

THE CIVIC SPOTLIGHT

MARCH TO MAY 2026

VOL. 02



THE SMALLEST CINEMA IN THE WORLD?

Nelson might be closer than you think.



OSCAR GOLD THIS MARCH



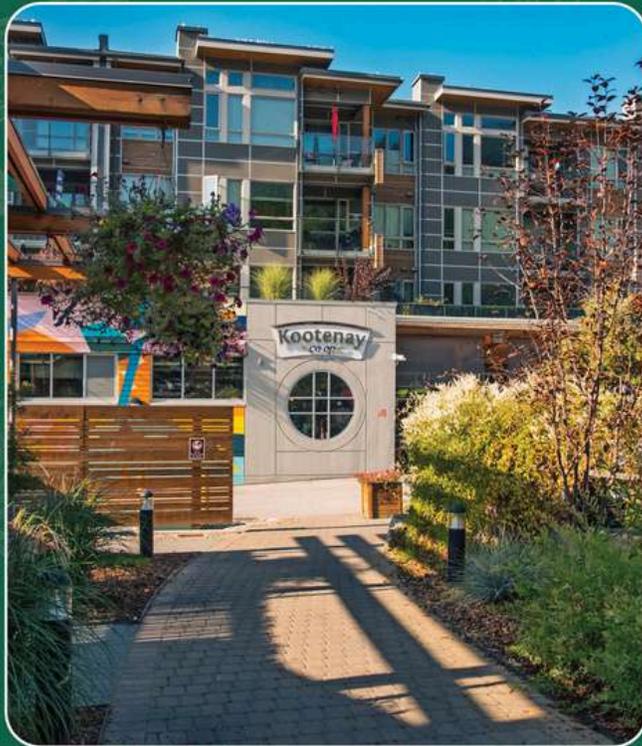
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THE CIVIC SPOTLIGHT

PUBLISHED BY NELSON CIVIC THEATRE SOCIETY

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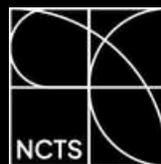
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Welcome

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you live in Nelson, you know how this town works. Shops don't always open right on time, the line moves at the pace of however well the barista knows the person ordering, and a quick walk down Baker Street usually turns into three conversations with people you didn't expect to see. Things don't always move fast here, and that's part of the point.

That same rhythm runs through these pages. You'll meet people who are making things, organizing things, and keeping culture alive in ways that don't depend on grand announcements.

You'll see pieces of the Civic story as it exists right now. We didn't make this magazine to mark a milestone or to say "just wait." We made it because there's value in paying attention to what's already here.

Thanks for picking it up, for reading along, and for being part of the community that makes this place what it is.

Sincerely,

The NCTS Team

COMMUNITY WORDS

"The Civic is so much more than our only theatre in Nelson — it's a place where people come together in person, something that feels especially meaningful in today's tech-driven world. This is one of the few art deco buildings in Nelson, harkening back to a time when connection and community truly mattered. I'm looking forward to feeling the energy that space exudes once again."

If you're curious about what's going on, you're always welcome to stop by and ask. The doors at Reo's might be locked some days, but ...a hard knock usually does the trick.

You can also follow along for updates, share these stories, and tell us what you think.

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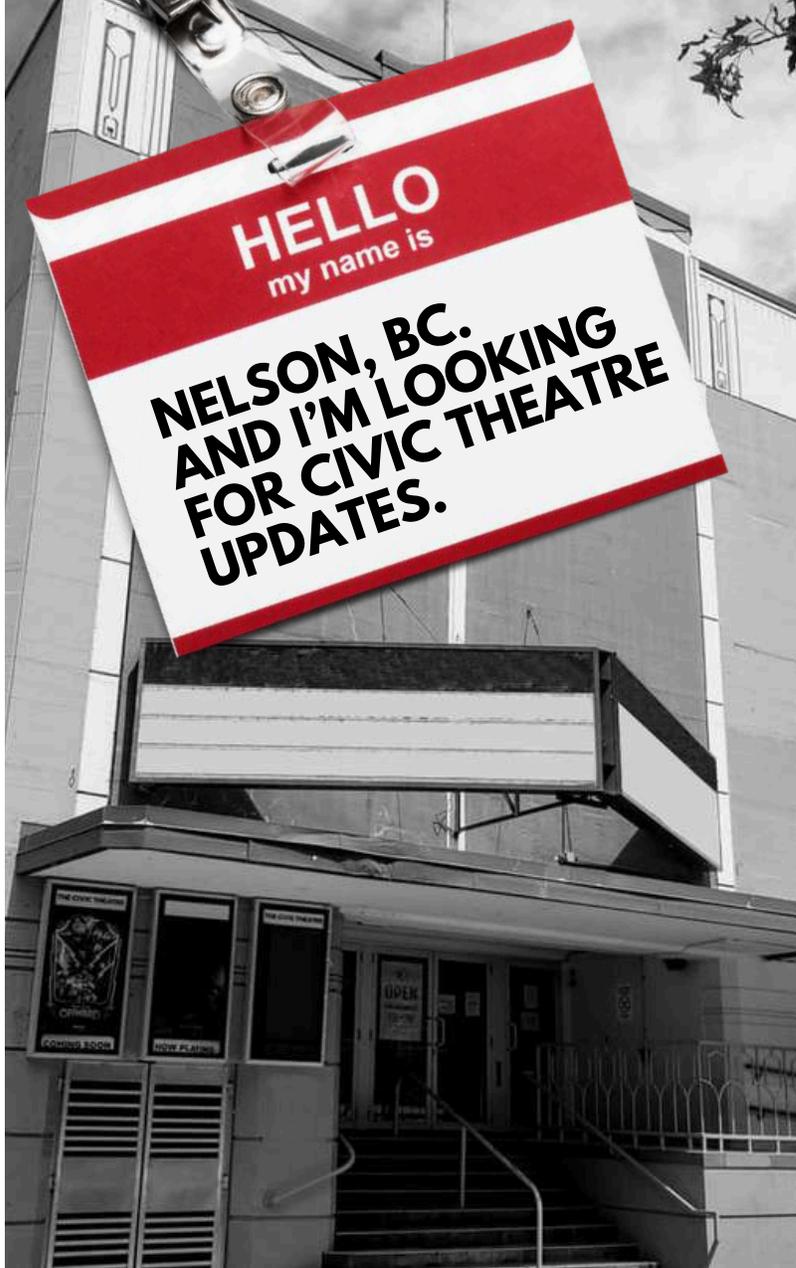
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The people and partners who make this work possible.

