

Regina On Screen
Curaated by Gerald Saul
August 25, 2003

The films presented here have been drawn from the local film arts community, by filmmakers who have chosen to use Regina as not only the backdrop to their films but also, to some extent, as the subject.

The city of Regina is a character in Don List's 1983 *My Beautiful Old Time City*. The destruction of a building is, to singer/poet Mick Burrs, akin to the loss of a living breathing friend. List is one of the earliest Regina filmmakers to use the film medium for self expression rather than strictly as a commercial enterprise. With this film, he sets the stage for a generation to view Regina as a site of decay, lost memory, and despair. *Ger-Film II* carries on this tradition, although the city is positioned as being melancholic due to its stagnation rather than its destruction. Britski's *Moving Violation* also allows the city to stand in for the aging citizens heard in that film's voice over soundtrack. Old warehouses and parking lots represent the site for the disappearance of our past, just as the elderly citizens fade from our social landscape.

Both the Reilly film *Message For Shamus* and Saul's *Goddaughter* take a different tone due mainly to the presence and awareness of children as subject and witnesses to the cityscapes. Here finally we see Regina as place of wonder and life, even though decay and destruction are not entirely absent. These films suggest that a future still exists so long as the young are part of our landscape.

Regina is a multi faceted metaphor in *The Ballad of Don Quinn*. As we meet the title character, he is quaintly antiquated and comfortably integrated part of his environment. But bit by bit, his faith is picked apart such as by the mocking teenagers on the Bay Parkade (demolished 2001) to reveal him as someone unwilling or unable to keep up with the changing times, like the city of Regina itself. The Capital theatre (demolished 1992) and other ex-landmarks litter the background as Quinn approaches his fitting and tragic end, facing the loss of his own workspace. A victim of change, Quinn's downward spiral is only halted by the attention of a young woman who seems to have no past, no ties, no backstory of her own. She pulls him from the crumbling life and city, leaving us with the message that hope only exists through escape to other cities. With Mark Wihak's recent return to Regina, it gives us pause to ponder if escape was even possible?

Ger-Film II Gerald Saul 1:30 1991 16mm

A rapid collage of images from around Regina, my hometown, is the backdrop to voice over recollections and observations about growing up and moving on.

My Beautiful Old Time City Don List 5:40 1983 16mm

As the McCallum Hill building implodes, poet/singer Mick Burrs sings about the beauty and the past which is being lost.

Moving Violation Jason Britski 5:20 2001 16mm

Parking lots and warehouses of Regina play the unusual role of symbols of Regina's past being lost to memory. A series of voice overs from elderly Reginans weave a portrait of

melancholy from their city.

Erections Gerald Saul 5:10 1999 S-8/Video

The local fascination with heights begins with the newest glass and steel of downtown Regina, then moves to older and older buildings, some now lying in ruins. The film concludes with the Big Muddy, a natural formation which played the role of skyscraper, to be stared up at in awe, for thousands of years.

God Daughter Gerald Saul 2:30 1999 S-8/Video

In this joyful film, the city of Regina is celebrated in a day of fun as a girl wings her way around town.

A Message for Shamus Joanne and Steve Reilly 7:45 1983 16mm

A time capsule of Regina events in 1983 as the birth of the Reilly child Shamus draws near. This touching film features rare music, protests and architectural views.

The Ballad of Don Quinn Mark Wihak 28:00 1992 16mm

This first drama by Wihak follows the title character, an ex-punk rocker, as he tries to relive his past glory days. Extensive outdoor shooting features such backdrops as the Capital Theatre and the Bay parkade. Quinn, unable to let go of the past, is unready for the future as progress steals not only his music and his pride, but even his meaningless job away from him.

Budget

IMAA rates = \$2.50/minute and \$25 minimum

Jason Britski	<i>Moving Violation</i>	5:20	16mm	\$ 25
Don List	<i>My Beautiful Old Time City</i>	5:40	16mm	25
	<i>A Message for Shamus</i>	7:45	16mm	25
Gerald Saul	<i>Ger-Film II</i>	1:30	16mm	25
	<i>Erections</i>	5:10	S-8/Video	included
	<i>God Daughter</i>	2:30	S-8/Video	included
Mark Wihak	<i>The Ballad of Don Quinn</i>	28:00	16mm	70

TOTAL \$ 170.00

Films should all be acquired through the Saskatchewan Filmpool. I will deliver my work to you directly.

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Regina, SK.
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306.757.8437

Don List
Birdsong Communications
2440 Broad St.
Regina, SK,
306-359-3070

Joanne Reilly
2034 Garnet Street
Regina, SK, S4T 2Z6
306-565-8158

Steve Reilly
c/o MacKenzie Art Gallery

Mark Wihak
2074 King St.
Regina, SK
S4T 4G6
306-721-4918