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**Subject:** Invitation to screen Love in the Time of Fentanyl - service providers and police services invitation  
**Date:** November 22, 2023 3:43:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [Love in the Time of Fentanyl - EPK sm.pdf](#)

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Dear Advisory Committee Members - The Community Safety and Well Being Steering Committee is pleased to share the below opportunity to view "Love in the Time of Fentanyl" on December 21<sup>st</sup> at Grey Roots Museum. Please see the invitation below and attached flyer for more information. Thank you to our community partners for providing this educational opportunity.

Thank you,

CSWBP Steering Committee

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**From:** Francesca Dobbyn <[execdir@unitedwaybg.com](mailto:execdir@unitedwaybg.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 17, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Alexis Cook <[ACook@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:ACook@brucecounty.on.ca)>  
**Subject:** Invitation to screen Love in the Time of Fentanyl - service providers and police services invitation

**\*\* [CAUTION]: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

**Grey Roots: December 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 am or 12:30 pm no cost event, but registration is required**

Grey Roots registration Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/love-in-the-time-of-fentanyl-tickets-760738989797?aff=oddttdcreator>

**Love in the Time of Fentanyl**

Set in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, LOVE IN THE TIME OF FENTANYL is an intimate, observational look beyond the stigma of injection drug users, revealing the courage of those facing terrible tragedy in a neighbourhood often referred to as ground zero of the overdose crisis.

As the number of overdose deaths in Vancouver reaches an all time high, the Overdose Prevention Society (OPS) opens its doors—a renegade safe injection site that employs primarily current or former drug users, its staff and volunteers save lives and give hope to a deeply marginalized community as the overdose crisis rages.

There will be a panel discussion following each screening.

Thank you to SOS (Supportive Outreach Services), Grey-Bruce OHT, Grey County Paramedics, United Way Bruce Grey, Canadian Mental Health and Addictions Grey Bruce, and Brightshores Health System for supporting this event.

*Francesca*



**Francesca Dobbyn**

Executive Director

[execdir@unitedwaybg.com](mailto:execdir@unitedwaybg.com)

Pronouns: She/her

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**United Way Bruce Grey**

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operation.

**Alexis Cook**

Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning Coordinator

Human Services

Corporation of the County of Bruce

Office: 519-881-1291

[www.brucecounty.on.ca](http://www.brucecounty.on.ca)




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from Executive Producer Sean Baker






# Love in the Time of Fentanyl

Directed, Edited, and Produced by Colin Askey

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY | USA, Canada | 2022 | 80 MIN | 2.39:1 | English

**WORLD PREMIERE** "Justice Forum Special Presentation" at the 21st DOXA Documentary Film Festival (Vancouver, Canada | May 2022); winner of the "Colin Low Award for Best Canadian Director"

**HOMEPAGE** <https://loveinthetimeoffentanyl.com/>    @losttimemedia

**PUBLICITY MATERIALS** <https://bit.ly/litof-publicity-materials>

**PRESS CONTACT** Adam Kersh | [adam@fusion-entertainment.com](mailto:adam@fusion-entertainment.com)

#### LOGLINE

A group of misfits, artists, and drug users operates a renegade safe injection site in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. LOVE IN THE TIME OF FENTANYL is an intimate portrait of a community fighting to save lives and keep hope alive in a neighbourhood ravaged by the overdose crisis.



## SYNOPSIS

Set in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, *LOVE IN THE TIME OF FENTANYL* is an intimate, observational look beyond the stigma of injection drug users, revealing the courage of those facing terrible tragedy in a neighbourhood often referred to as ground zero of the overdose crisis. As the number of overdose deaths in Vancouver reaches an all time high, the Overdose Prevention Society (OPS) opens its doors—a renegade safe injection site that employs primarily current or former drug users, its staff and volunteers save lives and give hope to a deeply marginalized community as the overdose crisis rages. The film follows Sarah, an activist who opened OPS without government approval, as she strives to raise awareness about the crisis; Trey, a graffiti artist and former heroin user who spends his days reversing overdoses and memorializing lost community members; Ronnie, a seasoned frontline worker nicknamed Narcan Jesus, struggling with burnout from the demanding work and witnessing so much loss; Norma, a much-loved Indigenous elder in the community, who cooks meals for the staff when she's not administering naloxone; and Dana, an active fentanyl user who constantly saves lives at work while struggling with his own drug use. With loved ones dying in unprecedented numbers, the staff at OPS does whatever it takes to keep the doors open and find radical new ways out of the devastating but widely ignored crisis ravaging their community.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have had the honour of being a part of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) community for many years and it has played a significant role in shaping who I am today. There is no way for me to describe the amount of grief, loss, and trauma that this crisis has inflicted on the neighborhood. In 2018, I began to document various stories and responses to the crisis — including the Overdose Prevention Society (OPS), a grassroots safe drug consumption space that emerged as a radical antidote to government inaction.

