



Ben Williams: the epitome of cool!

KLYMKIW SPEAKS

A Few Words from WFG Executive Director Greg Klymkiw

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Motto

By Langston Hughes

*I play it cool
 And dig all jive
 That's the reason
 I stay alive.*

*My motto,
 As I live and learn,
 is: Dig And Be Dug
 In Return.*

Within seconds of meeting Ben Williams and throughout the two-and-a-half years I came to know this great man, this generous, giving, ultra-nurturing and multi-talented dynamo – the words of the great poet Langston Hughes always reverberated within me. I can think of nobody who has not been touched by Ben's infectious positivity and for me, he embodies the cool, the jive, the life force that Hughes wrote about and most definitely, if Ben harbors a motto, it surely must be the Hughes motto: "Dig And Be Dug In Return." Ben digs it all and he expresses this with passion, and as such, he is always, ALWAYS, dug in return.

The [Winnipeg Film Group](#) (WFG) will be eternally indebted to our illustrious Production Centre Director who, after 6+ years, is moving on. In Ben's case, moving on will definitely mean onwards and upwards. In addition to numerous exciting self-driven initiatives that he's planning, I certainly do *not* envision a WFG that will be without him and believe he'll be with us on a variety of journeys in the future. Then again, he's always with us, just as he is always with the myriad of filmmakers he brought into the WFG fold, especially with his rigorous efforts to infuse the organization with inclusivity and diversity as well as the joyous cinematic gymnastics he presided over so enthusiastically with The 48 Hour Film Contest.

His legacy here is firm and eternal.

Ben Williams is the embodiment of "unconquerable" and I'm reminded of William Earnest Henley's great inspirational poem "*Invictus*", especially the powerful words:

*"I thank whatever gods may be
 For my unconquerable soul."*

Oh yeah, Ben Williams has soul, and it is most definitely, unconquerable.

We're not saying goodbye to Ben. I prefer the Tralfamadorian greeting Billy Pilgrim offers to the wider world in the great anti-war novel by Kurt Vonnegut Jr.:

"Hello. Goodbye. Hello."

Until next week, make great movies and don't forget to watch them too.

- Greg Klymkiw, Executive Director, Winnipeg Film Group