



News Release

“Magnetic Reconnection” Wins The 2013 Edmonton Film Prize.

EDMONTON – September 26, 2013 ... The second annual Edmonton Film Prize was awarded Thursday to Kyle Armstrong of Dropper59 Productions for his film “Magnetic Reconnection”.

The film is “a short documentary contrasting the Northern Lights with decaying manmade debris surrounding the northern town of Churchill, Manitoba,” says the filmmaker. Armstrong’s team included music, science and technology experts, specializing in Northern Lights and IMAX. It has been screened more than 100 times at theatres and festivals around the world.

“Its innovative technical approach and ambitious, international collaborations caught our eye,” said this year’s Film Prize jury. “Its most compelling strength was thematic. ‘Magnetic Reconnection’ tackles a timely and specifically northern problem: the futility of human effort and the irresistible power of nature. Armstrong, in an understated and metaphorical way, is telling his audience that modernization can go in reverse, that progress can become regress. To the filmmaker’s credit, the film pushes us to confront this idea; we should get used to it.”

Eleven films were nominated for the Edmonton Film Prize.

While looking for technical and narrative strength, the jury also sought a unique filmmaking voice. “We were all impressed with the dedication and talent of the nominated Edmonton filmmakers,” the jury said. “Our final choice, showed the courage to innovate within the medium, to give an audience images never seen before, and to ambitiously raise ideas that challenge and unsettle the viewer.”

The Edmonton Film Prize is funded by the Edmonton Arts Council and was introduced last year, with partner, the Edmonton Film Commission. It includes a \$10,000 award to the winning Edmonton filmmaker.

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This year's entries (in alphabetical order) are:

Battle Earth – Nominee: Aaron Kurmey

A squad of Canadian soldiers survive a helicopter crash deep behind enemy lines during an alien invasion of Earth – now they have to survive the night.

Gently Whispering The Circle Back – Nominee: Beth Wishart MacKenzie

Through the voices of survivors and the children of survivors we learn of different pathways to “healing” within the Indigenous community, a people traumatized by Canada’s Indian Residential School system.

I Think I Do – Nominee: Dylan Pearce

I Think I Do is a romantic dramedy about relationships, commitment, the importance of family and the hard learned lesson that try as we might, life simply does not go as planned.

Leviticus – Nominee: Daniel Foreman

A political satire about a Senator running for President, basing his platform on his opposition to same sex marriage. Complications arise as he suspects his mistress of cheating on him.

Magnetic Reconnection – Nominee: Kyle Armstrong

Magnetic Reconnection is a short documentary film contrasting the Northern Lights with decaying manmade debris surrounding the northern town of Churchill, Manitoba. The film touches on the regenerative power of nature and the futility of mankind’s struggle against natural processes of decay.

Maud Mary & The Titanic – Nominee: Geraldine Carr

Maud Mary & The Titanic – a sweet, short film about a late, great lady who missed the boat and sailed into history.

Nature’s Invitation – Nominee: Brandy Yanchyk

Nature’s Invitation is a documentary about Canada’s quest to get new immigrants in touch with nature. It also explores the consequences of a life devoid of nature.

Oil Calling – Nominee: Brandy Yanchyk

Oil Calling is a documentary about new immigrants and Canada’s oil patch.

The Last Video Store – Nominee: Tim Rutherford

This is the tale of what will come to pass when evil Digital forces enlist monsters to obliterate one man, his video store, and a new best friend.

Unclaimed – Nominee: Michael Jorgensen

A war torn veteran of the Vietnam War discovers a man in Southeast Asia claiming to be an American MIA and struggles to reunite the lost soldier with his family.

Walk In The Park – Nominee: Carlo Ghioni

In a polluted modern town, an Old Lady rescues herself from a life of loneliness – gaining over young friends to support her way of living and dreams.

****Links to trailers can be found on www.filminedmonton.ca***