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FILMMAKING



JOSHUA SAWKA / Leader Post

Saskatchewan FilmPool president Gerald Saul poses with the ad for its 25th anniversary celebration, which starts Tuesday.

FilmPool marks 25th anniversary

HUNTING

Mandate guiding non-resident urged

By JILL STRELIE
Saskatchewan News

SASKATOON — The Saskatchewan Outfitters Association wants the province to rein-in non-resident hunters.

The association, which the government last week told to limit these hunters, who offer outfitting operations, abuses the province's resources without any local employment, said president Brian Hoffart.

To correct this problem, the outfitters want the government to issue a mandatory guiding for non-resident hunters.

"We're asking for one piece of legislation that would change the mandate of mandatory guiding for non-residents coming into the province," said Hoffart.

The request comes in response to an influx of non-resident hunters into the province. Last year there were 10,000 non-resident hunters in Saskatchewan, with only 30 per cent being guided by the province. "These people are not regulated and basically establish a rogue outfitting operation that's not in direct contact with the industry," said Hoffart.

And while the province government agrees the outfitting industry isn't perfect, Hoffart said the outfitters weren't willing to jump on the issue for waterfowl hunting. "The issue has been researched and researched."

They did, however, meet with the outfitters and their associations to the industry's benefit.

"We know that the industry is moving slowly in these times and we're pleased with the cooperation of the ministers (the ministers) have had," Hoffart said. "They've indicated they want to see stability in the industry and the outfitters and the

SASKATOON

If only Jean Oser could see it now ...

The Oscar-winning film editor and intellectual died in Regina Feb. 20, mere weeks before the 25th anniversary of an organization he helped nurture: the Saskatchewan FilmPool.

His name is invoked frequently by the FilmPool's president, Gerald Saul, as he traces the history of the Regina-based artists' co-operative.

Nothing against slick commercial movies, but Saul wants you to know "there's another side to things: the small, personal works that we try to make."

To be sure, filmmaking in Saskatchewan is older than the FilmPool.

There had been documentaries produced here for decades and the Yorkton Film Festival began in 1950. But things picked up in the early 1970s when the U of R's predecessor hired Oser to lecture on film.

A veteran of the dynamic film industries of 1920s-era Germany and then Hollywood, Oser "inspired people to really create, to really explore," said Saul.

"He was such an amazing individual, and his spirit, his energy and his passion ... you couldn't have a conversation with him without seeing some of the passion with which he did so many things in his life."

Some of his students worked on the production of W.O. Mitchell's *Who Has Seen The Wind?*, filmed in Arcola in 1976.

Having seen film theory and history "and the set of a big film, they were really rarin' to do something," said Saul. "And that's when the Canada Council stepped in and said, 'You should set up a co-operative.'"

The idea was, and still is, to pool expensive cameras and editing gear "and also to come together to discuss how to make films."

Since then, film studies became a full U of R department and Oser got the Saskatchewan Arts Board to recognize the art of film.

A second generation of filmmakers, including Saul, joined the FilmPool in the 1980s.

The commercial side of Saskatchewan filmmaking has boomed, typified by the sound stage built in the shell of the building in which Oser taught.

But Saul, who teaches in the U of R's Department of Media Production and Studies, figures the FilmPool has remained faithful to its roots.

He said its location in downtown Regina helps it "connect" with other arts groups like New Dance Horizons, the Sakewewak indigenous artists collective and the Neutral

Screenings, talks, gatherings planned

The Saskatchewan FilmPool co-operative marks its 25th anniversary this week with screenings, talks and gatherings.

■ **Tuesday:** reception from 5-6.30 p.m. at its headquarters (301-1822 Scarth St.) followed by a screening of *Daisy* and *Solitude* at the Regina Public Library Film Theatre.

■ **Wednesday:** evening screenings at the RPL film theatre at 7 and 9 p.m.

■ **Thursday:** Screening at the Cineplex Odeon Coronet Theatre, 1821 Albert St. and at the FilmPool.

■ **Friday:** Noted filmmaker Richard Kerr, formerly a U of R professor, speaks at 2.30 p.m. at the FilmPool. Evening screenings at the Coronet and FilmPool.

■ **Saturday:** kids animation workshop from 10 a.m.-12.30 at FilmPool, then a panel discussion on the future of independent filmmaking. Evening screenings at the Famous Players Cornwall Centre cinema, then a "wrap party" at 1822 Scarth St.

For more details, the Saskatchewan FilmPool Web site is at www.film-pool.ca

individuals."

The FilmPool publishes a newsletter, plus *Splice* magazine and has a video showcase called *SpliceTV* on SCN, Access's community channel and, intriguingly, the cable TV station run by Drexel University in Philadelphia.

And rather than renting out equipment at a profit, he said the FilmPool still lets members use it (subject to certain rules) for free.

The artistic importance of this approach is that "you can experiment with something and find out if it's what you want to make."

If not, "put it on the shelf and move on."

Saul said it also challenges the idea that experimental films are something an artist does before going on to longer and slicker features.

"We don't believe in that here," Saul says. "We believe that if your passion is to make short personal films, for the rest of your life, hey, that's fine with us."

"We're not going to say what kind of film you should make — because that should be dictated by the individual."