



Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative

Filmmaker's Production Assistance Program and
First Film Fund application form

301 - 1822 Scarth Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2G3, Canada
306-757-8818 • production@filmpool.ca • filmpool.ca

Name: Elian Mikkola
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Regina Postal [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Project Title: Waves

Category: Production Post Production Distribution First Film Fund

Genre: Experimental short film Duration: 05:00

Shooting format: Full HD video Finishing format: Digital File (QuickTime)

Director: Elian Mikkola

Producer: Elian Mikkola

Writer: Elian Mikkola

Delivery Date: Fall 2016

Synopsis: **Waves** is an experimental short film, that explores diversity, expression and identity through a unique visual experimentation. The film is based on an interview, made with young Jamaican LGBTQ artist, dancer [REDACTED] in 2014.

(brief paragraph)

The dance performance of [REDACTED] inspired me to express the power of the dance through another expressive medium, the experimental film. The film was created to honor another artist and to continue the experimentation of this performance in the border of these two channels of expression.

Section C: Budget Summary

This is a summary. A complete, detailed budget must also be supplied for Section D.5.

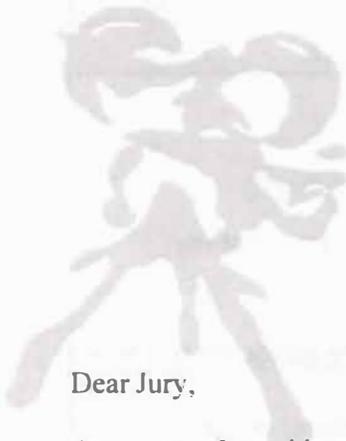
Unconfirmed Funding	Amount	Date
Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative, Student Grant	800,00	
Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative, Deferrals	800,00	
Unconfirmed Funding Total	1600,00	
Confirmed Funding	Amount	Date
Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Travel Grant for journalists	1250 EUR	
	=1804 CAD	
Confirmed Funding Total	1804,00	
Expenses		
Cast and Crew	400,00	
Equipment	800,00	
Administration		
Other	2204,00	
Total Expenses	3404,00	
Total Budget (Amount should balance)	3404,00	

optional



I am applying for an equipment rental deferral to access the Filmpool's equipment or facilities in the amount of \$ 800.

\$	Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative Office Use Only
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SASKATCHEWAN FILMPOOL COOPERATIVE

1. Cover Letter
Elian Mikkola
4/15/2016

Dear Jury,

A year ago, I would not have believed that I would be writing a Cover letter to help fund my own film. My life path started to take another direction when I moved from Finland to Regina, last August. Studying film at the University of Regina has really changed my life and restructured my identity from journalist to a filmmaker.

Since I made my first short film in the Fall 2015, I have received very positive feedback of my work and my Film professors, such as [REDACTED] have been encouraging me to continue in the field of documentary and experimental cinema. Most of all, I know that filmmaking is what I want to pursue as a future profession, and for that reason it is very important for me to start finding funding for my work.

Previously, I have had my debut short film *SAARI* (2016) screened at the Living Skies Student Film Festival and in the future, it will also be screened in New York, at the AXW Film Festival. The work I am introducing to you, and asking the funding for, is a combination of my past and present interests. The short film *Waves* is based on an interview done in Jamaica in 2014, but the artistic treatment of this interview is very experimental. I am seeking the funding to get the final edit of this film done and to make the sound design for it.

I hope to create an experimental film that will catch people's attention for it's uniqueness, experimentation and strong message. To achieve this, I need the support of Saskatchewan Film Pool Cooperative to finish the post production of this film.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best,
Elian Mikkola



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2. Description of Artistic Intent
Elian Mikkola
4/15/2016

I find the combinations of different genres of film very intriguing and I like to play on the border of different genres in my own work. The film *Waves* is a combination of documentary film, experimental film and art-installation. By breaking these genres, I believe that it is possible for me to reach new levels of cinematic expression and create a new kind of visual experiences for different audiences.

the subject of this film is an emerging Jamaican dancer, who identifies herself as gay and cross-dresses against traditional gender ideals. In the homophobic Jamaica, this kind of expressiveness is usually silenced or threatened. only way of expressing herself freely is manifested through the act of dance.

The intent of this film is not only to capture the powerful moment of expression but to use this moment as an inspiration for another moment of expression, the film itself.

I was interested in the idea of building a bridge between these two different ways of expression, dance and film, and trying to imitate and express the same kind of power through film, that was expressing through her dance. This thought could be continued in other forms of art as well.