Similar to the DTES as a whole, the Overdose Prevention Society is a place filled with outcasts fighting every day to improve and save the lives of their neighbours in the face of multiple challenges and systemic oppression. OPS is one of the many unique and courageous responses to this crisis in the DTES. We have a lot to learn from this community, not only in terms of reforming nonsensical drug policies, but in working towards a more just and compassionate society.

My primary motivation in making *LOVE IN THE TIME OF FENTANYL* was to upend deeply entrenched beliefs about addiction, counter the often dehumanizing stereotypes and misconceptions about drug users, and create an empathetic portrait of an unconventional community of frontline workers who display incredible heroism and ingenuity in confronting this crisis.

- Colin Askey

**"LOVE IN THE TIME OF FENTANYL is a crucial film from director Colin Askey — one that explores, with considerable care and compassion, the frontlines of the ongoing drug-poisoning epidemic in this city."**

- Dharra Budicha  
DOXA Documentary Film Festival



## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**DIRECTOR, EDITOR, PRODUCER: Colin Askey** is a filmmaker who has spent the last decade documenting the transformative impact of humane policy on the lives of people who use drugs. Recent work includes *HAVEN* (2019), an award-winning short documentary about North America's first prescription heroin therapy program in Vancouver.

**PRODUCER: Monika Navarro** is an independent filmmaker and the Senior Director of Programs at Firelight Media. Monika previously worked with Tribeca Film Institute, ITVS, World Channel, and American Documentary. Monika has more than a decade of experience producing for U.S. public media, from directing her debut film *LOST SOULS (ANIMAS PERDIDAS)*, which chronicled the journey of her uncle, a U.S. military veteran deported to Mexico and bowed on Independent Lens, to the Peabody-award winning series *LATINO AMERICANS*. Monika has served as a mentor for CAAM, Big Sky, and 4th World Media Lab; a juror for Blackstar and Hot Docs; and is on the board of the Points North Institute.

**PRODUCERS: Marc Serpa Francoeur and Robinder Uppal** are documentarians whose work builds on lifelong interests in social justice issues. Their interactive documentary *THE WORLD IN TEN BLOCKS* (2016) was featured at Hot Docs, Sheffield Doc/Fest, and launched episodically in partnership with The Globe and Mail. Their short documentary *THE HEAD & THE HAND* (2018) was listed by DOC NYC as one of the top twelve contenders for the Oscars' Documentary Short category. In 2020, they released *ABOVE THE LAW (CBC Docs POV)* in tandem with the feature-length *NO VISIBLE TRAUMA*, a scathing exposé of police brutality and accountability issues in their hometown of Calgary.

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Sean Baker** is a director, cinematographer, producer, screenwriter and editor best known for his independent films *TANGERINE*, *THE FLORIDA PROJECT*, and *RED ROCKET*, which premiered in competition at the Cannes Film Festival.





# Love in the Time of Fentanyl

Directed, Edited, and Produced by Colin Askey

Produced by Monika Navarro, Marc Serpa Francoeur, and Robinder Uppal

Executive Producer: Sean Baker, Sally Jo Fifer, Lois Vossen | Supervising Producer: Michael Ehrenzweig  
Cinematography by Eric D. Sanderson and Colin Askey | Music by Eli Cohn | Consulting Editor: Bill Ross IV

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A co-production of Love in the Time of Fentanyl, LLC, Castle Mountain Media, Lost Time Media, and ITVS,  
with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

A grant for this film was generously provided by the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program  
with support from Just Films/Ford Foundation and the Open Society Foundations.

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