

Washington Filmworks

The following are excerpts from Executive Director's Amy Lillard's speech when she accepted the city of Seattle's Mayor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Film on behalf of Washington Filmworks the Opening Night of the Seattle International Film Festival:

I want to start by thanking SIFF and the city of Seattle. They have been and continue to be great partners who are dedicated to our local film community.

Washington Filmworks has always been a behind the scenes organization – allowing the filmmakers and the films that we support to be in the spotlight. Filmworks is perhaps best known in our community for offering financial incentives and production support -- and more recently for being the engine behind the Keep Film in WA advocacy campaigns.

And while our success is often talked about in terms of jobs and dollars, what inspires our work is the creative community – the film professionals that we work with and work for.

Tonight I want to inspire you. I want to inspire you to go see at least ONE of over 40 films playing this year at SIFF, that were made right here in Washington State.

When you watch these local films, look for that magical movie moment. Maybe it's the moment when an actress runs across a ballroom with her hair coifed, her lips painted red with lipstick and her dress flowing behind her as if she was about to fly. Maybe it's the moment when an actor sits down to a perfectly set breakfast table and you can almost smell the bacon cooking on the stove.

As you have these inspired experiences watching local films at SIFF, I ask you to remember the cast and crew who create these unforgettable movie moments – not only do these film professionals make great movies, they also make Seattle and WA State a brilliant and beautiful place to live.

I am honored to accept this award on behalf of the Board and Staff– an amazing group of people that have worked tirelessly over the past 10 years to make Washington Filmworks the exceptional organization that it is today. And we want to share this with the men and women from our local film community who inspire the work we do every day.

Thank you.