“My producer/daughter Anna Fox and I spent the second half of 2015 on the road with THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION Trilogy. Our travels took us to so many of the great art house and classic movie theaters across the US.

One of my fondest memories is our experience at Film Streams in Omaha. Not only was the audience die-hard cine-enthusiasts, but they were so grateful that we made the personal appearance.

The theater itself is amazing! Awesome sound and picture and inspiring design. Showing our films there was truly a highlight of our DECLINE tour.”

— Penelope Spheeris, Director of THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION Trilogy
Dear Supporters:

In 2015, we celebrated the 8th anniversary of the Ruth Sokolof Theater and the 10th anniversary of Film Streams as a nonprofit organization.

For me personally, it marked another year to be inspired and grateful for the extraordinary support from the community that surrounds and sustains our cinema.

I returned from a three-month maternity leave at the end of July to witness two incredible programs, both featuring wonderful women filmmakers, within a few days of one another. First, a partnership with the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts and the Union for Contemporary Art on a pair of screenings of the documentary JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION. Then, a week later, a sold-out event featuring Penelope Spheeris and her incredible 1981 documentary, THE DECLINE OF THE WESTERN CIVILIZATION.

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I am grateful to our wonderful staff and to Film Streams’ phenomenal board for their commitment and extraordinary contributions. There are few things more gratifying than seeing so many engaged people contributing to the vibrancy and energy of this wonderful organization.

Even in a year without our annual gala, Picnic, and without the benefit of a star-studded evening at the Holland Center, so many of you choose to support Film Streams’ programs financially. As a result, for the sixth year in a row, we outpaced our budget goals and ended 2015 securely in the black. Due to this continued success and institutional stability, I am looking forward to great growth in the coming years. And I’m confident that together, we’ll create yet another extraordinary place for our community to enjoy, expanding our reach and contributing even further to the cultural environment of our terrific city.

In 2015, we’ve already welcomed Casey Logan back to our staff, this time as Deputy Director. Soon, we’ll expand our administrative team to include an Education Director to further enhance our programs and a General Manager to help streamline operations. We’re poised for tremendous growth, and we wouldn’t be here without the faith and support of our wonderful community. Thank you for all you do.

All my best wishes for a wonderful 2016,
Rachel Jacobson
Film Streams Executive Director

Three years ago, at the beginning of my term as Film Streams’ Board Chair, I led a strategic planning process that resulted in three big goals for Omaha’s favorite nonprofit cinema:

* Expose new individuals and constituencies to Film Streams and the art of film by expanding outreach efforts, creating unique and transformational film experiences, and engaging more students with the art and creating life-long film lovers.
* I am thrilled to report tremendous success! During these last three years, we reached more patrons and partnering organizations than ever before through our outreach. We created magical events around movies. And in 2015 alone, 1,300 students of all ages from every part of the metro area attended education programs at the Ruth Sokolof Theater. This is a 400 percent increase over the number served in 2012. The growth is tremendous for the young people who came to our first-Monday-of-the-month Student Night; the high school kids who feld-tripped to the theater for Congressman Sam Nunn’s screening of the documentary about immigration, gentrification, and youth homelessness. I also had the joy of witnessing a theater full of high school students on a field trip laugh through their first silent film.
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Rachel Jacobson
Film Streams Executive Director

This activity is dear to my heart as I have been involved in Film Streams’ education programs since the doors of the Ruth Sokolof Theater opened in 2007. Although I only participated in a few education programs with students over the years, they remain cherished occasions. I truly believe laughing, crying, and discussing film with kids from all over the community elevated my understanding, changed my beliefs, and expanded my compassion.

The conversations we had in Theater 1 live beyond those days, and I encourage everyone to bring students to the theater—your kids, your nieces and nephews, your neighbors—share the films together. To see a full list of education events at Film Streams, read on in this report—you will be amazed.

This increase could not have been possible without a lot of hard work from Film Streams staff, our all-volunteer Education Committees, and the teachers who recognize the value of the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. I am so proud to have been a small part of this incredibly talented, devoted, and passionate team.