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Resilience, joy, and the work of gathering.





PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

Each issue, we share a quick snapshot of where the Civic redevelopment stands; what's been secured, what's moved forward, and what comes next.

The architectural plans are complete, accessibility certification is secured, and a fixed-price construction contract is in place. This project is shovel-ready and ready for its final partners.



WHAT WE'VE SECURED

- Interior design plans completed with Cover Architectural Collaborative (shared in our last issue!)
- Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) achieved for the renewed Civic Theatre design
- Stipulated sum construction contract received
- Over \$4 million secured toward the project

WHAT'S CHANGED SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

- Confirmed Class A construction plan received from our construction management team, providing cost certainty in today's market.
- Funding conversations are advancing toward committed partnership.
- Construction sequencing prioritizes accessibility upgrades, lobby improvements, washrooms, and auditorium division.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Our total fundraising goal is **\$7 million**.

\$4 million has been secured

\$1 million is currently in active funding discussions

\$2 million remains to be raised through community support, sponsorships, and partnerships

We are closer than ever, and the final stretch is within reach!

JOIN US IN CLOSING THE FINAL \$2 MILLION THROUGH NAMING OPPORTUNITIES, MAJOR GIFTS, SPONSORSHIP, OR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT.



WHAT'S NEXT:

- Major funding announcements as commitments are finalized
- Groundbreaking ceremony
- Interior construction begins: lobby, accessible washrooms, and auditorium division
- Focused fundraising to close the final \$2 million through naming opportunities, major gifts, and corporate partnerships



SPENDING TIME KILLING TIME & MAKING TIME

BY ELEANOR STACEY

I've been thinking a great deal about how we relate to time. Perhaps that's inevitable when a building goes quiet for as long as ours has. Over the past two years, I've found myself noticing what continues without a theatre and what doesn't, and how differently we move through our days when shared spaces pause.

I'm not speaking about time in abstract terms. I mean it in the most ordinary way: how we use it, how we lose it, and how those things sum up at the end of the day. My observation is that there is a distinct difference between spending time, killing time, and making time.

SPENDING TIME

We spend time when we open a streaming platform and let something play while we tidy the kitchen or half-answer emails. There's nothing inherently wrong with that. Some extraordinary storytelling has emerged through streaming, and access to film and television has never been broader.

Streaming can also be deeply communal. Families commit to series together, friends plan weekly episodes, couples debate plot twists and conversations carry into daily life.

But streaming platforms are built around personalization. The more we watch, the more they feed us what we already seem to prefer. We are rarely asked to sit with something outside our habits unless we actively seek it.

You like police dramas? Here are 40 more.

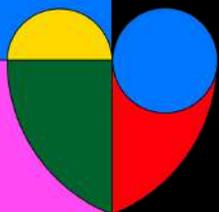
KILLING TIME

Waiting has become almost intolerable. A few empty minutes and we instinctively reach for our phones, turning small pockets of stillness into something to fill, something to scroll, something to kill.

Then there's the scroll itself. Short-form video is designed for movement. Each swipe holds the promise of something new, funny, surprising, or oddly compelling. We often feel we are on the cusp of learning something.

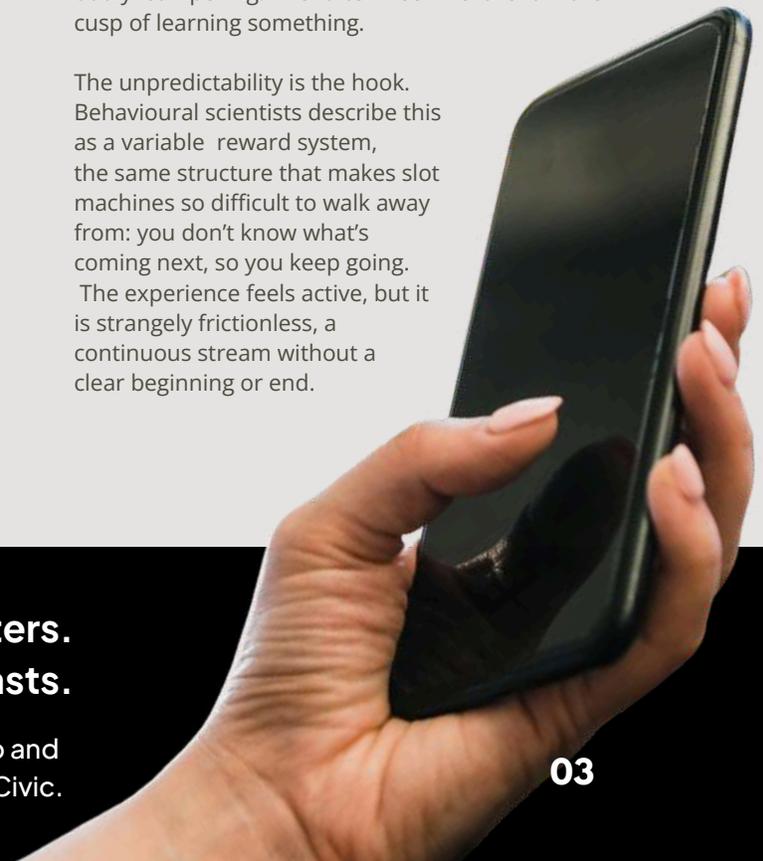
The unpredictability is the hook. Behavioural scientists describe this as a variable reward system, the same structure that makes slot machines so difficult to walk away from: you don't know what's coming next, so you keep going.