As a gay filmmaker myself, I felt that even though I do not have the same background as my subject, I can relate to her, and for that reason I am capable of expressing similar feelings through my own work that she does through her's. Although s dance served as an inspiration for my film *Waves*, it is it's own piece that will not only capture the dance, but also transform the dance into another kind of visual movement.

The message in this film is not only important for me or my subject, but it is important to make LGBTQ people all over the world more visible, not only in informative documentary films but in all the genres of film.



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3. Treatment
Elian Mikkola
4/15/2016

Waves is a combination of experimental editing, strong imagery and sound design. The name of this film, *Waves*, describes well the movement in both the visual imagery and sound. The movement of the dance will transform to cropped slices of the same image and through this experimental editing technique the movement will start to look like waves.

Not only the movement of the dancer is cut into little cropped slices, but also another video of actual waves is mixed with the dance video and treated with the same slicing technique. An interesting connection between the dancer and the nature that surrounds her is being created through this editing technique. The two images mix into one but at the same time maintain their own movement.

This kind of treatment takes a lot of time in the editing room, because every video clip in the timeline will be cropped and placed on top of each other. As a result of this, the timeline contains over one hundred video layers, making it slow to work with.

The sound design for this film will be made by a Finnish composer [REDACTED]. She will be studying the wave sounds and high and low sequences of sound. The soundtrack will resonate with the visual idea of the wave movement and support it. The music will mainly sound like electronic ambience with occasional peaks.

In addition to the ambient music composed by [REDACTED] parts of the interview that were done with [REDACTED] in 2014, will be included in the film. These parts of the interview are short and they will, in a way, float in the soundtrack and first fade out of the ambience it and fade back into it. The idea is that all of the different parts of this film will resonate with the same idea of expression and constant movement.

Colours are a big part of this film and they are a channel of expression themselves. I plan to use inverted colours and smooth transformations from one colour to another, to express change and the movement that follows from it. Different themes from nature like the ocean and the sky, will be strongly presented in this work as well, to highlight the connection that the subject feels with the nature around her.

In addition to the editing technique I use with most of the parts, I will also re-photograph the dance video by using a reflective plastic that creates a sense of a different kind of wave movement. These parts have been filmed in February 2016 and will be added to the film in the later post production stage.

In the same way, the soundtrack composed by [REDACTED] will be produced in the next stage of post production.



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4. Script
Elian
Mikkola
4/15/2016

I will not use a script in this film because of its experimental nature. However, I will attach the rough cut to this application which I hope will show the direction I am going towards with this work.

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5. Budget
Elia
Mikkola
4/15/2016

WAVES BUDGET	Proposed Budget	Final Actuals	Budget Notes
Other Grants			
Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative Deferrals (unconfirmed)	800,00		Mostly for the use of the New Media editing suites
Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Travel Grant for journalists (confirmed)	1804,00	1804,00	For travel costs from Finland to Jamaica
Total Revenue:	3404,00		
Expenses:			
Living expenses	504,00	504,00	Hostels in Jamaica
Travel	1300,00	1300,00	Flights to Jamaica
Production Costs (Post)			
Editing suite for post production	800,00		Based on weekly rate for New Media Suite (4 weeks)
Editors time	200,00		Personnel
Colour correction	200,00		
Sound design	400,00		work as a composer for this film
Total expenses:	3404,00		



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6. Production Schedule
Elian
Mikkola
4/15/2016

Production schedule for the short film *Waves*

Past dates:

- April 2014
Interview and film session with the dancer [REDACTED] Kingston, Jamaica
- January 2016
Rough edit from the material, Regina, Canada

Future dates:

- May 2016 - September 2016
Post production (final edit and colour correction), Regina, Canada
- May 2016 – July 2016
Sound design in progress. Helsinki, Finland
- August 2016
Sound design ready, Helsinki, Finland
- October 2016
Final version of the film is ready for distribution, Regina, Canada
- October 2016 – October 2017
International Film Festival and Art Gallery distribution

7. Distribution schedule
Elian Mikkola
4/15/2016



FILM FESTIVALS

- **October 2017**
San Fransisco Dance Film Festival, USA
- **October 2017**
TWIST: Seattle Queer Film Festival, USA

ART GALLERIES

- **Fall 2016**
Fifth Paraller Gallery, Regina, Canada
- **Spring 2017**
Asematila (Factory space Gallery), Helsinki, Finland



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8. Cast and Crew list
Elia
Mikkola
4/15/2016

Elia Mikkola
Director, Cinematographer and editor

Education:

[Redacted]

Work Experience:

- [Redacted] 2016
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Films:

Fall (2015) 03:09 [Redacted]

SAARI (2016) 07:00 [Redacted]

