“What’s great is that [Film Streams’] mission has not just been about film, because we all love movies, but rather

film as an alive, breathing instrument of outreach and community and education.

I feel so very lucky to be a part of this organization.”

— Academy Award-winning writer-director Alexander Payne

Film Streams
at the Ruth Sokolof Theater
2014 Annual Report
Dear Film Streams Supporters:

As Bob Fischbach pointed out recently in the Omaha World-Herald, 46% of this year’s 121 Oscar nominees first appeared on-screen in Omaha at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater. Four of the eight Best Picture nominees premiered with us exclusively – BOYHOOD, THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL, BIRDMAN, and THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING.

These excellent, artist-driven pictures were also our most popular films of the year, contributing greatly to our fifth year in a row of record-breaking attendance numbers.

And thanks to the incredible support we receive from community members like you, we’ve also discovered and presented smaller films from the US and from around the world. These titles don’t have big studio marketing budgets, but do address tough issues and frequently engage filmgoers in conversation and thought for months following viewing. We’re pleased to be able to continue the conversation here at the theater through screenings featuring dialogues with amazing community partners and with the filmmakers themselves. Because we are as well supported, we are fortunate to proudly bring little-seen but important aspects of cinema history to audiences through singular film events, such as our series of Alfred Hitchcock’s earliest work featuring live scores composed by local musicians and “Films from Warhol’s Factory,” 10 films projected from the back of the theater on 16mm prints, their original format.

It’s amazing to discover what an incredible, community-building tool the shared experience of watching a film can be. We love presenting hidden gems and both watching and facilitating the reactions that can arise from all of these encounters. We have seen terrific growth, thanks to the vision of our brilliant board and the marvelous dedication of our incredibly hard-working staff. Film Streams is so fortunate to be part of a wonderfully engaged and intertwined community, and we are proud of the role we can continue to play: inspiring ideas, creating unique connections, all while celebrating the wonderful art of film.

All my best wishes and happy viewing in 2015,

Rachel Jacobson
Film Streams Founder & Executive Director

I have the honor of serving as the Chair of Film Streams’ Board of Directors.

Since joining the board the year Film Streams opened the Ruth Sokolof Theater, I have been so proud to be a part of this important cultural touchstone dedicated to the presentation and discussion of film as an art form.

Through all of our work, we have focused on our strategic goals of exposing new individuals to Film Streams through expanded outreach efforts, creating transformational experiences for audiences through enriched programs, and engaging more students with the art of film to create life-long film lovers. In 2014, we surpassed all attendance records, welcoming 61,852 visitors to Film Streams’ programs. We offered dozens of special events this past year – unique experiences for audiences through singular film events, such as our series of Alfred Hitchcock’s earliest work featuring live scores composed by local musicians and “Films from Warhol’s Factory,” 10 films projected from the back of the theater on 16mm prints, their original format.

I have been intimately involved with Film Streams’ education program, and the feedback we receive from teachers and students continues to be inspiring. After her students viewed FRUITVALE STATION, the powerful film depicting the last day in the life of police-shooting victim Oscar Grant, at a Daytime Education Screening with a post-show discussion moderated by the Empowerment Network’s Willie Barney, an Accelere Academy teacher reported: “One student talked with us for 20 minutes about seeing himself in Oscar. The film woke him up. It may have changed him. That is good news.” Film Streams is making an impact, and we are thriving.

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It’s a community hub that gives and provides so much. Building on our previous success by expanding our reach without compromising excellence or our mission is our goal, and I am grateful to everyone who has made this possible and continues to help us grow.

Congratulations on another great year, Film Streams!

