

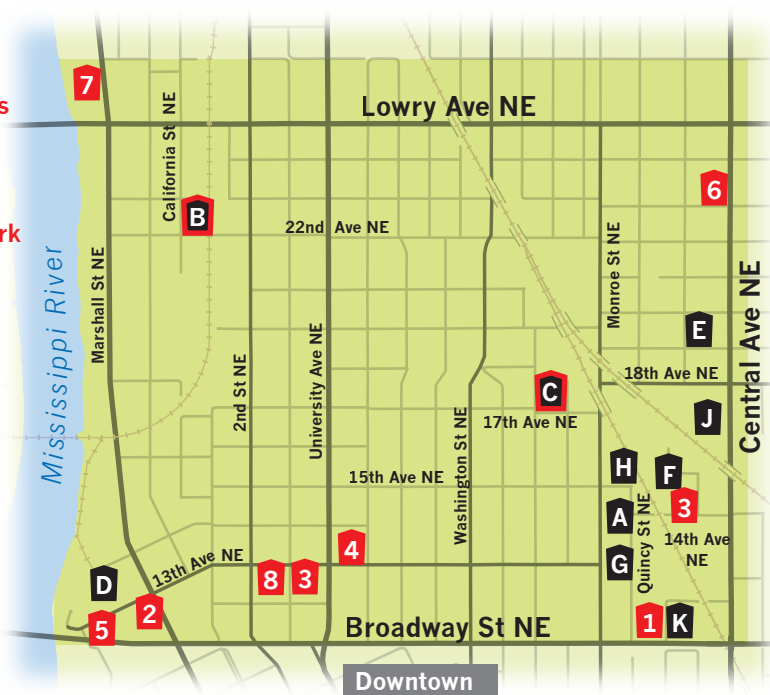
Northeast Arts Insights



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Movie Making in NE Minneapolis

by Josh Blanc and Karen Wilcox

The film industry is bustling in NE. Five enterprising film companies in the Arts District produce and present news programming, documentaries, art films, and commercial work for local and international clients. Right now two film crews are documenting the history of the District and featuring the plethora of creative people and businesses hard at work in the NE Minneapolis Arts District.

MCN6 Metro Cable Network Channel 6 www.mcn6.org has started a venture with the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District to offer an insider's view into District artist's studios. Michael Rainville conducts this series of interviews spotlighting the creative culture of NE Minneapolis. The first film was released February 22, 2016 and can be seen on Rainville's World, Metro Cable Channel 6 or on <https://youtu.be/RT50vsv8bZw>



Photos supplied by Flyover Films: Todd Cameron, Damian Kussian shooting, Art-A-Whirl and Nick Harper.



Our first episode showcases Sarah Whiting, author of Open Studio, and Josh Blanc, President of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. Special thanks to Kevin Chilcote and the MCN6 team for producing this excellent program.

Flyover Films www.flyoverfilms.net has been working in the District for the past 13 years. Flyover Films has made a big splash with their Regional Emmy award-winning film on Northeast Minneapolis and a feature film on Art-A-Whirl. The documentary film "Make: The Rise of an Arts District" (working title) is currently in production. Over 20 artists and community members will share their diverse viewpoints on how the influx of creative businesses has impacted and transformed the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

Some of their other work includes feature documentaries for Spike TV and the History Channel, both produced by Jon Stewart (Daily Show). Producer/Cinematographer Damian Kussian just returned home from South Africa where he shot a short documentary about how a non-profit organization (The Phakamani Foundation) is facilitating incredible change in the lives of poor rural South African women with micro-lending.

Mark Wojahn and Casket Cinema
www.casketcinema.com
 Award-winning documentary film

maker, photographer, mixed-media artist, and social activist Mark Wojahn is glad to be a part of the Northeast Minneapolis art scene. Wojahn says, "There are a lot of good venues that bring great energy to Northeast." His studio in the Casket Arts Building is the home of Casket Cinema and many creative and wide-ranging projects. Casket Cinema was conceived about eight years ago when Wojahn got together with his "partner in crime" Wilbur Ince and began showing films about war and social justice. Soon they branched out to show quality independent documentaries on a variety of different topics, offering time after each screening for open discussion and presentations by special guests. "We show some hard documentaries," explains Wojahn. "We want to provide time to process them together, rather than sending people out into the cold evening trying to figure it out for themselves." Casket Cinema remains alive and interactive with the community.

Sloppy Films <http://www.johnakre.com> has been making films since the 1990s. John Akre is a videomaker and filmmaker whose company, Green Jeans Media, specializes in creating short videos about community events for non-profit organizations and on-line news sources. Sloppy Films recently produced the film 20 years of Art-A-Whirl.

MTN Minneapolis Television Network www.mtn.org studio facilities in the Thorp Building "gives voice to every resident of the city and connects us to our community. We offer regular media training to anyone interested in harnessing the connective power of media to say something about the city we live in and love," states their website. "To this end, MTN broadcasts community-based, community-focused programming—24 hours a day, 7 days a week—on our three channels on the local Comcast Cable network. Each of MTN's channels has its own unique focus." The channels are 16/Connect, 17/Create, and 75/Inspire.

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