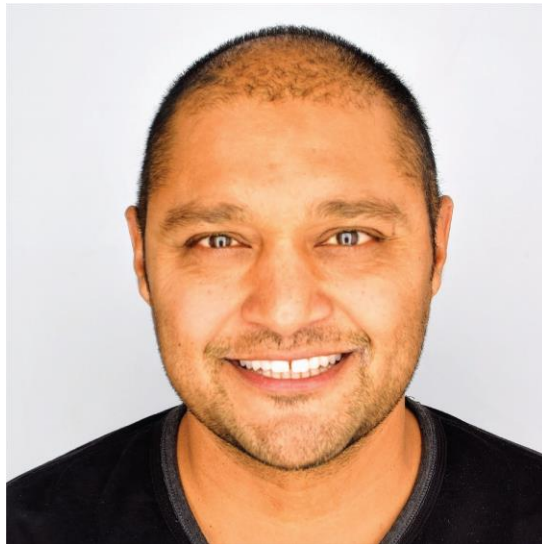


## Volunteer Spotlight Interview



# RODIN LEITAO

Recent transplant to Halifax, from Montreal to Vancouver, Rodin has made a great addition to the FIN volunteer crews! He's done a bunch of everything, but more than anything he makes sure that every volunteer he meets feels welcome, part of the team, and included. Friendly and always willing to chat, Rodin is excited to show other FIN newbies what the festival has to offer!

**Cydney: What is your day job?**

Rodin: When I first came to Halifax two years ago, I wasn't working so I had the free time to volunteer, it was perfect, it was a great way to meet people and get involved, and who doesn't like movies? But now, I just got hired recently as a bus driver for Halifax Transit – I drive on the streets of Halifax.

**C: So you've been volunteering with FIN for two years and you got involved from seeing an advertisement?**

R: On a whim, just on a whim. I probably went online and just took it from there. It's interesting because once you volunteer for one thing, you tend to run into the same people...

**C: What part of the film festival do you recommend to newbies?**

R: I guess any of the parties, they [are] fun if you can get into them. But just going to the movies. Getting yourself involved and just going out! It's a great way of traveling without leaving your city. So like, you go to see a foreign film... yeah, so either the parties or going a movie, or just mingling and being involved.

**C: What are you personally looking forward to this year?**

R: Actually, I have no clue, I never do any of my research, which is kind of good. I don't really plan things as much, I just go and see what's there. I love looking through the [program guide], it's a lot of movies to see. But I LOVE not having any expectations and being wowed or surprised.

**C: What's your favourite film/guilty pleasure film?**

R: Right, ... I'm horrible at selecting my favourite thing... I like everything... I remember there was one movie I watched... It's a Swedish movie called A MAN CALLED OVE. It's just a well-done movie, it's a feel-good movie that takes you on an emotional roller coaster if I can say that. It's a nice story about a man, but also has its soft parts, but funny parts too. I loved that movie so much that after watching I had to share it with so many people I know. I got my mom to watch it, my sister to watch it, my brother... not that I have a favourite movie or genre but that movie kind of stuck out in my head and I really liked that.

**C: Vibrant memory**

R: That's a hard one, I can't really think of... You know when – it can be a group of people - strangers especially - or people you know, and you're watching a movie and [you] all laugh at the same time? It's a connection – [it must be] an amazing thing as a filmmaker when everyone is on board with the same thing.

**C: What's your favourite movie snack?**

R: What I like doing is -I like having popcorn and I'll get a bag of M&M's (the peanut ones) and I'll put them in the same bag and munch down and watch a movie, if I splurge.