Best,

Katie Weitz, PhD
Film Streams Board Chair

Katie Weitz, PhD & Rachel Jacobson. Photo by Dana Damewood.
**Most Popular Premiers Overall**

The Grand Budapest Hotel (USA)

Boyhood (USA)

The Theory of Everything (UK)

Birdman Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (USA)

Oscar Shorts! The Academy Award-Nominated Short Films (various countries)

Finding Vivian Maier (USA)

Life Itself (USA)

Tim’s Vermeer (USA)

Rich Hill (USA/Germany)

Inside Llewyn Davis (USA)

A Most Wanted Man (UK/USA/Germany)

Belle (UK)

Calvary (Ireland/UK)

Dear White People (USA)

**First-Run films shown in 2014**

21 foreign features from Australia, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Poland, Sweden, and the UK.

14 documentaries on subjects as diverse as whistleblower Edward Snowden, great director Alejandro Jodorowsky, outsider artist Vivian Maier, Broadway legend Elaine Stritch, cult favorite Nick Cave, and beloved critic Roger Ebert.


Films that garnered 60 Academy Award Nominations: 28 Independent Spirit Award Nominations, 11 L.A. Film Critics Awards, McKnight Foundation Award, Society of Film Critics Awards, 7 New York Critics Circle Awards, Whitney Museum Film Awards, 3 Gotham Independent Film Awards, and 4 National Board of Review Awards.

**Contributed support (58%)**

- Individuals: $242,000
- Corporations: $17,000
- Foundations: $246,500
- Government grants: $19,500
- Special events: $377,500
- Total contributed: $930,500

**Earned revenues (42%)**

- Box office: $391,000
- Concessions: $185,000
- Merchandise: $1,000
- Sales tax on taxable revenues: $47,500
- Membership dues: $126,500
- Interest on short-term inv: $1,000
- Rental revenue: $7,000
- Program Services fees: $4,500
- Total earned revenues: $667,500
- Total earned revenues: $1,209,000

**Expense**

- General programming: $433,500
- First-Run films: $374,500
- Repertory films: $69,500
- Education programs: $33,500
- Community Dev. & special programs: $46,500
- Total programming expense: $957,500
- Total programming expense: $957,500

**Fundraising & special events (10%)**

- Total fundraising & special events: $115,000
- Total fundraising & special events: $115,000

**Total expense**

- $1,209,000

**Total income**

- $1,209,000

**Member Spotlight**

**Jean Ann Ballinger & Ward Peters**

How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2014? We average about two films a month.

What were your favorites? THE GREAT BEAUTY, BOYHOOD, BIRDMAN, THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL, and STOP MAKING SENSE were my top five for 2014.

What do you get out of Film Streams? When we attend a screening at Film Streams we are always aware of how fortunate our community is to have such a venue. In addition to quality First-Run films we are given the opportunity to see films shown at Film Streams that are not shown anywhere else in town. It is evident that the folks behind the scenes at Film Streams genuinely enjoy and care about the cultural service they provide to our community. We have observed that they are constantly interested in raising the bar year after year. They make it look easy ... they make it look like fun ... we are the beneficiaries of their commitment.

*Figures have not yet been audited at time of publication.*
A HARD DAY'S NIGHT

Amanda DeBoer Bartlett, The Ghosts

January 3 – 9, 2014

James Maakestad, Aaron Markley, Sosin, and Ted Stevens

The Hitchcock 9

Generously supported by Sam Walker.

We kicked off the year with one of our most ambitious series ever. Combining the best of world cinema and local talent, we presented the surviving silent films of Alfred Hitchcock scored by beloved Omaha musicians – plus world-renowned silent film accompanist Donald Sosin. The Hitchcock 9 was generously supported by Sam Walker. Hitchcock 9 musicians: Ben Brodin, Amanda DelRoi Bartlett, The Ghosts Collective (Kevin Donahue, Mike Pliedman, Simon Joyner, Michael Kraasner, and Megan Siebe) Joe Knapp, James Maakestad, Aaron Markley, Dan McCarthy, Alex McManus, Luke Friedman, Simon Joyner, Michael Polipnick, Jim Schroeder, Donald Russell. Thanks to everyone involved in the project (Ian Aeillo, Lincoln Dickison, David Ozinga, and Ted Stevens).