Best,
Katie Weitz, PhD
Film Streams Board Chair, 2013-2015

Katie Weitz, PhD, and Rachel Jacobson at the 2015 Venice Film Festival.
Amy (UK)

He Named Me Malala (UAE/USA)

The Wolfpack (USA)

Best of Enemies (USA)

Meru (India/USA)

Films that garnered 34 Academy Award Nominations:

26 Independent Spirit Award Nominations
3 L.A. Film Critics Awards
3 New York Critics Circle Awards
4 Village Voice Film Awards
3 Gotham Independent Film Awards
3 National Board of Review Awards

By the numbers:

86 age of documentarian Frederick Wiseman, whose NATIONAL GALLERY and IN JACKSON HEIGHTS premiered at the Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015

26 age of Quebecois director Xavier Dolan, whose film MOMMY wowed audiences in 2015

3 number of iPhones used to film Sean Baker’s 2015 indie sensation TANGERINE

5,000 estimated number of movies watched by the Angulo brothers, the subjects of the documentary hit THE WOLFPACK

7 percentage of the top 250 grossing films released theatrically in 2015 that were directed by women

24 percentage of First-Run films shown at the Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015 that were directed by women

50 percentage of the top ten most popular First-Run films shown at the Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015 that were women-led

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STATE SENATOR TANYA COOK

How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015?

In 2015, I watched at least 10 films at Film Streams.

What were some of your favorite films or events that you saw at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015?

Three movies in particular stand out as my favorites. First is RIJE, which inspired me to go home and clean out my closet so I can start dressing like her. I also enjoyed I DREAM OF AN OMAHA WHERE... and AMY.

What do you appreciate about Film Streams?

I like hearing about a film or filmmaker in the national media and being able to see it at Film Streams immediately, and not months down the road. It’s nice to see films when they are relevant and new, and Film Streams provides that to the Omaha area.
Reperatory classics and revivals shown in 2015

Film Streams’ repertory programming is generously sponsored by Omaha Steaks.

Katharine Hepburn: Icon, Iconoclast
February 14 – March 30
Celebrating Katharine Hepburn, an icon and mold-breaker in the world of film and style, we presented eleven of the legend’s most beloved titles. In partnership with The Durham Museum, the series coincided with their costume exhibit, “Katharine Hepburn: Dressed for Stage and Screen.”

Great Directors: Robert Altman
April 24 – June 8
This retrospective included classics ROYALTY, McCAREY AND MURPHY, MALLORY, and NASHVILLE, as well as deeper cuts into 3 WOMEN, CALIFORNIA SPLENDID, and BREWSTER McCOULD, most projected on 35mm. Local filmmaker Dana Altman, one of Robert’s grandsons, spoke before several screenings about his memories of working on Altman sets.

Critics’ Choice
October 23 – December 30
To celebrate the importance of criticism to cinema, we asked some of our favorite critics – from recently retired Omaha World-Herald reporter Bob Flachbach to national voices such as A.O. Scott and David Denby – to select some of the films that made them love the art form. Strong choices from folks with strong opinions, the selections in this series included indie gems, Hollywood classics, and treasures of world cinema.

Sights on Sounds
Winter 2015, Summer 2015
In 2015, we launched a recurring series for fans of great music and great stories. The selections touched on subjects as diverse as Byrd, Nia, Leon Russell, Elliott Smith, Kurt Cobain, and David Bowie. A sold-out screening of the punk classic THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION was complemented by a visit from director Penelope Spheeris and her daughter Anna Fria, who produced a recent restoration of the film.

Forever Young Family & Children’s Series
Opening!
Attendance to our family-friendly programming grew an amazing 46 percent in 2015, a testament to the enduring brilliance of classics like TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, BLADE RUNNER, and THE PRINCESS BRIDE – were booked later in 2015.

Revivals and Restorations
Eighth Annual Members Select Winner
2001: A Space Odyssey
January 2 – 8
Over 800 members responded to our Members Select poll, choosing one of the best films of all time. Stanley Kubrick’s space epic narrowly beat out PLANET OF THE APES, BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY’S, and GONE WITH THE WIND. Our other popular nominees – TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, BLADE RUNNER, and THE PRINCESS BRIDE – were booked later in 2015.

The Great Dictator
Sunday, January 18
In solidarity with our independent cinema colleagues who chose to screen THE INTERVIEW in 2015, during a time of national controversy, we offered a free screening of Charlie Chaplin’s 1940 masterpiece.

Satyajit Ray’s The Apu Trilogy
July 10 – 30
Our friends at Janus Films delighted cinephiles in 2015 with these gorgeous restorations. In the 1980s, The Apu Trilogy brought India into the golden age of international art-house film, following one indelible character, a free-spirited child in rural Bengal who matures into a responsible young man and finally a sensitive man of the world.

Eric Rohmer’s Tales of the Four Seasons
September 4 – 10
Our annual in-depth exploration of this master of French New Wave cinema continued, with two additional seasons released in the U.S. in 2014.

Grey Gardens
June 26 – July 2
One of the great cult films, this Maysles Brothers documentary introduced the world to Big Edie and Little Edie Beale, an eccentric mother-daughter duo living in a dilapidated mansion in the Hamptons. Lovingly restored for the big screen by Janus Films.

