



2018

LIAISON OF  
INDEPENDENT  
FILMMAKERS OF  
TORONTO

# Annual Report



## MISSION

LIFT is a member-driven non-profit charitable organizations that provides affordable access to equipment, education and space for those who want to make films, out of a passion for, and commitment to, the practice of filmmaking.

## VISION

The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto will be the primary community hub for film-related practices and will facilitate the sustainability and production of media art on a local, national and international level.

## VALUES

- Diversity in all its manifestations, including race, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexuality, class, age, disability, immigration status, film genre and level of experience as a filmmaker.
- Affordable and equitable access to services and programs that minimize economic barriers to creating films.
- The materiality and technology of working with celluloid as a medium.
- Developing and cultivating the "cinematic" qualities within digital cinema and new platforms.
- Serving as a community hub for filmmakers and artists.
- Providing quality service to an engaged and participatory membership.
- Providing a space for diverse communities to produce representations on their own terms.

# 2018 IN REVIEW

2018 has been an ambitious year for LIFT. We offered our regularly scheduled programming of workshops, residencies, co-presentations and commissions. But LIFT is changing and adapting to meet the needs of our wider community. Two years ago we set out four strategic goals to address:

STRENGTHENING OPERATIONAL PROCESSES  
IMPROVING OUR SPATIAL ENVIRONMENT

DEVELOPING OUR MEMBERSHIP BASE  
ENRICHING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The staff and board at LIFT have been working steadily to see these goals through. In this report you'll find the highlights of the past twelve months and our plan for the next calendar year.

- Chris Kennedy, Executive Director



180 workshops offered throughout the year.

New ones included:

Super 8/16 Resurrection, Virtual Reality, Web Series Development, Dramatic Film Funding, Post Production Overview, Production Design, Script Suturing, Expanded Cinema, Projection Mapping with Isadora

## NEW WORKSHOPS



Co-presentations with; the 8 Fest, Toronto Black Film Festival, Hot Docs, Mayworks, Inside Out, Rendezvous with Madness, Planet in Focus, Regent Park Film Festival, PIX Film and Vienna FilmKoop.

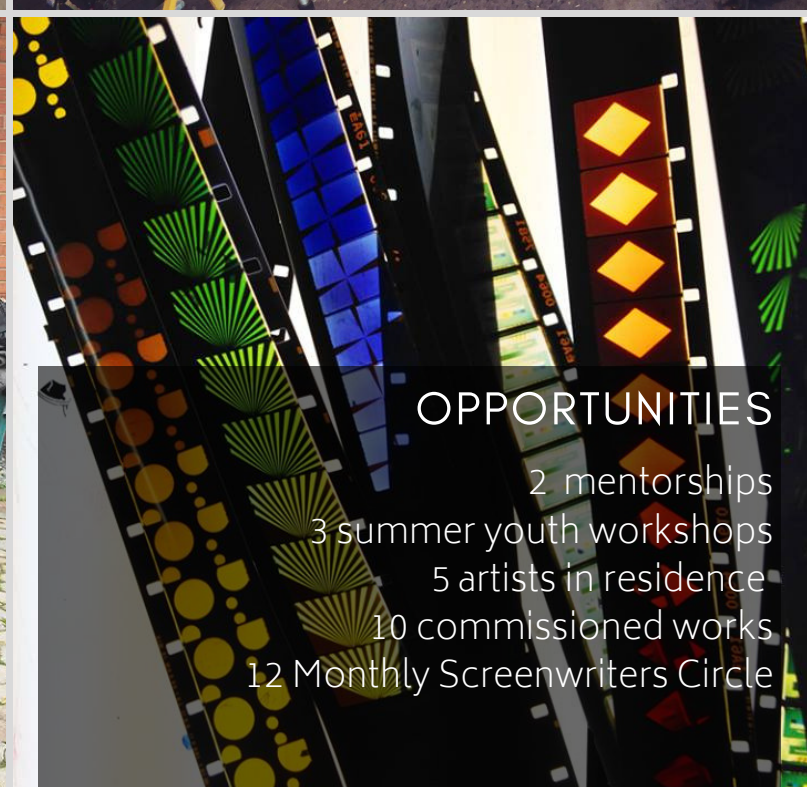
Specialized programs were delivered for community groups; YDOCS, Film Stars and Family Services Toronto and Pleasure Dome

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING



## MEMBERSHIP

500 Current Members  
1000+ productions supported approx  
11 member films screened at The LIFT  
Round Up at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers  
Cinema



## OPPORTUNITIES

2 mentorships  
3 summer youth workshops  
5 artists in residence  
10 commissioned works  
12 Monthly Screenwriters Circle



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH + PROGRAMMING

Now in its fourteenth year, Toronto-based artist Natasha Naveau received the annual LIFT/ImagineNATIVE Mentorship. Natasha was raised in Mattagami First Nation, and is of Dene (Chipewyan) and Anishnaabeg heritage. Her film *MENAPTWI (SMOKED)* premiered at the 2018 edition of the ImagineNATIVE festival in October.



