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## ***The Road Ended at the Beach, and Other Legends: Parsing the “Escarpment School”***

November 2010 – May 2011

**First Screening: Saturday, November 6th at 7pm**

**Curated and Introduced by Brett Kashmere**

**Post-Screening Discussion with Rick Hancox, Philip Hoffman, and Janine Marchessault**

**At Winnipeg Cinematheque, 100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**Free Admission**

### **Winnipeg, October 18, 2010–**

BEGINNING THIS NOVEMBER, the Winnipeg Cinematheque invites the public to discover one of this country’s most influential but overlooked filmmaking currents. Organized by the Saskatchewan-born, Pittsburgh-based filmmaker and curator Brett Kashmere, *The Road Ended at the Beach, and Other Legends* marks the first-ever overview of Canada’s fabled “Escarpment School.”

### **What is the Escarpment School?**

The Escarpment School outlines a loosely knit band of Ontario-based filmmakers that came of age in the late-1970s. Its affiliates include the celebrated experimental filmmakers Philip Hoffman, Mike Hoolboom, Richard Kerr, Carl Brown, Gary Popovich and Steve Sanguedolce, who studied together at Sheridan College, several kilometres southwest of the Niagara Escarpment, under the tutelage of Rick Hancox and Jeffrey Paull. The documentarians Janis Cole, Holly Dale, and Alan Zweig, the writer Marian McMahon, the musician Lorraine Segato (of the Parachute Club), and the film artists Lorne Marin and Mike Cartmell also intersected this circle of collaborators, conspirators, classmates, and friends. Over the past thirty years, the Escarpment School cineastes have helped to inaugurate Canada’s first-person cinema; reinvented documentary as a mode for self-expression and formal exploration; extended and deepened the rich landscape tradition in Canadian art; and inspired the next generation of filmmakers through their work and their teaching.

Paradoxically, the Escarpment School leaves little trace in the official record of Canadian cinema, despite the prominence and accomplishments of the aforementioned filmmakers. Did the Escarpment School even really exist, and if so, what did it look like, what might it look like now (with the hindsight of historical perspective), and how do we evaluate its legacy? This four-part survey seeks to celebrate the Escarpment School as a unique confluence in Canadian film history and to simultaneously expand the frame, by offering an inclusive, inter-generational interpretation of its membership. Subsequent programs will take place over the coming months and will feature special guest presenters.

### **Part 1: A Map Turned to Landscape**

*The Road Ended at the Beach, and Other Legends* launches on Saturday, November 6th at 7pm with the program “A Map Turned to Landscape,” comprising work by Rick Hancox, Philip Hoffman, Richard Kerr, Lorne Marin, Mike Hoolboom and Steve Sanguedolce, and George Semsel. Although varied in tone and texture, the featured films share numerous qualities, including an attention to geography, a drive to record reality, the filtering of documentary material through individual experience, the looming presence of America, and a process-based, formalist approach to nonfiction. These characteristics in turn reflect the twin impact of the New American Cinema and its conterminous postwar movements, especially Beat literature, as well as the Canadian social documentary tradition, which were often viewed side-by-side in the Escarpment School classroom. An informal discussion with Brett Kashmere, Rick Hancox, Philip Hoffman, and Canadian media scholar Janine Marchessault will follow the screening, which is free and open to the public.

## Related Events:

THE CINEMA LOUNGE:  
PHIL HOFFMAN INTRODUCES THE FILMS OF RICK HANCOX  
Special Guest: Rick Hancox  
*Fri, Nov 5, 7:30pm* – Winnipeg Cinematheque  
Free Admission

MASTER LECTURE SERIES: CURATING AND CONTEXT  
Instructor: Brett Kashmere

This seminar will focus on the role and responsibility of the curator in contemporary life, providing an overview of curatorial practice within the stricter context of moving images. This will include a consideration of the methods, procedures, and decision-making processes of media art exhibition; the shifting relationship between artists, institutions, programmers, and curators; critical and conceptual aspects of curating; curating for different spaces; and writing about artists' work.

*Sat, Nov 6, 2-4pm* – The Black Lodge (Winnipeg Film Group Studio)  
Free Admission (Seating Limited)

### About Brett Kashmere

Brett Kashmere is a Pittsburgh-based filmmaker, curator and writer whose work has screened internationally at festivals, galleries, and conferences. As a curator, Kashmere has created programs for and introduced screenings at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Strasbourg, Eyebeam in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Antwerp, Toronto's Images Festival, Cinematheque Ontario, and Vtape, Light Cone in Paris, the Cinematheque Quebecoise in Montreal, Portland's Cinema Project, and the Winnipeg Cinematheque. In 2004 he organized the touring expanded cinema installation and DVD-format catalog, *Industry: Recent work by Richard Kerr*, and in 2007 curated the first international traveling retrospective of Arthur Lipsett's films. Kashmere's writing on avant-garde cinema, video art, improvised music, and documentary has appeared in numerous journals, magazines and anthologies, including *The Canadian Journal of Film Studies*, *Senses of Cinema*, *esse*, *Take One*, *The Films of Jack Chambers* and *Live Cinema: A Contemporary Reader*. He holds a BA in Film and Video Studies from the University of Regina, as well as an MA in Film Studies and an MFA in Studio Arts from Concordia University. Kashmere currently teaches media production and curatorial practice at Oberlin College. [www.brettkashmere.com](http://www.brettkashmere.com)

### About Winnipeg Cinematheque

The newly renovated Winnipeg Cinematheque is an intimate movie theatre devoted to screening the very best in Canadian and world cinema. More than just screening films, we also provide artist talks, panel discussions and special events to feed the minds of cinema fans. Cinematheque has been operated by the Winnipeg Film Group for over 27 years. The Winnipeg Film Group was founded in 1974 and is a charitable, artist-run organization committed to promoting the art of cinema with a special focus on supporting Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canadian filmmakers. Cinematheque is located in the heart of Winnipeg's historic Exchange District, across the street from Old Market Square. We're on the main floor of the Artspace building at 100 Arthur Street at Bannatyne—one block west of Main. [www.winnipegcinematheque.com](http://www.winnipegcinematheque.com)

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Images and press kits available on request.

For more info, visit <http://brettkashmere.com/escarpment.html>

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