The experience feels active, but it is strangely frictionless, a continuous stream without a clear beginning or end.



**Membership that matters.
Community that lasts.**

Renew your NCTS membership and help write the next chapter for The Civic.



Like streaming, these feeds learn our preferences and gradually narrow what we see. We are less often surprised and more frequently reinforced in what we already enjoy. Scrolling is not inherently negative. Most of us do it. But it rarely offers closure. There is no shared ending, no sustained narrative that gathers meaning.

Time passes, but it does not accumulate. That is what I mean by killing time. The hour may be enjoyable, but little of it stays with us.

“EVEN WHEN WE ATTEND ALONE, WE ARE PART OF SOMETHING COLLECTIVE.”

MAKING TIME

Making time is different. It does not happen accidentally.

It requires a decision. To leave the house. To meet someone. To sit down and stay.

Cinema, by contrast, is finite. The experience has edges, and I am convinced that this structure matters more than we think.

Psychologists often describe the importance of “closure” in memory formation, the way clearly bounded experiences imprint more deeply. An evening at the cinema has a beginning, middle, and end. It occupies a defined space in time.

I’ve found this to be true even when bringing a film home from Reo’s Video. Compared to watching the same film through streaming, the experience feels different. Streaming, especially under algorithmic flow, has little containment, and containment gives shared experiences their weight. Choosing to see a film in a cinema asks something different of us.

Seeing a movie in the theatre requires intention. You check showtimes. You leave the house. You meet a friend and sit in a room with others who have entered into an unspoken agreement to give their attention to the same story.

There’s something powerful about a room where everyone gasps at the same moment, or laughter builds in waves across the space. There’s something grounding about shared silence, collective tears, or vulnerability held together.

Our wellbeing is deeply tied to the quality of our relationships. Again and again, research on human happiness points to the same truth: connection matters. Cinema strengthens that connection. Streaming can do this too, but only when we are intentional about it. Cinema, on the other hand, is built for it.

Independent cinemas, especially in smaller communities like ours, are more than entertainment venues. With a wide variety of blockbusters, local films, festival events, and intergenerational audiences, they become shared ground. At the movies, we are not governed by an algorithm or alone with a screen. We are in community, even when we attend alone.

In a world that constantly competes for our attention, choosing to sit in the dark with others and give yourself to a story may be one of the most quietly radical things you can do. Perhaps also one of the most human.

See you at the movies.

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NCTS PROGRAMMING



March '26

SHOEBOX: Oscar nominees, international standouts, curated shorts, plus Maggie Gyllenhaal's *The Bride* and Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein*.

REO'S: In honour of Women's History Month, discover bold and groundbreaking women filmmakers on our feature wall.

March 14 *Civic Supreme: Table Tennis Fundraiser for NCTS*
March 15 *Oscar Livestream Red Carpet and Karaoke Party*



April '26

SHOEBOX: From *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* to moonwalking with *Michael Jackson*, April brings movement and music to the screen.

REO'S: In recognition of World Autism Day on April 2, explore our curated selection of films celebrating neurodiversity.

April 16 *Explore our CanFilmDay collection to celebrate National Canadian Film Day!*



May '26

SHOEBOX: May the Fourth be with you. Catch *The Mandalorian and Grogu*, Seth Rogen in *Animal Farm*, and more this May.

REO'S: In celebration of Asian Heritage Month, we're highlighting the depth and range of Asian and Asian diaspora cinema within the Reo's collection.

May 27 *"On Wednesdays We Wear Pink": A special screening of Mean Girls celebrating Black Productions' Mean Girls: The Musical at the Capitol (May 28-31).*

See what's playing at The Civic



Looking Forward

SHOEBOX & BEYOND: Indigenous festival programming returns in early June, featuring local, national and international Indigenous-made film and much more. Full program details coming soon.

June 5-8 *Indigenous Film & Arts Festival*



LOCAL LEGEND PICKS



Pizza Mike (Also known as Mike, Michael, or Garbs) earned his nickname while working at Thor's Pizza, and it stuck. Originally from Windsor, Ontario, he carries a deep love of '80s and '90s movies and TV wherever he goes. Mike considers himself a silly, weird guy who likes to cook, hang out by the fire and make people laugh. Around Nelson, you might know him from the pizza shop or as the MC at local burlesque shows. A business owner with his wife, proud dad of two, outdoor enthusiast, hand percussionist, and all-around community guy, Mike has called Nelson home for more than 20 years. He's honoured to be featured as a Local Legend and to celebrate the magic of going to the movies!



MARCH PICK

STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

As some of you may know, I'm a big Star Wars fan!! That's right, I love Star Wars, all of Star Wars, every little bit of it. But Empire Strikes Back is my favorite by far, and I think it fits for March because it's still winter (even if it doesn't feel like it) and it takes place on the snow covered planet of Hoth. This is my nostalgia that I want to share with all of you, a blast from the past when movies used real puppets and real film.

FEATURING PIZZA MIKE

Each issue, we feature someone who inspires our community and their three film picks. Want to suggest someone? Visit civictheatre.ca/contact



APRIL PICK

FOOTLOOSE

This is a silly comedy movie from the '90s that always makes me laugh, and in the world that we are living in, I think we need all the laughter we can get! It's ridiculous and I think it's funny, I hope you all like it!



MAY PICK

THE MUPPET MOVIE 1979

I absolutely love the Muppets and all that Jim Henson has created and inspired in movies and TV shows. When the Muppets started in 1976, they were a big hit and a huge success, but this is the movie that started it all. At least for me, it did! I picked this movie for the month of May because it's the start of spring really (I know it starts in March) but it still feels like winter in March. May is the start of warm spring weather, the start of consistent sunshine, the desire to go on roadtrips with good friends and good music. The Muppet Movie all starts off with the unlikely friendship between a frog and a bear driving and singing along a winding road across the county.