With the Made In Exile Tibetan Filmmaker, LIFT designed a series of workshops for six Tibetan youth to learn the craft of filmmaking. These workshops offered step-by-step guidance through the process of making a short film. This program focussed on intergenerational storytelling by capturing stories of elders in the Tibetan community in Toronto.

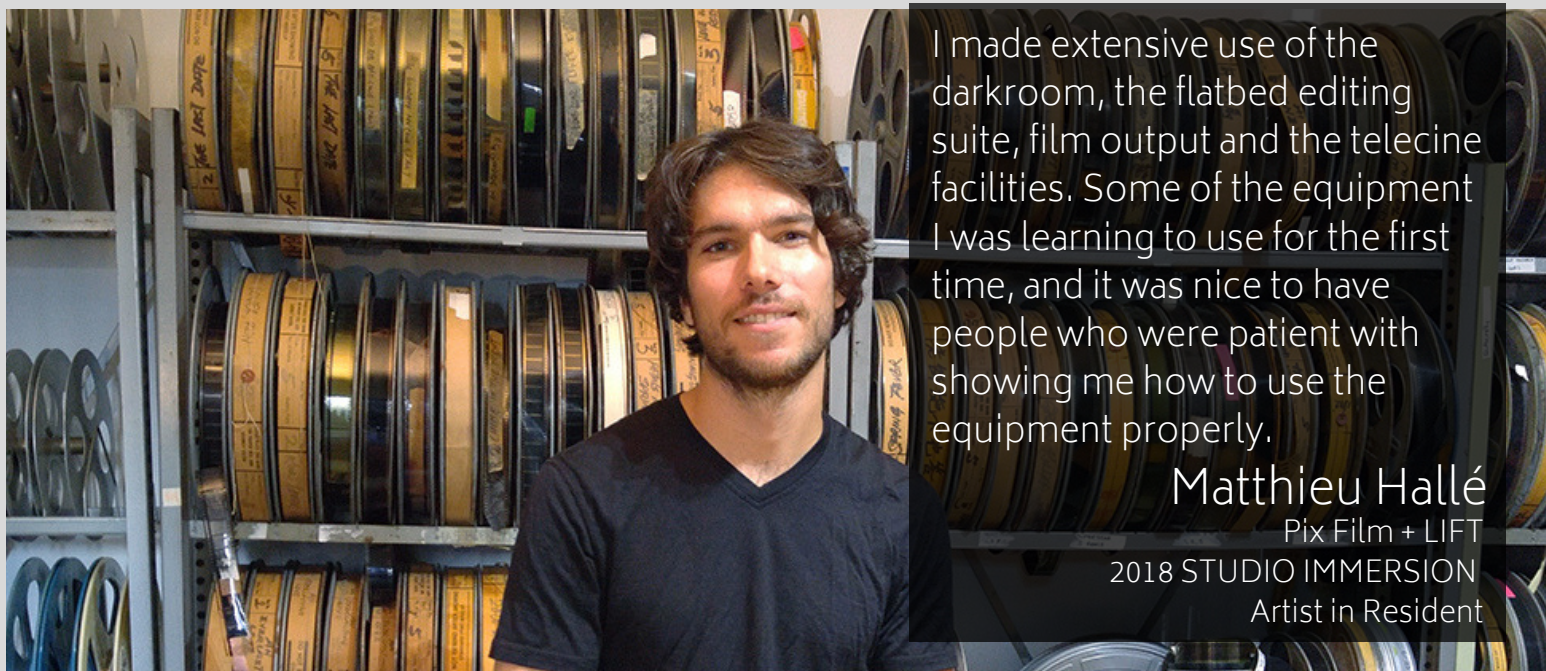


The Youth Digital and Analogue Filmmaking intensive held during the Summer gave students, aged 14-17, the opportunity to learn the different elements of filmmaking through a series of theoretical and practical workshops. These workshops allow students to have access to and gain valuable skills in both the digital and analogue filmmaking processes while individually completing a short film project for their portfolios. At LIFT, these students are immersed in a filmmaking community that gives them the tools to make their own work in a non-traditional classroom setting, showcase their projects and create relationships for future opportunities.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH + PROGRAMMING



I made extensive use of the darkroom, the flatbed editing suite, film output and the telecine facilities. Some of the equipment I was learning to use for the first time, and it was nice to have people who were patient with showing me how to use the equipment properly.