Stop Making Sense

Ongoing

May 16 – June 12, 2014

Spring was an appropriate time to celebrate the vibrant works of French New Wave director Jacques Demy. best known for exuberant musicals like UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG (1964) and THE YOUNG GIRLS OF ROCHEFORT (1967). The series featured seven titles by the auteur, all meticulously restored by Janus Films, and THE WORLD OF JACQUES DEMY (1999), by Demy’s widow Agnes Varda.

The Films of David O. Russell

October 12 – November 25, 2014

In honor of Feature VI, the sixth gala in support of Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater, we celebrated the films of our friends at UNO’s Office of Latino/Latin-American Studies (OLLAS), we decided on a week-long program of focus films by the auteur, David O. Russell. Best known for THE FIGHTER, SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK, and AMERICAN HUSTLE, Russell spent years making little-seen, though equally lauded films, like FLIRTIN’ WITH DISASTER and 10 HUCKABEES.

The Great Directors: Jacques Demy

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Restorations & Revivals

Ongoing

El Topo 1970

The Holy Mountain 1973

Stop Making Sense 1984

Godzilla: The Japanese Original 1954 (Japan)

It’s a Wonderful Life 1946 (USA)

Trouble in Paradise 1932 (USA)

Godzilla: The Japanese Original 1954 (Japan)

The Lodger 1922 (UK)

The Parent Trap 1961 (USA)

The Farmer’s Wife 1939 (UK)

For our fourth biennial celebration of Spanish- and Portuguese-language cinema, presented with our friends at UNO’s Office of Latino/Latin-American Studies (OLLAS), we decided on a program of focus films, almost all with documentary elements: Featuring movies set in Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Spain, and thatpuras, this year’s Cinemateca truly was a celebration of film without borders. Two director visitors and free special events featuring post-film discussions and food from local restaurants complemented this year’s films.

Cinemateca 2014

August 29 – September 30, 2014

Most Popular Classics of 2014

A Hard Day’s Night 1964 (UK)

Eleanor’s Secret 2009 (USA)

Monty Python and the Holy Grail 1975 (UK) - Members Select Winner

Stop Making Sense 1984 (West Germany)

It’s a Wonderful Life 1946 (USA)

Trouble in Paradise 1932 (USA)

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How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2014?

So many great films, so little time! I am guessing I attended about 30 films.

What were your favorites?

Favorite things in 2015: posing for Godzilla across at the Omaha backdrop; I always enjoy December’s nominated animated shorts; A HARD DAY’S NIGHT – I never stopped smiling for the entire movie; other great flicks I loved include KIE’S DELIVERY SERVICE, SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK, STOP MAKING SENSE, BRAND NEW HOTEL, FINDING VIVIAN MAIER, MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL, CECILIA, JORDAN’S BURNE, TIME’S VISION. "Thank you, Film Streams!"

What do you get out of Film Streams?

I get to see people who were involved in the film, like visiting directors, and I get to see the real excitement they express about who has come out to see their screening. I love Film Streams as a part of my community. It gives me access to films which are often followed by discussions – movies that relate to issues like health care, social relations, people in need, art appreciation. I get to volunteer, which is a pleasure and a privilege.
Learning to Love Shakespeare

Students from South High School, Central High School, and several home schools came together for Joss Whedon’s take on the Bard’s classic, followed by a discussion led by Nebraska Shakespeare artistic director Vincent Carlson-Brown.

Much Ado About Nothing

January 8, 2014

Students from South High School, Central High School, and several home schools came together for Joss Whedon’s take on the Bard’s classic, followed by a discussion led by Nebraska Shakespeare artistic director Vincent Carlson-Brown.

All the President’s Men

February 12, 2014

Over 200 students attended this classic film about the power of the pen.

A Time for Burning

March 18, 2014

This Oscar-nominated 1967 documentary about an Omaha church’s efforts to integrate played for students from Central and Millard West High Schools and the Accelere Academy. The post-film discussion was moderated by City Councilman Ben Gray and UNO film professor Mark Hoeger.

