolof Theaters
- 27.4% of new releases shown at our cinemas were directed by women (compared to just 12% of the top 103 new releases in 2019*)
- 131 amazing Film Streams volunteers
- 1 film presented on VHS
- 3 films presented on 16mm prints
- 20 films presented on 35mm prints, including...
- 27 showings of LITTLE WOMEN on 35mm
- 4,550 hours contributed by our amazing Streams Team volunteers
- 23 visiting artists

Film Streams’ Dundee Theater
— 4952 Dodge Street
— Established 1925, Reestablished 2017
— Cafe partner: Lola’s, est. 2019
— 2 Screens
   – 300-seat Peggy Payne Theater
   – 25-seat Linder Microcinema
— 35mm, 16mm and digital projection

- 131 amazing Film Streams volunteers
- 1 film presented on VHS
- 3 films presented on 16mm prints
- 20 films presented on 35mm prints, including...
- 27 showings of LITTLE WOMEN on 35mm
- 4,550 hours contributed by our amazing Streams Team volunteers
- 23 visiting artists

*Source: Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film
103 new releases shown in 2019

From 34 different countries

33 feature-length documentaries including raucous docs on the Laurel Canyon sound and Linda Ronstadt, and a lost Aretha Franklin concert film

104 Oscar nominations, 48 Independent Spirit nominations, 35 Gotham Award nominations, and 37 Cinema Eye Honors nominations

Special Thanks to Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund
Repertory Series

This is America
Winter 2019 | Curated by Ira Madison III
Ten provocative films complementing 30 Americans, the first major exhibition in Omaha to survey the work of contemporary African-American artists. Presented with Joslyn Art Museum.

Great Directors: Yasujiro Ozu
Spring 2019 | Supported by Sam Walker
Our latest Great Directors series focused on an artist known for quiet films of great emotional power. With two live scores performed by Coupler and Omaha’s Dan McCarthy.

Head Case: The Genius of Paul Giamatti
Summer 2019 | Curated by Paul Giamatti
A series handpicked by Feature VIII guest Paul Giamatti, featuring many of his best-known performances, as well as a few picks that inspired him along the way.

Crash the Canon: Lost and Found
Fall 2019
Restorations and revivals of work by women artists traditionally excluded from film history, with a pair of Courses: Deep Dive seminars and a visiting artist (Amy Adrion) presenting her incisive new documentary Half the Picture.

Other Restorations & Revivals
Members Select winner Raising Arizona (1987); Paris is Burning (1990); Dolemite (1975); Inquiring Nuns (1968); War and Peace (1967); The Juniper Tree (1993); Say Amen, Somebody (1983); Mr. Klein (1976); and Downtown 81 (2001).

Midnight Movies
Ongoing
Midnights at the Dundee included quarters themed “Women of the Wastes” and “In the Year 1999” (curated by Andy Helmkamp), “Back to School” (programmed by Carol RedWing), and a series of cult favorites selected by Aaron Lee.

Sights on Sounds
Ongoing
Our monthly series for fans of great stories and great music included Film Streams’ first-ever VHS screening (Tom Waits’s Big Time); revivals of underground classics (Smithereens, True Stories); documentaries on Miles Davis, Studio 54, and Cuba’s jazz influence; and our annual Thanksgiving-time run of The Last Waltz.

OMAHA STEAKS CLASSICS
Special Thanks to Omaha Steaks for its ongoing support of Film Streams’ classics and repertory programming.

WoodmenLife
Special Thanks to WoodmenLife for supporting Film Streams’ Forever Young Family & Children’s Series in 2019.

LEGEND COMICS & COFFEE
Special Thanks to Legend Comics & Coffee for supporting Midnight Movies at the Dundee Theater in 2019.

FOREVER YOUNG FAMILY & CHILDREN’S SERIES
Ongoing | Supported by WOODMENLIFE
Our year-round series for film lovers of all ages welcomed 2,645 patrons in 2019.