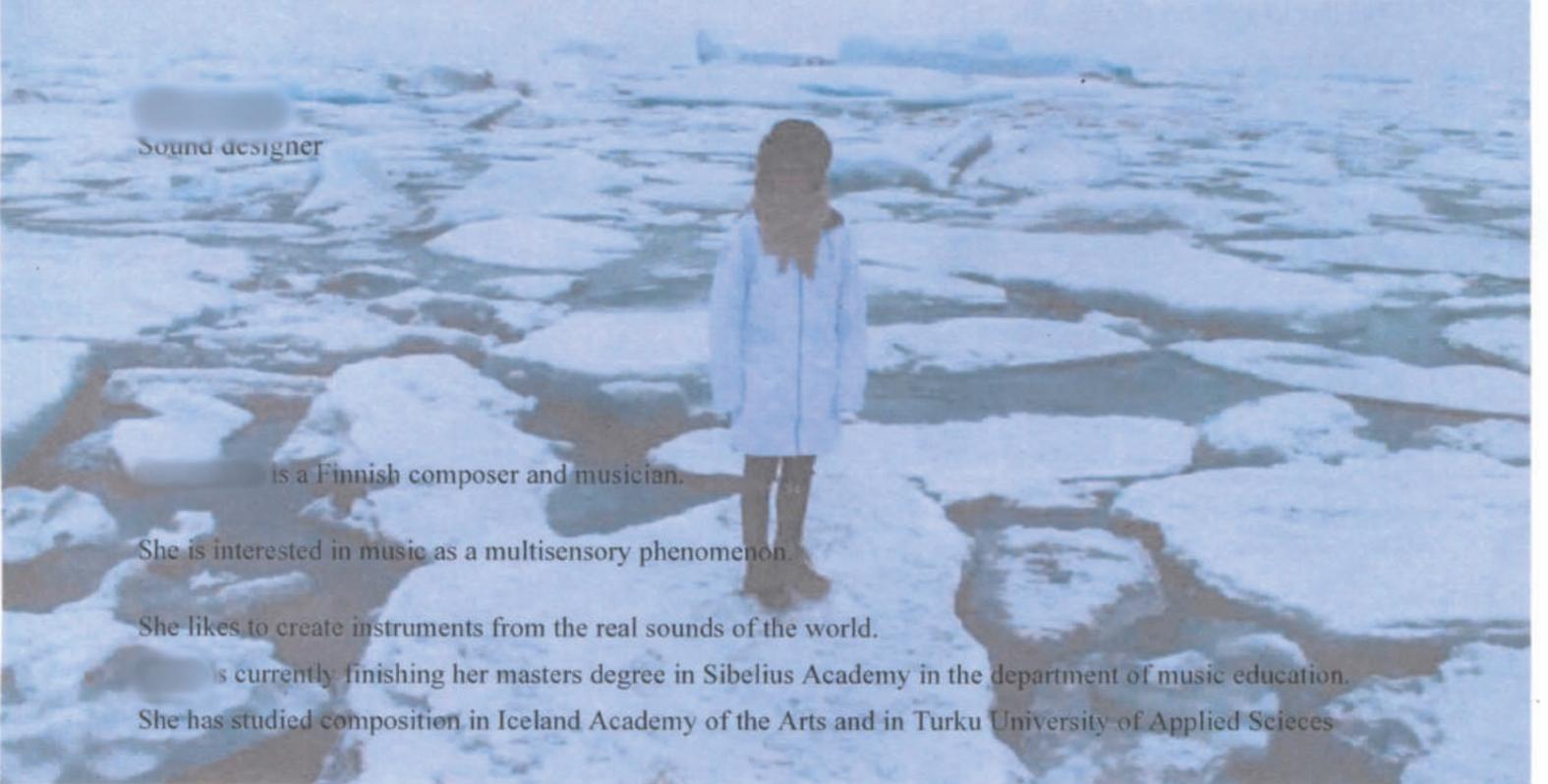


Other Cast and Crew:



Dancer in the film

is a
American artist, who currently
performs dance in Europe



Sound designer

is a Finnish composer and musician.

She is interested in music as a multisensory phenomenon.

She likes to create instruments from the real sounds of the world.

is currently finishing her masters degree in Sibelius Academy in the department of music education.
She has studied composition in Iceland Academy of the Arts and in Turku University of Applied Sciences



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9. Visual Support Material

Elian

Mikkola

4/15/2016

I will include the rough cut for my film *Waves* and my earlier experimental short film *SAARI* (2016) as my support material for this application.

Please note that the music in the rough cut is not going to be in the final version of this film.

The rough cut can be watched through the following link:

[Redacted link]

The link to my short film *SAARI*:

[Redacted link]