Most Popular Classics of 2015
Blade Runner (USA/Hong Kong/UK)
Looney Tunes (USA)
The Princess Bride (USA)
2001: A Space Odyssey (USA/UK)
Grey Gardens (USA)
The Muppet Christmas Carol (USA)
The Philadelphia Story (USA)
It’s a Wonderful Life (USA)
Ghostbusters (USA)

Little Fugitive
Saturday, August 22
This landmark film, considered the first true American indie, was followed by a talk from film scholar and curator Jacob Perlin, Artistic Director of New York City’s Metrograph cinema.

Blade Runner
September 4 – 10
Our most popular repertory title of 2015 is also one of the most frequently requested at the Ruth Sokolof Theater. The mother of all modern sci-fi, Ridley Scott’s gritty, dystopian masterpiece packed in enthusiastic audiences.

The Alloy Orchestra plays The General
Friday, September 19
The world-renowned Alloy Orchestra returned to the Ruth Sokolof Theater for a sixth time to perform their beloved original score to Buster Keaton’s heartwarming masterpiece.

Most Popular
88
01: A Space Odyssey
The Princess Bride
2001: A Space Odyssey
Grey Gardens
The Muppet Christmas Carol
The Philadelphia Story
It’s a Wonderful Life
Ghostbusters

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY
A Time for Burning
January 14, 2015
This Oscar-nominated 1986 documentary about an Omaha church’s efforts to integrate played for students from Central and Millard West High Schools. Post-film discussion moderated by City Councilman Ben Gray.

Which Way Home
January 27 & 28, 2015
Over 420 students from Omaha South and Burke High schools, Westside Middle School, and Cornerstone Christian School attended this documentary on immigration. Post-show discussions were led by Ramon Guerra, a professor from UNO’s Office of Latino/Latin American Studies.

Rear Window
February 3, 2015
Alfred Hitchcock’s 1954 thriller screened for students from Burke High School and Westside Middle School. Post-film discussion moderated by UNO film professor Mark Hoeger.

Schools 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).

Film Streams’ education programs continued to grow in 2015…

with more than 5,000 attending free programs at our cinema, including Daytime Screenings for Visiting Classes.

Student Events 2015

The Kid
March 25, 2015
More than 170 children, many of whom had never before watched a silent film, delighted in Charlie Chaplin’s first feature-length film. Post-film discussion led by KANEKO Program Manager Michael Hollins.

Small Change
April 6, 2015
Nearly 150 students from Bennington, Benvenu, Burke, Central, North, and Northwest High Schools, plus Bennington and Westside Middle Schools saw Francois Truffaut’s French-language portrait of school-age kids.

Song of the Sea
June 25, 2015
Hundreds of youngsters from the Peter Kiewit Foundation Summer Fun program visited the Ruth Sokolof Theater for this magical animated tale based on Irish folk lore.

Brooklyn Castle
June 26, 2015
Close to 170 high schoolers participating in the UNO SummerWorks program saw this stirring documentary about an inner-city chess team.

Looney Tunes
July 15, 2015
More than 400 Peter Kiewit Summer Fun students filled our theaters with laughter as many were introduced to the antics of classic Warner Bro. characters.

James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket
July 30, 2015
Over 120 participants from the NorthStar Foundation, Omaha Code School, Highland, and Quincy Inc. discussed this film on author and activist James Baldwin with director Karen Thosen and producer Douglass K. Company. Organized with the Remax Center for Contemporary Arts and The Union, Inc Contemporary Art.

Citizen Kane
September 29, 2015
Orson Welles’ all-time classic screened for 100 kids, followed by a discussion with KANEKO’s Michael Hollins.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream
October 6, 2015
UNO Theatre Department Chair D. Scott Hauser led a discussion following director Michael Hoffman’s adaptation of Shakespeare’s beloved comedy.

Reel Injun
October 20, 21 & 22, 2015
Over 300 students joined us for a documentary that examines the relationship between Hollywood and American Indians. Discussions led by staff from Native-focused production company Vision Maker Media.

Particle Fever
November 3, 2015
Students from Central, Blair, and Bryan High Schools, plus Westside and Bryan Middle Schools, attended this film about the Large Hadron Collider. Creighton University physics professor Michael Cherny, who worked in the Swiss facility that houses the collider, led the group in discussion.

The Class
November 10 & 11, 2015
This moving documentary on a diverse Parisian classroom screened for youth from Bennington, Bellevue East, Burke, and Runnoldi High Schools.

The Grapes of Wrath
December 1 & 2, 2015
UNO film professor Mark Hoeger guided students through John Ford’s iconic adaptation of John Steinbeck’s Depression-era classic.

