



Ascent Films Inc.  
Phone: 250-212-1435  
[info@ascentfilms.com](mailto:info@ascentfilms.com)

## "A River Film" Film Festivals Summary Report

### Overview

A major part of the distribution efforts for "A River Film", a 38-minute documentary film produced by Kelowna-based Ascent Films Inc. for the International Joint Commission in association with the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board, was its entry into film festivals. The "festival circuit" is an important part of any film's distribution efforts as it provides a wide reaching opportunities for accessing audiences that would otherwise not be able to see the film. Therefore, festival submissions were selected early on as one of the key pillars in the distribution strategy for "A River Film".

### Selection Criteria

The selection of suitable festivals was made on the basis of relativity, proximity and practicality (expense of submission). Upon its completion and following a thorough analysis of available film festivals, the film was submitted to the total of **44 international film festivals**.

Festivals that focus on environmental, water, fisheries, nature conservancy, social justice, or similar issues were a priority and therefore were targeted first, followed by festivals geographically located in the regions of north-western United States and Canada, and along the greater Columbia River basin. Last tier of selected festivals were various international documentary festivals that had inexpensive entry fees, or for which submission was free.

From the total number of submissions, the film was selected and screened in **11 international festivals**. As of December 2018, there is still one remaining pending festival (Portland International Film Festival), for which the film is still in consideration.

### The Festival Submission Results

Following screenings at the accepted film festivals, the results were publicly announced via festival websites, Film Freeway website and by direct emails or phone calls to our office. Together with the announcements, we have also received the graphics and the approvals for *festival laurels* to be included in the film's marketing materials (such as posters, brochures, and on-line video thumbnails).

The film has won the following **5 awards**:

- Finalist** - Zensa Media International Film Festival in Montreal, Canada.
- Winner** - Docs Without Borders Film Festival: Winner, **Award of Excellence, Cinematography**
- Winner** - Docs Without Borders Film Festival: Winner, **Award of Excellence, Narration**
- Winner** - The Impact DOCS Awards, Winner, **Award of Excellence**
- Winner** - Oregon International Film Awards, **Platinum Award**

## Detailed Overview of Festivals that Screened the Film

### **Directors Circle Festival of Shorts Erie, Pennsylvania, USA**

The Directors Circle Festival of Shorts is internationally recognized as a premiere showcase for creative, inspiring, and influential films of all types. Bold visions, adventurous ideas, skillfully crafted and artistically inspired projects are the kinds of films the festival looks for and screens.

The festival reaches new heights internationally for independent film festivals presenting the submitted films in a way unlike any other film festival in the world; via an online screening platform and theater system. Viewing interactively online allows independent filmmakers and fans to take pleasure in the films worldwide on the go, from work and from the comfort of their own homes.

### **Docs Without Borders Film Festival Nassau, Delaware, USA**

Docs Without Borders Film Festival is a festival dedicated to documentaries and docu-dramas. The festival focuses on unique documentary categories: Environmental, Human Spirit, Social Issues, Wildlife, Docu-drama shorts, and Docu-drama features. With only documentaries in the competition, being screened and winning one of the festival's awards is a highly coveted and valued outcome.

### **Show Me Justice Film Festival Warrensburg, Missouri, USA**

Show Me Justice Film Festival strives to raise awareness about social justice. Through the powerful medium of film, the festival's goal is to inspire individuals and communities toward collective action against social injustices such as racism, sexism, poverty, substance abuse, environmental degradation, and other ills that infiltrate society and suppress democratic movements throughout the world.

### **The Impact DOCS Awards La Jolla, California, USA**

The festival's mission is to support and promote filmmakers who are making a difference in the critical issues of our times through producing impactful documentaries...or making contributions to the world through enlightening and entertaining documentary films.

The goal of Impact DOCS is to promote filmmakers of all backgrounds and experience levels – to ignite social change and to support filmmakers' careers in meaningful filmmaking. The power of film to IMPACT the world is immense: and documentary filmmakers are often on the leading edge of global change by shifting perceptions, behavior, and habits of the viewers.

### **Wenatchee Valley Environmental Film Series Wenatchee, Washington, USA**

The mission of Wenatchee Valley Museum in running their film series is to connect the viewers with the region's unique heritage through creative programs, exhibits, and publications. It's important to tell the story of the people who built local communities: their hopes and dreams, failures and successes, and the forces that shaped them. And, of course, it's also important to foster an appreciation for the preservation and celebration of our collective community memory.

**Metamora Film Festival  
West Linn, Oregon, USA**

Metamora Film Festival is held 3x a year: spring, summer, and fall. The festival showcases independent film from all over the world. Seasoned, as well as indie filmmakers are encouraged to submit their inspiring, thought-provoking, and educational works. Dramas, documentaries, shorts, student films, social justice, human rights, spiritual...these are just a few examples of genres presented at the Metamora Film Festival.

**Zensa Media International Film Festival  
Montreal, Québec, Canada**

Zensa Media International Film Festival prides itself on promoting local and international talent. The festival features short films that inspire, educate, and entertain general audiences. Based in the Québec cosmopolitan metropolis, the festival attracts hundreds of people looking for high quality thought-provoking films.

**World Community Film Fest Kelowna  
Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada**

The festival has been running for years as an element of the World Development Society. The Courtenay, BC-based festival organizing committee gleans a selection of well-made documentary films, which tell memorable stories about social justice and the environment. This group of films then travels to other communities across BC and Canada. The Kelowna organizing committee builds upon that slate of documentaries, adding a small selection of films of local (and global!) interest.