Persepolis

April 10, 2014

Students from Burke, Central, and Millard North High Schools attended this animated film about the Iranian Revolution, followed by a talk with Nargess Tahmaek, an Iranian currently studying at UNO.

Louder Than a Bomb

June 28, 2014

Students from UNO SummerWorks program for at-risk youth saw this documentary on teenagers who express themselves through slam poetry.

Eleanor’s Secret

July 21 & 22, 2014

Hundreds of youngsters from the Peter Kiewit Foundation Summer Fun program stopped by for this animated adventure about the world of storybook characters.

Sobre Ruedas (Keep on Rolling)

October 20, 2014

Students from Central High, Westside Middle, Accelere, Nebraska City High School, and Bennington High School engaged in discussion following this documentary about global car culture, with film-maker Oscar Clemente, visiting from Spain.

Which Way Home

October 15 & 16, 2014

296 students viewed this touching documentary on immigration. Post-show discussions were led by Lourdes Guereca and Benito Guerra, professors from UNO’s Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS).

The 400 Blows

November 19 & 20, 2014

Eight high schools from across Omaha sent pupils to François Truffaut’s New Wave masterpiece about the pains and triumphs of adolescence. Post-film discussion was led by UNO French culture professor Juliette Parnell.

Fruitvale Station

December 2, 3 & 15, 2014

Students from all over the city attended this timely recreation of the last days of a black man who was killed by San Francisco transit police. Post-film discussions led by Willie Barney and Jannette Taylor.

Film Streams’ Education program is supported by the John W. Carson Foundation and the Gifford Foundation.

More than 3,800 student attended free programs at our cinema in 2014…

including Daytime Screenings for visiting classes, which provided teachers opportunities to bring their students to the theater for film-based field trips, and our Student Night (presented the first Monday of every month), when full-time students are invited to see films we’re showing free of charge.

Education 2014

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ERIKA TAYLOR

How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2014?

The most memorable moments at Film Streams during 2014 came from the experiences that my mother, Jannette Taylor, and I shared. One of these moments happened while we were viewing the film, FRUITVALE STATION, and had a discussion on the film with Burke High School students.

What were your favorites?

My favorite event was the screening of LIFE ITSELF and assisting Jannette Taylor with the discussion on FRUITVALE STATION.

What do you get out of Film Streams?

From Film Streams there are a lot of teachable moments gained from the films being presented. I enjoy the atmosphere that Film Streams has created for the community and the various events that surround films. The staff members at Film Streams create a fun, exciting, and educational experience for the audience. Film Streams is always the first place that comes to mind whenever I am making a trip back home from Regis University. Film Streams reminds me of how much I love Omaha and all the wonderful films I have seen over the years.

“In our post-field trip discussions, it has been neat to hear the students from different cultures make connections between their experiences and the film.”

— Diana Saunders, ESL teacher at OPS’ Teen Literacy Center
In 2014, we presented nearly one special program every week...

including 12 screenings with filmmakers and special guest artists in attendance and partnerships with 16 different community organizations.

Selected Community Development and Special Programs

Filmmaker’s Screening
Medora First-Run January 9, 2014 “This American Life” contributor and “Found” magazine founder Davy Rothbart joined up for a screening of his documentary about a Rust-Belt high school basketball team.

The Conformist 1970 January 29, 2014 Screening of Bernardo Bertolucci’s visual masterpiece followed by a discussion between Oscar-winning cinematographer Mauro Fiore and opera director James Darrah, and “Found” magazine founder Davy Rothbart joined us for a screening of the latest feature film from Omaha’s native Nik Fackler, followed by cast-and-crew Q&A.

Filmmaker’s Screening
Sick Birds Die Easy First-Run February 11, 2014 A sold-out screening of the latest feature film from Omaha’s own Nik Fackler, followed by cast-and-crew O&A.