Au revoir les enfants
December 8 & 9, 2015
High School French students from Bennington, Blair, Burke, Central, Creighton Prep, Gross Catholic, and Ralston experienced Louis Malle’s coming-of-age classic.

“[My daughter] really enjoyed the CITIZEN KANE viewing yesterday… I admitted to her that I had not seen CITIZEN KANE and now she is insisting that I see it so we can talk about it — so not only did you provide her with an educational opportunity but you’re facilitating continuing interaction. Thanks for doing all that you do.”

— parent of Central High School student

How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015?

Between 20 and 30. What were some of your favorites films or events that you saw at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015? I liked MR. TURNER, SALT OF THE EARTH, CITIZEN KANE, AMY, ROOM, SUFFRAGRITTE, Howl. Really the whole experience. Oh, and PULP FICTION and PRINCESS BRIDE! I worked my schedule around the Hepburn ones.

What do you appreciate about Film Streams? It’s an amazing experience every time I go. Whether I go to see a movie or to volunteer, I learn something new and see something different. It’s just a present.

Film Streams’ Education program is supported by the John W. Carson Foundation through the Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the Gifford Foundation, the Jetson Charitable Fund, and the Ike and Roz Friedman Foundation.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ELLEN HARGUS

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In 2015, we presented 37 special programs, including...

Selected Community Development and Special Programs

Free, Filmmaker Screening: Becoming Bulletproof 2014
March 3, 2015
Presented with the Meyer Foundation for Disabilities, this film documents a unique organization that allows a diverse group of actors living with disabilities to film their first Western.

Alive Inside 2013
March 24, 2015
A documentary about the healing qualities of music on patients with dementia, presented with Douglas County Health Center Foundation.

Omar 2013
April 6, 2015
Presented with Middle East Cultural and Educational Services, this romantic thriller set against the tension of the Arab-Israeli conflict was followed by a panel discussion with area college students.

Free Screening: Into the Abyss 2011
April 22, 2015
A panel discussion followed this free screening of Werner Herzog’s affecting documentary on death row inmates, presented with UNO’s Chase Abbott School of Social Work.

April 30, 2015
A discussion with Elaine Hall, one of the subjects of AUTISM: THE MUSICAL, followed this free screening presented with Autism Action Partnership.

Member Spotlight

Paul Allen IV

How many films did you see at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015? Somewhere around 60 films.

What were some of your favorite films or events that you saw at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2015? I loved the Local Filmmakers Showcase, the Oscar Shorts, BLADE RUNNER, the BACK TO THE FUTURE events, and all of the events that had Q&A after. I loved the children’s series and LITTLETHINGS. I was so happy about the screening of THE THIRD MAN. There was too much good stuff to mention.

What do you appreciate about Film Streams? I appreciate the knowledge and appreciation the Film Streams family has for film as an art form, and that translates to a great range of films offered. The community involvement is a great plus, and I especially love the support Film Streams gives to local filmmakers. I appreciate that with the membership, the cost is low enough to make it a regular thing. It’s weekly for me and some of my friends, and sometimes twice a week. Film Streams feels like home base. I only speak one Woodward to use STAR WARS, because, well, you know, STAR WARS.
A film document of nationFavorite of the WeekComedy, Drama
Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown 1988 September 16, 2015
Pedro Almodóvar’s campy comedy, an inspiration for Opera Omaha’s production of The Barber of Seville, was preceded by an aria performed by baritone John Moore and followed by Opera Omaha’s cast and filmmakers conducting Beatty’s theater workshops with original piano compositions, and 15 members of the Omaha Symphony played the original scores along with two others.

Ongoing
The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD
Our largest and most enduring collaboration, presented with Opera Omaha, featuring Prelude Talks before all live broadcasts.

New York Film Critics Series
A series of preview screenings of first-run films with special added content, including interviews with cast and filmmakers conducted by Rolling Stone reviewer Peter Travers.

Shown in 2015:
Every Secret Thing, Dogging For Fire, James White

2015 Income & Expenditures

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Many thanks to the following contributors for their support of the Cindy & Scott Heider Film Streams.

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Foundation

Improvement Fund

Endowment

List includes 2015 contributions. For corrections, please email caitlin@filmstreams.org.

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Graphic Designer

2015 Interns
Nick Branch
Andrew Douglas
Katlan McDermott
Shaila Steer
Mason Schmukler
One of our most popular shots on Instagram in 2015 was taken halfway through our community’s annual day of giving, Omaha Gives!

By the end of May 21, 2015, over 220 donors contributed nearly $35,000 toward programs at the Ruth Sokolof Theater.