

2016 GSA Tour Descriptions

The Saskatchewan Connection - 2 hours, 19 minutes, 13 seconds

7 Minutes – 7m 07sec

A young, hard-working Cree student named Marie leaves the library and uses the short seven-minute walk home to plan out her next day. She doesn't know that a man is following her the entire time, trying to get her in his van. 7 Minutes is a re-enactment of what happened in that short period of time, told by the real Marie. In her audio interview, she says she is lucky to be able to tell her story because it could have been much worse, as the realities of missing and murdered Indigenous women crisis are now in people's minds. The film's final sequence features Marie continuing back to school, mindful of how some men perceive Indigenous women, and knowing that her aggressor is a fellow student.

ASSINI – 12m 43s

ASSINI is the story of a little girl whose world is turned upside down and changed forever when she finds out she's an Indian in the 70's when Westerns informed her world and John Wayne is the hero.

BAM – 6m 01s

BAM is a story of rage. In a dense inner city haunted by primordial gods, an unassuming young boxer struggles to understand the disturbing consequences of his explosive temper. A dark, urban soundtrack and gritty, hand-drawn animation paint a brutal portrait of a classical hero floundering in a contemporary world.

Invisible Wall – 30m 06s

From language barriers to day-to-day struggles, The Invisible Wall showcases the difficulties of being a new Canadian in Regina.

Motus – 12m 58s

A visual exploration of the landscape and unique identity of southern Saskatchewan.

Officer 332 – 22m 50s

Twenty-four years after the freezing death of Neil Stonechild, disgraced police officer Larry Hartwig is obsessed with vindicating his reputation.

A Chance to Speak – 36m

A Chance to Speak allows individuals who live in poverty in Saskatoon to tell their stories and experiences. From homelessness, to gang violence and the sexual exploitation of children in the city of Saskatoon.

SCYAP Urban Canvas XI – 11m 28s

The Saskatoon Core Youth Art Program (SCYAP) uses art and mentorship to bring youth at risk into a more positive and constructive way of life. Urban Canvas is a ground-breaking program offering personal development and job training to help youth build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

Multicultural – 2 hours, 28 minutes, 21 seconds

Sponsored by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan

Driving With Selvi – 52m 18s

Selvi, like so many girls living in India, grows up struggling with gender violence and poverty. One day in deep despair, she decides to escape, and goes on to become South India's first female taxi driver. We first meet Selvi at a girls' shelter in 2004 – timid, soft-spoken, a fresh runaway from a difficult life. Over a ten-year journey, we see a remarkable transformation as Selvi finds her voice and defies all expectations.

Doukhobors and the Sons of Freedom – 11m 28s

The history of the "Spirit Wrestlers", the Doukhobors who fled persecution in Russia to come to Canada. The historic site at Blaine Lake keeps the memory and traditions of these resilient settlers alive.

The Foreigner – 10m 30s

One cold November night, a man of few words stumbles across a tropical underground party that forever changes his perception of home. A poetic portrait of Toronto's Brazilian music scene, The Foreigner is a short film about the magical worlds that radiate behind our city's walls.

Holodomor: Voices of Survivors – 29m 29s

Survivors recount the horrors of living through the little known Ukrainian Famine/Genocide, engineered by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in 1932-33. Over five million people died, as brigades forcibly confiscated all livestock, grain and foodstuffs; the Ukrainian elite was decimated and hundreds of thousands who opposed collectivization were sent to the Gulag while the world turned a blind eye.

Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr – 44m 36s

Omar Khadr: child soldier or unrepentant terrorist? The 28-year-old Canadian has been a polarizing figure since he was 15. In 2002, Khadr was captured by Americans in Afghanistan and charged with war crimes. This documentary delivers an intimate portrait of how a teenager from a Toronto suburb became the center of one of the first U.S. war crimes trial since the prosecution of Nazi commanders in the 1940s.

Arts and Culture - 1 hour, 56 minutes, 31 seconds

Conquering Beauty: The Life and Works of Malcom Forsyth – 45m 58s

Composer Malcolm Forsyth came to Canada from South Africa in 1968 and rose to become one of Canada's leading classical music composers. 'A Ballad of Canada', premiered weeks before he died is a Canadian masterpiece. This documentary explores his life, his struggles with his relationship with his daughter, and his tremendous impact on Canadian music.