REPERTORY FILMS
7,809 cinephiles experienced 109 classics in 2019
4 themed series, including a Yasujiro Ozu retrospective and a series celebrating women filmmakers
2 silent films by Ozu accompanied by live scores
1,180 weirdos attended midnight movies at the Dundee Theater
434 minutes, total running time of Sergey Bondarchuk’s 1967 epic War and Peace
4,444 students attended free events at our cinemas in 2019, including:

2,400 from 35 schools and 17 districts for screenings and discussions within our Daytime Education Program

757 kids receiving free admission and concessions, along with parents and chaperones, through our Widman Youth Engagement Fund

1,287 attendees for our monthly Student Night—all shows free the first Monday of every month—supported by the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Daytime Education Program 2019

29 screenings attended by students from 17 districts and 35 different schools

- 12 Angry Men 1957
- The 400 Blows 1959
- Faces Places 2017
- Grave of the Fireflies 1988
- The Great Dictator 1940
- I Am Not Your Negro 2016
- Jane 2017
- No 2013
- A Time for Burning 1966
- Throne of Blood 1957
- To Kill a Mockingbird 1962
- RGB 2018

EDUCATION Courses

Over 250 film lovers participated across five illuminating, multi-week seminars in 2019, all programmed and taught by Film Streams Education Director Diana Martinez, PhD.

Film/Style 3
- Winter 2019
This popular, recurring Course examines the complex interplay of narrative, cinematography, and sound that shapes our viewing experience.

Fragments and Chaos: Animating Life
- Spring 2019
An introduction to the history and development of animation as both an art form and an industry.

Sofia Coppola
- Summer 2019
An exploration of the recurring themes and stylistic signatures of one of our most acclaimed writer-directors.

Bite Me: Generation X on Film
- Fall 2019
Students looked at how the Gen X aesthetic changed the landscape of independent and mainstream cinema.

Deep Dives

Introduced in 2019, Deep Dives distill the five-week Courses experience into one intensive class session.

- How To Watch Experimental Film Winter 2019
- CINESSound Spring 2019
- Race and the Music Video Summer 2019
- Hattie McDaniel Summer 2019
- New Directions: The History of Women in Film Fall 2019

Story Code

In 2019, we introduced a pilot program running throughout the school year using film to dissect the basic units of storytelling.

SYLLABUS

- Modern Times Comedy and narrative
- M Genre and music
- Rear Window Point of view and cinematography

Schools Attending Daytime Education Screenings

Bellevue East High
Benson High
Beveridge Magnet
Blair High
Brownell Talbot
Bryan High
Bryan Middle
Burks High
Central High
Cornerstone Christian
Creighton Prep
DC West High
East Millie High School
Elkhorn Grandview Middle
Gardena Aspen Creek Middle
Gardena High
Gardena Middle
Lewie & Clark Middle
Lewie Central High
Logan Fontenelle Middle
Mercy High
Millard Central Middle
Millard North High
Millard South High
Millard West High
Noria Middle
Omaha North High
Omaha South High
Papillion La Vista High
Ralston Middle
St. Peter & Paul
Westside High
Westside Middle
+ homeschool groups
6,428 community members attended more than 53 special programs in 2019

28 screenings in collaboration with 60 partners around substantive films—including documentaries on gender and religion, women in filmmaking, displaced cultures, and three Science on Screen presentations—with panel discussions or special introductions

10 screenings with filmmakers and special guest artists in attendance

9 opening weekend screenings of new releases complemented by introductions from local activists and experts

12 special introductions for repertory selections

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Partnerships with Community Organizations, Filmmaker Visits, and Panel Discussions

The Judge 2017
➤ Jan 29
Presented with Tri-Faith Initiative.

Free, Filmmaker Screening
Warrior Women 2018
➤ Feb 7
With filmmaker Elizabeth Castle, presented with Vision Maker Media.

Oscar Shorts 2018
➤ Feb 7
Presented with Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands.

In Conversation: Ira Madison III
➤ Feb 9
Presented with Joslyn Art Museum, moderated by Film Streams Education Director Diana Martinez, PhD, and Joslyn Art Museum Phil Willson Curator of Contemporary Art Karin Campbell.