Free Valentine’s Day Screening
Trouble in Paradise 1932 February 14, 2014 Screening of Ernst Lubitsch’s romantic caper comedy sponsored by Bonshims.

Filmmaker’s Screening
No Place on Earth 2013 February 16, 2014 Screening and discussion with producer Rafael Marmor presented with the Institute for Holocaust Education.

Filmmaker’s Screening
Go For Sisters First-Run March 26, 2014 Actress Yolonda Ross returned to her native Omaha for a screening of John Sayles GO FOR SISTERS, for which she earned a Spirit Award nomination.

Filmmaker’s Screening
Hank and Asha May 9, 2014 Charming romantic comedy with screening and O&A featuring director, co-writer, and Omaha native James Duff and co-writer, producer, and editor Julia Morrison.

Filmmaker’s Screening
Rape of Europa 2008 May 21, 2014 Special screening presented with Inclusive Communities.

Filmmaker’s Screening
The Muslims are Coming! 2013 April 10, 2014 Screening and discussion with co-director Dean Obshidiakh presented with Middle East Cultural and Educational Services.

Best Kept Secret 2013 April 22, 2014 Screening and panel discussion presented with the Meyer Foundation for Health Partnerships at Nebraska Methodist College.

Free Screening
Matewan 1987 April 28, 2014 Screening and panel discussion presented with Omaha Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

Filmmaker’s Screening
The Conformist First-Run April 10, 2014 A screening and discussion with director Stanley Allen, Yates, and a group of University of Nebraska at Omaha students composed of Brittany Chister, Christine Dunn, Amanda Push, Jamieon Banali, Tara Spencer, and Stephen Tatum.

Filmmaker’s Screening
Life Itself July 18, 2014 We were pleased to welcome back director Steve James (HOOP DREAMS, THE INTERRUPTERS) for a special screening of LIFE ITSELF, his documentary on critic Roger Ebert.

Anita 2013 July 30, 2014 Screening and panel discussion presented with Drinks Among Friends and the Women and the Law section of the Nebraska Bar Association.

Filmmaker’s Screening
We Always Lie to Strangers 2013 August 7, 2014 A documentary that explores the life of performers in Branson, Missouri, this film was complimented by a visit from co-directors A.J. Schmack, founder of the Cinema Eye Honors, and David Wilson, co-founder of the True/False Film Festival.

Filmmaker’s Screening
Jayhawksers 2014 August 21, 2014 Director Ken Wilmott (I,S,M,A, CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA) discussed his latest film, a retelling of basketball legend Walt Chabot’s time at the University of Kansas.

Filmmaker’s Screening
All of life, For America! 1932 October 7, 2014 As presented with Middle East Cultural and Educational Services.

Filmmaker’s Screening
The Muslims are Coming! 2013 October 7, 2014 A screening of the 1929 film away, voted the best documentary ever in a British Film Institute poll, with live scores by the renowned Alloy Orchestra.

Running from Crazy 2013 October 7, 2014 Screening and panel discussion presented with the Kim Foundation.

Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life & Times of Katrina Gilbert October 8, 2014 Screening and panel discussion presented with Women’s Fund of Omaha and Coalition for a Strong Nebraska.

The American Nurse November 18, 2014 Screening and panel discussion presented with Center for Health Partnerships at Nebraska Methodist College.

The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD November 21, 2014 Presented with Opera Omaha, featuring Pudlelake Talks before all live broadcasts.

Film Streams fills such a gap in Omaha for those who love film. Nowhere else can you see current works, old films, or documentaries that are not the usual suspects with cars exploding, cities blowing up, or comic strip characters manipulated by computers. At Film Streams you can see the world in a whole new way.

SUSAN ROTHHOLZ
How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2014? By much count I saw 23 films at Film Streams.