The Complete Works – 41m 08s

Fifteen years in the making, The Complete Works adapts the work of internationally acclaimed avant-garde poet bpNichol. It uses Nichol's poetic methods on Nichol himself to create a film that is subversive, entertaining and visually arresting.

Andrew Milne Dreams of Machines – 29m 25s

A visually striking and fast-paced portrait of Winnipeg artist and designer Andrew Milne, who has a penchant for building BIG. From his giant camera to three flashy Zoetropes he puts on display, Milne is seen as an obsessive, but clear-minded artist whose elaborate creations are as much a work of art in themselves as the images they create.

Aboriginal – 2 hours, 57 minutes, 31 seconds

Sponsored by the Painted Hand Community Development Corporation

Wounded Healer – The Roland Vandal Story – 44m 52s

The remarkable transformation of Roland Vandal from struggling drug addict to one of Manitoba's top community leaders.

7 Minutes – 7m 07sec

A young, hard-working Cree student named Marie leaves the library and uses the short seven-minute walk home to plan out her next day. She doesn't know that a man is following her the entire time, trying to get her in his van. 7 Minutes is a re-enactment of what happened in that short period of time, told by the real Marie. In her audio interview, she says she is lucky to be able to tell her story because it could

have been much worse, as the realities of missing and murdered Indigenous women crisis are now in people's minds. The film's final sequence features Marie continuing back to school, mindful of how some men perceive Indigenous women, and knowing that her aggressor is a fellow student.

ASSINI – 12m 43s

ASSINI is the story of a little girl whose world is turned upside down and changed forever when she finds out she's an Indian in the 70's when Westerns informed her world and John Wayne is the hero.

Sex Spirit Strength – 45m 04s

Sex Spirit Strength follows Michael and Jack, two brave young Indigenous men, as they shed the stigma and shame associated with their sexual health and gender identity in order to make a positive difference in their communities.

The Oka Legacy – 44m 06s

The Oka Crisis Legacy is a POV documentary that explores how the Oka Crisis has transformed contemporary Indigenous identity in Canada.

The Red Path – 15m 31s

Red Path follows Tony Chachai, a young Aboriginal man whose moving journey in search of his identity brings him closer to his family and community. Through his story, filmmaker Thérèse Ottawa touches on issues related to culture, heritage, and the transmission of knowledge in an Atikamekw community.

Mia' – 8m 08s

Transformed into a salmon, an Indigenous street artist travels through decayed urban landscapes to the forests of long ago, in this sublime mixed animation.

LGBTQ – 1 hour, 43 minutes, 34 seconds

Sex Spirit Strength – 45m 04s

Sex Spirit Strength follows Michael and Jack, two brave young Indigenous men, as they shed the stigma and shame associated with their sexual health and gender identity in order to make a positive difference in their communities.

Transforming Gender – 43m 30s

We live in a society defined by the always-spreading embrace of minority or disenfranchised groups. The last 100 years have seen one excluded group after another pursue equality in the public square. Immigrants, women, blacks, gays and lesbians, one by one these groups permanently shifted the balance of power, overhauled our values—and redefined the meaning of normal.

Benjamin – 15m 00s

Sixth months into a dual surrogacy between two gay couples, baby Maya dies in utero, fracturing the idealistic arrangement and backing the four friends into an impossible decision.

Sport – 1 hour, 36 minutes, 13 seconds

Sticks and Stones – 44m 07s

Sticks and Stones: The Battle for the Soul of Curling explores the controversies and personalities behind the transformation of curling from a weekend pastime into an Olympic Medal Sport. Featuring appearances by Russ Howard, Jennifer Jones, Ed Werenich and Warren Hansen, Sticks and Stones explores this colorful battle for the soul of curling. A battle that's still going on today.

Dark Room – 52m 06s

A neglected orphan on the Arctic tundra is adopted by a polar bear elder. Under the bear's guidance, the little orphan learns the skills he will need to survive and provide for himself.

Environment – 1 hour, 30 minutes, 9 seconds

Carface – 4m 45s

A scathing satire of the power of Big Oil, Carface is musical comedy on a grand scale, with a choir of cars singing and dancing while industrial civilization imperils the planet. A spectacular, fast-moving caricature by filmmaker and cartoonist Claude Cloutier.