HOT TIP: ALL OF MIKE'S SELECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO RENT AT REO'S!

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT WITH

FIONA MORGAN



Those experiences stayed with her. So, when the theatre reopened years later, Fiona signed up immediately to volunteer. She wanted to help rebuild something that had shaped her childhood. And the free popcorn and movies was a BIG perk. But what's kept her coming back isn't just the films or Civic Spice. It's being a familiar face. Catching that excited glance from a child staring up at a new movie poster. "I love being a welcoming presence," she says. "I like to sense what people need and offer to help."

Now, she's excited for what's next.

Like many longtime volunteers, Fiona is deeply excited about the theatre's transformation: the expanded screens, the new possibilities for film and community. "I'm just looking forward to sitting in a big theatre with lots of other patrons," she says, "and enjoying a great movie and a large popcorn with Civic Spice."

For anyone thinking about volunteering, her advice is simple: do it.

Whether it's the Shoebox or The Civic Theatre, at the market, or at the Oscar Gala; your energy, dedication and enthusiasm are always going to be needed and appreciated by this society." "I guarantee you will find it a rewarding and fun experience, and you will definitely have fun!"

Fiona's story is a reminder of what The Civic Theatre really is, not just a theatre, but a place woven into people's lives. If you would like to volunteer at The Civic Theatre please reach out to us at info@civictheatre.ca

When The Civic Theatre reopened in 2012, Fiona Morgan didn't hesitate. She signed up to volunteer, and she's been showing up ever since.

If you've spent any time at The Civic Theatre, you've likely seen her in the lobby: welcoming guests, organizing the flow, or confidently managing a crowd with what she calls her "teacher voice." All while managing to make the whole evening feel both efficient and joyful.

Fiona's movie story actually starts here, too. It was 1988. She was eight years old. The film was The Land Before Time. She remembers everything; the movie poster in the lobby, the sticky floors, the thrill of bringing a friend, and the prized Dairyland ice cream bucket her family used to bring in popcorn. "It was a very special day in my eight-year-old mind," she says. "I loved every moment".

Another early memory? Seeing Roxanne on premiere night and watching Nelson show up on the big screen. When the tennis racket scene came on, they realized their family car was parked on that exact block. "We felt like celebrities."

Photo features Fiona volunteering with the Civic Theatre at The Nelson Farmers Market 2025

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CRITERION COLLECTION

If you've ever browsed the shelves at REO's Video, you've more than likely come across the shelf titled "The Criterion Collection". You've perhaps even thought to yourself, what does that mean?



And why does it have its own section rather than being mixed among Classics, Cult or respective country of origin in the International section? Well the answer is that aside from releasing exemplary examples from the golden age of cinema to contemporary classics, The Criterion Collection offers high-quality, restored film transfers, often from original film negatives, with meticulous attention to a director's original vision. It celebrates important works of cinema and specialises in the preservation of obscure or rare films that might otherwise be lost and in that mission acts a crucial archive for cinematic history. Criterion is a "boutique label" focusing on curation, restoration, and high-quality, curated physical media, which includes exclusive interviews, special features, not available on other formats (if they even exist), as well as impeccable 2K & 4K restoration, which for older films is an absolute marvel to experience.

While a significant 'Criterion' section already existed before the Reo's collection was saved by Nelson Civic Theatre Society during mandated Covid closures and later turned into a free lending library for NCTS members, we knew that with Reo's new role as an archive, The Criterion Collection was an important area to grow. With NCTS' larger mandate of supporting film culture beyond screenings, offering education community programs and home to the screen based industry group connecting emerging and professional filmmakers in our region, we saw the value of the video store and its collection as an extension of this culture.

As impressive as the collection already was, there is always a need to fill in the gaps of essential international cinema classics, which the Criterion Collection represents the best. With Nelson's population being on the smaller side and the revenue of the video store in steep decline after the long Covid closure, new location and change in patron's viewing habits, we didn't have the funds for collection development on titles that are for the more niche and discerning. In October of 2021, we decided to reach out to Criterion Collection directly to see how they might support this new and unique non-profit video store as a library structure. The New York City institution responded by gifting our little store in the small BC mountain town with two large boxes which included over 60 unique titles.

While the Criterion might seem like the perfect home for older, rarer, arthouse films or international cinema, many award winning, noteworthy films have also been selected for curation by the Criterion. Last year's Best Animated Feature film "Flow" is part of the Criterion (Now available to rent at REO's Video), as well as last year's Best Picture "Anora" (Also available to rent at REO's Video). The Criterion has also been working to add films to its collection that were previously only available on streaming, such as "Uncut Gems" "The Irishman" & "Killers of the Flower Moon" (all currently waiting to be added to the REO's Video library). This interest in streaming films and movies with smaller distribution windows is what makes the Criterion Collection, an incredibly valuable gem of the REO's Video library.

By: Greg Marrast

& Jason Asbell

Continued next page

The library at REO's has grown substantially over the years since NCTS took over operations and received that generous house warming gift from Criterion, but unfortunately, adding new titles to our Criterion Collection section has been less prolific; not being available through major retailers, and only available through costly special orders and shipping costs. With limited revenue during The Civic closures and our free library loan model, high caliber films that have received critical acclaim and popularity, such as "Anatomy of a Fall" "The Power of the Dog" and "Drive My Car", are still waiting to be added to the REO's Video Library.

We believe in our vision at Nelson Civic Theatre Society, and we are committed to supplying and providing the highest calibre of films from all genres for our members and regular patrons, which especially include the films of the Criterion Collection. To assist in this vision, we are looking to the community with earmarked donations to the REO's Video Library to fill out the Criterion Collection to add more of these award-winning films to our rental library. If you'd like to contribute in bringing more films to the Criterion Collection of REO's Video, **please visit civictheatre.ca for more information.**



SUPPORT LOCAL FILMS:

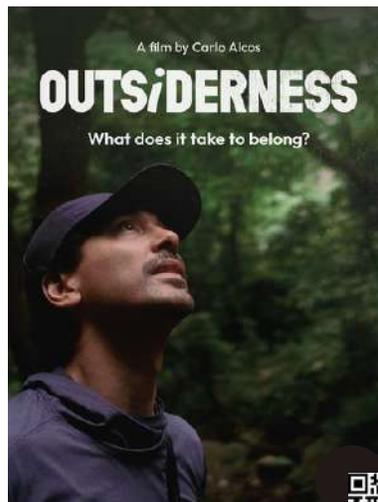
There's something different about a film made close to home.