Free Valentine’s Day Screening
Some Like It Hot 1959
➤ Feb 14
Presented with and supported by Borsheims.

Rams 2018
➤ Feb 20
Presented with design alliance Omaha (daOMA).

Free Screening
First Match 2018
➤ Feb 23
With filmmaker Chanelle Elaine, presented with Girls Inc. of Omaha.

Free Screening
Intelligent Lives 2018
➤ Mar 12
Presented with the Meyer Foundation for Disabilities.

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamar Story 2017
Trophy 2017
➤ Mar 20, Jun 11, Dec 10
Screenings and discussions presented with Mystery Code Society, Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, and UNMC.

CINEsound
➤ Apr 12–14
A special series of film and live music, presented with Opera Omaha’s ONE Festival. Co-curated by Ross Karre (International Contemporary Ensemble).

Rafiki 2018
➤ Apr 24
Presented with Afromaha.

Visiting Artist
Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World
➤ Apr 30
With visiting artist Maton Nanji, presented with Toy Drive for Pine Ridge & Pacific Street Blues and Americana.

Free Screening
Highway of Tears 2015
➤ May 1
Presented with Legal Aid of Nebraska.
Ron Widman Youth Engagement Program

Our fund designed to remove cost barriers for students and youth who might otherwise not be able to access our theaters provided tickets and concessions to almost 800 kids (and their chaperones) in 2019. Thanks to the schools, agencies, and organizations that partnered with us to provide the full movie experience to a new generation of film lovers.

Local Filmmakers Showcase

November 7, 10 & 11

**SELECTIONS 9 FILMS, 106 MINUTES**  
Sugar (Shawn Gourley & Lauren Abell, Omaha NE), Bella (Seth D. Myers, Dubuque IA), Everything is Going to Be Fine (Brandon Oest, Coralville IA), Just Me. (Darcy Lueking Bahensky, Holdrege NE), Missing Piece (Tim Guthrie, Omaha NE), Creative Freedom (Megan McGill, Omaha NE), Cutioneer.exe (Elias Ginsberg, Omaha NE), Mating Dance (Mitchell Lyon, Aurora NE), Old Fur New Teeth (Hannah Marie Stevens, Bennington NE)

On Sunday, August 25, 2019, acclaimed actor Paul Giamatti reunited with his Sideways director Alexander Payne at Feature VIII. Over 1,800 Film Streams supporters attended, raising over $500,000—a new record—for our year-round programs and operations at the Dundee and Ruth Sokolof Theaters.

**Presenting Sponsors**

Emily & Clark Lauritzen  
Gerry & Bruce Lauritzen  
First National Bank of Omaha  
Cindy & Scott Heider  
Susan & Mike Lebens  
Omaha Steaks/Simon Family  
Annette & Paul Smith

**Honorary Chairs**

Gerry & Bruce Lauritzen, Emily & Clark Lauritzen
Many thanks to the following contributors for their support of our day-to-day operations:

**Gifts & Donations**

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- **$10,000 – $19,999**
  - National Endowment for the Arts
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  - WoodmenLife
  - Sarah A. Salyer

- **$5,000 – $9,999**
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- **$2,500 – $4,999**
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  - Susan Buffett

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List includes annual contributions reviewed in 2019.

In Memory
Film Streams remembers the supporters and volunteers our community lost in 2019.

Anne C. Boyle
Thomas L. Camran
Gary M. Kaplan
Helen “Hattie” Kenefick
Harry A. Koch, Jr.
Don & Anita (Hickman) Theophilus

If your loved one is not noted here, we are sorry for your loss. If you'd like, you may notify dana@filmstreams.org.

In Memory of Gloria Bartek
Tom Bartal
In Memory of Harold Christensen
Mary Haxen
In Memory of Sonara G. Jerry Cahn
Debby Sobel & Nunny Cahn
In Honor of Sonja G. Thorin Danielson
Susan Schoner
In Memory of Susan Eustace
Erin Foley
In Honor of Film Streams Employees
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Phylis Andrews
Nell Appleby
Allison Brandenkamp
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*Deceased
THANKS A BILLION FOR A WONDERFUL 2019!