

**Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative**

**15th Anniversary Tour**

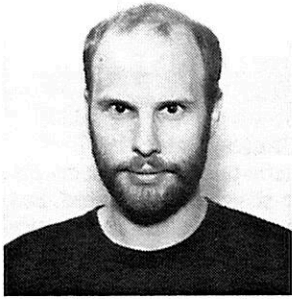
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- RAZOR IN THE WIND** Stephen Surjik 10 minutes
- EXISTENCE** Nora Gardner 2 minutes
- HUNTING EXCURSION** Angelos Hatzitolios 3 minutes
- THE FINAL GIFT** Brian Stockton 5 minutes
- PRAIRIE MOTORCYCLE** Joanne Reilly 5 minutes
- HEALING** Ian Preston/Gordon McLennan 12 minutes
- THE PEOPLE'S PLAN** Rosalee Bellefontaine 3 minutes
- EDGE OF EXTINCTION** Elaine Pain 5 minutes
- THE BLOB THING** Brian Stockton 4 minutes
- GERFILM II** Gerald Saul 2 minutes
- HEARTLINE** W.Dixon/A.Hatzitolios 16 minutes

**I**TERMISSION

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- MIRRORED HOMESCAPES** Roy Cross 18 minutes
- I CAN'T GO HOME** Gerald Saul 1 minute
- DR. WATERMELLON** Gerald Saul 6 minutes  
**& HIS ORCHAstra**
- THE BALLAD OF DON QUINN** Mark Wihak 28 minutes



Don Cornelius



Carmen Milenkovic



Gerald Saul

### Curatorial Statement

To begin with, we would like to express our pleasure in being given the opportunity to watch the entire body of work produced through this cooperative. Over the course of one weekend in October, we watched every film in the Film pool library. In the ensuing discussions, we each drew up our own list of what we felt best represented the last fifteen years. There was naturally some debate over the final package but in the end the three of us were surprised at the similarity of our choices.

We wanted the package to include the wide variety of filmmaking styles and forms as well as films from the different time periods and representative works of our more prolific filmmakers. Although the retrospective reflects many of the artists who have influenced the filmmaking in this cooperative, it cannot fully reflect the tremendous efforts made by other Film pool members over our history. Many members have dedicated their time to our newsletter, to holding screenings and workshops, to maintaining the equipment, and to helping the cooperative function on an administrative level. We would like to acknowledge their contributions to making the Film pool what it is today.

Watching these films in the way we did, put the Film pool's history into a new perspective for us. Films made by women at the Film pool have a remarkably similar point of view with themes concerning birth, children and the welfare of the planet, although none are dramas per se. The Film pool continues to have very few women filmmakers. A surprising observation was that there has been a larger tradition for dramatic film within the co-op than we had previously believed.

Overall we found the films well crafted and humorous. The strongest films contain a sense of honesty within both content and medium. Film cooperatives such as the Film pool are some of the last bastions of people dedicated to traditional film techniques. We felt that the filmmakers had something to say and would use the film medium with respect. On a technical level, the films vary quite a bit. The greatest problem is with the sound, a common weakness with the 16mm optical medium and one which the Film pool should attempt to overcome in the future.

At the end of the weekend, we all felt very positive. Our respect and enthusiasm for the Film pool was greatly heightened. The films were quite diverse and contained very few disappointments. The process was enlightening and leads us to speculate on the future directions of the Film pool.

## RAZOR IN THE WIND

**Stephen Surjik**

10 minutes, B & W, 1979

A mysterious journey in the harsh Saskatchewan winter. Winner of the 1979 Golden Sheaf Award for

"Best Dramatic Short."

*Stephen also produced The Gift, The Fight and Second Story Man. He then went to Concordia and during a Christmas break, he directed Razor in the Wind. Stephen currently lives and works in Toronto.*



Still for Razor In the Wind

## EXISTENCE

**Nora Gardner**

2 minutes, Color, 1989

The importance of our existence in an industrial world.