The landscapes are familiar and the stories carry the weight of lived experience.

In this section, we spotlight completed works by local filmmakers whose films are currently screening on the festival circuit. This issue features Carlo Alcos and Jackie Atkins — two creators working from Nelson, telling stories that travel far beyond it.

Carlo Alcos is a Filipino-Canadian filmmaker, videographer, and sound professional based in Nelson. His work has appeared on CBC's The Nature of Things, Amazon Prime, and at the Banff Mountain Film Festival. His films center identity, equity, and lived experience.

Jackie Atkins is a Nelson-based filmmaker, writer, and comedian working across documentary and narrative film. A Head Writer on the Bell Media funded series Southern Interior, Jackie's work is rooted in specificity, curiosity, and a deep affection for the strange.



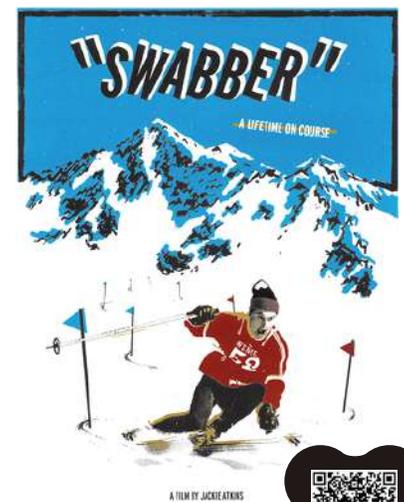
OUTSIDERNESS

By Carlo Alcos

Outsiderness is a deeply personal documentary by filmmaker Carlo Alcos, a second-generation Filipino-Canadian whose parents immigrated to British Columbia in the early 1970s. Growing up as a brown kid in a predominantly white suburb, he learned early how to assimilate in order to fit in.

Years later, he reflects on what was lost and what belonging truly means. Blending family archives and candid conversations, *Outsiderness* explores identity and the quiet cost of adaptation in multicultural Canada.

Outsiderness was acquired by Knowledge Network and is being submitted to festivals. It's also available for community screenings. Scan the QR code above to learn more!



"SWABBER"

By Jackie Atkins

Swabber is a short documentary following 82 year-old, two-time Olympian Bobby Swan as he continues to ski race.

The film doesn't treat aging as decline. It treats mastery as something that deepens. As something you return to, again and again, across a lifetime.

Swabber has screened at the Rossland Mountain Film Festival, Sun Peaks Film Festival, and the International Festival of Winter Cinema. Check out the QR code above to watch it right now!

BE PART OF WHAT'S NEXT

A great way to support NCTS is by volunteering. Volunteers are vital.

Many hands make light work.

Together, we're creating a vibrant cultural hub where stories, artists, and audiences thrive.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering at The Civic is a fun, meaningful way to support local arts and connect with your community.

Whether you love greeting guests, organizing, or pitching in wherever needed, there's a spot for you here.



SUPPORTERS WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

NELSON HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE is proud to support NCTS and The Civic Theatre. As a locally owned business, we're committed to strengthening the region and helping make Nelson a vibrant place to live, work, and create. Thank you for supporting local businesses and community spaces.

NATASHA EDMUNDS ENGAGEMENT proudly supports NCTS and The Civic Theatre. Natasha's work focuses on transforming conflict into dialogue, helping teams, leaders, and individuals navigate challenges with clarity and compassion. Through mediation, facilitation, and coaching, she supports stronger communication, healthier relationships, and shared agreements that last. Connect for a free discovery call:

www.natashaedmunds.com

KC RESTAURANT is proud to support NCTS and The Civic Theatre, reflecting our deep roots in the community and commitment to local culture. The Mah family has served Nelson since 1970, beginning with traditional Chinese cuisine and expanding over the years to include Japanese and Thai favourites. Explore our newest menu at thekcrestarant.com!

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WE'RE NOT TRYING TO SPLIT THE G. WE'RE TRYING TO WIN THE G.



You've probably heard of *splitting the G* - the unofficial sport of drinking a pint of Guinness and trying to land your first sip exactly on the line of the G on the glass. It's so embedded in pop culture that even restaurants in Nelson are running low on proper Guinness glasses.

We love a Guinness as much as the next person. But lately, we've been chasing a different kind of Guinness.

Guinness World Records is usually where you go to learn about the biggest, fastest, tallest, loudest things on the planet.

- The world's longest fingernails.
- The most tattoos.
- The largest pizza.



But Guinness is also home to the *smallest* things, and that's where Nelson comes in.

Tucked inside Reo's Video, behind shelves of well-loved films, sits the Shoebox Theatre: a fully functioning cinema with roughly 20 seats, a proper screen, and just enough intimacy that you'll know if your seat neighbour had garlic for lunch.

We're leaning into that smallness. The Civic Theatre is applying to Guinness World Records to be recognized as the smallest commercial cinema in the world regularly screening films to the public.

There are other tiny theatres out there. A micro-cinema in Ontario holds the Guinness title for smallest *purpose-built* cinema (175 square feet, 12 seats) but it operates by booking only, not as a commercial venue. A legendary 12-seat theatre in the UK once held a record, but no longer screens regularly. Others focus on live performance rather than film.

What makes the Shoebox different is simple: it's active. It shows commercial films. It's a place where you can bring 20 of your closest friends and quietly hope your 21st friend has other plans.

Cheers to Guinness records and pints, and to a small town that chases both.

WATCH SOMEONE SPLIT THE G FOR THEIR FIRST TIME.