**Matthieu Hallé**

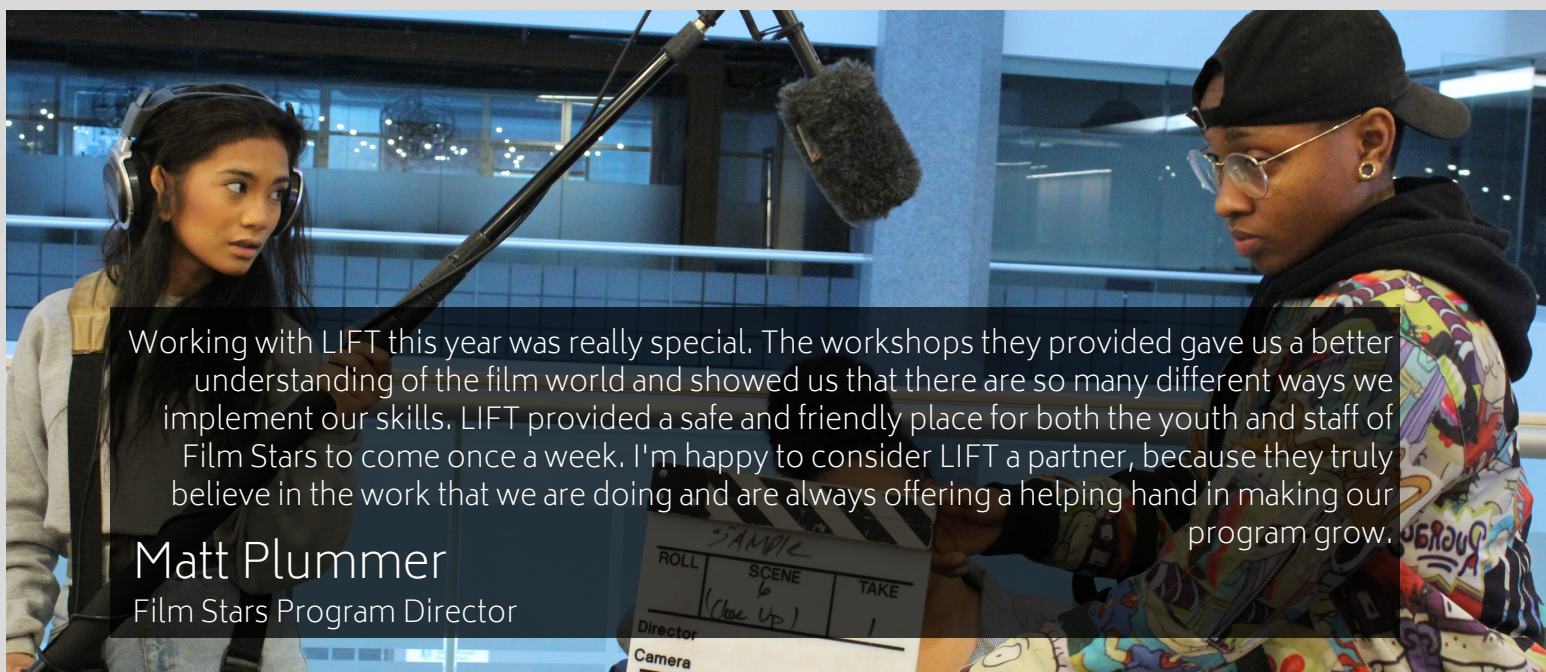
Pix Film + LIFT  
2018 STUDIO IMMERSION  
Artist in Resident

**Panamá nunca fue parte del plan original.**

**Zoë Heyn-Jones**

Commissioned Artist  
Madvo Collection Project  
Soy un ser cuyas raíces //  
I am a being whose roots

Working on the Madvo Project was a pleasure and honour. Having access to Jacques Madvo's beautiful footage, and the support and resources at LIFT that came with the project was an invaluable experience. Through this project I was able to create a collaborative work with my friend, Venezuelan literature scholar and language teacher, Angel Said Dominguez Pinto. Working together allowed us the opportunity to think about migration, labour, exile, and hemispheric relationships. This was an enormously powerful collaboration for me, and I thank LIFT for the opportunity to develop this conversation through the process of working with Madvo's footage. The piece, , was shown at the aluCine Latin Film & Media Arts Festival, and at Duke University, enabling us to continue this conversation with diverse audiences and perspectives.