**Oregon Coast Film Festival  
Coos Bay, Oregon, USA**

The Oregon Coast Film Festival is an exhibition of art and artists. Considered submissions into the film festival have a connection to the people, culture, environment, landscape, and artists of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and the western oceans.

**Santa Fe Film Festival  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA**

The Santa Fe Film Festival is a five-day celebration of the best in cinematic arts. It is the longest running film festival in New Mexico, with a rich history of amazing films and participants. Santa Fe and New Mexico are now a hub for filmmaking - from small budget indies to huge productions. Santa Fe itself has been designated a UNESCO creative city. The Santa Fe Film Festival is different in its willingness to embrace the innovative, courageous, and unique to tell a story in a one of a kind location. Embracing the full spectrum of cinematic arts, the Santa Fe Film Festival extends beyond screenings in theaters to panels, workshops, art exhibitions, and fabulous networking parties.

**Oregon International Film Awards  
On-line, Oregon, USA**

The Oregon International Film Awards®, among Oregon's most prestigious film honors, are presented annually to independent filmmakers and screenwriters from around the world who produce unique and compelling films and screenplays in several competition categories. The Oregon International Film Awards recognizes the very best in contemporary domestic and international independent cinema and screenwriting.

The Oregon International Film Awards serves as a showcase to honor and celebrate the brightest talent in the global filmmaking community while expanding both the audience and appetite for independent film in the state of Oregon. The Oregon International Film Awards believes that independent films broaden the palette of cinema, seeding the global culture with new ideas, kindling awareness, and fostering activism. The Oregon International Film Awards is a competitive event. All films and screenplays submitted to the competition will compete for the prestigious Oregon International Film Awards across several categories and tiers.

## Complete Festival Submission and Selection Details

The spreadsheet below provides detailed information on which festivals screened the film, locations, the event dates, as well as at which festivals the film was shown and what awards it received.

NAME	LOCATION	EVENT DATES	ACCEPTANCE / NOTIFICATION DATE	WIN / NOTES
Magbas Entertainment North American Film Festival	Eugene, OR	February 28, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Los Angeles Short Film Festival	LA, CA	March 10, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Seattle Transmedia & Independent Film Festival	Seattle, WA	July 26, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
DOXA Documentary Film Festival	Vancouver, BC	May 3, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Directors Circle Festival of Shorts	Airy, PA	November 2, 2017	<b>SELECTED</b>	
AgriCulture Film Festival	Rome, Italy	December 9, 2017	NOT SELECTED	
San Mauro Film Festival	Turin, Italy	May 23, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Nickel Independent Film Festival	St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	June 19, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Canada International Film Festival	Vancouver, BC	April 16, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival	Sebastopol, CA	March 22, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Red Rock Film Festival	Festival City, UT	November: 11, 2017	NOT SELECTED	
Toronto Lift-Off Film Festival	Toronto, ON	July 16, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival	Missoula, MO	February 16, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Portland Film Festival	Portland, OR	October 30, 2017	NOT SELECTED	
Canada Independant Film Festival	Montreal QC	January 26, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Aspen Shortsfest	Aspen, CO	April 3 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Docs Without Borders Film Festival	On-line	April 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	<b>WINNER: AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AND WINNER: CINEMATOGRAPHY AND NARRATION</b>
Cinema Verde Environmental Film and Arts Festival	Gainesville, FL	February 9th 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Winter Film Award Indie Film Festivals	New York, NY	February 22nd 2018	NOT SELECTED	
San Francisco Documentary Festival	San Francisco, CA	May 31st 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Environmental Film Festival at Yale (EFFY)	New Haven, CT	April 4th 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital	Washington, DC	March 15 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Show me Justice Film Festival	Warrensburg, MO	April 4th, 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	

EarthX	Dallas, TX	April 18th 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Oregon Independent Film Festival	Portland / Eugene / Bend, OR	September 14, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
The Impact DOCS Awards	La Jolla, CA	January 30th, 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	<b>WINNER - AWARD OF EXCELLENCE</b>
Wenatchee Valley Environmental Film Series	Wenatchee, WA	March 13, 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	
Oregon International Film Awards	Portland / Eugene / Bend, OR	November 1, 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	<b>WINNER - PLATINUM AWARD</b>
Metamora Film Festival	Vancouver, WA	December 20, 2017	<b>SELECTED</b>	
NorthWestFest	Edmonton, AB	May 3-13, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Oregon Documentary Film Festival	Wilsonville, OR	May 11, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Water Docs Film Festival	Toronto, ON	January 19, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Philadelphia Environmental Film Festival	Philadelphia, PA	April 6, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
The Earth Day Film Festival	San Francisco, CA	April 20, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Zensa Media International Film Festival	Montreal, QC	March 16, 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	<b>FESTIVAL FINALIST</b>
Docs Film Fest	Orem, UT	September 29, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Atlanta Docufest	Atlanta, GA	September 13, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
MFDF Ji.hlava 2018	Jihlava, Czech Republic	October 25-30,2018	NOT SELECTED	
World Community Film Fest Kelowna	Kelowna, BC	March 3, 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	
Portland EcoFilm Festival	Portland, OR	September 27 – 30, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
2018 Oregon Coast Film Festival	Coos Bay, OR	October 5, 2018	<b>SELECTED</b>	
45th Northwest Filmmakers' Festival	Portland, OR	October 1, 2018	NOT SELECTED	
Portland International Film Festival	Portland, OR	March 7, 2019	January18, 2019	
Santa Fe Film Festival	Santa Fe, NM	February 10, 2019	<b>SELECTED</b>	Accepted for Native American Showcase trailer screening