CONTENT WARNING: THIS VIDEO CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE.



HOW TO BE A GREAT CIVIC CITIZEN

NUMBER 3

RESPECT THE SPACE AND THE PEOPLE IN IT

The Civic Theatre and its tiny counterpart, The Shoebox are community living rooms. Being a Civic Citizen means caring for both the space and the people inside it. Arrive on time. Silence your phone. Treat staff and volunteers with kindness. Make room for different perspectives in post-film conversations. And extend patience

when things aren't perfect we're a small but mighty team. Respect also means living our values inclusion, accessibility, curiosity, sustainability, and compassion. Everyone who walks through our doors should feel welcome and safe.

We're called The Civic Theatre so we figured it was worth revisiting what "civic" actually means. Don't worry, we went to the dictionary so you don't have to.

Civic relates to the life of a town: its shared spaces, its public life, the things that belong to all of us. A citizen is someone who participates in shaping that life. Put together, a Civic Citizen is someone who takes an active role in Nelson's cultural life, not just as an audience member, but as a contributor.

The Civic Theatre isn't just a building with a screen. It's a shared space in the story of this town. And shared spaces only thrive when people choose to participate in them.

NUMBER 1

SHOW UP (AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU)

The simplest (and sometimes hardest) way to be a great Civic Citizen is to show up. Come to the theatre to watch a film you love. Come to watch something you're unsure about. Bring a friend, your kids, your neighbour, or someone who hasn't been before.

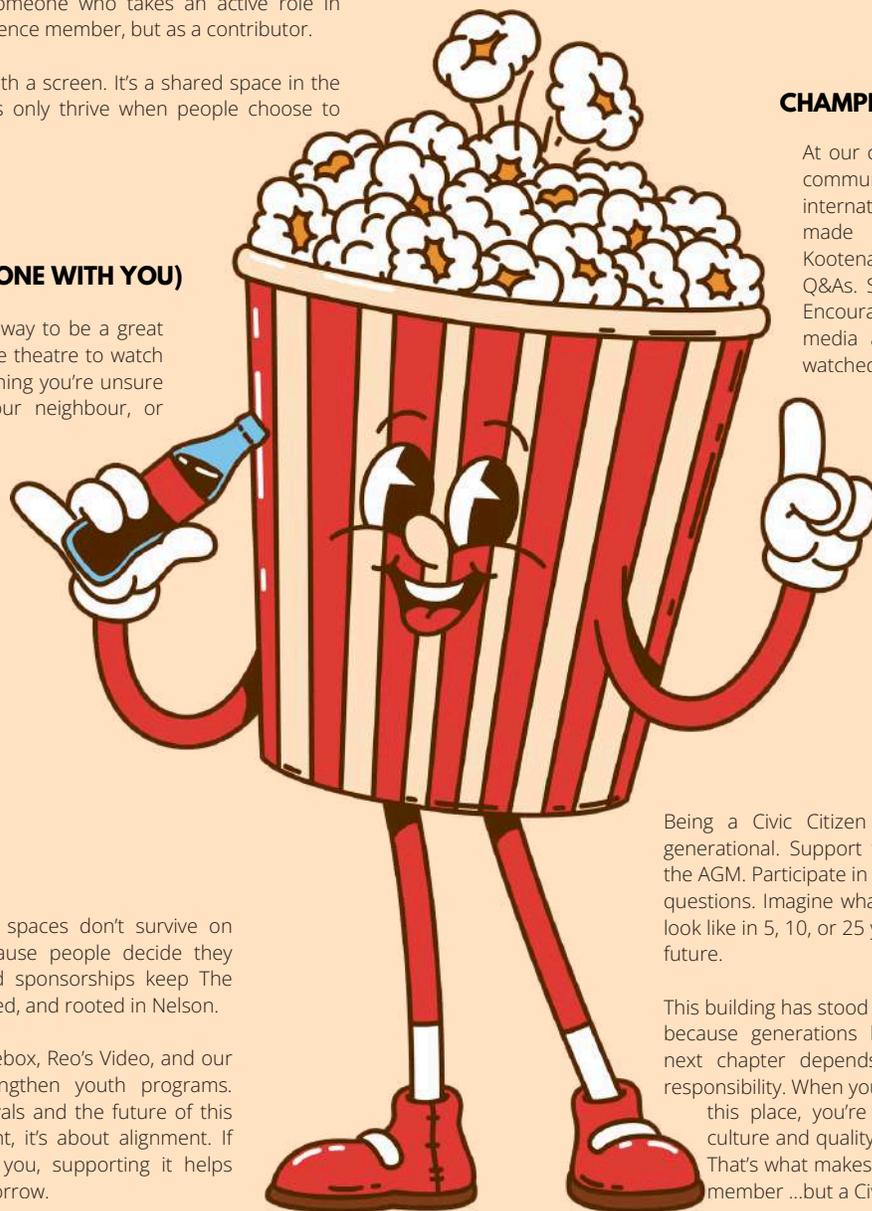
When seats are filled, the room changes. Laughter becomes contagious. Silence deepens. Conversations spill into the lobby and onto the street. When you show up, it changes what's possible. It allows us to program boldly, support emerging filmmakers, host festivals and community gatherings, and create space for dialogue in our community.

NUMBER 2

INVEST IN WHAT YOU VALUE

Independent, community-owned arts spaces don't survive on ticket sales alone. They survive because people decide they matter. Memberships, donations, and sponsorships keep The Civic Theatre accessible, locally governed, and rooted in Nelson.

A \$20 membership supports The Shoebox, Reo's Video, and our capital progress. Monthly gifts strengthen youth programs. Larger contributions help shape festivals and the future of this theatre. Giving isn't about the amount, it's about alignment. If this place has meant something to you, supporting it helps ensure it's here for someone else tomorrow.



NUMBER 4

CHAMPION LOCAL STORIES

At our core, we exist to connect community through story, from international cinema to films made right here in the Kootenays. Attend filmmaker Q&As. Support local screenings. Encourage youth to explore media arts. Share what you've watched.