Working with LIFT this year was really special. The workshops they provided gave us a better understanding of the film world and showed us that there are so many different ways we implement our skills. LIFT provided a safe and friendly place for both the youth and staff of Film Stars to come once a week. I'm happy to consider LIFT a partner, because they truly believe in the work that we are doing and are always offering a helping hand in making our program grow.

**Matt Plummer**

Film Stars Program Director



# DEVELOPMENT

In 2018 we started to think seriously about LIFT's future financial health. Although we were able to exceed last year's total earned revenue by October, the reality remains that the future is a precarious one for artist-run-centres. By bringing on a part-time development coordinator LIFT was able to address specific development concerns. One of the most ambitious projects undertaken this year was a month long fundraising appeal. One which galvanized support and enthusiasm amongst both our current and former membership base.

OVER \$ 8,500.00 RAISED  
IN NOVEMBER + DECEMBER

In early 2018 LIFT renewed its lease  
and will remain tenants for another  
9 years at 1137 Dupont street.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR  
\$44,805.17

104 Total Donors in 2018

87 NEW Donors in 2018

This figure includes contributions from The Petman Foundation, Living Arts Kitchen and the establishment of the Josephine Massarella Fund.

## Donor Testimonials

I appreciate LIFT keeping old analogue equipment alive and working while making it available for filmmakers to use. It enables the completion of some aspects of my work as this equipment is not otherwise accessible to me. As a maker who prefers to do-it-myself (while keeping spending as low as possible) it is a real boon to have LIFT.

- Sandy McLennan



Thank you for all the support over many years. Please, keep doing the amazing job you have been doing. We need you.

- Noé Rodriguez



Thank you to the LIFT staff for creating a space where everyone and anyone can become a storyteller. Whether to make a deeply personal work that pushes boundaries or a grassroots documentary to raise awareness.

- Gisèle Gordon



What a great facility!!! Great programs!!! Great staff!!!

- Barb Taylor



# THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2019, LIFT will continue to facilitate creative opportunities for our members and Toronto's media artists. Alongside our regularly scheduled programming we aim to enable more artistic visions to be achieved.

## The Return of the Newcomer Filmmmentor

The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) is pleased to announce the launch of the second Newcomer Filmmmentor Program. The program will allow three participants to be paired with one mentor practising in one the following fields: documentary, narrative, experimental or hybrid filmmaking. The mentorship will take place from January 2019 – July 2019. Mentors include: Aeyliya Husain, Mary J. Daniel and Faraz Anoushahpour.

This is a self-directed mentorship; the mentee must present a clear plan of how they would like to structure the mentorship and what they would like to accomplish within the six months of the program.

## Josephine Massarella Fund

Josephine Massarella was an experimental filmmaker based in Hamilton and a very active member of the LIFT community. Josephine passed away earlier in 2018 and in her memory we have established a production fund that will offer \$2000.00 production grants for female filmmakers over 50 years old who are returning to their artistic practice.

Josie became an active member of LIFT when she returned to filmmaking in 2013 after a nearly twenty-year hiatus. Once she returned, she was here often, working on three films, "Light Study," "No End" and "165708," the last of which with the prestigious Best Experimental Film award at the Ann Arbor Film Festival this past March. .

## New Workshops and Events

In 2014 LIFT conducted a survey of our membership to gauge their satisfaction amongst members. The responses were diverse and insightful but one thing stood out - people craved more community events.

One goal for this is year is create a variety of events that will allow for conversation and exchange amongst the artists who use LIFT. This will include a new seasonal screening series of recently completed works by members and networking mixers in collaboration with nearby businesses.



# STAFF AND BOARD

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

David Café-Fébrissy (Chair)  
Dagny Thompson (Treasurer)  
Daniel McIntyre (Secretary)  
Gerald Grison  
Catherine Laird  
Peter McAuley  
Evan Ottoni  
Nathanael Shelton-Richards  
Sally Walker-Hudecki  
Jamie Whitecrow

## STAFF:

Chris Kennedy - Executive Director  
Renata Mohamed - Deputy Director  
Justine McCloskey - Technical Administrator  
Karl Reinsalu - Technical Coordinator  
TJ Ediger - Technical Coordinator  
Shenaz Baksh - Education and Outreach Coordinator  
Rolla Tahir - Education and Outreach Administrator  
Cayley James - Development Coordinator

## LIFT IS SUPPORTED AND MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR GENEROUS CORE FUNDERS:

The Canada Council for the Arts  
The Ontario Arts Council  
The Toronto Arts Council  
The Trillium Foundation  
The Ontario Arts Foundation  
The Government of Ontario