*This was Nora's first film. She has been a long-time supporter of the FilmPool, serving on the board, various committees and editor of Splice. She currently lives in Regina.*

## HUNTING EXCURSION

**Angelos Hatzitolios**

3 minutes, Color, 1983

A light entertainment film about an unusual hunt. The first workshop production at the FilmPool.

*Angelos also produced Heartline, with Will Dixon, Cloud and Eclipse and Dangerous Shadows. He currently resides in Toronto.*

## THE FINAL GIFT

**Brian Stockton**

5 minutes, Color, 1990

A film about a small town, the prairie landscape and a story by the filmmakers grandmother.

*Brian has been a long-time member and has produced a number of films with assistance from the FilmPool; All Form. No Substance, The Blob Thing, Wheat Soup with Gerald Saul, 24 Store, The Floating of Mike, and Agoraphobia. Presently, he is finishing Revenge of the Blob Thing and lives in Regina.*



Still for The Final Gift



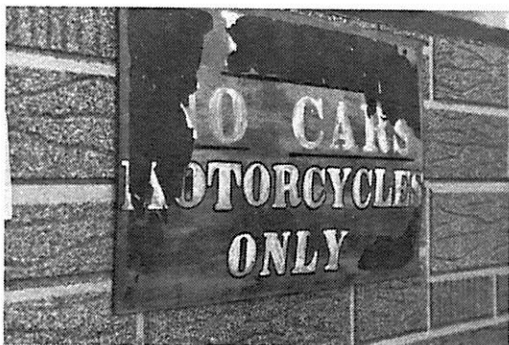
## PRAIRIE MOTORCYCLE

**Joanne Reilly**

5 minutes, Color, 1982

Prairie Motorcycle is a visual portrait of a unique shop that continues to function as a piece of living history.

*Joanne has also produced a number of films with the Film pool; Message for Shamus, The New Toy, Reflections, and Paradox at Five. She is currently in Africa somewhere, teaching, with her husband Steve and family.*



Still for Prairie Motorcycle

## HEALING

**Ian Preston/Gordon McLennan**

12 minutes, Color, 1988

The bleak rationalizations of a husband and wife as they try to cope with their life together.

*Ian is a founding member of the Film pool. He has been and remains involved as a Board member and Co-Chair of the Programming Committee. He has worked on numerous productions.*

*Gordon joined the Film pool just prior to production of Healing and upon completion of the film went to the American Film Institute, Los Angeles to study film. He lives in Regina and is currently in New York, completing a feature film.*

## THE PEOPLE'S PLAN

**Rosalee Bellefontaine**

3 minutes, Color, 1984

Animated. A humorous depiction of one antidote to nuclear irresponsibility.

*Rosalee was an early Film pool member, producing Mother Earth and The Baby Boom and The People's Plan. She moved to Winnipeg where she was involved with the Winnipeg Film Group. She now lives in Saskatoon and is involved with Video Verite.*

## EDGE OF EXTINCTION

**Elaine Pain**

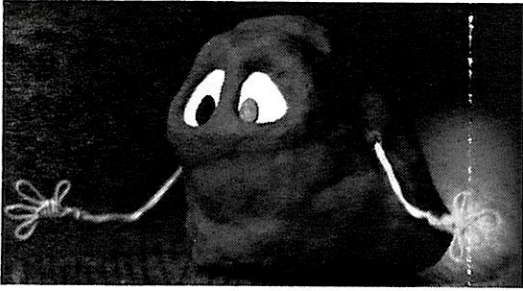
5 minutes, Color, 1989

Edge of Extinction is a haunting animation of rotoscoped whooping cranes and photographed landscapes that blend hypnotically with an inventive sound to form a powerful and hopeful statement on survival.