When you champion local storytelling, you strengthen our creative economy and ensure rural voices are seen and heard. Cultural vibrancy happens when we all choose to amplify it.

NUMBER 5

THINK LONG-TERM

Being a Civic Citizen isn't transactional - it's generational. Support the capital vision. Attend the AGM. Participate in surveys. Ask thoughtful questions. Imagine what The Civic Theatre could look like in 5, 10, or 25 years and help shape that future.

This building has stood since 1935. It exists today because generations believed it mattered. Its next chapter depends on that same shared responsibility. When you choose to care about this place, you're choosing to care about culture and quality of life in our community. That's what makes you not just an audience member ...but a Civic Citizen!

A FESTIVAL YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

This June, Nelson will be home to a dynamic Indigenous Film & Arts Festival - a celebration of film, culture, and community unique to this region.

The festival will create space for Indigenous voices to lead, shape, and share powerful stories on screen and beyond. Through film screenings, live performances, workshops, discussions, and community dialogue, this event will seek to bring together artists, Elders, families, and audiences from across the the region and beyond.

While the full 2026 program is still in development, we can already say this: it will be bold, welcoming, and unforgettable.

In recent years, the STOODIS Festival has activated multiple venues, filled rooms with conversation and reflection, and created meaningful opportunities for Indigenous youth to see themselves represented in media arts. This year, as the festival is reimagined within community, accessibility remains central to this work, with barrier-free pricing and intentional outreach to ensure community-wide participation.

The June–August issue of Civic Spotlight will focus significantly on the festival. Look for stories on feature films, participating artists, youth programming, and supporters of the program this year.

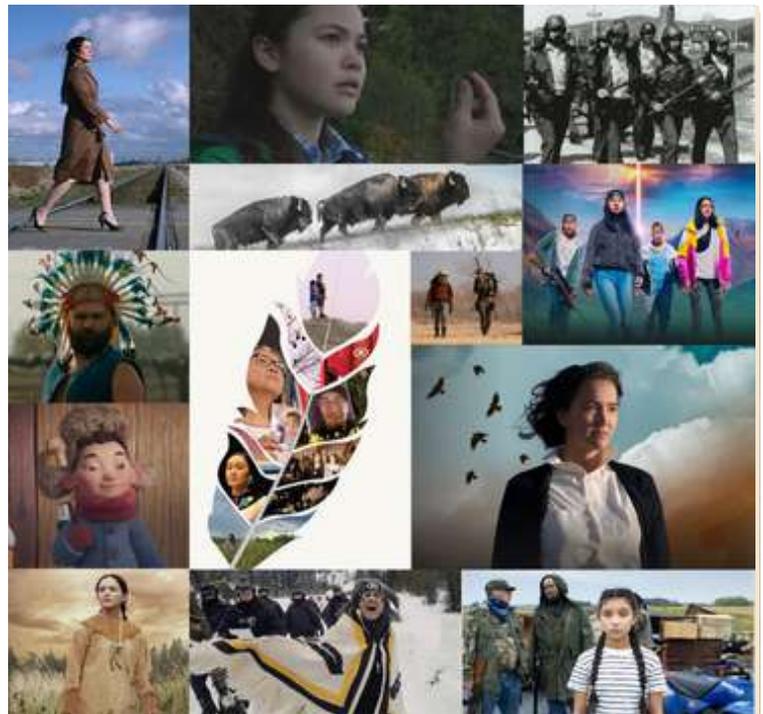
For now, mark your calendar for June and stay tuned. This gathering is more than a series of screenings - it is a reminder that film can build bridges, honour lived experience, and strengthen relationships across our community. You won't want to miss it.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW MORE

Sign up to be the first to learn about passes, special event tickets, sponsorship opportunities and advertising space related to this festival. Scan the QR code for more information.



Images (top right, from left to right): *The Road Forward*, *Kayak to Klemtu*, *Incident at Restigouche*, *Bringing Back the Buffalo*, *Slash/Back*, *Hey Viktor!*, *nipawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*, *Finality of Dusk*, *ImagineNATIVE's For the Grandbabies*, *Bones of Crows*, *Les Filles du Roi*, *Yintah*, and *Beans*.



FABRICS, NOTIONS, AND CLASSES FOR YOUNG AND OLD



COME SEW WITH US

505 Baker St, Nelson BC

nelsonstitchlab.com

OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

On April 19, 2024, The Civic Theatre closed for renovations. Since that day, our community has shown up in extraordinary ways. The individuals, families, businesses, foundations, and public partners listed below have sustained NCTS through this period of transition, supporting both our ongoing operations and the long-term transformation of our space.

Your generosity ensures that film, connection, and culture continue in Nelson, and that The Civic Theatre will reopen stronger than ever. We are deeply grateful. To make a gift today please visit civictheatre.ca/donate

\$250,000+

- City of Nelson
- Enabling Accessibility Program (Government of Canada)
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
- Province of British Columbia

\$10,000 - \$249,000

- Anonymous
- Chinook Scaffolding*
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Creative BC
- Telefilm Canada
- West Kootenay Regional Arts Council
- Jim Sevigny

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Kootenay Lake Electric (KLE)*
- Jan McLean
- Tony Maglio*
- Martin Hotel Group
- Osprey Community Foundation
- Rona Maglio Building Centre

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- Anonymous
- Andex Rentals & Sales*
- Capitol Theatre*
- Judy Cameron
- Joanne Chimenti
- Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
- Columbia Power Corporation
- Cover Architectural Collaborative
- Sarah Dobell
- Cathy Fuss
- Fortis BC
- Hall Printing*
- Hamber Foundation
- Bruce Hunter
- Kari Kroker
- Kathy Loxam
- David Martin
- Sheila & Dave Martin
- Marilyn Mint
- Ken Muth
- Nelson & District Arts Council
- Nelson Brewing Company
- Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
- Nelson Olive Oil Co.*
- Neighbours United
- Phil & Patricia Scott
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Remedy's Pharmacy