What were your favorites? My favorites are the Academy Award shorts and documentaries. It is so exciting to finally be able to see these in Omaha. And I adore The Mot. Live in HD where there is a cult-like setting in the theater, greeting friends you only see here, listening to the lecture before the opera (which I understand is not done in other cities–a shame) and having the Opera Omaha folks there with you. I also love attending films when the director/actor/etc. is present and can give his/her explanation of what they are trying to convey. Some of the more avant-garde films are beyond my understanding, but I like to see them anyway just to know what’s out there.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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Feature VI
An evening with Academy Award-nominated writer-director David O. Russell and Oscar-winning filmmaker and Film Streams Board Member Alexander Payne.

Honorary Chairs Laura & Michael Alley

A new record of $320,000 was raised in support of Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater. A crowd of approximately 1,300 enjoyed a discussion about film, creativity, and life.

Topics ranged from what films each filmmaker would like to remake and the brilliance of CHINATOWN, to what drives Russell and Payne to create. Russell discussed his stable of actors, which includes Bradley Cooper, Amy Adams, Christian Bale, and Mark Wahlberg — and how Jennifer Lawrence’s SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK audition moved him to tears.

He also told Payne about his compulsion with THE FIGHTER and making his lone action film, THREE KINGS. Later, Russell announced the Record Store Day vinyl release of the AMERICAN HUSTLE soundtrack, and he and Payne threw a copy on the turntable live on stage.

I hope you can agree that Omaha is unique in its treatment of film as an artform and that we can have captains of industry and the citizenry attend a yearly event like this.

I think it’s very, very wonderful.

Laura & Michael Alley. Photo by Chris Machian.

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Laura & Michael Alley. Photo by Chris Machian.

DR. HOWARD LIU

How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2014?

I saw 2 films at Film Streams in 2014 – GONE GIRL and RUNNING FROM CRAZY. Now that I have reliable evening childcare, I plan to see a whole lot more in 2015!

What were your favorites?

As a child psychiatrist and father of three, I was moved by the viewing of RUNNING FROM CRAZY, which was co-presented by the Kim Foundation, and featured the story of the Hemingway family as told by actor Mariel Hemingway. This film event not only exposed viewers to the intergenerational trauma of suicide, but also gave participants a sense of hope that is possible through recovery. I had the honor of participating in the panel discussion afterward with a courageous mother who had lost her son to suicide, Mindy Kapor, and a dedicated social worker, Clara Warden, who shared her own story of depression and resilience. But what blew me away was the audience’s honesty and vulnerability in sharing personal stories of tragedies and triumphs when dealing with mental illness.

It really was an important event for dispelling stigma about mental health.

What do you get out of Film Streams?

I believe that Film Streams is a cultural beacon for Omaha and all of Nebraska. The organization brings deep personal stories from filmmakers all over the world to an intimate space where audience members can view the movie with respect. I think that the venue works beautifully for poignant and emotional films, but also for uplifting and whimsical stories as well. Many of the films selected by Film Streams’ leadership are too bold or nuanced to receive a widespread commercial release, so the Ruth Sokolof Theater is often the only location in the state where individuals can watch these visionary films. On a personal level, I feel that Film Streams has deepened my understanding of the human condition and opened my eyes to paradigms from across the globe.

Photo by Daniel Muller.

SAM WALKER

How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2014?

60

What were your favorites?

The Hitchcock 9 series was probably my favorite event of the year. In addition to seeing the long-forgotten silent films by the great Alfred Hitchcock, it was absolutely magical to see them with live original music performed by the composer(s) for each film. And certainly the most wonderful testimony to the power of film occurred at a Sunday afternoon screening of Charlie Chaplin silent films. At one point a nine-year-old girl had to go to the restroom and she walked up the aisle BACKWARDS, not wanting to miss a second of Chaplin.

What do you get out of Film Streams?

Film Streams provides us a steady “stream” of the very best new American and international films, many of which we probably would not get to see without Film Streams, retrospectives with great films that are either among our all-time favorites or films we always heard about but never had a chance to see on the big screen.
Many thanks to the following contributors for their support of the Ruth Sokolof Theater.

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