*Elaine has been a member since 1982 and has produced, Morning Light, Deadication, A Letter from Violet and Serenity. She is currently working on a film called Fading Away. She has been involved with various committees and the board. She is the current President of the Film pool.*



Still for Edge of Extinction



Still from The Blob Thing

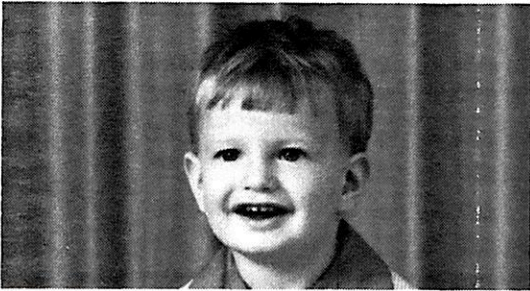
### **THE BLOB THING**

**Brian Stockton**

4 minutes, B & W, 1988

Animated. A humorous look at our main character's many attempts at self-destruction.

See The Final Gift



Still for GerFilm II

### **GERFILM II**

**Gerald Saul**

2 minutes, Color, 1991

GerFilm II continues the mission of the original GerFilm(1987) - to explore the process of creating art.

*Gerald is a long-time member who served as the President for three years. He has produced GerFilm, I Can't Go Home, Angst, Dread, Wheat Soup with Brian Stockton, and Parable. He is currently working on a film entitled Life is like Lint.*

### **HEARTLINE**

**Will Dixon / Angelos Hatzitolios**

16 minutes, Color, 1987

A late night radio talk show host excels at advising the love-struck and confused. But who counsils the counsellor when romance complicates his life?

*Will has also produced For Whom The Bell Rings and has directed the Gemini award winning television drama, The Garden. He is a partner with in Heartland Motion Pictures in Regina.*

*Angelos - see Hunting Excursion.*



Still for Heartline.

### **MIRRORED HOMESCAPES**

**Roy Cross**

18 minutes, Color, 1992

"An hallucinatory montage of Saskatchewan landscapes, this film is about patterns - patterns in nature, the patterns that the brain imposes on nature. Patterns inherent in nature become the vibrations of mind and body."

Bruce McDonald, STORYBOARD Vol.6 #3

*Roy has been involved with the Filmpool as a Board member and on the Programming Committee. He was also the Production Coordinator for three years. Through the Looking was his first film with the Filmpool. He now lives in Banff and is working on his film shadesong.*





Still for Mirrored Homescapes

**ICAN'T GO HOME**

**Gerald Saul**

1 minute, Color, 1987

Indecision and external pressures come to boil within the filmmaker in this exertive and jarring film experience.

*See GerFilm II*



Still for I Can't Go Home

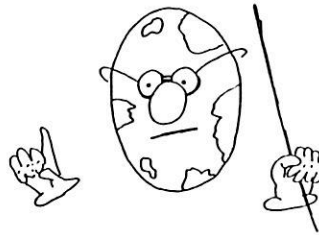
**DR. WATERMELLON & HIS ORCHAstra**

**Gerald Saul**

6 minutes, Color, 1989

Starting with a handful of doodles on paper scraps and napkins the filmmaker created what is, on one level, a straight forward narrative. The film also externalizes the filmmakers confusion and conflict concerning artistic integrity versus the desire, need and dependency (slavery) on money.

*See GerFilm II*



Still for Dr. Watermellon and his Orchastra

**THE BALLAD OF DON QUINN**

**Mark Wihak**

28 minutes, B & W, 1992

This film tells the story of southern Saskatchewan's original punk rocker, Don Quinn, and his attempts to resurrect his late, unlamented band - The Spontaneous Abortions.

The film is set in 1990, a time of expanding trouser cuffs, extended dance mixes and Vanilla Ice movies. Don Quinn stands alone fighting for 7" vinyl, ripped leather and public vomiting.

It's a lonely fight.

*Terra Incognita was Mark's first film with the FilmPool. He has been an active member, serving on the Programming committee. Mark is pursuing his masters at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec and producing his next film,*

*In the Land of Cain.*

*See photo - over at top*