- SMT Law
- Margaret Stacey
- Stirling All Suite Hotel*
- The Adventure Hotel*
- Chandos
- Western Auto Parts & Towing*

\$500 - \$999

- Alan Burch
- David & Lori Buss
- Laurie Carr
- Dorothy Dalba
- Darrell Devries
- Jim Drake & Lily Mayall
- Pat Glackin
- Sharon Lee
- Stefan Lehmann
- JoAnn Lowell
- Nelson Rotary Club
- Nelson Stitch Lab
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF)
- Roger Pratt
- Selkirk College
- Selkirk: Community Education & Workplace Training Nelson
- Terra Therma
- The Building Tree
- Edward Weaver
- Michael Wicks

Up to \$499

- Anonymous
- Ainsworth Hot Springs
- Carlo Alcos
- Aileen Anderson
- Aron Ashman
- Antonia Banyard
- Jennie Barron
- Laura Barkwell
- Karen Bond
- Vivien E. Bowers
- Jeanette Boyd
- Diane Burt
- Holly Cammidge
- Kathleen Cauley
- Birgit Vierheilig Chart
- Chris Chart
- Laurence Cheng
- Saoirse Christopherson
- Laura Clyde
- Michelle Colley
- Carolee F. Colter
- Deryn Collier

- Linda Crosfield
- Danielle D'Aleo
- Anne DeGrace
- Nolah Docherty
- Mark Dodsworth
- Joshua Drozda
- Dianna Ducs
- Grant Elliot
- Empty Cup Media
- Sandra England
- Mona Evans
- Kevin Fairbairn
- Susan Faye
- Natalia Fisher
- Susan Forster
- Rachel Fournier
- Ruth Fraser
- Stephanie Froid
- Allison A. Girvan
- Robert Goertz
- Gregory Marrast
- John & Maryann Gwilliam
- Christine Halleran
- Pat Henman
- Nicole Hildebrand
- Dale E. Holmes
- Suzi Holmes
- Stuart Horn
- Linda Hoskin
- Christopher Huestis
- Craig Huff
- David Ingraham
- Sharon Inkpen
- Donna James
- Sarah James
- Chris Jury
- Patricia Kelly
- Kendrick Lawless
- Chris Lalonde
- Laurie Langille
- Fée Lapalme-Leblanc
- Marilyn Lawrence
- Janet Lohmann
- Terry Lund
- Alison Macdonald
- Donna Macdonald
- Keith Manley
- Allison Matfin
- Zak Matieschyn
- Dr. Dharmia McBride Inc.
- Bob McGregor
- Stuart McKinnon
- Arlene McMillin
- Hugh McSheffrey

- Jane Merks
- Janice Morrison
- Elaine Moore
- Marcelline Moore
- Garth Mowat
- NMAG*
- Marika Panchuk
- Don Parks
- Leslie Payne
- Murielle & Roland Perrin
- Daniel Pipe
- Louise Poole
- Nicole Purvis
- Doreen Pytlarz
- Sheryl Richmond
- Gerard Ring
- Nancy Rosenblum
- Danielle Roy
- Jenn Sabeen
- Diane Saibil
- Johanna Sandkuhl
- David F. Smith
- William Smith
- Anne Simonen
- Sandra Spelliscy
- Eleanor Stacey
- Margaret & John Stegman
- Sherallyn Stedmann
- Rees Storm
- Sheila Street
- Roxanne Suchan
- Alice Temesvary
- Tandi Wilkinson
- Greg Utzig
- Vicki Valks
- Bob Wilson
- Yvonne Shewfelt
- Evan Zaleschuk
- Ed Zych
- Tommy Laflamme
- Tony Stone
- Tracey Mozel

* In-kind Gift

Error or omission?
Please email us at
info@civictheatre.ca

For the purpose of this list, donor contributions have been summarized for an 23-month period (covering our closure).



JOIN OUR LIST OF
SUPPORTERS TODAY!



A

s we debated the cover for this issue of *The Civic Spotlight*, we finally rested on going back to the 2020 Oscar Party - our first "All-Ages Red Carpet Gala and Karaoke Party." Yes, a mouthful, but we were trying to do something special.

Late February in Nelson can feel long and grey. We knew people could use a celebration, and we also knew there are few chances here to wear a tux or a ballgown, especially at an accessible-for-all price point. So we invited everyone. Families with kids came - complete with tiny bow ties and sparkly dresses - as well as grandparents, groups of teens and young adults, old friends, and couples. We rolled out our little red carpet and photo wall, and we even sang karaoke during the commercial breaks. It was joyful and magical.

I've thought over the last few years of Valerie Voss' (Margot Robbie) words in the film *Amsterdam* (2022), where she and her friends are enjoying a moment of joy and friendship amidst WWI. She says, "These are the good times. Later, there'll be bad times."

It's a reminder that joy is fragile. That connection doesn't sustain itself.

At that all-ages Oscar event in February 2020, we had no idea that within weeks we would be facing global lockdowns. We didn't know how long gathering would become impossible, or additionally, how many unexpected turns our renovation journey would take. These have been hard seasons.

But what I've come to understand is this: resilience isn't the absence of bad times. It's the choice to keep creating spaces where a seven-year-old in a sequined frock and friends reprising their grad dresses and tuxes can stand on the same red carpet and feel at home and welcome.

Connection doesn't sustain itself. People do. And we do it with intention, imagination and care.

That's what we're building toward now. Not just reopening a theatre, but reopening this beloved space where our community feels at home, together.



Eleanor Stacey
Executive Director
NCTS (Nelson Civic Theatre Society)

**Where place
meets purpose.**
selkirk.ca



SAVE OUR CIVIC



**THE CIVIC THEATRE IS A
CHERISHED COMMUNITY ASSET
THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.**



HUME
HOTEL & SPA



MARTIN
HOSPITALITY
GROUP

MARZANO
PIZZA • VINO