Shadow of a Giant – 30m 24s

Shadow of a Giant examines one of Canada's largest environmental disasters, Yellowknife's Giant Mine, through the community members who live on top of it, as they re-imagine a brighter future for the toxic legacy.

Scout & the Gumboot Kids – 5m

Scout & The Gumboot Kids is a hybrid animated and live-action television series that inspires pre-school aged children and their families to mindfully explore nature. The series airs weekday mornings on Kids' CBC.

Drive for Free 2 – The Revolution Continues – 50m

Drive For Free 2 is the latest from Bruce Little and Noah Erenberg in their ongoing quest to drive for free. Their search for cheaper, cleaner alternative fuels uncovers a source of power as old as the car itself, that provides the least expensive and most environmentally sound way to drive.

Health – 2 hours, 29 minutes, 57 seconds

My Heart Attack – 13m 44s

The true story of a “nice Jewish boy with Buddhist inclinations” who suffers a heart attack. At the crossroads of documentary and animation, Sheldon Cohen’s film combines wry humour and philosophical musings to show that, sometimes, what feels like the end is really only just the beginning.

Wasted – 44m 05sec

A filmmaker sets out to follow her life partner - an alcoholic 5 years sober - on a search for the best new evidence-based addiction treatments. But just as filming begins, he drinks again - and a theoretical journey becomes very real and deeply personal.

A Right to Eat – 48m 46s

A Right to Eat' follows regular families, living in Northern Manitoba, in their fight to put healthy food on the table. A deeply intimate look at the frightening realities of food insecurity as faced by two of Canada’s most isolated northern First Nation communities and their courageous battle against hunger, disease and dependency.

The Death Debate – 43m 22s

"The Death Debate" is a documentary about the small group of people who changed the laws around physician assisted-dying in Canada. The film chronicles the history of the issue, starting in 1993 when Sue Rodriguez challenged the law, through to the historic Supreme Court of Canada decision of 2015.

Comedy – 57 minutes, 35 seconds

I Wrecked My House – 22m 03s

You need a licence to drive a car but you don’t need a licence to own a home! I Wrecked My House is a renovation series that features homeowners who have literally wrecked their houses and need to be rescued. Each episode comedian Steve Patterson uncovers outrageous home repairs and then expert renovators (“unwreckers”) come in to fix the unhandiwork.

Loss of Contact – 4m 38sec

When the Racewalking champion bows out of competition due to injury, the rest of the field will stop at nothing for a taste of glory.

Boy Toys – 6m 21sec

Two beautiful but vane men must survive and escape their cheerful hell as they are tormented by unseen overlord.

Queeny – 11m 41s

Rob and Maggie are lifelong friends. Rob is unlucky in his romantic pursuits with other girls, while Maggie seeks to turn their friendship into something more. However Rob misunderstands Maggie's advances, and falls in love with a painting of Queen Elizabeth.

28 Geeks Later – 5m

Jonah and Ray are dead. But that has done nothing to stop them from still being socially awkward.

Tortellini – 7m 52s

A team of film students and graduates mould a character to fit a variety of audio-visual formats – much to the man's dismay.

Issues – 2 hours, 57 minutes, 31 seconds

The Death Debate – 43m 22s

"The Death Debate" is a documentary about the small group of people who changed the laws around physician assisted-dying in Canada. The film chronicles the history of the issue, starting in 1993 when Sue Rodriguez challenged the law, through to the historic Supreme Court of Canada decision of 2015.

Sex Spirit Strength – 45m 04s

Sex Spirit Strength follows Michael and Jack, two brave young Indigenous men, as they shed the stigma and shame associated with their sexual health and gender identity in order to make a positive difference in their communities.

7 Minutes – 7m 07sec

A young, hard-working Cree student named Marie leaves the library and uses the short seven-minute walk home to plan out her next day. She doesn't know that a man is following her the entire time, trying to get her in his van. 7 Minutes is a re-enactment of what happened in that short period of time, told by the real Marie. In her audio interview, she says she is lucky to be able to tell her story because it could have been much worse, as the realities of missing and murdered Indigenous women crisis are now in people's minds. The film's final sequence features Marie continuing back to school, mindful of how some men perceive Indigenous women, and knowing that her aggressor is a fellow student.