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THE VOICE, THURSDAY, OCT. 22, 2015

EDITOR TANYA COMMISSO

Entertainment



BRIDGETTE WATSON photos; Centre photo SUBMITTED

(Left to right) Alysha Seriani, SFU film student, screens a film; An example of 16mm film frames; Iris Film Collective member Alex MacKenzie.

Artsy film group is keeping it reel

Iris Film Collective manipulates old-school filmstrips to create avant-garde cinema

By BRIDGETTE WATSON

In a studio in South Vancouver, a small collective is doing big things for film.

The Iris Film Collective is an eight-member group of filmmakers and film enthusiasts that supports and screens work exclusively on celluloid film.

The collective currently resides at Falaise Park Fieldhouse studio as part of a two-year initiative by the Vancouver Park Board that provides workspaces for artists in exchange for com-

munity engagement.

"This stuff is weird and it's arcane," said member John Woods, referring to the filmstrips and assorted equipment packed into the tiny studio.

"I enjoy the chemistry aspect, the mechanical aspect and the optics, those are all part of what makes it fun."

A keen interest in 'all things analog' keeps the collective busy hosting screenings, touring their work to festivals, and teaching workshops to kids who learn to paint on filmstrips.

"The kids love the colouring aspect, they actually get it very quickly," said

Woods.

The collective encourages experimentation. Members themselves have used paint and even bleach to manipulate frames in their own projects.

Founding member Alex MacKenzie has screened projects with multiple projectors and screens to play with frame speed and image layering.

Last Sunday, the collective screened 16 mm 'oddities' pulled at random from their collection of 1,500 films.

Among the gems was an original soundie, which were short musical films produced in the 1940's on 16mm

film that were viewed in coin-operated film jukeboxes.

Member and screening attendee Zoe Kirk-Gushowaty praises the opportunities the collective provides to produce and screen film projects.

"On a day to day basis I work in digital, but *this* is what I like to do."

Currently, the collective is on tour across the United States screening eight of their original films.

The group remains in residence at Falaise Park until 2017 where they will continue to create projects and "spread the good gospel of celluloid."

IRIS events

LOOP COLLECTIVE SCREENING
Saturday, Oct. 24,
7:30pm.
Cineworks Studio, 1131
Howe St.

END OF THE WORLD TOUR 2015
Oct. 6 - Nov. 14

Source: irisfilmcollective.com